



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**



**1 NOVEMBER, 2023**

53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

[www.tathastuics.com](http://www.tathastuics.com)

9560300770, 9560300554

[enquiry@tathastuics.com](mailto:enquiry@tathastuics.com)



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	ETHICS, PARLIAMENTARY CONDUCT AND THE INDIAN MP
2.	A GAGANYAAN FOR THE SEAS: INSIDE INDIA'S 'DEEP OCEAN MISSION'
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

## ETHICS, PARLIAMENTARY CONDUCT AND THE INDIAN MP

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The case involves allegations that an MP from West Bengal accepted money in exchange for raising questions in Parliament, raising concerns about ethical conduct and parliamentary integrity.

### What is Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee?

#### ➤ Introduction:

- ✓ Established over 20 years ago, the **Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha carries the crucial responsibility** of monitoring the **behaviour of its members and addressing instances of unethical conduct** among Parliamentarians.
- ✓ While it often deals with relatively minor offenses, its role in upholding ethical standards within the Parliament is of great importance.



#### ➤ Composition of the Committee:

- ✓ This Committee **consists of 15 Members nominated by the Speaker.**
- ✓ The members of the Ethics Committee are selected by the Speaker for a **one-year term.**
- ✓ Its function is **to examine every complaint relating to unethical** conduct of a Member of Lok Sabha referred to it by the Speaker and **make such recommendations as it may deem fit** and formulate a code of conduct for Members and **suggest amendments or additions** to the code of conduct from time to time.

#### ➤ History of Ethics Committees:

- ✓ The concept of ethics committees for both Houses was **first proposed during a conference for Presiding Officers in Delhi in 1996.**
- ✓ In March 1997, **the Ethics Committee for the Upper House was officially inaugurated**, with Shri K R Narayanan, who was concurrently serving as Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President, leading the initiative.
- ✓ Its **primary objective was to ensure the ethical conduct of members and investigate** reported instances of **impropriety, applying the same regulations** that govern the Committee of Privileges.
- ✓ For instance, **in 1951, H.G. Mudgal, an MP from the Provisional Parliament**, was found guilty of **promoting a business association's interests** in exchange for financial benefits by introducing questions and amendments.
- ✓ A **special committee of the House determined that his behaviour** was derogatory to the House's dignity and inconsistent with the standards expected of members.

### ETHICS COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS:

#### ➤ Role:

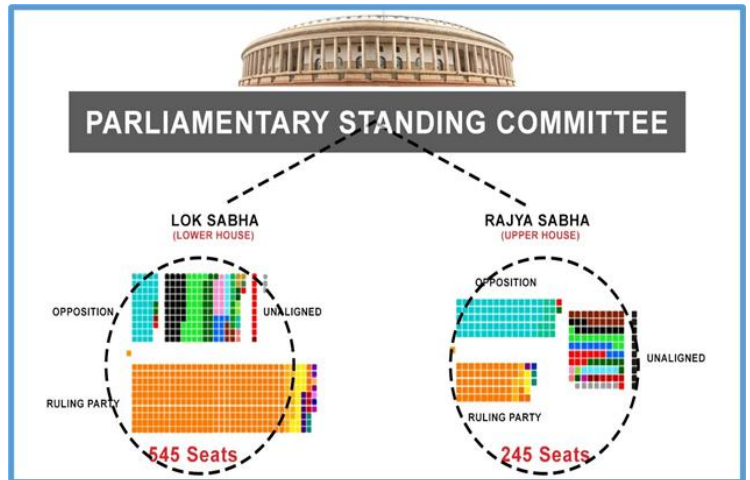
- ✓ It primarily **examines complaints related to unethical conduct by Members of Parliament (MPs) and provides recommendations for action.**
- ✓ The committee also **plays a pivotal role in developing a code of conduct for MPs.**



- ✓ Notably, the term '**unethical conduct**' is **not specifically defined**, and its **interpretation falls to the committee**.
- ✓ Past cases offer insights into identifying unethical behavior, such as an **MP taking an unauthorized companion on a parliamentary tour, falsely claiming them as a spouse**.
- ✓ In such cases, the ethics committee has recommended suspending the MP from House sittings and imposing travel restrictions for the remainder of the Lok Sabha's term.

#### ➤ **Criminal Offenses and Parliamentary Investigation:**

- ✓ In cases related to **criminal offenses**, like a **public servant accepting a bribe**, government criminal investigative agencies typically handle the investigations.
- ✓ Parliamentary committees are responsible for **determining whether an MP's conduct amounts to a breach of privilege or contempt of the House**.
- ✓ Sanctions imposed by these committees pertain to the MP's functioning within the House.
- ✓ Any **criminal offenses are subject to investigation and legal consequences under the relevant laws**.
- ✓ Importantly, the **ten MPs expelled from the Lok Sabha are still facing trial under the Prevention of Corruption Act**.



#### **OVERLAP WITH PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE:**

- There is often an **overlap in the responsibilities of the Ethics Committee and the Privileges Committee**, with both having roles in addressing allegations against MPs.
- Allegations of **corruption involving an MP can be referred to either committee**, but **more serious charges typically go to the Privileges Committee**.
- The Privileges Committee is primarily tasked with safeguarding the "**freedom, authority, and dignity of Parliament**."
- These **privileges extend to individual Members of Parliament (MPs)** as well as the House as a whole.
- An **MP can face examination for Breach of Privilege**, and **even non-MPs can be accused of breaching privilege** if their actions undermine the authority and dignity of the House.
- It's important to note that the **Ethics Committee's jurisdiction is limited to cases of misconduct involving MPs**.

#### **ACTION RECOMMENDED BY ETHICS COMMITTEE:**

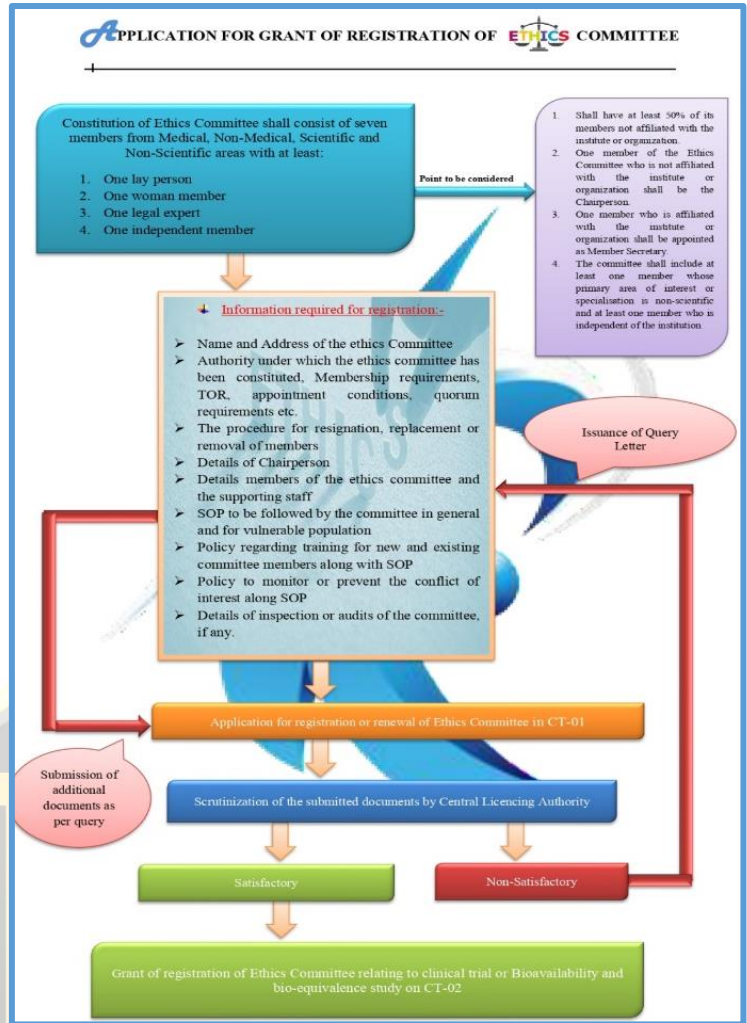
- Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee **examines and suggests actions on MPs' ethical conduct**.
- It reviews the code of conduct expected from MPs.
- Actions recommended include:
  - ✓ **Admonition:** A warning or admonishment for conduct or ethics breaches.
  - ✓ **Suspension:** Temporarily suspending an MP for serious misconduct.
  - ✓ **Expulsion:** Removing an MP for severe misbehaviour.
- Lok Sabha considers these suggestions, **but they aren't legally binding**.
- A **majority Lok Sabha vote** is needed to **implement expulsion or suspension**.



- Upholding parliamentary **integrity depends on adhering to ethical standards** and the Ethics Committee's recommendations.

**Challenging Ethics Committee Actions:**

- Generally, Ethics Committee **actions are part of Parliament's internal processes.**
- Courts usually **do not review these decisions**, respecting **the separation of powers.**
- However, **exceptions exist to protect the Constitution and fundamental rights.**
- If Parliament **exceeds its authority or violates rights, courts can intervene.**
- Legal challenges are rare, **requiring specific legal and constitutional considerations.**
- Seek **redress within the parliamentary system** before turning to the courts.
- Court challenges can be **based on natural justice denial, illegality, or unconstitutionality.**
- **High Court writ petitions** are suitable for state-level matters; **Supreme Court** for national issues.
- **Ensure fundamental rights align with Ethics Committee or Parliament actions** to warrant court intervention.



**WAY FORWARD**

- **Advancing the Role of Lok Sabha Ethics Committee:**
  - ✓ Despite its recent origin, the Ethics Committee is **vital for upholding high moral standards.**
  - ✓ It serves as a **guardian of parliamentary ethics**, preserving Lok Sabha's integrity.
  - ✓ MPs **sharing online question submission credentials** with assistants is a growing concern.
  - ✓ The Lok Sabha **lacks specific rules for online submissions.**
  - ✓ MPs can **engage assistance without disclosing information sources.**
  - ✓ **Article 105 grants MPs freedom** to access diverse sources for parliamentary work.
  - ✓ **Investigations into information sources** may lack legal sanction, as Parliament can discipline its members.



**Prelims Specific**

**Parliamentary Committees:**

- Parliament handles a **considerable volume of diverse work with limited time.**
- Many matters, including **legislation**, are addressed **through Parliamentary Committees.**
- There are two types of committees: **Ad hoc and Standing Committees.**
  - ✓ **Ad hoc Committees** have a specific purpose and **disband after task completion and reporting.**
  - ✓ **Standing Committees** include the **Business Advisory Committee, Committee on Petitions, Committee of Privileges, and Rules Committee.**
- Another vital group acts as Parliament's "**Watch Dogs**" over the Executive.

**Key Watchdog Committees:**

- The Committees on **Subordinate Legislation, Government Assurances, and Estimates.**
- The Committees on **Public Accounts and Public Undertakings.**
- **Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs).**
- These committees monitor government expenditure and **policy formulation.**





## A GAGANYAAN FOR THE SEAS: INSIDE INDIA'S 'DEEP OCEAN MISSION'

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- 'Samudrayaan' will be India's crewed expedition to a depth of 6,000 m in the central Indian Ocean.
- The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is India's ambitious quest to explore and harness the depths of the ocean. As part of this initiative, India will, for the first time, embark on a journey to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean using an indigenously developed submersible with a three-member crew.

### THE DEEP OCEAN MISSION (DOM):

- DOM is India's initiative for deep-sea exploration and resource utilization.
- It's primarily managed by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- Approved by the **Union Cabinet in 2021** at a cost of **approximately ₹4,077 crore over five years**.
- DOM consists of **six pillars**:
  - ✓ Development of **technologies for deep-sea mining** and a crewed submersible.
  - ✓ **Ocean climate change** advisory services.
  - ✓ Innovations for **deep-sea biodiversity**.
  - ✓ **Deep-ocean survey and exploration**.
  - ✓ **Energy and freshwater** harnessing from the ocean.
  - ✓ An advanced **Marine Station for Ocean Biology**.
- It aligns with the "New India 2030" objective of the **blue economy**.
- Part of the **Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC)**.

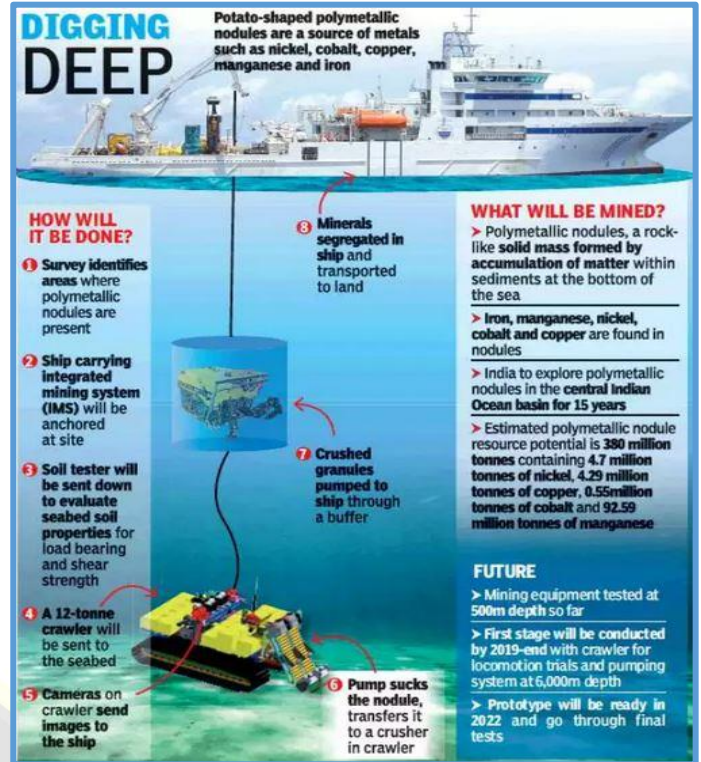


### MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF DEEP OCEAN MISSION:

- **Addressing Climate Change Issues:**
  - ✓ To address **long-term changes** in the ocean due to climate change.
- **Technologies for Deep-Sea Mission:**
  - ✓ Oceans, **covering 70% of the Earth**, are vital, but **95% of the Deep Ocean is unexplored**.
  - ✓ Develop technologies for **deep-sea exploration of living (biodiversity)** and **non-living (minerals)** resources.

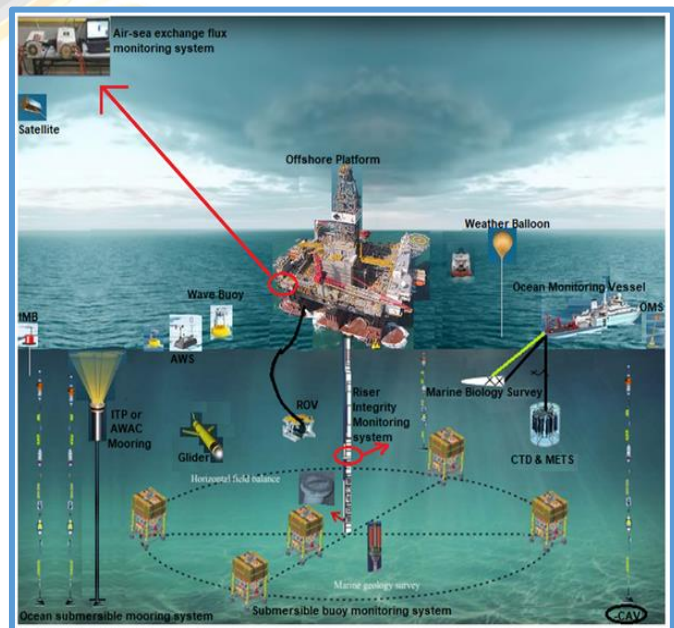


- **Strategic location:**
  - ✓ Unique maritime position with a long coastline and numerous islands.
  - ✓ India's Vision of New India by 2030 emphasizes the Blue Economy as a key growth dimension.
- **Underwater Vehicles and Robotics:**
  - ✓ Develop underwater vehicles and **underwater robotics for exploration and research.**
- **Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services:**
  - ✓ Provide advisory services for ocean climate change through **observations and modeling.**
- **Technological Innovations and Conservation:**
  - ✓ Identify **innovations and conservation methods** for the sustainable utilization of marine bioresources.
- **Offshore-Based Desalination:**
  - ✓ Develop offshore-based **desalination techniques** for providing clean drinking water.
- **Renewable Energy Generation:**
  - ✓ Develop techniques for **renewable energy generation from the ocean.**
  - ✓ Oceans **provide food, energy, minerals, medicines, influence climate,** and support life on Earth.
  - ✓ The **UN declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.**
- **Desalination and Mineral Extraction:**
  - ✓ Explore avenues for **desalination of water and extracting minerals** from the ocean belt.



**COMPONENTS OF DEEP OCEAN MISSION:**

- **Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining and Manned Submersible:**
  - ✓ Develop a manned submersible for deep-sea exploration and mining Polymetallic Nodules from 6000 meters depth in the central Indian Ocean.
- **Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services:**
  - ✓ Develop observations and models to understand and project climate variables on seasonal to decadal time scales.
- **Creating Awareness:**
  - ✓ Raise awareness among the public, students, academicians, and user communities about Earth system science and the achievements of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Technological Innovations for Deep-Sea Biodiversity:**





- ✓ Focus on bio-prospecting of deep-sea flora and fauna, including microbes, and sustainable utilization of deep-sea bio-resources.

➤ **Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration:**

- ✓ Explore potential sites of multi-metal hydrothermal sulfides mineralization along Indian Ocean mid-oceanic ridges.

➤ **Energy and Freshwater from the Ocean:**

- ✓ Study and design offshore Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) powered desalination plants.

➤ **Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology:**

- ✓ Develop human capacity and enterprise in ocean biology and engineering, translating research into industrial applications.  
Support marine biology, blue trade, and blue manufacturing.



**ADVANCEMENTS IN DEEP-SEA MINING AND MANNED SUBMERSIBLE DEVELOPMENT:**

➤ **Collaboration and Assistance:**

- ✓ ISRO collaborates with the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the implementation of the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM).
- ✓ VSSC's Involvement: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of ISRO is engaged in developing a 2.1-meter-diameter titanium alloy human sphere for the manned submersible.
- ✓ The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) leads the development of indigenous technologies.
- ✓ India's flagship deep ocean mission, 'Samudrayaan,' aims to reach 6,000 meters in the central Indian Ocean.

**Matsya6000 Submersible:**

- ✚ Matsya6000 aims for a 6,000-meter depth with a **three-member crew**.
- ✚ Combines features of remotely operated and **autonomous vehicles**.
- ✚ Operates **untethered with a 12-hour endurance**.
- ✚ Equipped with **scientific tools for observations and sample collection**.
- ✚ Constructed **from titanium alloy**, withstands up to 6,000 bar pressure.
- ✚ Features a **short-sleeved life support sphere**.
- ✚ India's ecosystem of underwater vehicles includes **deep-water ROVs, polar ROVs, AUVs, and more**.
- ✚ Expands India's underwater vehicle ecosystem, joining major exploration nations like **the USA, Russia, China, France, and Japan in deep-ocean exploration**.

- ✓ A deep-ocean submersible called 'Matsya6000' with a crew of three members is developed.
- ✓ Matsya6000 is equipped with scientific tools, sensors, and systems for mining polymetallic nodules.
- ✓ Trials have been conducted at 500 meters, with plans for full 6,000-meter capability.

➤ **Choice of 6,000-Meter Depth:**

- ✓ The strategic depth choice is to sustainably extract polymetallic nodules and sulphides.
- ✓ Polymetallic nodules, rich in valuable minerals, are found around 5,000 meters deep.
- ✓ Polymetallic sulphides occur around 3,000 meters in the central Indian Ocean.

➤ **Challenges in Deep-Ocean Exploration:**

- ✓ Deep-ocean exploration is more challenging than space exploration due to high pressure.
- ✓ Objects 1 meter underwater experience as much pressure as carrying 10,000 kg.





- ✓ Landings on the soft, muddy ocean floor are challenging.
- ✓ Extracting materials demands considerable power.
- ✓ Electronics and instruments need to function under high-pressure conditions.
- ✓ Poor visibility, variations in temperature, salinity, and corrosion pose further challenges.

#### OTHER INITIATIVES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Initiative	Description
<i>India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy</i>	✓ Inaugurated jointly by <b>India and Norway in 2020</b> to develop joint initiatives between the two countries.
<i>Sagarmala Project</i>	✓ A strategic <b>initiative for port-led development</b> , utilizing IT-enabled services for modernizing ports.
<i>O-SMART</i>	✓ An <b>umbrella scheme focusing</b> on the regulated <b>use of oceans</b> and marine resources for sustainable development.
<i>Integrated Coastal Zone Management</i>	✓ Focuses on <b>conserving coastal and marine resources</b> and improving livelihood opportunities for coastal communities.
<i>National Fisheries Policy</i>	✓ Promotes the ' <b>Blue Growth Initiative</b> ' by emphasizing the sustainable utilization of fisheries wealth from marine and aquatic resources.

#### WAY FORWARD

- The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is in the **news because it represents India's ambitious** and groundbreaking effort to explore and harness the potential of the deep ocean.

#### *Its significance for several reasons;*

- **Scientific Achievement:**
  - ✓ It **showcases India's prowess in developing advanced scientific** and technological capabilities for deep-sea exploration, a domain that remains relatively uncharted.
- **Resource Exploration:**
  - ✓ DOM is geared **towards extracting valuable resources from the ocean**, such as **polymetallic nodules, which can have economic and industrial implications.**
- **Environmental Impact:**
  - ✓ The mission is also expected **to contribute to research on ocean climate change** and the conservation of deep-sea biodiversity, which is crucial for understanding and preserving our marine ecosystems.
- **Global Recognition:**
  - ✓ By embarking on deep-sea exploration, India joins the **ranks of other nations like the USA, Russia, China, France, and Japan**, which have already achieved successful deep-ocean missions.
- **Strategic Significance:**
  - ✓ The **decision to target a depth of 6,000 meters** holds strategic importance for India as **it aligns with the nation's commitment to sustainably extract valuable resources** from the ocean floor.



## ***Prelims Specific***

### ***India's First and Unique Manned Ocean Mission, Samudrayan11***

- ✓ It was launched on **29 October 2021** from **Chennai**.
- ✓ With this step India joined the **elite club of nations** such as **USA, Russia, Japan, France and China** in having such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.
- ✓ It will facilitate **MoES** in carrying out **deep ocean exploration** of the nonliving resources such as **polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulphides and cobalt crusts**, located at a depth between **1000 and 5500 metres**.
- ✓ Preliminary design of the **manned submersible MATSYA 6000** is completed and realization of vehicle has been started with various organizations including Indian Space.






## PRELIMS POINTERS:

Topic	Information
<b>SIM-Swap Scam</b>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> Earlier this month, a North Delhi-based advocate became the latest victim of the 'SIM swap scam' in the national capital after she received three missed calls from unknown numbers and lost money from her bank account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It takes advantage of the connection between physical SIM cards and banking apps.</li> <li>➤ Fraudsters exploit this link to gain unauthorized access to bank accounts and personal data.</li> <li>➤ The scam involves phishing and vishing techniques to obtain personal information.</li> <li>➤ Phishing uses malware links sent through email or messages to steal personal data.</li> <li>➤ They report fake theft of SIM to get a duplicate.</li> <li>➤ No direct communication with victims is needed.</li> <li>➤ <b>Phishing</b> is a form of social engineering and scam where attackers deceive people into revealing sensitive information or installing malware such as ransomware.</li> </ul>
<b>District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs)</b>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> RBI said <u>District Central Co-operative Banks are allowed to close their un-remunerative branches without prior permission of the central bank</u>, though a nod will be needed from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the respective state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>DCCBs are rural co-op banks operating at the district level.</b></li> <li>❖ They serve the agricultural sector in rural areas.</li> <li>❖ Provide finance to co-op societies in the district.</li> <li>❖ Act as a link between primary societies and State Co-operative Bank.</li> <li>❖ Perform various banking functions.</li> <li>❖ Function as the banker of the state government.</li> <li>❖ Three sources of funds: share capital, public deposits, loans.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;"> <pre> graph TD     CCI[Cooperative Credit Institutions] --&gt; ACI[Agricultural Credit Institution]     CCI --&gt; NACI[Non-Agricultural Credit Institutions]     ACI --&gt; STCI[Short-Term Credit Institutions]     ACI --&gt; LTCI[Long-Term Credit Institutions (Land Development banks)]     STCI --&gt; SC[State Copperative]     STCI --&gt; CCB[Central Cooperative Banks]     LTCI --&gt; PACS[Primary Agricultural Credit Societies]     </pre> </div>
<b>Carbon nanoflorets</b>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> <u>Carbon nanoflorets (carbon 'flowers')</u> made by IIT Bombay researchers can convert incident sunlight to heat with 87% efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tiny carbon structures resembling marigold flowers.</li> <li>➤ <b>Synthesized from silicon dust with acetylene gas.</b></li> <li>➤ Efficient at converting sunlight into heat (87% efficiency).</li> <li>➤ Absorb multiple frequencies of sunlight.</li> <li>➤ Reflect very little light due to cone shape.</li> <li>➤ Effective solar-thermal conversion.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right;"> </div>



<b>Aerogels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Low heat dissipation due to long-range disorder.</li></ul> <p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> <u>The graphene-modified silica aerogel can remove over 76% of pollutants (parts per million level) when water is flowing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Mostly air, known as 'solid air' or 'frozen smoke'.</li><li>❖ <b>Exceptional adsorbents, lightweight, and porous.</b></li><li>❖ <b>Developed silica aerogels modified with graphene for water purification.</b></li><li>❖ <b>Removed over 85% of pollutants in controlled settings.</b></li></ul>
<b>Crab-plover</b>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> For the first time, <u>breeding nests of crab-plovers spotted at <b>Great Vedaranyam Swamp</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Long-legged bird of Indian Ocean coasts.</li><li>➤ Lays white eggs, chicks stay in burrows.</li><li>➤ <u>Found in Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, and more.</u></li><li>➤ Inhabits sandy coastlines, mudflats, and dunes.</li><li>➤ Conservation status: Least Concern (IUCN).</li></ul> 
<b>Point Calimere Sanctuary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Established in <b>1967, located in Tamil Nadu.</b></li><li>❖ Focuses on <b>protecting black antelopes.</b></li><li>❖ <b>Situated between Bay of Bengal and Palk Strait.</b></li><li>❖ <b>Designated as a Ramsar site.</b></li></ul>
<b>Meri Maati Mera Desh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The campaign is a <b>tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country.</b></li><li>➤ Organized by the Ministry of Culture.</li><li>➤ Activities at various levels, including <b>Amrit Kalash Yatra.</b></li><li>➤ <b>MY (Mera Yuva Bharat) Bharat platform</b> to be launched for youth.</li><li>➤ <b>MY Bharat</b> is being established as an <b>autonomous body to serve as a one stop whole-of-government platform for youth of the country.</b></li><li>➤ MY Bharat aims to inspire youth as community change agents and bridge between government and citizens.</li></ul>