

NEWS TODAY

WRIT PETITION NOT MAINTAINABLE AGAINST PROCEEDINGS BY BANKS: SUPREME COURT (SC)

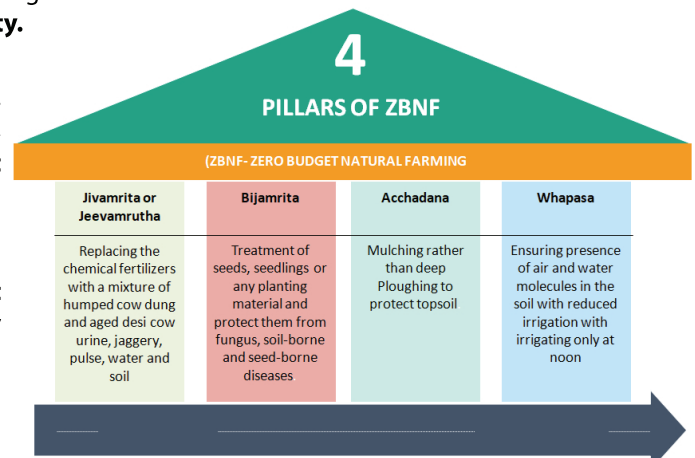
- SC has observed that:
 - > A writ petition challenging proceedings under **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI)** initiated by private banks/Asset Reconstruction Companies is not maintainable.
 - > Borrowers, aggrieved by proceedings initiated under the **SARFAESI ACT** have to avail the remedy under same law as SARFAESI Act provide for expeditious and effective statutory remedy.
- This comes in the backdrop of the Karnataka High Court entertaining the writ petitions under Article 226 of the Constitution filed by borrowers against an Assets Reconstructing Company (ARC).
- SARFAESI Act 2002**
 - > It helps **reconstruction of bad assets/NPAs** without the intervention of courts.
 - > Act mandates the **ARCs with the task of facilitating securitisation and asset reconstruction of bad assets/NPA** thereby earliest resolution and bringing the liquidity in the system.
 - > **ARCs** are incorporated as company under the Companies Act and registered with RBI under **SARFAESI Act, 2002**
 - > It allows **only secured creditors** (lenders whose loans are backed by a security such as mortgage) to take possession over a collateral security if the debtor defaults in repayment.

Key definitions

- **Asset reconstruction:** It is the acquisition of any right or interest of from Banks in loans, advances granted or debentures etc. for the purpose of its realisation.
- **Securitisation:** It is the acquisition of financial assets from Banks either by way of issuing security receipts to Qualified Buyers or any other means. Such security receipts would represent an undivided interest in the financial assets.
- **ARC or bad bank:** It is a special type of financial institution that buys the debtors of the bank at a mutually agreed value and attempts to recover the debts or associated securities by itself.

ZERO-BUDGET NATURAL FARMING (ZBNF) COULD LEAD TO YIELD LOSS: PANEL

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) committee's chairman highlighted that **ZBNF would result in tremendous reduction in production of agricultural crops thus comprising India's food security.**
- Alternative to ZBNF, it also recommended adoption of an integrated production system through usage of farm practises such as conservation agriculture through usage of farmyard manure, inter-cropping, crop diversification and integrated nutrient management for improving soil health.
- About ZBNF**
 - > It is a **natural farming technique in which farming is done without use of chemicals and without using any credits** or spending any money on purchased inputs.
 - > It is a **method of chemical-free agriculture** drawing from traditional Indian practises based on **4 pillars**.
 - > ZBNF **reduces the cost of production down to zero** due to utilisation of all the natural resources available in and around the crops.
 - > It was originally promoted by **Maharashtrian agriculturist Subhash Palekar.**
 - > ZBNF was introduced in the **Union Budget 2019- 20.**
- Benefits of ZBNF:**
 - > **Requires very less amount of water and electricity** than what is required under chemical farming,
 - > **Reduces farming costs** by using in-situ resources,
 - > **Manage soil nutrition, fertility, pests and seeds.**



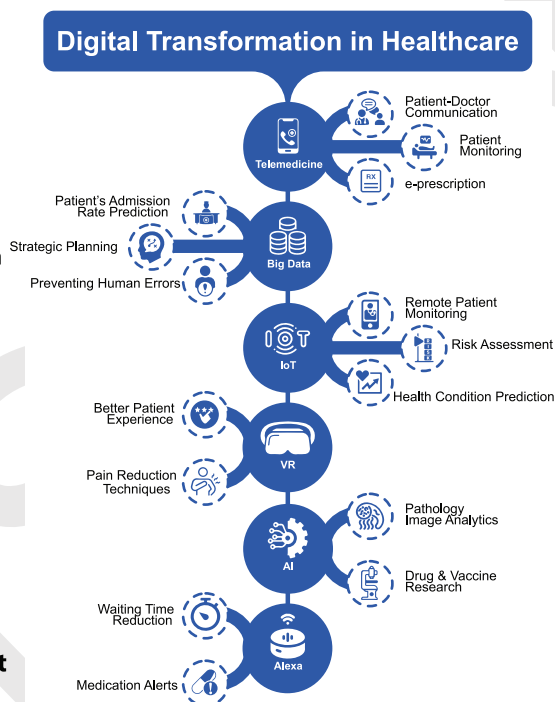
NATO-RUSSIA TALKS AT IMPASSE AMID 'REAL RISK' OF UKRAINE WAR

- Meeting was held as Russia has amassed combat-ready **troops, heavy military equipment** etc near Ukraine's eastern border.
 - During the talks, **NATO and US have rejected key Russian security demands** for easing tensions over Ukraine.
 - Russia wanted NATO to **withdraw its troops and military equipment** from countries neighbouring Russia like Ukraine.
- Background of this crisis**
 - Russia-Ukraine **crisis started in 2014**.
 - Ukraine's army** has been locked in a **simmering conflict with pro-Russian separatists** in two breakaway regions (refer to map) since November 2014, **after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine**.
 - In 2015, an open conflict was averted after the '**Minsk II**' **peace agreement** was signed under the **mediation of France and Germany**.
 - It was designed to end the fighting in the rebel regions and **hand over the border to Ukraine's national troops**.
 - Ukraine was required to **delegate more power to the breakaway regions and introduce constitutional reforms**, codifying their special status.
- NATO is an **intergovernmental military alliance**, between North American and European countries.
 - It was formed in 1949, during cold war to **defend member nations from threats by communist countries**.
 - NATO also defend non-members**. E.g. Though Ukraine is not a member, it had worked with NATO over the years.



NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION LAUNCHES PROJECT NIRAMAY IN ASSAM

- Project was launched in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya (NGO) and Cisco (tech company) to **demonstrate the integration of digital health technology** to strengthen the public health care delivery in the state.
- About Niramay Project**
 - It is a **digital health project** that will provide tele-consultation, patient's health records, digital health infrastructure in three aspirational districts in Assam.
 - It aims to leverage the learnings of the pilot to **facilitate Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) roll out in the state to develop a digital backbone** on transforming healthcare delivery in the state and nation.
 - ABDM is a voluntary healthcare programme that aims to **reduce the gap among stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals, citizens etc by connecting them in an integrated digital health infrastructure**.
 - It is based on the integrated technology platform - **AMRIT (Accessible Medical Records via Integrated Technologies)**.
 - AMRIT** is an **indigenous integrated health technology platform**, enables beneficiary management and clinical decision-making through technology platform.
 - It will **integrate unique, cost-effective, and lightweight hardware and software** to deliver quality healthcare at low-cost, to the vast underserved population of the country.
- Significance of the initiative:** Reduce out of pocket expenditure on health, increase health service outreach to remote area, etc.



RECORD OCEAN WARMING IN 2021, COASTAL COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE ON ALERT: STUDY

- According to recent annual **Ocean Heat Content (OHC) study**:
 - Oceans have been experiencing an **unambiguous increase in heat** since the late 1980s with an **eight-fold increase** in warming rates in 1986-2021 in comparison to 1958-85.
 - Upper 2,000 metres of the ocean absorbed 235 zettajoules (ZJ) of heat** in 2021 relative to the 1981-2010 average.
- About Ocean warming:**
 - Ocean absorbs most of the **excess heat** from GHG emissions, leading to **rising ocean temperatures**.
 - Ocean heat is a better indicator of climate crisis** in comparison to air temperature because natural cycles like El Niño and La Niña play a relatively smaller role in ocean warming as-
 - During El Niño oceans release heat**, contributing to a mini global warming, and
 - During La Niña oceans take up heat** and bury it at depths away from the surface.
- Impact of Ocean Warming**
 - Sea-level rise** due to accelerated ice melting and thermal expansion of water.
 - More **powerful storms and hurricanes**; increased **precipitation and flood risk**.
 - Increase **ocean stratification or separation**.
 - Effects on marine life** because less oxygen penetrates to depths, and all organisms are affected.

What needs to be done for reducing ocean warming?

- Include ocean warming in climate risk assessments, adaptation, and mitigation.
- Reach **net-zero carbon emissions** at the earliest.
- Need to achieve the mitigation targets set by the **Paris Agreement**.
- Establishing **marine protected areas** and putting in place **adaptive measures**.

ALSO IN NEWS



- Recently, SC termed the 1-year suspension of MLAs by Maharashtra assembly as **Dangerous for democracy and appeared to be unconstitutional**.
- SC said that the assembly **can't suspend** a member **beyond 59 days** as it will **punish the whole constituency** and **set a dangerous precedent**.
- SC referred to **Article 190 (4) of the Constitution** which says that the house can declare a seat vacant on a member's absence without permission for a period of 60 days.



- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has inked a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50**, to continue developing the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis.
- **Africa50 is an infrastructure investment platform** to bridge Africa's infrastructure funding gap as part of the **African Union's Agenda 2063**.
- **Significance of the pact:**
 - **India's ties with African governments have increasingly gained relevance** in a fast globalizing globe, owing to their rising interdependence.
 - The **energy sector** has gained special attention as it has taken a **key role in India-Africa relations**.







- Under PMGKAY, government has so far allocated a total of **about 759 Lakh metric tonnes** foodgrains.
- **About PMGKAY:**
 - It was **launched to supply free food grains to migrants and poor** who faced hardship on the account of economic disruption caused by COVID-19 and Lockdown.
 - Under PMGKAY, **5 kg free wheat/rice per month is provided via ration shops to 80 crore beneficiaries** registered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
 - Though initially announced **only for a period of three months** under Phase-I, later it was extended **under different phases**.
 - **Phase V** (currently) will be implemented till March this year.



- Deendayal Port Trust has crossed the **100 million metric tonnes milestone**.
 - With this, it has become the **first government sector-major port to cross the mark in this fiscal year**.
- **About Deendayal Port**
 - **Kandla**, also known as the Deendayal Port Trust is a **seaport in Kutch District** of Gujarat state in western India.
 - Located on the **Gulf of Kutch**, it is one of **major ports on west coast**.



- **Launched by:** Ministry of Education.
- It was **first instituted by the Department of School Education and Literacy** (Ministry of Education) in 2016-17.
- Its emphasis on **promoting safe and appropriate hygiene practices in schools and behaviour among children**.
 - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene have a significant role for students **in their attendance, dropout rate, and learning outcomes**.
- It is **open to all categories of schools**.
- Schools will be assessed virtually on **6 sub-categories:**

	<p>➤ These sub-categories are: Water, Sanitation, Hand Washing with soap, Operation and Maintenance, Behaviour Change and Capacity Building and the newly added category on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response.</p>
 25th National Youth Festival (NYS) 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PM inaugurated the 25th National Youth Festival 2022 on the 159th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand. NYS is an annual gathering of youth with various activities including competitive ones. It aims to galvanise, ignite, unite and activate the young citizenry towards nation-building, to unleash the true potential of the demographic dividend. NYS was first launched in 1995 as an activity under the programme of National Integration Camp (NIC) in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS).
 arXiv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an online repository of research papers for physicists, astronomers, computer scientists and mathematicians located in Cornell University. Similarly, bioRxiv and medRxiv, is the repository for research in CoVID.
 Saraswati River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the National Youth Festival, the key role of Saraswati river in Indian civilisational existence was discussed. River Saraswati, referred in multiple ancient Hindu texts, flowed between the Yamuna and Sutlej River with origins in Himalayas and draining into Arabian Sea (called as lost river of the desert by James Tod) It is considered as the birth place of Indian Civilization with continuity in culture from the Mesolithic culture (6500-5500 BC) to period ahead of mature harappan phases A recent Centre of Excellence for Research on the Saraswati River (CERSR) study highlighted that the river flowed in Haryana till the early 15th century (1402 AD).
 Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has asked the BARC to resume the release of television rating points (TRPs) for news channels. TRP is the tool to judge which programmes are watched the most and to index the viewers' choices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TRP is calculated by BARC using "BAR-O-meters." About BARC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a Joint Industry Body founded by stakeholder bodies that represent Broadcasters, Advertisers, and Advertising and Media Agencies. ➤ BARC owns and manages a transparent, accurate, and inclusive TV audience measurement system.



/c/VisionIASdelhi



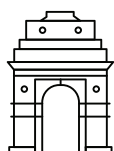
/Vision_IAS



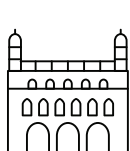
/visionias_upsc



/VisionIAS_UPSC



DELHI



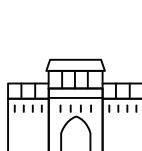
LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



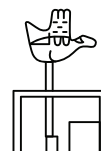
HYDERABAD



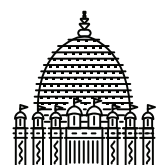
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI