

NEWS TODAY

Lok Adalat disposed of over 25 lakh disputes in a day

- Lok Adalat is an **Alternative Dispute Redressal Mechanism (ADRM)**.
 - ⊕ **ADRM** involves various methods of resolving conflicts **outside** of the **traditional court system**.
 - ⊕ They have played key role in **reducing the burden of judiciary** and provided a **speedy, cheaper, and more amicable approach to resolve conflict**.
- **Key Aspects of Lok Adalat:**
 - ⊕ **Establishment:** Under **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
 - ⊕ **Tiers:** Constituted at different levels namely, National Lok Adalat, State Authority level, High court level, District Court level and Taluk level.
 - ◆ **National Level Lok Adalats** are held for at regular intervals where on a single day Lok Adalats are held throughout the country.
 - ◆ **Mobile Lok Adalats** are also organised.
 - ⊕ **Jurisdiction:** **Disputes/cases pending** in the court of law or at **pre-litigation stage**.
 - ⊕ **Nature of cases:** Civil Cases, Matrimonial Disputes, Land Disputes, Partition/Property Disputes, Labour Disputes etc.,
 - ⊕ **Powers:** Have the same powers as are vested in a **Civil Court** under the **Code of Civil Procedure (1908)**.
 - ◆ **Decisions/Awards** are **final and binding** on all parties.
 - » **No Appeal** shall lie to any Court against its Award.

Other Major ADRM in India

- **Arbitration** (quasi-judicial proceeding, decision is binding)
- **Mediation** (decision making on voluntary and consensual basis)
- **Conciliation** (conciliator assists the parties to reach a mutually satisfactory agreed settlement, **non-binding**).

20 years of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

- On December 9, 2003, UNCAC was signed in Mexico. It entered into **force in 2005**.
- **Key features**
 - ⊕ Only **legally binding** universal anti-corruption instrument.
 - ⊕ **Parties:** 190 (including India)
 - ⊕ Covers different **forms of corruption**, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the **private sector**.
 - ⊕ It covers **five main areas:**
 - ◆ **Preventive measures** (establishment of anticorruption bodies etc),
 - ◆ **Criminalization and law enforcement** (States are obliged to establish some offences).
 - ◆ International cooperation (States bound to render mutual legal assistance)
 - ◆ **Asset recovery**, and
 - ◆ **Technical assistance** and information exchange.
 - ⊕ The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** serves as the custodian of the Convention and as the Secretariat of its Conference of States Parties.
 - ◆ **Conference of the States Parties** is the main policymaking body of the Convention.
 - ◆ It **meets every two years** and adopts resolutions and decisions to further its mandate.
- **Successes of UNCAC**
 - ⊕ Providing a **comprehensive framework** to combat corruption.
 - ⊕ **Near-universal ratification**
 - ⊕ Its **Review Mechanism** is triggering concrete anti-corruption measures.
 - ⊕ Contributed to establishing **new institutions and anti-corruption policies**

Challenges

- UNCAC does not define corruption
- Gap between laws, institutions and their effectiveness.
- UNCAC review process does not require civil society engagement

Credit of Rs. 7.68 lakh Crore provided to Self Help Group's (SHG)'s since 2013-14

- **Self Help Group- Bank Linkage Program (SHG-BLP)** Initiative has played key role in facilitating credit for SHGs.
- SHG-BLP was started by **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** in 1992.
 - ⊖ Its aim is to deliver financial services to the poor and vulnerable sections of society.
 - ⊖ It's key **components** are
 - ◆ **Credit Linkage** of SHGs through bank accounts
 - ◆ **Sensitization** of branch managers
 - ◆ **Assisting SHGs** by positioning of **Bank Sakhis** at rural branches
 - ◆ **Inculcating community based repayment mechanism**
- SHGs are a **voluntary small informal group of 10-20 individuals** (5 in cases of hilly areas or scattered population).
 - ⊖ They come together for promoting **savings habit** among members and for a common cause to raise and **manage resources** for the **benefit of group members**.
- **Transformation brought by SHG:**
 - ⊖ Promoted **entrepreneurship culture** in rural areas.
 - ⊖ Encourages **social equity** and **gender equality** (most of the SHG are being run by women).
 - ◆ Kudumbashree (Kerala) and Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal(Maharashtra) are key examples of it.
 - ⊖ SHG facilitate micro-loans to members to sustain businesses.
- **Challenges faced by SHG:** Lack of proper training and skill development, existing patriarchal mind-set restrict women participation etc.

Other Key Initiatives for SHG:

- **DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission)** Saksham centres facilitates delivery of financial services to SHGs. It includes-
 - ⊖ **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**- enables SHGs to set up non-farm enterprises at rural level
 - ⊖ **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)**
 - Lakhpati Didi scheme

COP28 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Concludes with the Adoption of First Global Stocktake

- **Global stocktake** is a process for countries to see where they're collectively making progress towards meeting the **goals of Paris Agreement**. It is like taking inventory.
 - ⊖ In **Paris agreement (2015)**, it was decided that countries would assess their progress for the first time in 2023 and, then, every five years.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - ⊖ **Reduce Global greenhouse gas emissions:** There is need to cut 43% GHG emissions by 2030, compared to 2019 levels.
 - ◆ But it notes Parties are off track to meeting their **Paris Agreement goals**.
 - ⊖ **Transitioning away from fossil fuels:** For the first time, parties agreed on it and will achieve **net zero emissions** by 2050 (just and equitable manner).
 - ⊖ **Agreed on Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework:** It reflects a global consensus on **adaptation targets** and the need for **finance, technology** and **capacity-building** support to achieve them.
 - ⊖ **Other:**
 - ◆ **Tripling of global installed capacity of renewable energy** by 2030.
 - ◆ Doubling global average **annual rate of energy efficiency** improvements by 2030.
 - ◆ Accelerating efforts to the phase-down of **unabated coal power**.
 - » Unabated coal power refers to the use of coal **without substantial efforts** to **reduce the emissions**.



Azerbaijan and Brazil will host COP29 (2024) and COP30 (2025), respectively.

Skilling NGO Unnati First To List On Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

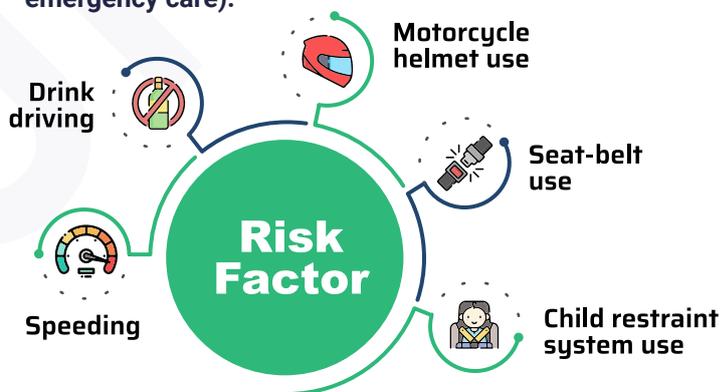
- SSE is a **separate segment of the Stock Exchange** that can help Social enterprises to raise funds from the public through the stock exchange mechanism.
- To be recognised as a social enterprise, organisations need to **demonstrate that 67% of their activities have targeted**
 - ⊖ **underserved or less privileged population segments** or
 - ⊖ **regions which have recorded lower performance in the development priorities** of central or state governments
- **Not-for-profit Organizations (NPOs) and For-profit social enterprises** can list themselves in SSEs.
- **Fundraising can be done through**
 - ⊖ **Issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds and donations through Mutual funds** for NPOs
 - ◆ ZCZPs are **issued only by an NPO** registered on a Social Stock Exchange and **have a specific tenure** and no principal is repaid on maturity.
 - ⊖ **Issuance of Equities and debt instruments** for-profit social enterprises
- **Significance of SSEs:**
 - ⊖ **Bridges the trust and credibility gap** between the social sector and individuals.
 - ⊖ **Enhanced transparency and reporting standards** over the functioning of the NPOs
 - ⊖ **Reduces burden on government** by leveraging private sector participation.

Enterprises not eligible to be identified as a Social Enterprise

- corporate foundations
- political or religious organizations or activities,
- professional or trade associations,
- infrastructure, and housing companies, except affordable housing

Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023 released by the World Health Organisation

- The report covers progress between 2010 and 2021 and **sets a baseline for efforts to meet the United Nations Decade of Action 2021–2030 target** to halve road traffic deaths by 2030.
- **Key findings in the report**
 - ⊖ **The global fatality rate per lakh population has fallen 16% since 2010.**
 - ⊖ **Nine in 10 deaths** occur in **low- and middle-income** countries
 - ⊖ As of 2022, **140 countries** have legislation meeting WHO best practices for **at least one of the five key risk factors.**
 - ⊖ 131 countries have national **legislation mandating third-party liability insurance for vehicles.**
- **Measures to be taken**
 - ⊖ **Legislation, policies, plans and strategies** related to multimodal transport use
 - ⊖ Road safety **inspections and audits**
 - ⊖ Specifying **minimum safety standards for vehicles**
 - ⊖ Concerted action for **speed management**
 - ⊖ laws governing **road user behaviours**
 - ⊖ Legislation on **distracted driving**
- **India's Initiatives**
 - ⊖ High priority to **identification and rectification of black spots**
 - ⊖ Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019 hikes **penalties for traffic violations**
 - ⊖ **Indian Road Safety Campaign**
 - ⊖ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had formulated a **4Es strategy (education, engineering, enforcement and emergency care).**



Also in News



Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary

- Recently, a **Royal Bengal Tiger** was spotted at Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim.
 - ⊖ IUCN Status of Royal Bengal tiger is '**Endangered**'.
- **About Wildlife sanctuary:**
 - ⊖ It lies in the **Pangolakha Range** of Himalayan Mountains.
 - ◆ This range separates Sikkim from Bhutan.
 - ⊖ **Neora Valley National Park** (West Bengal) links it with Toorsa Strict Reserve of Bhutan.
 - ⊖ **Forest Type: Subtropical Pine Forest, Subtropical Broadleaf Hill Forest and Alpine Moist Pasture.**
 - ⊖ **Fauna** - Brown dipper, Red panda, Snow leopard etc.
 - ⊖ **Key river:** Chukha



AKTOCYTE

- **AKTOCYTE (nutraceutical tablets)** has shown remarkable results in **enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients.**
 - ⊖ **Nutraceutical** refers to a food products that provides medical or health benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease.
- It minimizes **side effects of radiotherapy.**
 - ⊖ **Radiotherapy** is a **cancer treatment** that uses **high doses of radiation** to **kill cancer cells and shrink tumors.**
- **Developed by:** Department of Atomic Energy along with private pharma company.
- It is approved by **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).**



Currency Devaluation

- Argentina has **devalued** its currency **Argentine Peso** to handle the economic crisis.
- **About Devaluation:**
 - ⊕ **Devaluation** is the deliberate attempt by the **government** or **central bank** to lower its currency value.
 - ⊕ **Advantages:** Promotes **exports**, reduction in **trade deficit** etc.
 - ⊕ **Disadvantages:** Raises the value of external debt, etc.
- On the other hand, **Depreciation** refers to **decrease** in the **value of currency** with respect to **other currencies** mainly due to market forces.



Office of Chief Commissioner for Person with Disabilities (CCPwD)

- The Office of CCPwD has **banned online and over-the-counter sale of hearing aids**.
- It was established under **Section 57 of The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995** (replaced by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016)
 - ⊕ It works under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- **Mandate:** To safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities as provisioned in the Act.
- **Functions:**
 - ⊕ **Performs Quasi-judicial function** and has the **power of Civil Court**.
 - ⊕ **Monitors the funds** disbursed for the welfare of PwD.
 - ⊕ **Monitors the Implementation** of the provisions of the disabilities Act, 2016.



PACE Mission

- NASA is **preparing** to launch 'Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, and Ocean Ecosystem' (PACE) mission in early 2024.
- Mission will provide a combination of **global atmospheric and oceanic observations**.
 - ⊕ **By monitoring aerosols in the atmosphere along with plankton on the surface of the ocean**, scientists can collect information about the health of the Earth.
- It aims to benefit society in the areas of **water resources, the impact of disasters, ecological forecasting, human health, and air quality**.



Chilika Lake

- A new species of marine amphipod 'Demaorchestia alanensis' has been found in **Chilika Lake** (Odisha).
 - ⊕ Amphipods are member of the invertebrate order Amphipoda (class Crustacea).
- **About Chilika Lake:**
 - ⊕ It is **Asia's largest brackish water** and **world's second largest coastal lagoon**.
 - ⊕ It was **first Indian Wetland of International Importance (WII)** under **Ramsar Convention**.
 - ◆ It was first site in Asia which was **removed from Montreux Record (MR)** in 2002.
 - ◆ MR is register of WII where **changes in ecological character have occurred or are likely to occur**.
 - ⊕ It is famous for **Nalabana Bird Sanctuary** and **Irrawaddy dolphin**.



Countervailing duties (CVD)

- The U.S. and the EU have imposed CVDs on Indian products against the RoDTEP scheme.
 - ⊕ The **RoDTEP scheme rebates/refunds the Central, State and local duties/taxes** to the exporters that are not being rebated/refunded.
- CVDs are **tax or tariffs levied on imported goods to counter/offset the export subsidies** given to producers of goods in the exporting country.
- They **nullify the negative domestic impacts** that producers of the same good might experience due to foreign competition.
- **WTO allows imposition of CVD** after a nation has investigated the subsidised exports.



Anarcho-Capitalism

- **Anarcho-Capitalism** refers to a **political philosophy** which calls for the **abolition of the state** and for the **provision of law and order to be controlled by private companies** in a free market.
 - ⊕ Traditionally, **free market advocates** have **supported the private provision** of most goods and services, **except police and courts**.
 - ⊕ Anarcho-capitalists believe that **private companies** competing in a free market **can provide policing and legal services** better than the state.
- Anarcho-capitalism term was **coined by Murray Rothbard**.

Places in News



Poland (Capital: Warsaw)

- Donald Tusk becomes Poland's new Prime Minister.
- **Political features**
 - ⊕ It lies in **Central Europe**.
 - ⊕ It is bordered **Baltic Sea (North), Russia and Lithuania (northeast), Belarus and Ukraine (East), Slovakia and Czech Republic (South), Germany (West)**.
 - ⊕ It is a member of **European Union**.
- **Geographical features**
 - ⊕ **Major Mountains:** Carpathians, Sudeten and Tatra mountains
 - ⊕ **Major Rivers:** Vistula, Neisse, Oder, and Motlawa.

