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NATIONAL TRIBAL HEALTH CONCLAVE: HEALTHCARE FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

In News

- The National Tribal Health Conclave 2025 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

About Tribal communities

- Tribal communities have rich traditions, cultures, and heritage, with unique lifestyles and customs.
- Tribes often live in **geographical isolation** and are **more homogeneous** and self-contained compared to non-tribal communities.

Status In India

- Tribes in India are considered to be one of the oldest **ethnological groups**, often referred to as "**Adivasis**" (**original inhabitants**).
 - The term "Adivasi" is recognized internationally, with the International Labour Organization classifying them as "indigenous."
- India has the **second largest tribal population** in the world, with nearly 100 million tribal people (Adivasis).
 - As per the **Census 2011**, the tribal population constitutes about **8.9% of the total population in India**.
- Settlement:** Northeastern States are home to tribes with distinct ethnicity, and they are generally more isolated from mainstream society.
 - More than 80% of India's tribes** live in the **Central and Southern Regions**; these tribes have greater interaction with non-tribal communities compared to northeastern tribes.

Do you know ?

- Tribal people have been an integral part of Indian society since the times of the **Ramayana and Mahabharata**.
- Tribal movements like the **Khasi-Garo, Mizo, and Kol** movements are significant chapters in India's history and the struggle for independence.
 - Adivasi heroes like **Gond Maharani Veer Durgavati**, Rani Kamalapati, and the **Bhils**, who fought alongside Maharana Pratap, played vital roles in the freedom struggle.
- The Union Government declared November 15, 2021, as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, recognizing the contribution of tribal communities to India's freedom movement and nation-building.

Government Initiatives for Tribal Development:

- The Government of India has launched several initiatives to improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities.
- TRIFED : TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited)** was established in **1987** under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to support tribal communities.
- The Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)** aims to provide basic infrastructure in villages with a significant tribal population.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)**, launched in 2023, to improve the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- National Tribal Health Conclave** : It is organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).
 - It is part of the **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan** aimed at improving the health and well-being of India's tribal communities.
- National Sickle Cell Elimination Mission** launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to eradicate sickle cell anemia by 2047.
- Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chair of Tribal Health and Haematology** established at AIIMS Delhi for research on tribal health.
- Constitutional Provisions for Tribals:** The Indian Constitution includes special provisions for the protection of tribal communities, their culture, and development.
- Funds are allocated to states under Article 275(1)** of the Constitution to promote tribal welfare and development.

Challenges:

- Indian tribal communities face several challenges, including **preserving their cultural heritage, addressing economic and social disparities**, and protecting their rights and resources.
- Many tribes face poverty**, limited access to education, healthcare, and unemployment.
- Discrimination**, lack of representation in decision-making, and loss of traditional knowledge further exacerbate their vulnerabilities.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- Tribal areas are largely underdeveloped and home to a significant portion of India's population.
- To promote their well-being, it is essential to respect and understand their cultural heritage,

recognize their traditional knowledge and practices, and involve them in decisions regarding their lands and resources.

- Government policies and initiatives are crucial for addressing these challenges and preserving their unique cultural identity.
- And a comprehensive plan is needed to enhance healthcare delivery in tribal regions, addressing their unique challenges.

Source :PIB

NEW DRAFT E-COMMERCE GUIDELINES

Context

- The government has issued draft guidelines titled '**E-commerce – Principles and Guidelines for Self-Governance**' prepared by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.

E-Commerce Market in India

- **India's e-commerce market is projected to reach \$363.30 billion by 2030.**
 - ♦ **E-commerce** constitutes around **7%** of the total retail market in India.
- **By 2030**, India is projected to host the **second-largest online shopper base globally**, with an estimated **500 million shoppers**.
- The sector has benefited from increased internet penetration, rising affluence, and affordable data prices.

Key Provisions of the Draft Guidelines

- **Pre-Transaction Verification:** E-commerce platforms are required to conduct thorough **Know Your Customer (KYC)** checks for sellers, especially third-party sellers.
 - ♦ It includes verifying the authenticity of sellers' identity details, legal entity name, contact information, and business address.
- **Detailed Product Listings:** Sellers must provide comprehensive product information, including title, images, specifications, and shipping modes.
 - ♦ It ensures that consumers can make informed decisions based on accurate product details.
- **Transparent Contract Terms:** The guidelines emphasize the importance of transparent contract terms, including clear disclosure of product descriptions, price breakdowns, return policies, and safety warnings.
- **Secure Payments:** E-commerce platforms must implement secure payment systems with encryption and two-factor authentication to protect consumer data.

- ♦ Diverse payment options, including credit/debit cards, mobile payments, e-wallets, and bank transfers, must be provided.
- **Timely Refunds and Returns:** Clear timelines for refunds, replacements, and exchanges must be established, with provisions for handling counterfeit products.
- **Consumer Reviews and Ratings:** All consumer reviews and ratings must comply with **IS 19000:2022 standards**, covering collection, moderation, and publication processes.
- **Data Protection:** E-commerce entities must adhere to data protection regulations, ensuring that personal data collected from consumers is used exclusively for transaction facilitation and other disclosed purposes.
- **No Preferential Treatment:** The guidelines prohibit preferential treatment of any sellers or service providers to maintain a level playing field for all stakeholders.
 - ♦ It includes implementing policies to prevent the sale of counterfeit products and ensuring impartial operations.

E-Commerce Model in India

- **Business to Consumer (B2C):** Platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and Myntra operate on this model
- **Business to Business (B2B):** It is particularly relevant for industries such as manufacturing, where companies procure raw materials, machinery, and other supplies from suppliers.
 - ♦ Platforms like **Udaan and Alibaba** cater to this segment, facilitating bulk transactions and supply chain solutions.
 - ♦ **100% FDI is allowed in B2B e-commerce.**
- **Consumer to Consumer (C2C):** Platforms like OLX and Quikr enable individuals to list and sell their items, providing a marketplace for peer-to-peer transactions.
- **Business to Administration (B2A) and Consumer to Administration (C2A):** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an example of a B2A platform, facilitating government procurement of goods and services.

Other steps of government

- The Indian government has introduced several initiatives to support the growth of e-commerce, including the **Digital India program** and the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework**.

- **Draft National E-Commerce Policy, 2019**
Focusing on data localization, consumer protection, intellectual property rights, and competition issues.
- **Open Network for Digital Commerce:** It is the decentralised online platform that will help reduce the cost of doing business for retailers.
- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** It is an online platform for public procurement by government departments. It promotes transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness in e-commerce for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Concluding remarks

- The draft guidelines emphasize self-regulation, consumer protection, and transparency while addressing growing challenges in the e-commerce sector.
- With India's rapid e-commerce growth, these measures will ensure a fair, competitive, and consumer-friendly marketplace, fostering sustainable development in the digital economy.

Source: TH

ESTIMATION AND MEASUREMENT OF INDIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

Context

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released a comprehensive report titled '**Estimation and Measurement of India's Digital Economy**'.

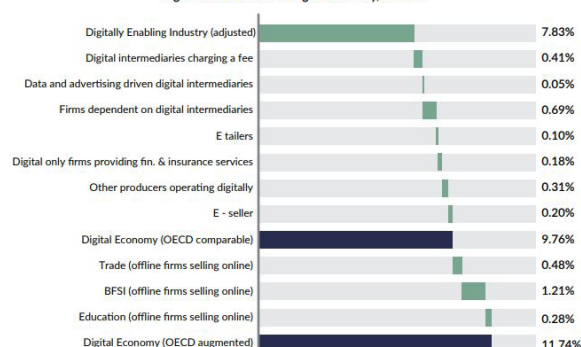
About

- **Methodologies:** The report uses globally adopted methodologies developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The report is an attempt to compile the **first set of credible, comprehensible, and current estimates of India's digital economy**.

Major Highlights

- **India's digital economy** stood at 11.74% of the national income in 2022-23 and is likely to rise to 13.42% by 2024-25.
- **Growth:** India's digital economy is expected to **grow almost twice** as fast as the overall economy, contributing to nearly **one-fifth of national income by 2029-30**.
 - ♦ In less than six-years, the share of the digital economy will become larger than that of agriculture or manufacturing in the country.

Figure 4: GVA of India's Digital Economy, 2022-23



- **Employment Generation:** In 2022-23, the digital economy accounted for 14.67 million workers, or 2.55% of India's estimated work force.
- India's digital economy is **steadily moving beyond the realm of the ICT** industries, diffusing across all parts of the economy.

Facts Related to Digital Economy of India

- **Mobile subscription:** India stands second in the world after China of the estimated 8.36 billion mobile cellular users worldwide.
- **5G deployment:** According to Ericsson's Mobility report, at the end of 2023, 10% of India's population had subscribed to 5G.
 - ♦ India became the **second largest market for 5G smartphones** in the first of 2024, following China.
- **Digital payments:** Over 1644 billion digital transactions took place in India in FY 2023-24, the highest volume for a country.
- **ICT service exports:** In 2023, India's ICT services exports stood the second highest in the world behind Ireland.
- **AI projects:** India's contribution to GitHub for AI projects is the highest in the world, at 23%, followed by the US (14%).
- **Unicorns:** As of April 2024, the third largest number of homegrown unicorns by country were in India, following the US and China.

Recommendations for the Growth of Digital Economy

- Minimise regulatory uncertainty for digital platforms and intermediaries.
- Adopt collaborative and concerted efforts for digital literacy and skilling.
- Improve the ease of doing business.
- Enhance cybersecurity and trust.
- Make continued efforts towards building resilient fixed-line broadband networks to supplement mobile coverage.

Source: ET

CABINET ANNOUNCES 6% HIKE IN JUTE MSP

Context

- The Union Cabinet approved a minimum support price for **raw jute by 6% for marketing season 2025-26**.

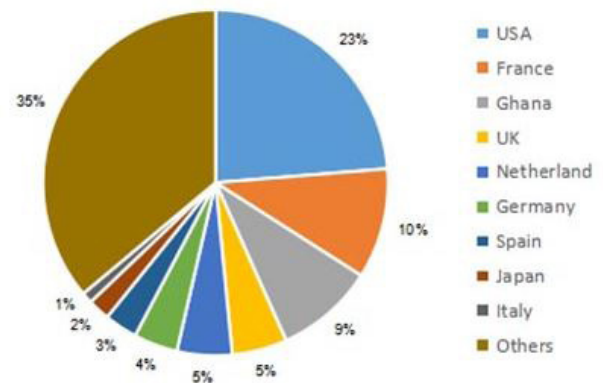
About

- Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as its **nodal agency** to undertake price support operations.
- The losses incurred, if any, in such operations, will be fully reimbursed by the Union government.
- MSP:** It is a form of **market intervention** by the Government to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
 - The prices are announced by the Government at the **beginning of the sowing season for certain crops** on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- Crops Covered under MSP**
 - Kharif Crops (total 14)** like paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur/arhar, moong, urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, niger seed, cotton;
 - Rabi Crops (total 06)** like wheat, barley, gram, masur/lentil, rapeseed and mustard, and safflower;
 - Commercial Crops (total 02)** like jute and copra.

Jute Production In India

- It is also called the **golden fibre**, in view of being a natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product.
- India** is the **largest producer** of jute followed by Bangladesh and China.
 - However, in terms of acreage and trade, Bangladesh takes the lead accounting for three-fourth of the global jute exports in comparison to India's 7%.
 - Most of the Jute is consumed domestically due to its vast domestic market demand, with an average domestic consumption of 90% of total production.
- The jute sector provides direct employment to **about 4 lakh workers** in the country and supports the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families.
- West Bengal, Bihar and Assam** account for almost 99% of India's total production.

Country-wise share of India's jute exports (2021-22)



Conditions Required for Jute Production

- Temperature:** A mean maximum and minimum temperature of **34°C and 15°C** and a mean **relative humidity of 65%** are required.
- Rainfall:** Around 150-250 cm.
- Soil:** Jute can be raised on all kinds of soils from clay to sandy loam, but loamy **alluvial soils** are best suited.

Challenges for Jute Industry in India

- Competition from Synthetic Fibers:** Jute faces stiff competition from synthetic fibers like polypropylene and polyester, which are often considered more versatile and cost-effective.
- Lack of Innovation and Product Diversification:** The industry is facing challenges in terms of limited product innovation and diversification.
- Quality Issues:** Under retting, jute bundles are kept under water at a depth of about 30 cm. This process gives the fiber its shine, color, and strength.
 - It should ideally be done in slow moving, clean water bodies like rivers. But Indian farmers do not have access to such resources.
- Problems of Jute mills in India:** Jute mills are marred by issues of Machinery modernisation, Mismanagement, Labour shortage, and Unrest and dependence on the government.
- Price Fluctuations:** Jute prices are volatile, influenced by climate conditions and supply-demand imbalances, which affects the stability of the industry.

Government Steps for Jute Production

- Continuation of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.**

- ♦ The Government has kept reservations **100% for food grains** and **20% for sugar**, to be packed in jute packaging material.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute.**
- The Government has approved an Umbrella scheme namely **National Jute Development Program (NJDP)** for implementation during **2021-22 to 2025-26** for overall development and promotion of the Jute Sector.

NJDP covers following schemes:

- **Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise (Jute ICARE):** To introduce a package of scientific methods of jute cultivation and retting exercises.
- **Jute Resource cum Production Centre (JRPCP):** To spread jute diversification programmes by providing training to new artisans.
- **Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB):** To supply jute raw material to jute artisans, MSMEs for production of JDPs at Mill Gate price.
- **Jute Design Resource Centre (JDRC):** For designing and development of market worthy innovative jute diversified products and helping existing and new JDP manufacturers and exporters.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:** To support Jute Mills and MSME JDP units for manufacturing and exporting JDPs and making them cost competitive in the international markets.
- **Market Development Promotion activities (Domestic & Exports):** Development of Jute Mark Logo for Certification of Quality Jute Diversified products and Launching publicity campaign to popularize jute.

Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI)

- **JCI** was incorporated by the Government Of India in **1971** as a price support agency with the mandate for the procurement of raw jute from the growers at the **minimum Support price (MSP)**.
- **The objective** is not profit making but a social cause to protect the interest of about 4.00 million families engaged in farming of jute.

Source: IE

- ♦ He is the only tribal king in Kerala,
- ♦ This marks the first time a tribal king will attend the parade.

About Mannan community

- It is mainly settled in the buffer zone area of the **Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary** at Kozhimala, the hub of the tribe with 48 settlements ruled by a king.
 - ♦ The king is an **integral part of the traditional functions** and **festivities of the community**.
 - ♦ He wears a **turban or headgear** and **special dress** on such occasions and will be assisted by two Ministers and soldiers during the functions.
- They maintain their unique customs, rituals, and a strong reverence for their traditional kingship.
 - ♦ To sustain themselves, they cultivate basic crops, collect forest produce, and engage in manual labor or cattle breeding.
- Mannankoothu is a unique tribal art form performed by the Mannan community.
 - ♦ It narrates the story from the classic tamil poem Chilapathikaaram.

Source :TH

MT EVEREST

In News

- The government of Nepal is increasing the permit fees for climbing Mount Everest from USD 11000 to USD 15000, making it more expensive for mountaineers.

Mount Everest

- It is located between Nepal and Tibet.
- It is the highest mountain in the world at 8,849 m, and has many names.
 - ♦ Tibetans call it '**Chomolungma**', which means 'Mother Goddess of the World' and worship the mountain as such.
 - ♦ Nepalis call it '**Sagarmatha**', meaning 'Goddess of the Sky'.
- Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first people to stand atop the mountain .
- Bachendri Pal was the **first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest**.

Source: AIR

NEWS IN SHORT

MANNAN COMMUNITY

In News

- The head of the Mannan community will participate in the Republic Day parade in Delhi as a guest of the Scheduled Tribes (SC) Development Department.

ENEMY PROPERTY ACT

Context

- The Madhya Pradesh High Court dismissed Saif Ali Khan's petition against the government notice designating the property of the Pataudi family as 'enemy property.'

What is the Enemy Property?

- Enemy Property refers to the **assets, properties, or holdings** in India that were owned by individuals or entities from countries that were declared as **enemies of India** during times of war.
- The legal framework governing such properties was established to **prevent the transfer, use, or exploitation of these assets by hostile nations**.
- Enemy properties in India primarily relate to the **Indo-Pak wars (1947, 1965, and 1971) and the Indo-China war (1962)**.

Enemy Property Act, 1968

- **The Enemy Property Act, 1968**, provides the legal basis for the management and administration of enemy properties.
- It declares that enemy properties are vested in the **Custodian for management** and cannot be reclaimed by the original owners or their successors unless approved by the Central Government.

Source: IT

CROSSPATHY**In News**

- The Maharashtra Food & Drugs Administration (FDA) issued a directive allowing homeopathic practitioners who have completed a certificate course in modern pharmacology to prescribe allopathic medications.

Crosspathy

- Cross pathy is a practice in which homeopathic and ayurvedic drugs are prescribed along with allopathic medicines.
- The recent directive ensures chemists accept allopathic prescriptions from these qualified homeopaths.
- **Challenges to the Directive:** The Indian Medical Association (IMA) challenges the directive, citing concerns over patient safety and the legality of allowing homeopaths to prescribe allopathic medications.
 - ♦ A 2017 notification allowing homeopaths to practice modern medicine was stayed by the Bombay High Court, questioning the risk to patient safety.
- **View of Judiciary :** The Supreme Court has historically ruled that 'crosspathy'—the practice of prescribing medications from another system of medicine—constitutes medical negligence unless authorized by the government.

- **Government's Stand :** The central government is promoting AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) practitioners to address doctor shortages, especially in rural areas.
 - ♦ But a careful, evidence-based approach is needed to integrate alternative medicine practitioners into mainstream healthcare.

Source :TH

STARGATE PROJECT**Context**

- The United States has launched a significant initiative under the "Stargate Project" to strengthen its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.

What is Stargate?

- Stargate is a **\$500 billion** initiative designed to establish a comprehensive **artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure** in the United States over the next **four years**.
 - ♦ It is a collaborative effort between **OpenAI, SoftBank, and Oracle**, with an initial \$100 billion investment.
- The project involves constructing **massive data centers** and campuses across the country to support the development and deployment of AI technologies at scale.
- Stargate is envisioned as a critical step toward re-industrializing the United States and enhancing its technological capabilities.

Source: IE

BLACK HOLE**Context**

- A team of researchers using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the Chandra X-ray observatory has discovered a bizarre black hole.

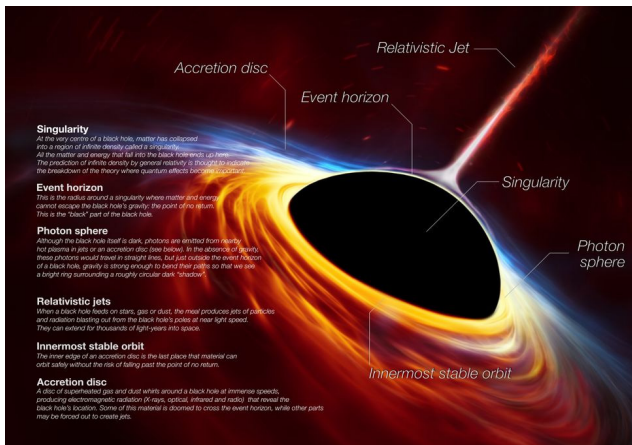
About

- The newfound black hole, designated **LID-568**, is a **low-mass supermassive black hole** that existed just **1.5 billion** years after the Big Bang.
- The black hole was feeding on a surrounding cloud of matter at almost **40-times greater** than what astrophysicists thought was the upper limit.

What is a Black Hole?

- A black hole is an **extremely dense object** whose gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape it.

- **Characteristics:** A black hole **does not have a surface**, like a planet or star. Instead, it is a region of space where matter has collapsed in on itself.
 - ♦ This catastrophic collapse results in a huge amount of mass being concentrated in an incredibly small area.
- **Formation:** A black hole is formed when a really massive star runs out of fuel to fuse, blows up, leaving its core to implode under its weight to form a black hole.
 - ♦ The center of a black hole is a **gravitational singularity**, a point where the general theory of relativity breaks down, i.e. where its predictions don't apply.
 - ♦ A black hole's great **gravitational pull emerges as if from the singularity**.



Source: TH

ARCTIC BOREAL ZONE

Context

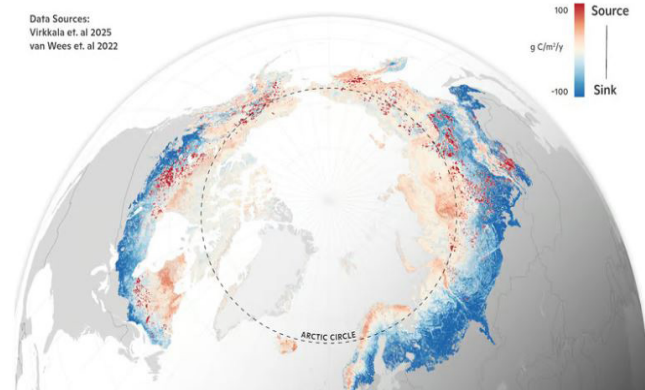
- As per a new research the **Arctic Boreal Zone is releasing more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than it absorbs**.

About

- The findings align with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA's) 2024 Arctic Report Card.
 - ♦ It also highlighted that the Arctic tundra, a treeless region, is becoming a net carbon

source, largely due to warming temperatures and escalating wildfire activity in the Northern polar region.

- **The arctic boreal zone** encompasses treeless tundra, boreal forests, and wetlands spread over 26 million square kilometres.



Findings:

- ♦ The carbon source areas were distributed across Alaska (44%), northern Europe (25%), Canada (19%), and Siberia (13%).
- ♦ Emissions from the prolonged non-summer season (September to May) in the tundra outweighed the carbon dioxide absorbed during the short summer months (June to August).
- ♦ 40% of this region has become a carbon source.
- **A carbon sink** absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases.
 - ♦ **A carbon source**, on the other hand, releases more carbon than it absorbs.
- **Reason:** Longer growing seasons, increased microbial activity and an uptick in the frequency and intensity of wildfires.
- **Concerns:** The Arctic boreal region is known for being soil organic carbon reservoirs.
 - ♦ There is this concern that part of the soil stock will be released as carbon dioxide.
 - ♦ This limited carbon absorption is accelerating permafrost thawing.

Source: DTE

