

22nd June
To
23rd June

News: UN Oceans Conference

- Recently, the **UN (United Nations) Ocean Conference 2022** was held to ensure **global cooperation towards protection and sustenance of the Ocean ecosystem of the world.**

United Nations Ocean Conference

- The conference was **co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal.**
- **Minister of Earth Sciences led the Indian delegation at UN Ocean Conference.**
India promised to provide science and innovation-based solutions for the implementation of Goal 14 through partnerships and environmentally friendly.
- The UN Ocean conference 2022 is **aligned to SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) 14 'life below water'** and **stresses on the critical need for scientific knowledge and marine technology to build ocean resilience.**

Key Agenda of the Conference

Moratorium on Deep Sea Mining

- Push for a moratorium on deep-sea mining of rare metals needed for a boom electric vehicle battery construction.
- The digging and gauging of the ocean floor by machines can alter or destroy deep sea habitats.

Carbon Sequestration

- Focus on carbon sequestration to boost the ocean's capacity to soak up CO₂, by either enhancing natural sinks such as mangroves or through geo engineering schemes.

Blue Deal

- A “Blue Deal” was promoted to enable the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth.
- It includes global trade, investment and innovation to create a sustainable and resilient ocean economy.
- Focus on blue food to ensure marine harvests from all sources are sustainable and socially responsible.

High Seas are Unregulated

- No **comprehensive legal framework covers the high seas**. Oceans cover some 70% of the earth's surface and provide food and livelihoods for billions of people.
- Some activists refer to them as the **largest unregulated area on the planet**.

Threat to Ocean

- Threats to the oceans include **global warming, pollution (including plastic pollution), acidification, marine Heatwaves** etc.

News: Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)

- The Cabinet Appointments Committee (ACC) has passed a government resolution to establish the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) in place of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau will select the chiefs of public sector banks and insurance companies**.

- The FSIB will have the clear mandate to issue guidelines and select general managers and directors of state-run non-life insurers, general insurers and Financial Institutions.
- FSIB will be the single entity for making recommendations for appointments of WTD (Whole-time Director) and NEC (Non-executive Chairman) in Public Sector Banks, India Private Limited Company and Financial Institutions.
- The Department of Financial Services shall first carry out necessary modifications in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970/1980 (as amended).

Chairman of FSIB

- The ACC has approved the appointment of Bhanu Pratap Sharma as Initial chairperson of FSIB for two years. He was the former Chairman of BBB.

Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has its genesis in the recommendations of 'The Committee to Review Governance of Boards of Banks in India, May 2014' headed by P. J. Nayak.

- The government, in 2016, approved the constitution of the BBB as a **body of eminent professionals and officials to make recommendations for appointment of whole-time directors as well as non-executive chairpersons of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and state-owned financial institutions.**
- It is an autonomous recommendatory body.
- The **Ministry of Finance takes the final decision on the appointments in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office.**
- Apart from recommending personnel for the PSBs, the Bureau has also been assigned with the task of recommending personnel for appointment as directors in government-owned insurance companies.
- It engages with the board of directors of all the public sector banks to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.
- It is tasked with improving corporate governance at public sector banks, building capacities, etc.
- The Banks Board Bureau is a public authority as defined in the **Right to Information Act, 2005.**

News: Leprosy

- For months there has been an acute shortage of the key drug named Clofazimine which is used in Leprosy treatment in the private market.
- Clofazimine, along with Rifampicin and Dapsone, is one of the three essential drugs in the Multi-Drug Treatment of Multibacillary Leprosy (MB – MDT) cases.

Leprosy

- Leprosy is also known as **Hansen's disease**.
- Leprosy is a **chronic, progressive bacterial infection**.
- It is caused by a **bacterium** called Mycobacterium Leprae, which is an acid-fast rod-shaped bacillus.
- It is a **disease that leaves a terrifying image in its wake of mutilation, rejection, and exclusion** from society.
- It infects **Skin, Peripheral nerves, Upper respiratory tract and Lining of the nose**.
- Leprosy is **transmitted mainly by breathing airborne droplets from the affected individuals**. It can be **contacted at any age**. Leprosy is **curable** with the combination of drugs known as Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).

- The 1st Phase of the World Bank supported the National Leprosy Elimination Project started from 1993-94. In the year 2001, after the global elimination was achieved, **India was among the 14 countries that missed the target of eliminating leprosy.**
- The National Leprosy Eradication Programme that was launched after this, achieved the goal of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem, defined as less than 1 case per 10,000 Population, at the National Level in December 2005. In 2017, the SPARSH Leprosy Awareness Campaign was launched to promote awareness and address the issues of stigma and discrimination.
- In commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 2019, the NLEP has prepared the comprehensive plan to reduce the grade to disability to less than one case per million people by October 2019.