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**11 September 2024**

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### **Art and Culture**

1. Pahadi Korwa tribal community - The Hindu
2. Redevelopment threatens heritage value of 125-year-old Coonor rail station - The Hindu

### **Geography**

3. East Timor/ Timor Leste (Asia's Youngest Democracy) - The Hindu
4. Paraguay river registers its lowest water level - Indian Express

### **Society**

5. How Swachh Bharat Mission advanced progress on safety and dignity, health and economy - Indian Express

### **Polity**

6. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) - The Hindu

### **World Affairs**

7. Watchdog likely to release report on India's mutual evaluation next week/ FATF to meet private sector stakeholders in April 2025 - The Hindu
8. 'India has a four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict' - The Hindu

### **Economy**

9. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)/ Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification Scheme - The Hindu

### **Environment**

10. National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) - Indian Express
11. Mollem National Park - Indian Express
12. Myristica swamp, Kumbhal - Indian Express

### **Sci and Tech**

13. The grave threat from AMR - Indian Express
14. SpaceX launches all-civilian crew for first private spacewalk - The Hindu/ Everything about Polaris Dawn mission, which will attempt first private spacewalk - Indian Express

### **Miscellaneous**

15. New portal provides technical terms in 22 Indian languages - The Hindu

# Art and Culture

## 1. Pahadi Korwa tribal community - The Hindu

### Context

As many as 54 settlements of Pahadi Korwa community, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG), will be connected through roads in north Chhattisgarh under the Prime Minister JANMAN scheme.

### Pahadi Korwa Tribe

Restricted to ancestral worship and worship of some gods and deities like Sigri Dev, Gauria Dev, Mahadev or Lord Shiva, and Parvati. Khudia Rani is the supreme god of this community.

#### Religious practices:

They have their own panchayat rendering justice in accordance with societal conventions.

#### Judicial system:

A nuclear family structure living in houses near the forests with very limited resources. But when any member of their family dies in the house, they abandon that house and migrate to some other place.

#### Society:

A Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Chhattisgarh belonging to the Chhota Nagpur area of Central India.

#### About:

Korba and Jashpur districts of Chhattisgarh with a small population living in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

#### Distribution:

Korwa language (Ernga and Singli) belonging to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family; Sadri and Chhattisgarhi is the second language.

#### Language:

Small-scale farming, fishing, hunting, and foraging forest produce, subsistence agriculture called jhoonga kheti in which a forest is cleared to harvest lentils and other crops.

#### Economy:

**Pahadi Korwa Tribe**

## Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)

**PM JANMAN**  
(Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan)  
A Visionary Initiative towards Tribal Welfare

11 Basic Amenities | 24,000 Crore Allocated | Convergence with 9 Ministries

- Sabko Pucca Ghar
- Har Ghar Nal Se Jal
- Gaon-Gaon Tak Sadak
- Har Ghar Bijli
- Shiksha Ke Liye Hostel
- Kaushal Vikas
- Door Daraz Gaon Tak Mobile Medical Unit
- Sabko Poshan
- Unnat Aajeevika
- Door Daraz Gaon Tak Mobile Network

**Key Statistics:**

- 10 States & 1 Union Territory
- 75 PVTG Communities
- ₹24,000 Crore Allocated
- 7 Lakh Households
- 28 Lakh PVTG Population
- Convergence with 9 Ministries
- 11 Basic Amenities

## 2. Redevelopment threatens heritage value of 125-year-old Coonoor rail station - The Hindu

### Context

For over 125 years, the Coonoor railway station has remained frozen in time. A relic of the Nilgiris' complicated colonial history, the station, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, that is the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) line, is being completely transformed, with renovations to the building being criticised by heritage train and history enthusiasts in the district.

### Nilgiri Mountain Railway

- **Distribution:** Lies from Mettupalaiyam to Ooty, lies partly in the Coimbatore District and partly in Nilgiri District of Tamilnadu, on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.
- **Length:** 45.88 km. long
- **History:**
  - **1854:** The first plans were made to build a mountain Railway from Mettupalaiyam to the Nilgiri Hills.
  - **1899:** The line was completed and opened for traffic in June 1899.
  - **Control:** Operated first by the Madras Railway under an agreement with the Government.
  - **2005:** It was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, like the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and the Kalka-Shimla Railway.



## Geography

### 3. East Timor/ Timor Leste (Asia's Youngest Democracy) - The Hindu

- **Initial control:** The territory was colonised by Portugal in the 18th century and remained under its control until 1975. When the Portuguese withdrew, Indonesia invaded and annexed East Timor as its 27th province.



- **Independence:** In a 1999 UN-supervised referendum, the East Timorese voted for independence, but that unleashed even more violence until peace-keeping forces were allowed to enter.
- **UN recognition:** The country was officially recognised by the UN in 2002.
- **Boundaries:**
  - Southeast: Timor Sea
  - North: Wetar Strait
  - Northwest: Ombai Strait
  - Southwest: Western Timor (part of the Indonesian province of East Nusa Tenggara)
- **East Timor:** It comprises the eastern half of Timor island, the western half of which is part of Indonesia.
- **Area:** A 15,000 square km land area – slightly smaller than Israel
- **Economy:** Mainly dependent on revenues from its offshore oil and gas reserves which account for 90% of its GDP.

### 4. Paraguay river registers its lowest water level - Indian Express

#### Context

A powerful drought in the Amazon rainforest led on Monday to the lowest water levels on the Paraguay River in more than a century.

#### Paraguay River

- **About:** The fifth largest river in South America serving as a natural boundary, particularly between Paraguay and Brazil and between Paraguay and Argentina.
- **Length:** ~ 1,584 miles (2,549 kilometers)

- **Headwaters:** In the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso (within the Brazilian Highlands) to its confluence with the Paraná River, just north of Corrientes, Argentina.
- **Major countries:** Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina
- **Significance:**
  - **Location of Pantanal:** World's largest tropical wetland is contained within the Upper Paraguay River Basin.
  - **Paraguay + Paraná + Uruguay Rivers:** They collectively form the second most important drainage system in the world, which covers approximately 1.6 million square miles.
- **Mouth:** These empty into the Rio de la Plata estuary (Atlantic Ocean) at a rate of 2.8 million cubic feet of water per second, an outflow second only to that of the Amazon River.



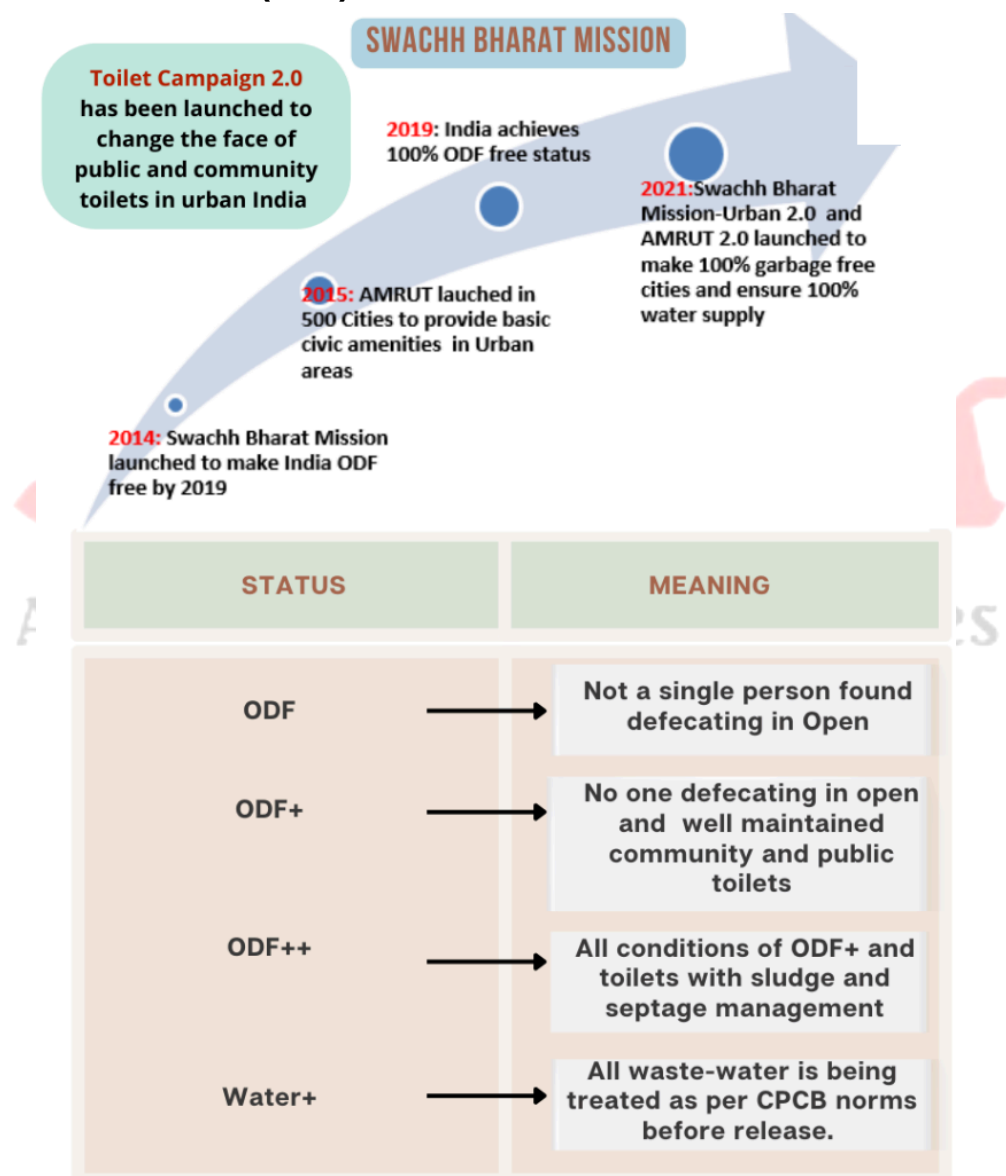
## Society

### 5. How Swachh Bharat Mission advanced progress on safety and dignity, health and economy - Indian Express

**Context**

The recent release of the scientific report in the Nature journal on the Swachh Bharat Mission's (SBM) impact on the reduction in infant and child mortality broadly coincides with the 10-year anniversary of the programme.

**Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)**



- **Launch:** October 2, 2014
- **Aim:** To fulfil the vision of a cleaner India by October 2, 2019.
- **Target:** To eliminate open defecation, eradicate manual scavenging, and promote scientific solid waste management.
- **Significance:**

- **Transformation of a Hidden Problem into a National Priority:** Sanitation was historically a taboo topic in India. SBM addressed open defecation publicly, making it a matter of public urgency.
- **A Vision to Change the Mindset Along with Infrastructure:** SBM involved constructing 100 million toilets and creating a social movement.

**Impact of Swachh Bharat Mission**

<b>Health Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Reducing Child and Infant Mortality Rate:</b> Saved 60,000 to 70,000 children under five annually by reducing waterborne diseases like diarrhoea.</li> <li>● <b>Reduction in Infectious Diseases:</b> SBM's widespread toilet construction significantly reduced diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and typhoid, improving child survival.</li> <li>● <b>Reduction in Overall Disease Burden:</b> Eliminating open defecation fostered a culture of cleanliness, reducing infectious diseases across the population.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Financial Savings for Households:</b> As per UNICEF, ODF status saves each household approximately Rs 50,000 annually due to reduced medical expenses, increased productivity, and time savings.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Enhancing Dignity and Security for Women:</b> Lack of toilets previously forced women to defecate in the open, risking harassment and assault.</li> </ul>

**Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (October 2018)**

- **About:** PM Modi and UN Secretary-General shared SBM experiences with Health and Sanitation Ministers from 55 developing countries.
- **Key lessons from SBM (Delhi Declaration - Four Ps):**
  - Political Leadership
  - Public Financing
  - Partnerships
  - People's Participation
- **Significance:**
  - These four Ps are now globally recognized as essential for large-scale development programs, especially in sanitation.
  - Inspired initiatives like the Clean Nigeria Campaign.

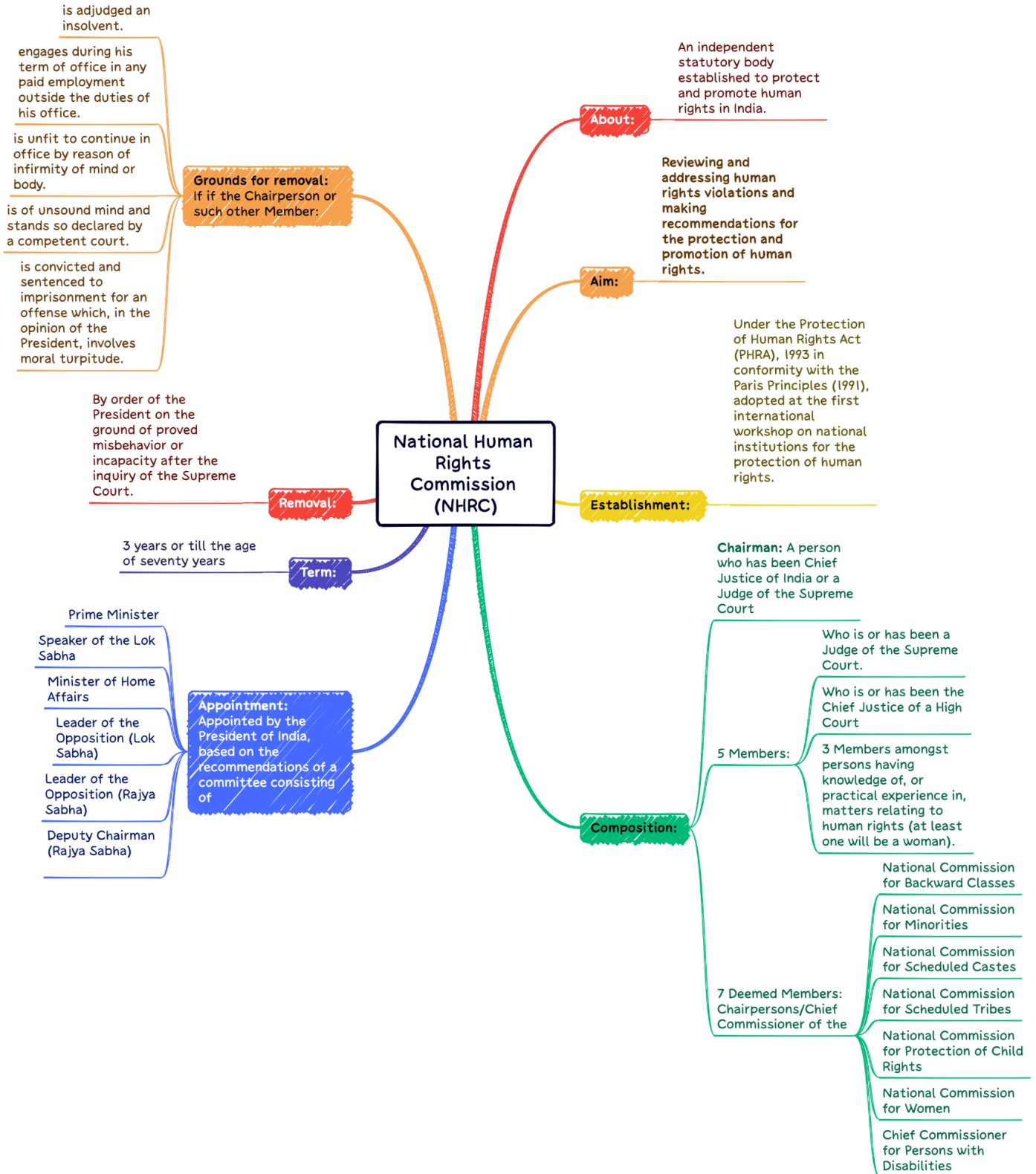
**Conclusion**

The Swachh Bharat Mission has achieved significant success in its first decade having positive impacts on public health, economic savings, and social well-being. Success highlights the power of bold leadership, community participation, and sustained effort. SBM offers valuable lessons for other countries aiming for universal access to sanitation and clean water.



## Polity

### 6. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) - The Hindu



## World Affairs

### 7. Watchdog likely to release report on India's mutual evaluation next week/ FATF to meet private sector stakeholders in April 2025 - The Hindu

#### Context

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is expected to release its report on India's mutual evaluation, which was adopted at its June 2024 plenary in Singapore recently. The FATF is also likely to meet Indian private sector stakeholders in April 2025 as part of ongoing deliberations on proposed changes to its recommendations, which also seek greater transparency in cross-border transactions.

#### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

No financial aid is given to them by the IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union (EU).

They also face a number of international economic and financial restrictions and sanctions.

#### Consequences of being on the FATF blacklist:

**Black List:** Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put on the blacklist as they support terror funding and money laundering activities.

**Grey List:** Countries considered a safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering which serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

#### FATF lists:

39 countries, including the United States, India (2010), China, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Germany, France, and the EU (FATF suspended membership of the Russian Federation on 24 February 2023).

#### FATF members:

An inter-governmental policy-making and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

#### About:

To establish international standards, and to develop and promote policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

#### Aim:

1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering (initially). In 2001, its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.

#### Establishment:

#### Headquarters:

Paris, France

### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

## **8. 'India has a four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict' - The Hindu**

### **Context**

India has a four-point principle towards the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, said Indian External Affairs Minister recently.

### **India's four point principles**

- This should be a time of peace;
- There would be no solutions to the war on the battlefield;
- Russia must be at the table for any successful peace process;
- India is "concerned and engaged" in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict

## Economy

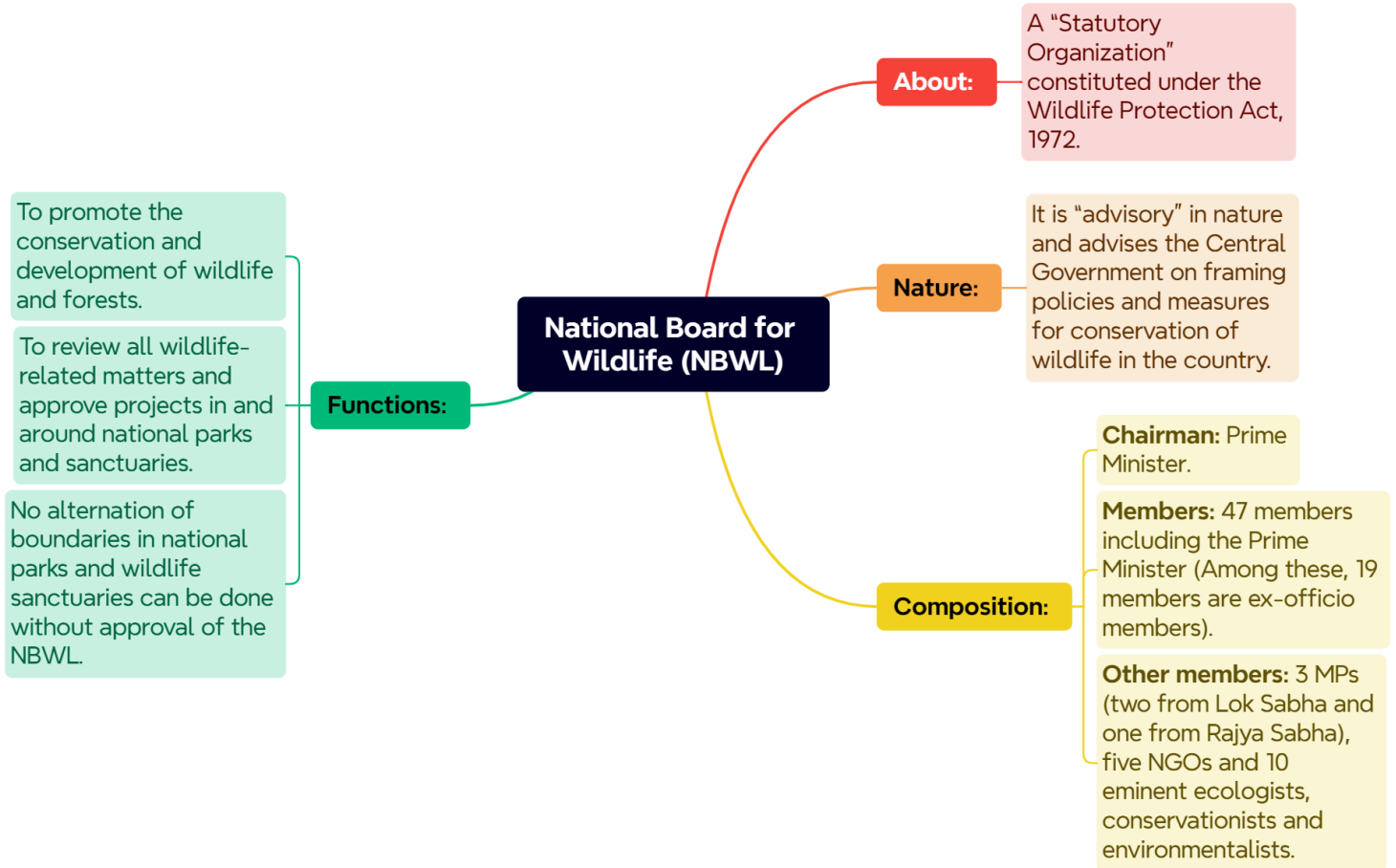
### 9. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)/ Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification Scheme - The Hindu

#### Context

- **Launch:** 2005
- **Aim:** To provide electricity to all rural households.
- **Funding:** Funded 90% by Central government and 10% by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).
- **Eligibility:** Applicable for all rural households living below poverty line.
- **New scheme:** RGGVY is replaced by Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)

## Environment

### 10. National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) - Indian Express



### 11. Mollem National Park - Indian Express

- **About:** Spread over 240 sq km in the Western Ghats, it is located in Sanguem taluk in Goa close to the border with Karnataka.
- **Earlier name:** Mollem game sanctuary.
- **Location:** Located near the town of Mollem, 60 km south east from Panaji, and the capital city of Goa.
- **Religious significance:** It also has several temples dating back to the Kadamba Dynasty.



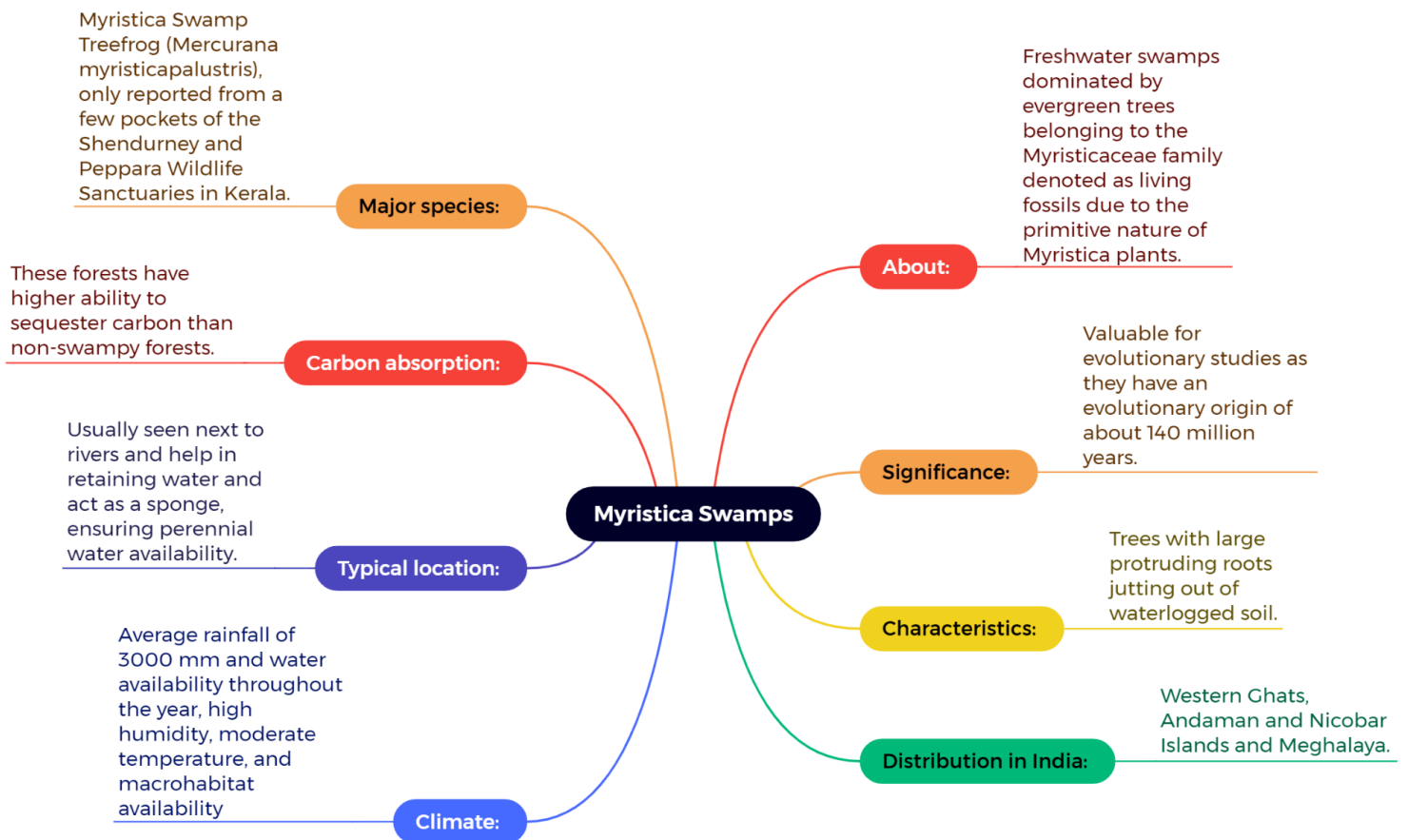
- **Mormugao–Londa railway line:** It passes amidst thick jungles of the national park.
- **Designation:** It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1969 and renamed Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary. It was named Mollem National Park in 1978.
- **Core area:** Over 107 sq km.
- **Fauna:** King Cobra, Hump-nosed pit viper, Indian rock python and Malabar pit viper.

## 12. Myristica swamp, Kumbral - Indian Express

### Context

A group of researchers from Dodamarg, a few kilometers away from Goa-Maharashtra border have discovered a sacred grove— a Myristica swamp forest in Kumbral, which is protected by the local community.

### Myristica Swamps



## Sci and Tech

### 13. The grave threat from AMR - Indian Express

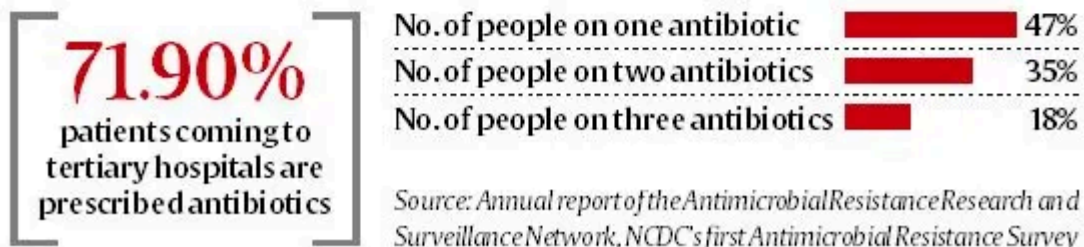
#### Context

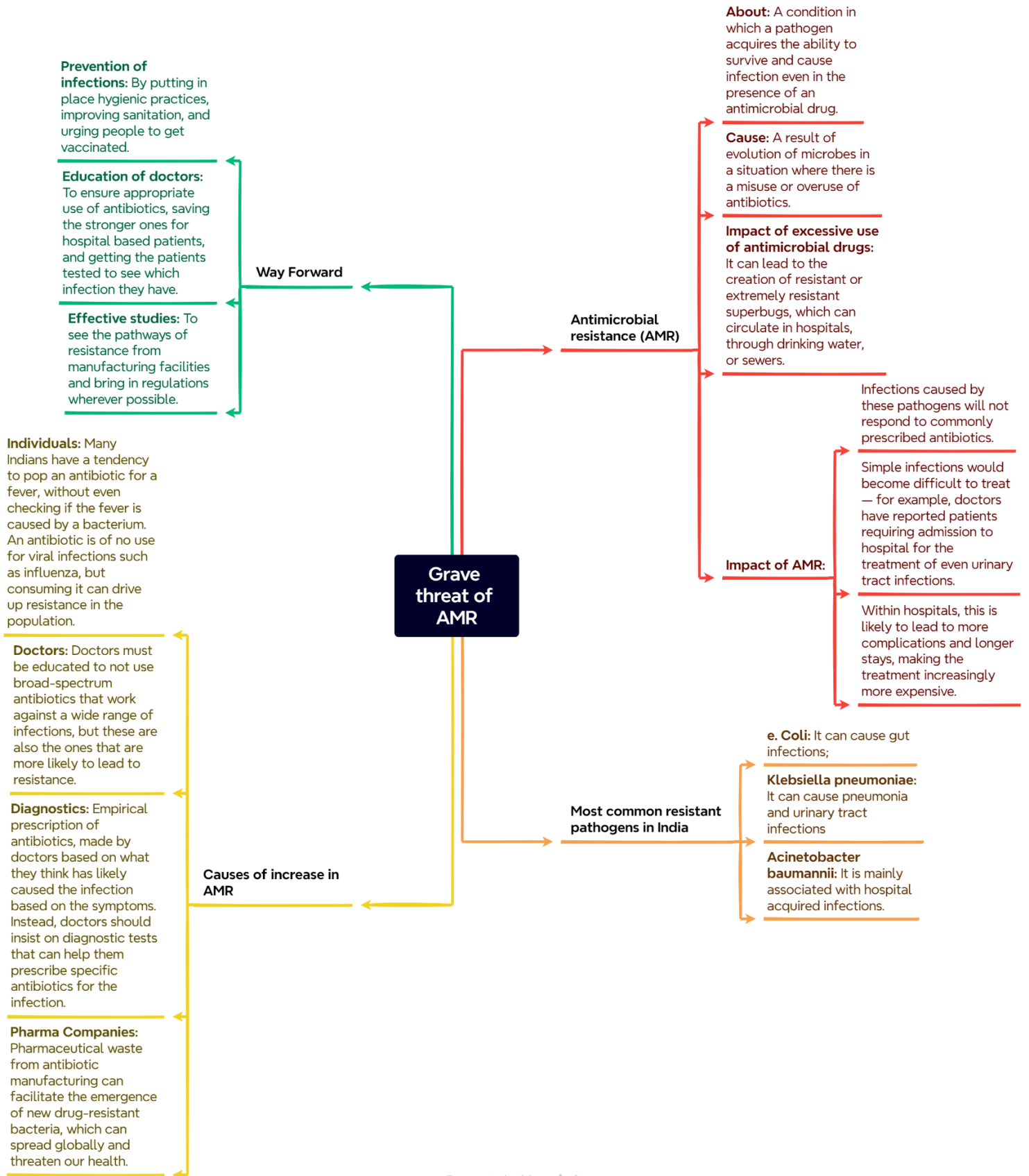
Ahead of the September 26 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance, the World Health Organization last week published its first-ever guidance on antibiotic pollution from manufacturing.

#### MOST COMMON PATHOGENS FOUND IN INDIA

Type of facility	Most commonly isolated pathogen	What the pathogen does	Resistance
ICU	<i>Acinobacter baumannii</i>	It can cause pneumonia, infections of the blood, urinary tract, and on wounds. It is becoming an important hospital-derived infection.	Continues to have 88% resistance to third-line, strong antibiotics like carbapenem
Wards & OPD	<i>E. coli</i>	May cause diarrhoea, UTI, pneumonia, and sepsis	Continues to show increased resistance to most classes of antibiotics, including carbapenem for which it went up from 18.6% in 2017 to 37.3% in 2023

#### MOST COMMON PRESCRIPTIONS







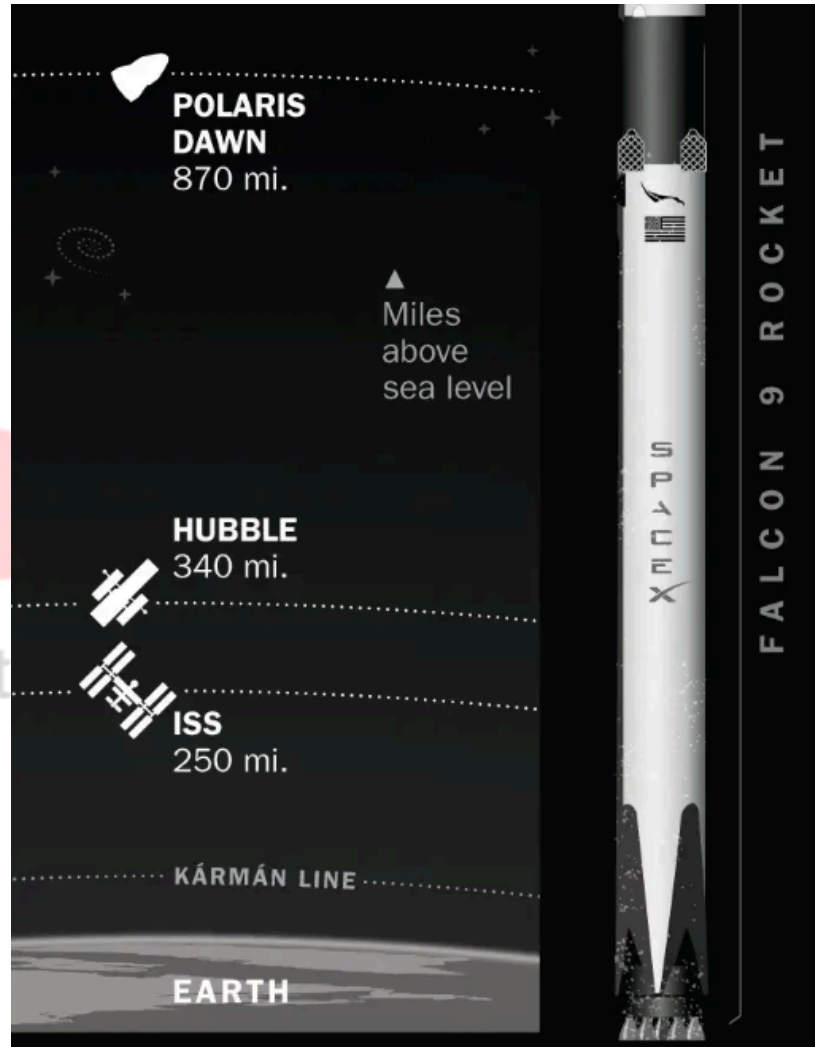
## 14. SpaceX launches all-civilian crew for first private spacewalk - The Hindu/ Everything about Polaris Dawn mission, which will attempt first private spacewalk - Indian Express

### Context

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Florida recently, carrying American billionaire Jared Isaacman and three others into orbit to attempt the world's first private spacewalk.

### Polaris Dawn Mission

- **Duration:** A five-day mission
- **About:** The first of three testing and development missions under the Polaris Program jointly executed by Isaacman and Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- **Height:** 1,400 km from Earth. It will be well into the inner band of the Van Allen radiation belts (highly radioactive regions in space that encircle the Earth) which begin at around 1,000 km altitude.
- **Aim:** To develop new technologies that could be used to send people to Mars some day.
- **Objectives:**
  - To get a maximum of about 1,400 km from Earth (farther away from the 1,372 km altitude that NASA's Gemini XI mission reached in 1966, the record for any crewed mission that was not headed to the Moon).
  - The crew will use this opportunity to "conduct research with the aim of better understanding the effects of spaceflight and space radiation on human health.



- To test the spacesuits, developed by SpaceX for this mission.
- To conduct 40 scientific experiments including trying to obtain X-ray images without an X-ray machine, with the help of natural showers of radiation in space.
- To test laser-based communication provided by SpaceX's Starlink satellite network that allows communication among satellites without relying on ground infrastructure to send signals.

### **Spacewalk/ Extravehicular activity (EVA)**

- **About:** A period of activity spent outside a spacecraft by an astronaut in space.
- **First-ever spacewalk:** Carried out on March 18, 1965, by the Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov that lasted 10 minutes.
- **Current status:** Today, spacewalks are usually done outside the International Space Station (ISS) and can last between five and eight hours.
- **Reasons:**
  - To carry out science experiments.
  - To test new equipment
  - To repair satellites or their spacecraft during the walk
- **Methods to carry out a spacewalk:**
  - **Tethering:** Astronauts wear a spacesuit and use rope-like safety tethers to attach themselves to their spacecraft.
  - **SAFER (Simplified Aid for EVA Rescue) methods:** A SAFER is put on like a backpack, and consists of small jet thrusters to help an astronaut move around in space controlled by astronauts with a small joystick.

## Miscellaneous

### 15. New portal provides technical terms in 22 Indian languages - The Hindu

#### Context

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), under Education Ministry, has launched a website which provides technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages.

#### Shabd ('shabd.education.gov.in') Portal

- **Aim:** To be a central repository for all the terminologies prepared for Indian languages.
- **Hosting content:** Glossaries of CSTT, other institutions or agencies having such dictionaries are also able to host their work in digital form.
- **Current content:** 450 dictionaries with three million words.
- **Significance:**
  - The users will be able to search the equivalent terms of scientific and technical terminology in Indian languages.
  - They will be able to register their feedback for the equivalents already prepared by the CSTT.
  - The user will have various options for search, whether based on languages, subjects, dictionary type, or language pairs.
  - Not only this, the user can choose to search in a specific glossary or through the entire collection.
  - Assumes significance amid efforts to provide technical education, including in medicine and engineering, in Indian languages.

#### Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)

