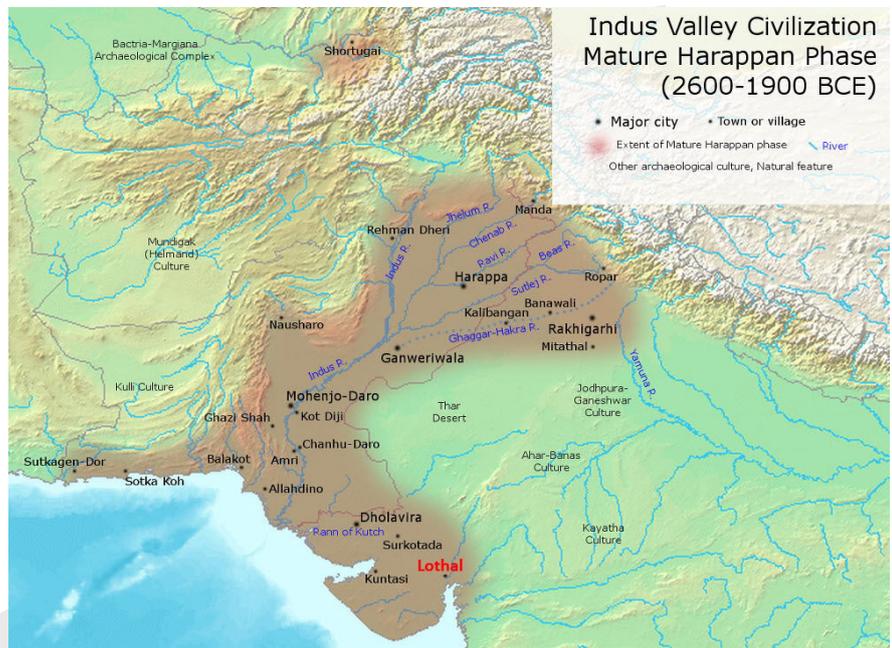# NEWS TODAY

GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX (NMHC) IN LOTHAL, GUJARAT

- **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** is developing a **NMHC, a world-class facility at Lothal, under Sagarmala programme** to showcase **India's rich and diverse maritime heritage.**

  - It will consolidate all diverse and rich artifacts from ancient to modern times for **edutainment purposes**, i.e. entertainment designed to be educational.

  - It will include **world's highest light house museum, world's largest open aquatic gallery, India's largest naval museum** and is envisaged to be **one of the biggest international tourist destinations** in world.

  - It is funded by **MoPSW** and **Ministry of Culture** through **National Culture Fund** by way of grant.

- Lothal, prominent city of **Indus-Valley Civilization (IVC),** had the **oldest man-made dry-dock** dating back to **2400 BC.**

  - It is located between **Bhogavo and Sabarmati** rivers near Gulf of Khambat.

  - It was **nominated to be enlisted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014** and its **application is pending** on tentative list of UNESCO.

- IVC aka Harappan Civilization was **home to largest of four ancient urban civilizations** of **Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China.**

  - **It thrived about 2,500 BC in western South Asia, which now is Pakistan and northwest India.**

Indus Valley Civilization Mature Harappan Phase (2600-1900 BCE)

- Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015 by MoPSW, **ensures holistic port infrastructure development along India's 7500km long coastline.**

INDIAN COMPUTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT-IN) ISSUED "GUIDELINES ON INFORMATION SECURITY PRACTICES" FOR GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- CERT-In has issued guidelines under **section 70B of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.**

  - These guidelines **apply to all Ministries, Departments, Secretariats, and Offices specified in First Schedule to Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961**, along with their attached and subordinate offices.

  - These guidelines are a **roadmap for Government entities and industry** to **reduce cyber risk, protect citizen data and improve cybersecurity ecosystem** in country.

- **Key highlights**

  - **Nominate a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)** for IT Security.

  - **Formulate cyber security policy** and assign roles and responsibilities for CISO and a dedicated cyber security functional team.

  - **Internal and external audit** of entire **ICT infrastructure** and deploy appropriate security controls based on audit outcome.

  - Ensure proper **physical isolation of sensitive and wireless networks.**

  - **Data Backup policy** should be documented, scheduled and monitored.

- Cert-In, established as per provisions of section 70B of IT Act, 2000 under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology,** is the **national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents.**

- **Other Cyber Security Measures taken in India:** National Cyber Security Policy, 2013, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), etc.

SIX YEARS OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

- GST, implemented on the place of launched on 1st July 2017, is a **comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax** introduced through **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016** for a **One Nation, One Tax, One Market** regime.
  - ➤ It was **first discussed in the Kelkar Task Force** report on indirect taxes in 2003-04.
  - ➤ Under **Article 279A, GST Council** was established. It is a **joint forum of Centre and States** with Union Finance Minister as Chairperson.

Achievements	Areas of concern
• **Increasing tax base** from 63.9 lakh taxpayers in 2017 to 1.40 crore currently. • **GST monthly average revenue has grown** from 89.8 crore in 2017 to 1.87 Lakh crore in April 2023. • **Promote economic federalism** through **GST Council**. • **Other benefits:** Easy compliance, uniformity of tax rates and structures, removal of cascading taxes, Reduced logistics cost, **E-invoicing system to check fake invoicing** etc.	• **Multiple slabs** instead of proposed **three-rate GST structure** with frequent changes. • **Lack of clarity on GST Compensation** to states which ended with completion of 5 years. • **Unequal Voting Structure** in GST Council. • **Certain items are still out** of the GST regime like Petrol and diesel. • **Other Challenges:** Cumbersome filling structure, fake invoicing etc.

US SUPREME COURT LIMITS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- In landmark ruling, SC effectively **overruled judgements of Grutter v. Bollinger (2003) and Regents of University of California v. Bakke (1978)** which validated affirmative action in college admissions based on race.
- **Affirmative Action** means **positive action/discrimination** which was **introduced in US to counter historical patterns of prejudice against individuals** with certain identities.
  - ➤ In context of higher education, **it refers to admission practices that seek to increase the representation of Black, Hispanic and other minority students in colleges** and universities of US.
  - ➤ **Reservation is a system of affirmative action in India** that provides historically disadvantaged groups representation in **education, employment, government schemes, scholarships and politics.**
- **Affirmative actions in India and USA**

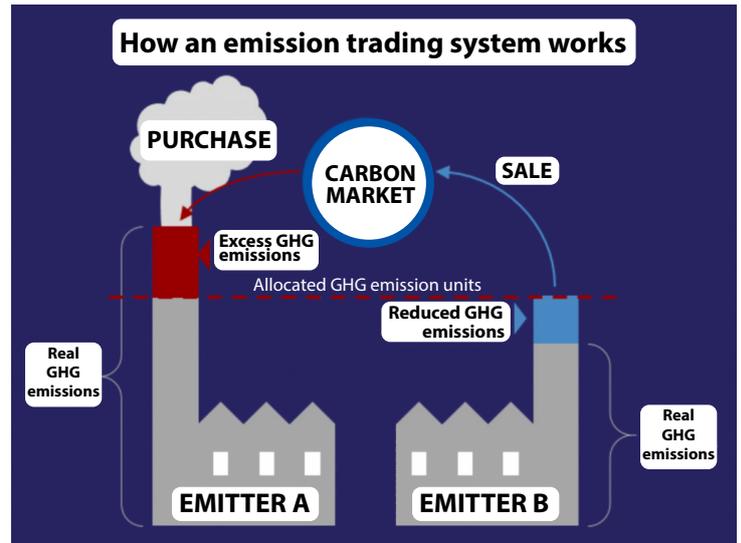| Parameter	India	USA
Purpose	Uplift lower strata of society who were referred as **Scheduled Castes and Tribes.**	Provide level playing field for groups that have been **historically discriminated** based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability.
Genesis	Introduced as **fundamental right** under Article 15(4) and 16(4).	Embedded in **Civil Rights Act of 1964** which ban discrimination on various grounds.
Quota	**Fixed at 50% (Indra Swahney judgement)** for OBC, SC & ST in both employment and education.	**Varies across states** and institutes and is not fixed.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) APPROVES GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK FUND (GBFF)

- **GEF's governing board has approved the establishment of a new fund** to finance the **implementation of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).**
  - ➤ The approved GBFF will be launched at the next GEF Assembly in Canada by August 2023.
- GBFF will draw in capital from governments, private sector, and philanthropic organisations and **will focus on eight thematic Action Areas** namely Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use and spatial planning, etc.
  - ➤ GBFF **acknowledges the important roles and contributions of indigenous peoples** as custodians of biodiversity and in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use.
- **Three principles that guide the country's allocation of resources for GBFF**
  - ➤ Allocation system must **accommodate financial contributions on a rolling basis.**
  - ➤ Consider **special needs of Least Developed Countries and Small Island developing States.**
  - ➤ Acknowledge that biodiversity is not evenly distributed across the globe and some areas have greater potential to contribute to global biodiversity benefits than others.
- **KMGBF** was **adopted by COP15 (Montreal)** of UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
  - ➤ It has **set 23 targets to be achieved by 2030,** which include 30% conservation of land and sea, **30% restoration of degraded ecosystems** and halving the introduction of invasive species.

Note: Kindly refer News Today dated 28th June, 2023 for information on Global Environment Facility.

MINISTRY OF POWER NOTIFIES CARBON CREDIT TRADING SCHEME (CCTS)

- CCTS 2023 provides to s**et up a carbon credit trading market** as the **country aims at decarbonizing economy** and has committed to **cut emissions by 45 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.**
  - > **CCTS was first announced under Energy Conservation Act 2001** which was amended by Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2022.
- **Key highlights of CCTS**
  - > Set up **National Steering Committee (NSC) aka Indian Carbon Market Governing Board (ICMGB),** headed by power and environment secretaries, to **govern and oversee the functions of Indian Carbon Market (ICM).**
  - > **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) would be the administrator** for carbon market and **set targets for reduction in emissions, issue carbon credit certificates** and accredit carbon verification agencies.
  - > **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) will be regulator** for all trading activities.
  - > **Grid Controller of India** will be the registry of ICM.
- Carbon markets are a tool **for putting a price on carbon emissions**— they establish **trading systems where carbon credits or allowances can be bought and sold.**
  - > A carbon credit is a kind of **tradable permit** that **equals one tonne of carbon dioxide removed, reduced, or sequestered from atmosphere.**

How an emission trading system works

PURCHASE · CARBON MARKET · SALE · Excess GHG emissions · Allocated GHG emission units · Reduced GHG emissions · Real GHG emissions · Real GHG emissions · EMITTER A · EMITTER B

ALSO IN NEWS

Solicitor General of India (SGI)	• **Appointments Committee of Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister** has approved re-appointment of existing SGI and **Additional SGI.**
	• **Solicitor General** is the **second most senior law** officer after **Attorney General (Article 76).**
	  > He is assisted by Additional SGIs.
	  > **Term of office is of 3 years,** or until further notice, whichever should be earlier.
	  > He also **advises the government** in legal matter.

Electoral Bonds (EBs)	• **Government has approved the 27th sale of EBs from July 3, 2023.**
	• **EBs**, introduced in 2017-18, as **interest-free bearer instruments** to **cleanse the system of political funding in country.**
	  > EBs are **valid for 15 days from the date of issue** and can be purchased by **a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India.**
	  > **Sold in multiples** of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
	  > **SBI is the only bank authorised** to sell them.
	  > **Rationale was to** limit use of cash in political funding, curb black money etc.

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC)	• Ministry of Finance has permitted all **Public Sector Banks and eligible Private Sector Banks to implement and operationalise** MSSC, 2023.
	• MSSC is a **one-time savings scheme introduced in Budget 2023-24** to encourage women to invest.
	  > It offers a **fixed interest rate of 7.5 percent per year** and has a **flexible investment and partial withdrawal options,** with a **maximum limit of Rs 2 lakh.**
	  > **Maturity date is two years** from deposit date.
	  > Minimum amount to be invested is Rs.1,000 and any sum in multiples of Rs.100.

Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas	• **LCA Tejas has completed seven years of service** in the Indian Air Force.
	• **It is a 4.5 generation, all weather and multi-role fighter aircraft.**
	  > Aircraft is capable of taking up **offensive air support, close combat and ground attack role at ease.**
	  > It was designed by **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** and produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
	• **Key characteristics:** Smallest & lightest aircraft in its class; In Flight Refueling (IFR) Probe; Equipped with state-of-the-art Satellite aided Inertial Navigation System.

Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHP)	• National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited has **completed construction of 2,000 Mega Watt Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project dam till the top level of Elevation Level (EL) 210 m.** • SLHP is **located on Subansiri River which is on border of India's two north-eastern states, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.** ➤ It is the **biggest hydroelectric project undertaken in India** so far. • **Subansiri River,** aka Gold River, is the **tributary of River Brahmaputra.**

Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)	• ATR is carved out of the **Tamil Nadu portion of the Anamalais.**
	  ➤ It lies **South of the Palakkad gap in the Southern Western Ghats.**
	  ➤ Reserve falls within the **Western Ghats mountain chain.**
	  ➤ **Flora:** Mango, Jackfruit, etc.
	  ➤ **Fauna:** Asiatic elephant, Sambar, Spotted deer, Barking deer, Mouse deer, etc.
	• Anamalais is a home for **six different indigenous** people i.e., Malai Malasars, Kadar, Malasar, Muduvan, Pulayar, Eravallar.

WMO Ozone and Ultraviolet (UV) Bulletin	• Bulletin highlighting the steady recovery of Ozone layer was published by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) after gap of seven years.
	• **Key highlights**
	  ➤ **Montreal Protocol and its amendments are successful** in eliminating up to 99% of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).
	    ▪ ODS are **long-lived man-made chemicals which destroy the protective ozone layer.**
	  ➤ **Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption** (located under ocean surface in western Pacific) in January 2022 **has increased twater vapor content of stratosphere by 5% to 10%.**
	    ▪ Nearly **90%** of **Earth's ozone resides in stratosphere** (aka Ozone Layer) above **troposphere — layer closest to Earth's surface.**

Zombie drug	• Zombie drug epidemic grips some states of USA.
	• **Xylazine,** also known as **"tranq," "tranq dope" and "zombie drug",** has **sedative like symptoms such as extreme sleepiness.**
	  ➤ Tranq, known for its ability to induce a "zombie" like stupor and cause flesh rot near injection sites.
	  ➤ When combined with opioids like fentanyl, xylazine **increases life-threatening effect of respiratory depression (slowing or stopping breathing) caused by opioids,** increasing the risk of overdose and death.
	  ➤ Zombie drug can **cause raw wounds on the user's skin.** It starts with ulcers, hardens to dead skin called eschar, and if left untreated can result in amputation.
	  ➤ It is usually **used as a tranquilizer on cows and horses.**

Ol Chiki script of Santhali language	• Prime Minister wished the people of Santhal tribe on occasion of Hul diwas using Ol Chiki Script of Santhali language.
	  ➤ 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act **added Santali to Schedule VIII to Constitution of India, which lists the official languages of India,** along with Bodo, Dogri and Maithili languages.
	• Ol Chiki script **was created in 1925 by Raghunath Murmu.**
	  ➤ **Santhali is a Munda language** and is **spoken mainly in Jharkhand, West Bengal,** Odisha, and also in Bangladesh, eastern Nepal and Bhutan.
	  ➤ There are about 7.3 million speakers of Santali in India according to 2011 census.

Personality in News	**Swami Sahajanand Saraswati (22nd February 1889- 26th June 1950)** • **Born in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh.** • By organising farmers, he infused a new consciousness in the Freedom Movement. • At Congress session in Lucknow in April 1936, **All India Kisan Sabha** was formed and he was elected as its **1ˢᵗ President.** • **He organised Bakasht movement in Bihar** against zamindars evicting tenants from Bakasht lands. ➤ This led to enactment of **Bihar Tenancy Act and Bakasht Land Tax** to protect farmers' rights. • He also **led the successful** struggle in the **Dalmia Sugar Mill at Bihta,** where peasant-worker unity was the most important characteristics. • **Values:** Courage, Leadership etc.