

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY (TKDL)

Recently, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and the CSIR-TKDL signed a Memorandum of Understanding.



About:

- The MoU aims at cooperation related to digitization and inclusion of information on traditional knowledge of India from manuscripts and traditional cultural expressions.
- It will facilitate efforts towards protection and preservation of the manuscript knowledge for current and future times, through inclusion of the information into the TKDL database.
- It is also expected to enable digitization and inclusion of non-written, oral and audio-visual materials related to traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions into the TKDL.
- **Aim:** To prevent exploitation and to protect Indian traditional knowledge from misappropriation by way of wrongful Intellectual Property Rights.
- The TKDL contains Indian traditional medicine knowledge from classical/ traditional texts related to Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga techniques in a digitized format and is available in five international languages (English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese) to patent examiners.

TAL CHHAPAR SANCTUARY

Recently, the Tal Chhapar blackbuck sanctuary in Churu district of Rajasthan has received a protective cover.



About:

- The Tal Chhapar Sanctuary is known as the home of blackbuck and a variety of birds in Rajasthan.

- The sanctuary is flanked by the **Great India Desert, Thar** and boasts a unique ecosystem and is an important birdwatching destination in India.
 - **Migratory birds in the sanctuary:** Harriers, eastern imperial eagles, tawny eagle, short-toed eagle, sparrow, and little green bee-eaters, black ibis and demoiselle cranes, whereas skylarks, crested larks, ring doves, and brown doves are seen round the year.
 - **Fauna:** Desert fox and desert cat can be spotted in the sanctuary.
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SWOT (SURFACE WATER AND OCEAN TOPOGRAPHY)

Recently, NASA has launched a satellite to conduct a comprehensive study of Oceans, rivers and Lakes around the world.



About:

- The launched satellite is named as **SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography)**.
- The advanced radar satellite is designed to give an unprecedented view of the life covering 70% of the planet, shedding new light on the mechanics and consequences of climate change.
- The satellite incorporates advanced microwave radar technology which will collect surface measurements of oceans, lakes, reservoirs and rivers in high-definition details.

Partners:

SWOT is being jointly developed by **NASA and Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)** with contributions from the **Canadian Space Agency (CSA)** and **United Kingdom Space Agency**.

Advantages of the satellite:

- It sweeps of the planet **at least twice every 21 days**, will enhance Ocean circulation models bolster weather and climate forecasts and aid in managing scarce freshwater supplies in drought-stricken regions.
- It is equipped to observe the entire length of nearly all rivers wider than 330 feet and more than 1 million lakes and reservoirs larger than 5 acres.

- It will precisely measure fine differences in surface elevations around smaller currents and eddies, where much the oceans' drawdown of heat and carbon is believed to occur.
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RAKTSEY KARPO APRICOTS

Recently, Ladakh got its first ever Geographical Indication Tag to Raktsey Karpo Apricot



About:

- Ladakh grows more than thirty types of Apricots, but the Raktsey Karpo variety is unique to the region.
- Apricot is the major fruit of Ladakh with large-scale cultivation in both Leh and Kargil Districts among the nine fruits grown in Ladakh.
- Apricot is also being promoted under **One District One Product for Kargil**.

What is Geographical Indication Tag?

- A Geographical Indication is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
 - Geographical indications are typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts and industrial products.
 - The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
 - This GI tag is valid for a **period of 10 years** following which it can be **renewed**.
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STATES SHALL SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IN BORDER AREAS:

AMIT SHAH

In News:

- The 25th Eastern Zonal Council (EZC) meeting, held at Kolkata, was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Issues like illegal infiltration, trans-border smuggling and the vulnerable India-Bangladesh boundary were among subjects discussed at the meeting.
- In the light of the increase in the operational area of the border force earlier this year, the role of BSF was also discussed.
 - In October 2021, the Union govt extended the jurisdiction of BSF from 15 km to 50 km inside the international border along Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.
 - This was opposed by the West Bengal govt.

Zonal Council

Background:

- The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first PM Nehru in 1956.
- This was suggested during the course of debate on the report of the States Re-organisation Commission
- It was suggested that a high-level advisory forum should be set up:
 - to minimise the impact of linguistic hostilities prevailed at that time;
 - to create healthy inter-State and Centre-State environment.

About

- In the light of the idea promoted by the then PM Nehru, five Zonal Councils were set up under the States Re-organisation Act, 1956.
 - Zonal Councils are the statutory and not the constitutional bodies.
- The five councils are:
 - The Northern Zonal Council; The Central Zonal Council; The Eastern Zonal Council; The Western Zonal Council; The Southern Zonal Council.
- The North Eastern States are not included in the Zonal Councils.
 - Their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.

Objectives

- The main objectives of setting up of Zonal Councils are as under:
 - Bringing out national integration;
 - Arresting the growth of acute State consciousness, regionalism, linguistic and particularistic tendencies;
 - Enabling the Centre and the States to co-operate and exchange ideas and experiences;
 - Establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the States for successful and speedy execution of development projects.

Organisational structure of the zonal councils

- **Chairman**
 - The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
- **Vice Chairman**
 - The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- **Members**
 - Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.
- **Advisers**
 - One person nominated by the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) for each of the Zonal Councils,
 - Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone
- Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

Functions

- Each Zonal Council is an advisory body and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council have a common interest.

- It may advise the Central Government and the Government of each State concerned upon the action to be taken on any such matter.
- In particular, a Zonal Council may discuss, and make recommendations with regard to:
 - any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning;
 - any matter concerning border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport;
 - any matter connected with or arising out of, the re-organization of the States under the States Reorganisation Act.

How this council is different from other platforms promoting cooperative federalism?

- There are a large number of other platforms which works on the principle of promoting cooperative federalism.
 - Eg., National Development Council, Inter State Council, Governor's/Chief Minister's Conferences and other periodical high-level conferences.
- However, the Zonal Councils are different, both in content and character.
- They are **regional fora** of cooperative endeavour for States linked with each other economically, politically and culturally.
- Being compact high-level bodies, specially meant for looking after the interests of respective zones, they are capable of focusing attention on specific issues taking into account **regional factors**, while keeping the national perspective in view.

[COP15: INDIA DEFENDS FARM SUBSIDIES, SAYS GLOBAL TARGET FOR PESTICIDE REDUCTION UNNECESSARY](#)

In News:

- India has stated at the ongoing UN biodiversity conference (COP15 to the CBD) in Montreal that agriculture in developing nations is the source of life and livelihood for vulnerable sections, which cannot be targeted for elimination.
- The remarks clarified India's position at a time when some EU countries are pushing for the abolition of farm subsidies as a crucial component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), which is anticipated to be finalised soon.

About the Global biodiversity framework (GBF):

- GBF is a new draft released by the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to guide actions worldwide through **2030**, to **minimise biodiversity loss and preserve nature**.
- Its proposed aims include reducing pesticide use by at least two-thirds and eliminating the most detrimental subsidies, including fisheries and agricultural subsidies.
- One of the key targets of the GBF - **the 30x30 target** - is to protect at least 30% of the planet (especially areas of particular importance - land and sea - for biodiversity) by 2030.
- Once approved unanimously by all 195 countries under the CBD, the GBF will be signed as a global deal to take specific measures under 23 proposed targets by 2030.
- The targets which are not accepted by one or more countries will not be part of the Framework.

India's position on the GBF:

- **Overall:**
 - The GBF must be framed in the light of **science and equity**, and the sovereign right of nations over their resources, as provided for in the CBD.
 - If climate is profoundly linked to biodiversity, then the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (**CBDR-RC**) must equally apply to biodiversity.
 - Biodiversity must be promoted through positive investment.
- **On subsidies, pesticide use and invasive alien species:**
 - That the essential support to vulnerable sections **cannot be called subsidies** and targeted for elimination, but may be rationalised.
 - India's position on pesticide use, stating that a numerical global target for pesticide reduction is unnecessary and should be left up to individual countries to decide.
 - India's position on the proposed numerical target (not feasible without the necessary baseline and relevant scientific evidence) of dealing with the **impacts of invasive alien species** on native biodiversity.

News Summary - India's Environment Minister at the COP15:

- **Nature is under stress** because of the historical disproportionate and iniquitous greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the developed countries.
- Therefore, **nature-based solutions** to global warming and other environmental challenges are not an answer without resolute action by developed countries to measure up to their historical and current responsibilities.
- The increased expectations through GBF targets call for matching means of implementation, especially through public finance and the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** that caters to multiple Conventions is the only hope.
 - GEF, established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, is a catalyst for action on the environment.
 - Through its strategic investments, the GEF works with partners to tackle the planet's biggest environmental issues.
- **The value of biodiversity** to humankind also lies in its economic dimension alongside the cultural and social.
- **Sustainable use and access and benefit sharing** are key to promoting biodiversity, alongside the efforts to conserve, protect and restore.
 - Access and benefit sharing (ABS) - one of the 3 objectives of the CBD, refers to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION(ABDM)

Over 4 crore health records of citizens digitized and linked with their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)



Ayushman Bharat
Digital Mission

About:

• **What it is?** It aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the **integrated digital health infrastructure of the country**. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- With health records linked to their ABHA accounts digitally, citizens will be able to access and manage these records as per convenience. This enables citizens to create a comprehensive medical history across various healthcare providers thereby improving clinical decision-making.
- **The ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) Number:**
 - It will be used for the purposes of uniquely identifying persons, authenticating them, and threading their health records (only with the informed consent of the patient) across multiple systems and stakeholders.
 - This digital linking of individual's health records with ABHA is being carried out extensively across different health facilities of the country **with the support of State Governments.**
- **Health Facility Registry (HFR)**
- It is a **comprehensive repository of health facilities** of the nation across different systems of medicine. It includes **both public and private health facilities** including hospitals, clinics, diagnostic laboratories and imaging centres, pharmacies, etc.
- Enrolling in the Health Facility Registry will enable them to get connected to India's digital health ecosystem.
- **Unified Health Interface (UHI):**
- UHI is envisioned as an **open protocol for various digital health services**. UHI Network will be an open network of End User Applications (EUAs) and participating Health Service Provider (HSP) applications.
- UHI will enable a wide variety of digital health services between patients and health service providers (HSPs) including appointment booking, teleconsultation, service discovery and others.

[INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE \(IHRC\)](#)

The 63rd Session of the IHRC will be organized on 18-19 December 2022 at Uttar Pradesh State Archives.



About:

- What is it? IHRC is an **all-India Forum of creators,**

custodians and users of records which was set up in 1919 to advise the Government of India on all issues connected with the management of records and their use for historical research.

- **Secretariat:** The **National Archives of India**, New Delhi is the Secretariat of Indian Historical Records Committee (re-designated Indian Historical Records Committee in 1911).
 - **The IHRC is headed by the Union Minister of Culture** and comprises 134 members including agencies of the Government of India, nominees of the Government of India, representatives from the State/UT Archives, Universities and Learned Institutions. The IHRC has so far held 62 sessions.
 - **The Committee has two adjunct bodies :**
 - **Editorial Committee** to examine and approve papers based on archival sources for being presented at the Sessions of the Committees
 - **Standing Committee** to review the action taken by the Committee on its recommendations and express its views on the agenda for the Committee's meeting. **Secretary, Ministry of Culture acts as the Chairman** of the Standing Committee of IHRC.
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