

## Prelim Bits 01-03-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Inji gramam Scheme

*Kulathoor, an agrarian village near Thiruvananthapuram well known for its paddy and banana, is rooting for ginger.*

- Ginger is mostly grown in Idukki district and in leased lands in Karnataka by Keralite farmers.
- Inji gramam project was launched in March 2022 under the Panchayat's People's Plan.
- 'Inji gramam' (Ginger village) is an initiative of the panchayat and Kulathoor Krishi Bhavan.
- The scheme is a pilot project in which 250 farmers of Kulathoor grama panchayat, were selected to cultivate ginger.
- Nearly 10 tonnes (10,000 kilograms) have been harvested from the first crop.
- **Ginger** - Ginger is a perennial aromatic rhizome.
- Ginger is propagated from seed rhizomes.
- It takes 8 to 10 months to harvest the crop.
- Poultry manure, cow dung and dry leaves are used as manure.

### References

1. [The Hindu - 'Inji gramam' - a new scheme to cultivate ginger](#)

### MeitY launches GAC

*The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Grievance Appellate Committee, a faceless dispute resolution mechanism.*

- Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) is a faceless (online) dispute resolution mechanism.
- GAC makes digital platforms (big and small), accountable to Digital Nagriks (users).
- **Act** - The GAC was one of the provisions in the [Information Technology \(Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code\) Rules, 2021](#).
- GAC aims to ensure a Safe, trusted and accountable internet for Indian users.
- So far, 3 such bodies have been constituted comprising of professionals from various fields.
- **Composition** - The GAC is a 3-member committee.
- It consists of a chairperson and 2 whole-time members appointed by the Central Government.
- In which one will be a member ex-officio and two will be independent members.
- **Process** - The users may file their appeal through the GAC's [online platform](#).
- The users can also track their appeal through the appellant login window in the platform.

- GACs can also be accessible through the Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- **Function** - The GAC deals with the appeals of users aggrieved by decisions of Grievance Officers of social media intermediaries and other intermediaries.
- All the decisions of GAC will be uploaded on website and accessible to the public.
- **Duration** - The users can file an appeal with the GACs within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of communication from the intermediary's Grievance Officer.
- This Committee will subsequently endeavour to address the user's appeal within a period of 30 days.

## References

1. [PIB - MeitY launches the Grievance Appellate Committee \(GAC\)](#)
2. [The Hindu - Portal opened for complaints against decisions of social media platforms](#)
3. [Grievance Appellate Committee](#)

## Proton Beam Therapy

*Cancer patients in India face twin challenges in accessing proton beam therapy (PBT)*

- Proton beam therapy (PBT) represents a very sophisticated form of modern radiation therapy.
- PBT offers the highest degree of precision and efficacy in cancer treatment.
- The PBT is considered a viable alternative to radiation for treating solid tumours, especially for head and neck cancers.
- Unlike radiation which uses X-rays, PBT uses **protons** to tackle cancer.
- While radiation can prove toxic to the whole body, protons can destroy cancer cells precisely by targeting tumours, thus saving adjoining organs.
- **PBT in India** - Currently there are 42 PBT machine installations in the U.S., followed by Europe (35), Japan (26), China (7), Taiwan (3) and South Korea (2) and India has only one.
- Apollo Hospital in Chennai is the only centre in the whole of South and West Asia offering the PBT.
- **Government Initiative** - Indian government to install a PBT unit in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Jhajjar) - Shelved.
- The foundation stone was laid for PBT unit at the National Hadron Beam facility of Tata Memorial Hospital in Navi Mumbai in 2014.

## References

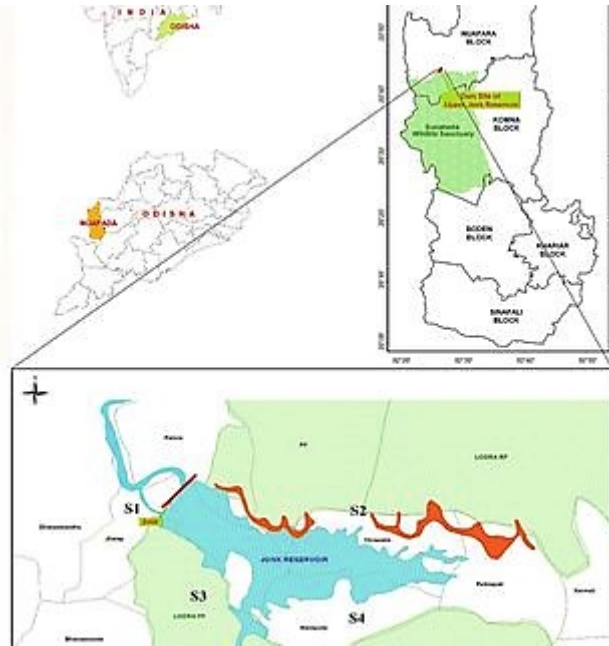
1. [The Hindu - Proton beam therapy out of reach for many with cancer](#)
2. [FE - A rare brain tumour gets successfully treated with PBT](#)

## Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

*The strawberry harvest is done by farmers who live in one of the 56 villages in the tropical deciduous forest of the Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.*

- The Sunabeda plateau is largely a grass-covered plateau 3,000 feet above sea level, along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border

- The Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary is in Nuapada district, Odisha adjoining Udanti and Sitanadi Sanctuaries of Chhatisgarh State.
- The sanctuary houses canyons and 11 waterfalls apart from diverse wildlife.
- The sanctuary forms the catchment area of the Jonk, Sunder and Indra rivers.
- **Fauna** - Tigers, swamp deer, leopards, gaurs, sloth bear, barking deer, common langur and rhesus monkeys.
- **Birds** - The sanctuary is home to vultures, hill mynah, partridge, and pea fowls.
- It forms a migration link for wild buffaloes across the two states of Odisha and Chhatisgarh.
- The Chuktia Bhunjia tribes lives inside the sanctuary.



### Chuktia Bhunjia tribe

- Chuktia Bhunjia tribe is one of 13 [PVTGs](#) found in Odisha.
- The Chuktia Bhunjia Development Agency (CBDA) works for the development of the tribe, especially in livelihood programmes.

### References

1. [The Hindu - Strawberry farming making waves in Odisha](#)
2. [Odisha Tourism - Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

### Methane Global Tracker Report

*The International Energy Agency (IEA) released their annual Methane Global Tracker Report.*

- According to the [International Energy Agency's](#) (IEA) **annual** Methane Global Tracker report, the fossil fuel companies have done almost nothing to curb the emissions despite their pledge to do so.
- The report shows that some progress is being made but that emissions are still far too high and not falling fast enough.

- But fossil fuel companies failed to take any substantial action regarding the issue.

*The fossil fuel companies emitted 120 million metric tonnes of methane into the atmosphere in 2022, only slightly below the record highs seen in 2019.*

- **Findings** - The energy sector accounts for around 40% of the total average methane emissions from human activity.
- More than 260 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas (mostly composed of methane) is wasted through flaring and methane leaks globally.
- 80% of the available options to curb the release of methane could be implemented by the fossil fuel industry at net zero cost.
- Ultimately, reducing 75% of the wastage of natural gas could lower global temperature rise by nearly 0.1 degree Celsius by mid-century.
- **Methane** - Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a hydrocarbon.
- Methane is a greenhouse gas, which is responsible for 30% of the warming since preindustrial times, second only to carbon dioxide.
- Methane is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide.
- Carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for much longer than methane, but methane is roughly 25 times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere.
- Methane cuts are among the cheapest options to limit near-term global warming.

## References

1. [IE - What IEA's annual report says?](#)
2. [IEA - Global Methane Tracker](#)