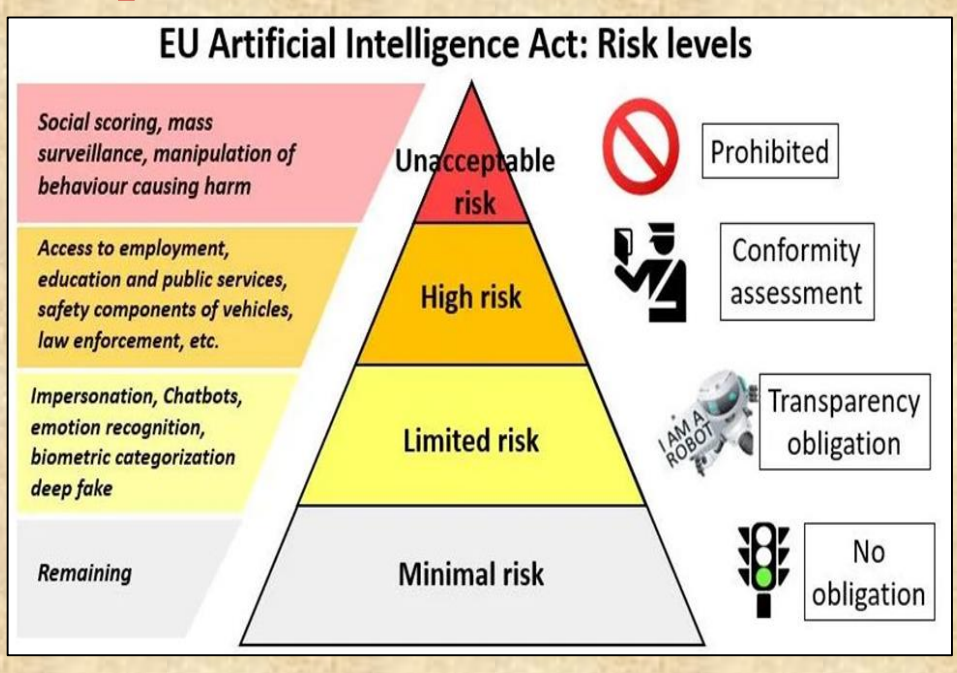
Daily Current Affairs : 11 December 2023

The World's First Law on Regulating AI Propose



- Recently, the EU became the very first continent to set clear rules for the use of AI.

❖ Key Highlights

- ❑ The European Parliament will now vote on the proposed AI Act early next year, and a legislation is likely to come into force by 2025.
- ❑ The US, the UK, and China are also jostling for the lead to set the template for AI regulations and publish their own set of guidelines.

❖ About the Law

- ❑ The legislation includes safeguards on the use of AI within the EU.
- ❑ It includes clear guardrails on its adoption by law enforcement agencies, and consumers have been empowered to launch complaints against any perceived violations.
- ❑ The deal includes strong restrictions on facial recognition technology, and on using AI to manipulate human behaviour, alongside provisions for tough penalties for companies breaking the rules.
- ❑ Governments can only use real-time biometric surveillance in public areas only when there are serious threats involved, such as terrorist attacks.

Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge



- Recently, 118 countries signed a renewable energy pledge at the ongoing COP28 climate summit to triple the world's green energy capacity to 11,000 GW by 2030.

❖ Key Highlights

- ❑ According to the "Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge", countries have to "double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements from around 2% to over 4% every year until 2030".
- ❑ The pledge is neither legally binding nor a part of the official COP28 calendar.
- ❑ The tripling of renewable energy is expected to practically eliminate fossil fuels as energy sources by 2050.
- ❑ The pledge was spearheaded by the EU, the US and the UAE and supported by Brazil, Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Canada, Chile and Barbados.
- ❑ India and China have stayed away as the initiative calls for phasing down of coal and "ending the continued investment in unabated new coal-fired power plants".

❖ Side Note

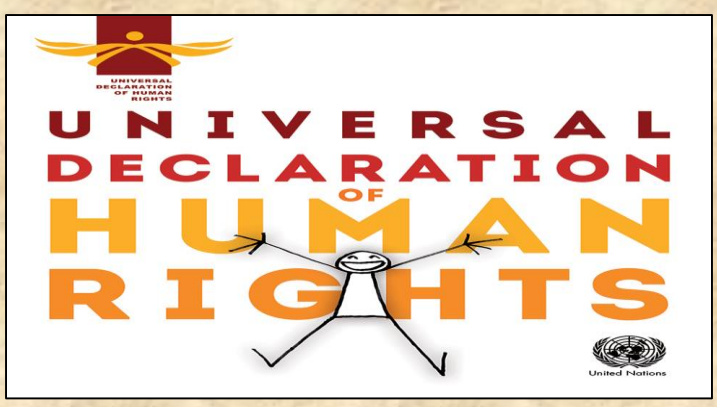
- ❑ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has found that, between 2022 and 2027, renewables will account for over 90% of global electricity capacity expansion.
- ❑ India is the world's third-largest producer of renewable energy, with 40% of its installed energy capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources.
- ❑ India has announced its aim to meet 50% of its electricity demands from renewable energy sources by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2070.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights marked its 75th anniversary on December 10, 2023.

❖ Key Highlights

- ❑ The UN General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at a meeting in Paris.
- ❑ It laid one of the foundation stones of the international order that emerged following the horrors of World War II.



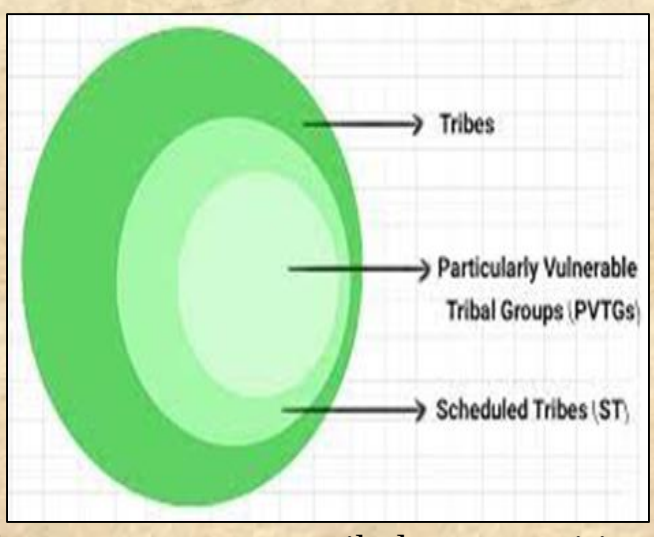
❖ The Universal Declaration

- ❑ A relatively compact document, the declaration consists of a preamble and 30 articles setting out fundamental rights and freedoms.

+918586850596
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prepon03@gmail.com
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Bus Stop, 124-A, near Dr Chandran's Clinic,
,Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110016

- Article 1 states that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."
- Article 2 says that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms the declaration sets out, "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."
- Other articles state that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person," and that no one "shall be held in slavery or servitude" or "subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."
- The declaration says that "all are equal before the law" and that everyone is entitled to "a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal."
- It says that "everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."
- The declaration enshrines the rights to freedom of religion; to freedom of opinion and expression; and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
- It says that everyone has the right to education.
- The declaration isn't a treaty and isn't legally binding in itself, but the principles it sets out have been incorporated into many countries' laws and it is viewed as the basis for international human rights law.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

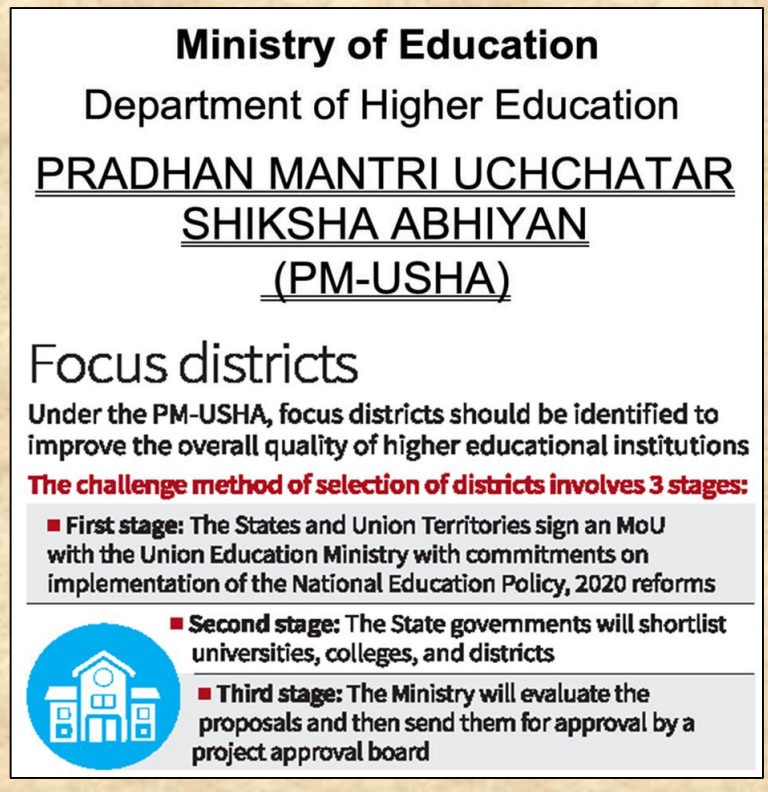


- Recently, the Tribal Affairs Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha that the population of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) is stable.
- The information, based on data from the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORGI), contradicts the State-wise Census data provided by the Ministry to a Parliamentary panel last year.
- The State-wise Census data indicated a nearly 40% decline in the numbers of PVTGs in at least nine States and Union Territories during the first decade of this century.

❖ About PVTGs

- Initially known as Primitive Tribal Groups, the PVTGs are defined by the government as tribal communities that show either a declining or stagnant population, use of pre-agrarian technology, economic backwardness, low literacy etc.
- They are found to be living in some of the remotest and most inaccessible areas in the country.
- There are 75 such communities which are spread over 18 States and Union Territories, according to government figures.
- The highest number of PVTGs are found in Odisha (15), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar and Jharkhand (9), Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (7), Tamil Nadu (6) and Kerala and Gujarat (5 each).
- All the four tribal groups in the Andaman, and one in Nicobar Islands, are recognised as PVTGs.
- The last available Census that counted all 75 communities was from 2001, which put their total number around 27.6 lakh.

Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)



- Recently, the Union Education Minister urged the Odisha Chief Minister to implement the PM-USHA scheme for higher education in the state.

❖ About PM-USHA

❑ Background

- The **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** was a centrally sponsored initiative designed to financially support institutions within States and Union Territories.
- Its overarching goal was to enhance access, equity, and excellence in the higher education system, all while promoting efficiency, transparency, accountability, and responsiveness.
- The scheme's initial phase commenced in 2013, followed by its second phase in 2018.
- With the advent of the National Education Policy, the RUSA scheme has now been rebranded as the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA).

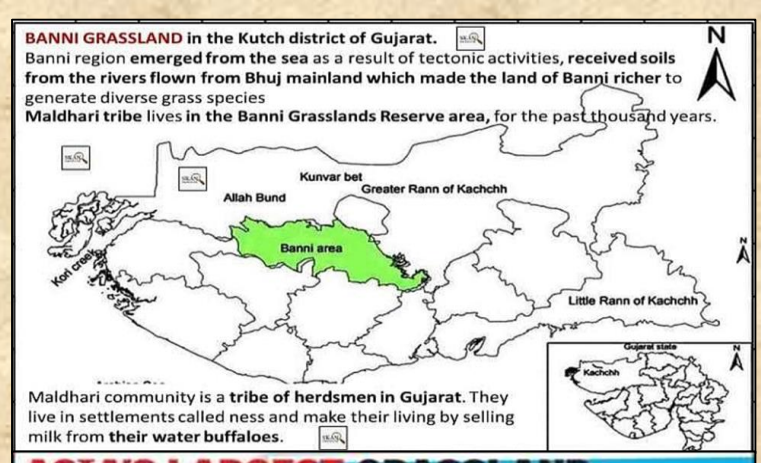
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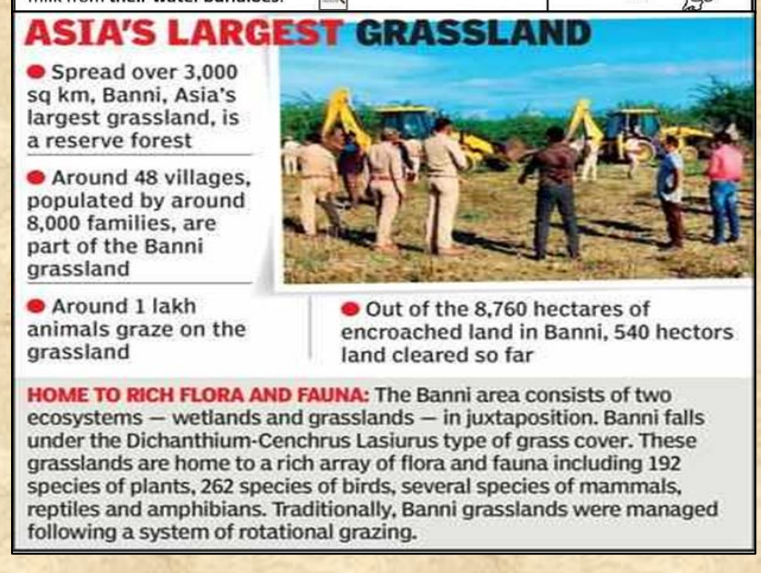
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- **PM-Uchchatar SHiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)**, is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Government of India executed through the Ministry of Education.
- The scheme aims to work with over 300 HEIs including the state universities, its affiliated colleges to raise the quality of education.
- **Objectives**
  - PM-USHA aims to enhance higher education by focusing on access, equity, and quality.
  - The initiative aims for organized development of higher education at the state level.
  - Goals encompass establishing new academic institutions, enhancing existing ones, and fostering self-sustaining institutions that emphasize quality education and research.
  - The approach also aims to offer students education that aligns with their needs and contributes to the nation's progress.

Banni Grassland

- Recently, the Gujarat Government said that the Central Government has approved setting up a cheetah breeding and conservation centre in the Banni Grassland.



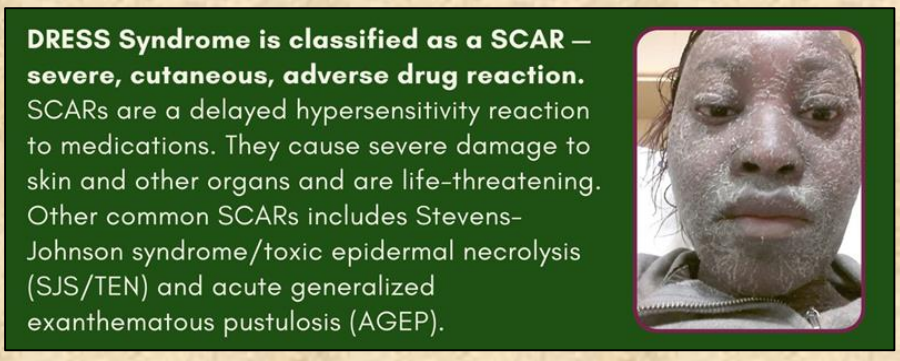


About Banni Grassland

- The grasslands of Gujarat **constitute about 4.33 per cent (8,490 sq km) of the total geographical area.**
- It is distributed in eight districts and three different climatic regions — Kutch, Saurashtra and central Gujarat.
- A majority of grasslands in Gujarat (41 per cent) are found in the Kutch district.
- Banni grassland was **declared a Protected Forest in 1955**, under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** has identified this grassland reserve as one of the last remaining habitats of the cheetah in India.
- **Maldharis are a tribal herdsmen community inhabiting Banni.**
- **Flora and Fauna**
  - It has 40 species of grass and 99 species of flowering plants.
  - Banni is also home to the Indian wolf, jackal, Indian fox, desert fox, desert cat, caracal, hyena, chinkara, Nilgai, wild boar, Indian hare, common monitor lizard — and the cheetah before it became extinct.
  - Banni also has 273 bird species and in years of good rainfall, is home to thousands of migratory birds.

DRESS Syndrome

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) has issued a drug safety alert regarding the painkiller Meftal.
- It warns about potential adverse reactions associated with mefenamic acid, including the risk of Drug Rash with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) syndrome.



About Dress Syndrome

- DRESS syndrome, which is also known as Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) Syndrome is a "severe reaction to certain drugs.
- Experts classify DRESS syndrome as a type 4 hypersensitivity reaction.
- It is a serious drug reaction affecting the skin and other organs, with a mortality rate of up to 10%.
- Causes of Dress Syndrome
  - The syndrome is a delayed T-cell-mediated hypersensitivity reaction which occurs as a response to certain drugs.
  - The damage is caused by an overreaction from the immune system which causes the activation of the T-cells and the release of cytokines.
  - Common medications that cause DRESS syndrome are; Anticonvulsants, Antiviral drugs, Antibiotics, Allopurinol (Zyloprim), Mexiletine (Mexitil), Mood stabilizers and antidepressants, Biologic agents
- Symptoms may manifest weeks after a person begins the problematic medicine.
- The treatment often involves ceasing suspect medications and using immunomodulatory drugs to reduce the symptoms.

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+918586850596
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