

NEWS TODAY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES SUBMITS REPORT ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

- Report expressed concern at the nationwide menace of floods.
- **Key concerns raised**
 - The subject of **flood control has not been specifically mentioned in any of the three legislative lists.**
 - However, drainage and embankments are mentioned in Entry 17 of List II (State List).
 - **High losses and damages** caused by floods every year are indicative of failure of the flood control policy / measures, inadequate preparedness and ineffective disaster management.
 - **Despite National Perspective Plan (NPP) in 1980**, no project for interlinking of rivers has been executed so far.
 - It expressed **concerns over inundation of Brahmaputra valley**, particularly in Assam on account of hydropower projects in Arunachal Pradesh.



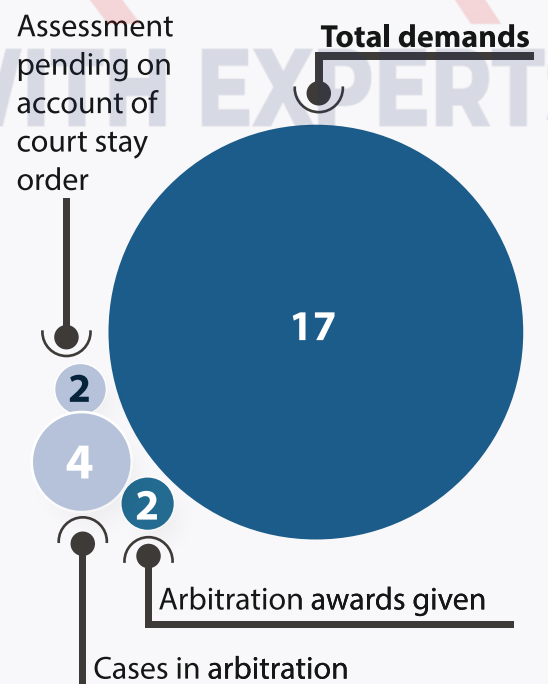
- According to **National Commission on Floods** total area liable to flood in the country is **40 million ha (Mha)**.
 - About 80% of this area could be provided with reasonable degree of protection.

- **Suggestions**
 - It suggested that **"flood control and management" should be brought under concurrent list of Constitution.**
 - It recommended setting up **permanent institutional structure under the Centre in the form of National Integrated Flood Management Group (NIFMG)** chaired by Union Minister of Jal Shakti with concerned Ministers of State Governments as members.
 - It urged Centre to take **immediate steps towards river interlinking.**

CENTRE INTRODUCES BILL TO SCRAP RETROSPECTIVE TAX LAW

- **Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021** proposes amendments to **retrospective taxation measures that were introduced by Finance Act 2012.**
 - **The 2012 amendment** aimed to check **practice of Indian businesses held under entities incorporated abroad changing hands without involving a capital gains tax liability** in India and the Act was **to be applicable retrospectively.**
 - However based on this, **Government suffered reverses in its arbitration case** against Cairn Energy and Vodafone group.
- **Features of Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021**
 - **No tax demand shall be raised in future** on the basis of the said retrospective amendment for any indirect transfer of Indian assets, **if the transaction was undertaken before 28th May, 2012.**
 - Demand raised for indirect transfer of **Indian assets made before 28th May, 2012 shall be nullified** on fulfilment of specified conditions.
 - It has also proposed to **refund the amount paid in these cases** without any interest thereon.
 - However, **offshore transactions involving Indian assets executed after 28th May 2012 are still taxable** as there is no retrospective application of the law.

Status of retrospective tax demands



- Retrospective taxation **allows a country to pass a rule on taxing** certain products, items or services, deals and charge companies **from a time behind the date on which the law is passed.**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT INFORMS PARLIAMENT ON EMERGING THREAT OF CYBER-SECURITY

- According to **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** over **6.07 lakh cyber security incidents** were observed in the first six months of 2021, of which about **12,000 incidents** were related to **government organisations**.

➤ **CERT-In** - Under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), it is the nodal agency to track and monitor cyber security threats in India.

- **Issues with cyber-security** in India

- **Lack of adequate human resources and R&D.**
- **Uncoordinated cyber security framework** in India.
- **Imported electronics/IT products.**
- **Inadequate budgetary allocation.**

- **India's Efforts**

- **Information Technology Act, 2000** - regulates use of computers, computer systems, computer networks and also data and information in electronic format.
- **National Cyber Policy, 2013** for creating a secure cyber ecosystem.
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre** for Protection and resilience of critical information infrastructure.
- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative:** It was launched in 2018 with an aim to spread awareness about cybercrime.
- **National Cyber security Coordination Centre (NCCC).**
- **Cyber Swachhhta Kendra.**

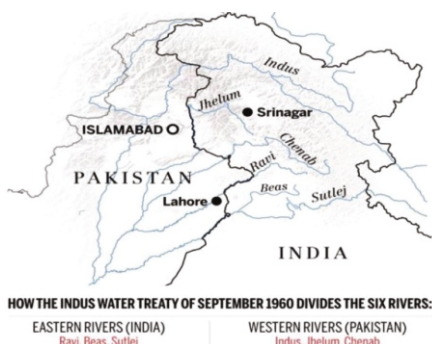


○ **Budapest Convention on Cybercrime** is the international treaty that seeks to address cybercrime.
➤ India is not a signatory to this convention.

REPORT OF 'PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES' ON INTERNATIONAL WATER TREATY/ AGREEMENT

- The committee's report has **highlighted the India-Pakistan and India-China Water relations:**

India-Pakistan	India-China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It observed that the present day pressing issues such as climate change, global warming and environmental impact assessment etc. were not taken into account. ● The committee asked the government to renegotiate the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IWT (brokered by the World Bank) was signed between India and Pakistan for sharing of waters of Indus basin. ● It recommended that the government ensure maximum utilisation of irrigation and hydropower potential of western rivers including permissible water storage, permitted under the IWT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Committee expressed apprehensions that though Chinese 'run of the river' projects (like Zangmu) may not lead to diversion of waters, but the possibility of water to be released for running the turbines may lead to certain diurnal variation in downstream flow, impacting water flows in Brahmaputra river. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It recommended that India constantly monitor the Chinese actions such that any major interventions on Brahmaputra River would not adversely affect our national interests. ● Committee expressed satisfaction that China is sharing hydrological data with regard to the Brahmaputra and Sutlej. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presently, there is no water treaty between India and China.



NO DEATH DUE TO MANUAL SCAVENGING; MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

- As per the Ministry, **two separate surveys** were conducted in 2013 and 2018.

➤ **No report of death due to manual scavenging.**

➤ However, 941 workers have died since 1993 while engaged in cleaning of sewers or septic tanks.

➤ **Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of such deaths**, followed by Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

- The **government distinguishes** manual scavenging – a **caste-based practice of people cleaning human excreta by hand** – and the practice of cleaning sewers and septic tanks.




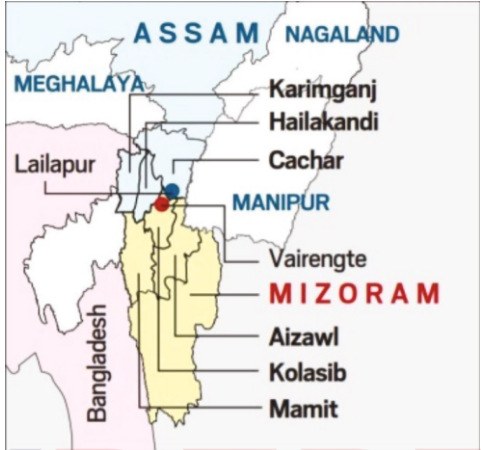


- **Steps taken to eradicate Manual Scavenging**

➤ The caste-based practice was first banned through **Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of DryLatrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.**

➤ In 2013, landmark new legislation in the form of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (PEMSR), 2013** was passed which is **wider in scope** and also deals with rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

➤ **Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)**, launched in 2007, it has been extended from time to time up to 2020-21.

➤ The **Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan**, a national campaign working for eradication and rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

 <p>Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been introduced in the Lok Sabha. • The Bill seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 to provide for the establishment of a University in the name of "Sindhu Central University" in the Union territory of Ladakh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Central Universities Act, 2009 was enacted to establish and incorporate universities for teaching and research in various States and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to. > At present, there is no Central University in the UT of Ladakh.
 <p>Rajya Sabha passes Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in various states and union territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Further, it permits Parliament to modify this list of notified STs. • The Bill seeks to modify Part-XVIII of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 relating to State of Arunachal Pradesh like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Deletion of 'Abor'; > Inclusion of 'Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi), 'Idu (Mishmi)' and 'Taraon (Digaru Mishmi)' in lieu of 'Mishmi, Idu, Taraon'; > Inclusion of 'Monpa, 'Memba, 'Sartang, 'Sajolang (Miji)' in lieu of 'Momba'; etc.
 <p>Mizoram and Assam ink pact on border hands-off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the first step towards easing tension and maintaining talks, both states have signed an agreement to keep their respective police and forest guards away from the troubled inter-state border. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Recently, there have been violent clashes between the police of the two states. • As decided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, neutral forces will remain in charge of the disputed zones. 
 <p>Unique Plastic-Mixed Handmade Paper gets Patent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper developed to reduce plastic menace from nature. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It will serve the twin objectives of protecting the environment alongside creating sustainable employment. • The plastic-mixed handmade paper was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLastic from Nature). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > This is the first of its kind project in India, where plastic waste is de-structured, degraded, diluted and used with paper pulp while making handmade paper.
 <p>Smart Anganwadi Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an initiative of Kerala govt. for improving service delivered at Anganwadi Centre for overall physical and mental development of children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It provides space for class rooms, dining hall, kitchen, store room, creative zone, indoor and outdoor play area. • Anganwadi Services under Umbrella ICDS Scheme is one of the ongoing flagship programmes for early childhood care and development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Under ICDS, package of six services are provided - Supplementary Nutrition; Pre-school Non-formal Education; Nutrition & Health Education; Immunization; Health Check-up; and Referral Services.



Places in news

• **Mauritius**

- **Mauritius denies report of allowing Indian military base on Agalega island -**
- Two-island dependency of Mauritius, in western Indian Ocean. It consists of **North Island and South Island.**
- **In 2015, India signed an agreement** with Mauritius for development of Agalega Islands.



• **Banni Grasslands**

- It has been encroached by invasive tree species.
- **They are the Asia's largest grasslands** in northwest Gujarat's Kachchh district.
- They home to a pastoral community called Maldhari.
- **In 1960s to protect this region from salinity ingress from Rann of Kutch** government dropped millions of seeds of exotic species called **Prosopis Juliflora from helicopters.**



• **Pulichintala Dam**

- Flood alert was raised after gate got broken.
- Located in **Andhra's Krishna district on Krishna river.**
- Also called as **KLRao Sagar multipurpose irrigation** project, it is a multi purpose project serving **irrigation needs, hydro power generation and flood control** of Andhra Pradesh.



• **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island**

- Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra island.
- It is about 2km east of Port Blair and is less than a sq. km in size.
- It is an island where no settlement is allowed by authorities.

