


1.National Credit Framework

Topic: Polity and Governance

| Gaining Levels, Earning Credits | |
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| National Credit Framework (NCrF) plans a credit-based education right from school onwards | Proposals Under Discussion Total notional learning hours in a year across school, higher and vocational courses - 1200 hours; early schooling -800-1000 hrs |
|  | Five categories – classwork, yoga, sports, exams and on-the-job training – will count Class 5 will be credit Level 1, Class 12 Level 4, UG Level 6, PG Level 7 and PhD Level 8 1200 hours can earn up to 40 credits with 20 credits per semester; 30 hrs per credit |

In News: The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Monday released the final draft of the National Credit Framework (NCrF) for school education and higher education.

More on the Topic

- The NCrF is a **broad enabling framework for all regulatory organizations** and all universities, including institutions of national importance.
- It is drafted **in line with the National Education Policy (NEP 2020)**.
- The framework will **"seamlessly integrate the credits earned through school education, higher education, and vocational and skill education."**
- "The NEP 2020 emphasizes **the integration of general academic education and vocational and skill education**, providing seamless horizontal and vertical mobility between the two streams for lifelong learning.
- NCrF provides this mechanism while ensuring equivalence within and between these two education streams.

Important Features of NCrF:

- It provides for Assignment, Accumulation, Storage, Transfer and Redemption of Credits through Academic Bank of Credit (ABC).
- NCrF has divided the learning ecosystem into eight levels, assigning credits based on learning hours from Class 5 to PhD level.
- Knowledge in 18 Vidyas, including four Vedas, four subsidiary Vedas (Ayurveda–medicine, Dhanurveda – weaponry, Gandharvaveda-music and Silpa – architecture), Purana, Nayaya, etc. can be considered for creditization.

Significance of NCrF:

- National Credit Framework (NCrF) **will establish multidisciplinary and holistic education with flexible curricula.**

- It will open **numerous options for students by integrating school and higher education with vocational education and experiential learning** to promote skilling and vocational education.
- It will **remove the hard distinction between the education streams** and allow for more than one award in the same period by **removing the distinction between arts, science, social sciences, commerce, etc.**
- It will **Increase focus on research and innovation, and Promote digital learning, and open distance learning.**

Source: Indian Express

2. Triple Threat Report

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: Triple Threat report related with water was released by UNESCO.

More on the Topic:

- The report reveals that a lack of monitoring of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) related programs, projects, and policies in a third of the developing nations is causing problems.
- This lack of monitoring makes mitigation more challenging, and it's affecting 10 African countries where children are most affected by the convergence of three water-related threats: **inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene, related diseases, and climate hazards.**



More About Triple Threat:

- Less than 50 percent access to at least basic water or sanitation services.
- Within top 20 countries with highest burden of deaths attributable to unsafe WASH among children under 5.
- Despite these global improvements, approximately **four million children under the age of five die every year due to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices** globally.
- Chad, in particular, has the lowest percentage of access to basic WASH facilities and has the world's highest burden of deaths of children under five years due to unsafe WASH.

Benefit Importance of WASH:

- Whatever the healthcare systems may be the adequate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) amenities, including waste management and environmental cleaning services, are critical to their safe functioning.
- When a healthcare facility **lacks adequate WASH services, infection prevention and control are severely compromised.**
- Safe WASH is not only a prerequisite to health, but **contributes to livelihoods, school attendance and dignity** and helps to create resilient communities living in healthy environments.
- Diarrhoeal deaths as a result of inadequate WASH were reduced by half during the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) period, with the significant progress on water and sanitation provision playing a key role.
- WASH is an essential element of **quality Universal Health Coverage, is recognised by the UN as a fundamental human right, and is cost-effective.**

Source: Hindu

3. Forest Rights Act

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Even after 16 years, implementation provisions under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, have been far from satisfactory.

More on the Topic:

- One of the many reasons for non-implementation is a **lack of clarity about where and how much forest land might be eligible for Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) claims.**
- Consequently, there is **no “target” that state governments** must reach and against which their performance can be measured in terms of recognising CFRR.
- These gaps are mainly existing due to the following reasons,
- **The complexity of land and forest settlement in India and**
- **The poor quality of land records and maps available**
- This makes generating an estimate of how much land could come under CFRR and where is a difficult task.

About Forest Rights Act:

- In the colonial era, **the British diverted abundant forest wealth of the nation to meet their economic needs.**
- While procedure for settlement of rights was provided under statutes such as the Indian Forest Act, 1927, these were hardly followed.
- As a result, tribal and forest-dwelling communities, who had been living within the forests in harmony with the environment and the ecosystem, continued to live inside the forests



in tenurial insecurity, a situation which continued even after independence as they were marginalised.

- **The symbiotic relationship between forests and forest-dwelling communities found recognition in the National Forest Policy, 1988.**
- The policy called for the need to associate tribal people in the protection, regeneration and development of forests.
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, was enacted to protect the marginalised socio-economic class of citizens and balance the right to environment with their right to life and livelihood.

Important Provisions of Forest Rights Act:

- The Act seeks to **recognize and vest forest rights in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) with respect to forest land and their habitat.**
- The rights can be **inherited but they are not transferable.**
- The Act vests two broad types of rights to forestland with forest-dwelling communities - **individual forest rights (IFR) and community forest rights (CFR).**
- **Individual Forest Rights (IFR):** It aims to secure an individual the right to hold, self-cultivate, and live in forestland under individual or common occupation
- **Community Forest Rights (CFR):** Aims to bring about radical changes in forest governance by, inter alia, conferring community forest resource rights and management authority on forest-dwelling communities.

Authorities for vesting forest rights:

- The Gram Sabha shall have the authority to initiate the process of determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights that may be given to FDSTs within the local limits of its jurisdiction under this Act.
- The Gram Sabha is empowered to receive claims, consolidate and verify them, and prepare a map delineating the area of each recommended claim
- Gram Sabha would then pass a resolution to that effect and forward a copy to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC)
- The SDLC, which shall be constituted by the State Government, would examine the resolution passed by the Gram Sabha and prepare the record of forest rights. It would then be forwarded to the District Level Committee (DLC)
- **The DLC would be the final authority to approve the record of forest rights.**
- **A State Level Monitoring Committee** would be formed to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights.
- If a person is not satisfied by the ruling of the Gram Sabha, he can file a petition to the SDLC and if not satisfied with the ruling of SDLC, he can petition to the DLC within 60 days of date of decision of the SDLC.
- **The DLC's decision would be final and binding.**

- **Penalties for Offences:** The Act provides punishment for persons found guilty of contravening the provisions of the Act, engaging in unsustainable use of forest or forest produce, killing any wild animal etc.

Source: Hindu

4. Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)

Topic: e - Governance



Land Identity

| | |
|---|--|
| 14-DIGIT ULPIN will provide coordinates of the land | SIX STATES will get the unique number in first phase |
|---|--|

IT WILL BE LINKED TO
Aadhaar, revenue system



HOW WILL IT HELP?

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| LAND ACQUISITION will become easier | REAL ESTATE transactions will be transparent | PUT AN END to fraudulent land ownership |
|---|--|---|

In News: A national conference on Bhu-Aadhaar or Unique Land Parcel Identification Number has been conducted recently.

More on the Topic:

- It is a 14-digit identification number for every surveyed parcel of land in India, launched in 2021.

- It is Based on the longitude and latitude coordinates of the land parcel. It will be based on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.
- ULPIN Will help mitigate the huge pendency of court cases (66 per cent of all civil suits in India are related to land or property disputes);
- Reduce the GDP loss (about 1.3% of GDP) due to projects being stalled over litigation involving land disputes;
- Sharing of land records data across departments, financial institutions, and stakeholders; help develop land banks; and
- lead towards Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS).
- **Cadastral map:** A cadastral map is a detailed and accurate map that shows the boundaries and ownership of land parcels within a specific area.
- It is used by governments to maintain land records and for land administration purposes, such as property tax assessment, land-use planning, and resolving land disputes.

Source: Hindu

5.Uranium-241

Topic: Science and Technology

Discovery of a new Uranium Isotope 'Uranium-241'





01

Discovered by
A team of nuclear physicists of Japan.

Atomic Number and Mass Number of 'Uranium-241'
92 and 241.

02

03

Half-Life
40 minutes

Uranium (U)
A naturally occurring radioactive element.

04

05

Uranium consists of three isotopes in natural state
U-234, U-235 and U-238.

In News: While studying the atoms of heavy elements, physicists in Japan discovered a previously unknown isotope of uranium.

More on the Topic:

- The isotope has atomic number 92 and mass number 241, i.e. uranium-241.
- The physicists were in search of magic number.
- In nuclear physics, **“magic numbers” are specific numbers of protons or neutrons in atomic nuclei that correspond to Stable configurations.**
- The heaviest known ‘magic’ nucleus is lead (82 protons). After this nucleus becomes unstable.

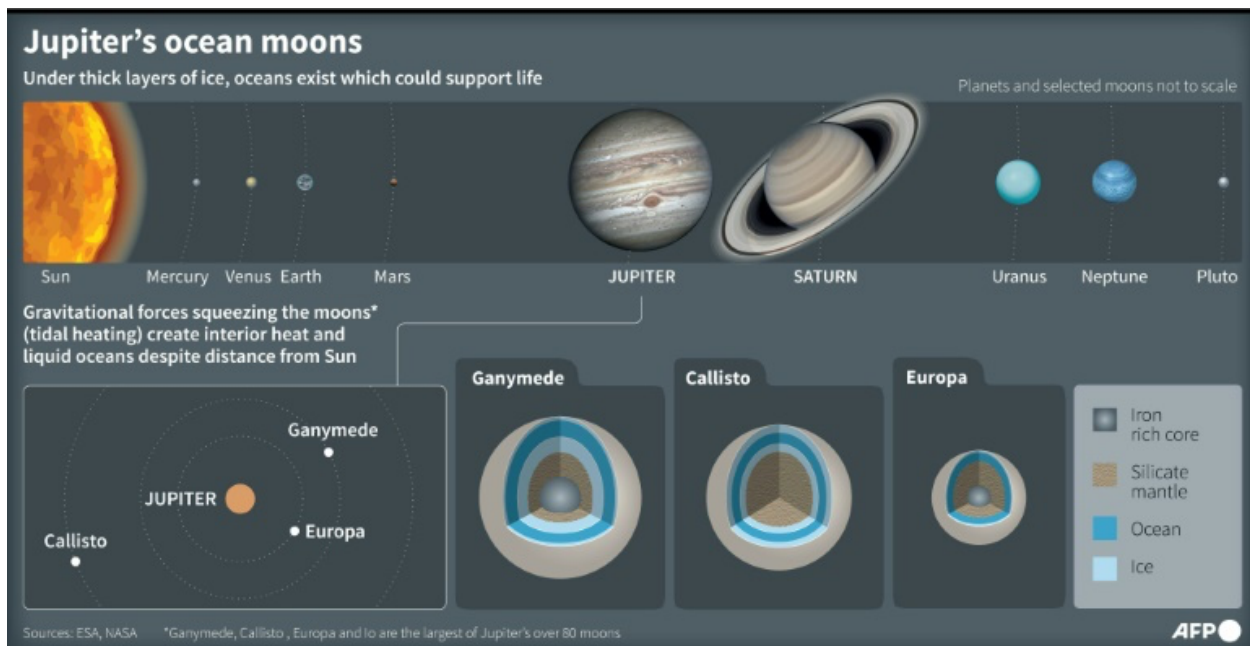
About Isotopes:

- Isotopes are **atoms of the same element that have the same number of protons but differ in the number of neutrons in their nuclei.**
- Isotopes of an element have nearly identical chemical properties but may differ in their physical properties such as density and radioactivity.

Source: Business Standard

6. Europe's Juice Mission

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Europe's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer mission is set to launch for its 8-year cruise to the solar system's largest planet.

More on the Topic:

- The spacecraft, designed to explore three of Jupiter's four main moons.
- JUICE will arrive at Jupiter in July 2031 and spend the following three and a half years orbiting the planet while making close flybys of three of its four main moons: Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.
- Scientists are interested in Jupiter's moons because **they appear to harbor massive oceans of liquid water hidden by tens of miles thick shells of ice, and these oceans might possess favorable conditions for some form of life to exist.**
- Although JUICE is unlikely to find any evidence of life on Jupiter's moons, **the mission will help scientists better understand whether the right conditions for life exist on these moons or not.**
- Although Ganymede is much less likely to host life than the smaller Europa, scientists want to be able to compare conditions on these two ice-covered ocean worlds.

Source: Indian Express

7. Cost Inflation Index (CCI)

Topic: Economy

Indexation

$$\text{Indexation} = \frac{\text{Value of Good in Given Year}}{\text{Value of Good in the Base Year}} \times 100$$



In News: Income Tax Department has notified CCI for current fiscal beginning April 2023.

More on the Topic:

- The CII is **an index that is used to calculate the inflation-adjusted rise in the value of an asset** including land, buildings, houses, gold jewellery, debt mutual funds, and so on.
- This CII number will **assist you determine the long-term capital gains on which you are required to pay taxes when you file your income tax returns (ITR) next year.**



- This number will be used to calculate inflation-adjusted cost for only those assets that allow for inflation-adjusted (indexation benefit).
- It is popularly used to **calculate “indexed cost of acquisition” while calculating capital gains at time of sale of any capital asset.**
- Normally, an asset is required to be retained for more than 36 months (24 months for immovable property and unlisted shares) to qualify as Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG).
- CII is **used to arrive at inflation adjusted purchasing price** of assets so as to compute taxable LTCG.

Source: Business Standard
