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1 India- Bhutan Transboundary Rivers (Source: *PIB*)

There are 56 rivers that flow down from Bhutan to Assam to meet the Brahmaputra River. Indo-Bhutan hydropower cooperation began in 1961 with the signing of the Jaldhaka agreement.

What needs to be known?

- Bhutan currently has an installed hydropower capacity of 1,488 MW, although it hopes to increase this to 20,000 MW.
- Most of these hydropower projects have been developed in cooperation with India.



Major Power Projects

- Tala Hydroelectric Project
- Chukha Hydropower Project
- Punatsangchu-I and Punatsangchu-II
- Kholongchhu
- Bunakha
- Wangchu
- Chamkarchu
- Mangdechhu hydroelectric project

Major Transboundary Rivers (Please learn these names for prelims)

- Manas (Drangme Chhu),
- Sankosh (Puna Tshang Chhu)
- Torsa (Amo Chhu)
- Raidak (Wang Chhu)

Major Challenges

- Melting of glaciers
- Frequent floods
- Landslides

2 PM - KISAN (Source: *The Indian Express*)

PM-KISAN ensures timely financial aid to strengthen farmers livelihoods and promote agricultural growth.

Facts to know about PM-Kisan

- PM- KISAN is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
- Under the scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal instalments will be provided to all land holding farmer families.
- There are various Exclusion Categories for the scheme like government pensioners.
- The Rythu Bandhu scheme of Telangana is considered to be the inspiration.
- Family is considered as the basic unit in this scheme.



Relevance of PM-KISAN

- Will ensure a financial security in case of crop loss.
- Moneylenders role will get reduced.
- Will benefit the entire farmer families, hence will lead to female empowerment.
- Help farmers arrange funds for getting inputs like seeds and fertilizers.
- DBT mechanism will help avoid fund leakage.
- The scheme is designed to include small and marginal farmers which will ensure inclusive and equitable Support.



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3 Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme

(Source: *The Hindu*)

The scheme focus on making export sector more competitive and contribute more to GDP.

What you need to know?

- The scheme provides for refund of taxes, levies and duties during manufacture and distribution of exported goods that are not reimbursed under any existing scheme.
- The refund will be in the form of digital credits.
- The credits are transferable in nature.
- It has replaced the MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India) Scheme.
- RoDTEP is compliant with WTO provisions unlike earlier MEIS scheme.
- The objective of schemes is to provide rewards to exporters to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs.
- The scheme is administered by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Commerce .



How impact the domestic manufacturing sector?

- The cost of exporting will increase, affecting the industry's competitiveness.
- Will contribute to a greater GDP contribution for the country.

4 IMEC Corridor (Source: *The Hindu*)

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is a proposed corridor which was recently introduced by PM Modi during his address of Israeli Parliament. IMEC aims to foster economic cooperation and green development through sustainable infrastructure projects.

What do you need to know?

- It was first announced during the G20 meet in New Delhi.
- It is an infrastructure project connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe
- It will utilise both the railways and the shipping sector.
- The corridor would pass through India, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe.

How will it be helpful?

- It serves as economic insurance to future-proof global trade in an era marked by supply-chain shocks, geopolitical fragmentation, and climate stress.
- It can help India in finding an alternative to the Red Sea-Suez Canal corridor through which a large chunk of India's trade happens. It will complement the existing routes and not replace them.
- In contrast to the BRI(Belt and Road Initiative) , IMEC corridor is inherently multilateral, market-oriented, and standards-driven.

India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)



Names of Important World Parliaments(In News)

Parliament Name	Country
Knesset	Israel
Diet	Japan
Althing	Iceland
Congress	USA
Riksdag	Sweden
Jatia	Bangladesh
Majlis	Iran



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5 I2U2 Group (Source: *The Hindu*)

I2U2 grouping is a forum consisting of India, USA, Israel and UAE focusing on addressing the greatest challenges in the world like climate crisis. The areas of focus include water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

- The first I2U2 leaders meet was held in 2022 in virtual mode.

Why it is formed?



- It has been formed to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to achieve a variety of goals like new infrastructure, low carbon initiatives and improving public health.
- The Group will explore opportunities anywhere it can make a positive impact.
- Each country also has Sherpa- level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation.

How can it be beneficial?

- As an alternative to QUAD in global geopolitics.
- The presence of both the UAE and Israel in the grouping will help in normalising relations with Arab nations.
- Will act as the extended neighbourhood of India in the western frontiers.
- Will create a new market for India as well as a front for technology sharing.
- Will ensure enhanced connectivity between the Greater Indian Ocean Region.
- Will help in strengthening clean technology collaboration towards achieving energy security.