

1. National Tiger Conservation Authority

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: National Tiger Conservation Authority has decided not to allow any new construction in the core areas of tiger reserves.

More on the Topic:

- Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with 9 tiger reserves for conserving our national animal, the tiger. Currently, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 53, spread out in 18 tiger range states.
- The tiger reserves are constituted on a core/buffer strategy. The core areas have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary, whereas the buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land, managed as a multiple-use area.

Different Areas within the Tiger reserve:

- **Core Zone (critical Wildlife habitats):**
- The core area is kept free of biotic disturbances and forestry operations, where the collection of minor forest produce, grazing, human disturbances are not allowed within.
- These areas are required to be kept for the purposes of tiger conservation, without affecting the rights of the Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers.
- These areas are notified by the State Government in consultation with an Expert Committee (constituted for that purpose).
- **Buffer Area:**
- Buffer area is the area peripheral to the critical tiger habitat or core area providing supplementary habitat for dispersing tigers, besides offering scope for co-existence of human activity.
- The limits of the buffer/ peripheral areas are determined on the basis of scientific and objective criteria in consultation with the Gram Sabha and an Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.

About National Tiger Conservation Authority:

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- NTCA was established in 2005, following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force constituted by the then Prime Minister of India to for reorganised management of Project Tiger
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is set up under the chairmanship of the minister for environment and forests.

Source: Indian Express

2. Places of Worship Act

Topic: Polity and Governance



In News: Supreme Court has clarified that the 1991 Places of Worship Act cannot be brought into play in a battle between two sects of the same religion. SC refused to entertain a petition by a sect of the Jain community alleging conversion of its religious places by another sect.

More on the Topic:

- **The Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea filed under Article 32 of the Constitution** by members of the two denomination of the Jain religion seeking to enforce the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 against the alleged conversion of places of worship by another segment of the same denomination.

About Places of Worship Act:

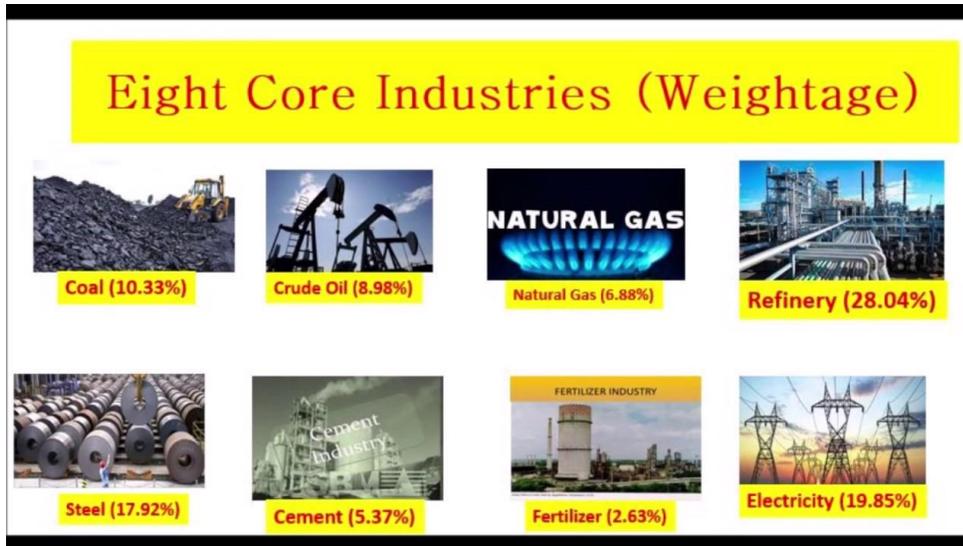
- The Act states that a place of worship's religious nature must remain the same as it was on August 15, 1947.
- It says no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section.
- **Section 3 of the act bars conversion**, in full or part, of a place of worship of any religious denomination into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or even a different segment of same the religious denomination.
- It declares that all litigation, appeals, or other proceedings ongoing before any court or authority on August 15, 1947, involving converting the status of a place of worship, will cease as soon as the law takes effect. There will be no more legal action taken.

- Ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Is an exception.

Source: The Hindu

3.Core Industries

Topic: Economy



In News: The combined Index of Eight Core Industries rose by 12.7% in June 2022.

More on the Topic:

- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that indicates the performance of various industrial sectors of the Indian economy.
- It is calculated and published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) every month. It is a composite indicator of the general level of industrial activity in the economy.

Core Industries:

- Core Industries (core sectors) of the economy are the main or the key industries in the economy. There are 8 such sectors in India.
- The industries included in the eight-core sectors are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizer, steel, cement and electricity.
- **The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage:** Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

Source: Hindu

4. Loktak Lake

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Manipur government has ordered to remove all floating houses and fishing structures on Loktak lake.

More on the Topic:

- It is the **largest freshwater lake in Northeast India(Manipur)**, and is famous for the **phumdis**.
- Phumdis are a **series of floating islands of entangled vegetation formed by the accumulation of organic debris and biomass with soil**, exclusive to the Loktak Lake in Manipur. Its thickness varies from few centimeter to two meters.
- The humus of phumdi is black in colour and very spongy with large number of pores. It floats with 4/5 part under water.
- **It is the only floating national park in the world.**
- It has been designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1990.
- It is also listed under **the Montreux Record in 1993, “a record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur”**.

Threats Faced:

- It is presently under threat due to various factors, including human pressure.
- The Ithai barrage, commissioned in 1983, has brought about drastic changes in the characteristics of the wetland.

Source: Indian Express

5. Paryushan Parv (festival)

Topic: Culture



In News: In the month August or September Paryushan Parv (festival) is celebrated by Jain monks.

More on the Topic:

- It is celebrated in the middle of the rainy season, when the Jain monks and nuns cease travelling and stay with a community and are available to them for instruction and guidance.
- During Paryushan **Jains increase their level of spiritual intensity often using fasting and prayer/meditation to help.**
- The five main vows are emphasized during this time- Ahimsā(Non-violence), Satya (Truth), Asteya (Non-stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity), Aparigraha (Non-possession).
- It concludes with a time of (Pratikraman) confession and forgiveness for the transgressions of the previous year.

Source: Business Standard

6. Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn) scheme

Topic: Government Schemes

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To bring down unemployment rate of minorities during 12th Plan period.
- 2.2 To conserve and update traditional skills of minorities and establish their linkages with market.
- 2.3 To improve employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc. and ensure their placement.
- 2.4 To generate means of better livelihood for marginalized minorities and bring them in the mainstream.
- 2.5 To enable minorities to avail opportunities in the growing market.
- 2.6 To develop potential human resource for the country.

In News: The scheme has nearly 59% female trainees (far greater than earmarked 33%) in 2020-21.

More on the Topic:

- The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- It is a Skill development scheme for the youth of the **14 – 35 years age group**.
- It aims at **providing employment and employment opportunities, improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.**
- It ensures **75% placements, out of which 50% should be in the organized sector**.
- Post placement support of Rs.2000/- per month is provided to placed trainees for two months as placement assistance.

Source: Hindu

7. Right to a Clean and Healthy environment

Topic: Governance



In News: The UN has declared access to clean, healthy environment as universal human right.

More on the Topic:

- The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- The resolution will **help to reduce environmental injustices and protection gaps.**
- It can empower people, especially those in vulnerable situations, including environmental human rights defenders, children, youth, women and indigenous people.
- The declaration has been **adopted by over 160 UN member nations, including India.**
- This will encourage countries to **incorporate the right to a healthy environment in national constitutions and regional treaties.**
- However, the declaration is **not legally binding.**
- It also recognizes that **Climate change and environmental degradation are the most critical threats awaiting humanity in the future.**
- Unsustainable management and use of natural resources, the pollution of air, land and water, the unsound management of chemicals and waste, and the resulting loss in biodiversity interfere with the enjoyment of this right.

Source: Hindu