

# NEWS TODAY

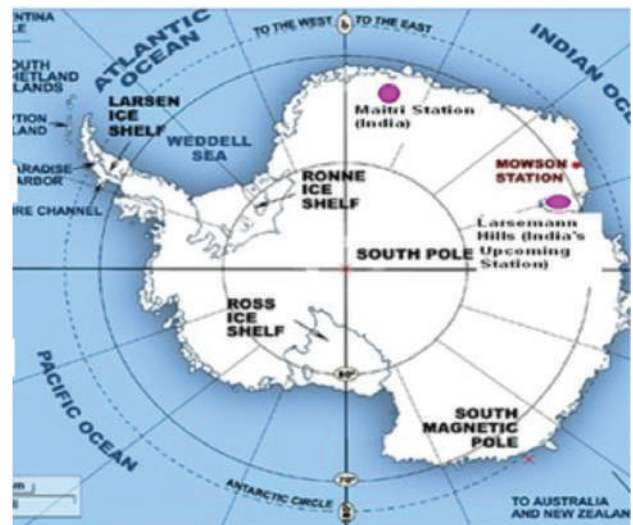
## MINISTRY OF POWER ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR BUDGETARY SUPPORT (BS) IN HYDROPOWER PROJECTS

- Guidelines have been released for **BS for Flood Moderation and for Budgetary Support for Enabling Infrastructure - roads and bridges** with regard to Hydropower Projects.
  - Objective of BS is to **reduce tariffs of electricity produced from these projects**, thus ensuring that the consumers are charged costs related to power components only.
  - Amount required shall be released through **Ministry of Power** after appraisal of each project, on case-to-case basis, by **Public Investment Board (PIB)/ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**.
- Hydro electricity is **conversion of mechanical energy in flowing water into electricity**.
  - Hydropower provides benefits beyond electricity generation by providing **flood control, irrigation support, and clean drinking water**.
- India is endowed with **large hydropower potential of 1,45,320 MW** of which only about **45,400 MW** has been utilized so far.
  - India targets to achieving a cumulative Hydropower **installed capacity of 75 GW** by the year 2030.
- Measures to promote hydropower sector**
  - Declaring large hydropower projects, i.e.,** projects with a capacity of more than 25 MW as **renewable energy** source;
  - Hydro power purchase obligation;**
  - Tariff rationalization measures for bringing down hydropower tariff.**



## INDIA EXTENDS SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT AND FOR DESIGNATING EAST ANTARCTICA AND WEDDELL SEA AS MPAs

- Designating East Antarctica and the Weddell Sea as the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are **essential to regulate illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF)**.
  - MPAs provides **protection for all or part of its natural resources, certain activities within an MPA are limited or prohibited** to meet specific conservation, habitat protection, ecosystem monitoring, or fisheries management objectives.
- India also urged the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) member countries to ensure **that India remains associated with the formulation, adaptation and implementation mechanisms of these MPAs in future**.
  - CCAMLR is an international treaty to **manage Antarctic fisheries to preserve species diversity and stability of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem**.
  - CCAMLR came into force in **1982**. India has been a permanent member of the CCAMLR since 1986.
- Other Government initiatives**
  - In 1983, India signed Antarctic Treaty 1959 that aims to **demilitarize Antarctica and establish it as a zone used for peaceful research activities** and to set aside any disputes regarding territorial sovereignty, thereby ensuring international cooperation.
  - Indian Antarctic Bill** aims at having **India's own national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment** and dependent and associated ecosystem.



# GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) TAG FOR 7 INDIGENOUS PRODUCTS OF UTTARAKHAND

- **7 indigenous products of Uttarakhand include:** Kumaon's chyura oil, Munsyari rajma, Bhotia dann (a rug made by Bhotias, a nomadic community), aipan (traditional art made on special occasions), ringal craft (art of making items by knitting bamboo strands), copper products and thulma (blankets spun from locally-sourced fabrics).
- **Tejpatta, Indian bay leaf**, was the **first product** in the state to **get the GI tag**.
- A GI is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin** typically used for **agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products**.
- The GI are **part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention** for the Protection of Industrial Property.
  - A GI right **enables those who have the right to use the indication to prevent its use by a third party** whose product does not conform to the applicable standards.
  - In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999**.

## NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES REPORT TITLED 'BEST PRACTICES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DISTRICT HOSPITALS'

- It is the **first-ever performance assessment of district hospitals** and marks a shift in healthcare delivery system towards **data-driven governance for communities and people availing health services**.

➤ Report is **released jointly by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO India**.

- According to the report, district hospitals in India have **on an average 24 beds per 1 lakh population**, with Bihar having the lowest average of six beds and Puducherry the highest of 222.

➤ **The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)**

**2012 guidelines** recommend district hospitals to maintain at least **22 beds per 1 lakh population** (based on 2001 census).

➤ **WHO recommends** that for every 1,00,000 people there be at least **500 beds**.

- **Public health care in India**

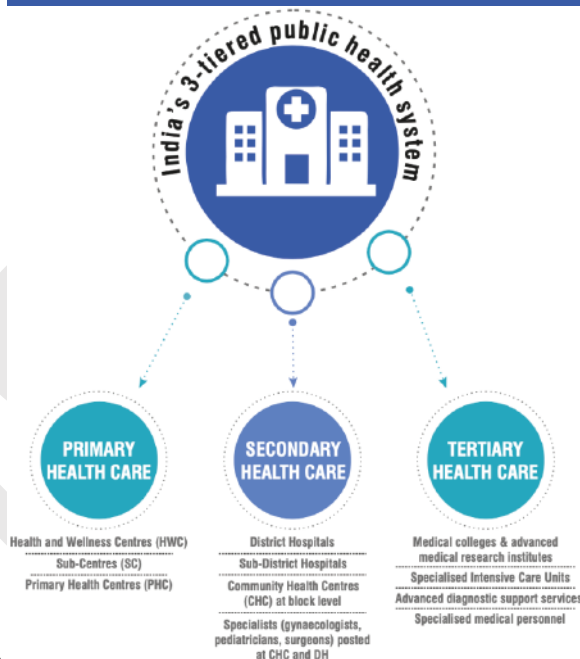
➤ Health is a **State subject**.

➤ The public health care infrastructure in India has been developed as a **three-tier system (refer to the infographics)**.

➤ As per the IPHS, **district hospitals are mandated to:**

- **Make services more responsive and sensitive** to the needs of the people of the district.
- **Provide comprehensive secondary health care (specialist and referral services) to the community;**

### India's three-tiered public health system



## MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ LAUNCHES PEOPLE'S PLAN CAMPAIGN (PPC) 2021- SABKI YOJANA SABKA VIKAS

- The PPC is an effective strategy for ensuring the **preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) in a campaign mode**.

➤ During the campaign, structured Gram Sabha meetings will be held for **preparing the GPDP for the next financial year i.e. 2022-23 respectively**.

- Panchayats have been mandated for the preparation of **GPDP for economic development and social justice utilizing the resources available to them**.

➤ It involves **full convergence with Schemes of all related Central Ministries / Line Departments** related to **29 subjects enlisted in Eleventh Schedule of Constitution**.

➤ GPDP **brings together both the citizens and their elected representatives** in the decentralized planning processes.

- **Main objectives include**

➤ Ensuring **proper utilisation of funds, raising own source revenues by Panchayats**, use of innovation & technology, bridging digital divide in rural and remote areas, and **mainstreaming of Panchayat – Women Self Help Groups**.

➤ **Evidence Based Assessment of Progress** made during previous years

➤ Public Information Campaign of all programmes in Gram Panchayat office.




- Government also launched **Vibrant Gram sabha dashboard** for enhanced coordination and data streamlining.

# 'LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORT 2021' RELEASED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)





- Least developed countries (LDCs) are **low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development**. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets.
  - The list of LDCs was **first created in 1971 (50 years ago)** and is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a group of independent experts that report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.
  - The **review is based on income, human assets index (HAI) and economic and environmental vulnerability index**.
- Key highlights of the report**
  - 46 countries are designated** as LDCs.
  - Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita** for LDC group represented **less than 10% of the world average in 2019**.
  - The scope for trade and industrial policies to influence **economic development in LDCs remains largely unexploited**.
  - Due to **health, economic and social crises brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 they recorded their worst growth performance** in about three decades.
  - LDC **require massive investment and spending** to achieve the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which goes far beyond their financial resources.



## ALSO IN NEWS

 <p><b>DigiSaksham</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ministry for Labour and Employment</b> has launched <b>DigiSaksham</b> - a digital skills programme to <b>enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills</b> that are required in an increasingly technology driven era.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a joint initiative with Microsoft India.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Free of cost training in digital skills</b> including basic skills as well as <b>advance computing</b> will be provided to more than three lakh youths in the first year.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobseekers can access the training through <b>National Career Service (NCS) Portal</b>.</li> <li>It <b>gives priority to job-seekers of semi-urban areas</b> belonging to disadvantaged communities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Basel-III norms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basel III is <b>an internationally agreed set of measures developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision</b> in response to the financial crisis of 2007-09.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The measures aim to <b>strengthen the regulation, supervision and risk management of banks</b>.</li> <li>It <b>has 3 pillars</b>: Enhanced minimum capital and liquidity requirements, Supervisory review process, Enhanced disclosure.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Members are committed to <b>implementing and applying standards in their jurisdictions within the time frame</b> established by the Committee.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reserve Bank of India had deferred implementation of</b> provisions made under Basel III capital due to uncertainty related to Covid crisis.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Senior Able Citizens for Re Employment in Dignity (SACRED) Portal</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Under Ministry of Social Justice &amp; Empowerment</b>, it is a <b>first-of-its-kind dedicated employment exchange portal for senior citizens</b>.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring together on a single platform the employment seeker senior citizens and employment providers.</li> <li>According to <b>LASI report 2020</b>, more than <b>50% senior citizens were found to be active</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Significance - It will ensure <b>Senior Citizens live healthy, happy, empowered, dignified and self-reliant life</b>.</li> <li><b>Rs. 10 Cr would be provided for funding</b> for the platform development along with maintenance grant of Rs. 2 Cr per year for 5 years.</li> </ul>



 <p><b>Trans- Himalayan region- Astronomical sites</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) located at Hanle near Leh in Ladakh</b> is becoming one of the promising astronomical sites globally.</li> <li>• This is due to its advantages of <b>more clear nights, minimal light pollution, background aerosol concentration</b>, extremely dry atmospheric condition, and uninterrupted by monsoon.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment said that carry bags made of <b>recycled plastic or products made of recycled plastic can be used</b> in food packaging.</li> <li>• Experts have voiced apprehension over the move as <b>there is a possibility of presence of poisonous substance in recycled plastic bags.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ As Plastic is <b>used in variety of sectors</b>, it raises <b>concern of the source of recycled plastic</b> that will be used in food contact applications.</li> <li>➢ Use of recycled plastic <b>was prohibited for food contact applications in the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Cyclone Shaheen</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>deep depression</b> over the northeast Arabian Sea <b>off Gujarat coast</b> will intensify into a <b>severe cyclonic storm named as Cyclone Shaheen.</b></li> <li>• <b>The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C;</li> <li>➢ Small variations in the vertical wind speed;</li> <li>➢ Presence of the Coriolis force;</li> <li>➢ A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation;</li> <li>➢ Upper divergence above the sea level system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Maharashtra government is looking for an alternate site for the permanent rehabilitation of families in the tribal hamlets and eligible encroachers of the SGNP.</li> <li>• SGNP located in Mumbai harbours artificial lakes named '<b>Vihar and Tulsi</b>'.</li> <li>• The <b>Kanheri Caves</b> (carved from basalt rock between the 1st century BCE to the 10th century CE) at the center of the park were an <b>important Buddhist learning center and pilgrimage site.</b></li> <li>• <b>Flora:</b> The southern mixed-deciduous forest, dominated by the Tectona, Albizzia, Terminalia, Holarrhena, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Fauna:</b> Spotted Deer, Sambhar, Barking Deer, Black-naped Hare, etc.</li> </ul>

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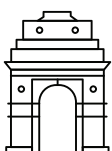
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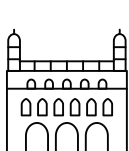
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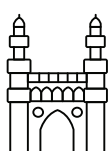
DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



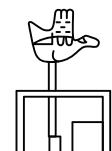
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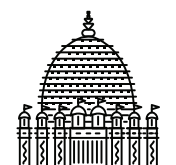
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI