1. 75 years since displacement of 700,000 Palestinians

Topic: Economy

In News: The Nakba refers to the mass displacement and exodus of Palestinians that occurred in 1948 when Israel was established. It resulted in approximately 700,000 Palestinians being forced to leave their homes, becoming refugees.

More on the Topic

Background of Israel Palestine Issue:

- Early 20th century had both Jews and Arabs claims historical and ancestral connections to the land of Palestine.
- In 1917 **Balfour Declaration** expressed support for a Jewish national home in Palestine
- In 1947 The United Nations has proposes a partition plan, recommending separate Jewish and Arab states in Palestine.
- In 1948 Israel had declared independence leading to the Arab-Israeli war.
- In 1967, **The Six-Day War** takes place, with Israel gaining control of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights.
- In 1993 **The Oslo Accords are signed,** establishing a framework for peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Present Situation:

- Israel occupies the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with the construction of Israeli settlements and separation barriers impacting Palestinian territories.

Present status go Palestinian Refugees:

- Nearly one-third of the registered Palestine refugees, more than 1.5 million individuals, live in **58 recognized Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.**
- A Palestine refugee camp is defined as a plot of land placed at the disposal of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA),by the host government to accommodate Palestine refugees and set up facilities to cater to their needs.

India's Stand on Israel Palestine Issue:

- India's support for the Palestinian cause is **an integral part of the nation's foreign policy.** In 1974, India became the first Non-Arab State to recognise Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- India is **one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine.**
- India was one of the 128 countries that voted **in favour of the UNGA Resolution in 2017 regarding the status of Jerusalem** in the backdrop of American decisions to (i)recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and (ii) shift the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- India also voted in favour of the **UNGA resolution – Protection of the Palestinian Civilian Population in 2018.**
- In recent years, India follows a more balanced approach and emphasised its commitment to a **two-state solution.**
- India supports the establishment of **a sovereign, independent, and viable Palestinian state** existing peacefully alongside Israel.

Source: Indian Express

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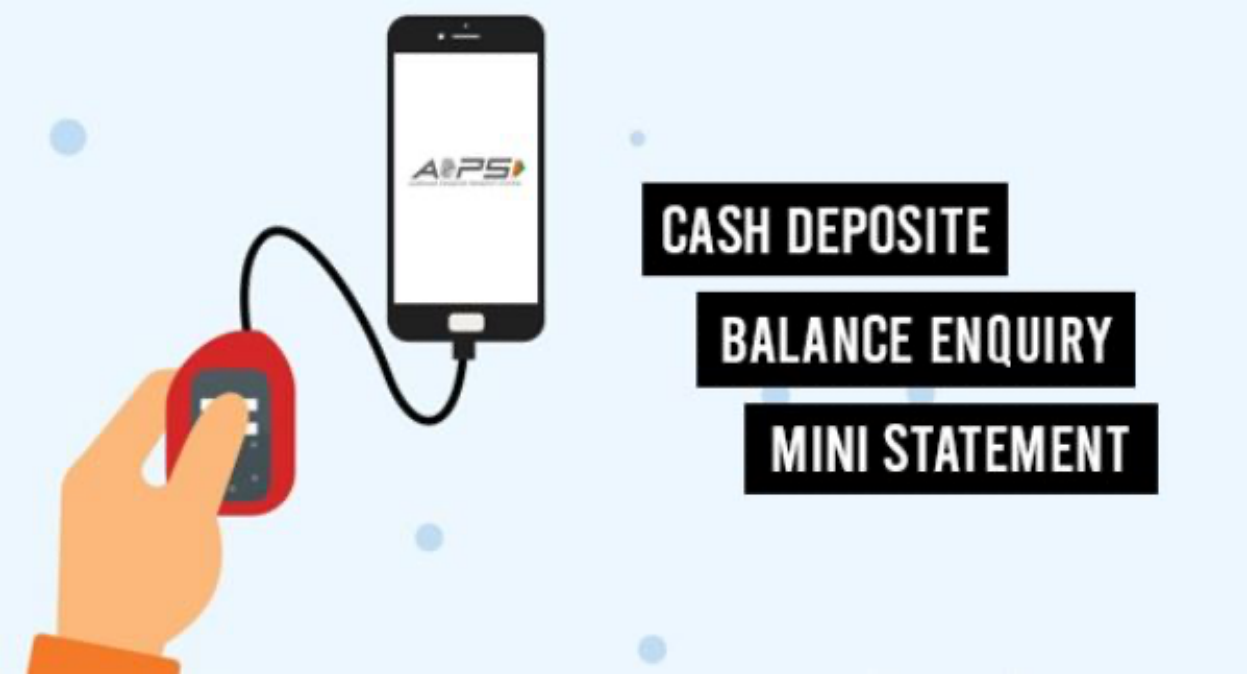
2. Gaps in Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)

Topic: Economy



In News: Cybercriminals are exploiting the gaps in the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS).

More on the Topic:

- **The newly added diseases are** Laron's Syndrome, Wilson's disease, congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH),neonatal onset multisystem inflammatory disease (NOMID) Hypophosphatemic rickets and atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (AHUS).

What is AePS and how does it remove the need for an OTP?salient features of NPRD, 2021 are:

- Aadhaar-enabled Payment Services (AePS) is a bank-led model which allows online financial transactions at Point-of-Sale (PoS) and Micro ATMs through the business correspondent of any bank using Aadhaar authentication.
- **The model removes the need for OTPs, bank account details, and other financial details.**
- It allows fund transfers using only the bank name, Aadhaar number, and fingerprint captured during Aadhaar enrolment, according to the National Payments Corporation of India (NCPI).
- For AePs, these are the only inputs required for certain types of transactions, including cash deposit, cash withdrawal, balance inquiry, mini statement, Aadhaar to Aadhaar fund transfer, authentication, and BHIM Aadhaar pay.

How do you secure Aadhaar biometric information?

- The UIDAI is proposing an amendment to the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016, which will require entities in possession of an Aadhaar number to not share details unless the Aadhaar numbers have been redacted or blacked out through appropriate means, both in print and electronic form.
- The UIDAI has also implemented **a new two-factor authentication mechanism** that uses a machine-learning-based security system, combining finger minutiae and finger image capture to check the liveness of a fingerprint.
- Additionally, users are also advised to ensure that **they lock their Aadhaar information by visiting the UIDAI website or using the mobile app.**
- This will ensure that their biometric information, even if compromised, cannot be used to initiate financial transactions.
- Aadhaar can be unlocked when the need for biometric authentication arises, such as for property registration and passport renewals, after which it can again be locked.
- A**adhaar cards can be locked using the UIDAI website to generate a 16-digit VID number via SMS service.**
- Users can also lock their Aadhaar biometric information using the My Aadhaar tab on the UIDAI website.

Source: PIB

3.Sea levels rise and Land Reclamation Line

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Despite the considerable cost and engineering challenges, coastal land reclamation has become "a global-scale phenomenon" over the last two decades.

More on the Topic:

- A recent study, which examined satellite imagery of coastal cities with a population of at least 1 million, found that reclamation projects in 106 cities around the world had altogether created around 2,530 square kilometers (more than 900 square miles) of coastal land.
- Nearly 90% of that land was created in East Asia, most often to make way for industry and port facilities catering to the globalized economy. From 2000 to 2020, Shanghai alone added around 350 square kilometers, with Singapore and Incheon, in South Korea, also raising vast new areas.
- Land reclamation will continue to be a solution for many countries around the world to address its more pressing needs for increased development and urbanization, balancing economy and ecology.

About Land Reclamation:

- Land reclamation, usually known as reclamation, and also known as land fill, is the process of creating new land from oceans, seas, riverbeds or lake beds.
- The land reclaimed is known as reclamation ground or land fill.
- Land reclamation can be achieved by a number of different methods.
- The simplest method involves filling the area with large amounts of heavy rock and/or cement, then filling with clay and dirt until the desired height is reached.

- **The process is called "infilling"** and the material used to fill the space is generally called "infill".
- People have been reclaiming land from the sea for centuries, to control flooding and make more space for agriculture and coastal industries.
- Traditionally, this meant **building a series of dikes to enclose tidal marshes or shallow offshore waters** and draining these enclosures to create dry land.
- In some cases, **streams were diverted to carry additional sediment into these areas,** building up the land to a higher level.

Challenges of Coastal Reclamation:

- Coastal reclamation is a costly engineering practice economically, socially, and ecologically.
- The coastal reclamation projects will last only several decades and would later require an equally exorbitant amount of money to maintain.
- The environmental cost of land reclamation projects can be significant.
- Using materials like sand which are obtained from the marine and river environment can mean the destruction of habitats and spawning grounds of organisms, leading to a serious impact on the food webs from an environmental, ecological and conservation points of view.

Source: Hindu

4.Competition Commission of India

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: Centre has appointed new director of Competition Commission of India.

More on the Topic:

- The goals of the Competition Act, 2002 are aimed at being accomplished through the establishment of the CCI, which was set up by the Central Government.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**

- It should be noted that on the recommendations of Raghavan committee, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002.
- The Commission comprises a Chairperson and six Members who are appointed by the Central Government.
- It is the **statutory duty** of the Commission to eliminate practices having an adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants, in markets in India as provided in the Preamble as well as **Section 18 of the Act**.

Source: Indian Express

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5. Bura Chapori Wilf Life Sanctuary

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Following the anti-encroachment drive at Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam Chief Minister has shared photographs of the successful eviction drive at the wildlife sanctuary.

More on the Topic:

- Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area located in the state of Assam in India.
- It is situated on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River.
- It comprises of wet alluvial grassland, riparian and semi-evergreen forests dotted by wetland and river systems.
- It is a part of Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary (centrally located Protected Area of Assam) and is a notified buffer of the Kazairanga Tiger reserve.

Source: Business Standard

6. Sanchar Saathi Portal

Topic: e-governance

In News: Through Sanchar Saathi Portal, people will be able to block, track and check the genuineness of a used device before buying them.

More on the Topic:

- Sanchar Saathi portal was launched by the Department of Telecom.
- The Sanchar Saathi facilities have been developed by **C-DoT.** The technology development arm under the Department of Telecom has been able to add feature to check use of cloned mobile phones across all telecom networks.
- The government has made it mandatory to disclose **IMEI– a 15-digit unique numeric identifier of mobile devices before their sale in India.**
- The mobile networks will have access to the list of approved IMEI numbers which will check the entry of any unauthorised mobile phones on their network.
- Telecom operators and CEIR system will have visibility into IMEI number of the device and mobile number linked to it and the information is being used in some states to track your lost or stolen mobiles through CEIR.
- One of the common practices is that miscreants after stealing mobile phone change IMEI number of the device which prevents tracking and blocking of such handsets.
- The CEIR will be able to block any cloned mobile phones on the network with the help of various databases.

Source: Business Standard

7. 'Meri LiFE' app

Topic: International Relations

In News: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched "Meri LiFE" app.

More on the Topic:

- It is intended to enable citizens to save the environment by fostering a nationwide movement for LiFE.
- The Meri LiFE app will help in **creating a structured way to track the progress being made on Mission LiFE.**
- Upon successful sign-up, users will be guided to participate in a series of LiFE related tasks under the following 5 themes, namely, **Save Energy, Save Water, Reduce Single Use Plastic, Adopt Sustainable Food Systems and Adopt Healthy Lifestyle.**
- This app is inspired by the concept of LiFE.
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was launched by The Prime Minister in2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat and focuses on bringing about **behaviour changes in individuals through simple easy to do actions.**
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal ministry for national-level coordination and implementation of Mission LiFE.

Source: Business Standard