



1. National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has reviewed the progress of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) which is being constructed at the historic Indus Valley civilisation region of Lothal in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

More on the Topic:

- NMHC is to be developed as a first of its kind in the country dedicated to the legacy of Maritime Heritage of India, **to showcase India's rich and diverse maritime glory.**
- It will also **highlight the robust maritime history and vibrant coastal tradition** of our country at one place and would **uplift the image of India's Maritime Heritage in the international forum.**

Features of NMHC:

- The unique feature of NMHC is the **recreation of ancient Lothal city**, which is one of the prominent cities of the ancient Indus valley civilization dating to 2400 BC.
- Apart from that, the evolution of India's Maritime Heritage during various eras would be exhibited through various galleries.
- NMHC would have **pavilion for each coastal states and union territories to showcase the artefacts/maritime heritage** of the respective states and union territories.
- It is also planned to provide digital experiences to the visitors including Touch screen kiosks, Short films on important events related to the Maritime history etc.
- **Various theme parks would be developed at NMHC** such as Maritime & Naval Theme Park, Monuments Park, Climate Change Theme Park, Adventure & Amusement Theme Park through **public-private partnership.**
- It is funded by Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) and **Ministry of Culture** through National Culture Fund by way of grant.



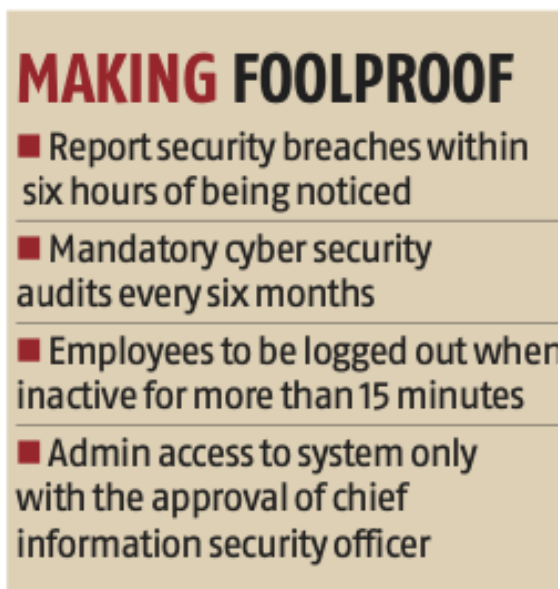
About Lothal:

- Lothal was one of the **southernmost sites of the Indus Valley civilization**, located in the Bhal region of what is now the **state of Gujarat**.
- The port city is believed to have been built in 2,200 BC. Lothal was a thriving trade centre in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and ornaments reaching West Asia and Africa.
- The meaning of Lothal (a combination of Loth and (s) thal) in Gujarati is **“the mound of the dead”**.
- **Archaeologist SR Rao** led the team which discovered a number of Harappan sites at the time, including the port city of Lothal.

Source: Indian Express

1. “Guidelines on Information Security Practices” for Government Entities for Safe & Trusted Internet

Topic: Security/Science and Technology



In News: CERT-In has issued “Guidelines on Information Security Practices” for Government Entities for Safe & Trusted Internet.

More on the Topic:

- The guidelines include various security domains such as **network security, identity and access management, application security, data security, third-party outsourcing,**



hardening procedures, security monitoring, incident management, and security auditing.

- These guidelines apply to all Ministries, Departments, Secretariats, and Offices specified in **First Schedule to Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, along with their attached and subordinate offices.**
- These guidelines are a roadmap for Government entities and industry to reduce cyber risk, protect citizen data and improve cybersecurity ecosystem in country.

key guidelines issued by CERT-In:

- **Government organizations should mandatorily report cyber incidents to CERT-In within six hours** of noticing them, as private entities do. The information shall be shared with stakeholders like sectoral CERTs and regulators.
- Government offices need to conduct **an internal and external audit of their entire cyber infrastructure and deploy appropriate security controls** based on the audit.
- Government organizations need to appoint a **Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)** who would be accompanied by a dedicated cybersecurity team, separate from the IT operations team.
- Government bodies shall maintain **an inventory of authorized hardware and software for their organization**, along with a mechanism for automated scanning to detect any unauthorized device or software.
- **Data Backup policy** should be documented, scheduled and monitored.

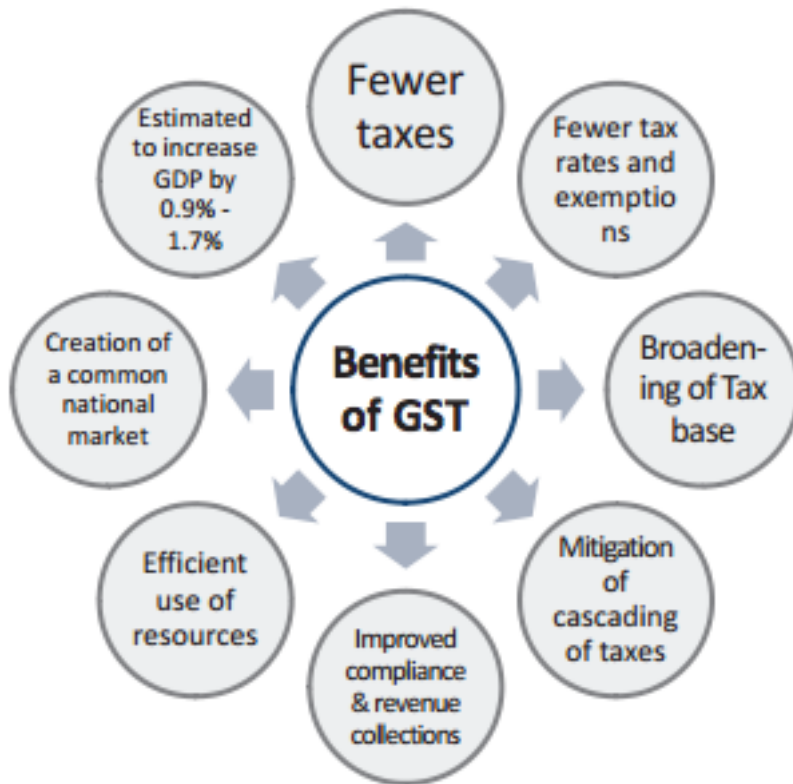
About CERT-In:

- Cert-In, established as per **provisions of section 70B of IT Act, 2000 under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents.
- It is the **nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing**. It strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.

Source: Indian Express

3. GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Topic: Economy



In News: GST has completed 6 years.

More on the Topic:

- **GST** is a **destination-based** taxation system established by the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act**.
- It is an indirect tax for the whole country on the lines of “**One Nation One Tax**” to make India a unified market.
- It is a single tax on the supply of Goods and Services in its entire product cycle or life cycle i.e. from manufacturer to the consumer.
- It is calculated only in the “**Value addition**” at any stage of goods or services.
- The final consumer will pay only his part of the tax and not the entire supply chain which was the case earlier.
- There is a provision of the **GST Council** to decide upon any matter related to GST whose chairman in the finance minister of India.



Achievements of GST:

- GST has **increased the tax base from 63.9 lakh taxpayers in 2017 to 1.40 crore currently.**
- Through the institution of **GST Council** GST has established **fiscal federalism.**
- GST has eliminated the cascading effect of tax.
- GST has **promoted Ease of Doing Business.** The Government has been proactively issuing circulars and clarifications to clear doubts regarding taxation under GST and ensure ease of doing business. Easy compliance, uniformity of tax rates and structures, Reduced logistics cost, E-invoicing system to check fake invoicing etc. has also helped in improving the ease of doing business.

Concerns:

- GST has **multiple tax rates** instead of proposed three-rate GST structure with frequent changes.
- With petrol, diesel, ATF outside GST, **a large part of the economy is still not covered** by the indirect tax regime.
- A lot of States have been dependent upon the GST compensation. Since the clause is ended, many States are demanding an extension. The Union Government had **delayed GST compensation to the States** from 2019-20 when the economy started slowing down. It was paid in May 2022 after much delay.
- GST council have **unequal power distribution structure** between centre and the states, which hampers the true fiscal federalism.

Way Ahead:

- Bring Petroleum products and electricity under GST.
- A simpler tax slab structure limiting commodities to three tax slabs is the need of the hour. Experts have recommended a three-slab structure that will help rationalize this indirect tax system.
- Center has to be more accommodative to State's needs such as granting compensation amount without delays etc.

Source: Hindu

4. Subansiri



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited has completed construction of 2,000 Mega Watt Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project dam.

More on the Topic:

- It is the **biggest hydroelectric project undertaken in India so far.**
- The Subansiri River is a **trans-Himalayan river and a tributary of the Brahmaputra River**.
- It flows through Tibet's Lhuntse County in the Shannan Prefecture, and the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Source: Indian Express

5. Red Algae



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Marine-life experts believe the harmful algal bloom has led to killing of hundreds of Sea Lions and Dolphins.

More on the Topic:

- The algae, Pseudo-Nietzsche, produces a **neurotoxin called domoic acid**, which can be poisonous to seabirds and fish once ingested.
- It can then travel across the food chain to larger marine animals like dolphins, sea lions and even humans.
- Humans too can get sick from **domoic acid if they eat contaminated food**.
- An algal bloom is a term used for **the excessive growth of algae over a water body causing discolouration of the water body**.
- Blooms can proliferate mainly because of anthropogenic climate change and excess Nitrogen washing up to the shore.

Source: Business Standard

6. Aspartame



Topic: Science and Technology

In News: The World Health Organization (WHO), is reportedly set to list the artificial sweetener aspartame as “possibly carcinogenic to humans.”

More on the Topic:

- Aspartame is an artificial non-saccharide sweetener 200 times sweeter than sucrose and is commonly used as a sugar substitute in foods and beverages.
- It is a methyl ester of the aspartic acid/phenylalanine dipeptide with the trade names NutraSweet, Equal, and Canderel.

Source: Business Standard

7. White-rumped Vulture

Topic: Environment and Ecology



Go, change the world



In News: Despite the protective measures, the future remains extremely perilous for the critically endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) in the Sigur plateau in the Nilgiris.

More on the Topic:

- Nilgiris is the **last southernmost viable breeding population for the species in India.**
- The white-rumped and other vulture species in India have been decimated by the use of **diclofenac and a few other Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in cattle.**
- Vultures in Sigur are also becoming the **unwitting victims of retaliatory poisoning of tigers and leopards.**
- **Anthropogenic pressures, such as cattle-grazing and poorly designed check-dams, have depleted the habitats over the last few years.**

Source: Business Standard
