

NEWS TODAY

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched Jal Diwali-Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign

- It was launched under **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** in partnership with **National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)**.
 - ⊖ Phase I shall witness participation from **all States/ UTs, except** for Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana.
- Campaign aims to provide a platform for **inclusion of women in water governance** by
 - ⊖ **Providing knowledge about water treatment processes** through visits to Water Treatment Plants.
 - ⊖ Providing **insight into water quality testing protocols** and ensures quality water delivery to citizens.
 - ⊖ **Instilling a sense of ownership and belonging** among women towards water infrastructure.
- **Role of women in water governance**
 - ⊖ Responsible for **collecting and managing water needs for domestic purposes** like cooking food, drinking etc.
 - ⊖ **Ensure hygiene and good sanitary conditions** to prevent water borne diseases like cholera.
 - ⊖ **Utilise their traditional knowledge about water resource** w.r.t. quality, reliability and acceptable storage methods.
- AMRUT was launched by MoHUA in **2015** in **500 cities and towns** for **developing basic infrastructure in water supply sectors**; storm water drainage; green spaces and parks etc.
 - ⊖ AMRUT 2.0 (2021-22 to 2025-26) **provides universal coverage of water supply through functional taps** in all households.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY- NULM)

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** launched by MoHUA in 2013.
- It aims to **reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households** by enabling them to access **gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities**.

Fifth meeting of Conference of Parties (COP 5) to Minamata Convention held in Geneva

- Minamata Convention on **Mercury**, adopted in 2013, is **first global legally binding treaty** to protect human health and **environment** from adverse effects of mercury.
 - ⊖ It came **into force in 2017** and **India ratified it in 2018**.
 - ⊖ Mercury may have **toxic effects on nervous system, thyroid, kidneys, lungs, immune system, eyes, skin** etc.
- **Key decisions adopted at COP 5**
 - ⊖ For the first time, **COP pushed to reduce mercury supply sources and trade** by strengthening capacities at national level and **developing study on global supply, trade, production and use of mercury** compounds.
 - ⊖ Implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under Convention with **participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities**.
 - ⊖ **Limit of 15 mg/kg concentration of mercury** is set as threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds.
 - ⊖ **Amend Annex A** of Convention to list **phaseout dates for certain types of batteries, switches and relays, fluorescent lamps, and cosmetics**.
 - ⊖ **Amend Annex B** of Convention to **mandate phaseout of mercury in polyurethane production by 2025**.
- **Annexes of Convention**

Annex A	Contains Mercury-added products . Eg. Batteries, Compact fluorescent lamps, Pesticides, biocides etc.
Annex B	Contains Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used . Eg. Production of polyurethane using mercury catalysts.
Annex C	Contains Artisanal and small-scale gold mining .
Annex D	Contains List of point sources of emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to atmosphere.
Annex E	Contains arbitration and conciliation procedures .

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) released State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Report 2023

- For the first time ever, FAO will **dedicate two consecutive editions of SOFA to same theme.**
- 2023 report presents **national-level True Cost Accounting (TCA) assessments to uncover hidden impacts of agrifood systems** while 2024 report will focus on in-depth targeted assessments to identify the ways to mitigate them.
- **Key findings**
 - ⊖ Global quantified HCs of agrifood systems **amounts to 10 trillion dollars** or more.
 - ⊖ **HCs arising from dietary patterns lead to diseases and lower labour productivity** and are most prominent in **high- and middle-income countries.**
 - ⊖ **Environmental HCs constitute over 20% of quantified HCs** and are equivalent to almost one-third of agricultural value added.
 - ⊖ **HCs, estimated at 27% of Low Income Countries' GDP,** are associated with **poverty and undernourishment.**
- **Need for TCA Estimation: Measure actual impact** of complex agrisystems; **Make responsible decisions and improve sustainability; Improve performance and resilience of agrisystems.**
- **Factors affecting current functioning of Agri-food systems:** Institutional Policy and distribution lapses, Corruption, Free riding etc.
- **Challenges in calculating True cost:** Lack of political will, resistance to change, data availability and its quality, under reporting etc.

About FAO

- FAO (HQ: Rome) is a specialized agency of United Nations that **leads international efforts to defeat hunger.**
- India is member.

Definitions of Terms

- **TCA: Holistic and systemic approach** to measuring and **valuing environmental, social, health and economic costs** and benefits generated by agrifood systems to **facilitate improved decisions by policymakers, businesses, farmers, investors and consumers.**
- **Hidden Cost (HC): Any cost to individuals or society that is not reflected in market price of a product or service.**

Deepfakes dangerous form of misinformation warn Minister of State for Electronics and IT

- **Deepfake** is a term that combines "**deep learning**" and "**fake**".
- It refers to a **video/image that has been edited using** an algorithm to replace a person in the original video with someone else, in a way that makes the video look authentic.
 - ⊖ Deep learning is a **machine learning subset, using artificial neural networks** inspired by the human brain to learn from **large data sets.**
- **How Deep Fake Works?**
 - ⊖ Deepfakes employ a **deep-learning computer network** called a variational auto-encoder, a type of artificial neural network that is normally used for facial recognition.
 - ⊖ **Auto-encoders detect facial features,** suppressing visual noise and "**non-face**" elements in the process.
 - ⊖ Autoencoder enables a versatile "**face swap**" model using shared features of person/image etc.
 - ⊖ Deep fakes also use **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), which consist of generators and discriminators.**
 - ◆ **Generators** take the initial data set to create new images.
 - ◆ Then, the **discriminator** evaluates the content for **realism** and does further refinement.
- **Issues with deep fake:** Privacy invasion, identity theft, and fraud, cyberbullying, copyright issues, detection challenges, etc.



➤ Legal provisions in India

- ⊖ **In India there are no specific legal provisions against deepfake technology.**
- ⊖ However, some laws address deepfake, viz.,
 - ◆ **Section 66E of the IT Act of 2000,** an act involving capturing, publishing, or transmitting a person's images in mass media, violates their privacy.
 - ◆ **Indian Copyright Act of 1957** provides for penalties for the infringement of copyright.

➤ Global measures against Deepfake

- ⊖ **Bletchley Declaration: Twenty-eight major countries including the United States, China, Japan, the United Kingdom called to tackle the potential risks of AI.**
- ⊖ **China: prohibits the production of deep fakes without user consent.**
- ⊖ **Google announced tools e.g., watermarking** to identify synthetically generated content.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology bans 22 Betting Mobile Applications and Websites

- Ban is issued under **Section 69A of the IT Act 2000**, following investigations conducted by the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** into an illegal betting app syndicate.
 - ⊖ ED is a financial investigation agency under Department of Revenue that enforces **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**.
 - ⊖ **Section 69A of the IT Act** allows **central government to block websites** or apps threatening India's sovereignty, state security, foreign relations, or public order.
- **Online gambling** means **online wagering or betting** and includes playing any online **game of chance** for money.
- **Issues with online gaming**
 - ⊖ Reported lack of safeguards raises **money laundering** concerns for users' money.
 - ⊖ **Although betting and gambling** are part of **State List (under 7th Schedule)**, however, issues that arise out of their operations **often fall under grey area of governance**.
 - ⊖ Concerns among children and adults, **especially in terms of financial losses** incurred by adult users **due to such addiction**.
- **Provision for online betting/gaming**
 - ⊖ In 2023, Government amendments to **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, and made provision as:
 - ◆ **Any online real money gaming or website involving betting or wagering** as an outcome will not be allowed to operate.
 - ◆ A **self-regulatory body** ensures online games do not involve **wagering outcomes**.
 - ◆ **Online game intermediaries must obtain user KYC** details and **prevent third-party financing**.
 - ◆ Direct or surrogate advertisements of **betting, or gambling** are prohibited.
 - ⊖ **Sikkim permits online gambling**.
 - ⊖ However, **Telangana maintains a zero-tolerance policy** towards both **online and offline gambling**.

Attempts to sell Personal Data of Citizens raise issues of Data Protection

- **Data can be broadly classified** into two types:
 - ⊖ **Personal**: pertains to characteristics, traits, or attributes of identity.
 - ⊖ **Non-personal**: aggregated data through which individuals cannot be identified.
 - ◆ For example, while an individual's location would constitute personal data;
 - ◆ Whereas, information derived from multiple drivers' locations, which is often used to analyze traffic flow, is non-personal data.
- **Importance of Personal Data:**
 - ⊖ **If personal data breaches** it can be used to commit online banking theft, tax fraud, and other cyber-enabled financial crimes.
 - ⊖ Companies and public organizations can develop an **in-depth picture of people's preferences** and identify large-scale patterns in consumer and citizen behavior.
- **7 Key Principles for Data protection under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**
 - ⊖ **Consented**, lawful and transparent use of personal data;
 - ⊖ **Purpose limitation** (use of personal data only for the purpose specified at the time of obtaining consent of the Data Principal);
 - ⊖ **Data minimisation** (collection of only as much personal data as is necessary to serve the specified purpose);
 - ⊖ **Data accuracy** (ensuring data is correct and updated);
 - ⊖ **Storage limitation** (storing data only till it is needed for the specified purpose);
 - ⊖ **Reasonable security safeguards**;
 - ⊖ **Accountability** (through adjudication of data breaches and breaches of the provisions of the Bill and imposition of penalties for the breaches).

Challenges:

- ⊖ **Scope of definitions of personal data differs (broad or narrow) depending on the jurisdictions.**
- ⊖ Data protection laws vary from country to country.
- ⊖ **Constantly challenged by technological advancement and innovation in business practices.**

Also in News



Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)

- Russia test fires **Bulava ICBM** from its new Borei-class nuclear submarine —Imperator Alexander III.
 - ⊖ It is **12-metre long** and has a **range of about 8,000 km**.
 - ⊖ **Borei-K class submarines** are equipped with a **hydrodynamic hull** that **reduces boats' acoustic signature** (combination of acoustic emissions of sound emitters in ships and submarines).
- ICBMs have a **range of over 5,500 km** and have **nuclear weapons delivery technology**.
 - ⊖ North Korea, Russia, US, France, UK, China, India and Israel documented **possession of land-based ICBMs**.
 - ⊖ **Agni-5**, ICBM of India, was developed **under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme**.



Advocate-on-Record system in Supreme Court

- AoR is a **lawyer in the Indian legal system** who is registered and authorized by SC to represent clients in that court.
- The **Advocates Act** provides two kinds of **advocates** i.e., Senior Advocates and advocates.
- However, the SC in the exercise of its **rule-making power** under **Article 145**, made a provision for AoR system.
- **Supreme Court Rules, 2013** prescribe **eligibility criteria for an AoR**.
 - ⊖ **Only AoR** is entitled to **file any matter** or document before the SC.
 - ⊖ **Senior Advocate** is not entitled to appear without AoR in SC.
- **No other High Court in India** has a similar provision.



Snake Venom

- Instances of using **snake venom as recreational drug** (chemical substances taken for enjoyment like cannabis) are found to be increasing.
- Snakes like **cobras and Indian kraits** were most commonly used to **bite on consumer's feet or tongue**.
 - Neurotoxins in snake venom** have **psychoactive (mind-altering) properties**.
 - Venom on entering human blood **releases active metabolites** like serotonin that have psychotropic effects like hypnotic and sedative.
 - Snake bite results in **paralysis, haemorrhage, kidney damage and permanent disability**.
- Medicinal uses:** Treatment of arthritis, cancer, viral diseases like measles, etc.
- Extraction and possession of snake venom **without permission of Chief Wildlife warden is a criminal offence under Wildlife Protection Act 1972**.



Krishi 24/7

- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** in collaboration with Google and an NGO has developed Krishi 24/7.
- It is the **first-ever AI-powered solution** for automated agricultural news monitoring and analysis.
- Benefits**
 - It **scans news articles in multiple languages** and translates them into English.
 - It extracts **essential information from news articles** for timely updates on events.
 - It is to **help in taking prompt action** to protect farmers' interests etc.



Operation All Clear

- Bhutan King's recalled **Operation All Clear**, during his recent visit to India.
- Operation was launched** by the Royal Bhutan Army with It aimed to **remove rebel outfits** from Assam i.e., United Liberation Front of Asom and National Democratic Front of Bodoland.
 - Kamatapur Liberation Organisation which was active in north Bengal.
- They were **provided logistical and medical assistance** from the Indian Army.



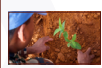
LEAP AHEAD (Launchpad for Tech Entrepreneurs towards Accelerated Growth and Pioneering AHEAD) initiative

- It is a pan-India initiative to **select tech startups** for **high-quality mentorship, securing investments & establishing global connections**.
- LEAP AHEAD is designed for **Tech Startups with Early Traction** and in the Growth stage.
- A collaboration of **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE)** and a group of Investors.
- Significance**
 - It will **enable startups** to establish a **product market fit**, identify customer segments, **grow hacking strategies**, business compliance, **leadership recruitment and fundraising**.
- About STPI**
 - A **premier S&T organization under MeitY**.
 - Engaged in promoting **software exports, nurturing tech startup ecosystem** etc.



Kaleeshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

- A controversy has erupted in Telangana over alleged engineering lapses in KLIP.
- KLIP is **world's largest multi-purpose irrigation project** on Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, **Telangana** that will provide water for drinking and irrigation purposes.
 - Project starts at **confluence point of Pranahita and Godavari River**.
- In lift irrigation method, **water instead of being transported by natural flow requires external energy** through animal, fuel based or electric power using pumps or other mechanical means.
 - Advantage of lift irrigation:** Minimal land acquisition problem and low-water losses.



International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

- It is a global day observed on **November 6 every year**.
- Aim** to raise awareness about the problem and to ensure the protection of the environment during war.
- It was **declared in 2001** by the **UN General Assembly** through a resolution.

Places in News



Tanzania (Capital: Dodoma)

- IIT Madras** establishes first international campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar.
- Political Boundaries**
 - East African country**, borders **Indian Ocean**, situated **just south of Equator**.
 - Bounded by **Uganda**, and **Kenya** (north), **Mozambique** and **Zambia** (south and southwest), and **Burundi**, and **Rwanda** (west).
- Geographical features**
 - Highest peak:** Mount Kilimanjaro
 - Major Rivers:** River Congo, River Rufiji, and River Ruvuma.
 - Major Lake:** Lake Tanganyika (west), Lake Victoria (north), and Lake Malawi (aka Lake Nyasa).
 - Parts of East African Rift pass through Tanzania**, creating dramatic escarpments and volcanic features



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR