

1. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

Topic: Economy



In News: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has amended its regulations to allow sale of one or more assets of an entity undergoing insolvency resolution process, besides other changes.

More on the Topic:

- New changes allow creditors to sell assets separately in cases where no resolution plan has been received as a whole.
- Announce a performance- based pay structure for Resolution Professionals (RPs), insolvency professionals appointed to conduct resolution process. RPs charge success fees contingent on a successful resolution for company.

About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:

- Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.
- IBC was introduced in 2016 to tackle bad loan problems and act as one stop solution for resolving insolvencies.
- The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving the insolvency of corporate debtors (within 330 days) called the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).
- The debtor himself or its creditors may apply for initiation of CIRP in the event of a default of at least one lakh rupees.
- Under CIRP, a committee of creditors is constituted to decide regarding the insolvency resolution.
- The committee may consider a resolution plan which typically provides for the payoff of debt by merger, acquisition, or restructuring of the company.
- If a resolution plan is not approved by the committee of creditors within the specified time, the company is liquidated.
- During CIRP, the affairs of the company are managed by the resolution professional (RP), who is appointed to conduct CIRP.

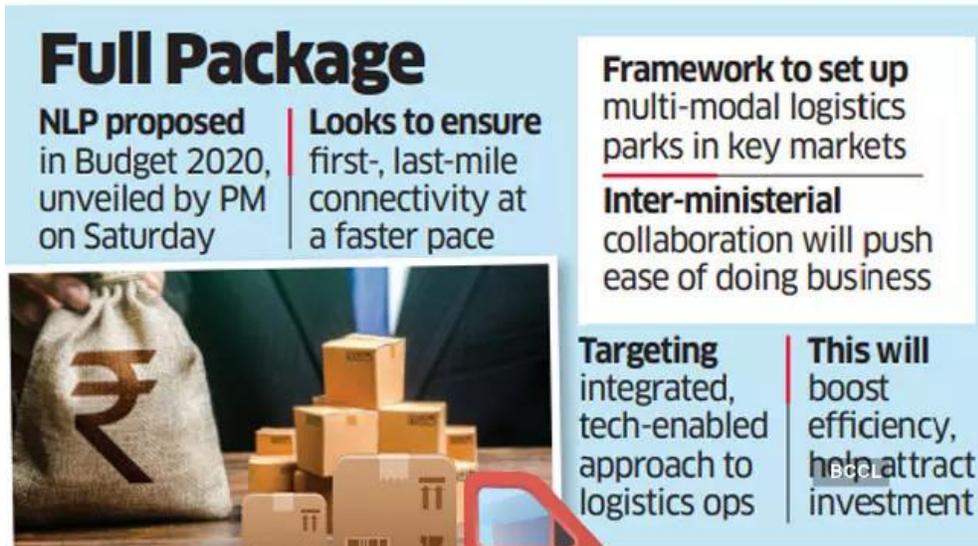
The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It was established on 1 October 2016 and given statutory powers through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
- It attempts to simplify the process of insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings. It handles the cases using two tribunals like **NCLT (National company law tribunal)** and **Debt recovery tribunal**.

Source: Indian Express

2.National Logistics Policy

Topic: Economy



Full Package

NLP proposed in Budget 2020, unveiled by PM on Saturday

Looks to ensure first-, last-mile connectivity at a faster pace

Framework to set up multi-modal logistics parks in key markets

Inter-ministerial collaboration will push ease of doing business

Targeting integrated, tech-enabled approach to logistics ops

This will boost efficiency, help attract investment

In News: The Prime Minister has launched the National Logistics Policy in New Delhi recently.

More on the Topic:

- The policy has simple but transformational targets to help benchmark its performance. They include,
- **Reduce the cost of logistics from 14-18 percent of GDP to global best practices of 8 percent by 2030.** Countries like the US, South Korea, Singapore, and certain European nations have such a low logistics cost-to-GDP ratio.
- Improve the country's **Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ranking to be among top 25 countries by 2030.**
- **Create data-driven decision support systems (DSS)** to enable an efficient logistics ecosystem.

- The policy’s target is **to ensure that logistical issues are minimised, exports grow manifold, and small industries and the people working in them benefit significantly.**
- Finally, strengthening the logistics sector will not only make it easier to do business, but also **to generate substantial employment and ensure improvement in wages and working conditions.**

Building Blocks of the Policy:

- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP):** It aims to collapse all logistics and transport sector digital services into a single portal, thereby freeing manufacturers and exporters from the present tyranny of long and cumbersome processes.
- **Ease of Logistics Services (E-Logs):** **It is a new digital platform is being launched.** This will allow industry to directly take up operational issues with government agencies for speedy resolution.
- **The Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan:** It comprises integrated digital logistics systems, standardisation of physical assets, benchmarking service standards, human resource development, capacity building, development of logistics parks, etc.
- **System Improvement Group (SIG):** To advise on changes in existing laws and processes to improve cargo movement.

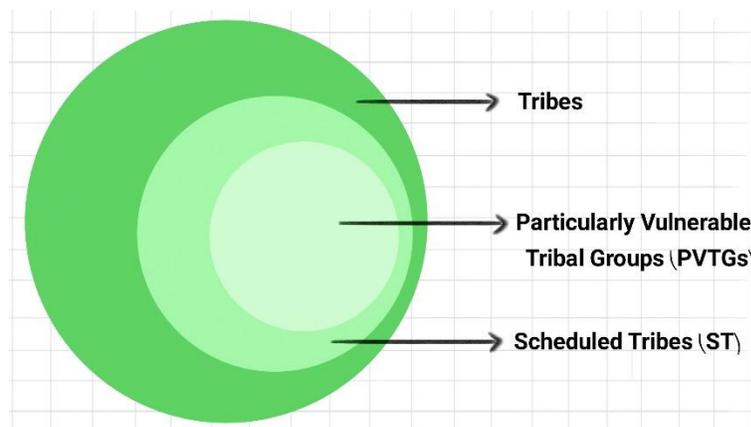
Significance:

- The NLP, in conjunction with the Gati Shakti Programme, the Sagarmala and Bharatmala (waterways and roadways) schemes, the Dedicated Freight Corridors, etc., can be transformational.
- The policy will enable fast paced logistics infrastructure development, better coordination among multiple stakeholders, improve competitiveness of Indian goods, boost last mile connectivity etc.

Source: PIB

3.Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

Topic: Government Programmes



In News: Prime Minister has inaugurated four Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups skilling centres under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

More on the Topic:

- **PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.** Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs.
- There are 75 PVTGs presently. They are spread over 17 states and one Union Territory (UT).

Government of India follows the following criteria for identification of PVTGs:

- Pre-agricultural level of technology
- Low level of literacy
- Economic backwardness
- A declining or stagnant population.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:

- It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It was implemented in 2015-16.
- Implemented by: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Objective: To enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

Source: Hindu

4. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Topic: International Relations



In News: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has commented that only 1.7% of climate finance is going to small farmers who produce 1/3 of food in the world.

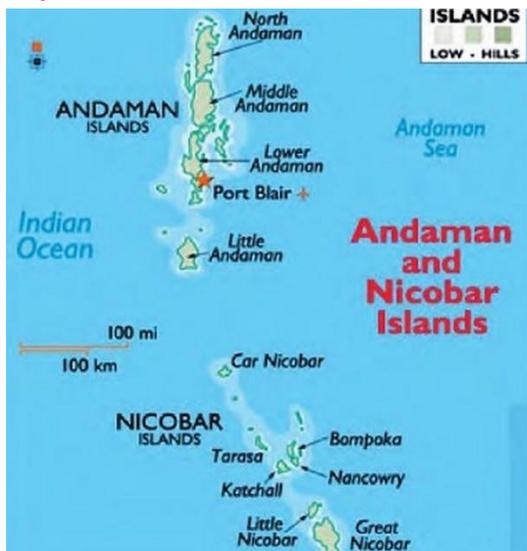
More on the Topic:

- The International Fund for Agricultural Development is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- **Headquartered in Rome, Italy**, IFAD is involved in over 200 projects across nearly 100 countries.
- It funds and sponsors initiatives that improve land and water management, develop rural infrastructure, train and educate farmers in more efficient technologies, build up resilience against climate change, enhancing market accessibility, and more.
- Total IFAD lending in India is about 1.2 billion US Dollars.

Source: Indian Express

5. Swachh Sujal Pradesh

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: Andaman and Nicobar Islands become India's first Swachh Sujal Pradesh.

More on the Topic:

- There are namely three important components of Sujal and Swachh state:
 - (i) safe and secure drinking water supply and management;
 - (ii) ODF Plus: ODF Sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and
 - (iii) cross-cutting interventions like convergence, IEC, action planning, etc
- All villages on A&N Islands have received Har Ghar Jal certification.

Source: PIB

6. Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) recently introduced a new security feature to the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS).

More on the Topic:

- The security feature is called fingerprint 'liveness' and is expected to help prevent using fake fingerprints to withdraw money through AEPS.
- The PoS now will be able to determine whether the fingerprint being used belongs to a person who's alive or not.
- **AEPS is a bank led model** which allows online interoperable financial transaction at PoS (Point of Sale / Micro ATM) through the Business Correspondent (BC)/Bank Mitra of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication.
- It was taken up by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** - a joint initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- This system **adds another layer of security to financial transactions** as bank details would no longer be required to be furnished while carrying out these transactions.

Source: Down to Earth

7. Lassa Fever

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: 171 people have died because of Lassa fever in Nigeria.

More on the Topic:

- Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic fever caused by Lassa virus, which belongs to the family Arenaviridae.
- **Matomys rats has the potential to spread the deadly Lassa virus.**
- This virus is found among the rodent population in several parts of West Africa. It is endemic in African countries.
- **The pathogen infecting several organs like liver, spleen and kidney.** The early stage of this infection can be treated using the antiviral drug ribavirin.
- It can also be spread, though rarely, if a person comes in contact with a sick person's **infected bodily fluids or through mucous membranes** such as the eyes, nose or the mouth.
- Person-to-person transmission is more common in healthcare settings.

Source: Down to Earth
