

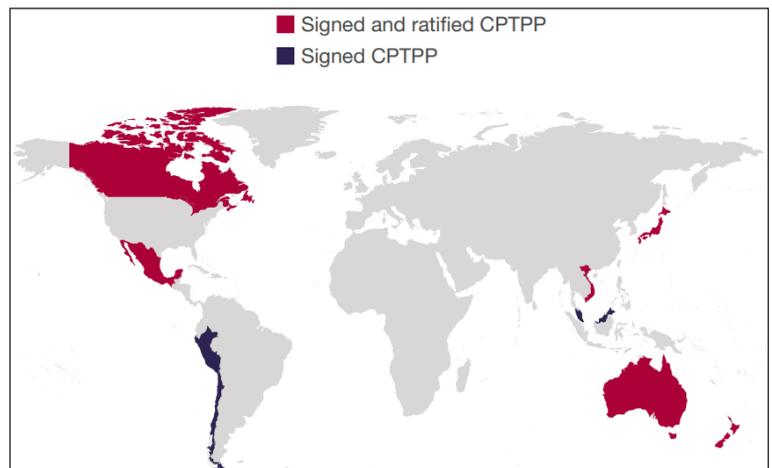
# NEWS TODAY

## COASTAL AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

- Bill was introduced by **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** which seeks to **amend Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) Act 2005**.
  - Bill seeks to **expand the scope, remove regulatory gaps and reduce regulatory compliance burden without diluting environmental protection rules** in coastal areas.
  - 2005 Act provides for **establishment of a CAA** for regulating **activities connected with coastal aquaculture**.
    - **CAA (HQ: Chennai)** regulates coastal aquaculture, grants licenses, and promotes eco-friendly practices for sustainable development.
- **Key highlights**
  - **Decriminalise the offences under Act** for promoting ease of doing business and to fine-tune the operational procedures of CAA.
    - Only a **penalty of up to ₹1 lakh can be imposed** and there will **no imprisonment**.
  - Promote **eco-friendly aquaculture practices like cage, seaweed, and bi-valve culture** to **create employment**.
  - Prohibition of **harmful antibiotics and pharmacologically active substances** in coastal aquaculture to protect human health.
  - Adoption of **global best practices including mapping and zonation of aquaculture areas**, safe aquaculture products, etc.
- **Aquaculture is breeding, raising, and harvesting fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.**
  - **Shrimp production and Seafood exports** has increased in 2021-22.

## UNITED KINGDOM AGREES TO JOIN COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP)

- CPTPP is a **free trade agreement (FTA)** that was **agreed in 2018 in Santiago, Chile between 11 countries** – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.
  - All **11 countries of CPTPP** are members of **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**.
  - **United Kingdom will become the 12th member, and first in Europe** to join since its inception.
  - **CPTPP succeeded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** after United States withdrew from TPP in 2017.



- **Significance of CPTPP**
  - It forms a **trading bloc representing 500 million consumers and 13.5% of global GDP**.
  - Ensure **protection of environment and labor rights**, which are enforceable by dispute settlement.
  - **Eliminates tariffs and reduces barriers for 98% of exports** within CPTPP member countries.
  - **Addressing '21st century' trade and investment issues, including rules against corruption, reducing unfair competition by state-owned enterprises**, and ensuring liberalised environment for electronic commerce.
- **Why India is not part of CPTPP?**
  - CPTPP sought to harmonize everything **from labor and environmental standards to intellectual property regulations**.
  - **Sweeping economic concessions** required which **could adversely affect India's trade balance**.



## STAND-UP INDIA SCHEME COMPLETES 7 YEARS

- Stand up India Scheme was launched by **Ministry of Finance in 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at grassroot level focusing on economic empowerment and job creation.**
  - This scheme has been **extended up to year 2025.**
- Purpose of Scheme**
  - Promote **entrepreneurship amongst women, SC & ST category.**
  - Provide **loans for only greenfield enterprises** in manufacturing, services or trading sector and activities allied to agriculture.
  - Facilitate bank loans between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore** to at least **one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch** of Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- Government does not allocate funds for loans under Stand-Up India Scheme.
- Achievements of Scheme**
  - Loan sanctioned grew by more than 10 times:** More than 1.8 lakh women and SC/ST entrepreneurs have been sanctioned loans for more than Rs. 40,600 crores.
  - 68.8 percent rise in borrowers from SC/ST communities** between 2021 and 2023.
- Step taken for effective implementation**
  - Submission of online applications by potential borrowers through **standupmitra portal.**
  - Intensive publicity campaigns, simplified loan application form, convergence with State and Central government Schemes, etc.

## SUPREME COURT LIFTS TELECAST BAN ON NEWS CHANNEL MEDIAONE

- In **Madhyamam Broadcasting Ltd vs Union of India and others 2022, SC ruled against Union Government's telecast ban** on Malayalam news channel MediaOne, emphasising the **significance of press freedom.**
- Key highlights of SC verdict**
  - State cannot deny citizens' rights by claiming 'national security'** without the backing of material facts.
  - Non-disclosure of **reasons for denial of security clearance and disclosure of relevant material only to court in a sealed cover** is against the appellant's rights.
  - Critical views of channel on policies of government cannot be termed anti-establishment.**
  - Non-renewal of permission to operate a media channel is a **restriction on freedom of press which can only be reasonably restricted on grounds mentioned in Article 19(2) of Constitution.**
- Role of Media in Democracy**
  - Media is the **fourth pillar** of the democracy, other three being **Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.**
  - Acts as a **bridge between people and government.**
  - Exposes loopholes in democratic society, which **helps the government make a system more accountable, responsive, and democratic.**
  - Media can be used as grounds for **advocating Human Rights and building public opinion.**

### CHALLENGES

**Paid news and fake news** can manipulate public perception.

The **absence of objective journalism** leads to the false presentation of truth in society.

The growth of media has resulted in a **decrease in an individual's privacy.**

**Lack of diversity and cultural inclusion** in the media.

**Trial by media** does not follow due process of law.

### LOAN ELIGIBILITY

- SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs, **above 18 years of age.**
- In case of non-individual enterprises, **51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either SC/ST and/or Women Entrepreneur.**
- Borrowers should not be in default to any bank/financial institution.**
- Borrower shall be required to **bring in minimum of 10% of project cost as own contribution.**

## MINISTRY OF STEEL APPROVES 13 TASK FORCES FOR GREEN STEEL

- Taskforces have been identified to **deliberate on various aspects of 'Green Steel' production**, and prepare action points.
- Green Steel refers to **production of steel without relying on fossil fuels.**
  - Alternative low-carbon energy sources** such as hydrogen, coal gasification, or electricity are **used in place of traditional coal-fired plants**, which results in **reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lower costs, and improved steel quality.**
  - Use of **low-carbon hydrogen, including blue and green hydrogen, can decrease carbon footprint of steel industry.**
- Steel production in India**
  - India is **second largest producer** with a production of **120 Million Tonnes (MT)** during financial year of 2021-2022.
  - In 2021, India was **second largest consumer of finished steel in world**, after China.
  - Important steel-producing centres** are **Bhilai** (Chhattisgarh), **Durgapur and Burnpur** (West Bengal), **Jamshedpur** (Jharkhand), **Rourkela** (Odisha), and **Bokaro** (Jharkhand).
- Steps taken to promote decarbonisation in steel industry**
  - Steel Scrap Recycling Policy, 2019** increases availability of **domestically generated scrap** to reduce the use of coal in steel production.
  - Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicles Scrapping Facility) Rules 2021** increase scrap availability in steel sector.
  - Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme** incentivizes steel industry to reduce energy consumption.



# OPEN-SOURCE SEEDS MOVEMENT (OSSM)

- OSSM affirms that **plant genetics and their physical traits cannot/shouldn't be owned by individuals or corporation.**
  - Genetics of open source seeds are protected and **pledged to forever remain in public domain.**
  - This is done by **providing new varieties with an open-source licence** which provides:
    - Anyone **may use it, grow it, propagate** it and **develop** it further **through breeding.**
    - No one is allowed to **privatise the seed and its further developments; patent and plant-variety protection** are thus excluded.
    - Each recipient **transfers same rights and obligations to future users** of seed and its further developments.
- **Significance of OSSM:** Promote farmer-led seed **conservation, distribution** systems and **participatory plant-breeding exercises;** Facilitates **testing, improvisation, and adoption** which are helpful in food security and climate resilience.
- **Concern:** Lack of **IPR (Intellectual Property Rights)** discourages **innovators to invest** in new technology.
- **IPR in agriculture in India**
  - **India Patent Act 1970** provides **patents for agricultural tools and machinery or processes of development** of agricultural chemicals.
  - **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001** provides rights to farmer who has **bred or developed new variety.**
    - It's the world's only IPR legislation which **grants IPR to plant breeders and farmers by protecting new, extant and farmers' varieties.**

## ALSO IN NEWS



United Nations Statistical Commission

- India has been elected to **United Nations Statistical Commission** for a four-year term **beginning January 1, 2024.**



### United Nations Statistical Commission



**About:** Established in **1947**, it is the **highest body of global statistical system** bringing together Chief Statisticians from member states from around the world.

- It oversees the work of **United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)**, and is a Functional Commission of **UN Economic and Social Council (UNESCO)**.



**Membership:** Consists of **24 member countries** of UN elected by UNESCO on basis of an **equitable geographical distribution.**



**Members' Term of office:** Four years.



Global Trade Outlook and Statistics 2023

- It was **released by World Trade Organization (WTO).**
- **Key highlights**
  - World **merchandise trade volume** is projected to **grow 1.7% in 2023** before picking up to 3.2% in 2024.
  - Value of **world commercial services trade** increased **15% in 2022** to US\$ 6.8 trillion.
  - **Risks to the forecast** are tilted to **downside**, including **geopolitical tensions, food insecurity, potential financial instability stemming from monetary policy tightening, and increasing levels of debt.**



Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHP)

- Subansiri Lower Dam project i.e., SLHP is hit by a **landslide during pre-monsoon rain.**
- SLHP is **located on Subansiri River (tributary of River Brahmaputra)**, 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 and is a run-of-river scheme on river Subansiri.
  - Construction of SLHEP was awarded to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited.

 <p><b>World Energy Transitions Outlook 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was released by <b>International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)</b>.</li><li>• <b>Key highlights</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Current pledges and <b>plans fall well short of IRENA's 1.5°C pathway</b> and will result in an <b>emissions gap of 16 gigatonnes (Gt)</b> in 2050.</li><li>➢ Global investment across all energy transition technologies reached a record high of <b>USD 1.3 trillion in 2022</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Recommendations</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Net-zero commitments must be <b>embedded in legislation</b> and translated into <b>implementation plans</b>.</li><li>➢ Every investment and planning decision should consider <b>structure and geography of low-carbon economy</b> of the future.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Loss and Damage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transitional Committee on <b>operationalization of new fund for responding to loss and damage</b> held its first meeting in Luxor, Egypt.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Meeting concluded with adoption of a <b>workplan towards COP28</b>.</li></ul></li><li>• Loss and Damage refers to the <b>negative consequences</b> that arise from <b>unavoidable risks of climate change</b>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ They also include non-economic losses such as incalculable toll of losing family members, disappearance of cultures and ways of living etc.</li></ul></li><li>• Loss and Damage fund aims to <b>provide financial assistance to nations most vulnerable</b> and impacted by effects of climate change.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ United Nations Climate Conference (COP 27) highlights the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black Panther will be released into the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary.</li><li>• <b>Located in South-Eastern Goa, River Netravali or Neturli</b> originates in this sanctuary which is an important <b>tributary of the Zuari River</b>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It has two all-season <b>waterfalls</b>, namely <b>Savri and Mainapi</b>.</li><li>➢ Forests mostly consist of <b>moist deciduous vegetation</b> interspersed with <b>evergreen and semi-evergreen habitat</b>.</li><li>➢ On eastern side, it is bounded by Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and on northern side by Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary.</li><li>➢ <b>Fauna:</b> Leopard, Giant Squirrel, Mouse Deer, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon and Ceylon Frogmouth.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Parambikulam Tiger Reserve (PTR)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High Court orders translocation of wild tusker Arikompan to Parambikulam reserve.</li><li>• PTR is located in Palakkad district of Kerala.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It lies between <b>Nelliampathy Hills of Kerala and Anamalai Range of Tamil Nadu</b> within a cluster of Protected Areas.</li><li>➢ <b>Vegetation:</b> Evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, dry deciduous, and shola forests.</li><li>➢ <b>Fauna:</b> Tiger, leopard, dhole, sloth bear, Nilgiri tahr gaur, elephant, sambar, and wild pig.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Padma Awards</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prime Minister <b>attended Padma Awards</b> ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.</li><li>• Instituted <b>in 1954</b>, Padma Awards are <b>one of the highest civilian honours</b> of India <b>announced annually</b> on the eve of Republic Day.</li><li>• These are given in <b>three categories</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ <b>Padma Vibhushan</b> for exceptional and distinguished service.</li><li>➢ <b>Padma Bhushan</b> for distinguished service of a high order.</li><li>➢ <b>Padma Shri</b> for distinguished service.</li></ul></li><li>• Awardees are presented a <b>Sanad (certificate) signed by President and a medallion</b>.</li></ul>
 <p><b>National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NTRO recently <b>informed about an information-stealing malware, known as Raccoon Stealer</b> to eight central government entities.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It is usually <b>delivered through email, and retrieves sensitive data</b> from infected machines.</li></ul></li><li>• NTRO, set up in 2004, <b>is a technical intelligence agency under National Security Adviser</b> in Prime Minister's Office, India.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It also includes the <b>National Institute of Cryptology Research and Development (NICRD)</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>