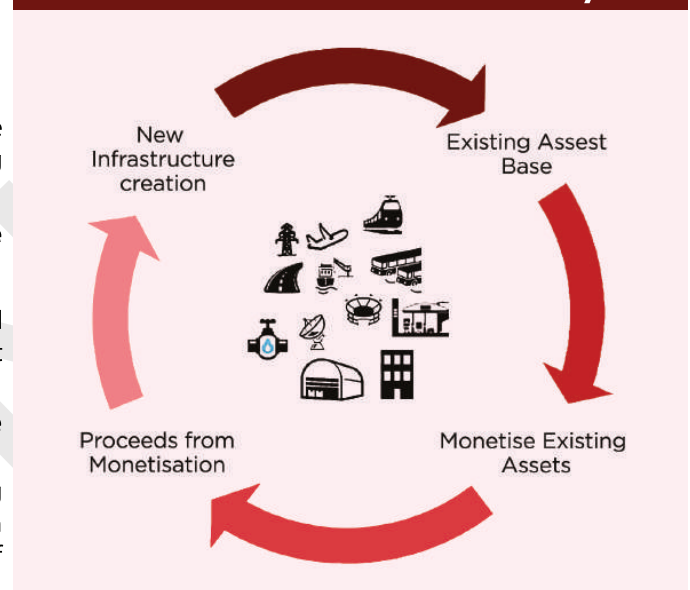


# NEWS TODAY

## CABINET APPROVES SETTING UP OF NATIONAL LAND MONETIZATION CORPORATION (NLMC) AS A SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE (SPV) FOR UNDERTAKING SURPLUS LAND MONETIZATION

- NLMC would be setup as a **wholly owned Government of India company** with an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.
  - It was earlier proposed in Budget 2021-22.
  - Land monetization is a part of asset monetization.**
- Role of NLMC**
  - Support and undertake monetization of surplus land** and non-core assets of **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** undergoing strategic disinvestment or closure.
  - Advise and support CPSEs in identifying their surplus non-core assets** and monetizing them in a professional and efficient manner.
  - Act as a repository of best practices** in land monetization, assist and provide technical advice to Government in implementation of asset monetization programme.
  - Will have **necessary technical expertise to professionally manage** and monetize land assets.
- Asset monetisation is when the government is **basically transferring revenue rights to private parties for a specified transaction period** in return for upfront money, a revenue share, and commitment of investments in the assets.
  - Earlier, government unveiled a **four-year National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** worth an estimated Rs 6 lakh crore.

### Infrastructure Asset Monetisation Cycle



## WHO GLOBAL CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN INDIA

- Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)** in Jamnagar, Gujarat by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the WHO.
  - This would be the **first and only global outpost Centre**, under Ministry of AYUSH for traditional medicine **across the globe**.
- Benefits of GCTM**
  - To position AYUSH systems across the globe.
  - To provide leadership on global health matters pertaining to traditional medicine.
  - To **ensure quality, safety and efficacy, accessibility and rational use** of traditional medicine.
  - To **develop norms, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas** for collecting data undertaking analytics, and assess impact.
  - To **develop specific capacity building and training programmes** in the areas of relevance to the objectives and conduct training programmes.
- Other steps taken to promote traditional medicine**
  - Scheme for Voluntary Certification of Yoga Professionals.**
  - Yoga Certification Board (YCB)** has been established to bring synergy, quality and uniformity in knowledge.
  - AYUSH Information Cell** have been set up in 31 countries to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system.

### Traditional medicine:

- It refers to health practices, approaches, knowledge, and beliefs incorporating plant, spiritual therapies, etc to treat, diagnose and prevent illnesses or maintain well-being.
- It composes of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Sowa Rigpa.



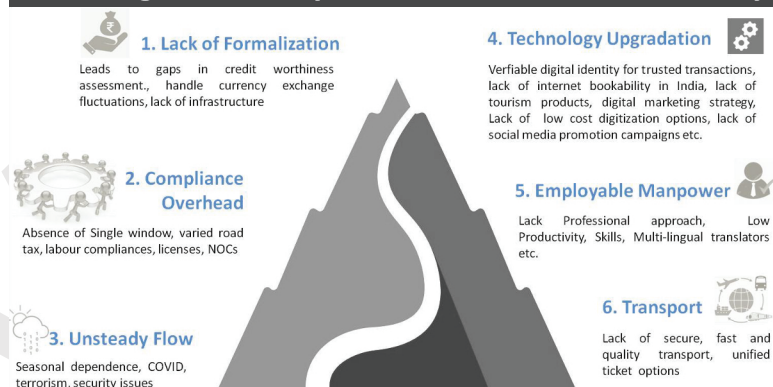
## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: INDIA EYES ALTERNATIVE MARKETS FOR TEA EXPORT

- India is looking to **develop alternative export markets** for tea such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan and Tunisia in view of the Russian attack on Ukraine.
    - **Russia alone imports over 20 per cent** of the total tea exports from the country.
    - Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) are also important export destination.
  - Tea production in India**
    - As of 2019, India was the **second largest tea producer in the world**.
    - **India is home to a wide variety of teas**, including CTC tea, orthodox tea, green tea and organic tea.
    - **Tea Board of India**, set up under Tea Act, 1953, undertakes developmental, regulatory functions, and direct promotional activities.
  - Climatic Condition for Tea cultivation**
    - **Temperature:** 21 Degrees C to 29 Degrees C is ideal for Tea. The lowest temperature for the growth of tea is 16 degrees C.
    - **Rainfall:** 150-250 cm of rainfall is required for tea cultivation.
    - **Soil:** Tea shrubs require fertile mountain soil mixed with lime and iron. The soil should be rich in humus.
    - **Land:** Tea cultivation needs well-drained land. Stagnation of water is not good for tea plants.
- CIS was founded in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- **It has 12 members:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

## MINISTRY OF TOURISM (MOT) INVITES FINAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORT FOR SETTING UP NATIONAL DIGITAL TOURISM MISSION (NDTM)

- In 2021, MoT had constituted an **inter-ministerial task force for NDTM** to define the overall scope of NDTM.
  - The NDTM envisages to **achieve the objective of harnessing the full potential of digitization in tourism sector** by facilitating exchange of information and services in tourism sector.
  - Its vision is to **bridge the existing information gap amongst different stakeholders** of tourism ecosystem through a **digital highway**.
- Tourism sector in India**

### Challenges faced by the Indian Tourism Industry



- By 2028, Indian tourism and hospitality is expected to earn US\$ 50.9 billion as visitor exports compared with US\$ 28.9 billion in 2018.
- India was globally the **third largest in terms of investment in travel and tourism** with an inflow of US\$ 45.7 billion in 2018, accounting for 5.9% of the total investment in the country.
- Steps taken to promote tourism in India**
  - **National Green Tourism Mission** to maintain sustainability in tourism sector.
  - **National Mission on Tourism MSMEs** to facilitate start-ups and micro, small, medium enterprises.
  - Swadesh Darshan Scheme
  - National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (**PRASHAD**) Scheme
  - **Paryatan Parv** to encourage Indians to visit tourist destination in India.

## MINING OF NEW MINERALS OPENED UP TO REDUCE IMPORT DEPENDENCE

- Union Cabinet, approved the proposal of Ministry of Mines for **amendment of Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** (MMDR Act) for specifying rate of royalty in respect of Glauconite, Potash, Emerald, Platinum Group of Metals (PGM), Andalusite, Sillimanite and Molybdenum.
  - Glauconite and potash are used as **fertilisers in agriculture**.
  - The platinum group of metals and andalusite and molybdenum are **high-value minerals**, which find use across different industries.
- Benefits of the amendment**
  - Reduce import of these minerals, thereby **saving valuable forex reserves**.
  - Lead to **auction of these mineral blocks for the first time in India**, and is expected to generate opportunities for the mining and manufacturing sector.
  - Ensure availability of minerals for downstream industries and support agriculture.
- Earlier, MMDR Act was **amended in 2015** to bring in a new regime of granting mineral concessions.
  - Later, it was further amended in 2021 to give major boost to auction of mineral blocks.

○ Royalty is **not a tax**. It is the **rent of the land on which the mine is situated** or the price of privilege of winning minerals from the land parted by the government.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### Fertiliser Control Order, 1985

- The Agriculture Ministry has amended the Fertiliser Control Order, 1985, **allowing States to proceed against both manufacturers and dealers** whenever samples drawn from non-tampered bags fail to meet standards.
- It also **allowed dealers to maintain stock records in digital form** which clearly exhibits the date-wise stock position, opening balance, receipts during the day.
- The order provided that any manufacturer, retailer sells, imports for sale, or markets **any sub-standard fertilizer shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to ₹20 lakh.**



### The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

- The Reserve Bank said NaBFID will be regulated and supervised as an All-India Financial Institution under the RBI Act, 1934.
- **NaBFID**
  - It is principal **development financial institution (DFIs)** for infrastructure financing.
  - DFIs are set up for providing **long-term finance where the risks involved are beyond the acceptable limits** of commercial banks and other ordinary financial institutions.
  - It is governed by a Board of Directors and the Chairperson appointed by the central government in consultation with RBI.



### Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducts a \$ 5 billion dollar-rupee swap auction

- Under the auction, **RBI sold \$5.135 billion to banks** and **simultaneously agreed to buy back** the dollars at the end of the swap settlement period.
  - The auction, as part of RBI's **liquidity management initiative**, led to infusion of dollars and sucking out of the rupee from the financial system.
- It will **reduce the pressure on inflation and strengthen the rupee** which has already hit the 77 level against the US dollar.



### Venture capitalists

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry said the venture capitalists have played a pivotal role in India's startup story and the economic growth of the country.
- A venture capitalist is an **investor who invests in risky startup businesses**. The venture capital investor **provides funding to an entrepreneur** who may not have access to substantial bank loans or other sources of capital.
  - They often **want to participate in the decision-making** of the business in which they invest.



### Side-channel attacks (SCAs)

- Indian researchers have built a **low-energy security chip** to prevent SCA on IoT (Internet of Things) devices.
- SCA aims to **extract sensitive information like cryptographic keys**, proprietary machine learning models and parameters by measuring things like timing information, power consumption and electromagnetic leaks of a system.
  - They are also referred to as **sidebar attack or an implementation attack**.
  - They are **difficult to detect and defend against**.
- **Types of SCAs:** Timing attack, Electromagnetic (EM) attack, Acoustic, Power, Optical, memory Cache, hardware weaknesses.



### Lost ship 'The Endurance' found after a century

- The Endurance was the vessel of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, who attempted to **make the first land crossing of Antarctica**.
- However, his ship **was crushed by sea-ice and sank in 1915**, after they embarked on forcing Shackleton and his men to make an escape.
- After a century, it was **spotted in the Weddell Sea at a depth of 3,008m**.



### Pal-Dadhvav massacre

- On 7th March, Gujarat **government marked 100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav killings**.
- Pal-Dadhvav massacre took place in **the Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages of Sabarkantha district part of Idar state** (was princely state in Gujarat).
  - The movement was to **protest against the land revenue tax (lagaan) imposed on the peasants** by the British and feudal lords.
  - British officer **Major H.G. Sutton from Mewad Bhil Corps** ordered to open fire at the innocent tribals.





Places in news

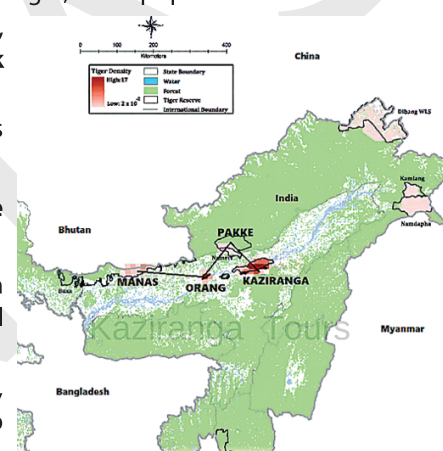
### • Amazon rainforest

- According to study published in Nature Climate Change, **more than 75 percent of the Amazon rainforest has been likely heading towards a tipping point** since the early 2000s.
- **Location:** World's **largest tropical rainforest** occupying the **drainage basin of the Amazon River** and its tributaries in **northern South America**.
- **Boundaries:**
  - Comprising about **40% of Brazil's total area**, bounded by **Guiana Highlands** to the north, **Andes Mountains** to the west, **Brazilian central plateau** to the south, and **Atlantic Ocean** to the east.
  - Not landlocked.
- **Features:**
  - Also called **'lungs of the planet'**.
  - Forest is **Carbon sink** — a place that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it releases.
  - Helps to combat climate change.



### • Manas National Park

- **Assam's Manas National Park** witnesses sharp rise in tiger, rhino population.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, **National Park** and also a Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Located in the Himalayan foothills**, it is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.
- It spans the **Manas River** and is **bounded to the north by the forests of Bhutan**.
- Manas river is a **major tributary of Brahmaputra River**, which passes through the heart of the national park.
- **Habitats for rare and endangered species**, including tiger, greater one-horned rhino, swamp deer, pygmy hog and Bengal florican.



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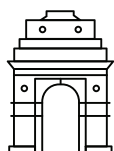
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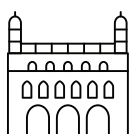
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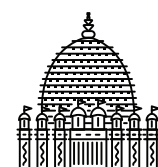
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