

## Prelim Bits 14-10-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Green Credit Program (GCP) and Ecomark scheme

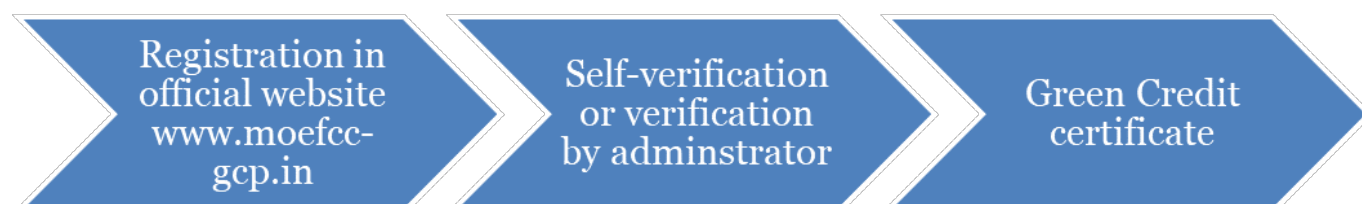
The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced GCP and Ecomark scheme to take ahead the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement.

- **Objective** - Both initiatives promotes
  - Sustainable living
  - Environmental conservation
  - Embody eco-friendly practices in India through individual and collective choice.
- They *align with global sustainability goals*.
- They *reflect the India's commitment* to conservation and protection of the environment.

To know more about LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), click [here](#)

### Green Credit Program (GCP)

- It is an innovative market-based mechanism.
- **Objective** - Incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.
- **GCP's governance framework** - Inter-ministerial Steering Committee and GCP administrator.
- **GCP Administrator** - Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).
- It implements, manage, monitor and operate the program.
- **Focus** - Water conservation and afforestation.
- **Digital platform** - It will streamline registration of projects, its verification, and issuance of Green Credits.
- **Green Credit Registry and trading platform** - It allows buying and selling of Green Credits.
- **Condition to obtain Green Credits**



### Ecomark Scheme:

- **Objective**

- To promote *eco-friendly products*.
- To build *consumer awareness of environmental issues*.
- To *motivate manufacturers* to shift towards environmentally friendly production.
- To ensure *accurate labelling* and prevent misleading information about products.
- **Accreditation** - It accredits products that meet specific environmental criteria with minimal environmental impact.
- It also maintains quality standards as per Indian norms.
- **Administration** - The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

*BIS is the national body for standards and certification.*

## References

[PIB| Green Credit Program and Ecomark Scheme](#)

## Kawar Lake

*Bihar's only wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention lies neglected and is on the brink of drying up.*

- It is also known as *Gokhur lake*.
- **Geographical location** - Begusarai in Bihar
- **Ramsar Status** - 2020

*There are a total of 75 Ramsar sites in India.*

- **Source of water** - It draws water from the *confluence of the Gandak, the Bia and the Kareh river*.
- **Ecosystem** - Plenty of aquatic vegetation around the lake that attracts thousands of birds during the winter season.
- **Current water level** - It is significantly low due to a deficit rainfall this monsoon.
- It has been *drying up since 2010* and if the situation continues, the entire lake will dry up.
- **Challenges**
  - *Increased demand of fishing* by the 'Nishad' community.
  - *Dominance of rich farmers and unsustainable farm land disputes* between the fisher folks and farmers.
  - *Deforestation* by the local and not a single one in the forest near the lake is over 50 years old.
  - *Silt accumulation* in the lake has been increasing for year and reducing the depth of the waterbody.
- **Impacts**
  - The fishing community will have to give up their work.
  - Migratory birds will stop coming.

- It affects tourism potential of the lake.

## The major obstacles for wetland conservation in Bihar

- Hunting of migratory birds.
- Agriculture around wetland areas.
- Insufficient government policies for wetland management and conservation.
- No timely actions.
- Encroachments over wetlands with increasing urbanisation and land acquisitions.

*Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar serves as a haven for endangered dolphins which has the issue of illegal dredging of the Ganga River on its banks along with hunting of dolphins for many purposes.*

## References

[Down To Earth| Kawar Lake](#)

## P20 Summit

*9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) was held recently in New Delhi.*

- **Set up** - 2010
- **Objective** - To deepen efforts and methods of international collaboration upon emerging issues faced by the global community.
- **2023 Theme** - Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future.
- It draws inspiration from the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is one Family).
- **2023 Presidency** - India
- **Participants** - Speakers of Parliaments of G20 members and invitee countries.
- **Pan-African Parliament** - It participated for the 1<sup>st</sup> time

*African Union became a member of G20 at the New Delhi G20 Leaders Summit in 2023.*

## Focus on 4 high level sessions

- Transformation in People's Lives through Public Digital Platforms.
- Women-led development.
- Accelerating SDGs.
- Sustainable Energy Transition.

- **A Parliamentary Forum on 'LiFE'** (Lifestyle for Environment) - It was conducted as a pre-Summit event.
- It is to promote adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of production and consumption.
- Indian PM had invited all P20 delegates to visit again next year to witness the polls of

17<sup>th</sup> General elections.

## Key points delivered at P20 Summit

- To *promote peace and brotherhood*, a time to move together.
- To *overcome the global trust crisis* and move forward with human-centric thinking.
- To look at the world in the spirit of One Earth, One Family, One Future.
- To take a tough approach in dealing with terrorism.
- *Encourage public participation* to deal with the world's challenges.

## References

1. [PIB| P20 Summit 2023](#)
2. [The Hindu Business Line| Key highlights of P20 Summit](#)

## Cricket in Olympics

*International Olympic Committee approves cricket among other 5 sports for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics whose final voting will be held soon.*

- 5 new sports under consideration were Twenty20 cricket, baseball/softball, flag football (non-contact American football), squash and lacrosse.

*T20 cricket is the sport's shortest international format.*

- **1900 Paris Olympics** - Cricket *last featured* at this event.
- Britain beat a side representing France.
- **Significance** - Adding cricket to the Olympic programme is an obvious move in term of *financial advantages*.
- It would tap into the lucrative south Asian market, attracting fans in countries such as India and Pakistan.

*India hosts the men's 50-over Cricket World Cup.*

## Roadmap of Cricket in Global stage

- In 2019, International Cricket Council (ICC) took a decisive move to make cricket a global sport.
- In 2022, it *returned to the Commonwealth Games 2022*, when women's T20s team played.
- BCCI agreed to come under the ambit of India's National Anti-Doping Agency, an affiliate of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

*IOC mandates that every global sport body must be WADA compliant.*

## References

[The Hindu| Cricket in Olympics](#)

### **G20 FMCBG meeting**

*Recently, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Indian Presidency was held in Marrakech, Morocco.*

- It is the 4<sup>th</sup> and final meeting of the G20 FMCBG.
- It is on the side-lines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG).
- **Presidency** - India
- **Objective** - To enhancing global economic cooperation to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
- **Important discussions and adaptations**
- **Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR)**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of GSDR held before this meeting.
- **Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII)**
  - It advised to continue the work of GPII.
  - To advancing financial inclusions in all 3 dimensions viz. access, usage, and quality, for individuals and MSMEs.
- **G20 Sustainable Finance Technical Assistance Action Plan**
  - It proposed implementation mechanisms for this.
  - To scaling up capacity building efforts in sustainable finance, especially in EMDEs and SMEs.
- **IMF-FSB synthesis paper on Crypto assets**
  - It adopted the proposed Roadmap to achieve common goals of macro-economic and financial stability.
- **Enablers of Inclusive Cities: Enhancing Access to Services and Opportunities**
  - It endorsed this G20 - World Bank report.

### ***FMCBG meetings under Indian Presidency***

- 1<sup>st</sup> meet - Bengaluru
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meet - Washington DC
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meet - Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 4<sup>th</sup> meet - Marrakech, Morocco

### **Key achievements under India presidency**

- Strengthened Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to address the shared global challenges of the 21st century.
- Advanced financial inclusion and productivity gains through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)
- Financing cities of tomorrow.
- Mobilising climate finance and enabling finance for Sustainable Development Goals.
- Managing global debt vulnerabilities.

- Enhancing tax transparency and capacity-building.
- Advancing the work on the two-pillar solution for addressing the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.

## References

[PIB| G20 FMCBG Meeting](#)

Other important news
<p><b>Karaavali skittering frog</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scientific name</b> - Euphlyctis karaavali</li> <li>• <b>Habitat</b> - It is endemic to the southwestern coast of India and found along the coastal regions of Karnataka and Kerala.</li> <li>• The frog belongs to a group known as “skittering frogs”, because of their habit of floating on water and skittering away when disturbed.</li> <li>• <b>IUCN Status</b> - Near Threatened.</li> </ul> <p>Other recently discovered amphibians:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amolops siju</b> - A Cascade frog found living deep inside a cave in <b>Meghalaya</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Gracixalus Patkaiensis</b> - Green tree frog spotted in the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Amolops Mahabharatensis</b> - Mahabharat Torrent frog found in the Himalayan foothills of Nepal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bharathiyar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian PM has mentioned the great poet Subramania Bharati’s song ‘Sindhu Nadhiyin Misai’ at the launch of ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka.</li> <li>• Subramania Bharati is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil literary style.</li> <li>• <b>Born</b> - He was born on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1882, in a village called Ettayapuram in Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu.</li> <li>• <b>Works</b> - Kaṇṇan paṭṭu, Panchali Sapatham, and Kuyil Paṭṭu.</li> <li>• His English works were collected in Agni and Other Poems and Translations and Essays and Other Prose Fragments (1937).</li> <li>• <b>Journals</b> - India, Vijaya, Bala Bharatham, Suryodayam, Swadesa mitran</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anti-money laundering guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently amended the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules.</li> <li>• According to it, partners holding a 10% stake in a firm will come under the definition of beneficial owners. Earlier, the requirement was 15%.</li> <li>• A beneficial owner is an individual who gets to enjoy ownership benefits even though the title to some form of the property is in the name of another individual.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Petroleum &amp; Natural Gas (MoPNG) has offered 8 blocks for exploration and production (E&amp;P) of hydrocarbons under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).</li> <li>• OALP provides a single, uniform license for exploration and production of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources.</li> </ul>

### **BrahMos missiles**

- Philippines is contemplating to acquire more BrahMos missile.
- The BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile, named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva of Russia.
- **Developed by** - Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.
- The BrahMos is primarily an anti-ship missile, but it can be launched from the sea, under the sea, on land, and in the air.
- It works on the ***Fire and Forget*** principle.

### **World Thrombosis Day 2023**

- World Thrombosis Day is observed on ***October 13*** across the globe.
- **Founded by** - The International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) in 2014.
- **Aim** - To create awareness against Thrombosis which occurs when blood clots clog blood vessels.
- **2023 Theme** - "Move Against Thrombosis".
- **Impact** - On a worldwide scale, one in every four people dies as a result of thrombosis-related illnesses.

