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25 OCTOBER 2025

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SATURDAY, 25th OCTOBER 2025

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1. Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS)

- **Prelims** - Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has mandated digital surveillance through the Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS) to monitor and track the supply chain of high-risk solvents.

Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS)

- **What is it?:** The Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS) is a digital, single-window platform for processing drug-related licenses and monitoring high-risk pharmaceutical ingredients.
- **Developed by:** It is developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) in collaboration with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), Directorate General of Health Services, and State/UT Drugs Regulatory Authorities under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Implementation:** Supervised by the CDSCO under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Objectives:**
 - To ensure transparency, uniformity, and accountability in drug licensing across States and Union Territories.
 - To provide real-time digital monitoring of manufacturing activities, especially for critical ingredients.
 - To prevent adulteration and contamination of medicines, improving patient safety and pharmaceutical quality.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Single-Window Licensing Platform:** For applications related to manufacturing and sales licenses, blood banks, and other certifications (COPP, GMP, WHO-GMP, Market Standing Certificates).
 - **Real-time Tracking of Solvents:** Monitors solvents like glycerin, propylene glycol, sorbitol, maltitol, ethyl alcohol, and hydrogenated starch hydrolysate for safety compliance.



- **Batch-wise Entry System:** Mandates manufacturers to log details for every batch, including quantity, certificate of analysis (CoA), and vendor data.
- **Integration with State Drug Authorities:** Ensures uniform document submission and decision-making across States and UTs.
- **Post-approval Change Management:** Allows updates to licenses in compliance with regulatory standards without manual interference.
- **Significance:**
 - **Promotes Patient Safety:** Prevents adulterated raw material use in pharmaceuticals.
 - **Enhances Traceability:** Enables digital monitoring of every stage in drug manufacturing.
 - **Improves Regulatory Uniformity:** Reduces inter-state licensing discrepancies.
 - **Supports E-Governance:** Advances digitization of India's public health regulation system.



2. Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

- **Prelims** - Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The 2025 edition of Global Forest Resources Assessment ranked India at 9th position in Total Forest Area and 3rd in Annual Net Forest Gain.

Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

- **What is it?:**
 - The GFRA is a periodic assessment undertaken by FAO to provide comprehensive global data on forests such as their extent, change, management and utilisation.
 - It classifies forests broadly into naturally regenerating and planted forests.
 - GFRA 2025 provides the latest figures (to ~2025) on global forest area, net gains/losses, carbon sinks and related forestry metrics.
- **Key Findings- Global:**
 - Total global forest area stands at approximately 4.14 billion hectares, which is about 32% of Earth's land area.
 - The annual rate of net forest loss has fallen over the years.
 - Between 2021-25:
 - ★ Forests globally sequestered ~3.6 Gt CO₂/yr.
 - ★ Emissions from net forest conversion were ~2.8 Gt CO₂/yr.
 - ★ Net forest carbon removals (sequestration minus emissions) ~0.8 Gt CO₂/yr - nearly double what it was a decade earlier (~1.4 Gt CO₂/yr).
- **India's Performance:**
 - India has moved up to 9th position globally in terms of total forest area.
 - India retains 3rd position globally for net annual forest area gain.
 - India is ranked 5th among the world's top carbon sinks, with its forests removing about 150 Mt (=0.15 Gt) of CO₂ per year during 2021–2025.
 - India accounts for approximately 72,739 thousand hectares (~727.39 million ha) of forest area, which is about 2% of the world's total.



- In Asia overall, forest carbon removals increased to ~0.9 Gt CO₂/yr during 2021–25, with deforestation emissions dropping. India contributes significantly.
- **Government of India's Initiatives:**
 - **Budget 2025–26** for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) allocated ₹3,412.82 crore, an **increase of 9%** over the previous year's estimate.
 - **National Mission for a Green India (GIM):** Launched Feb 2014 under the NAPCC, it aims to expand forest/tree cover by 5 million ha + improve quality on another 5 million ha; links ecosystem services with livelihoods (~3 million forest-dependent families).
 - **National Afforestation Programme:** Targets regeneration of degraded forest/non-forest lands via institutional setup such as State Forest Development Agency (SFDA), Forest Development Agency (FDA) and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs).
 - **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment):** Portals like “MeriLiFE”, initiative “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” (tree-planting linked to mother/motherland) to promote citizen/social action for sustainable living.



3. Non-Convertible Securities

- Prelims - Non-Convertible Securities
- Mains - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Friday proposed amendments to harmonise regulations governing entities that issue non-convertible securities.

Non-Convertible Securities

- **What is it?:**
 - Non-Convertible Securities (NCS) refer to financial instruments that cannot be converted into equity shares of the issuing company.
 - They are fixed-income instruments.
 - They are issued primarily to raise debt capital from investors for long-term financing needs such as expansion, infrastructure, or working capital.
- **Major Types:**
 - **Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs):** It is a debt instrument issued by companies to raise capital, offering a fixed rate of interest but without the option to convert into equity shares.
 - ★ Regulated by SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021.
 - **Non-Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares (NCPS):** These are preference shares that cannot be converted into equity shares but are redeemable after a fixed period.
 - **Non-Convertible Bonds (NCBs):** It is a fixed-income financial instrument issued by a company to raise long-term capital.
 - ★ Used to finance infrastructure or long-term projects.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Fixed Returns:** Predetermined interest or dividend rates.
 - **No Ownership Dilution:** As they are non-convertible, they don't affect company shareholding.
 - **Credit Rating:** Rated by agencies like CRISIL, ICRA, or CARE.
 - **Listing:** Can be listed on stock exchanges for liquidity.



- **Regulation:**

- Governed by SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021.
- Issuers must obtain credit rating, appoint a debenture trustee, and create a debenture redemption reserve.

- **Advantages:**

- Predictable and stable income for investors.
- Lower risk compared to equities.
- Suitable for conservative or institutional investors.
- Tax benefits available in some categories (e.g., infrastructure bonds).

- **Disadvantages:**

- No potential for capital appreciation (unlike convertible instruments).
- Exposed to interest rate risk and credit/default risk.
- Limited liquidity compared to shares.



4. Gyan Bharatam Mission

- Prelims - Gyan Bharatam Mission
- Mains - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The Gyan Bharatam Mission on manuscripts signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with nearly 20 institutions nationwide to support the conservation, preservation, and digitisation of manuscripts.

Gyan Bharatam Mission

- **What is it?:**
 - The Gyan Bharatam Mission is a landmark initiative launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2025 to preserve, digitise, and globally disseminate India's ancient manuscript heritage.
 - It forms part of the national vision of "Virasat aur Vikas" (Heritage and Development) and aligns with the Viksit Bharat@2047 agenda to strengthen India's civilisational knowledge base through technology and innovation.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Culture
- **Implementation Period:** 2024–2031
- **Total Outlay:** ₹482.85 crore (Central Sector Scheme)
- **Objective:** The mission aims to make manuscripts a living resource for education, research, and innovation, rather than mere preserved artefacts.
- **Key Features:**
 - **AI Integration:** Artificial intelligence tools for digitisation, content extraction, and translation of scripts.
 - **Hybrid Conference Format:** Over 1,100 participants, 4 plenaries, and 12 technical sessions.
 - **Public Engagement:** 'Manuscript Research Partner' and authenticity certification programs encourage citizen participation.
 - **Manuscript Scope:** India's heritage includes over five million manuscripts across disciplines like philosophy, astronomy, medicine, mathematics, literature, and architecture.
- **Institutional Framework:**



- **Technical Partner:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- **Collaborators:** National Archives of India, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), and major universities.
- **Significance:**
 - **Cultural Preservation:** Safeguards India's Bhāratīya Jñāna Paramparā (Indian Knowledge Systems) from physical deterioration.
 - **Academic Revitalisation:** Enhances research across disciplines like Ayurveda, astronomy, linguistics, and philosophy.
 - **Digital Empowerment:** Builds synergy between the Digital India Mission and cultural heritage initiatives
 - **Soft Power Diplomacy:** Enhances India's global cultural presence and supports aspirational initiatives like UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.
 - **Aligns with:** NEP 2020 and Viksit Bharat 2047 aspiration.



5. '#23for23' initiative

- Prelims - '#23for23' initiative
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- India today marked International Snow Leopard Day with a special campaign titled '#23for23'.

'#23for23' initiative

- **What is it?:** The '#23for23' initiative was launched by the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP) in collaboration with the Snow Leopard Trust and the Government of India to commemorate International Snow Leopard Day 2025.
- **Concept and Symbolism:**
 - The number '23' symbolises 23 October, the day when the Bishkek Declaration was adopted in 2013 by 12 snow leopard range countries, marking a global commitment to snow leopard and mountain ecosystem conservation.
 - The 23 minutes of activity serve as a metaphor for human effort and mindfulness toward sustainable coexistence with nature.
 - The campaign's tagline "*Move for the Mountain Ghost*" links citizen participation with the elusive presence of the snow leopard, often referred to as "the Ghost of the Mountains."
- **Organizing Bodies:**
 - **Lead Organisation:** Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP)
 - **Indian Host Partner:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
 - **Collaborating NGOs:** Snow Leopard Trust, WWF-India, Snow Leopard Conservancy, and national wildlife institutions.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Enhance Public Participation:** Promote awareness of snow leopard conservation through citizen engagement activities.



- **Promote Healthy Living:** Link fitness and wellness with environmental responsibility.
- **Highlight Ecosystem Fragility:** Focus public attention on the high-altitude Himalayan ecosystems threatened by climate change and habitat degradation.
- **Support Research and Monitoring:** Complement long-term India Snow Leopard Census and community-based conservation programs.
- **Encourage Collaboration:** Foster collective action among the 12 range countries under the Bishkek Declaration framework.
- **Significance:**
 - **People-Centric Conservation:** Engages the public through simple physical activities tied to environmental awareness.
 - **Symbol of Ecological Balance:** Demonstrates how protecting apex predators safeguards entire mountain ecosystems.
 - **Global Solidarity:** Reinforces cooperation among the 12 range countries under GSLEP.
 - **Behavioral Change Tool:** Encourages individuals to translate awareness into long-term sustainable behavior.