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Daily News Analysis

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1. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

- **Prelims** - Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- The government informed on that PM VIKAS scheme aims to strengthen the socio-economic empowerment of the six notified minority communities

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

- **What is it?:** Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) is a **flagship** scheme of the *Ministry of Minority Affairs*.
- **Aim:** **Holistic upliftment** of the **six notified minority communities**- Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis.
- **Scheme Convergence:** PM VIKAS **merges five earlier schemes** into a single integrated platform
 - **Seekho Aur Kamao:** Skill development for minorities
 - **Nai Manzil:** Education & skill training for dropout youth
 - **Nai Roshni:** Leadership development of minority women
 - **Hamari Dharohar:** Preservation of minority heritage
 - **USTTAD** (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development): Support to traditional artisans and crafts
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Skill development:** Training programmes for minority youth and artisans, focusing on traditional crafts and modern employable skills.
 - **Entrepreneurship promotion:** Credit linkages to be facilitated through NMDFC (National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation).
 - **Leadership development of minority women:** Builds on *Nai Roshni* model Capacity-building, Awareness of rights and Social and financial empowerment.
 - **Educational support for school dropouts:** For school dropouts, continuing the objective of *Nai Manzil*, through bridge courses for mainstreaming into formal education.



2. National Green Tribunal

- **Prelims** - National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

National Green Tribunal



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Why in the news?

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognisance and initiated a formal inquiry into the reported air and water pollution attributed to Fresh Cut Organic Products Private Limited in Kerala.

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- **Established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.**
- **New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting** of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.
- **Mandate** - To make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of the filing of the same.
- **Composition of NGT**
 - Chairperson, the Judicial Members, and Expert Members.
 - They shall hold office for a term of 5 years and are not eligible for reappointment.
- **Powers and Jurisdiction**
 - Established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
 - It has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals as a Court.
 - The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.



• The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

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3. Leprosy

- **Prelims** - Leprosy
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Social Justice and Health

Leprosy



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Why in news?

- India continues to account for about 57% of global leprosy cases, with factors such as genetic vulnerability and poor living conditions increasing susceptibility to the disease.

Leprosy

- **Other Name:** Leprosy is also known as Hansen's Disease.
- **Fact:** Leprosy is one of the oldest diseases in recorded history.
- **Cause:** Bacteria called Mycobacterium Leprae
- **Areas of Infection:** Skin, Peripheral nerves, Upper respiratory tract and Lining of the nose.
- **Mode of Transmission:** Mainly by breathing airborne droplets from the affected individuals.
- **Symptoms:** Red patches on the skin, skin lesion, numbness in arms, hands, and legs, ulcers on the soles of feet, muscle Weakness and excessive weight loss.



- **Effect:** Disfigurement, permanent nerve damage in arms and legs and even loss of sensation in the body.
- **Treatment:** Leprosy is curable with the combination of drugs known as Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).

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4. National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- **Prelims** - National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- The NCBC has proposed removing 35 communities from the Central OBC list in West Bengal.

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- **Formation**

- Established in 1993 under the **National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993**.
- Received constitutional status through the **102nd Amendment Act of 2018 (Article 338B)**.

- **Functions:**

- Investigating and monitoring the implementation of constitutional safeguards for backward classes.
- Advising the central and state governments on issues related to the welfare and development of backward classes.
- Recommending measures for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes.

- **Composition:**

- The NCBC consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three other members, all of whom are appointed by the President of India.
- The members of the NCBC are chosen from among persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to backward classes.

- **Powers:**

- The NCBC has the power to summon and examine witnesses, receive evidence, and require the production of documents.
- It can also visit any part of the country for the purpose of discharging its functions effectively.



- **Reports and Recommendations:**

- The NCBC submits annual and special reports to the President of India on the measures taken by the central and state governments for the welfare of backward classes.
- It also makes recommendations for the inclusion or exclusion of communities in the list of socially and educationally backward classes.



5. Lebanon

- **Prelims** - Location of Lebanon
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Lebanon



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Why in the news?

- Lebanon and Israel have both named civilian representatives to a committee that was previously composed only of military officials to oversee implementation of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire..

Lebanon

- **Location:** Lebanon is a country in West Asia.
- **Capital:** Beirut.
- **Border Countries:** Syria, Israel.
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Mediterranean Sea.
- **Climate:** Mediterranean climate.



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6. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act

- **Prelims** - Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- In recent years, amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act have been introduced to strengthen domestic mining by enabling exploration licences, national-level auctions, inclusion of mining-associated minerals, and the creation of a national mineral exchange.

Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act

- **What is it?:** It is the primary legislation governing **mining and mineral development** in India, that regulates **prospecting, mining leases, mineral concessions, and development of mineral resources**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Ensure **systematic and scientific exploitation** of mineral resources.
 - Balance **mineral development** with **environmental protection**.
 - Promote **transparency, competition, and sustainable mining**.
 - Provide a **legal framework** for granting mineral concessions.
- **Important Provisions:**
 - Classifies Minerals as **Major, Minor, and Atomic Minerals**.
 - **Auction-based Allocation:** Mandatory auction route for granting mining leases and composite licences, ensuring transparency, fair competition and higher revenue for states.
 - **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** to work for the interest and benefit of persons affected by mining-related operations.
 - **National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)** to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration.
- **Classification of Minerals:**
 - **Major Minerals:**
 - ★ **Regulation of Mines:** Authority of Parliament
 - ★ **Approving Mining Leases:** Central Government
 - ★ **Prevention of Illegal mining, transportation, and storage:** State



>> Kozhikode

>> Ernakulam

>> Thiruvananthapuram

Government.

★ **Collection of Royalties** on major minerals: State Government

→ **Minor Minerals:**

- ★ Regulation of minor minerals: State Government
- ★ Development and extraction: State Government
- ★ Fixing Royalty Rates: State Government
- ★ Environmental Clearances: State Government



7. Himalayan Black Bear

- **Prelims** - Himalayan Black Bear
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- For almost a week, wild black bears have been making unexpected appearances across Srinagar, moving through university campuses and disappearing before wildlife officials can capture them.

Himalayan Black Bear

- **About:**
 - The Himalayan Black Bear is a subspecies of the Asian Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*).
 - Also known as the Asiatic Black Bear or Moon Bear due to the distinctive crescent-shaped mark on its chest.
 - A large, forest-dwelling carnivore–omnivore of the Himalayan region.
- **Distribution:**
 - **Globally:** India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, and China
 - **In India:** Occurs throughout the Himalayan range from Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh and also found in hilly regions of the northeastern states.
- **Features:**
 - **Habitat:** Dense, heavily forested areas
 - **Diet:** Omnivorous species
 - **Behaviour:** Naturally **diurnal**, but many individuals have become **nocturnal** to avoid human encounters.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable