

WHAT IS CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION (CBFC)?

- The CBFC, popularly known as the Censor Board, is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**



- It regulates the public exhibition of films in India under the provisions of the **Cinematograph Act, 1952.**
- Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they have been certified by the CBFC.
- The certification process is in accordance with the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the Cinematograph (certification) Rules, 1983, and the guidelines issued by the Central Government.
- The CBFC has one **chairperson** and other members (not less than 12 but not exceeding 25) who are **appointed by the Central Government.**
- It has its **headquarters in Mumbai.**
 - It has **nine regional offices**, one each at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack, and Guwahati.
 - The regional offices are assisted in the examination of films by Advisory Panels.
 - The members of the panels are nominated by the Central Government by drawing people from different walks of life for a period of two years.

Categories of film certification: There are four categories of films based on their content.

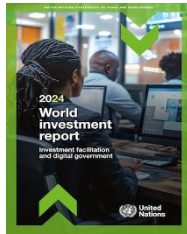
- **U (Universal):** Viewers of all age groups can view a U-certified film.
- **U/A:** Although these movies are universal, children under the age of 12 require adult supervision.
- **A:** Only meant for exhibition before adults.
- **S:** These are movies for special classes like doctors and farmers.

- The board shall occasionally **conduct seminars** of film critics, writers, and people connected with the industry, along with national surveys, to determine the public reaction for making guidelines for certifying the films.

Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024:

- Pursuant to the **Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023**, the Central Government has notified the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, in supersession of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983.
- **Salient Provisions:**
- Adoption of **Online Certification processes**.
- **Reduction in timelines** for the processing of film certification and adopting complete digital processes for eliminating all transactional time.
- Movies/feature films to have accessibility features for certification to make it inclusive for disabled persons.
- **Age-Based Certification:** Introduction of age-based categories of certification by further sub-dividing the existing UA category into three age-based categories, viz., seven years (UA 7+), thirteen years (UA 13+), and sixteen years (UA 16+), instead of twelve years.
- **Greater representation of women in the CBFC Board** and CBFC's Advisory Panels, where it is stipulated that one-third of the members in the Board shall be women and preferably half shall be women.
- System for Priority Screening of Films for enhancing transparency and eliminating all discretions.
- **Perpetual Validity of Certificates:** Removal of the restriction on the validity of certificates for only 10 years for the perpetual validity of CBFC certificates.
- **Change of Category of Film for Television:** Recertification of the edited film for Television broadcast, as only Unrestricted Public Exhibition category films can be shown on television.

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT



Recently, the World Investment Report 2024 was published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

- It focuses on **trends in foreign direct investment (FDI)** worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.

Key highlights of the report

- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2023 **decreased marginally**, by 2 per cent.
- FDI flows to developing countries fell by 7 per cent to \$867 billion, mainly due to an 8 per cent decrease in developing Asia.
- China, the second largest FDI recipient in the world, saw a rare decline in inflows.
- Industry trends showed lower investment in the infrastructure and digital economy sectors, but strong growth in the global value chain-intensive sectors of manufacturing and critical minerals.
- International investment in sectors relevant for the **Sustainable Development Goals** in developing countries declined in 2023.

Key facts about the UN Conference on Trade and Development

- It is the UN's leading institution dealing with trade and development.
- It is a **permanent intergovernmental body** established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- Its objective is to assist developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, to integrate beneficially into the global economy.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- UNCTAD membership consists of 195 states.

WHAT IS CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET?

Recently, Anthropic has launched its latest AI model called Claude 3.5 Sonnet — the company's first release in the upcoming Claude 3.5 AI model series.



- It is a **large language model** (LLM), and is part of the family of LLMs which is being developed by Anthropic.
- These models are known as **generative pre-trained transformers**, which mean they have been pre-trained to predict the next word in large amounts of text.
- It is likely to be the **middle model** (based on parameter size) in the upcoming series of AI models by Anthropic — the smallest and biggest models are yet to be released.
- Anthropic has said Claude 3.5 Sonnet outperforms Claude 3 Opus by a huge margin. The new model is claimed to be **twice as fast as the Claude 3 Sonnet**.
- It is Anthropic's **strongest vision model**. A vision model in AI is a model capable of interpreting and analysing visual data such as images and videos.
- According to the company, the improvements in Claude 3.5 Sonnet are most noticeable for tasks that require visual reasoning such as decoding charts and graphs. The model is also capable of accurately **transcribing text from imperfect images**.

How does Claude 3.5 Sonnet perform?

- According to Anthropic, Claude 3.5 Sonnet sets some new industry benchmarks in capabilities such as **coding proficiency** (HumanEval), **graduate-level reasoning** (GPQA), and **undergraduate-level knowledge** (MMLU).
- The new model has also shown significant improvement in grasping nuance, humour, and complex instructions.
- It is exceptional at **writing high-quality content** with a natural and relatable tone, according to Anthropic.

HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Why in the News?

The installation works for the country's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)- based smart fence project, called 'Ele-fence', is underway in Wayanad to mitigate the accelerating human-wildlife conflict in the region.

About Human-Animal Conflict:

- Human-wildlife conflict refers to the **unfriendly situation between people and animals, resulting in undesirable effects not only for animals but also for humans.**
- For example, crop loss, livestock predation, injury, or death, as well as the killing of wildlife, can be some of the aftermath.
- Such conflicts occur when human activities expand into the habitat of animals and the human population increases and starts to come into contact with wildlife in these dominated areas.
- The man-animal conflict has profound consequences not only on the immediate wildlife but also on the entire ecosystem and socio-economic systems of the affected areas.
- In addition, farmers who have experienced livestock predation lose an opportunity to feed their families. Rural and agricultural communities struggle to stay in business due to crop depredation.

Factors Contributing to Rise in Human-Animal Conflict:

- **Rapid industrialization and urban development** have fragmented and destroyed animal habitats, forcing wildlife into human settlements in search of food, water, and shelter.
 - Expanding human activities increasingly encroach upon natural habitats, heightening the likelihood of conflict.
- This delicate balance between humans and animals has been further disrupted by **climate change and environmental degradation**, intensifying these conflicts.

- Negative interactions are exacerbated by changing weather patterns, depletion of natural resources, and altered animal migration routes.
- **Ineffective enforcement of wildlife conservation and habitat preservation laws** contributes significantly to the rising number of man-animal conflicts across the country.
 - Weak law enforcement, insufficient funding, and poor collaboration among stakeholders hinder effective conflict management.
- Moreover, the **growing human population** and the corresponding demand for land and resources put additional pressure on wildlife habitats, leading to more frequent encounters between humans and animals.

Ele-fence in Wayanad:

- The first AI-based smart fence project, named '**Ele-fence**,' is being set up in Wayanad to reduce human-wildlife conflict.
- This pilot project, led by White Elephant Technologies and supported by the Kerala Forest Department, is located in the **Chethalth forest range of south Wayanad**.
- The Ele-fence spans 70 meters and combines real-time monitoring with preventive and protective features. It is designed after studying elephant behaviour in conflict situations.
- The fence includes six-inch-wide steel girders that are 17 feet high and reinforced underground for strength.
- The AI-based system uses logical trip wires, 4K cameras, and sound and alarm lights to detect and deter elephants. It also alerts pedestrians and motorists about nearby elephants.
- The lasher belt technology prevents elephants from breaking through the fence. When elephants approach within 50-60 meters, cameras capture live visuals and trigger alarms, warning local residents and notifying forest officials and Rapid Response Teams in real time.
- Previous methods like trenches, walls, and solar fencing were not fully effective, so this project aims to provide a better solution and could be expanded across the state if successful.

WHAT IS NATIONAL FORENSIC INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME (NFIES)?



In a bid to have more scientific investigations across the country to achieve better conviction rates in criminal cases, the Union Cabinet recently approved the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES).

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with a financial outlay of Rs 2,254.43 crore during the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- It aims to enhance forensic infrastructure in the country.

Components under this Scheme:

- Establishment of campuses of the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** in the country.
- Establishment of **Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs)** in the country.
- Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the **Delhi Campus of the NFSU**.
- The financial outlay of the NFIES will be provisioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs from its own budget.

Need for NFIES:

- With the **enactment of the New Criminal Laws**, which mandates forensic investigation for offences involving punishment of 7 years or more, a significant increase in the workload of forensic science laboratories is expected.
- Further, there is a **significant shortage of trained forensic manpower** in the Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) in the country.
- The establishment of additional off-campus of the NFSU and new CFSLs would address the shortage of trained forensic manpower, alleviate the case load /

pendency of forensic laboratories, and align with the **Government of India's goal of securing a high conviction rate of more than 90%**.

CONTAINER PORT PERFORMANCE INDEX (CPPI) 2023



As many as nine ports of India have made it to the global top 100 rankings in the latest edition of Container Port Performance Index.

- It is a highly regarded benchmark that assesses the performance of ports on parameters such as productivity, efficiency, and reliability.
- It is released by the **World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence**.
- It serves as a **reference point for key stakeholders**, including national governments, port authorities, development agencies, supra-national organisations, and private operators, in trade, logistics and supply chain services.

Highlights of CPPI 2023:

- **Yangshan port in China and Salalah port in Oman** emerged as the **top two ports** in the rankings.
 - Nine Indian ports have secured places among the top 100 global ports.
 - While **Visakhapatnam Port** made it to the top 20 ports of the world **at 19** in 2023, **Mundra Port** also climbed up the index at 27 in the current ranking.
 - This also marks an advancement from Visakhapatnam's 115th rank and Mundra's 48th position in the 2022 rankings.
 - Vishakhapatnam Port has demonstrated impressive performance with a turnaround time (TRT) of 21.4 hours, achieving 27.5 moves per crane hour, and minimising berth idle time.
 - Additionally, **seven more Indian ports, secured ranks in the top 100**: Pipavav (ranked 41), Kamarajar (47), Cochin (63), Hazira (68), Krishnapatnam (71), Chennai (80), and Jawaharlal Nehru JNPA (96).
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WHAT IS ENCEPHALARTOS WOODII ?

Scientists are using remote sensing technologies and artificial intelligence to assist the search for a female to *Encephalartos woodii* plant in the Ngoye Forest.



- It is a **plant from South Africa** and is a member of the cycad family with thick trunks and large stiff leaves that form a majestic crown.
- Cycads are the **oldest surviving plant** groups alive today and are often referred to as “living fossils” or “dinosaur plants” due to their evolutionary history dating back to the Carboniferous period, approximately 300 million years ago.
- During the **Mesozoic era** (250-66 million years ago), also known as the Age of Cycads, these plants were ubiquitous, thriving in the warm, humid climates that characterised the period.
- Although they resemble ferns or palms, cycads are not related to either. Cycads are **gymnosperms**, a group that includes conifers and ginkgos. Unlike flowering plants (angiosperms), **cycads reproduce using cones**.
- It is impossible to tell male and female apart until they mature and produce their magnificent cones. Female cones are typically wide and round, and male cones appear elongated and narrower.
- The **male cones produce pollen**, which is carried by insects (weevils) to the female cones. This ancient method of reproduction has remained largely unchanged for millions of years.
- Despite their longevity, today cycads are ranked as the **most endangered living organisms** on Earth with the majority of the species considered threatened with extinction.
- This is because of their **slow growth and reproductive cycles**, typically taking ten to 20 years to mature, and habitat loss due to deforestation, grazing and over-collection.
- **Threats:** Their striking appearance and ancient lineage make them popular in exotic ornamental horticulture and that has led to **illegal trade**.