

## Prelim Bits 29-07-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Stapled Visa

*India pulled out of the Summer World University Games being held at Chengdu after China issued stapled visas to three athletes from the team who belong to Arunachal Pradesh.*

- A passport is the certificate of its holder's identity and citizenship.
- A 'stapled visa' is different from a regular visa that a country gives to foreign citizens.
- Instead of stamping directly in the passport, it is a separate piece of paper attached (stapled) to the visa.
- Simply put, a '**stapled visa**' is an unstamped piece of paper that is attached by a pin to a page of the passport.
- A stapled visa can be torn off or detached at will.
- **Chinese practice** - China has a practice of issuing stapled visas to Indian nationals from Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- They started issuing stapled visas to residents of Arunachal Pradesh in the mid-2000s and to those from Jammu and Kashmir from 2009.
- This practice of stapled visa allows China to avoid placing official stamps on the passport.
- **Concern** - When a person with a stapled visa returns to their home country, the entry and exit passes on the stapled visa are torn off.
- Thus no details of the trip are recorded.
- It is also an expression of China that it does not acknowledge Arunachal Pradesh and J&K as part of India.

### References

1. [IE - Why does China issue stapled visa to Indians from Arunachal and J&K?](#)
2. [Hindustan Times - What are 'stapled visas' that China issued?](#)
3. [Economic Times - China needles India again through Stapled Visas](#)

### Microsites by National Health Authority

*National Health Authority (NHA) has launched 100 microsites project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).*

- The project envisions creating microsites to promote digital health and improve healthcare accessibility for all citizens.
- **Microsites** - These are clusters of small and medium-sized healthcare facilities that are fully enabled with ABDM capabilities to offer digital health services to patients.
- Microsites will digitise the entire patient journey with the establishment of ABDM adopted small ecosystem within a particular geographic area.
- **Primarily implementation** - State mission directors of Ayushman Bharat Digital

Mission.

- **Secondary** - Overall guidance and financial support provided by the National Health Authority (NHA).
- **Working** - ABDM-enabled applications will be installed in these facilities.
- Health records of the patients visiting these centres will be linked to their Ayushman Bharat Health ID (ABHA) and become part of ABDM

## National Health Authority

- National Health Authority (NHA) is leading the implementation for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- NHA coordinates implementation of ABDM with different ministries/departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and private sector/civil society organizations.
- It is also the apex body responsible for implementing 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana'

## References

1. [PIB - National Health Authority launches 100 Microsites Project](#)
2. [Business Standard - NHA to launch 100 microsite projects in India](#)
3. [The Hindu - NHA launches 100 microsites project across the country](#)

## Listing on foreign exchanges

*Indian companies can now list their shares on foreign exchanges operating at GIFT City-based International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat.*

- At present, Indian companies can access overseas equity markets only
  - Through depository receipts or
  - By listing their debt securities on foreign markets.
- In 2020, the Centre amended the Companies Act of 2013, allowing the direct listing of Indian companies on foreign stock exchanges.
- So far the framework for this has not been put in place.
- **Now** - The government has enabled direct listing of listed and unlisted companies on overseas exchanges at the IFSC.
- The global market can be accessed through GIFT IFSC.
- **Benefits** - Enables Indian companies to access global capital.
- Results in better valuation for Indian companies.

## International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)

- An IFSC caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
- They deal with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders.
- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) is the country's first IFSC.
- The IFSC Authority (IFSCA) has been established as a unified regulator with a holistic vision in order to promote ease of doing business in IFSC.
- IFSCA was established in 2020, under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.

## References

1. [The Hindu - Govt. allows Indian companies to list on foreign exchanges through IFSC](#)
2. [Business line - Companies can now list on overseas bourses via IFSC](#)
3. [India International Exchange - IFSC](#)

## Project Tiger & Project Elephant merger

Recently, Centre has merged Project Tiger and Project Elephant into a new division called 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division'.

- The new division 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division' will be under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- **Changes** - The additional director general of forests (ADGF), Project Tiger (PT) has now been designated as ADGF (PT&E).
- The staff and divisional heads of Project Elephant (PE) will now report to the ADGF (PT&E)
- The Inspector General Forests and Project Director, Project Elephant, will be the divisional head of the PT&E division and will be reporting to the ADGF (PT&E).
- **Concerns raised** - The merger may dilute the importance of Project Tiger.
- It will impact the funding pattern for tiger reserves as well as Project Elephant.
- As the splitting of funds is not clear, shortage of funds may affect key developmental activities.
- Undermine the conservation of both signature animals.
- **Arguments in support** - The amalgamation will bolster the conservation of both the animals, as they often share the same landscapes.
- The top of the carnivorous and herbivorous families, the benefits for one would percolate to the other.

## Project Tiger

- Launched in 1973 by the central government.
- **Ministry** - Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- **Objective** - Conservation of tiger and ensures the preservation of their natural habitat.
- The Project Tiger has 53 tiger reserves spread over 75,000 km.
- This year 2023 observed Project Tiger's 50th commemorative year.
- It is one of the most successful species conservation programmes in the world.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was created to provide statutory backing to the project.

## Project Elephant

- Launched in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Objectives**
  - To protect elephants, their habitat & corridors
  - To address issues of man-animal conflict
  - Welfare of captive elephants

- **Ministry** - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial and technical support to major elephant range states in the country.
- There are 33 elephant reserves in India, latest being Terai Elephant Reserve in Uttar Pradesh.
- Project Elephant completed 30 years in 2022.

## References

1. [IE - Centre merges Project Tiger and Project Elephant](#)
2. [Outlook - Centre Merges 'Project Tiger' With 'Project Elephant'](#)
3. [DTE - Project Tiger merges with Project Elephant](#)

## National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

*Despite India's focused approach to fighting the climate crisis, the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) sees drastic cut.*

- The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was created to fund the states in fighting this global challenge.
- NAFCC was established in 2015.
- **Aim** - To support concrete adaptation activities which mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- **Implementation** - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the National Implementing Entity (NIE).
- **Projects eligible for funding** - Adaptation projects in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, water, forestry, tourism etc.
- **Eligibility** - The States/UTs are to be prepared the project proposal in consultation with NIE (NABARD) and to be approved by the State Steering Committee on Climate Change.
- **Funding** - Central Sector Scheme
- The grants under NAFCC released to different states and Union territories have drastically declined over the years.
- NAFCC so far has supported 30 different adaptation projects in the fields of agriculture, water, and forestry in 27 states.

*NAFCC funding came down to around Rs 20 crore in 2022-23 from Rs 118 crore in 2015-16.*

## Other Government action for climate change

- The Centre in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submitted to UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement.
- Green Hydrogen Mission launched under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Mission LiFE which propagates a list of ideas on lifestyle changes.
- India also sets target to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, from the 2005 level.

## References

1. [New IE - India's climate change adaptation fund sees drastic cut](#)
2. [Vikaspedia - National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change](#)

