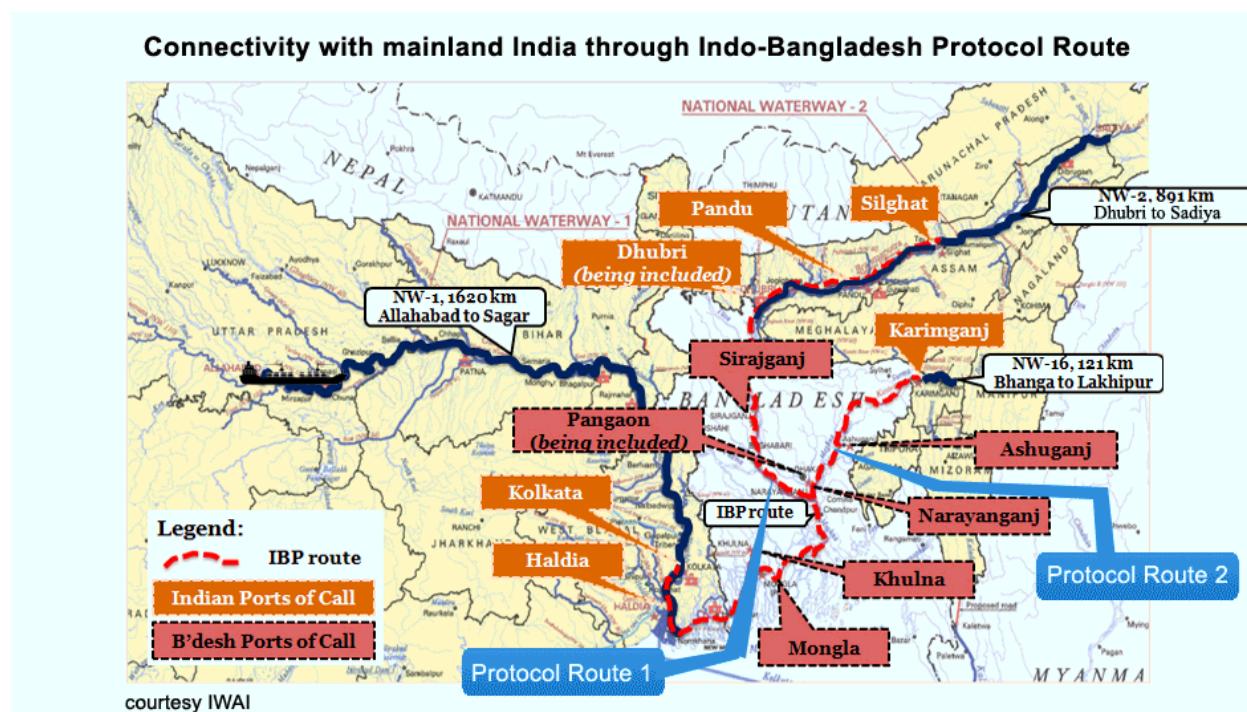


1. Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route

Topic: International Relations



In News: Brahmaputra being connected with Ganga via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route.

More on the Topic:

- The maiden voyage of a self-propelled vessel carrying food-grains from Patna to Pandu via Bangladesh in Guwahati which connects NW1 and NW2 has been completed recently.
- The vessel started its sail from **Patna on National Waterway-1 (river Ganga)** passed through **Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route** and **National Waterway-2 (River Brahmaputra)** covering 2,350 km.
- Indo Bangladesh protocol on Inland water transit and trade was signed in the year 1972 and renewed in the year 2015.
- The protocol allows one country's vessel to transit through counterpart country's territory.
- The protocol route is regulated by **Inland Waterways authority of India**.

Significance:

- The trade between India and Bangladesh will improve with the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade.
- It will also promote better connectivity with other neighbouring countries such as Bhutan and Nepal.
- It also has strategic advantage by providing better connectivity to India's Chicken neck region 'The Siliguri Corridor'.

Source: Financial Express

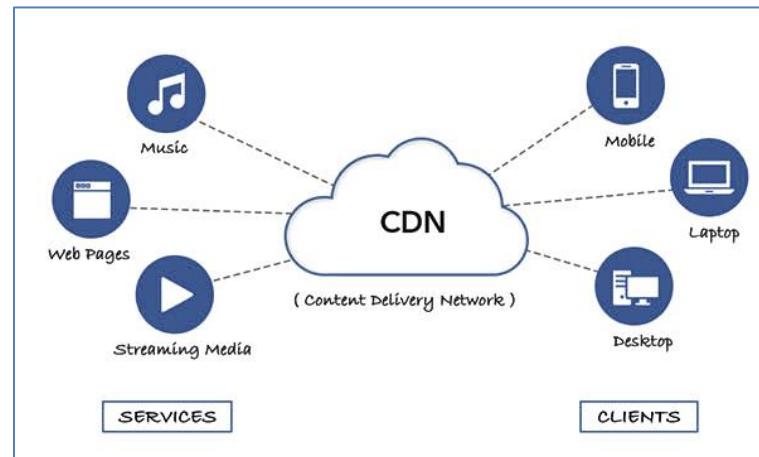
2. Net Neutrality and Content Delivery Networks

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: The net neutrality debate has resurfaced in the country as telecom operators, including Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea, are backing a proposal to regulate content delivery networks, which are used by global big tech companies to host data locally.

More on the Topic:

- Net Neutrality is a principle, which states that all traffic on the internet should be treated equally and there should be no discrimination by Telecommunication companies/Internet Service Providers. The service providers should not differentiate this service with different forms and categories of traffic on the internet.
- **It stands for:**
- Equal access to all sites
- Same data cost to access a site(there should be no price differential)
- No zero-rating: Zero-rating (also called toll-free data or sponsored data) is the practice of mobile network operators (MNO), mobile virtual network operators (MVNO), and Internet Service Providers (ISP) not to charge end customers for data used by specific applications or internet services through their network, in limited or metered data plans.
- Some service providers build bulk websites, bulk content and application allows users to access for free of cost but when the other service provider charges to get access to the same data then it is obvious that users will opt the service that is available for free of cost.



Content Delivery Networks:

- A content delivery network (CDN) refers to a **geographically distributed group of servers** that work together to provide fast delivery of Internet content.
- Thus, internet companies will employ CDN services to deliver services faster. In turn, CDN service providers have deals with telecom operators and internet service providers to host servers in their networks.
- CDNs are used by **all types of Internet companies** including search engines (such as Google) OTT content providers (Netflix, Hotstar, Amazon Prime) , e-commerce companies, banking and financial companies, among others.

- **CDN Management Network dynamically calculates** which server is located nearest to the user making the request and delivers content based on those calculations.
- The Telecom companies argues that **if the access to CDN is not on equal terms** then the issue of not abiding to net neutrality would occur whereby preferred players may be provided with better quality CDN services.

Way Ahead:

- As a result of the low entry barrier in the market, there is thriving constantly evolving, competitive and growing market in India for CDN networks.
- This has driven down prices offered to content providers.
- Even though there is need for regulation of CDN networks in absence of any market failures, TRAI should consider a cautious approach so as to not stifle CDNs growth in India.

Source: Indian Express

3.Kuki Insurgency in Manipur

Topic: Internal Security

In News: The Kuki insurgents are in news related to their cooperation in the democratic process to end the insurgency problem.

More on the Topic:

- Kuki tribe is majorly found in Manipur with other states of North Eastern India like Manipur, Mizoram and Assam; parts of Burma (now Myanmar), and some hill tracts of Bangladesh.
- While Kuki is not a term coined by the ethnic group itself, the tribes associated with it came to be generically called Kuki under colonial rule.
- In Manipur, the various Kuki tribes, living mainly in the hills, currently make up 30% of the total population of the State.
- The rest of the population of Manipur is made up mainly of two other ethnic groups: the Meiteis and the Naga tribes, historically at trouble with the Kukis, also living in the hilly areas of the State.



What led to the Kuki insurgencies in Manipur?

- Manipur, formerly a princely state including parts of Burma, made the accession into India after Independence, but **was only made a full-fledged State in 1972.**



- The resentment over the “forceful” inclusion into India and delay in granting statehood led to the rise of various insurgent movements.
- The problem was intensified after Manipur was declared a ‘disturbed area’ in 1980, under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which gives sweeping powers to the military and has led to excesses.

Roots of Insurgency:

- Post-independence insurgent movements in Manipur, carried out by valley-based groups or Meiteis, can be traced back to around the 1960s, when various groups demanded self-determination and separate statehood for Manipur, inspired by left ideology.
- Beginning was with the demand of self-determination solely for groups belonging to their ethnic fabric, meaning the dream to form a Kukiland which includes Kuki inhabited regions of Myanmar, Manipur, Assam and Mizoram.
- The insurgency aggravated with the inter-community conflicts between the Kukis and the Nagas in Manipur.
- It grew in real terms in the 1980s and after the Kuki-Naga conflicts of the 1990s.
- This is when the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and its armed wing Kuki National Army (KNA) were formed. Other Kuki outfits like Kuki Commando Force, Kuki Independant army and others were also formed.
- The community could not shed internal differences between tribes and take a single line of action.

The Demands:

- At present, the demand has come to the formulation of an independent district—Kukiland Territorial Council within the purview of the Indian constitution, modelling the Bodoland Territorial Council, which was formed under the sixth schedule of the Constitution, after insurgent groups in Assam signed an agreement with their State government.
- The Kuki-Naga conflict was started over securing identity and land as some Kuki inhabited areas coincided with Naga inhabited areas.
- Wanting to dominate trade and cultural activities in those areas the two communities often engaged in violent standoffs, with villages being torched, civilians killed and so on.
- Even though clashes have reduced in recent decades, tensions between the two ethnic groups still exist.
- While the Suspension of Operation (SoO) was signed in 2005, insurgent activities like explosions, extortion in the form of tax collection, arms and drug trade and economic blockades still continue, often under the radar.
- In 2012, the groups held a nearly eight month long blockade of highways around their area, costing the Government a couple of crores in losses each day.
- The SoO agreement was last extended by the present government in September last year till February 28 this year.

Way Ahead:

- The temporary SoO agreements were made **in order to start political dialogue** about giving some form of self-determination to the Kukis, but that has not happened, both under the UPA or NDA governments.
- The Kukis are dissatisfied with the pace of the dialogue and also feel ignored, as the Government has been holding Naga Peace Talks with the main Naga insurgent outfit NSCN (IM), which demands the formation of Greater Nagaland, including parts of Manipur having Kuki inhabited regions.
- The present dynamics of Kuki's drift towards democratic process should be utilised efficiently and a solution through political dialogues and fulfilling previous commitments should be reached.

Source: Indian Express

4. Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule

Topic: International Relations

In News: Maharashtra Governor has been criticized for his remarks on the social reformist couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule.

More on the Topic:

- Savitribai Phule was born in Maharashtra and widely regarded as one of India's first generation modern feminists for her significant contributions in ensuring equal education opportunities under the British raj.
- She became **the first female teacher in India in 1848** and opened a school for girls along with her husband, social reformer Jyotirao Phule.
- The two also **worked against discrimination based on caste-based identity**, something vehemently opposed by the orthodox sections of society in Pune.
- The couple set up '**Balyata Pratibandak Gruha**', a childcare centre for the protection of pregnant widows and rape victims.
- Phule also played a pivotal role in directing the work of the **Satyashodhak Samaj**, formed by her husband with the objective to achieve equal rights for the marginalised lower castes.
- She organised a boycott by barbers against the tradition of head tonsuring of widows.
- In her honour, University of Pune was renamed Savitribai Phule University in 2015.



Source: The Hindu

5. Women's Day

Topic: Social Justice



In News: International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women.

More on the Topic:

- It is also a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women.
- Theme for International Women's Day, 2022 (IWD 2022) is '**Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**'.
- It attempts to recognise the "**contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all**".
- **IWD 2022 campaign theme is '#BreakTheBias'.**
- It intends to promote a "gender equal world", which is "free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination". "A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive", and where "difference is valued and celebrated".

The History:

- According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century across North America and Europe.
- In 1917, women in Russia chose to protest and strike under the slogan "Bread and Peace" on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar). Their movement ultimately led to **the enactment of women's suffrage in Russia.**"
- It was in 1945 that the Charter of the United Nations became the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men but **it was only on March 8 during International Women's Year in 1975 that the UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day.**

- Later in December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that proclaimed a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions.
- Finally, following its adoption by the United Nations in 1977, International Women's Day became a mainstream global holiday where member states were invited to proclaim March 8 as an official UN holiday for women's rights and world peace.

Purple, green and white are the colors of International Women's Day.

- Purple signifies justice and dignity.
- Green symbolizes hope.
- White represents purity, albeit a controversial concept.
- The colors originated from the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the UK in 1908.

Significance of International Women's Day:

- According to the World Economic Forum, sadly none of us will see gender parity in our lifetimes, and nor likely will many of our children. **Gender parity will not be attained for almost a century.**
- Women, especially young women, are at the forefront of diverse and inclusive movements online and on the streets for social justice, climate change and equality in all parts of the world.
- Yet, **women under 30 are less than 1 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide.**
- It will take **267.6 years to complete the gender gap in economic participation and opportunity.**
- After politics, economic participation and opportunity remain the largest gender gap dimension.
- 58% of the gender gap in this dimension has been closed so far.
- This is why, this year's International Women's Day is a rallying cry for Generation Equality, to act for an equal future for all.

Source: Hindustan Times

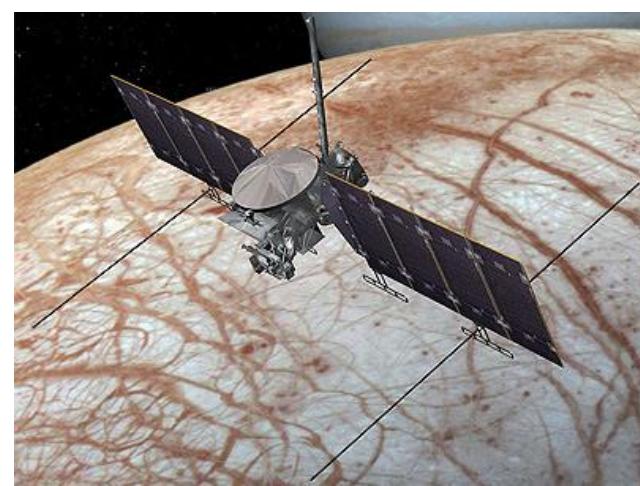
6. Europa Clipper Aircraft

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: NASA has begun assembly of Clipper Aircraft.

More on the Topic:

- NASA has confirmed the next phase of development of the Europa Clipper mission – an





interplanetary mission to Jupiter's smallest moon Europa.

- The mission will be conducting an in-depth exploration of Jupiter's moon Europa and investigate whether the icy moon can have suitable conditions for sustaining life and increase our insights into astrobiology.
- NASA targets to have the Europa Clipper spacecraft ready for launch early by 2024.
- Jupiter's Galilean moon Europa consists of a **huge ocean of liquid water beneath its icy shell**. The water is in contact with the rocky core of the moon, which according to space scientists, make a range of interesting chemical reactions possible.

Source: Indian Express

MCQs:

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

1. Jyotirao Phule was given the title of Mahatma.

2. His famous works include Tritiya Ratna and Gulamgiri

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

2. National Waterway 1 is associated with?

(a) The Ganges

(b) The Brahmaputra

(c) The Krishna

(d) The Kaveri

Ans: a

3. Which of the following organization is associated with Europa Clipper Mission?

(a) ESA

(b) NASA



(c) JAXA

(d) ISRO

Ans: b

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

1. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' scheme.

2. The scheme is intended to bring back the out-of-school girls back to the education system.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans c

5. Houthis are associated with?

(a) Myanmar

(b) China

(c) Mexico

(d) Yemen

Ans: d