

NEWS TODAY

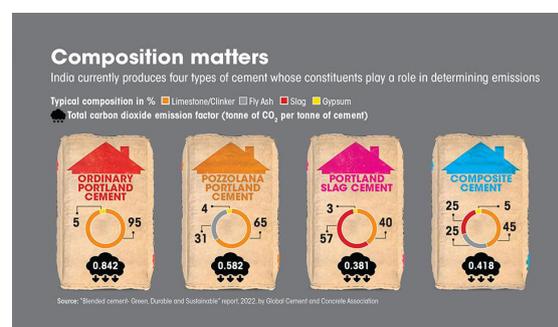
FICCI RELEASED A REPORT, TITLED 'HIDDEN STREAM: LINKAGES BETWEEN ILLICIT MARKETS, FINANCIAL FLOWS, ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM'

- The first-of-a-kind report examines intricacies in various forms of illicit operations and highlights the intricate nexus between the illegal economy, terror and organised crime.
- **Key findings of the report**
 - India displayed good progress in addressing security concerns, as evidenced by its improved scores in the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) and crime index.
 - There is a low prevalence of organised crime actors in India.
 - In 2021, the Quantum of money laundering in India is around 5 per cent of the GDP.
 - In 2021, the **economic impact of violence accounts for approximately 6 per cent of the country's GDP** in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP).
 - India's strategic location near major drug-producing regions has led to a more prevalent **illicit drug trade which has shown a sharp increase in recent years.**
- **FICCI suggests 6Cs as a policy recommendation to tackle the problem**
 - Cognisance of Terrorism and Organised Crime Under Regulatory Framework.
 - Continuous and Critical Evaluation of Illicit Financial Flows.
 - Central Nodal Agency for Greater Coordination.
 - Creating Awareness and Changing Consumer Preferences.
 - Combating Trade-Based Money Laundering.
 - Cooperation and Coordination at the International Level.

GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP). India ranked 13th on the index in 2022.

DECARBONISATION OF THE CEMENT INDUSTRY, CRITICAL TO SLOW GLOBAL WARMING

- **In the cement industry, Pyro-processing** (limestone and clay, are heated in a kiln at more than 1,400°C) and **calcination** (calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) is heated) are major processes which cause Carbon emissions.
- **Need of decarbonisation in the cement industry**
 - It is the **second largest industrial emitter** in the world (after iron and steel).
 - Contributes about **7% of CO₂ emissions globally.**
 - **Important to achieve commitments of "net zero" emissions by 2050** (or by 2070, as pledged by India).
- **Challenges in India**
 - India is one of the **fastest urbanising countries and is witnessing a housing and infrastructure boom.**
 - **Lack of availability of alternatives for Pyro-processing and calcination**
 - **Limited initiatives and economic measures** promote sectoral energy efficiency enhancements
- **Measures**
 - Increase the share of **blended cement** (minimising the use of limestone by using another substitute).
 - Increase the share of **recycled materials in production.**
 - More utilization of alternative fuels like **refuse-derived fuel (RDF), industrial waste and biomass.**
 - Using innovative technologies like **carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS).**





22ND LAW COMMISSION SUBMITS REPORT ON ONLINE REGISTRATION OF FIRST INFORMATION REPORTS (FIR)

- 282nd report titled '**Amendment in Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for Enabling Online Registration of FIR**' submitted to the Ministry of Law & Justice.
 - **Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** governs how the first **information** about the commission of a **cognizable** offence is recorded.
- **Recommendations**
 - **e-FIR be enabled in a phased manner.**
 - Registration of e-FIR is to be permitted for all **cognizable offences** where the accused is **not known** or attracting **punishment up to 3 years where the accused is known.**
 - States have the power to **expand the list of offences.**
 - **Privacy of the parties** to be ensured.
 - **Verification of Informant/Complainant** and Punishment for False Information.
 - **e-Complaint** to be allowed for all Non-Cognizable Offences.
 - Complaint means any allegation made orally or in writing to a Magistrate, with a view to his taking action under this Code.
 - **Capacity Building** to be given importance.
- **Significance**
 - **Citizens can report crimes conveniently and efficiently.**
 - Complainants can also **check the timely status of their complaints online.**
 - It helped in **reducing the footfall at the Police Station.**

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIMES (UNTOC) CELEBRATED IN ITALY

- **Transnational organized crime** defined as illegal activities, conducted by groups or networks acting in concert, by engaging in violence, corruption, etc for financial or material benefit in two or more countries.
- UNTOC was adopted by **UN General Assembly in 2000** and entered into force in **2003.**
 - It is the first **comprehensive and global legally binding instrument** to fight transnational organized crime.
- Convention is further supplemented by **three Protocols:**
 - Protocol to **Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (India has ratified it);**
 - Protocol against the **Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;**
 - Protocol against the **Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, etc.**
- Countries must become parties to the Convention itself before they can become parties to any of the Protocols.
- **Members:** Signatories-147 and Parties-191. (India ratified it in 2011).
- **India's initiatives**
 - **Central Bureau of Investigation** is the national Nodal Authority to receive and respond for transnational crimes.
 - **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013** has been enacted wherein human trafficking has specifically been defined.

LAW COMMISSION SUBMITS A REPORT TITLED 'AGE OF CONSENT UNDER THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012'

- It has denied reducing the **age of consent** as it will have **direct** and **negative bearing** on the fight against **child marriage** and **child trafficking.**
 - **Age of consent** is the age at which a person is considered legally capable of agreeing to marriage or sexual intercourse (currently 18 years under POCSO Act, 2012).
 - **POCSO Act**, under section 4 and 8, penalises penetrative sexual assault and sexual assault on anyone below 18 with a minimum imprisonment of 10 years and three years.
 - It has been used to criminalize teenage consensual relationships by families, thus enhancing burden on the judiciary.
- **Major Recommendations:**
 - **Amendment in POCSO Act:**
 - Allow courts use **judicial discretion** to sentence an accused to any punishment **lesser than the minimum jail term stipulated under POCSO.**
 - **Judicial discretion** can be based on certain conditions:
 - There must be tacit approval of the sexual act.
 - Accused must not be more than three years older than the child.
 - **Amendment in Juvenile Justice Act, 2015:**
 - Empowering a juvenile court to pass suitable orders in its **discretion when a minor is charged under POCSO for a consensual relationship.**

NO CLEAR NATIONAL EMBLEM, ISRO LOGO IMPRINTS SHOW LUNAR SOIL 'LUMPY'

- Pragaan rover did not leave clear imprint of the National emblem and ISRO logo (embossed on wheels, inspired from Apollo 11), indicating **a new understanding of the properties of the soil in the south pole region.**
 - Earlier missions had indicated **talcum powder-like soft soil** in the equatorial region of the moon.
 - During the Vikram Lander's landing process, surprisingly **little dust was produced**, suggesting that the lunar surface was **not loose dust but rather sticky and lumpy.**
 - The lumpy lunar soil could indicate the presence of a volatile substance like water ice.
- **The Lunar Regolith:**
 - **Lunar Soil:** A thick layer of regolith, fragmental and unconsolidated rock material, covers the entire lunar surface.
 - Unlike terrestrial soils, lunar soils are not sorted in any way, by size, shape, or chemistry.
 - **Lunar soil contains no organic matter.**
 - Without wind and water to wear down the edges, lunar soil grains tend to be sharp with fresh fractured surfaces.
 - **Components of Lunar Regolith:** Made up of rock chips, mineral fragments, impact and volcanic glasses and a peculiar component **only found on the Moon** called "agglutinates".

ALSO IN NEWS



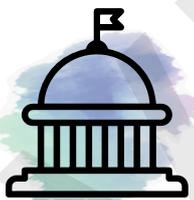
Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0

- Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) **launched IGMS 2.0. Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal.**
- **About IGMS 2.0**
 - **Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
 - **Implementing Agency:** IIT Kanpur
 - **Objectives:** To provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data of Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
 - It is enabled with Artificial Intelligence capabilities.



Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- **IIP** is a ratio which measures the growth of various sectors in the economy.
- IIP data is released **every month by Central Statistics Office (CSO)**, the current base year is **2011-12.**
- The IIP comprises **3 broad sectors:** Manufacturing, Mining and Electricity.
- The weightage of **all 8 core industries in IIP is 40.27 %.**
- In IIP, the decreasing order of core industries among them is as **Refinery Products** (weight: 28.04%) > **Electricity** (19.85%) > **Steel** (17.92%) > **Coal** (10.33%) > **Crude Oil** (8.98%) > **Natural gas** (6.88%) > **Cement** (5.37%) > **Fertilizers** (2.63%).



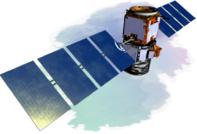
Scheduled Classification of CPSE

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)**, a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), has been upgraded from Schedule B to Schedule A.
- It will help IREDA in upgrading from **Mini Ratna (Category- I)** to **Navratna** status.
- CPSEs are classified into in to 4 Schedules, namely A, B, C & D.
- It was introduced in the year 1965 for purposes of determining the pay scales of
 - Board level executives.
- **Department of Public Enterprises** has laid down criteria for categorization and revision (up gradation)
 - **Quantitative:** Investment, net sales, profit, etc.
 - **Qualitative:** National importance, level of technology, etc.



Pink Bollworm (PBW)

- The infestation by this insect pest has been common in the cotton belt of northern Rajasthan, Haryana and South-western Punjab since 2021.
- **Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) cotton** which incorporates genes from a soil bacteria that code for proteins toxic to the American bollworm, has **lost its efficacy against PBW.**
- **Pink Bollworm (PBW)**
 - **Scientific Name:** Pectinophora gossypiella (Saunders)
 - **Native To:** Possibly the eastern Indian Ocean region.
- **Impact:** Adults lay eggs on cotton bolls; once hatched, the larvae eat the seeds and damage the fibres of the cotton, reducing the yield and quality.

 <p>Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADB approved capital management reforms that unlock \$100 billion in new funding capacity over next 10 years. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <p style="text-align: center;">Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Asian Development Bank Manila, Philippines</p> <p>Genesis: Established in 1966, by the effort of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).</p> <p>Mandate: Committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>Functions: Provides loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments.</p> <p>Membership: 68 members (49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside), including India.</p> <p>Other Key Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (15.6%), China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%). </div>
 <p>CALIPSO (Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation) mission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NASA announced that its CALIPSO satellite, which takes climate, weather and air quality measurements using LIDAR, has ended its science mission. Satellite was launched in 2006. It was launched jointly by NASA and France's CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) along with the cloud-profiling radar system on the CloudSat satellite.
 <p>Chipsets for NavIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chipsets (microchips) for the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) are being manufactured in India by an Indian company (Manjeera Digital Systems Private Limited) for the first time. It is supported by the Ministry of Science & Technology and Electronics & Information Technology. Chipsets are designed to decode and process the signals coming from the seven Indian satellites. These are necessary to make a navigating gadget compatible with NavIC.
 <p>Project Mariana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Mariana was developed jointly by three BIS Innovation Hub centres (the Swiss, Singapore and Eurosystem Hub Centres) together with Bank of France, Monetary Authority of Singapore and Swiss National Bank. The project tested the cross-border trading and settlement of wholesale central bank digital currencies (wCBDCs) between financial institutions, using new decentralised finance (DeFi) technology concepts on a public blockchain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wholesale CBDC refers to the settlement of interbank transfers and related wholesale transactions in central bank reserves.
 <p>Project Udbhav</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an Indian army initiative. Project aims to delve into the profound Indic legacy of strategic thinking derived from ancient Indian texts, bridging the gap between history and contemporary military strategy. Goal is to understand the profound depths of indigenous military systems, their evolution, and the strategic thought processes that have governed the land.
 <p>Damselfly species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A New Damselfly species found in the Western Ghats (Kerala) named Armageddon Reedtail. The name, Armageddon Reedtail, is a direct reference to the concept of "Ecological Armageddon", a term used to describe the devastating decline of insect populations around the world. Ecological Role: Insects play crucial roles in pollination, nutrient cycling and as a food source for other animals.