

NEWS TODAY

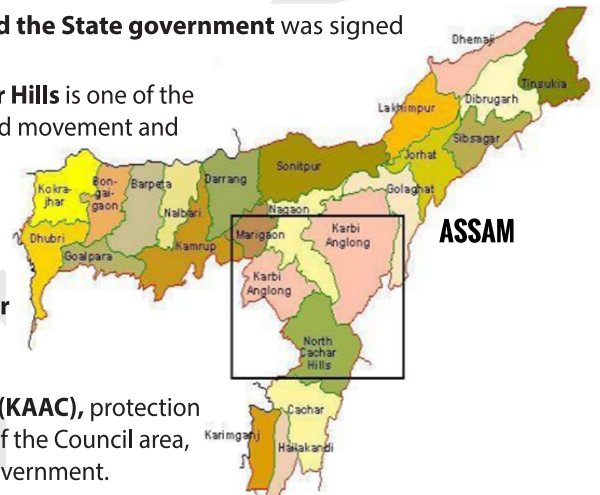
TRIPARTITE PEACE DEAL INKED TO END KARBI ANGLONG UNREST

- A tripartite agreement among **five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the State government** was signed to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.

➤ **The Karbi insurgency for a separate state of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills** is one of the several insurgencies that Assam has faced over the years, apart from the Bodoland movement and the one led by ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom) for sovereignty of Assam.

Key highlights of the deal

- **Rehabilitation** of more than 1,000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream.
- Centre will make available a **special development package of ₹1,000 crore over the next five years**, for the Assam government to undertake specific projects for the development of Karbi areas.
- **Greater devolution of autonomy to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC)**, protection of identity, language and culture of the Karbi people and focused development of the Council area, without affecting the territorial and administrative integrity of Assam, said the government.



KARBI ANGLONG

- It is the **largest district in Assam**, comprising various tribal and ethnic groups such as Karbis, Bodos, Kukis, Dimasas, etc.
- The Karbis racially belong to the **Mongoloid group and linguistically to the Tibeto-Burman group**.
- It is an autonomous district under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. In 1995, it was upgraded to **KAAC** from Karbi Anglong District Council (KADC).

OVER 900 SPECIES OF ANIMALS HAVE BECOME EXTINCT ACCORDING TO LATEST IUCN RED LIST

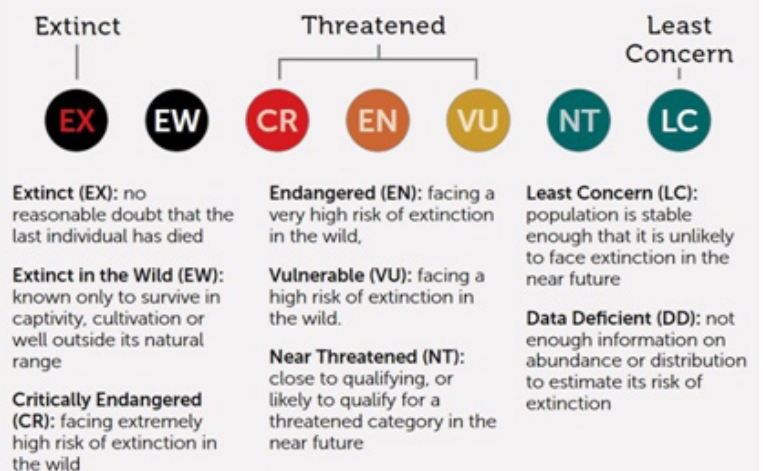
- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, founded in 1964, is the **world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species**.

- It uses a set of quantitative criteria to evaluate the extinction risk of the species included in the **Global Species Programme of the IUCN**.
- **The red data list** is produced by **Red List partnership** including IUCN, BirdLife International, Conservation International etc.

Key updates

- Komodo dragon (world's largest living lizard, endemic to Indonesia) has been moved from vulnerable to **endangered**.
- All of the **threatened shark and ray species** were overfished, and are also affected by **loss and degradation of habitat and climate change**.
- **Four** of the seven most commercially fished tuna species have shown **signs of recovery**.
- IUCN officially launched its **"green status"** -- the first global standard **for assessing species recovery and measuring conservation impacts**.
- **IUCN (1948, HQ-Glands, Switzerland)**
 - The IUCN is the **world's oldest global environmental organization having more than 1400 members (both government and civil society organizations)**.
 - **Every four years, IUCN convenes the IUCN World Conservation Congress** to set the global conservation agenda.

THE RED LIST CATEGORIES



MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MEITY) FORMS 10 MEMBER PANEL TO DEVELOP 'ECOSYSTEM' FOR STARTUPS ACCELERATORS

- This panel (Chair-Ajay Prakash Sawhney) will oversee the implementation of the scheme '**Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth**' (SAMRIDH).
 - It will **formulate a process to support existing and upcoming startup accelerators**.
 - These accelerators would then select information technology-based startups** "to scale for solving India's problems creating positive social impact.
 - They would also have to build **customised accelerations programmes that fit the needs of the selected startups**.
- SAMRIDH**
 - It was launched, recently, to **identify 300 startups and help them with customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion** over the next three years.
 - An investment of up to ₹ 40 lakh** to the start-up based on current valuation and growth stage of the Start-Up will be provided **through selected accelerators**.
 - It will also facilitate **equal matching investment by the accelerator / investor**.
 - It is being implemented by **MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH)**.

STARTUP ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA

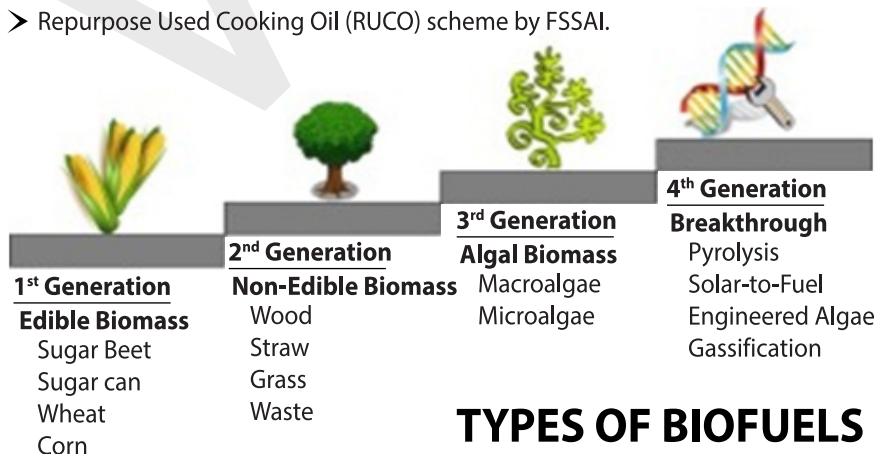
- India is home to the world's third largest startup ecosystem.
- Country **now is the third largest Unicorn (Valuation more than 1 Bn USD) hub** globally.
- About **40% of start-ups** are in tier-II and -III cities.
- '**Startup India**' and '**Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**' are the major initiatives to promote start-ups.

ATAL PENSION YOJANA DOMINATES SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME WITH 66% NPS SUBSCRIBER BASE

- According to annual report of the **National Pension Systems Trust (NPS Trust)**, out of **4.2 crore National Pension System (NPS) subscribers**, over 66 per cent or 2.8 crore opted for Atal Pension Yojana at the end of 2020-21.
- About APY**
 - Launched in May 2015 with the objective of creating a **universal social security system for all Indians, especially for poor, under-privileged and workers in the unorganised sector**.
 - It is administered by **PFRDA through National Pension System (NPS)**.
 - To cater to various categories of people, there are several models of NPS. APY is one such model.
 - Eligibility: **citizen of India** in the **age group of 18-40 years** can join.
 - Under the scheme, subscriber would receive a **guaranteed pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years**, depending upon his contributions.
 - After the death of the subscribers, **same pension amount would be paid to his or her spouse**.
 - On the demise of both subscriber and spouse, the accumulated pension wealth of the subscriber would be **returned to the nominee**.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN BIOFUEL SECTOR








- Globally, **140 billion tonnes of biomass is generated every year from agriculture**, equivalent to approximately 50 billion tonnes of oil.
 - In India, around **235 million MT of surplus crop residue is produced** out of which **only 10 per cent is converted into biofuel**.
 - Full utilisation of this surplus crop residue can lead to **providing 17 per cent of country's energy needs**.
- A biofuel is any liquid fuel derived from biological material such as trees, agricultural wastes, crops, or grass**.
 - Applications include - Transportation sector, generating heat and electricity etc.
- Significance of Biofuels**
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** and are a renewable source of energy.
 - Benefit Farmers with **additional income**.
 - Opportunities for **new businesses in processing of biomass**, storage solutions and enable employment generation.
- Government policies to promote biofuels**
 - National Policy on Biofuels, 2018: objective of reaching **20% ethanol-blending by 2025 and 5% biodiesel-blending** by the year 2030.
 - Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN** (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana, 2019.
 - GOBAR** (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) DHAN scheme, 2018.
 - Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) scheme by FSSAI.



TYPES OF BIOFUELS

- National Pension System** is a voluntary, defined contribution retirement savings scheme.
 - The assets and funds under the NPS are taken care of by National Pension System Trust (NPST), established by PFRDA under the Indian Trusts Act of 1882.
 - Launched in 2004** and regulated by **PFRDA**, it is available to **all citizens of India (both resident and Non-resident)** in the age group of 18-65 years.

ALSO IN NEWS

 Air defence identification zone (ADIZ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese aircrafts entered Taiwan's Air defence identification zone. About ADIZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the airspace over land or water that provides an early warning system to help a country detect possible incursions into its sovereign airspace. It stretches beyond the boundary of a country's national airspace. ADIZs are not binding legal agreements. Also, different countries ADIZs can overlap. However, a country cannot shoot down an aircraft that enters its ADIZ without notification.
 'SIMBEX'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise was held in the South China Sea as an 'at-sea only' exercise without any physical interactions due to COVID 19 pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated in 1994, SIMBEX is the Indian Navy's longest uninterrupted bilateral maritime exercise with any foreign navy. Significance - reflection of the growing congruence of interests in the strategically key region.
 "Spectral Enhancement" (SPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched by Coal India Ltd., it is a new Software For Enhanced Assessment of Coal Resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIL is a Maharatna company and is the single largest coal producer in the world. It will help in identifying thin coal seams under the earth crust and improve assessment of coal resources using seismic survey during coal exploration process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Made in India' software will also help to save time and cost of coal exploration and thus boost the mission of Atmanirbhar Bharat in coal production.
 Google-Equitas SFB deposits deal under RBI's watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google has tied up with Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. to offer time deposits to users of its payments wallet. Such deposits are covered by a deposit guarantee of up to Rs 5 lakh per depositor. The Financial Stability Report (FSR) of RBI, 2021 had raised concerns about Big Tech firms in financial services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Tech firms sometimes have "opaque overarching governance structures," and the potential to become "dominant players" in financial services".
 Govt moves to align IndAS with IFRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian accounting standards (IndAS) is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) with some variations called carve-outs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now these 'carve-outs' may be removed to bridge the gaps between IndAS and the IFRS. The full adoption of IFRS for financial statements would benefit companies that look to list overseas, as well as global mergers and acquisitions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian companies began adopting IndAS from April 2016, replacing the earlier Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The IndAS is yet to be adopted by the banks.
 Doppler Weather Radar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, a state-of-the-art Doppler Weather Radar was inaugurated at Indian Meteorological Department in Jammu along with an indigenous GPS based Pilot Sonde. Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) is based on doppler effect, i.e. change in frequency of a wave based on the relative motion between wave source and observer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor weather, DWR sends pulses of electromagnetic energy into the atmosphere, which are reflected back to radar by raindrops or snow. It helps in providing advance information for early warning in the event of severe weather; protecting life and property.
 Nipah Virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Kerala reported the death of a child due to Nipah Virus. Nipah Virus (NiV), a zoonotic virus, is a type of RNA virus transmitted in humans through its natural hosts- fruit bats (Pteropodidae Family), or through direct contact with infected people or contaminated food. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently, it lacks any treatment or vaccine with support care as only primary treatment.



Vanniyar Movement

- Started in 1986, the Vanniyar movement is based on **demand for reservation from Vanniyakula Kshatriyas or Vanniyars** for 20% state reservation and 2% in central services.
- Vanniyars are among the **largest** and most consolidated backward community of Tamil Nadu.



Places in news

• Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan

- Taliban claimed of capturing Panjshir Valley completely.
- **Location and Water Body- Panjshir is located in Hindukush Mountains** and the entire valley is located **along Panjshir River** which flows all along its length.
- Almost 100% of the population of this valley are **Ethnic Tajiks**.
- Special Feature- it has rich **deposits of Silver**, Various types of crystals including **Emeralds and rare earth minerals** too.
- **Known as** graveyard of the invaders as no invader could succeed to conquer.
- **Bordering countries:** Afghanistan is a **landlocked country** surrounded by Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, China, India.



• Guinea

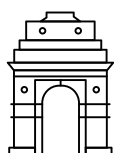
- A military coup in Guinea dissolved the government of the day.
- **Location-** This country is a part of western Africa and is located on the Atlantic coast.
- River bodies: River Gambia, the Niger.
- **Bordering countries:** Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.



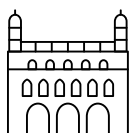
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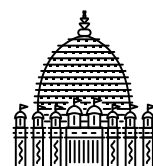
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI