JELLYFISH GALAXY (JO206)

Recently, NASA released an image showcasing the jellyfish galaxy JO206 which was captured by the Hubble telescope.

About Jellyfish Galaxy (JO206):

- It trails across the universe about **700 million light-years** away from our planet.
- It is in the **constellation Aquarius.**
- Jellyfish galaxies **resemble their marine namesakes** and that is evident in the image.
- At the bottom right in the image "tentacles" of bright star formation that trails the main disc of the galaxy are visible.

Key facts about the Aquarius constellation

- It is one of the 12 zodiac constellations.
- The constellation's **name means "the water-bearer"** (or "cup-bearer") in Latin.
- It lies in the region of the sky which is **sometimes referred to as the Sea**, because it contains a number of other constellations with names associated with water.
- It is the **10th largest constellation in the sky,** occupying an area of 980 square degrees.
- It is one of the **15 equatorial constellations.**
- It is located in the **fourth quadrant of the southern hemisphere** (SQ4) and can be seen at **latitudes between +65° and -90°.**

SANKALP PROGRAMME

Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) certifies 98 trainers trained under the SANKALP programme.

About SANKALP Programme:

- The **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood**

Promotion (SANKALP) programme was launched in 2018.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

- It is a **World Bank loan-assisted project** and is aligned with the overall objectives of the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).

- The project focuses on **transforming the overall skilling ecosystem of India**, covering both central and state-level agencies for improved outcomes.

- It also encourages innovative **best practices at the local level,** resulting in enhanced access, quality and capacity in the skilling ecosystem and improved access to and completion of **skills training for female trainees** and other **disadvantaged groups.**

- **Strategy:** Under SANKALP four key result areas have been identified viz –

o Institutional Strengthening (at National, State & District level)

o Quality Assurance Quality Assurance of skill development programs;

o Inclusion of marginalised population in skill development; and

o Expanding Skills through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

PM MATRU VANDANA YOJANA

Recently, The Prime Minister of India has lauded the new initiative of celebrating 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' as 'God Bharai' ceremony in Dausa, Rajasthan.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
(PMMVY)

About PM Matru Vandana Yojana:

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Direct Benefit Transfer** (DBT) scheme launched in 2017.

- **Objectives**

o Providing **partial compensation for the wage loss** in terms of cash incentive, so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the first child

o To **improve health-seeking behaviour** amongst Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).

- **Features**

- The scheme is to provide maternity benefits to women belonging to **socially and economically disadvantaged sections of society**.

- The maternity benefit is to be provided to a woman **for the first two living children** provided the second child is a girl

- Under this scheme **monetary benefit of Rs. 5,000** is given to the expecting mothers from the time of the **initial stage of pregnancy to till the time the child is born.**

- Additionally, Rs. 1,000 is provided **under the Janani Suraksha Yojana** post-**institutional delivery.**

- The Rs. 5,000 is provided in **three installments.**

- The first installment of Rs. 1,000 is paid **at the time of registration** of the pregnancy.

- The second installment of Rs. 2,000 is paid at **the time of completing 6 months of pregnancy** and receiving at least one antenatal checkup.

- The third installment of Rs. 2,000 is received after the birth and registration of birth of such child and after such child receives the first cycle of **immunization for BCG, OPV, DPT and Hepatitis-B.**

- **Cases of miscarriage/stillbirths** are to be **treated as fresh cases** for providing maternity benefits under the scheme.

WHAT ARE SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS (SAIS)?

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India recently said that Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) must inevitably prepare themselves for auditing AI-based governance systems and look for opportunities to adopt AI into their audit techniques.

About Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs):

- They **are public oversight institutions which audit a government's use of public funds**.

- They are a **critical link in a country's accountability chain.**

- By **scrutinizing public financial management and reporting** they provide assurance that resources are used as prescribed.

- Most SAIs **derives their mandate from the constitution and/or legislation**.
- SAIs **undertakes financial audits of organizations' accounting procedures and financial statements, and compliance audits** reviewing the legality of transactions made by the audited body.
- They **also conduct performance audits** to scrutinize the efficiency, effectiveness or economy of government's undertakings.
- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is India's SAI.**

INTOSAI – International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions:
- It is an **autonomous, independent and non-political organization.**
- It operates as an **umbrella organization for the external government audit community.**
- It has **special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** of the United Nations.
- It works to **promote auditing standards, good governance of SAIs**, and **SAI independence,** among other work.

Structure:
- o The **International Congresses of Supreme Audit Institutions (INCOSAI)** is the **supreme organ of INTOSAI** and is composed of all the members. On **a triennial basis, it holds regular meetings,** which is chaired by the hosting SAI.
- o The **INTOSAI Governing Board meets annually to provide strategic leadership**, stewardship, and continuity of INTOSAI activities between INCOSAI.
- o The **CAG of India is a member of the Governing Board of the INTOSAI**.
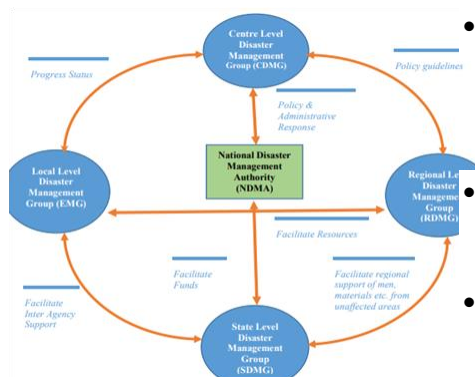
DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Why in News?
- Under the Vision @ 2047 theme, the Union Home Minister chaired a meeting **to further strengthen the disaster risk reduction system** in the country to make India disaster resilient.

- The Minister has also asked States to prepare a **disaster management plan** in conjunction with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in areas where seven new nuclear installations are to become operational.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

- NDMA is the **apex body for Disaster Management** in India and is headed by the **Prime Minister of India**.
- Setting up of NDMA and the creation of an enabling environment for institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels is **mandated by the Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- NDMA is mandated **to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management**.
- Through NDMA, India envisions the development of an ethos of **Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness and Response.**

- **The National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2016:**
- It aims **to make India disaster resilient** and significantly reduce the loss of lives and assets.
- The plan is based on the **four priority themes of the "Sendai Framework,"** namely:

  o Understanding disaster risk,
  o Improving disaster risk governance,
  o Investing in disaster reduction (through structural and non-structural measures) and
  o Disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.

- **Vision:**
  o Make India disaster resilient,
  o Achieve substantial disaster risk reduction, and
  o Significantly decrease the losses of life, livelihoods, and assets (economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental) by maximising the ability to cope with disasters at all levels of administration as well as among communities.

Nuclear and Radiological Emergency:

- **Emergency Preparedness for Nuclear Power Plants:**

  o The proper implementation of **countermeasures can significantly reduce the consequences** of an emergency situation.

  o Therefore, it is mandatory for all nuclear facilities that there must be a **comprehensive emergency preparedness plan.**

  o Prior to the issuance of a licence for the operation of a nuclear facility, the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board** (AERB) of India ensures that

  ▪ The facility has the Emergency Response Manuals for the three main types of emergencies, viz., **plant, on-site and off-site**, and

  ▪ The plans are in place to handle these types of emergencies.

  Responsibilities of Nuclear Power Plant Operators:

  o This includes the arrangements required to **promptly classify an emergency, mitigate the emergency, notify and recommend protective actions**, etc.

  o They must make an assessment of the type and quantum of release of radioactivity under various accident conditions and the extent to which it can spread into the environment.

CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

Why in news?

- Child trafficking manifests in the form of domestic labour, forced child labour across industries, and illegal activities such as begging, organ trade and commercial sex purposes.

- Estimates show that children account for one in every three detected victims of trafficking worldwide; this rises to one in two in low-income countries.

Child trafficking in India: Statistics

- As per data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), eight children were trafficked every day in India in 2021 — for labour, begging and sexual exploitation.

- These numbers stood at 2,834 cases in 2018; 2,914 in 2019; 2,222 in 2020.
- This data only includes confirmed cases of trafficking, which does not account for **missing children**.
- **Cases often go unreported** due to a lack of awareness about the modalities of trafficking, reluctance to seek police help and socio-economic deprivation.
- One child goes **missing** every eight minutes in India — with millions ending up in domestic slavery, sex work and forced labour.

Reasons behind child trafficking

- **Sex trade industry and domestic labour**
- Minor girls in the age bracket 15-18 years are more vulnerable to trafficking due to these reasons.
- **Economic factors**
- Poverty, hunger, and lack of work are the main reasons for this.
- **Social factors**
- The caste and community-based discrimination and unfair treatment in rural areas are also at the root of this problem.
- **Other factors**
- Externalities such as the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflict, and climate change further increases vulnerability for children.

What has India done so far?

- **Status of India**
- The 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. Department of State categorises India as Tier 2 in terms of progress.
- It implies that India "does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.
- **Laws governing anti-trafficking crimes**

- India **doesn't have a composite anti-trafficking law** that addresses prevention, protection, rehabilitation and compensation of survivors. There are, however, separate regulations that address different crimes related to trafficking.

- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)** is targeted at stopping immoral trafficking and sex work.

  - Experts, however, have criticised ITPA for falsely presuming that all trafficking is done for sex work only.

  - They say that it criminalises sex workers without providing sufficient legal recourse or scope for rehabilitation.

- **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**, prohibits and penalises the act of child marriage.

- **The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**, prevents children from partaking in certain employments and regulates the conditions of work for children in other fields.

  - In 2016, an amendment completely banned the employment of children below 14 years.

  - However, adolescents aged 14-18 years are allowed to work in family-related businesses but not in fields that have hazardous working conditions.

  - **India has pledged to eliminate child labour by 2025.**

- **The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**, prohibits systems of labour where people, including children, work under conditions of servitude to pay off debt, and also provides a framework for rehabilitating released labourers.

- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015**, governs laws relating to children alleged and found to be in conflict with law.

- **The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994**, makes commercial dealing in human organs a punishable offence.

- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**, which seeks to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.

- **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013**, revised Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with buying and selling of any person as a slave, to include the concept of human trafficking.

- **Institutional setup**
- India set up **Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in 2007**.
- AHTUs are tasked with:
  - addressing the existing gaps in the law enforcement response,
  - ensuring a victim-centric approach which ensures the 'best interest of the victim/ survivor', and
  - developing databases on traffickers.

Challenges in preventing child trafficking

- Prevailing challenges include a lack of coordination among AHTUs and disjointed operations by State and Central Governments.
- There is no comprehensive programme for tackling trafficking, an absent witness protection framework (the victim is also the witness).
- There are challenges in accessing compensation.
- Some States had not created the fund to compensate victims.
- A lack of awareness about compensation and opaque documentation requirements bog down survivors.