

1. Ken Betwa Link Project Authority

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Centre has constituted a Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) and a 20-member national steering committee for driving the execution of the ambitious river interlinking project.

More on the Topic:

- This project involves transfer of water from the **Ken RIVER to the Betwa River** through the construction of **Daudhan Dam** and a canal linking the two rivers, the **Lower Orr project, Kotha barrage and Bina complex multipurpose project.**
- The project will carry water from areas that have **surpluses to drought prone and water deficit areas, through the interlinking of rivers.**
- The project aims to address **the perennial water scarcity** in the parched regions of Bundelkhand region, spread across the states of MP and UP.
- Upon completion, the project is expected to provide an annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh ha, **drinking water supply to an estimated population of about 62 lakhs** and also generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW solar power.



Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA):

- The secretary of Jal shakti ministry secretary will be the **chairperson KBLPA.** The apex implementing agency will also comprise of secretaries from ministries of environment, power and tribal affairs. The finance ministry will be represented by the expenditure secretary.
- Additional chief secretaries of the government of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Central Water Commission chairman and heads of National Tiger Conservation Authority and National Waterway Development Authority and officials from state wildlife departments will be part of the proposed KBPLA.

Source: TOI

2. Potential of India's geospatial sector

Topic: Science and Technology

INDIAN GEOSPATIAL ECONOMY IN 2017-18



In News: New guidelines to completely de-regulate the geospatial sector for Indians came in to effect recently.

More on the Topic:

- India has a robust ecosystem in geospatial, with the Survey of India (Sol), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), remote sensing application centres (RSAC)s, and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) using geospatial technology.
- However, the full benefits have yet to percolate to the public; neither is there much contribution to the nation's GDP.

About the challenges Faced by Geo Spatial Sector:

- **Geospatial Market:** There is no demand for geospatial services and products on a scale linked to India's potential and size due to the lack of awareness among potential users in government and private.
- **Skilled Manpower:** There is lack of manpower with core knowledge in the field.
- The **unavailability of foundation data**, especially at high-resolution.
- **The lack of clarity on data sharing** and collaboration prevents co-creation and asset maximisation.
- **No ready-to-use solutions** especially built to solve the problems of India.

Way Ahead:

- **Publish a policy document with guidelines** and use it to create awareness among public and private players.
- **The data available with government departments should be unlocked**, and data sharing should be encouraged and facilitated through an open data sharing protocol.
- Generate foundation data across India which include the Indian national digital elevation model (InDEM), data layers for cities, and data of natural resources.
- Local technology and solutions should be promoted, and competition should be encouraged for quality output.

- There is a need to develop a **geospatial data cloud** locally and facilitate a solution as service.
- National organisations like SoI and ISRO should be entrusted with the **responsibility of regulation** and the projects related to the nation’s security and scientific significance.
- India should start a bachelor’s programme in geospatial also in the Indian Institutes of Technology and the National Institutes of Technology. Besides these, there should be a dedicated geospatial university.

Source: PIB

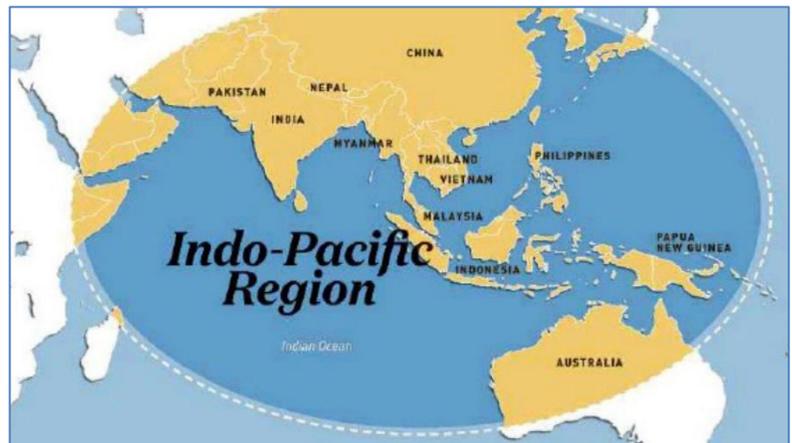
3. Indo Pacific Policy

Topic: International Relations

In News: US released it’s Indo Pacific policy recently.

More on the Topic:

- The USA seeks free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient in Indo-Pacific.
- It says that it cannot accomplish it alone and needs the cooperation of other countries that share a similar vision.
- **USA seeks to work with India through regional groupings** to promote stability in South Asia; collaborate in new domains like health, space, cyberspace, and deepen economic and technology cooperation.
- Earlier, USA worked bilaterally and through military alliances. Now the USA is encouraging allies and partners to strengthen their ties with one another. The USA is ready for more networked regional architecture.



What is Indo Pacific?

- The Indo-Pacific, as described in the National security strategy, represents the most populous and economically dynamic part of the world and stretches from the west coast of India to the western shores of the United States.
- India has always been a country with great national ambitions and is one of the most important advocates of the concept of “Indo-Pacific Strategy”.
- With opening of economy, India has been connecting with its Indian Ocean neighbours and major maritime powers of the world.

Why Indo Pacific is Important:

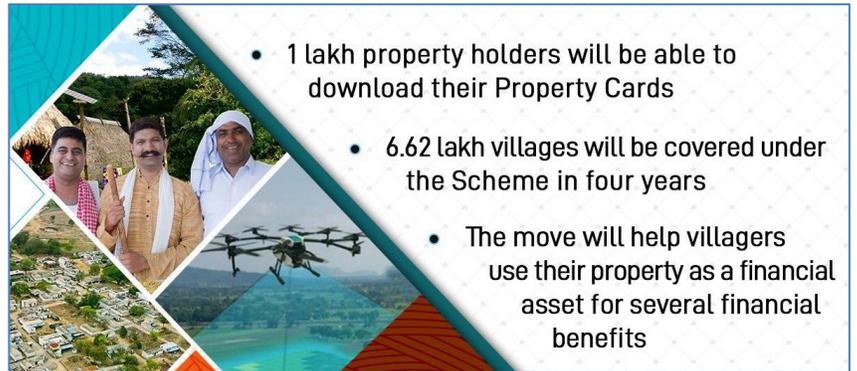
- Influence over Indo pacific region is important for **Maintaining regional stability.**
- Strong ties with the US are seen as a vital tool for **enhancing India’s strategic posture.**
- For the long-term vision of national interest, it is important to **tackle Chinese influence.**
- China’s increasingly active presence in the Indian Ocean region as well as its efforts to expand geopolitical reach in Asia and beyond by the use of **trade and military.**
- For adhering to **freedom of navigation**, adherence to rules-based order and stable trade environment.
- For **free sea and air lanes**, connectivity and upholding international rules and norms.

Source: Indian Express

4. SVAMITVA Scheme

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: under SVAMITVA scheme (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas), India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities,



More on the Topic:

- An ongoing scheme, piloted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, called SVAMITVA was launched 2020.
- The scheme would help establish **“clear ownership” of property in rural areas** by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing a ‘record of rights’ to eligible households by issuing legal ownership cards to them.
- So far drone surveys have covered close to 1,00,000 villages and maps of villages had been handed over to states.
- **Property cards had been distributed** to around 27,000 villages.
- **Source: The Hindu**

5. Doxxing

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: Meta's oversight board has suggested Facebook and Instagram to make strict doxxing rules. It urged Meta to consider doxxing as an offence which should prompt temporary account suspension.

More on the Topic:

- Doxxing is **publishing and analysing others' personal information on the internet** with a malicious intent that can reveal the person's real identity making them victims of harassments and cyber-attacks.
- The firm highlighted how doxxing is used to shame or punish people who would rather stay anonymous, because of their controversial beliefs or other types of non-mainstream activity.



Source: Hindu

6. Medaram Jathara 2022

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved a budget of 2.26 crores for Medaram Jathara 2022 Festivals.

More on the Topic:

- After the Kumbh Mela, Medaram Jathara is **the country's second-largest mela** which is held for four days. It is organised by **Telangana's second-largest tribal community, the Koya tribe.**
- Medaram Jathara is conducted in honour of the **Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma.** It is celebrated once in two years in the month of "Magha" (February) on the full moon day.
- It is a tribal festival honoring the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- Medaram is a remote place in the **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the region.**



Source: Hindu

7. Lassa Fever

Topic: Health

In News: One of the three persons diagnosed with Lassa fever in the UK has died.

More on the Topic:

- Lassa fever-causing virus is found in **West Africa**. It was first discovered in 1969 in Lassa, Nigeria. The Lassa virus is named after a town in Nigeria where the first cases were discovered.
- **The virus spreads by rats.**
- A person can become infected if they come in contact with household items or food that is contaminated with the urine or faeces of an infected rat.
- It can also be spread if a person comes in contact with a sick person's infected bodily fluids or through mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose or mouth.
- Person-to-person transmission is more common in healthcare settings.

Source: Hindu

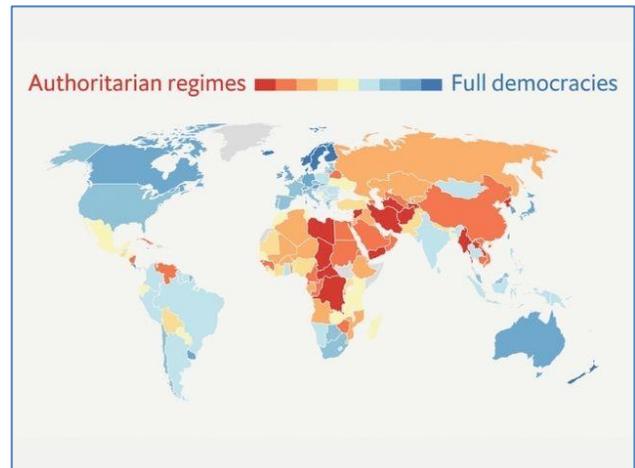
7. Democracy Index

Topic: Health

In News: The Economist Intelligence Unit has released the Democracy Index, 2021.

More on the Topic:

- India is ranked 46th on the 2021 index with an overall score of 6.91. It has been classified as a flawed democracy. (In 2020, India was ranked 53rd in the index).
- Less than half (45.7%) of the world's population now live in a democracy of some sort, a significant decline from 2020(49.4%).
- The Economic Intelligence Index provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.
- The index is based on 60 indicators grouped into five categories: **electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation and political culture.**
- Each country will be provided with a score of 0 to 10. These scores are decided based on the above indicators.





- Based on their scores, each country is then classified into any one of the four types of regime such as **a) full democracy, b) flawed democracy, c) hybrid regime and d) authoritarian regime.**

Source: Hindu

MCQs:

1. Which of the following statement/s is/are true?

1.GSLV-Mk II is the largest launch vehicle developed by India.

2.It contains cryogenic engine.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans c

2. Who is the founder of Amrita Bazaar Patrika?

- (a) Devendra Nath Tagore
- (b) Sisir Kumar Ghosh
- (c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasaagar
- (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Ans b

3. Who discovered Proton?

- (a) James Chadwick
- (b) J. J Thomson
- (c) Ernest Rutherford
- (d) Louis Pasteur

Ans: c



4. Which of the following statement/s are true?

1. The Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established in 1966.

2. It is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans c

5. Sasthamcotta Lake is located at?

(a) Tamilnadu

(b) Kerala

(c) Rajasthan

(d) Uttrakhand

Ans: b