



## 1 Kuiper Belt (Source: The Hindu)

- *The Kuiper belt is a great ring of debris, like the asteroid belt, but it consists mainly of objects composed primarily of ice and rocks.*
- It extends between 30 and 50 AU from the Sun.
- **Notable Objects in Kuiper Belts**
  - **Pluto:** Pluto was once considered the ninth planet in our solar system, but was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006. Pluto (39 AU) is the largest known object in the Kuiper belt, and Charon is Pluto's largest moon.
  - **Eris:** Another dwarf planet in the Kuiper Belt, Eris is similar in size to Pluto and helped redefine the criteria for classifying celestial bodies.
  - **Haumea, Makemake, and Quaoar:** These are other notable dwarf planets in the Kuiper Belt.
  - **Ultima Thule (486958 Arrokoth):** This is a KBO visited by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft in 2019, providing valuable data about the region.

## 2 Oort Cloud (Source: The Hindu)

- *The Oort Cloud is a theorized, giant spherical shell of icy planetesimals surrounding Sun and solar system, extending from roughly 2,000 to 100,000 Astronomical Units (AU) into interstellar space.*
- Located far beyond Pluto and the Kuiper Belt.
- The Oort Cloud is the primary reservoir for long-period comets.



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## 3 Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G) (Source: The Hindu)

*It seeks to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.*

### Key Objectives

- Providing 125 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households, aligning livelihood security with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.
- Use of public works to build water, livelihood, and climate-resilient infrastructure through convergence and saturation.
- To avoid labour shortages in farming during peak seasons while retaining wage-employment support.
- Promoting Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans linked with PM Gati Shakti for coordinated, multi-level planning.
- Strengthens oversight through biometrics, GIS-based planning, real-time monitoring, public disclosures and social audits.

### Funding

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- Provides objective, rule-based fund allocation to States with excess expenditure borne by States and equitable intra-State distribution mandated.

### Other Provisions

- Establishes Central and State Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Councils and steering committees for monitoring and policy guidance.
- Authorises the Centre to notify wage rates.
- Mandates States to notify their implementation schemes within six months of the commencement of the Act.
- Obliges States to pay unemployment allowance if work is not provided on time, preserving minimum legal guarantees for labour.