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1. Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) and Carbon Credits Trading Scheme (CCTS)

Context

- Centre notifies second round of targets to curb emissions from carbon-heavy sectors

Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI)

- GEI is the amount of greenhouse gases released to produce one unit of a product, such as a tonne of cement or aluminium.
- Industries coming under the purview of GEI:
 - Carbon-intensive sectors – **aluminium, cement, chlor-alkali, pulp, and paper.**
 - High-emissions sectors - **petroleum refineries, petrochemical units, textile, and secondary aluminium.**

Carbon Credits Trading Scheme (CCTS)

- The **Carbon Credits Trading Scheme (CCTS)** is a market-based mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by creating a national carbon market.
- It enables industries to trade carbon credits, thereby encouraging cost-effective emission reductions.
- CCTS is notified under **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022.**
- Jointly Implemented By:
 - Bureau of Energy Efficiency (**BEE**) – Ministry of Power
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**)

2. Environmental (Protection) Fund

Context

- Centre notifies Rules for use of funds collected through penalties under environmental laws

Environmental Protection Fund

- Constituted under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, to strengthen environmental **remediation** and **restoration**.
- The fund was created out of the amount of penalties imposed for violations under various green laws about the prevention of air (**Air Act, 1981**) and water pollution (**Water Act, 1974**), and the broader **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- The Central Government, through the Environmental (Protection) Fund Rules, 2026, elaborates on the activities for which this fund can be utilised.
- The Rules define the Union Minister for Environment as a “competent authority.”
- The funds collected shall be credited to the consolidated fund of India and then transferred to the Public Account of India.

3. Population Drops

Context

- China's population fell for the fourth year in a row in 2025 after the country's birth rate dropped to its lowest point, according to figures released by the national statistics office

Impact of the Population Drop on a Country

- Shrinking labour force
- Rising pension and healthcare costs
- Slower economic growth
- Declining domestic demand
- Pressure on social security systems
- Shift in Global Supply Chains