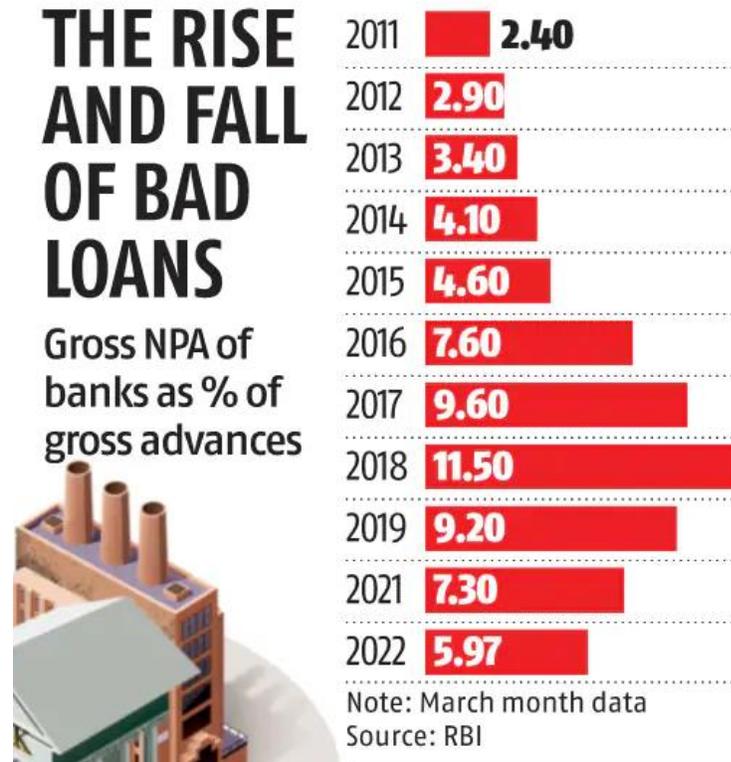




1. Improvement in NPA Recovery



Topic: Economy

In News: According to RBI, Non-performing assets (NPAs) recovered by scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) improved to 18.4 per cent of the amount involved in FY22 against 14 per cent in FY21.

More on the Topic

- The improvement in recovery happened through multiple channels including **Lok Adalats, Debt Recovery Tribunals, Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** — in FY22.
- **Although the number of cases referred under Lok Adalats and SARFAESI Act increased by 336 per cent and 335 per cent, respectively, the IBC mechanism was the leader in terms of the amount involved**
- As fresh insolvency cases could be admitted after the one-year suspension during Covid-19, admissions under the IBC increased by 65 per cent during FY22 to 885 cases against 536 cases in FY21.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) code was **introduced to overhaul the corporate distress resolution regime in India** and consolidate previously available laws to create a time-bound mechanism with a creditor-in-control model as opposed to the debtor-in-possession system.
- When insolvency is triggered under the IBC, there can be two outcomes: **resolution or liquidation**; all attempts are made to resolve the insolvency by either coming up with a restructuring or new ownership plan and if resolution attempts fail, the company's assets are liquidated.

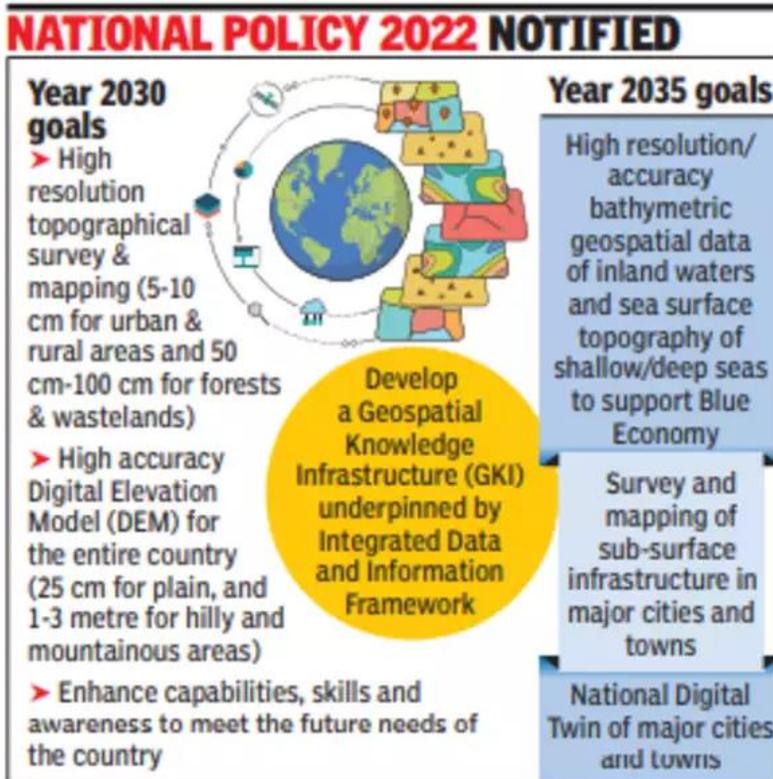
About Non Performing Assets:

- A nonperforming asset (NPA) refers to a **classification for loans or advances that are in default or in arrears.**
- A loan is in arrears when principal or interest payments are late or missed.
- A loan is in default **when the lender considers the loan agreement to be broken and the debtor is unable to meet his obligations.**

Source: Indian Express

2. National Geospatial Policy

Topic: Science and Technology





In News: The National Geospatial Policy was unveiled by Ministry of Science and Technology recently.

More on the Topic:

- The policy has spelt out 13 milestones for the country to achieve to have a **thriving geospatial industry** involving private enterprises.
- The aims include creating a **high accuracy digital elevation model** for the entire country by 2030 and **digital twins of major cities and towns by 2035**.
- Digital Twin is a **virtual replica of a physical asset, process or service** that lies at the core of the new digital revolution.
- National Digital Twin would be an ecosystem of smart, dynamic, connected Digital Twins, enabled by **secure and interoperable data sharing, to facilitate better decision-making**.

Geospatial Technology:

- Geospatial Technology is a term used to describe a range of modern tools like the **Geographic Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS) and Global Positioning System (GPS)**.
- Geospatial technology **uses tools like GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing for geographic mapping and analysis**.
- These tools **capture spatial information about objects, events and phenomena** (indexed to their geographical location on earth, geotag).
- The location data may be Static or Dynamic.
- Geospatial technology **enables us to acquire data that is referenced to the earth and use the data for analysis, modelling, simulations and visualisation**.
- It **enables better measurement, management, and maintenance of assets, monitoring of resources** and even providing predictive and prescriptive analysis for forecasting and planned interventions.

India's Geospatial Market:

- India's geospatial market, including domestic and exports, is estimated to be worth approximately Rs 27,650 crore in 2025, rising from Rs 22,940 crore in 2019.
- The sector is expected to grow to Rs 63,000 crore by 2030.
- The past decade has seen **an increase in the use of geo-spatial data in daily life with various apps**.
- These include food delivery apps like Swiggy or Zomato, e-commerce like Amazon, cab hailing apps like Ola and Uber and many weather apps.
- However, the sector is still dominated by the Government as well as government-run agencies such as the Survey of India (SOI).

Guidelines for Geospatial Data, 2021:

- **Guidelines for Geospatial Data, 2021:** The guidelines were released by the Ministry of Science and Technology in February 2021 to deregulated existing protocols.

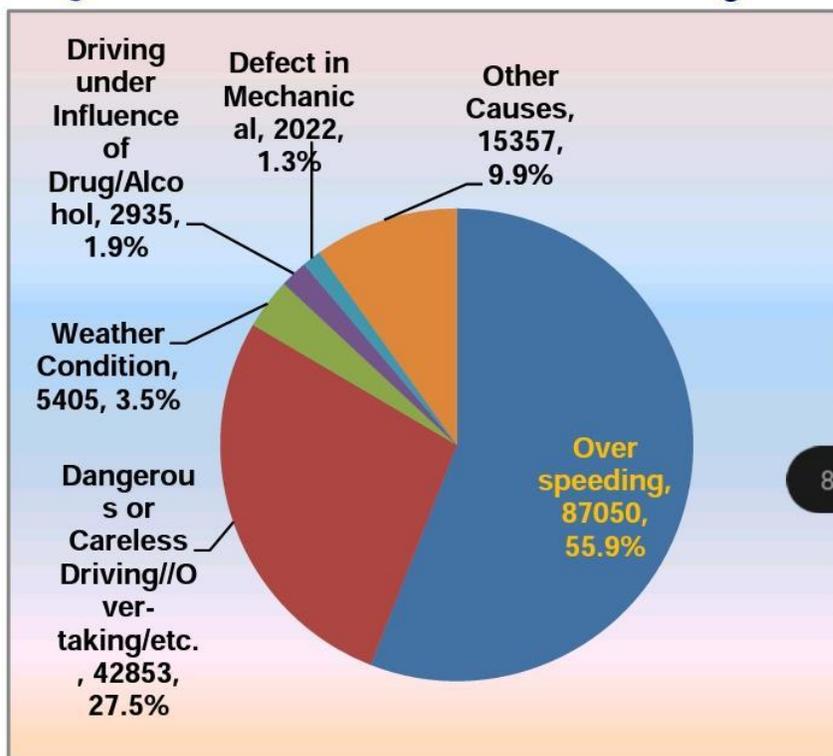
- The guidelines eliminated the requirement of permissions as well as scrutiny, even for security concerns for Indian Companies.

Source: Hindu

3. 'Road accidents in India — 2021'

FIGURE-1A.6

Major Causes of Road Accident Deaths during 2021



As per data provided by States/UTs.

Topic: Reports and Indices

In News: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published the annual report 'Road accidents in India — 2021'.

More on the Topic:

- As per the report, there were **4,12,432 unfortunate incidences of road accidents** during 2021 which claimed 1, 53,972 lives and caused injuries to 3, 84,448 persons.
- During the previous year 2020, **country saw an unprecedented decrease in accidents, fatalities and injuries.**
- This was due to the unusual outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and resultant stringent nation-wide lockdown.
- **Major indicators related with accidents have performed better in 2021 when compared to 2019.**
- Road accidents **decreased by 8.1 percent and injuries decreased by 14.8 percent in 2021 compared to 2019.**
- Fatalities, however, on accounts of road accidents **increased by 1.9 percent in 2021** corresponding to the same period in 2019.

Government Efforts to Reduce Road Accidents:

- Grant of Financial Assistance for Administering Road Safety Advocacy and Awards for the **Outstanding Work Done in the Field of Road Safety.**
- **Crash Safety Norm of the vehicles** have been revised.
- To strengthen the system of driver licensing and training to improve the competence and capability of drivers, **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is setting up model Institutes of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) Centres.**
- **The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019,** expected to bring reforms in the various segments such as enforcement of Road Safety norms and guidelines, bring citizen facilitation, transparency, and reduce corruption with the help of information technology and removing intermediaries.
- A central repository, **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) system** has been developed by Ministry for reporting, management, claim processing and analysis of road accidents data to enhance road safety in the Country.

Source: Hindu

4. Land subsidence at Joshimath Town in Uttarakhand

Topic: Geography



In News: Following incidents of local land subsidence, residents of Joshimath Town in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district have been evacuating their homes in search of safer locations.

More on the Topic:

- Huge cracks have appeared in the houses of the area due to this land subsidence which is known as the **vertical sinking of land in an area**.
- Land subsidence is a **gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to removal or displacement of subsurface earth materials**.
- The principal causes include:
 - aquifer-system compaction associated with groundwater withdrawals
 - drainage of organic soils
 - underground mining
 - natural compaction or collapse, such as with sinkholes or thawing permafrost
- Subsidence is a global problem.

Causes of Joshimath Land Subsidence:

- It is situated in an **old landslide zone**. This makes the town to have an unstable foundation.
- It is situated in the middle slopes of the hill bound by streams such as Karmanasa and Dhaknala along with Dhauliganga and Alaknanda rivers. This makes the town to have close proximity to major tectonic discontinuities.
- This ecologically sensitive area is pressured with dams, numerous homes, resorts etc. This aids in destabilisation of the region.

Source: Hindu

5. Delegated Legislation

Topic: Polity and Governance



The infographic features a dark red background with a yellow vertical bar on the right side. At the top, the title "Delegated Legislation" is written in large white font. Below it, a smaller white text box contains the definition: "THE PRINCIPLE OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION SAYS THAT THE LEGISLATURE MUST LAY DOWN THE GUIDELINES, THE PRINCIPLES OF POLICY FOR THE AUTHORITY TO WHOM POWER TO MAKE SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION IS ENTRUSTED." Below this, there are two rows of yellow boxes with white text. The first row contains five boxes: "Rules", "Regulation", "Order", "Direction", and "Schemes". The second row contains four boxes: "Circular", "Notification", "Bye-Laws", and "Instructions".



In News: Supreme Court has stated in a judgement that Delegated legislation, including rules and regulations formed by State and Central authorities, should not supplant but supplement the parliamentary statute from which it draws power from.

More on the Topic:

- Delegated legislation, also known as auxiliary legislation, is **an act made by someone or something other than Parliament**. According to the Act of Parliament, Parliament can give power to another person or body to enact legislation.
- In usual case MP/MLAs make the law only in a broad skeletal form.
- Then executive (union/state Government and its bureaucrats) fill up the minor technical details.
- When legislators delegates the part of law making work to the executives usually Bureaucrats, this is known as Delegated Legislation / subordinate legislation.
- In other words, delegated legislation is when the Parliament confers the law making power to the executive.
- This happens mainly due to paucity of time, the legislature limits itself to policy matters; delegating the task of rule and regulations to executive or any subordinate to supplement parliamentary statute.

Source: Business Standard

6. Project Nilgiri Tahr



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Project Nilgiri Tahr has been launched by Tamil Nadu government.

More on the Topic:

- It is aimed at restoring the state animal's original habitat and stabilising its population.
- The project will be tasked to **explore the possibility of undertaking captive breeding** of the animal for reintroduction in forest patches where it has become locally extinct.

About Nilgiri Tahr:

- Nilgiri Tahr is **an endangered wild goat species living on mountains in Southern India.** As per WWF data from 2015, the species was earlier found along the entire stretch of the Western Ghats, but they now remain restricted to small fragmented pockets in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- Most of its population has been wiped out from its historical range.
- The species has become locally extinct in around 14% of its traditional habitat in the past few decades.
- Locally known as Varaiadu, they are protected under **Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972** and considered **endangered by the IUCN.**

Source: Indian Express

7. Sale of loose cigarettes



Topic: Governance

In News: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in its latest report about cancer management, prevention and diagnosis recommended that the government institute a ban on the sale of single sticks of cigarettes.

More on the Topic:

- It also recommended that the government increase taxes on all tobacco products and utilise the acquired revenue for cancer prevention and awareness.
- There is an urgent need to disincentivise the consumption of tobacco and alcohol in the country.
- It noted that tobacco consumed in different ways accounts for nearly 50% of all cancers, collectively referred to as tobacco-related cancers which can be prevented.

Source: Business Standard
