

1. Olive Ridley Turtles

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: About 2.45 lakh Olive Ridley sea turtles crawled ashore at the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary along the Odisha coast for laying eggs.

More on the Topic:

- They are the **smallest and most abundant sea turtles** found in the world.
- These carnivorous turtles.
- They are well-known for their unique **mass nesting known as Arribada**, in which thousands of females gather on the same beach to lay eggs.
- They can be found in the **Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans**.



Protection Status:

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I

Threats Faced By Olive Ridley Turtle:

- Olive-ridleys face **serious threats across their migratory route**, habitat and nesting beaches, due to human activities such as turtle unfriendly fishing practices, development and exploitation of nesting beaches for ports, and tourist centres.
- They are still **extensively poached for their meat, shell and leather, and their eggs**, though illegal to harvest, have a significantly large market around the coastal regions.
- However, the most severe threat they face is the **accidental killing of adult turtles through entanglement in trawl nets and gill nets** due to uncontrolled fishing during their mating season around nesting beaches.
- A growing waste of plastics, fishing nets, discarded nets, polythene, and other garbage thrown by tourists and fishermen leads to entanglement.

Olive Ridley Conservation Efforts:

- To reduce accidental killing in India, the Orissa government has made it mandatory for **trawls to use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)**, a net specially designed with an exit cover which allows the turtles to escape while retaining the catch.
- Every year, from November to December, the Indian Coast Guard's **"Operation Olivia,"** which began in the early 1980s, assists in the protection of Olive Ridley turtles as they cluster along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting.
- It also detects unlawful trawling activity.
- Operation Save Kurma initiated by Wild Life Control Bureau support turtle conservation.

Source: The Hindu

2. Khelo India Scheme

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports dedicated “Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games” vertical under Khelo India Scheme to the encouragement of rural sports activities in the country.

More on the Topic:

- Indigenous/traditional games of Mallakhamb (major traditional sports of Madhya Pradesh), Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasana and Silambam have been identified for promotion under this component.
- Grants are sanctioned for infrastructure development, equipment support, appointment of coaches, training of coaches and scholarships under this Component.



More on the Selected Games:

- **Mallakhamb** is a traditional sport, originating from the Indian subcontinent, in which a gymnast performs aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling grips in concert with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane, or rope. The word Mallakhamb also refers to the pole used in the sport.
- **Kalaripayattu** is a martial art based on the ancient knowledge of the human body.
- It originated in Kerala during 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD. It is now practised in Kerala and in some parts of Tamil Nadu.
- **Gatka** is a traditional martial art form associated with the Sikh gurus.
- It imbibes sword and sticks fighting skills and self-control.
- It is considered as a battle technique.
- **Thangta** is a Manipuri art form.
- It combines ritual, demonstration and combat and involves a variety of dance forms and warrior drills.
- **Yogasana:** Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the formal recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport. Yogasana is an integral and important component of Yoga.
- **Silambam** is a weapon-based Indian martial art that originated in the Indian Tamil Nadu region. Tamil Sangam literature mentions this technique.

Source: Indian Express

3.UNESCO City of Literature

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: Kozhikode City of Kerala has been proposed to be city of literature under UNESCO's Creative City Network.

More on the Topic:

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 **to promote cooperation with and among cities** that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- It is intended to place creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
- The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.



Indian Cities on UCCN:

- Srinagar - Crafts and Folk Arts (2021)
- Mumbai – Film (2019).
- Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019).
- Chennai- Creative city of Music (2017).
- Jaipur- Crafts and Folk Arts (2015).
- Varanasi- Creative city of Music (2015).

Source: PIB

4. India's Space Economy

Topic: Economy



In News: A recent paper by researchers at the Centre for Development Studies and the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology estimated Indian space economy is worth ₹36,794 crore, or 0.23% of GDP.

More on the Topic:

- The Economic Survey had mentioned that the Indian space sector is expected to capture a larger share of the global space economy, which closed at \$447 billion in 2020.
- India accounts for **only about 2% of the space economy**, much behind the major players, the US and China.
- **About Space Economy:** The global space industry includes the industry's core activities in-space manufacturing and satellite operations.
- Moreover, the increasing instances of public-private partnerships contribute extensively to the outcomes because they contribute space-related outputs, space derived products and services and the scientific knowledge arising from space research.
- The main segments of the space economy include manufacturing, services from satellite operators and consumer services.

Indian Efforts to Improve Space Economy:

- **Privatization of Space Sector:** In 2020, the Government approved participation of private enterprises across all phases of space activities.
- **Formulation of IN-SPACE:** The government also approved formation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE), that would act as part of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to help private players become independent actors instead of being solely vendors or suppliers.
- **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) space challenge:** NITI Aayog, in collaboration with ISRO and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), launched the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) space challenge as part of the Atal Innovation Mission in 2021.

- It is intended to boost participation of young people and students in the Indian space sector.
- **Encouraging FDI:** GOI is expected to announce a **revised foreign direct investment policy** for the Indian space sector that would open huge investment opportunities for foreign companies in ISRO.
- **ISpA:** In 2021, GOI, launched the ISpA. It would act as a single-window agency and open the Indian space sector to private enterprises and start-ups.

Source: Hindu

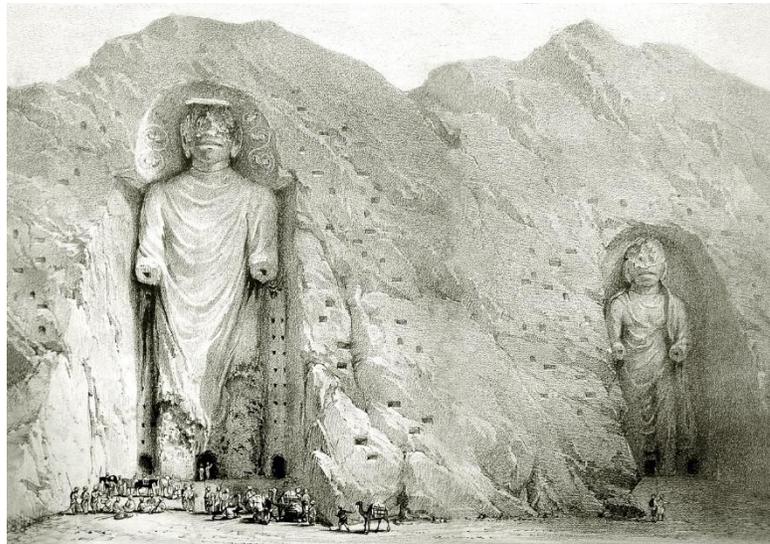
5. Bamiyan Budhas

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: The Taliban regime in Afghanistan has said it would protect the ancient Bamiyan Buddha statues.

More on the Topic:

- Bamiyan is situated in the **high mountains of the Hindu Kush** in the central highlands of Afghanistan.
- The valley is set along the line of the **Bamiyan River**.
- It was once integral to the early days of the Silk Roads, providing passage for merchants, culture, religion and language.
- Salsal and Shamama, as they were called by the locals, rose to heights of 55 and 38 metres respectively, and were said to be male and female.
- In their Roman draperies and with two different mudras, the Bamiyan Buddhas were **great examples of a confluence of Gupta, Sassanian and Hellenistic artistic styles**.
- They are said to date back to the 5th century AD and were once the tallest standing Buddhas in the world.



Source: Hindu

6. Delimitation Commission

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The J&K Delimitation Commission proposed to increase six seats for the Jammu division and one for the Kashmir division, besides reserving 16 seats for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) communities in the Union Territory, evoking sharp reactions from the regional parties.



More on the Topic:

- Delimitation is an act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.
- Under article 82, Parliament enacts a law for delimitation after every census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

Why Delimitation Exercise?

- Delimitation exercise is intended to provide **equal representation to equal segments of a population.**
- Fair division of geographical areas so that one political party doesn't have an advantage over others in an election.

About Delimitation Commission:

- The Delimitation Commission is **appointed by the President of India** and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a **high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.**

Composition:

- Retired Supreme Court judge
- Chief Election Commissioner
- Respective State Election Commissioners

Functions:

- To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make population of all constituencies nearly equal.



- To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.

Concerns:

- The constitution was amended to freeze the delimitation till 2026 in states and UT other than above mentioned UTs.
- This had led to a **situation and many states having a representation in the parliament that is disproportionate to their population.**
- The government had **suspended delimitation in 1976 until after the 2001 census.**
- This is done for the reason that **the states' family planning programs would not affect their political representation in the Lok Sabha.**
- Later, delimitation based on the 2001 census was done in 2008.
- However, the total number of seats in the Assemblies and Parliament decided as per the 1971 Census was not changed.
- The constitution has also capped the number of Lok Shaba & Rajya Sabha seats to a maximum of 550 & 250 respectively.
- As a result increasing populations are being represented by a single representative.

Way Ahead:

- In future if there is any move to increase seats for highly populated states, there is a need to build consensus as the move could have huge political ramifications.

Source: Hindu
