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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.



- 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](#)

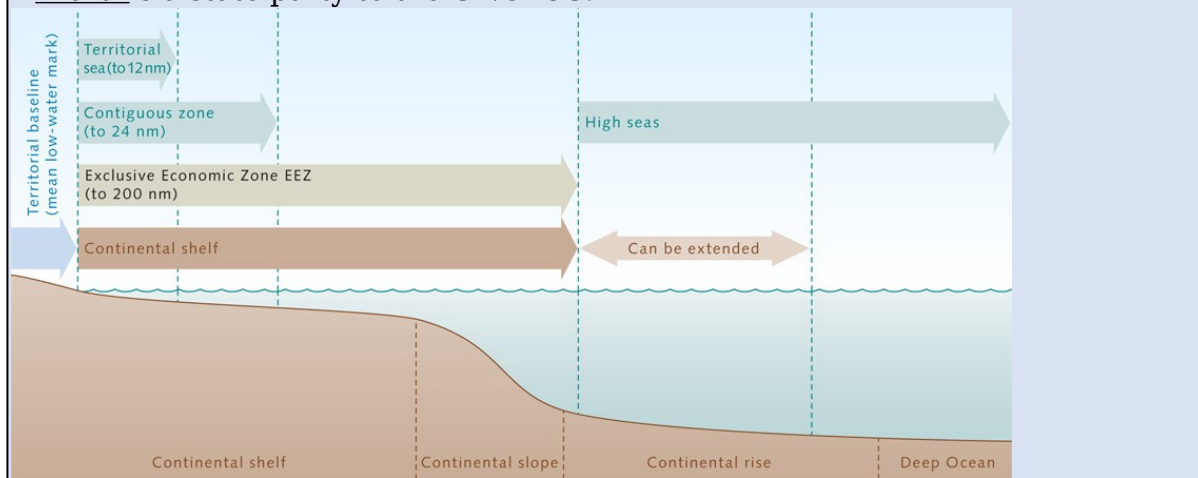
Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement

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](#)