



Mission SAGAR

Context:

- **Indian Naval Ship Kiltan** arrived at **Nha Rong Port, Ho Chi Minh City** on 24 December 2020 as part of **Mission Sagar-III**.
- This Mission is part of **India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries during the ongoing pandemic.

India-Vietnam Relations:

- The ship will deliver 15 Tons of HADR Stores for the flood-affected people of Central Vietnam, which will be handed over to **Vietnam's Central Steering Committee for National Disaster Prevention and Control**. This assistance is reflective of the **deep people-to-people connection** between the two friendly countries.
- The current visit seeks to enhance maritime cooperation between the two Navies and will further bolster the strong bonds of friendship between the two countries and contribute to security and stability in the region.



- India and Vietnam have a **civilisational relationship** that is **over two millennia old**. India-Vietnam relations have grown stronger in recent times due to the vibrant economic engagement and growing convergence on issues of common interests.
- The bilateral relations were elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in 2016.

Mission SAGAR:

- **Mission Sagar-III** is being undertaken in accordance with Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region)** and **reiterates India's position as a dependable partner, and the Indian Navy as the Preferred Security Partner and First Responder**.
- The Mission also highlights the importance accorded to ASEAN countries and further strengthens the existing bonds.

OneWeb Satellites

Context:

- Recently, OneWeb has announced the launch of 36 communications satellites into the **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** to offer high speed internet in India by **2022**. It was announced by Bharti Global and the U.K. government.



Aim:

- To operationalise one of the world's first LEO constellations.

Significance:

- It will deliver high-speed, low-latency global internet connectivity.
- It will deliver broadband connectivity to the communities, towns, regions left unconnected or under-connected.
- It will offer high-speed internet from its constellation of satellites in India by mid-2022.

India Sports Awards 2020

Context:

- Recently, **Air Force Sports Control Board (AFSCB)** has been annotated as the winner in the category of “**Best Company Promoting Sports (Public Sector) 2020**” by FICCI.



Background:

- Earlier the AFSCB was also conferred with ‘Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar’ by the President of India for ‘Employment of Sports Persons and Sports Welfare measures’ for its contribution towards development of a sporting environment across the country.

Merits of Air Force Sports Control Board -

- IAF Sports has made significant progress at the National and International arena and won medals at Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and World Cup/World Championships thus bringing accolades for the country. It is pertinent to mention that three air warriors have already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2021.

About FICCI:

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry is an association of business organisations in India. Established in 1927, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by GD Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas, it is the largest, oldest and the apex business organisation in India.

Great Indian Bustard

Context:

- **Recently, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** along with the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), India** has come up with a unique initiative of a **“firefly bird diverter”** for overhead power lines in areas where **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** populations are found in the wild.



Background:

- The Supreme Court of India has directed that power lines in GIB landscapes should be placed underground.
- According to MoEFCC, power lines (especially high-voltage transmission lines) with multiple overhead wires, are the most important current threat for GIBs in the Thar region, and are causing unsustainably high mortality.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS):

- **The Wildlife Conservation Society** is a **non-governmental**

organization headquartered in New York, that **aims to conserve the world's largest wild places in 14 priority regions.**

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- **About:**

- **Scientific Name:** **Ardeotis nigriceps**
- It is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world.

- **Habitat:**

- Bustards generally favour flat open landscapes with minimal visual obstruction and disturbance, therefore adapt well in grasslands.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

- **Protection Status:**

- **IUCN Red List:** **Critically Endangered**
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): **Appendix 1**
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** **Schedule 1**
- It is one of the species for the recovery programme under the **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change.**

Threats:

- Collision/electrocution with power transmission lines,

- Hunting (still prevalent in Pakistan),
- Irrigation and farming technology
- Mining
- Wind turbines and Solar farms (photovoltaic power stations)
- Plantation of exotic shrub/tree species in deserts and grasslands in the name of afforestation.

Positive Pay System

Context:

- **The Reserve Bank of India** will introduce the **'Positive Pay System' (PPS)** for cheque transactions above **Rs. 50,000**.

What is a positive pay system?

- The concept of Positive Pay involves a process of re-confirming key details of large value cheques.

Process of PPS:

1. A process of confirming key details of large-value cheques.
2. The issuer of the cheque electronically submits certain minimum details of that cheque to the drawee bank.
3. These details will be cross-checked if the cheque is presented for payment by the Cheque Truncation System (CTS).
4. If any problem occurs, drawee bank and presenting bank, who then take redressal measures.
5. National Payments Corporation of India will develop the facility of Positive Pay in CTS, and make it available to participant banks.

What will be the new dispute redressal mechanism?

- Only those cheques that are compliant with the new system will be accepted under the dispute resolution mechanism at the CTS grids.
- Member banks may implement similar arrangements for cheques cleared or collected outside CTS as well.
- The RBI has already told banks to create adequate awareness among their customers on features of the Positive Pay System through SMS alerts, displays in branches, ATMs, as well as through their websites and Internet banking.
- The Positive Pay System will be implemented from January 1, 2021.

What will be the share of Positive Pay in overall cheque transactions?

- The new measure will cover approximately 20 percent and 80 percent of total cheques issued in the country by volume and value, respectively. The Cheque Truncation System (CTS) for clearing cheques is operational pan-India, and presently covers 2 per cent and 15 percent of total retail payments in terms of volume and value respectively.
- The average value of a cheque cleared in CTS presently is Rs 82,000. The CTS-2010 standard specifying minimum security features on cheque leaves acts as a deterrent against cheque frauds, while standardisation of field placements on cheque forms enables straight-through-processing by use of optical or image character recognition technology.