

29 July 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

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1. Inland Vessels Bill 2021

Context:

Inland Vessels Bill 2021 passed in Lok Sabha.

Know more about the Inland Vessels Bill 2021 in the link.

2. EOS-03

Context:

Geo-imaging satellite "EOS-03" is scheduled for launch in the third quarter of 2021.

Details:

- EOS-03 would enable near-real time monitoring of natural disasters like floods & cyclones.
- In addition to natural disasters, EOS-03 would also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation condition, forest cover changes, etc.

Additional information:

- The first developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2021 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ISRO's vast experience in solid propulsion and heritage of proven design practices has enabled the SSLV to be developed as a cost-effective, three stage and all-solid launch vehicle with a payload capability of 500 kg to 500 km planar orbit or 300 kg to Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit.
- The SSLV is ideal for the on-demand, quick turn-around launch of small satellites.
- The major technologies developed as part of the realisation of the SSLV are flexible nozzle control with electro-mechanical actuators for all stages, miniaturised avionics and a velocity trimming module in the upper stage for precise satellite injection.

Also read: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

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3. INS Talwar

Context:

INS Talwar in exercise Cutlass Express-21.

Details:

- <u>Indian Naval Ship Talwar</u> is participating in the multi-national maritime exercise Cutlass Express 2021 (CE 21), being conducted in Kenya.
- During the course of the exercise, a team of Indian Navy Marine Commandos (MARCOS) conducted training of personnel from the navies of Kenya, Djibouti, Mozambique, Cameroon and Coast Guard of Georgia.
- The MARCOS shared the best practices in executing Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations with the participating foreign Navy sailors during the exercise.

About Exercise Cutlass Express:

- Cutlass Express is an exercise sponsored by the U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), and conducted by Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) to assess and improve maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security in eastern Africa, inform planning and operations, and shape security force assistance (SFA) efforts.
- Exercise Cutlass Express is designed to improve regional cooperation, maritime domain awareness and information sharing practices to increase capabilities between the U.S., East African and Western Indian Ocean nations to counter illicit maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.

4. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) Scheme

About the scheme:

- Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) is a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U) to provide affordable rental housing to urban migrants/poor, close to their workplace.
- It aims to create a conducive ecosystem for Public/Private Entities to leverage investment in rental housing.
- The beneficiaries of ARHCs will be varied groups of urban migrants/poor from EWS/LIG categories including industrial & construction workers, migrants working with market/trade associations, educational/health institutions, hospitality sector, long-term tourists/visitors, students, etc.
- It is under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Need for the scheme:

• Large scale reverse migration of urban migrants/poor due to COVID-19.

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- Urban migrants stay in slums/informal settlements/unauthorised colonies/peri-urban areas to save cost on housing.
- Non-availability of housing close to workplace adversely impacts productivity.
- Requirement of affordable rental housing rather than ownership.

Objectives of the scheme:

- To address the vision of 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' significantly by creating a sustainable ecosystem of affordable rental housing solutions for urban migrants/poor.
- To achieve overall objective of <u>"Housing for All"</u> encompassing the need of affordable rental housing for urban migrants/poor. ARHCs will provide them dignified living with necessary civic amenities near their place of work.
- To create a conducive environment by incentivizing Public/Private Entities to leverage investment for creating affordable rental housing stock to take care of their own requirements for workforce and also cater to neighbouring areas, if they have available vacant land.

5. International Tiger Day

Context:

The International Tiger Day is observed on July 29 annually.

About International Tiger Day:

- The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the conservation of the wild cat, which over the last 150 years has witnessed a massive drop of nearly 95% in its population.
- On July 29, 2010, a number of countries became signatories to an agreement at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.
- The countries pledged to raise awareness about the dramatic fall in the number of tigers and the steps required to preserve the species from going extinct.
- The theme for the 2021 International Tiger Day is "Their survival is in our hands".
- India accounts for nearly 70% of the world's total tiger population and has already achieved the target of doubling its numbers.
 - India is home to 51 tiger reserves spread across 18 states.
 - The last tiger census of 2018 showed a rise in the tiger population.
 - India achieved the target of doubling the tiger population 4 years ahead of schedule of the St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation.

Additional information:

- India's 14 Tiger Reserves got Global CA/TS recognition for good Tiger Conservation.
- The 14 Tiger Reserves in India which received the accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured|Tiger Standards (CA|TS) are:

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- Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam
- Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh
- Pench in Maharashtra
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar
- Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh
- Sunderbans in West Bengal
- Parambikulam in Kerala
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu

About Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS):

- CA|TS has been agreed upon as an accreditation tool by the global coalition of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) and has been developed by tiger and protected area experts.
- Officially launched in 2013, it sets minimum standards for effective management of target species and encourages assessment of these standards in relevant conservation areas.
- CA|TS is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation.

Read more on the International Tiger Day.