

1. Aadhar: CAG Audit

Topic: Polity and Governance



Identity
Verification

Government
Benefits

Benefits of Aadhaar

- Aadhaar will become the single source of **identity verification**
- Supporting identity documents** for obtaining a bank account, passport, driving license and so on.
- Government can transfer the benefit amount directly to the bank account of the beneficiaries to which their Aadhaar card is linked
- Criminal acts : If we get the fingerprints of the criminal, we can try to match them with the database and easily catch the culprit.

In News: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, has pulled up the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for various discrepancies.

More on the Topic:

- **Policy Errors:** The issues reported by CAG include problems with data-matching, errors in authentication, and shortfall in archiving.
- The data of Aadhaar card holders have not been matched with their Aadhaar number even after 10 years in some cases.
- UIDAI lacks a system to analyse the factors leading to authentication errors.
- UIDAI do not have a data archiving policy. It is considered as a major breach as UIDAI was maintaining one of the largest biometric databases in the world.
- UIDAI provided Authentication services to banks, mobile operators and other agencies free of charge till March 2019. This has led to revenue loss to the government.
- **The Privacy Concerns:** UIDAI has not ensured that the applications or devices used by agencies or companies for authentication “were not capable of storing the personal information of the residents, which put the privacy of residents at risk”.
- The Authority had not ensured security and safety of data in Aadhaar vaults. They had not independently conducted any verification of compliance to the process involved.
- There is no assurance that all the Aadhaar holders in the country are ‘Residents’ as defined in the Aadhaar Act
- **Procedural Errors:** UIDAI has not prescribed any specific proof, document, or process to confirm whether a person who is applying for Aadhaar has resided in India for the period specified by the Rules.



- UIDAI generated Aadhaar numbers with incomplete information, which, along with the lack of proper documentation or poor quality biometrics, have resulted in **multiple or duplicate Aadhaar cards being issued to the same person.**
- UIDAI does not have adequate arrangements with the postal department, due to which a large number of Aadhaar cards were returned to the government after they could not be delivered to their intended recipients.
- Aadhaar numbers with poor quality biometrics induces authentication errors. It is creating problems for Aadhaar card holders.

About Aadhaar:

- Aadhaar is a **12 digit individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India** on behalf of the Government of India.
- This number will serve as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in India.
- Any individual who is a resident in India can enrol for Aadhaar. Each Aadhaar number will be unique to an individual and will remain valid for life.
- Aadhaar is easily verifiable in an online, cost-effective way. Unique and robust enough to eliminate the large number of duplicate and fake identities in government and private databases.

About UIDAI:

- The Unique Identification Authority of India or UIDAI is an agency under the central government of India mandated to collect demographic and biometric information of the country's residents, store the data in a central database, and issue to each resident of the country a 12-digit unique identity number called Aadhaar.
- UIDAI was established as per the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.**
- It comes under **Ministry of Electronics & IT.**

Source: Down To Earth

2. Lingaraj Temple

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: The Central government has told the Odisha government that its ordinance to bring the 11th-century Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar and its associated temples under a special law is outside the legislative competence of the state legislature.



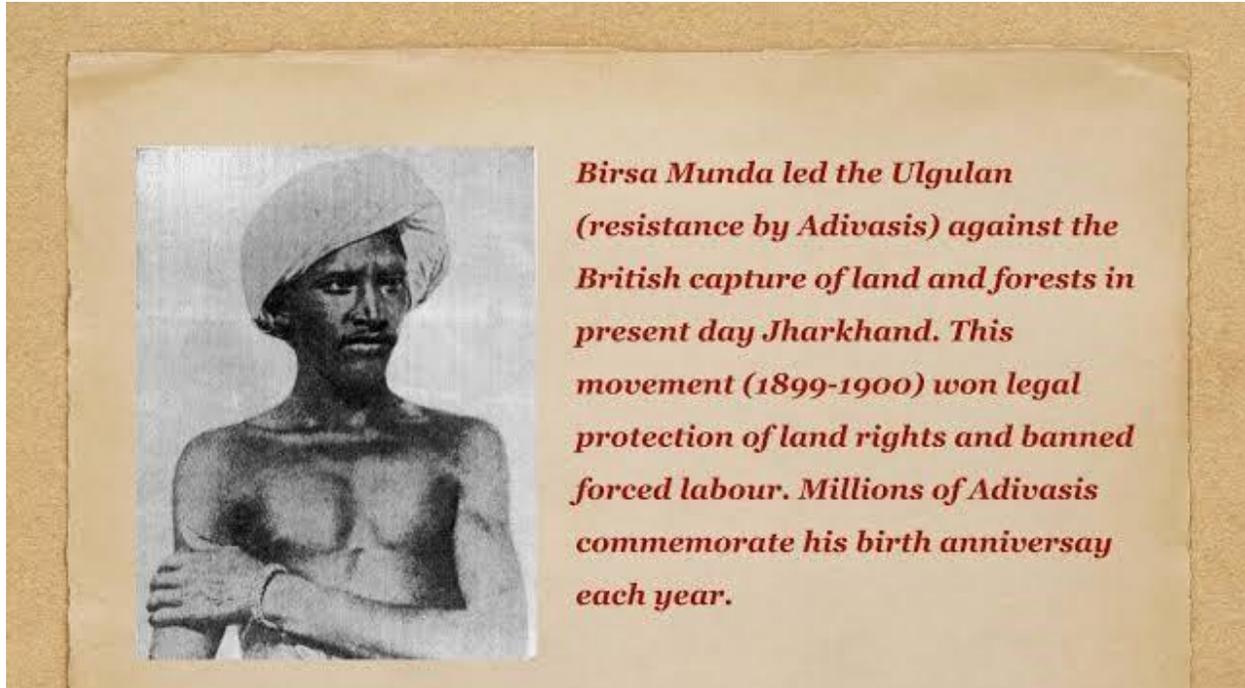
More on the Topic:

- Centre also informed that the ordinance is in conflict with the rules laid down under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act).
- Lingaraja was built by **King Jajati keshari of Soma Vansh**. But later additions were done by the Ganga rulers.
- It is an example of the **Kalinga Style of Architecture**. This style broadly comes under the **Nagara style**.
- The temple is built in red stone.
- The temple is built in the **Deula style** that has four components namely, **vimana (structure containing the sanctum)**, **jagamohana (assembly hall)**, **natamandira (festival hall)** and **bhoga-mandapa (hall of offerings)**, each increasing in the height to its predecessor.
- The temple complex has 50 other shrines and is enclosed by a large compound wall.
- The **central deity of the temple, Lingaraja, is worshipped both as Shiva and Vishnu**.
- The harmony between the two sects of Hinduism, Shaivism, and Vaishnavism, is seen in this temple where the deity is worshipped as Harihara, a combined form of Vishnu and Shiva.

Source: Indian Express

3. Birsa Munda

Topic: Personalities in News



In News: Union Education and Skill Development Minister released a book “Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak”.

More on the Topic:

- Birsa Munda was a **folk hero and a tribal freedom fighter** hailing from the Munda tribe.
- He was a spearhead behind the Millenarian movement that arose in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt in the 19th century under British colonization.
- He is also known as ‘**Dharti Abba**’ or the **Earth Father**.
- Birsa started a movement called ‘**Ulgulan**’, or ‘**The Great Tumult**’. His struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to a big hit against the British government in the form of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act being passed in 1908.
- The act restricted the passing on of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.

Munda Rebellion:

- British colonial system intensified the transformation of the tribal agrarian system into a feudal state by introducing Zamindari-tenancy system.
- Outsiders (Dikus) were invited by the British to settle on and cultivate the tribal land.
- Thus, the various tribes, who were the original owners of the land, were left bereft of land and any means of livelihood.
- A revolt was led by Birsa Munda in the south of Ranchi in 1899-1900.
- He mobilised thousands of tribal folk to form guerrilla armies to attack the British Raj.

- As a result of the revolt, The Britishers were forced to abolish the feudal system that plagued the Adivasi lands in Jharkhand and Bihar.
- Birsa compelled the Britishers to introduce new legislation - **the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908**. This Act prohibited the transfer of tribal land to non-tribal parties.

Source: Indian Express

4. India's agricultural products export touched \$ 50 billion

Topic: Economy

In News: India's agricultural products export touched a new milestone by crossing \$ 50 billion for the financial year FY22. This would be the highest level ever achieved for agriculture exports.

More on the Topic:

- The provisional data of DGCI&S showed that the agricultural exports have grown by 19.92% during 2021-22 to touch \$ 50.21 billion.
- New mile stone has been achieved in spite of unprecedented logistical challenges in the form of high freight rates, container shortages, etc.
- As per the data, **the highest ever exports have been achieved for staples like rice, wheat, sugar and other cereals.**
- Wheat has recorded an unprecedented **growth of more than 273%, jumping nearly four-fold.**
- An increase in exports of these products has benefitted farmers in states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, etc.
- India has captured **nearly 50% of the world's market for rice.**
- Exports of marine products also reached the highest ever benefitting farmers in the coastal states of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.



Government Efforts to improve Agriculture Export:

- This achievement is the result of sustained efforts on the part of the Department of Commerce and its various export promotion agencies **like APEDA, MPEDA, and various commodity boards.**

- To ensure that the farmers benefit from exports, **the Department of Commerce has made special efforts to provide export market linkage directly to farmers and FPOs.**
- **A Farmer Connect Portal** has been set up for providing a platform for farmers, FPOs/FPCs, and cooperatives to interact with exporters.

APEDA:

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.**
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.** The Authority has its headquarters in New Delhi.

FPOs:

- **FPOs are voluntary organizations** controlled by their farmer-members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.
- Since 2011, government has intensively promoted FPOs under the Small Farmers’ Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), NABARD, state governments and NGOs.

Source: Livemint

5. Mission Vatsalya

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Mission Vatsalya report was submitted by Ministry of women and child development.

More on the Topic:

- The ministry of women and child development classified all of its major schemes under 3 umbrella schemes: **Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.**



- **The objective of Mission Vatsalya** is to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in India; foster a sensitive, supportive and synchronized ecosystem for development of children; assist States/UTs in delivering the mandate of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015; achieve the SDG goals.
- Components under Mission Vatsalya will include statutory bodies; service delivery structures; institutional care/services; non-institutional community based care; emergency outreach services; training and capacity building.

- **Mission POSHAN 2.0** is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme.
- It aims to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- **Mission Shakti aims to ensure a lifecycle support system** for women through integrated care, safety, protection, rehabilitation and empowerment. It includes one stop centers, Mahila police volunteers, Gender budgeting etc.

Source: PIB

6. Indian Tent Turtle

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The Zoological Survey of India has not conducted any survey in the Narmada river to gauge the impact of illegal mining on the Indian tent turtle and its effect on the river ecosystem.

More on the Topic:

- Earlier a study by scientists of ZSI concluded that due to illegal sand mining and smuggling in the Narmada river, the Indian Tent Turtles are on the verge of extinction.
- However, government denied that it was an official study by ZSI.
- Indian Tent Turtle is native to India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- India Tent Turtle habitats include still water pools on river side and slow running water near the river banks.
- Due to the attractive appearance of the Indian Tent Turtle species, they are illegally traded in the pet market.



Conservation Status:

- Indian Tent Turtle is listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPI) 1972.**
- IUCN Status is **Lower Risk/ least concern.**
- Indian Tent Turtle is listed under Schedule II of the CITES.

Source: Indian Express