

1. Fast Track Courts and Fast Track Special Courts

Topic: Polity and Governance



In News: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has pointed out under-utilisation of funds earmarked to establish FTCs and FTSCs and urged the chief justices to personally look into the matter.

More on the Topic:

- The 14th Finance Commission had recommended setting-up of 1,400 FTCs by the state governments to fast-track criminal cases of heinous crimes.
- At present these courts were set-up under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for expeditious trial of rape and POCSO cases (involving juvenile victims).
- Their setting up and functioning falls within **domain of State Government in consultation with their respective High Courts.**

Present Scenario:

- Of the sanctioned 1800 FTCs, 896 were functional as of July 31 and more than 13.18 lakh cases were pending in these courts. Of the 1,023 sanctioned FSTCs, 731 were operational as of July 31.
- During the analysis, it was also noticed that while 88,000 monthly cases are registered, **case disposal is approximately 35,000, leading to an ever-increasing pendency of cases.**

Challenges faced by FTCs and FTSCs:

- Inadequate staff and IT infrastructure
- Delay in getting reports from understaffed forensic science laboratories
- Frivolous adjournments, etc.

Source: Indian Express

2.The Ministry of Panchayati Raj Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)

Topic: International Relations



In News: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through PRIs.

More on the Topic:

- The MoU envisages for finding gaps and possible solutions to overcome gaps in preparation of **model Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) linkages with LSDGs**.

About Localising Sustainable Goals:

- Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involves **the definition, implementation and monitoring of strategies at the local level**, which is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Localisation also relates both to how local and sub-national governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through bottom up action.
- LSDG becomes significant for India as about 65% of India's population lives in rural areas.

About Sustainable Development Goals:

- To bring sustainable development in the mainstream United Nations (UN) launched the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs**.
- This universal, integrated and transformative agenda aims to spur actions that will end poverty and build a more sustainable world over the next 15 years.



- There are 17 goals and 169 targets specific targets to be achieved by 2030. Reaching the goals requires action on all fronts – governments, businesses, civil society and people everywhere all have a role to play.
- SDGs are not legally binding.

Source: Hindu

3. Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project

Topic: Art and Culture



INDO-SWISS BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT (BEEP)

In News: A conference has been organized under BEEP (Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project) for helping India mainstream energy-efficient and thermally comfortable Building design for both commercial and residential buildings.

More on the Topic:

- Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) is a bilateral cooperation project between the Ministry of Power, Government of India, and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of the Swiss Confederation.
- Started in 2011, the project's central focus is **to help India mainstream Energy-Efficient and Thermally Comfortable (EETC) Building Design** for both commercial and residential buildings.
- **BEEP works with building industry, policy makers, and building owners** to catalyze adoption of EETC building design and technologies.
- **The Bureau of Energy Efficiency is BEEP's implementing agency for the Ministry of Power**, while the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation oversees the project for FDFA.

Source: Hindu

4.Tripartite Agreement with 8 Armed Tribal and the Assam government

Topic: Internal Security



In News: Centre has signed the tripartite agreement with 8 armed tribal and the Assam government to restore peace and rehabilitation of armed groups.

More on the Topic:

- The groups that signed the agreement are Birsa Commando Force (BCF), Adivasi People's Army (APA), All Adivasi National Liberation Army (AANLA), Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam (ACMA) and Santhali Tiger Force (STF).
- The remaining three outfits are splinter groups of BCF, AANLA, and ACMA.
- The groups are in ceasefire since 2012 and living in designated camps.
- The agreement was signed **to end decade old crisis of tribal groups and tea garden workers in Assam**.
- The agreement will prove to be another milestone in the direction of making North East region extremism free by 2025.

About the Settlement agreement:

- The major provisions of the agreement included **fulfilling political, economic, and educational aspirations**.
- The other objective is **protecting, preserving and promoting social, cultural, linguistic and ethnic identities**.
- The agreement also provides for **the setting up of an Adivasi Welfare and Development Council by the Government of Assam**
- Necessary measures would be taken for **the rehabilitation of cadres of armed groups and for the welfare of tea garden workers**.

- A special development package of 1,000 crores would be provided over a period of five years for infrastructure development in Adivasi-populated villages and areas.

Source: Indian Express

5. Financial Stability and Development Council Environment Facility

Topic: Economy



In News: The 26th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was chaired by the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman recently.

More on the Topic:

- Financial Stability and Development Council is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India.
- The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.
- In 2010 the GOI decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
- An apex-level FSDC is not a statutory body.
- The new body envisages to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism of **maintaining financial stability, financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination** along with monitoring macro-prudential regulation' of economy.

Source: Hindu

6. “E-Baal Nidan” Portal

Topic: e-Governance



In News: Online Portal “E-Baal Nidan” For Redressal Of Grievances Against Violation Of Child Rights was Revamped.

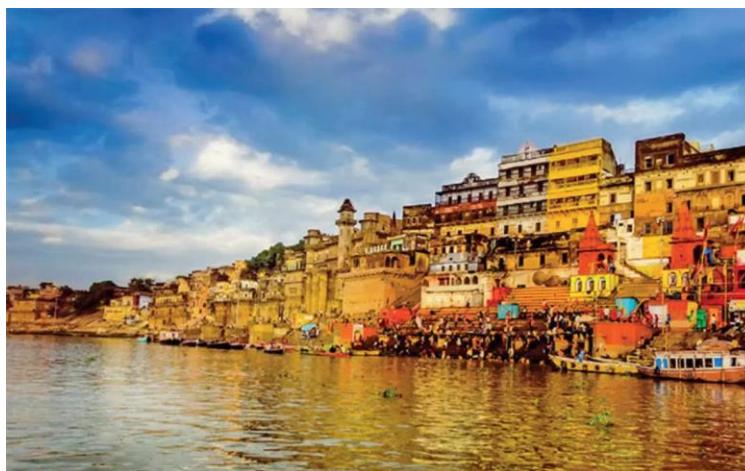
More on the Topic:

- “E-Baal Nidan” is an online complaint mechanism launched in 2015 to enable individuals to report violations committed against a child and track the progress of the redressal of the complaint in the Commission.
- It ensures a timely disposal of cases by the NCPNR.
- Currently, the NCPNR is providing access to all State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- It will be providing user IDs and passwords for the State Commissions to enable them to view complaints registered on the portal and take necessary steps as mandated by the law.
- The portal also provides an option to transfer the registered complaints from the NCPNR to the concerned State Commission.
- It also gives option of joint inquiry if the State Commission wants the NCPNR to be involved.
- The portal segregates complaints based their subject matters like juvenile justice, PSCSO, child labour, education etc.

Source: Down to Earth

7.SCO tourist and cultural capital

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: The holy city of Varanasi was nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital during the period 2022-2023 at the 22nd Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

More on the Topic:

- The nomination of Varanasi as the first ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital will promote tourism, and cultural and humanitarian exchanges between India and the SCO member Countries. It also underlines India's ancient civilizational links with the Member States of SCO, especially the Central Asian Republics.
- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India became its permanent member in 2017.

About Varanasi:

- Varanasi is in southeastern Uttar Pradesh state. It is located on the **left bank of the Ganges (Ganga) River and is one of the seven sacred cities of Hinduism.**
- It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Its early history is that of the first Aryan settlement in the middle Ganges valley.
- **Varanasi was the capital of the kingdom of Kashi** during the time of the Buddha (6th century BCE), who gave his first sermon nearby at Sarnath.

Source: Business Standard
