



## 1. Microsites Project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

Topic: Government Schemes



# ABDM MICROSITE PROJECT

**Nationwide development of 100 Model sites**

**In News:** To promote digital health adoption and make healthcare more accessible, the National Health Authority (NHA) has launched the 100 Microsites Project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

### More on the Topic

- The project aims **to accelerate digital health adoption.**
- A Microsite, within the context of ABDM, shall be a cluster of all small and medium-scale clinics, nursing homes, hospitals (preferably <10 beds), labs, pharmacies and other healthcare facilities that are ABDM-enabled and offer digital health services to the patients.
- These Microsites would be established across the country in various states/UTs, majorly implemented by State Mission Directors of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission while the **financial resources and overall guidance would be provided by National Health Authority.**
- The Microsites aim to establish a small ecosystem within a particular geographic area where there is complete ABDM adoption, and the entire patient journey is digitized.
- **The State/UT may leverage a development partner** and an interfacing agency for setting up and running the microsite.
- Within the microsite, all health facilities and healthcare professionals serving across different systems of medicines, especially from the private sector, shall be registered in ABDM modules like Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), and Health Facility Registry (HFR) followed by the installation of ABDM-enabled applications.



- **The patients visiting these centres will also become a part of ABDM** with their health records linked to their ABHA which would then be accessible to them on their mobile phone applications like ABHA App, and Aarogya Setu among others.

#### **Objectives of Establishing Microsites:**

- It is intended that through these microsites, as many small-medium scale healthcare providers are made aware of ABDM and its benefits, registered on ABDM's core registries, use ABDM-certified digital solutions, and eventually begin to link digital health records - all contributing towards wider adoption of ABDM in the country.
- Such focused adoption efforts will activate the ecosystem to embrace ABDM.

#### **About Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission:**

- **ABDM aims to create a seamless online platform that will enable interoperability within the digital healthcare ecosystem.**
- **National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is the nodal agency for its implementation.**
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will connect the digital health solutions of hospitals across the country.**
- The Mission will not only make the processes of hospitals simplified but also will **increase the ease of living.**
- The Digital Ecosystem will also enable **a host of other facilities like Digital Consultation, Consent of patients in letting medical practitioners access their records, etc.**
- With the implementation of this scheme, **old medical records cannot get lost as every record will be stored digitally.**

Source: The Hindu

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## **2. Climate Change Impacts Have Increased in Asia: New WMO Report**

**Topic: Reports and Indices**





**In News:** According to the new World Meteorological Report, climate change impacts have increased in Asia.

**More on the Topic:**

**Key takeaways from the report:**

- According to the report, while the mean temperature over Asia in 2022 was about 0.72 degree Celsius above the 1991–2020 average, it was about 1.68 degree Celsius above the 1961–1990 average.
- This rise in temperatures has had some severe fallouts, including **an uptick in the occurrence of extreme weather events.**
- **Droughts:** For instance, droughts ravaged numerous parts of Asia in 2022. China particularly suffered the most as last year, the Yangtze River Basin, located in the country’s southwest, experienced the worst drought in the last six decades.
- This not only affected crops and vegetation, as well as the drinking water supply but also caused an economic loss of about \$ 7.6 billion.
- **Floods:** Many other regions were hit by severe floods and extreme monsoon rainfalls. **Pakistan is the most notable example** – it received 60 per cent of normal total monsoon rainfall within just three weeks of the start of the 2022 monsoon season, and the heavy rains resulted in urban and flash floods, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods across the country.
- More than 33 million people were affected, over 1,730 people died and almost eight million people were displaced, according to the report.
- **In India, heavy rainfalls lasting from May to September triggered multiple landslides and river overflows and floods, resulting in casualties and damage.**
- In total, this flooding resulted in over 2,000 deaths and affected 1.3 million people — the disaster event caused the highest number of casualties of any disaster event in 2022 in India.
- **Heat waves:** India and Pakistan experienced “abnormally warm conditions” in the pre-monsoon season (March–May).
- According to the 2023 annual report from the American Meteorological Society (AMS), climate change is making the weather around the world get more extreme with more frequent floods, heat waves and droughts.
- **Sea Surface Temperature:** The sea surface temperatures in Asia are getting warmer than ever before.
- The report pointed out that in the north-western Arabian Sea, the Philippine Sea and the seas east of Japan, the warming rates have exceeded 0.5 degrees Celsius per decade since the 1980s. It is about three times faster than the global average surface ocean warming rate.
- **Glaciers:** Four glaciers in the High Mountain Asia region, centred on **the Tibetan Plateau, have recorded significant mass losses**, with an accelerating trend since the mid-1990s.

- **July 2023 Warmest Month:** NASA scientists warn that July 2023 is likely the warmest month on record in hundreds, if not thousands of years.
- The burning of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions are to blame for the hot July, with more record-breaking months expected.

#### Impacts of Extreme Weather Events:

- **Agriculture:** The rise in frequency and severity of extreme weather events has particularly impacted **the agriculture sector in Asia**.
- For climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and tropical storms, **more than 25 per cent of all damage and losses are associated with the agriculture sector**.
- **Increased Incidence of Cyclones:** The Indian Ocean is experiencing a more rapid increase in temperature compared to the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.
- Additionally, the western regions of the Indian Ocean are warming at an even faster rate.
- This is a matter of great concern since various studies have revealed that **the rise in sea surface temperature is linked to alterations in the intensity and frequency of cyclones**.
- **Far-Reaching Consequences of Extreme Weather Events:** The consequences of extreme weather events are wide-ranging, affecting food security, health, the environment, and sustainable development.
- Consequently, it becomes crucial for all stakeholders to collaborate and address the pressing issue of climate change together.

Source: The Indian Express

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### 3. Project Tiger merges with Project Elephant

Topic: Environment and Ecology



**In News:** In a recent development, the Centre has combined Project Tiger and Project Elephant, creating a new division known as the 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division'.



### More on the Topic:

- The new division will function under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- The Additional Director General of Forests (ADGF) for Project Tiger (PT) has undergone a designation change and is now known as **ADGF (PT&E), encompassing both Project Tiger and Project Elephant.**
- Consequently, the staff and divisional heads of Project Elephant (PE) will now report to the ADGF (PT&E).
- Within the PT&E division, the Inspector General of Forests and Project Director for Project Elephant will serve as the divisional head and will report to the ADGF (PT&E).

### Arguments in Support towards the Merger:

- Combining the administration of these projects **enhances efficiency and streamlines the process.**
- With both species sharing the same habitat, adopting **an integrated approach can bring mutual benefits** to both Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

### Concerns Expressed by Experts:

- The merger has raised concerns about **potentially diluting the significance of Project Tiger.**
- Moreover, it could have **an impact on the funding allocation for tiger reserves and Project Elephant.**
- **The lack of clarity regarding the distribution of funds** might lead to a shortage of resources, potentially affecting essential developmental activities.
- Overall, there are worries that this move could **undermine the conservation efforts for both of these signature animals.**

### About Project Tiger:

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched in the **year 1973.**
- The intended to ensure the maintenance of a viable population of tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Tiger Conservation Authority (Statutory body).

### Project Elephant:

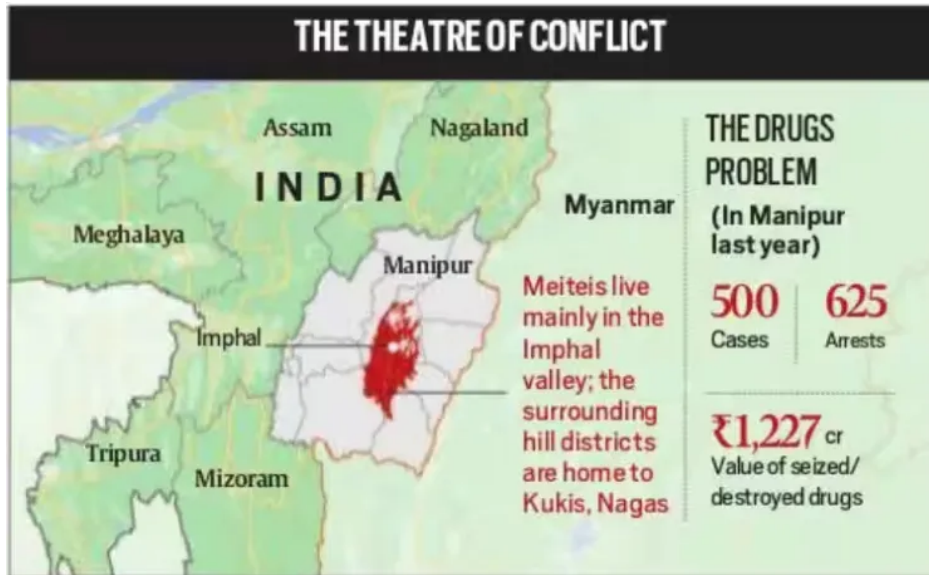
- Project Elephant was **initiated in 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with specific objectives:
- Safeguarding elephants, their habitats, and corridors.
- Addressing challenges related to human-elephant conflicts.
- Ensuring the welfare of captive elephants.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change extends financial and technical assistance to major elephant range states in the country to support the implementation of this project.

Source: The Hindu

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## 4. The 'Free Movement Regime'

**Topic: International Relations**



**In News:** The Free Movement Regime influenced the illegal migration of tribal Kuki-Chin peoples into India from Myanmar is one of the key issues in the ongoing ethnic conflict between Meiteis and Kukis in Manipur.

**More on the Topic:**

- The border between India and Myanmar runs for 1,643 km in the four states of **Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The FMR is a **mutually agreed arrangement between the two countries** that allows tribes living along the border on either side to travel up to 16 km inside the other country without a visa.
- **The FMR was implemented in 2018** as part of the Indian government's **Act East policy** at a time when diplomatic relations between India and Myanmar were on the upswing.

**Why was such a regime conceptualised?**

- The border between India and Myanmar was demarcated by the British in 1826, without seeking the opinion of the people living in the region.
- The border effectively divided people of the same ethnicity and culture into two nations without their consent. The current IMB reflects the line the British drew.
- Apart from **facilitating people-to-people contact**, the FMR was supposed to provide **impetus to local trade and business.**
- The region has a **long history of trans-border commerce through customs and border haats.**

- Given the low-income economy, such exchanges are vital for the sustenance of local livelihoods.
- For border people in Myanmar too, Indian towns are closer for business, education, and healthcare than those in their own country.

#### **Why is the FMR being discussed critically?**

- Although beneficial to local people and helpful in improving Indo-Myanmar ties, the **FMR has been criticised for unintentionally aiding illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and gun running.**
- The Indo-Myanmar border runs through **forested and undulating terrain**, is almost entirely unfenced, and is difficult to monitor.

**Source: The Indian Express**

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## **5. Parkachik Glacier**

**Topic: Geography**



**In News:** A study conducted by geologists has revealed that there are chances of the formation of three new glacial lakes due to the accelerated melting of the Himalayan Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh.

#### **More on the Topic:**

- The study attributed **the accelerated glacial retreat to ongoing climate warming** which also causes surface morphological or geological changes to glaciers.
- Parkachik Glacier is **one of the largest glaciers in the Suru River valley**, which is a part of **the Southern Zaskar Ranges, western Himalaya**, in the union territory of Ladakh.



Source: The Indian Express

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## 6. World Cities Culture Forum

**Topic: Art and Culture**



**In News:** Bengaluru has achieved the distinction of becoming the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).

### **More on the Topic:**

- The network currently has **40 cities spanning six continents.**
- Bengaluru is set to join the league of cities like **New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Dubai among others.**
- The World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) is an **international organization that brings together major cities from around the world to promote and exchange ideas related to urban culture, creativity, and cultural policy.**



- It serves as a platform for **city leaders, policymakers, and cultural experts to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative approaches** to fostering vibrant and diverse cultural scenes in urban centres.
- Through collaborative efforts, the **WCCF aims to harness the power of culture to enhance the quality of life, promote social cohesion, and drive economic growth** in cities worldwide.

Source: The Hindu

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## 7. Cocos Island

Topic: Places in News



**In News:** An Indian Navy Dornier maritime patrol aircraft and an Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130 transport aircraft visited Australia's Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI).

**More on the Topic:**

- Cocos Island, also known as Cocos (Keeling) Islands, is a **territory of Australia located in the Indian Ocean.**
- It consists of 27 small coral islands, with only two of them being inhabited.



- The islands are situated northwest of Perth, Western Australia, and southwest of Christmas Island.
- Great Coco Island, the largest in the group, **lies just 55 km from India's strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- It is **geologically an extended division of the Arakan Mountains or Rakhine Mountains which** submerges as a chain of islands in the Bay of Bengal for a long stretch and emerges again in the form of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- They are part of **the same topography as India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands.**

**Source: The Indian Express**

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