CROSS & CLIMB MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

HOW WE CAN ACHIEVE GROWTH WITH BALANCE

Context

- The article reflects upon the rapid rise in global population while discussing transition in demographics in religion and regions across globe and underlines the necessity to achieve growth with balance.

Global overview

- **Present trajectory**: On 15th November 2022, the world population will cross eight billion, it crossed six billion in October 1999 and we added another two billion in two decades.
- **Future course:** Demographers at the UN predict that the planet will have 9.8 billion people in 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100.
- **Burgeoning occupiers in Africa**: In the last century, countries in the developing world, including in Africa, continue to register higher population growth rates.
- o It is projected that by 2100, close to 40 per cent of the world population will be residing in Africa. That is every second person in the world will be an African.
- **The Middle East demographics**: The countries in the Muslim world are registering higher population growth rates of 1.5 per cent, compared to the rest at 0.7 per cent.
- o The Muslim population in the world is expected to reach 2.2 billion by 2030, according to the PEW Research Foundation.
- o Egypt, the largest Arab country, had a population of 25 million in 1960, almost equal to that of South Korea. Six decades later, while South Korea's population doubled, Egypt's grew by more than four times to cross 110 million.

India's prospects

- **Ensuing boom:** India will be the world's most populous country by 2050 with its population crossing 1.65 billion.
- **Fall back:** India will peak in that decade and thereafter, the numbers will start to recede and settle at 1.1 billion by 2100.

- **Religion stats:** By 2050, India is expected to have over 1.3 billion Hindus, while the Muslim population is likely to reach 311 million, making it the country with the largest Muslim population.
- **Comparison with China**: China will see a decline in that year and its population will reduce to 1.3 billion.

Population concerns are ill-founded

- **Sinking growth:** Rachel Snow, Branch Chief of Population and Development at the UN World Population Fund, noted that the world population growth is slowing down with more than 50 countries registering a population decline.
- **Conflicting illustration**: Contrary to the UN's projection of 11.2 billion people on the planet by 2100, Snow insists that it would reduce to 8.5 billion by then.
- **Positive outlook:** Eight billion people by 2100, is potentially eight billion new ideas that will increase food production, ways for people to learn on the internet etc.
- **Raised caution**: The "Superabundance" book also notes that large populations are not enough to sustain superabundance -Eg poverty in China and India before their respective economic reforms.
- Thus the book put emphasis that to innovate, people must be allowed to think, speak, publish, associate, and disagree. They must be allowed to save, invest, trade, and profit. In a word, they must be free.

Conclusion

- The population will continue to grow, but it needs to be balanced growth.
- The demographics is a complex, and often contentious, subject. Better living standards aimed to be provided to the generations to come. As Gandhi said, nature can offer a free lunch, if only we control our appetite. The Indian answer will be sustainable consumption.

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL INDEX

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) tops Grievance Redressal Index third month in a row.

About:

- Grievance Redressal Index is published by **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).**
- UIDAI has launched its **new AI/ML based Chatbot, Aadhaar Mitra** to further enhance residents' experience. The new Chatbot comes with enhanced features like – check Aadhaar enrollment/update status, tracking of Aadhaar PVC card status etc.
- UIDAI is gradually rolling out advanced and futuristic **Open-Source CRM solution**.

UIDAI

- It is a **statutory authority** established under the provisions of **Aadhaar act 2016** by the Govt. of India under the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology**.
- Its aim to provide for good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for which is incurred from the **Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of State** to residents of India through assigning of unique identity numbers.
- Its mission is to ensure security and confidentiality of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

NATIONAL SC-ST HUB SCHEME

Recently, the 5th meeting of High Powered Monitoring Committee (HPMC) under National SC-ST Hub scheme was chaired by Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
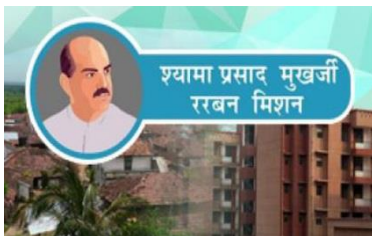
About:

- **Objective of National SC-ST Hub**: Develop a supportive ecosystem

for SC/ST entrepreneurs to achieve the mandated 4% procurement by the CPSEs from the SC/ST entrepreneurs as laid down in Central Government Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises.

- **Scheme applicable for:** Existing and Aspiring SC/ST Entrepreneurs.
- **Key Benefits:**
  o To achieve 4% Public Procurement target from SC-ST entrepreneurs.
  o Facilitating SC/ST Entrepreneurs to be part of vendor development programs and mentoring support.
  o Collection, collation and dissemination of information regarding SC/ST enterprises and entrepreneurs.
  o Distribution of trade specific tool kits to trained candidates.
- **The key action areas**: Vendor development, participation in public procurement, building reliable database, credit facilitation, technology upgradation, marketing support, and special subsidies under various schemes etc.

SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION (SPMRM)

Recently, Aibawk cluster in the Aizwal, Mizoram becomes the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.

About:

- **What is SPMRM?** It was launched by the Prime Minister in February 2016 with a vision to provide **amenities to rural areas which are perceived to be urban** and have the potential to **stimulate local economic development**.
- **The Mission aim**: Development of 300 Rurban clusters, in the next five years.
- **What is a 'Rurban Cluster'?** It is a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and with a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.
- **Selection of the 'Rurban Clusters'**

- There are **two categories of clusters under SPMRM: Non-Tribal and Tribal.** The process of selection varies for each of these categories.

- While selecting the Rurban cluster, the **State may identify a large village/gram panchayat that are growth centers** with resources available in the area that could potentially lead the economic transformation of the region. These growth centres could also be block headquarter, villages or census towns.

- The clusters could then be formed by identifying geographically contiguous villages/gram panchayats within a radius of 5–10 km (or radius appropriate to the population density and geography of the region) around the identified growth centre.

'INNOVATIONS FOR YOU' COFFEE TABLE BOOK

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog recently launched the fourth edition of 'Innovations for You' coffee table book featuring 75 successful women entrepreneurs of India.

About:

- 'Innovations For You' is a Coffee Table Book series with 3 editions being released previously.

- The book captures success stories of start-ups supported through **Atal Incubation Centres, Atal Community Innovation Centres and Atal New India Challenges**, three flagship programs under the Atal Innovation Mission.

- Each edition showcases the journey of entrepreneurs working in different sectors and is dedicated to creating new, disruptive, innovative products, services, and solutions that can pave the path for a sustainable future.

- **The first edition was focused on the Healthcare sector; the second on Agriculture and the Allied sector and the third on Transport and Mobility.**

- Out of the 2900 plus startups supported by AIM, more than 850 plus are led by women.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

- **Objective:** The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) is Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship esp. in technology driven areas.

- **Mission HQ:** New Delhi.

- **Background:** In 2016, Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) in NITI Aayog.

- **It has two core Functions:**

  o (1) Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation wherein innovators will be supported to become successful entrepreneurs and

  o (2) Innovation promotion to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated.

  Components:

- **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs):**

  o ATLs were established in school across India as a workspace where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands-on do-it-yourself mode, and learn innovation skills.

- **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs):**

  o Established across India to help start-ups expand quicker and enable innovation-entrepreneurship, in core sectors such as manufacturing, transport, energy, education, agriculture, water and sanitation, etc.

- **Scale-up support to Established Incubators (EIC):**

  o Under it, the start-up ecosystem in the country will be transformed by upgrading the Established Incubation Centres to world-class standards.

- **Atal New India Challenge:**

  o To promote the design and development of innovation-driven products based on cutting edge technologies.

- **Mentor of Change Programme:**

  o To guide and mentor students at the ATLs and AICs set up all over the country with a vision to enable them to develop the skills of strategic thinking, creation and innovation.

- **Atal Community Innovation Centre:**

o The main aim is to cater to the underserved/unserved regions of India so as to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as creativity and innovation.

- **Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE):**
o To promote research and innovation and increase the competitiveness of Indian startups and small enterprises including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

MATHURA-VRINDAVAN PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

According to Uttar Pradesh government, Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India's largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a "net zero carbon emission" tourist destination by 2041.

About:

- Tourist vehicles will be banned from the entire Braj region, which includes famous pilgrim centres such as Vrindavan and Krishna Janmabhoomi.

- Instead, only electric vehicles used as public transport will be allowed into the area.

- All 252 waterbodies and 24 forests in the area will also be revived.

- According to the plan, the Braj region's annual pilgrim-tourist footfall is expected to multiply from the current level of 2.3 crore to six crore by 2041.

- To attain a net zero carbon emission status, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.

- To facilitate this in Mathura-Vrindavan, the plan divides the entire region into four clusters, each containing two of the eight key cities.

- The plan proposes to form small circuits called 'Parikrama Paths' which the pilgrim can undertake either on foot or using electric vehicles.

Mathura-Vrindavan:

- It is located on the banks of the river **Yamuna**.

- It is situated the birthplace of Lord Krishna.

- The entire land is dotted with magnificent temples, dedicated to various aspects of his life.
- **Some of the famous temples are:Govind Dev Temple, Rangaji Temple, Dwarikadhish Temple, Bankey Bihari Temple and the ISKCON Temple.**
- **Gokul, Barsana and Goverdhan** are the other township associated with the legend of Lord Krishna.

RISAT-2 SATELLITE

ISRO's radar-imaging satellite Risat-2 has finally landed on Earth after completing its 'job' for over 13 years and lands near Jakarta.

About:

- It was launched on 20 April 2009 by a PSLV C-12 rocket following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.
- It was India's first "eye in the sky" to keep surveillance on the country's borders as part of anti-infiltration and anti-terrorist operations.
- It was also used to track enemy ships at sea.
- The main sensor of RISAT-2, which was able to observe in all weather conditions day and night, was Israel Aerospace Industries' X-band Synthetic Aperture Radar.
- It carried 30 kg of fuel for an initial designed life of four years.
- Due to proper maintenance of orbit and mission planning by the spacecraft operations team in ISRO and by economical usage of fuel, RISAT-2 provided very useful payload data for 13 years.