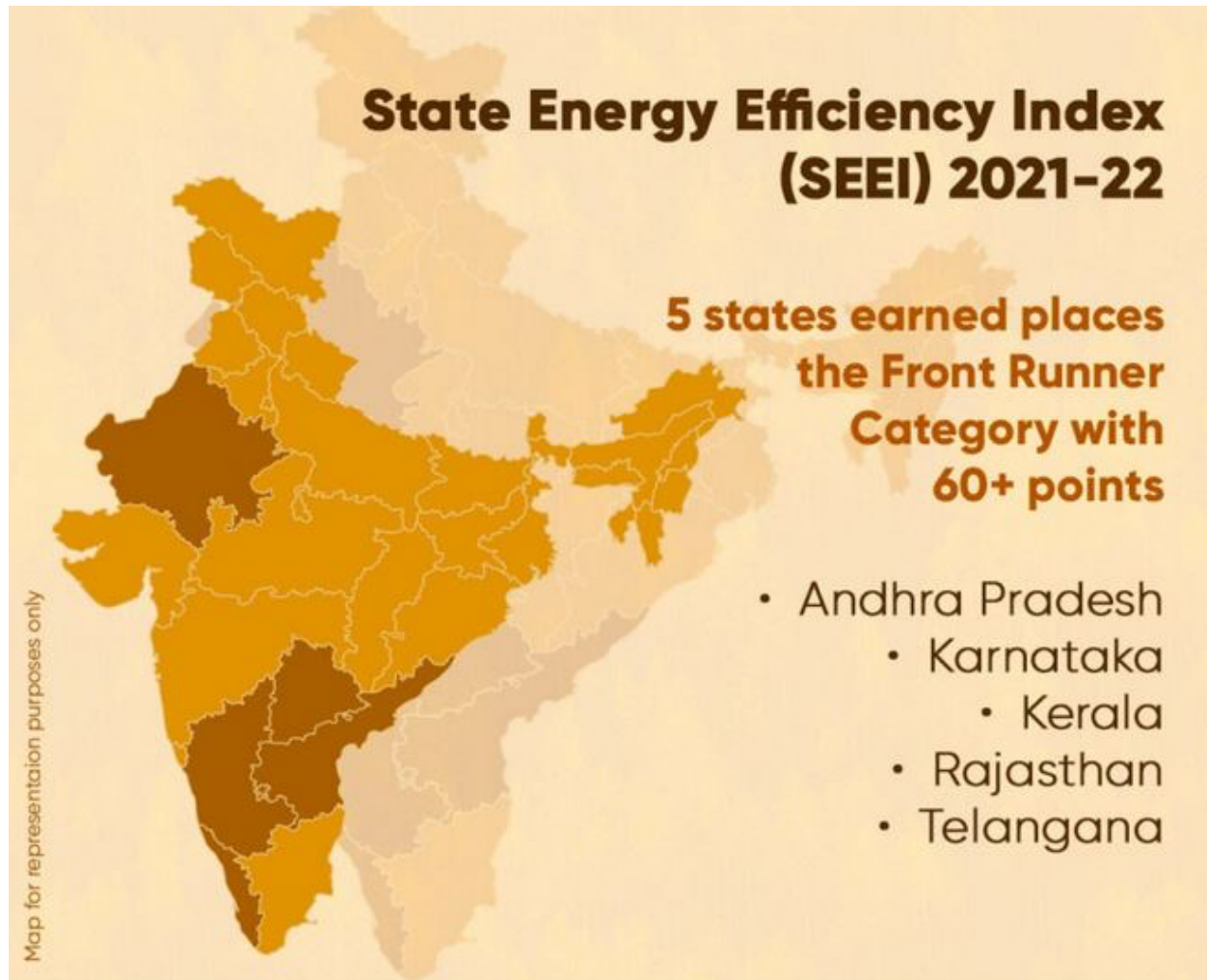




1.State Energy Efficiency Index 2021-22

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy has released the report of State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2021-22.

More on the Topic

- The index developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE).
- The index assess the annual progress of states and UTs in energy efficiency implementation, for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- SEEI 2021-22 has an updated framework of 50 indicators aligned with national priorities.
- Programme-specific indicators have been included this year to track outcomes and impacts of state-level energy efficiency initiatives.



Performance of the States:

- In SEEI 2021-22, 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana - are in the Front Runner category (>60 points) while 4 states - Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Punjab - are in the Achiever category (50-60 points).
- Further, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Chandigarh are the top-performing states in their respective state groups.
- Telangana and Andhra Pradesh showed the most improvement since the last index.

Recommendations:

- **Develop and implement State Energy Efficiency Action Plans.** Facilitate fiscal support for EE by earmarking funds.
- Strengthen institutional capacity by appointing EE nodal officers in all government departments and setting up EE cells in district and head offices.
- Mainstream monitoring and reporting of energy data through transparent online portals.

Objectives of the Index:

- The index is designed to **help track progress on state goals for energy savings and reduction in emission intensity** and outlines the following recommendations to help states drive change in EE.

About Bureau of Energy Efficiency:

- The Government of India set up the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- It functions under **Ministry of Power.**
- The primary objective of BEE is **reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.**
- BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies and other organizations and recognise, identifies and utilise the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the Energy Conservation Act.
- The Energy Conservation Act provides for regulatory and promotional functions.

Source: Indian Express



2. India's preventive detention laws

Topic: Polity and Governance

“ Preventive detention must fall within the four corners of Article 21 (protection of life and liberty) read with Article 22 and the statute in question...
...for 'public order' to be disturbed, there must in turn be public disorder. Mere contravention of law... before it can be said to affect 'public order', must affect the community or the public at large —SC

In News: The Supreme Court has observed that preventive detention laws are a colonial legacy and confer arbitrary powers on the state.

More on the Topic:

- **Other observations:**
- Courts must analyse cases arising from such laws with extreme caution to ensure there are checks and balances on exercise of power of the government.
- Every procedural rigidity must be followed in entirety by the government in cases of preventive detention.
- In rare instances, **courts have been horrified by the invocation of prevention detention laws for trivial reasons**, one of the strangest being a man who sold substandard chilli seeds being detained as a 'goonda'.

About Preventive Detention Law:

- Preventive detention means to detain a person so that to prevent that person from commenting on any possible crime or in other words preventive detention is an action

taken by the administration on the grounds of the suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned which will be prejudicial to the state.

- Preventive Detention is the most contentious part of the scheme fundamental rights in the Indian constitutions **Article 22(3) provides that if the person who has been arrested or detained under preventive detention laws then the protection against arrest and detention provided under article 22 (1) and 22 (2) shall not be available** to that person.
- Detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.

Legislative Power Regarding Preventive Detention Law:

- **Parliament has exclusive authority to make a law of preventive detention** for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs and security of India.
- Both Parliament as well as state legislatures can concurrently make a law for reasons connected with Security of a state, Maintenance of public order and Maintenance of supplies and services.

Source: Hindu

3. National Party Status

Topic: Polity and Governance



How is a party's status decided H.C.

A party needs to fulfill any of the following conditions to get national or state tag

<p>For national status</p> <p>Votes in LS, state polls: A party should secure at least 6% of the votes polled in four or more states in Lok Sabha or assembly elections, and, in addition, have at least four members in the Lok Sabha</p> <p>Seats in LS: It should have at least 2% of the total Lok Sabha seats, and have candidates from not less than three states</p> <p>Must be a state party: It is recognised as a state party in at least four states</p>	<p>For state tag</p> <p>Votes in assembly polls: The party must get at least 6% of the votes and win at least two seats in the assembly election</p> <p>1 MP must in LS: It gets at least 6% of the votes polled and has at least one MP in the Lok Sabha</p> <p>Assembly seats: It has at least 3% of the votes or three MLAs in the assembly, whichever is more</p> <p>Strength in House: The party has at least one Lok Sabha member for every 25 assembly members, or any fraction thereof allotted to the state</p>
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Perks of national party

- Common party symbol across states
- Free airtime during elections on public broadcasters
- Space for a party office in New Delhi



In News: The Election Commission of India has granted National Party Status to Aam Aadmi Party.

More on the Topic:

- To be recognised as 'national' -
- The particular party should **hold the 'regional party' status, in at least four states**
- It should have won **at least 3 per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha from the four states**
- It should have **secured at least 6 percent of votes in the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha elections**

Benefits of Being Recognised as National Party:

- Once a political party is recognised as a national party -
- It can contest elections anywhere in the country
- The party can field candidates in any state
- The party is allotted one election symbol valid across the entire country, no other party can use it
- A proposer can remain present with the candidate at the time of filing of nomination
- The party will get two sets of voter list revisions by the Election Commission
- Party candidates also gain access to the voter list
- The party could open a central office in Delhi, on land provided by the government
- The party can field 40 star campaigners
- Expenditure on the star campaigners will not be included in the election expenditure of the party candidate
- The party gets time to convey its message to the masses through All India Radio and Doordarshan
- The number of star campaigners will be reduced from 40 to 20 during elections
- The party will have to use a separate symbol to contest elections in states

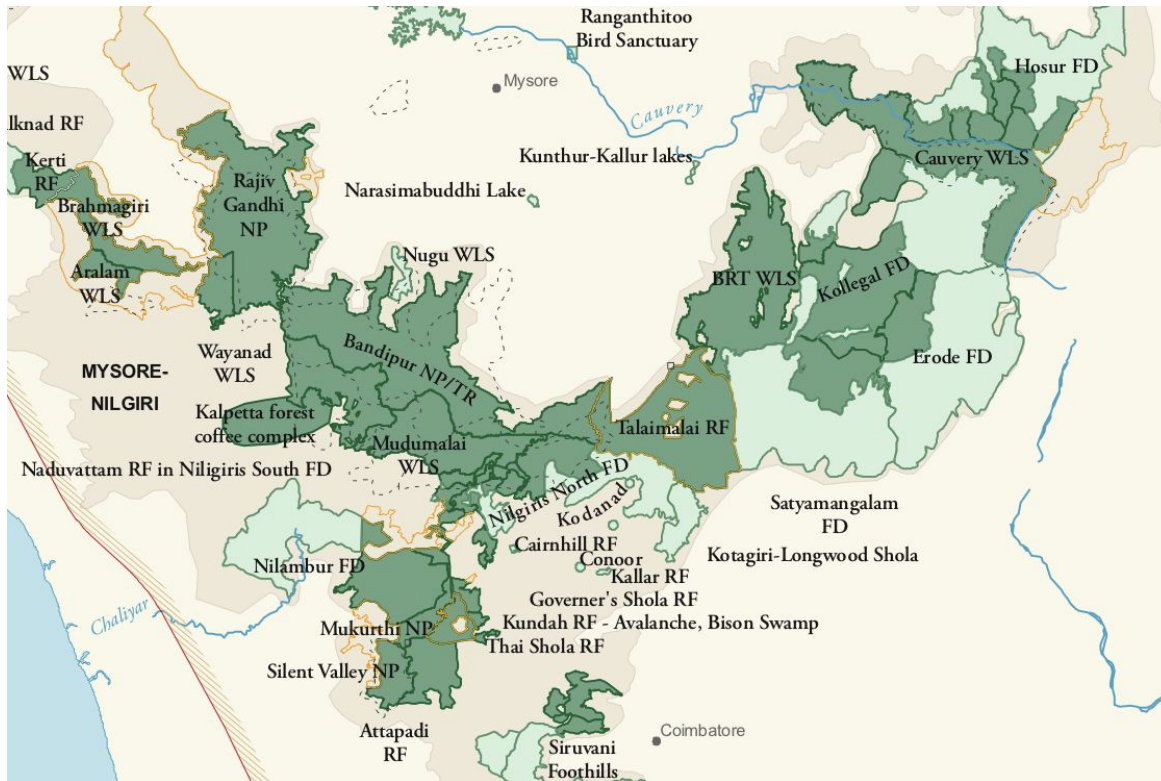
What a National Party Loses after loosing National Party Status:

- The Election Commission holds the authority to strip national parties of the coveted status. Once this is done -
- **The party symbol will not be visible** at the beginning of the EVM or ballot paper
- The particular party **may or may not be invited to attend Election Commission meetings**
- The political **funding of the party may be affected**
- The party may not be **allowed to connect to the masses through Doordarshan and All India Radio**
- **The number of star campaigners will be reduced from 40 to 20 during elections**
- The party will have to **use a separate symbol to contest elections in states**

Source: Hindu

4. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has visited the Bandipur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

More on the Topic:

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in **the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.**
- It is **a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** (1st Biosphere Reserve in India) along with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the West, Bandipur National Park (Karnataka) in the North, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley in the South.
- **Flagship Species:** Tiger and Asian Elephant.
- **Other species:** Indian Gaur, Spotted Deer, Common Langur, Malabar Giant Squirrel, Wild Dog, Jungle Cat among others.
- **Forest Type:** Tropical evergreen forest, moist deciduous forest, moist teak forest, dry teak forest etc

Source: Hindu



5.Zojila Tunnel

Topic: Geography



In News: India's Union road transport and highways minister, Nitin Gadkari, has reviewed the construction work of the strategic Zojila Tunnel.

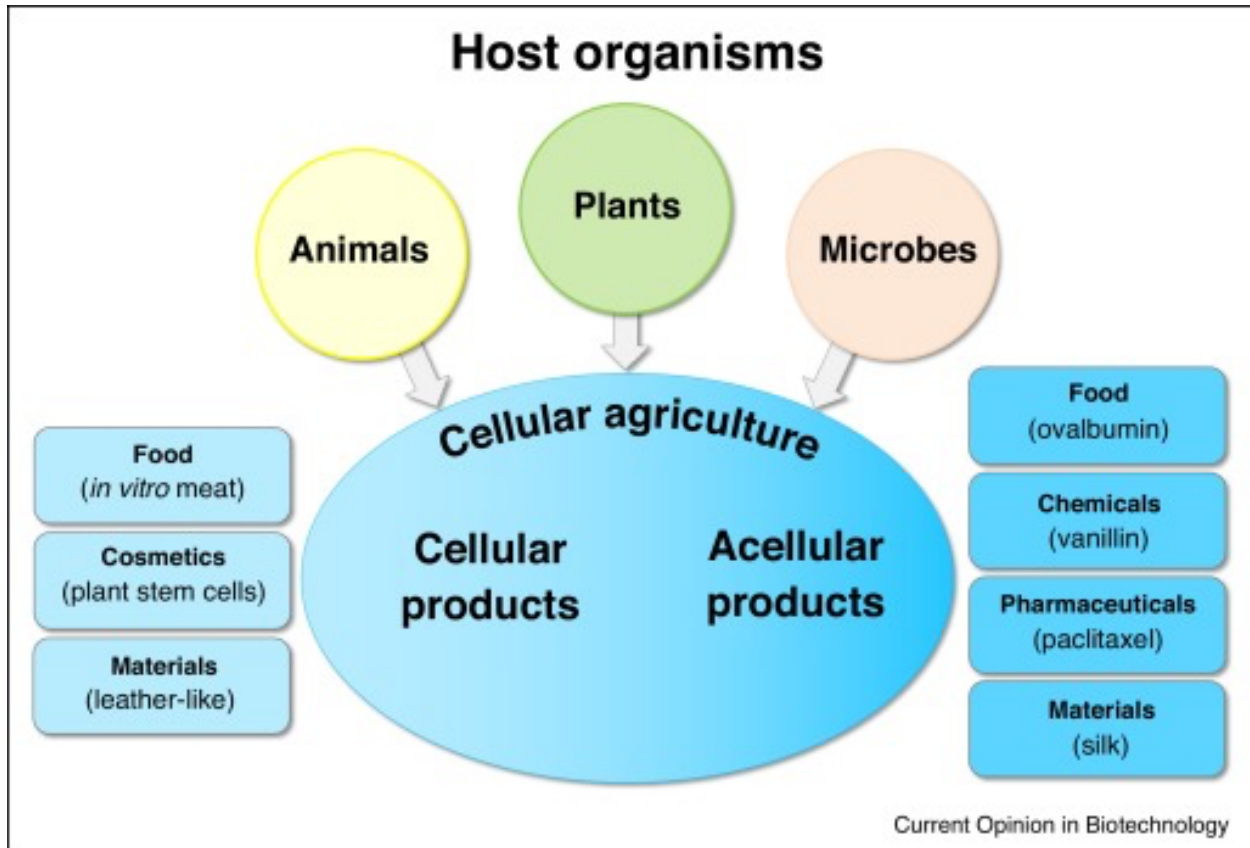
More on the Topic:

- The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- It is a horseshoe-shaped single-tube, 2-lane tunnel.
- Tourism will increase once the tunnel is thrown open and will create job opportunities in J&K and Ladakh.

Source: PIB

6. Cellular Agriculture

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Cellular Agriculture is getting prominence now.

More on the Topic:

- 'Cellular agriculture' is emerging as one of the key technologies for decarbonising protein production systems by directly producing products from cells, as opposed to raising an animal for slaughter or growing crops.
- Cellular Agriculture is the production of **animal-based products from cell cultures rather than directly from animals.**
- It has two different approaches,
- Cell cultivation (cellular) in which meat is directly produced from cells (fed with nutrients in large cultivators).
- Precision fermentation (acellular) in which microorganisms are used rather than cell cultures to produce products such as milk and egg-white proteins.

Source: Indian Express



7. UN Democracy Fund

Topic: International Relations



In News: India, a founding member of UNDEF, has informed no objections to the Fund giving grants to NGOs funded by George Soros, while he is put on the watchlist in India.

More on the Topic:

- The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) was created by UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan in 2005 as a United Nations General Trust Fund to support democratisation efforts around the world.
- UNDEF supports projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes.
- The large majority of UNDEF funds go to local civil society organizations—both in the transition and consolidation phases of democratization.
- In this way, UNDEF plays a novel and unique role in complementing the UN's other, more traditional work—the work with Governments—to strengthen democratic governance around the world.
- UNDEF subsists entirely on voluntary contributions from Governments;

Source: Business Standard
