



## 1. Green Credit Program



### Topic: Environment and Ecology

**In News:** The Ministry of Environment and Forests has put forward a pioneering initiative called the Green Credit Programme.

### More on the Topic

- It is aimed at incentivising environmentally conscious practices and promoting a sustainable lifestyle known as '**LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**'.
- In a recent notification, the government introduced the "draft Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules 2023" to lay the foundation for this innovative scheme.
- The Green Credit Programme will be implemented under the purview of the **Environment Protection Act**, serving as a framework to motivate and reward eco-friendly behavior.

### Objectives of GCP:

- Create a market based mechanism for providing GCs to individuals, organizations, local bodies, gram panchayats, private sectors etc. for environment positive actions.



- Create mass movement around environment positive actions and realize the **vision of Mission LIFE**.
- GCs will be **tradable outcomes** and will be made available for trading on a domestic market platform.
- An activity generating GCs may also get **Carbon Credits from the same activity under the carbon market**.
- **The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education** is the administrator of the GCP, responsible for its implementation, management and monitoring.

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Reforming Multilateral Development Banks



### Topic: International Relations

**In News:** In his address to the US Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about the relevance of MDBs and the need to reform them.

- The two traditional goals shared by all multilateral institutions have been the elimination of poverty and fostering shared prosperity.

### Why MDB reforms are needed?

- Reality check - The altruistic claims made by the “Northern community” about global economic co-operation are no longer credible. We must be conscious that **poverty elimination and shared prosperity have remained elusive goals**.
- **Shared prosperity** at intra and inter-country levels has also **worsened** in recent times.
- The need for matching the ability of MDBs to **finance these larger goals without reducing development financing**.

### Important Issues must be addressed:

- **Shareholding structure:** In the World Bank, Switzerland is the executive director responsible for Uzbekistan, and Canada for Jamaica.
- Small European countries have seats on the board but 23 African countries share a seat.



- Any attempts to make the Eurocentric definition of “world” a part of the conversation on capitalising the institution are rebuffed as impractical.
- **Addressing diverse and evolving needs:** The current strategies and models **do not leverage the full potential of MDBs to mobilize resources and partnerships**, foster policy dialogue and alignment, monitor and evaluate progress, and address gaps and challenges.
- The current strategies and models do not diversify their portfolio of instruments and modalities to provide tailored and flexible solutions for different contexts and sectors.
- The current strategies and models do not support innovation and technology transfer for development solutions, especially for adaptation and resilience.
- **Governance and Accountability:** The current governance structure of MDBs is not representative and responsive to the needs and interests of their shareholders and stakeholders.
- The current structure **does not reflect the changing balance of power** and influence among developed and developing countries in the global economic order.
- The current structure **does not ensure effective participation and voice** of developing countries in decision-making processes.
- The current structure does not ensure **transparency and disclosure of MDBs’ operations and impacts**.
- **Resource Constraints:** The **current funding levels may not be sufficient to address** the scale of challenges faced by developing countries, particularly in the areas of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and infrastructure development.
- **Bureaucratic procedures:** MDBs often face criticism for being trapped in bureaucratic procedures, which can slow down project implementation and decision-making.

#### Conclusion:

- Reforming MDBs is a very important necessity for them to effectively address the challenges of the 21st century and enhance human welfare and ensure equality among the masses.
- Political will and a pragmatic and comprehensive approach will be instrumental in making MDBs more adaptive, efficient, and capable of driving positive change on a global scale.

Source: DTE

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### 3. Sagar Samajik Sahayog

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**Topic: Government Schemes**

**In News:** The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, has unveiled the new corporate social responsibility (CSR) guidelines called 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog' by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.

**More on the Topic:**

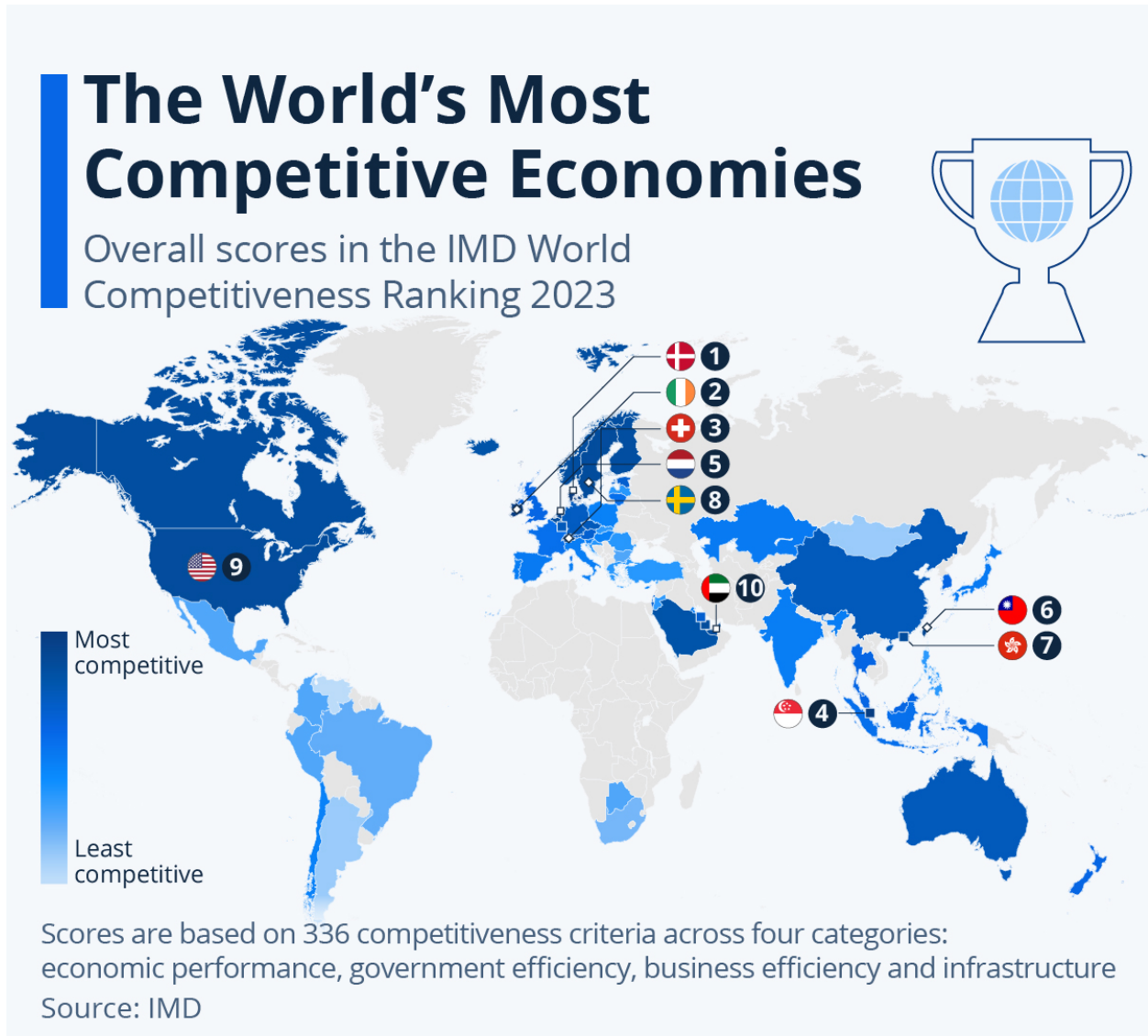
- Under the new guidelines, ports in India will allocate a specific percentage of their net annual profit towards CSR activities. The CSR budget for ports will be based on their respective turnover for the year.
- Corporate Social Responsibility require certain companies to mandatorily spend at least 2% of their average net profit of the immediately preceding three financial years on CSR activities under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.

**Source: Hindu**

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## 4. Global Competitiveness Index 2023

**Topic: Reports and Indices**



**In News:** India has ranked 40th on the latest world competitiveness ranking released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

### More on the Topic:

- According to the IMD's World Competitiveness Centre (WCC) report, India **progressed in government efficiency but lagged in business efficiency, infrastructure and economic performance.**
- Key contributing factors to the country's score were **exchange rate stability, compensation levels and advancements in pollution control.**



- The report also outlined challenges facing **India** in 2023, such as **sustaining high GDP growth, managing financial market volatility, controlling inflation and fiscal deficit, accelerating digital transformation and mobilising resources for infrastructure development.**

Source: FE

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## 5. National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)



### Topic: e-Governance

**In News:** Report Fish Disease(RFD) App developed by ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) under National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) has been released recently.

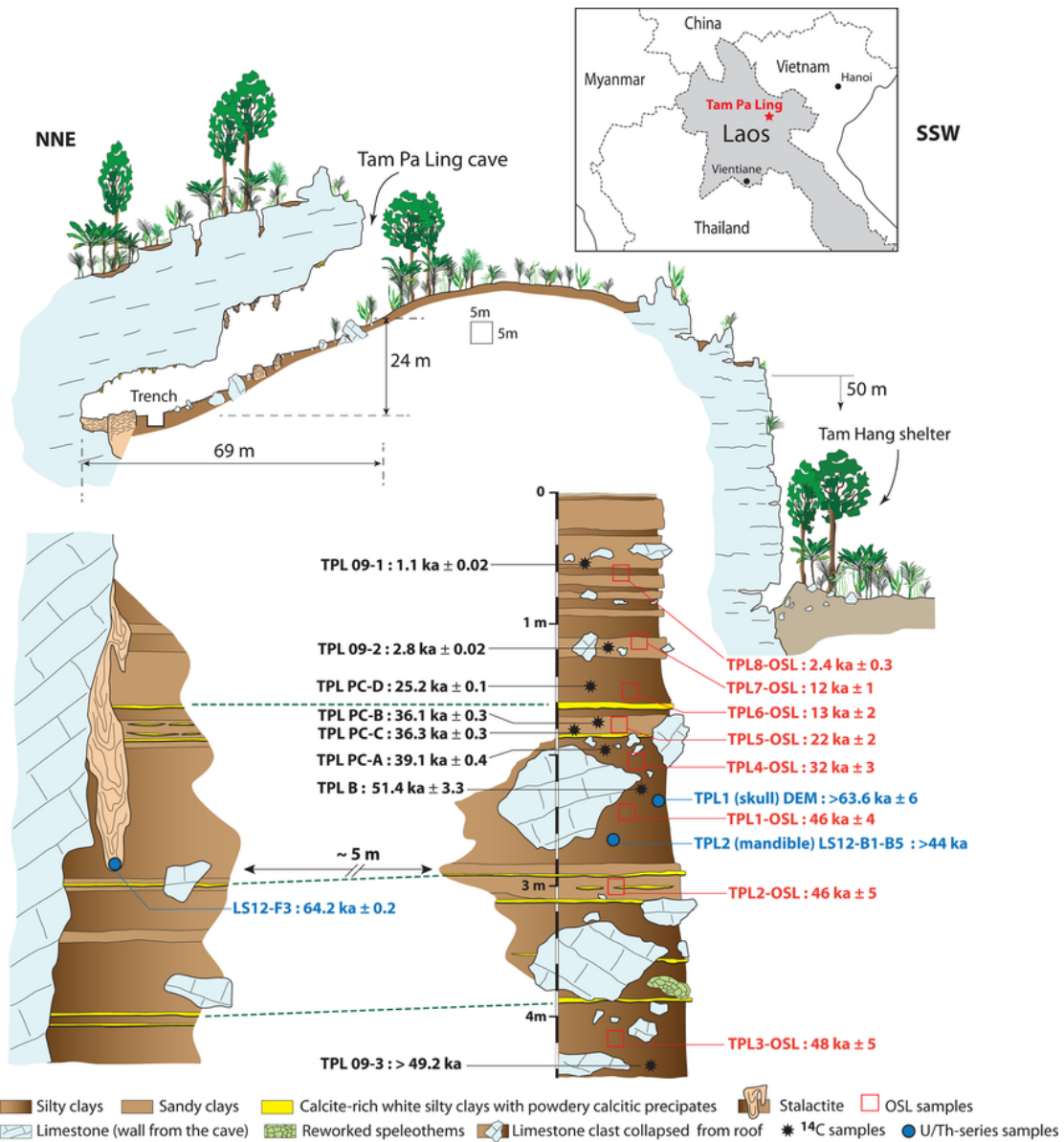
### More on the Topic:

- The RFD app will help the farmers in reporting incidence of diseases in finfish, shrimps, and molluscs on their farms with the field level-officers and fish health experts.
- This shall help farmers in getting the scientific advice for efficient management of disease.
- The data regarding the diseases will be stored on temporal & spatial scale and can be used for mapping the disease cases.
- **NSPAAD was launched by The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.**
- It is implemented under **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna.**
- It collects information on the distribution and occurrence of aquatic animal diseases to rapidly detect new and exotic infectious diseases in aquatic animals.

Source: PIB

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## 6. Tam Pà Ling Cave



TPL 09-1, TPL 09-2, TPL 09-3 and TPL B have been published as C14 with no sample number in Demeter et al., 2012.  
 TPL1-OSL, TPL2-OSL and TPL3-OSL have been published respectively as OSL1, OSL2 and OSL3 in Demeter et al., 2012.  
 DEM has already been published in Demeter et al., 2012.

### Topic: Science and Technology

**In News:** Updated chronology revealed humans were present in the vicinity of Tam Pà Ling Cave for roughly 56,000 years.

### More on the Topic:

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- The evidence from Tam Pà Ling caves of Laos has pushed back the timing of Homo sapiens arrival in Southeast Asia.
- This suggests the mainland, along with the coastal and island locations, may have also been a viable dispersal route.
- **Tam Pà Ling is very near to Cobra Cave**, where explorers found the tooth of some 150,000 years old belonging to a **Denisovan**, the now-extinct human relatives otherwise known only from remains found in Siberia and Tibet.
- This suggests the site may lie on a previously used dispersal route among hominins.

Source: Hindu

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