

CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

Why in the News?

- In order to curb film piracy, the Union government has appointed nodal officers to order taking down pirated content from digital platforms.
- The decision was taken in the wake of the Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023, which was passed in the Parliament recently.

What is Piracy?

- Piracy refers to the **unauthorized duplication of copyrighted content that is then sold at substantially lower prices in the 'grey' market.**
- The ease of access to technology has meant that over the years, piracy has become more rampant.
- For example, CD writers are available off the shelf at very low prices, making movies/music piracy a simple affair.

Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023:

- The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 amends the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
 - The Act constitutes the Board of Film Certification for certifying films for exhibition.
 - Such certifications may be subject to modifications/deletions. The Board may also refuse the exhibition of a films.

Key Features of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023:

Additional Certificate Categories:

- The Bill adds certain additional certificate categories based on age.
- Also, the Bill provides for separate certificate for television/other media.

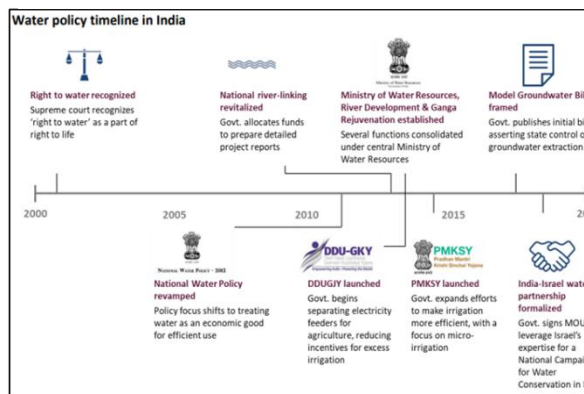
Unauthorized recording and exhibition to be punishable:

- The Bill prohibits carrying out or abetting: (i) the unauthorized recording and (ii) unauthorized exhibition of films.
- The above offences will be punishable with: (i) imprisonment between three months and three years, and (ii) a fine between three lakh rupees and 5% of the audited gross production cost.

- **Certificates to be perpetually valid:**
 - Under the Act, the certificate issued by the Board is valid for 10 years.
 - The Bill provides that the certificates will be perpetually valid.
- **Revisional powers of the Central government:**
 - The Act empowers the central government to examine and make orders in relation to films that have been certified or are pending certification.
 - The Board is required to dispose matters in conformance to the order.
 - The Bill removes this power of the central government.

COMPOSITE WATER MANAGEMENT INDEX (CWMI): NITI AAYOG WEIGHS DISCONTINUING KEY WATER REPORT LAUNCHED 5 YEARS AGO

Why in News?



- NITI Aayog is learnt to have marked the reports on states progress on water management for 2018-19 and 2019-20 for “internal use” after having publicly released the previous editions.
- Called the ‘**Composite Water Management Index**’ report, the first edition launched five years ago in June 2018 brought India’s water challenges into spotlight and ranked states in

terms of efficacy based on 28 parameters.

What is the CWMI?

- **About:**
 - The National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has developed the CWMI in 2018 to enable effective water management in Indian states in the face of this growing crisis.
 - The report is being prepared **in association with 3 ministries** - Water Resources, Drinking Water & Sanitation, and Rural Development.
- **Objectives of the Index:**

- **To bring about much-required improvements** in water resource management and conservation in India in a coherent and collaborative manner.
- **It will be a public platform** that provides an annual snapshot of the water sector status and the water management performance of the different states and UTs in India.
- **It will measure both the overall progress** made by states in water management and the **incremental improvement** in performance across time.
- **Significance of the Index:**
 - It is meant to **foster a culture of evidence and data-backed policy-decisions for sustainable and efficient management of water resources.**
 - The Index is expected to promote the spirit of '**competitive and cooperative federalism**' in the country.
 - The data included in the Index will be **made publicly available to researchers and entrepreneurs to drive innovation** in the sector.
 - The collection and compilation of this strategic dataset is a big step towards addressing the country's projected water risk and shortfall.
- **Themes and indicators of the Index:** The Index comprises **9 themes** (each having an attached weight) with 28 different indicators covering -
 - Groundwater and surface water restoration,
 - Major and medium irrigation,
 - Watershed development,
 - Participatory irrigation management,
 - On-farm water use,
 - Rural and urban water supply, and
 - Policy and governance.

APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTER



The Indian Army is preparing to induct six Apache attack helicopters armed with Stinger air-to-air missiles, Hellfire Longbow air-to-ground missiles, guns, and rockets.

About the Apache Attack Helicopter:

- It is the world's most **advanced multi-role combat helicopter**.
- **Country of Origin: United States**
- **Manufacturer: Boeing**
- It is also **known as the Apache Guardian**.
- The **AH-64E** attack helicopter is the **latest version** of the Apache **used by the US Army**.
- **Other purchasers: India, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, UAE, and the UK.**

Features of AH-64E Apache:

- It is designed and equipped with **open systems architecture** to incorporate the latest communications, navigation, sensor, and weapon systems.
- It has **greater thrust and lift, joint digital operability**, improved survivability, and **cognitive decision-aiding**.
- The AH-64E includes a new **integrated infrared laser** that allows for **easier target designation** and **enhanced infrared imagery** that blends **infrared and night vision capabilities**.
- **Apache for Indian Defence Forces:** The **Indian Air Force** has a fleet of **22 AH-64E Apache** attack helicopters, and in **2020, Boeing signed an agreement** with the Government of **India for the acquisition of six more Apache helicopters for the Indian Army**.

INDIA TO BRING IN A NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Why in news?

- After years of deliberations in the military and strategic community, India has kickstarted the process of bringing in a National Security Strategy.
- The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) is in the process of collating inputs from several Central ministries and departments.
- This is the first time that India would come out with such a strategy.

The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS):

• **Background:**

- The National Security Council (NSC) of India is an executive government agency established in 1998 and tasked with advising the Prime Minister's Office on matters of national security and strategic interest.
- The NSC is the **apex body of the 3-tiered structure** of the national security management system in India.
 - The 3-tiers are the Strategic Policy Group, the National Security Advisory Board and a **secretariat from the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC)**.
- The National Security Advisor (NSA) presides over the NSC.
 - NSA is also the primary advisor to the prime minister.
- The NSCS has four verticals:
 - Strategic Planning;
 - Internal Affairs;
 - Intelligence and Technology;
 - Military
- National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) works under NSCS and coordinates with different agencies at the national level for cyber security matters.

National Security Strategy

- A National Security Strategy document outlines the country's security objectives, and the ways to be adopted to achieve these.
- It defines traditional, non-traditional threats and opportunities while introducing accountability of agencies tasked with the implementation of such responsibilities.
- In a nutshell, a national security strategy would guide the military as well as critical defence and security reforms with strategic implications.
- It will provide a holistic view of the overall national security, the threats and the roadmap to address them.

PANNA TIGER RESERVE (PTR)

Recently, a delegation of senior forest officers and frontline staff from Cambodia came for training at Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) and studied India's tiger reintroduction programme and all its aspects.



About Panna Tiger Reserve:

- **Location:** It is a critical tiger habitat located in the Vindhyan mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh.
- It was declared a Project Tiger Reserve by the Government of India in 1994.
- **Landscape:**
 - It is characterised by a 'Table Top' topography.
 - It consists of extensive plateaus and gorges.
 - **River:** Ken River flows from south to north through the reserve.
- **Flora:**
 - The dominant vegetation type is dry deciduous forest interspersed with grassland areas.
 - In the north, it is surrounded by teak forest, and in the east, it is surrounded by teak-Kardhai mixed forest.
 - The tree species *Acacia catachu* dominates the dry, steep slopes of the plateaus here.
- **Fauna:**
 - It supports a sizable population of Sloth Bear, Leopard, and Striped Hyena.
 - Other prominent carnivores are Jackal, Wolf, Wild Dog, Jungle Cat, and Rusty Spotted Cat.

Key facts about Ken River:

- It is one of the major rivers of the Bundelkhand region of central India, and it flows through two states, namely Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a tributary of the Yamuna River.
- **Origin:** It originates near the village of Ahirgawan on the northwest slopes of Kaimur Range in the district of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

- It travels a distance of 427 km and then merges with the Yamuna at Chilla village, near Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- Out of its total length of 427 km, it flows for 292 km in Madhya Pradesh, 84 km in Uttar Pradesh, and 51 km forms the boundary between the two states.
- Crossing the Bijawar-Panna hills, the river cuts a 60 km long, and 150- 180 m deep gorge.
- Tributaries: The major tributaries of Ken River are Bawas, Dewar, Kaith, Baink, Kopra, and Bearma.

GST AMNESTY SCHEME

The finance ministry has come out with an amnesty scheme for filing appeals against Goods and Services Tax (GST) demand orders.



About the GST Amnesty Scheme:

- The scheme will be open till January 31, 2024.
- It will be available for entities that were unable to submit their appeals against orders issued by the tax officer on or before March 31,
- The scheme aims to help those who missed the deadline for filing appeals due to various reasons, including administrative errors or unforeseen circumstances.
- The entities willing to avail of the scheme will have to pre-deposit 12.5 percent of the tax demand, against 10 percent
- **Significance**
- This initiative can also promote enhanced compliance among taxpayers.
- A fair and lenient approach to appeal filing encourages better cooperation with tax authorities and a willingness to resolve disputes or clarify tax matters.
- Additionally, by allowing disputes to be resolved more efficiently, the scheme may reduce the burden on the legal system.
- This benefits both taxpayers and the tax administration by streamlining the appeal process and potentially reducing the need.

What is the Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

- It is a **single indirect tax** which has replaced multiple indirect taxes in India such as the excise duty, VAT, services tax, etc.
- It is levied on the supply of goods and services in India.
- It came into effect from July 2017.
- **Objective:** To remove ambiguity and bring equality in the prices of products across the country.

NATIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NMDC)



National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd. is diversifying its mineral portfolio by initiating gold mining operations in Western Australia through its subsidiary, Legacy Iron Ore Ltd.

About the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC):

- Incorporated in 1958 as a **Government of India public enterprise**, NMDC is India's **largest producer of iron ore**.
- It is a **Navratna public-sector enterprise** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Steel**.
- The company is engaged in the exploration of a range of minerals, including **iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, dolomite, gypsum, bentonite, magnesite, diamond, tin, tungsten, graphite, and beach sands**.
- It **owns and operates** highly mechanised **iron ore mines in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka**.
- It also **operates the only mechanised diamond mine in India at Panna, Madhya Pradesh**.
- NMDC is considered to be **one of the low-cost producers of iron ore in the world**.
- The company **sells most of their high-grade iron ore production to the Indian domestic steel market**, primarily pursuant to long-term sales contracts.
- The **registered office** is located in the city of **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

INDIA EXTENDS FREE RATION SCHEME FOR 5 YEARS

Why in news?

- PM Modi has announced an extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) free ration scheme for another five years.
 - The scheme was to end in December 2023.
- PMGKAY was introduced in 2020 during Covid-19 pandemic to provide free food grains to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- The PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme was to end this December.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)

- **About**

- PM-GKAY is a food security welfare scheme announced by the Central Government in March 2020, during the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- It is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against Covid-19.

Objective:

- To feed the poorest citizens of India by providing grain through the Public Distribution System, to all the **priority households** (ration card holders and those identified by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme).
 - Launched in 2000, Antyodaya Anna Yojana is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide highly subsidised food to millions of the poorest families.

- **Entitlement**

- The eligible ration cardholders under NFSA 2013 were entitled to 5 kg free wheat/rice per person per month.
- This was in addition to the 5 kg food grains already provided to the beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

- **Implementing Agency:**

- Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.