



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE, 2022

Week-4

22-30 June, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd JUNE 2022

Konkan Railways (KR)

- **Context:** The Konkan Railway Corporation has completed electrification on its entire 741-kilometer route between Roha in Maharashtra and Thokur in Karnataka.

Key Highlights

- According to Konkan Railway, Indian Railways is on a mission mode to electrify its entire Broad-Gauge network to provide environment friendly, green and clean mode of transport to its people under the `Mission 100 per cent Electrification - moving towards net Zero Carbon Emission` plan.
- The foundation stone for the electrification of the entire 741 km route work was laid in November 2015.
- The total cost of the project is Rs 1,287 crore.
- The CRS inspection of the entire Konkan Railway route has been successfully conducted in six phases starting from March 2020.

About Mission 100 per cent Electrification

- It is a mission to electrify Indian railways.
- Focusing on India's energy scenario in general and Railway's Mission 100% electrification in particular, two main positive developments that stand out are:
 1. **Decision to electrify its entire Broad:** Gauge network in a Mission mode to provide environment friendly, green & clean mode of transport to its people.
 2. **Decision to unleash its potential to use renewable energy** especially solar, by making use of huge land parcels available along the railway track.
- Indian Railways have recorded an increase in electrification work of 371% during the period of 2014-2020 as compared to 2009-2014.
- Around 18,065 km of Railway routes have been electrified during these 6 years.

Haryana-Israel Agreement on Water Management

- **Context:** Israel and the Haryana government have signed a joint declaration in integrated water resources management and capacity building.

Key Highlights

- The joint declaration was signed by Ambassador Eynat Shlein, head of Mashav, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Haryana government.
- As part of this joint declaration, Mashav will share knowledge, capacity building and Israeli technologies for the development of Haryana in the water management sector.
- Through this declaration, both sides expressed their willingness to strengthen their existing friendly relations.
- Both sides will cooperate in the water management sector, preserve water resources in public water areas in Haryana, improve public health in the region, and cooperate and coordinate efforts to protect the water resources.

Key facts

- In 2020, the State of Israel and the Government of Uttar Pradesh of the Republic of India have signed an agreement to establish the India-Israel Bundelkhand Water Project.
- The Israeli government has appointed a Water Attache to the Embassy of Israel in New Delhi for the first time in India or anywhere in the world.

PM e-Vidya Scheme

- **Context:** The Ministry of Education initiative to use ICT under the "PM eVidya" scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic has won UNESCO's recognition.

Key Highlights

- The Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), a constituent unit of the NCERT has been awarded with the UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in Education for the year 2021.
- The PM eVidya programme was initiated as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' by the Ministry in May 2020.
- It unifies all efforts related to digital, online, on-air education to enable multi-mode access for imparting education by using technology to minimize learning losses.

About UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize

- This award recognises innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goal 4 on Education.
- Established in 2005 with the support of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the prize rewards individuals and organizations that are implementing outstanding projects and promoting creative use of technologies to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance in the digital age.
- An international jury selects two best projects annually.
- Each prizewinner receives USD 25,000, a medal and a diploma during a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

23rd JUNE 2022

National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN)

- **Context:** Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched an innovative project named National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of

Nirman workers (NIPUN) for skill training of 100,000 construction workers.

Key Features

- NIPUN project is under flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya-Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train construction workers through fresh skilling and upskilling programs which will provide them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.
- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the nodal agency under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India will implement the NIPUN project.
- The aim is to create a future labor force for the construction industry which will propel innovation and large-scale development in the country.
- Onsite skill training will be provided to approximately 80,000 construction workers through industry associations under the RPL certification, co-branded with MoHUA.
- About 14,000 candidates will receive fresh skilling through plumbing and infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC) in trades having promising placement potentials.
- It will provide trainees with 'Kaushal Bhima', three-year accidental insurance with coverage of Rs 2 lakhs, digital skills such as cashless transactions and the BHIM app, orientation about entrepreneurship, and EPF and BOCW facilities.
- The NIPUN project implementation is divided into three parts:
 - Training through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at construction sites
 - Training through Fresh skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure SSC
 - International Placement through industries, builders, and contractors.

5G Testbed

- **Context:** Army Training Command (ARTRAC) and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) are collaborating to build a 5G testbed at the Military College of Telecommunication in Mhow, Indore.

Key Highlights

- A MoU towards this partnership was signed in the presence of Prof V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras and Lt Gen MU Nair, AVSM, SM, Commandant, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering.
- The agreement will make it easier for the Indian Army to employ 5G technology in its operations, particularly along its borders.
- This project to set up a 5G Testbed at MCTE will enable the students and trainees at the College to become thoroughly familiar with the advanced technologies embedded in the 5G system.
- IIT Madras will provide consultation, backed up by research, for feasibility studies and prototype development on 5G enabled future communications under the terms of the MoU.

Significance

- This collaboration will accelerate the introduction of specialty technology-based systems, devices, and equipment, as well as the application of AI-based algorithms to improve the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.
- It will encourage collaboration and cooperative research as well as the exchange of ideas for new technology development. Moreover, this partnership will also encourage students, faculty, and scientists to conduct further research in the field of 5G communications and military application development.
- Latest communication technologies like 5G have a great relevance to the armed forces and it is important for their officers to acquaint themselves with such developments.

24th JUNE 2022

First India-Nepal Bharat Gaurav Train

- **Context:** The Center officially flagged off the Bharat Gaurav train connecting India and Nepal.

Key Highlights

- Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER G. Kishan Reddy, along with Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, flagged off the train from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station.
- The first trip of the train operating on the Ramayana Circuit will also cover the religious destination of Janakpur (in Nepal) for the first time, in addition to other popular destinations such as Ayodhya, Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Panchvati (Nasik), Hampi, Rameshwaram and Bhadrachalam.
- The Ministry of Tourism, in association with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and the Ministry of Railways, has also proposed Bharat Gaurav tourist trains for the Krishna Circuit, the Buddhist Circuit and many other circuits.
- The main objective behind the Bharat Gaurav trains is to showcase the diverse culture and rich heritage of India.
- Branded as Bharat Gaurav tourist trains, the IRCTC is operating these special comfort category tourist trains to promote theme-based tourism. The coaches of the trains have recently undergone refurbishment and the amenities and services have been upgraded.

BRICS Summit 2022

- **Context:** 14th Summit of BRICS, hosted by China was held virtually and attended by five member countries- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Key Highlights

- Strong criticism of the US and Europe over sanctions against Russia came from both President Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

- The BRICS declaration backed Russia-Ukraine talks, and called for the UN to strengthen efforts to manage the humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine
- Common position on Afghanistan- calls for inclusive and representative government, ensure Afghan soil isn't used for attacks against other countries and provide shelter to terrorist groups.
- PM Modi focused on the common agenda on economic governance, the importance of multilateral systems, and other BRICS initiatives- which he called "practical" initiatives
- Brazil President Bolsonaro made a push for UN reform to become a BRICS initiative- significant since China and Russia are UNSC permanent members
- South African President Ramaphosa, called for more equitable access to vaccines, and in particular urged that developed economies, international agencies and philanthropists procure vaccines from manufacturers in developing economies, including in Africa.
- BRICS Plus-BRICS countries agreed to push for expansion of the group to a "BRICS Plus", and this year saw outreaches to Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, UA, Nigeria, Senegal and Thailand to attend development meetings.

About BRICS

- BRICS idea came not from its members, but from a paper by a Goldman Sachs economist in 2001- who suggested that instead of setting up the world's then emerging economies as a separate group, that they be brought into an expanded G-7. In those days, Russia had just been taken into the G-7 to make it the G-8, but it was still an outlier. The paper made the case that by 2039- the four economies Russia, India, China and Brazil, would upend the global economic order and overtake G-7.
- In 2009, the leaders of the four countries met and formed BRIC, adding South Africa in 2010. Russia's ties with the West had begun to unravel after the war with Georgia in 2008, and Russia was ousted from G-7 by 2014.

- BRICS together represents 27% of the world's land mass, and 42% of the world's population, 24% of global GDP, and 16% of Global trade, and produce 33% of the world's food.

One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

- **Context:** The government's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC) programme has been successfully implemented across the country, with Assam being the last state to operationalise the service.

Key Highlights

- With the scheme being operational in Assam, it has now become operational all over the country.
- Under ONORC, beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) can get their quota of subsidized food grains from any electronic point of sale device (ePoS)-enabled fair price shops of their choice by using their existing ration cards with biometric authentication.

About ONORC

- It's a citizen-centric initiative for ensuring food security.
- It was launched in August 2019 and covers about 80 crore beneficiaries across India.
- It, thus, is one of the largest food security initiatives in the world.

Key Features

- Under this plan, the distribution of highly subsidized food grains is enabled through nation-wide portability of ration cards through the implementation of IT-driven system by installation of electronic point of sale (ePoS) devices at Fair prices Shop (FPSs), seeding of Aadhaar number of beneficiaries with their ration cards and operationalization of biometrically authenticated ePoS transactions in the State/UTs.
- Beneficiaries can quote either their ration card number or the Aadhaar number to any Fair Price Shop's dealer across the country.

- Anyone in the family, who have seeded Aadhaar in the ration card can undergo authentication and lift the ration.
- There is no need to share or carry the ration card or Aadhaar card with ration dealers to avail the benefit.
- Beneficiaries can undergo Aadhaar authentication by using their fingerprints or iris-based identification.
- The One Nation One Ration Card facility was started as inter-State portability of ration cards in 4 States in August 2019.

25th JUNE 2022

Surya Nutan: Indigenous Solar Cook Top

- **Context:** Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) unveiled its patented indigenous solar cook top, Surya Nutan, developed by the oil refiner's Faridabad R&D center.

Key Highlights

- The solar cook top is a stationary, rechargeable and kitchen-connected indoor solar cooking system. It offers an online cooking mode while charging.
- Surya Nutan works in hybrid mode, which means it can run on both solar and auxiliary energy sources simultaneously.
- The insulation design of the solar cook top minimises radiative and conductive heat losses.
- The initial cost of the product was 12,000 for the base model and 23,000 for the top model.
- However, the cost is expected to reduce substantially with economies of scale.
- At present, pilot projects are being held in around 60 places such as Leh (Ladakh) to ascertain various operational and commercial aspects related with its application.
- Surya Nutan will aid in reducing India's CO₂ emissions drastically and keep our citizens insulated from the vagaries of the high international fossil fuel prices.

ONGC Videsh Limited-Columbia oil discovery

- **Context:** ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's overseas arm announced to have made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well of Urraca-1X, in Colombia's Llanos Basin CPO-5 block.

Key Highlights

- Block CPO-5 was awarded to ONGC Videsh in the 2008 bid round of Colombia. ONGC Videsh holds 70 per cent participating interest (PI) in the block along with operatorship. The remaining 30 per cent is held by partner Geopark.
- Urraca-1X was spudded on 20 April and drilled to target depth (TD) of 10956 feet, encountering 17 feet thick oil-bearing sands at a depth from 10201 feet-10218 feet.
- ONGC Videsh has a significant presence in oil & gas sector in Colombia, with three other exploratory blocks in the country and joint ownership of the oil producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).
- ONGC Videsh had earlier discovered commercial oil in the lower sand play in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018, respectively, which are currently commercially producing around 20,000 barrels of oil per day.

26th JUNE 2022

Region-specific Red List

- **Context:** Kerala will soon have its own red list of birds becoming the first state to do so.

Key Highlights

- The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective led by Kerala Agricultural University and the Bird Count India will conduct the regional red list assessment.
- Once it gets ready, Kerala will be the first State to have a region-specific red list of birds.

- Assessment will be done on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.
- The reason quoted for the decision is that there are limitations for the global assessment as it is a process prepared in a global context.
- A species seen common at the global level may be a threatened species at the regional level.
- The regional red list assessment also will be conducted according to the IUCN guidelines.
- The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective is planning to prepare the red list for the State in a year. It will be a decentralised process like how the Kerala Bird Atlas was prepared.
- The Kerala Bird Atlas accounts for nearly three lakh records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species.
- According to the atlas, most of the endemics are concentrated in the Western Ghats while the threatened species are cited mostly along the coast.

Threaten Species in Kerala

- According to the global IUCN red list, Kerala has 64 threatened species of birds.
- In that, Red-headed vultures and White-rumped vultures are critically endangered. Steppe Eagle, Banasura Chilappan and Nilgiri Chilappan are endangered and 11 species are vulnerable.
- The IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list have five main criteria:
 - Population size reduction measured over 10 years or three generations.
 - Geographic range on the basis of extent of occurrence or area of occupancy.
 - Small population size and decline.
 - Very small or restricted population.
 - Quantitative analysis indicating the probability of extinction in the wild.

G7's Global Infrastructure Plan

- **Context:** G7 countries recently launched the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII).

Key Highlights

- The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) was unveiled in Elmau, Germany during the G7 Summit.
- This is an ambitious plan unveiled by US President Joe Biden and other G7 leaders to mobilize USD 600 billion in funding by 2027 to deliver transparent and game-changing infrastructure projects in developing countries like India.
- The US aims to mobilize \$200 billion for PGII over the next 5 years through grants, Federal financing, and leveraging private sector investments.

What's there for India?

- U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will invest up to USD 30 million in Omnivore Agritech and Climate Sustainability Fund.
- The Fund seeks to invest in companies that increase food security and promote both climate resilience and climate adaptation in India, as well as improve the profitability and agricultural productivity of smallholder farms.
- Internationally, infrastructure has long been underfunded, with over \$40 trillion in estimated need in the developing world.
- Many low- and middle-income countries lack adequate access to high-quality financing that meets their long-term infrastructure investment needs.
- The fund will be provided through Grants, Federal Funds and Private Investments.
- The initiative will be geared towards Tackling climate change, improving global health, achieving gender equity and building digital infrastructure.

About G7 countries

- The G7 is an informal forum of leading industrialized nations as per IMF, which include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Representatives of the European Union are always present at the annual meeting of the heads of state and government of the G7.
- The G7, originally G8 (along with Russia), was set up in 1975 as an informal forum bringing together the leaders of the world's leading industrial nations.
- After the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, Russia was excluded from the grouping.

27th JUNE 2022

Buy-back Scheme for Single-use Plastic

- **Context:** As the Center has banned the use of single-use plastic from July 1, Himachal Pradesh has launched a buy-back scheme in schools and colleges to purchase the single-use plastic items from students.

Key Highlights

- Under the scheme, the students would be encouraged to bring single-use plastic items from their home and deposit it with the school.
- For this they will be paid ₹75 a kg by the government — the aim to inculcate a habit among the youngsters towards environment conservation.
- Across the State, there are 3,000 Eco-clubs in schools and in 100 colleges under the National Green Corps programme.
- These Eco-clubs are an association of student-teachers that work to inculcate environmental awareness and protection.
- As a pilot project, the buy-back scheme will be implemented in 100 schools from July 1.
- Later, it will be scaled up and implemented in all the schools and colleges through the Eco-clubs. We will pay the students ₹75 a kg for the single-use plastic items they bring.

- Under the Policy, the following type of waste plastic will be purchased by the Urban Local Bodies.
- All type of packaging plastic waste of items such as bread, cakes, biscuit, cookies, namkeen, Kurkure, chips/ wafers, candies, mattresses, cheese puffs, ice cream, ice cream candies, noodles, cereals/ cornflakes/breakfast cereals coated with sugar, confectionary items.
- Cleaned and dry packaging, pouches/packets of liquids such as milk, oil, shampoo, hand wash, liquid soap, curd, buttermilk, juice etc.

BIS's Performance Standards for EVs

- **Context:** The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) has formulated and published standards for electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

Key Highlights

- BIS has published standards for test specifications for Lithium-ion Traction Battery Packs and Systems (performance testing) for Electrically Propelled Road Vehicles.
- The standard IS 17855: 2022 for these battery packs and systems is harmonized with ISO 12405-4: 2018.
- This standard incorporates the test procedure for the basic characteristics of performance, reliability and electrical functionality for the battery packs and systems for either high power or high energy application.
- The Standards has been formulated considering real-life scenarios for an electric vehicle such as "vehicle is in parking (battery is not used for an extended period of time), the battery system is being shipped (stored), operating battery at low and high temperature etc., accordingly, various tests are incorporated in this standard.
- Keeping a view on the safety aspect of batteries for EV, the Bureau of Indian Standard is in the process of publishing 2 more standards related to batteries for various passenger and goods carrying vehicles (L, M and N categories).

28th JUNE 2022

Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)

- **Context:** The new car safety assessment programme (Bharat NCAP), which proposes a mechanism of awarding 'Star Ratings' to automobiles based upon their performance in crash tests, will be rolled out from April 1, 2023.

Key Highlights

- Bharat NCAP will be the new car safety assessment programme for cars that are produced and sold in India.
- The assessment programme proposes a mechanism for rewarding 'Star Ratings' to vehicles on the basis of their performance at a crash test facility.
- The assessment will come into effect from April 1, 2023.
- As per the statement, the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme will be applicable for all vehicles falling in M1 category that have a weight less than 3.5 tonnes and have a seating capacity of less than 9 occupants.
- Bharat NCAP rating will provide consumers an indication of the level of protection offered to occupants by evaluating the vehicle in the areas of -- adult occupant protection, child occupant protection and safety assist technologies.
- The testing protocol of Bharat NCAP shall be aligned with global crash-test protocols factoring in the existing.
- Recently, Road Transport and highway Minister Nitin Gadkari had said the government has aims to reduce 50 per cent road accident deaths by 2024.

Significance

- Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) will serve as a consumer-centric platform, allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their Star-Ratings, while promoting a healthy

competition among original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in India to manufacture safer vehicles.

- Bharat NCAP will encourage manufacturers to participate voluntarily in the safety testing assessment programme and incorporate higher safety levels in new car models.
- The proposed assessment will rate by giving a star rating of 1 to 5.
- The initiative is aimed at making mobility safer amid the country witnessing a total of 3,66,138 road accidents during the calendar year 2020, causing 1,31,714 deaths.

VL-SRSAM

- **Context:** A vertical-launch, short-range, surface-to-air missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully test-fired by the Indian Navy recently.

Key Highlights

- India successfully test-fired the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from an Indian Naval Ship (INS) off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha.
- The launch of the system was conducted against a high-speed aerial target mimicking aircraft, which was successfully engaged.
- The flight path of the vehicle along with health parameters were monitored using a number of tracking instruments deployed by ITR, Chandipur.

Key features of VL-SRSAM

- The VL-SRSAM system has been designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40km to 50km and at an altitude of around 15km.
- It is a ship-borne weapon system is meant for neutralizing various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming target
- Its design is based on Astra missile which is a Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile.
- Two key features of the VL-SRSAM are cruciform wings and thrust vectoring.

29th JUNE 2022

Tactical Leadership Programme

- **Context:** The Indian Air Force is participating in a month-long tactical leadership programme in Egypt with three Su-30 MKI jets and two C-17 transport aircraft.

Key Highlights

- It is a unique exercise with air assets in a large force engagement environment, simulating various conflict scenarios.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing defense cooperation between the two countries and exchange of best practices.
- Three Su-30MKI fighters, two C-17 transport aircraft and 57 IAF personnel are participating in the programme being held from June 24 to July 22 at the Cairo West Airbase.
- In the present geopolitical scenario, this exercise provides a unique opportunity to showcase the reach and capability of the IAF.
- The programme also provides an opportunity to showcase the Su-30 MKI manufactured in India and the country's expertise for deeper indigenisation of spares and components.

Development of Space Start-up Ecosystem in India (DeSSEI)

- **Context:** ISRO, Astronautical Society of India (ASI), DRDO and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) organized a National Conference on "Development of Space Start-up Ecosystem in India (DeSSEI)".

Key Highlights

- The conference was held in association with virtually all government entities involved in the space sector, including ASI, ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL),

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- The conference was aimed at boosting privatization of the space sector and development of the startup economy in the Indian space sector.
- The conference brought together over 60 startups within the space sector.
- ASI has also been involved in mandating courses related to the space sector, particularly for those taking a minor in space technology.
- These would pertain to launch vehicles and propulsion systems, spaceflight mechanics and altitude dynamics, spacecraft systems engineering, and space data product engineering.

30th JUNE 2022

Udyami Bharat Programme

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in 'Udyami Bharat' programme.

Key highlights

- On the occasion, following key initiatives were launched:
 1. Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme
 2. Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters (CBFTE) scheme
 3. New features of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) to boost the MSME sector.

About RAMP scheme

- The Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme was launched with an outlay of around Rs 6000 crore.
- It is aimed at scaling up the coverage and implementation capacity of MSMEs across the states, along with the impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.

- RAMP will complement the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, by encouraging innovation, ideation, entrepreneurship, improving practices & process, by developing quality standards, enhancing market access, and deploying technological tools for making MSMEs competitive and self-reliant.

About CBFTE Scheme

- The Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters (CBFTE) scheme aims to encourage MSMEs for offering products and services of international standards to global market.
- It will also enhance the participation of Indian MSMEs at international value chain. CBFTE will help them in realising their export potential.

New features of the PMEGP

These include:

- Increase in maximum project cost from Rs 25 lakhs to Rs 50 lakhs for manufacturing sector
- For service sector, it has increased from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs.

India Forum for Nature-Based Solution

- **Context:** India Forum for Nature-Based Solutions was recently launched at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.

Highlights

- It is India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS).
- It has been launched under Cities4Forest initiative.
- The forum was collectively launched by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), World Resources Institute India (WRI India), Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), and their partners launched India Forum for Nature-Based Solutions.

- It is aimed at creating a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, like-minded organizations and government entities to help in scaling urban nature-based

About Nature Based Solutions (NbS)

As per IUCN, NbS are defined as actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

PSLV-C53

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched PSLV-C53 mission from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. It carried three satellites from Singapore.

Key Highlights

- PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of the ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
- PSLV-C53 successfully injected the satellites at an altitude of 570 km with 10-degree inclination.
- The four-stage, 44.4-metre-tall rocket had a lift-off mass of 228.433 tonnes.
- This was the ISRO's 55th mission of PSLV.
- The launch vehicle has carried three satellites – DS-EO, a 365 kg and NeuSAR, a 155 kg satellite and 2.8 kg Scoob-1 satellite.
- DS-EO carries an Electro-Optic, multi-spectral payload which will provide full colour images for land classification, and for serving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief needs.
- NeuSAR satellite will provide images in day and night and under all weather conditions.
- The Scoob-I satellite is the first satellite in the Student Satellite Series (S3-I), which is a hands-on student training programme.

