1. Sovereign Green Bond

Topic: Economy

In News: The government has given approval to the final sovereign green bonds framework in line with the Budget announcement.

More on the Topic

- The Green bonds are f**inancial instruments that generate proceeds for investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects.**
- By virtue of their indication towards environmental sustainability, g**reen bonds command a relatively lower cost of capital vis-à-vis regular bonds** and necessitates credibility and commitments associated with the process of raising bonds.
- In the above context, India's first Sovereign Green Bonds framework was formulated and as per the provisions of the framework, **Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) was constituted** to validate key decisions on issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds.
- A 'green project' classification is based on the principles like: Encourages energy efficiency, reduces carbon & GHG emissions etc.
- Eligible projects under the framework include: Renewable energy, clean transportation, water and waste management, green building etc.
- It excludes, nuclear power generation, landfill projects, direct waste incineration, hydropower plants larger than 25 MW etc.

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- A sovereign bond is **a debt security issued by a national government** to raise money for financing government programs, paying down old debt, paying interest on current debt, and any other government spending needs.
- Sovereign bonds **can be denominated in a foreign currency or the government's domestic currency.**
- Sovereign bonds are **a source of government financing alongside tax revenue.**

Source: Indian Express

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2. SVAMITVA Scheme

E-GRAMSWARAJ PORTAL & MOBILE APPLICATION AND SWAMITVA SCHEME LAUNCHED

E-GRAMSWARAJ
- Prepare & execute Gram Panchayat Development Plans
- Real time monitoring & accountability
- Major step towards digitization down to Gram Panchayat level

SWAMITVA SCHEME
- Helps to map rural inhabited lands using drones & latest survey methods
- Ensure streamlined planning, revenue collection & provide clarity over property rights
- Open up avenues for applying for loans from financial institutions by owners
- Disputes related to property would also be settled

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: The Report of Expert Committee on SVAMITVA Scheme was released recently.

More on the Topic:

- The report, released by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, provides the guiding principles that States may adopt in order to realize the objectives of the SVAMITVA Scheme holistically.
- Through the recommendations, it is envisaged t**o create systems that promote transparency in the implementation of the scheme,**
- promote the adoption of record of rights for availing bank loan,

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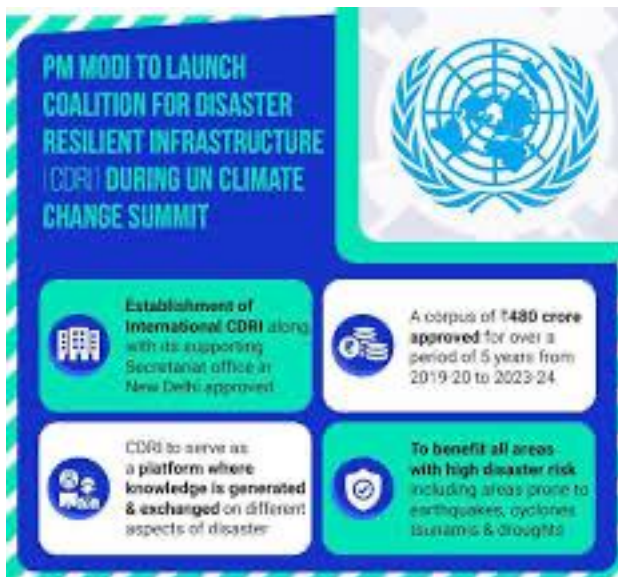
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- develop linkages between different departments for informed decision-making related to property tax assessment and collection,
- wider adoption of **SVAMITVA data-sets by government and private agencies as per new geospatial guidelines,**
- adoption of RADPFI **(Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation)** Guidelines and SVAMTIVA data for accurate village level-planning, and increasing capacity at State, District and Block level for GIS skillsets, among others.

About SVAMITVA Scheme?
- SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) scheme is a new initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj.**
- It aims to provide rural people with **the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.**
- The scheme is f**or surveying the land parcels in rural inhabited area** using Drone technology. The survey shall be done across the country in a phase wise manner over the period 2020 -2025 . The scheme is proposed as a Central Sector scheme.

Source: PIB

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3. Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)

Topic: Disaster Management

In News: The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) on Wednesday announced Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF).

More on the Topic:

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- IRAF, a multi-donor trust fund is established with the support of UNDP and UNDRR.
- It will be managed by the **United Nation Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN MPTFO),** New York.
- The fund intends to support **global action on disaster resilience of infrastructure systems,** especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Supported by I**ndia, the UK, Australia and the European Union,** IRAF's multi-pronged programme focus will offer customized technical assistance, capacity building, research, knowledge management, and advocacy across the infrastructure life cycle for countries at all stages of development.
- IRAF will play a crucial role in **equipping the coalition to deliver on improved infrastructure governance, inclusive infrastructure services, diversified knowledge, and financing for resilient infrastructure globally**.
- One of the first initiatives to be supported by IRAF is the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS).

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

- CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi at the **UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019**
- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.
- It aims **to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development**.

Source: Hindu

4. CE20 cryogenic Engine

Topic: Science and Technology

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In News: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the hot test of CE20 cryogenic engine.

More on the Topic:

- CE20 cryogenic engine is indigenously developed for LVM3.
- LVM3 is a three-stage vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons, a liquid propellant core stage and a cryogenic upper stage.
- The major modifications carried out on this test article compared to previous engines was introduction of **Thrust Control Valve (TCV) for thrust control.**
- In addition to this **3D printed LOX and LH2 turbine exhaust casings** were inducted in the engine for the first time.
- LVM-3 can carry up to 4 tonnes to a geostationary orbit and up to 6 tonnes to a Low Earth Orbit.
- The uprated thrust level will **enhance the LVM3 payload capability up to 450 kg with additional propellant loading**.

Source: Indian Express

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5. DYNAMIC GROUND WATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FOR THE COUNTRy

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The Union Minister of Jal Shakti has released the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report for the entire country for the year 2022.

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- As per the 2022 assessment report, the total annual ground water recharge for the entire country is **437.60 billion cubic meters (BCM) and annual ground water extraction for the entire country is 239.16 BCM.**
- **India is largest user of GW with a fourth of total global withdrawal.**
- Further, out of the total 7089 assessment units in the country, **1006 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited'**.
- Assessment indicates increase in ground water recharge.
- Increase in ground water recharge which may mainly be attributed **to increase in recharge from canal seepage, return flow of irrigation water and recharges from water bodies/tanks & water conservation structures**.
- Analysis indicates improvement in ground water conditions in 909 assessment units in the country compared with 2017 assessment data.
- In addition, **overall decrease in number of over-exploited units** and decrease in stage of groundwater extraction level have also been observed.

Terminologies:
- **Overexploited:** Ground water extraction exceeding the annually replenishable ground GW extraction.
- **Critical:** Ground water extraction is between 90 to 100% of annual extractable resources available.
- **Safe:** Ground water extraction is less than 70%.

Source: PIB

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6. DigiLocker

Topic: e-Governance

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In News: Union health ministry has informed that DigiLocker users can now store health records and link them with their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA).

More on the Topic:

- **Digilocker initiative of MeitY** is a flagship programme under Digital India program.
- DigiLocker offers a **dedicated personal storage space, linked to each resident's Aadhaar number.**
- DigiLocker can be used **to securely store e-documents** as well as store Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) link of e-documents issued by various issuer departments.
- **The e-Sign facility** provided as part of DigiLocker system can be used to digitally sign e-documents.
- The DigiLocker can be accessible via web portal or mobile application.
- Documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology Rules, 2016.

Source: Business Standard

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7. Rule of Law Index

What does the Rule of Law Index measure?

- Constraints on Government Powers
- Absence of Corruption
- Open Government
- Fundamental Rights
- Order and Security
- Regulatory Enforcement
- Civil Justice
- Criminal Justice

Source: World Justice Project

In News: The The World Justice Project released the Rule of Law Index 2022.

More on the Topic:

- India has ranked 77 out of 140 countries. Denmark has topped the index.
- It measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors:
- (1) Constraints on Government Powers,

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- (2) Absence of Corruption,
- (3) Open Government,
- (4) Fundamental Rights,
- (5) Order and Security,
- (6) Regulatory Enforcement,
- (7) Civil Justice, and
- (8) Criminal Justice

Source: Business Standard

8. Stop TB Partnership Group

Topic: Internation Relations

In News: Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership has appreciates the "unprecedented leadership by the Government of India" in leading the global TB elimination response.

More on the Topic:

- The 'Stop TB Partnership' is **an international organization working to align stakeholders from across the world, with a mission to serve every person who is vulnerable to TB** and ensure that high-quality diagnosis, treatment and care is available to all who need it.
- It was founded in 2001 and its **Secretariat is hosted by United Nations Office** for Project Services (UNOPS) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Source: Business Standard

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