

1. Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy

Topic: e Governance

In News: The government has invited inputs on the Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP).

More on the Topic:

- The new policy is a replacement of the now scrapped ‘India Data accessibility and Use policy’.
- It aims to enhance access, quality, and use of data, in line with the current and emerging technology needs of the decade.

Provisions of the Policy:

- **India Data Management Office (IDMO):** An ‘India Data Management Office (IDMO)’ shall be set up under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) under MeitY and shall be responsible for framing, managing and periodically reviewing and revising the Policy.
- The IDMO will also be responsible for developing rules, standards, and guidelines under this Policy that will be published periodically.
- It will act as a single point from different stake holders like states, so that all data come there and quick decisions can be made after collating the data received.
- **Data anonymization:** For data anonymisation, the IDMO will set and publish data anonymisation standards and rules to ensure informational privacy is maintained.
- **Indian Datasets programme:** India Datasets programme will consist of non-personal and anonymised datasets from Central government entities that have collected data from Indian citizens or those in India. Private companies will be “encouraged” to share such data.
- **Open Sale of Data:** Data selling provision from the previous draft has been omitted. No data will be sold at the Central level in the open market.
- **Redressal mechanism:** The IDMO shall institute a mechanism for citizens to request datasets register grievances.
- It will establish responsibility of DMUs under the IDMO to respond in a timely manner, to facilitate transparent and accountable data sharing ecosystem.
- **User Charges:** The IDMO may decide to charge User charges/ Fees for its maintenance/ services.

Concerns:

- Collating data at one point can create 360-degree data profiling. This data in turn could be misused by government for state sponsored mass surveillance.

Source: Indian Express



2. WMO The State of the Global Climate in 2021 report

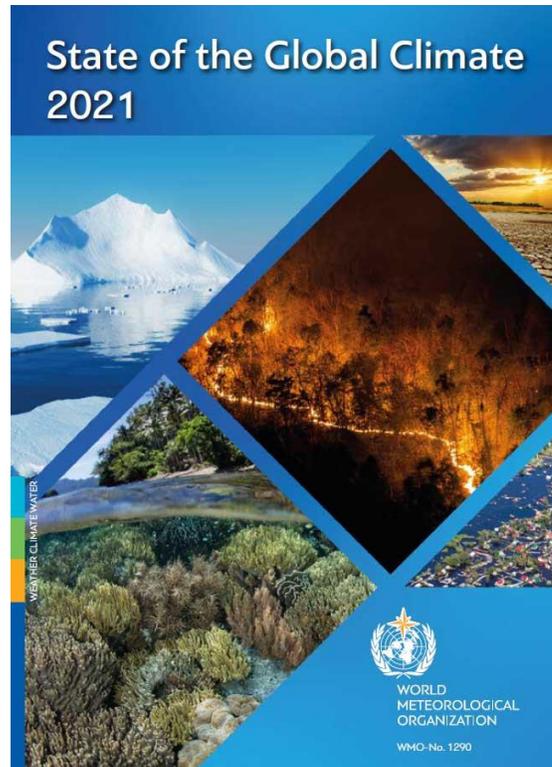
Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released the State of the Global Climate in 2021 report.

More on the Topic:

- **Green House Gas Emissions Trend:** GHG Emission reported an upward trend despite setbacks from COVID-19.
- Greenhouse gas concentrations reached a new global high in 2020, when the **concentration of carbon dioxide (CO2) reached 413.2 parts per million (ppm) globally**, or 149 per cent of the pre-industrial level.
- **Ocean heat Trend:** “The upper 2000m depth of the ocean continued to warm in 2021 and it is expected that it will continue to warm in the future.”
- **Ozone Hole Trend:** In 2021, the Ozone hole has also been reported as larger and deeper than 70 per cent of Ozone holes since 1979, reaching a maximum area of 24.8 million km².
- **Global Warming Trend:** Even though La Niña set in cooling conditions in 2021 which made the year relatively cooler, the report still notes the last 7 years as the warmest on record.
- There will be intense and frequent occurrences of heatwaves and humid heat stress in South Asia this century.
- **Draughts Trend:** Eastern Africa is facing the very real prospect that the rains will fail for a fourth consecutive season, placing Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalis into a drought of a length not experienced in the last 40 years.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** Worsening humanitarian crises in 2021 have **put a growing number of countries at risk of famine**. “Of the total number of undernourished people in 2020, more than half live in Asia (418 million) and a third in Africa (282 million).”

Recommendations:

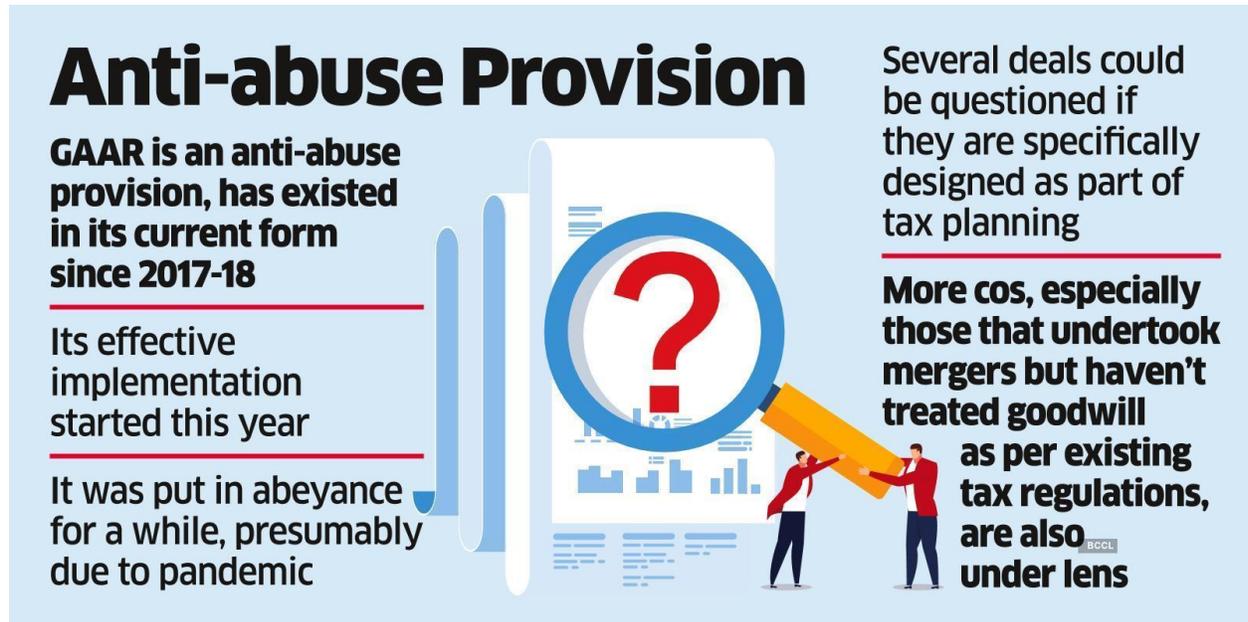


- Early Warning Systems are critically required for climate adaptation, and yet these are only available in less than half of WMO’s Members.
- Extreme weather has the most immediate impact on our daily lives. **Years of investment in disaster preparedness will result at saving lives.**

Source: Indian Express

3. General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR)

Topic: Economy



Anti-abuse Provision

GAAR is an anti-abuse provision, has existed in its current form since 2017-18

Its effective implementation started this year

It was put in abeyance for a while, presumably due to pandemic

Several deals could be questioned if they are specifically designed as part of tax planning

More cos, especially those that undertook mergers but haven’t treated goodwill as per existing tax regulations, are also under lens

In News: A The revenue department has launched investigations under the anti-tax avoidance law, General Anti-avoidance Rule (GAAR), into companies and entities that may have used creative methods to avoid paying taxes.

More on the Topic:

- GAAR is a set of rules that helps tax authorities decide whether a commercial entity has entered into an arrangement with another entity or a subsidiary of it to avoid paying taxes to the government.
- The entities take the advantages of the loopholes present in the tax structure. GAAR is different from tax evasion or tax mitigation which are illegal activities.
- GAAR will address those cases which are technically not illegal but those cases which are not ethical.

Why GAAR was introduced:

- Though legally tax avoidance is not a crime, it has the potential to cause huge revenue losses to the government due to aggressive tax planning by the business houses who often use the loopholes of the law to avoid taxes.

- Anti-avoidance rules have been brought in many countries to check revenue losses to the government.
- GAAR will bring out competitive advantages to several businesses that have been doing genuine transactions.

Difference Between Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion:

- Tax avoidance is an exercise in which the assessee legally tries to defeat the basic intention of the law, by taking advantage of the shortcomings in the legislature. It can be seen as finding out loop holes in the tax laws.
- On the contrary, tax evasion is a practice of reducing tax liability through illegal means, i.e. by suppressing income or inflating expenses or by showing lower income.

Source: AIR

4. Community Forest Rights

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: Chhattisgarh has become the second state to have recognised CFR rights inside a national park.

More on the Topic:

- The CFR rights of Gudiypadar hamlet, which consists of four reserved forest compartments inside the **Kanger Ghati National Park**, was recognised recently.
- CFR rights under **section 3(1)(i) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006** ; commonly known as Forest Rights Act or FRA provides for the recognition of the rights to **“protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.**
- This right **allows the community to formulate rules for forest use by itself and others.** CFR rights, along with Community Rights (CRs) under sections 3(1)(b) and 3(1)(c) are aimed at ensuring **sustainable livelihoods of the community.**
- The FRA provides for CR and CFR rights recognition in all forest lands, including wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves and national parks.
- These rights give **the authority to the Gram Sabha** to adopt local traditional practices of forest conservation and management within the community forest resource boundary.

Forest Rights Act

- Livelihood and occupancy rights.
- Rights to water bodies and flora and fauna.
- Settlement and conversion rights.
- Right to conservation.
- Intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity.
- Rehabilitation and settlements rights

What is a community forest resource?

- The community forest resource area is the common forest land that has been **traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community.**

- The community uses it **to access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village**; and for seasonal use of landscape in case of pastoralist communities.
- Each CFR area has a **customary boundary with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community and its neighboring villages**.
- It may include forest of any category – revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, deemed forest, DLC land, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.

Why is the recognition of CFR rights important?

- Aimed at undoing the **“historic injustice”** meted out to forest-dependent communities due to curtailment of their customary rights over forests, the FRA came into force in 2008.
- It is important as **it recognises the community’s right to use, manage and conserve forest resources, and to legally hold forest land** that these communities have used for cultivation and residence.
- It also underlines **the integral role that forest dwellers play in sustainability of forests and in conservation of biodiversity**.
- It is of greater significance inside protected forests like national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves as traditional dwellers then become a part of management of the protected forests using their **traditional wisdom**.

Source: Indian Express

5. ‘Thiruvananthapuram Declaration’

Topic: Governance/Social Justice

In News: The first National Women Legislators’ Conference has concluded with ‘Thiruvananthapuram Declaration’.

More on the Topic:

- The resolution called upon all political organisations, Union government and parliamentarians to take immediate steps for the passage of the Women’s Reservation Bill.
- The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008 seeks to reserve one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies.

Source: Business Standard

6. Indian Business Portal

Topic: e Governance

In News: Ministry Commerce and Industry has launched the Indian Business Portal.

More on the Topic:

- The portal will serve as an international trade hub for Indian exporters and foreign buyers.
- The portal is a business to business digital marketplace to empower small medium enterprises exporters, artisans and farmers to identify new markets for their products and grow their sales globally.



Source: Hindu

7. AKRUTI Program

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Advanced Knowledge and Rural Technology Implementation (AKRUTI) program was launched recently by Baba Atomic Research Centre.

More on the Topic:

- The scheme aims at empowering villages through implementing different technologies for usage.
- This scheme will lead to sustainable growth of the rural sector across the country.
- The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited is assisting unemployed youth living near the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) through AKRUTI.



Source: Hindu



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