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Project PARI (Public Art of India)

Recently, the Ministry of Culture launched Project PARI at the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Delhi.

- **Aim** - It seeks to bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage (lok kala/lok sanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques.
- **Nodal Ministry** - ***Ministry of Culture***.
- **Executed by –** The ***Lalit Kala Akademi*** and the ***National Gallery of Modern Art***.
- The first intervention under Project PARI is taking place in ***Delhi.***
- The project aims to provide a platform to uplift the aesthetic and cultural outlook of Delhi while adding grandeur to the rich historical legacy of our national capital.
- The artworks and sculptures draw inspiration from World Heritage Sites such as Bhimbetka and the 7 natural World Heritage Sites in India find a special place in the proposed artworks.
- Traditional art forms as well as sculptures, murals, and installations have been created under this beautification project.
- More than ***150 visual artists*** from all over the country have come together to create the various wall paintings, murals, sculptures, and installations being prepared under this project.
- Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testimony of Bharat's NARI SHAKTI.



World Heritage Committee (WHC)

• The WHC decides on inscription of new sites into the ***UNESCO World Heritage List***.
• India will be hosting the meeting for the ***first time*** in July, 2024.
• The number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India grew to ***42*** with the '***Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala***' added recently.
• These sites include 34 in the cultural category, seven in the natural category and one mixed property.
• Currently, India has the ***6th largest number of (UNESCO) sites in the world***.
• The countries that have 42 or more world heritage sites are ***Italy, Spain, Germany, China and France***.

References

PIB | Project PARI

Lalit Kala Akademi | Project PARI

Anand Marriage Act

Recently, the National Commission of Minorities held a meeting with states and Union Territories to discuss the implementation of the Anand Marriage Act.

- **About-** The Anand Marriage or Sikh Marriage Act is legally recognizing and ***protects Sikh marriages*** conducted through the Anand Karaj ceremony.
- **Emergence –** It dates back to 1909 when the British Imperial Legislative Council passed a legislation for the recognition of the Sikh wedding ceremony Anand Karaj.
- **Legal Recognition-** In 2012, the Parliament passed the Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill, bringing Sikh traditional marriages under the purview of legal recognition.
- While the central government approved the amendments, it was left for individual states and Union territories to frame respective rules for the registration of Anand marriages.
- It also protects the rights and responsibilities of Sikh couples within the framework of legal marriage.
- **Objective-** To address concerns from the Sikh community regarding the validity of their marriages under ***existing Hindu marriage laws.***
- **Implementation-** States including ***Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Meghalaya*** have reported implementing the Anand Marriage Act.

National Commission for Minorities

• The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a ***statutory body*** established to safeguard and protect the rights of religious and linguistic minorities in the country.
• It was set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
• **Functions and Powers-** It ensure that the constitutional and legal safeguards for the protection of minorities are implemented effectively.
• It evaluates the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and States.
• It makes recommendations for the effective implementation of safeguards and measures for the protection of minorities.
• It advises the central government on minority-related issues.
• **Civil Court Powers-** The NCM has the powers of a civil court while investigating any matters related to deprivation of rights of minorities.
• **Notified minority communities (6) –** Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis), Jains.
• As per the 2011 Census, The 6 religious minority communities constitute around 20% of the country's population.

References

1. PIB | Anand Marriage Act
2. Indiacode | ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

Astrophysical jets

Recently, a team of scientists have traced the effect of plasma composition on dynamics of astrophysical jets from celestial bodies.

- **About-** An astrophysical jet is an astronomical phenomenon where outflows of ***ionised matter*** are emitted as extended beams along the axis of rotation.
- **Formation-** They are believed to form due to complex interactions involving ***magnetic fields and the accretion disks*** around compact objects.
- **Composition-** It consist of ***charged particles (plasma),*** which can include electrons, protons, and other atomic nuclei.
- These particles are accelerated to relativistic ***speeds, approaching the speed of light.***
- **Velocity-** Jets associated with stars are composed of ***ionized gas*** moving away from the star with velocities of a few hundred kilometres per second.
- **Findings of the recent study-** Scientists have studied how the plasma composition of astrophysical jets are streams of ionized matter from celestial objects like ***black holes, neutron stars, and pulsars*** affects their behaviour.
- The study demonstrated that altering plasma composition affects jet propagation ***velocities, despite identical initial parameters.***

Reference

PIB | Astrophysical jets

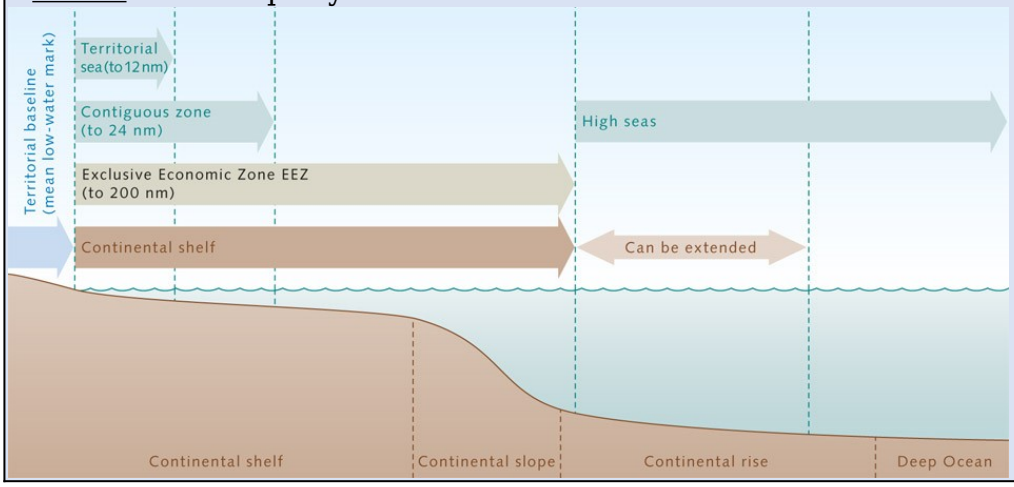
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement

Recently, the Union Cabinet of India approves to sign of the Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.

- The BBNJ Agreement, or the 'High Seas Treaty', is an international treaty under the ***United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).***
- **Aim-** To address the growing concerns over the long-term protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas.
- It sets precise mechanisms for the sustainable use of marine biological diversity through international cooperation and coordination.
- **SDG Goal-** It contribute to achieving SDG14 (Life below Water).
- **Pillars-** The BBNJ Agreement consists of the following 4 pillars:
    - Marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits
    - Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas
    - Environmental impact assessments
    - Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.
- **Members -** As of now, 91 countries have signed the BBNJ Agreement, and eight Parties have ratified it.
- It aims to protect biodiversity and achieving the objective to protect at least 30% of the planet by **2030.**

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

• It is crucial for the environmental protection of the seas and addressing maritime boundaries, rights to marine resources, and dispute resolution.
• It is also known as ***Law of the Sea.***
• It is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
• It provides the backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans.
• It divides marine areas into 5 main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
• **Operation-** UNCLOS was adopted on 1982 and came into force on 1994.
• **Mining regulation-** It establishes the International Seabed Authority to regulate mining and related activities on the ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction.
• **Members-** Presently, more than ***160 countries*** have ratified UNCLOS.
• ***India*** is a state party to the UNCLOS.



References

1. PIB | BBNJ Agreement
2. GEF | BBNJ Agreement

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