



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**



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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	ORGANIC FARMING MISSION
2.	IMPORTANCE OF 'LOSS AND DAMAGE' FUNDS
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

## ORGANIC FARMING MISSION

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

The Kerala government has **launched an Organic Farming Mission to promote sustainable and climate-smart organic farming practices in the state. This initiative aims to significantly expand organic farming over the next five years, targeting an annual growth of 1,000 hectares.**

### ABOUT ORGANIC FARMING

➤ **Definition:**

- ✓ Organic farming is a **sustainable agricultural system that employs ecologically based pest control and organic fertilizers derived from animal and plant waste and nitrogen-fixing cover crops.**

➤ **Drivers of Organic Farming Adoption in India:**

- ✓ **Traditional Practice in Low Rainfall Areas:** In regions with low rainfall and limited resources for conventional agriculture, farmers have traditionally practiced organic farming.
- ✓ **Reaction to Ill Effects of Conventional Agriculture:** Some farmers turn to organic farming after witnessing the negative consequences of conventional agriculture, such as **decreased soil fertility, food toxicity, and rising input costs.** This group comprises both certified and uncertified farmers.
- ✓ **Commercial Adoption for Premium Prices:** Another group deliberately embraces **commercial organic agriculture to capitalize on the higher prices** offered for certified organic produce.
- ✓ **Response to Environmental Harm:** Modern organic farming **emerged as a response to the environmental damage caused by chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers** in conventional agriculture.
- ✓ **Ecological Benefits:** Organic farming **offers several ecological advantages compared to conventional methods, such as reduced pesticide use, lower soil erosion, decreased nitrate leaching into groundwater and surface water, and the recycling of animal wastes into the farm.**



### GOVERNMENT ORGANIC FARMING SCHEMES:

➤ **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):**

- ✓ **Launched in 2015** as a centrally sponsored scheme under the **National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).**
- ✓ Promotes organic farming across India using a **cluster approach (500-100 ha).**



- ✓ Facilitates farmers in obtaining **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)** certification.
- ✓ Provides organic inputs and **capacity building** for registered farmers.
- ✓ Offers assistance for establishing **vermicompost units and woven beds** for vermiculture.
- **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Regions (MOVCD-NER):**
  - ✓ Launched in 2015 as a **centrally sponsored scheme** under the National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
  - ✓ Implemented in **Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and Meghalaya.**
  - ✓ **Aims to develop certified organic production** through a **value chain approach, connecting producers with consumers** and supporting the entire value chain development.
- **Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CISS):**
  - ✓ Provides **100% assistance to State Government/Government agencies** for setting up mechanized **fruit/vegetable market waste/Agro waste compost production units.**
  - ✓ Assistance up to Rs. 190.00 Lakh/unit (3000 TPA capacity) for State entities and up to 33% of cost (limited to Rs. 63 lakh/unit) for individuals/private agencies.
- **National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP):**
  - ✓ Offers 50% subsidy of Rs. 300/ha for components like **bio-fertilizers and supply of microbial cultures.**
- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM):**
  - ✓ Provides **50% financial assistance for promoting Bio-Fertilizer (Rhizobium/PSB)** with a limit of Rs. 300/ha.
- **Increase in Organic Farming:**
  - ✓ **Cultivable land area under organic farming has more than doubled from 11.83 lakh ha in 2014 to 29.17 lakh ha in 2020.**
  - ✓ **The government aims to add 20 lakh ha more by 2024.**
  - ✓ Focus on awareness programs, post-harvest infrastructure, marketing facilities, and premium prices for organic produce to encourage organic farming.
- **International Ranking:**
  - ✓ **India's rank 6th in terms of World's Organic Agricultural land.**
  - ✓ **1st in terms of total number of producers as per 2021 data** (Source: FIBL & IFOAM Year Book, 2023).



#### ORGANIC PRODUCTION IN INDIA:

- **Production:**
  - ✓ Sikkim became the **first State in the world to become fully organic in 2016.**
  - ✓ In 2022-23, **India produced approximately 2.9 Million MT of certified organic products.**



- ✓ These products include various food items such as **oilseeds, fiber, sugar cane, cereals & millets, cotton, pulses, aromatic & medicinal plants, tea, coffee, fruits, spices, dry fruits, vegetables, and processed foods.**
- ✓ Organic production extends beyond edibles, encompassing organic cotton fiber and functional food products.

#### ➤ **Leading States in Organic Production:**

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh ranks as the largest producer of organic products in India, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Odisha.**
- ✓ The categories of organic products include **fiber crops, oilseeds, sugar crops, cereals and millets, medicinal/herbal and aromatic plants, spices and condiments, fresh fruits, vegetables, pulses, tea, and coffee.**

#### ➤ **Organic Exports:**

- ✓ India's total organic food exports in **2022-23 amounted to 312,800.51 MT.**
- ✓ The export revenue from organic food products reached around **INR 5,525.18 Crore (approximately 708.33 million USD).**
- ✓ India exports organic products to various countries, including the **USA, European Union, Canada, Great Britain, Switzerland, Turkey, Australia, Ecuador, Korea Republic, Vietnam, and Japan.**



#### **CHALLENGES:**

##### ➤ **Farms with High External Input Use:**

- ✓ Larger farms **relying heavily on external inputs.**
- ✓ **Chemical fertilizers and pesticides** are commonly used.
- ✓ **Crop rotations and livestock integration** are often lacking.
- ✓ **Challenges:** Long conversion process, **restoring soil fertility, initial yield depression,** and new learning requirements.

##### **Conversion practices:**

- ✓ Diversify farming, **recycle farm by-products, integrate animals,** and use cover crops/mulches.

##### ➤ **Farm with Low External Input Use:**

- ✓ Traditional practices with **minimal external inputs.**
- ✓ Random crop planting with **limited livestock contributions.**
- ✓ **Challenges:** Crop residue burning, **effective crop rotations, and soil fertility improvements.**

##### **Conversion practices:**

- ✓ **Planned rotations, intercropping, efficient composting, soil erosion control,** animal integration, and better seed management.

##### ➤ **Mixed Farm:**

- ✓ Farms that **integrate crops and animals,** with some soil conservation measures.
- ✓ Familiarity with **some organic practices.**



- ✓ **Challenges: Full organic transition** and reduced chemical usage.

**Conversion practices:**

- ✓ Organic soil and weed management, **nutrient recycling, pesticide-free seeds**, natural pest control, and diversified farming.

➤ **Degraded Land:**

- ✓ Land degradation from various factors.
- ✓ **Organic farming aids soil recovery.**
- ✓ **Challenges:** Soil degradation and reduced fertility.

**Conversion practices:**

- ✓ Terracing, **salt soil reclamation, acid soil recovery, flooded soil improvement.**

**WAY FORWARD:**

➤ **Promoting Organic Farming:**

- ✓ The **industry, government, scientists, and farmers** are collaborating to promote organic farming as a solution for healthy living.

➤ **Changing Consumer Preferences:**

- ✓ The **COVID-19 pandemic has shifted consumer preferences towards healthier food choices.**
- ✓ Millennials are advocating for **organic, natural, and chemical-free products** as part of a healthy lifestyle.

➤ **Role in India's Agro-Economy:**

- ✓ The organic food segment has experienced **substantial growth in recent years.**
- ✓ People are increasingly conscious of **their food choices, opting for naturally produced products with enhanced nutritional value.**
- ✓ The **emphasis on environmental conservation and increased adoption of organic farming** by farmers are driving the growth of the organic farming industry.
- ✓ The **government's strict regulations and authorized practices** further support organic farming in the context of climate change and environmental preservation.



### ***Prelims Specific***

#### **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority):**

##### ***About:***

- ✓ Established by the Government of India **under the APEDA Act, 1985.**
- ✓ Functions under **the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- ✓ Headquarters in **New Delhi.**

##### ***Functions:***

- ✓ **Promotes and develops the export** of scheduled products.
- ✓ Monitors **sugar imports.**
- ✓ Provides **financial assistance for surveys and feasibility studies.**
- ✓ Registers exporters and **sets standards for scheduled products.**
- ✓ **Inspects meat and meat products,** improves packaging.

##### ***Composition of APEDA Authority:***

- ✓ Chairman appointed by the **Central Government.**
- ✓ **Agricultural Marketing Advisor to the Government of India (ex-official).**
- ✓ Member representing Niti Aayog.
- ✓ Members of Parliament.
- ✓ Members representing various Central Government Ministries.
- ✓ Members representing States and Union Territories.
- ✓ Members representing specific organizations related to agriculture and exports.





## IMPORTANCE OF 'LOSS AND DAMAGE' FUNDS

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

### WHY IN NEWS?

As the **climate crisis intensifies**, two key terms, **adaptation** and **'loss and damage' (L&D)**, come into focus. Adaptation involves proactive responses to climate change, where communities and countries make intentional choices to prepare for and address climate-related challenges.

### WHAT IS THE LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND?

#### ➤ Loss and Damage Fund Origins:

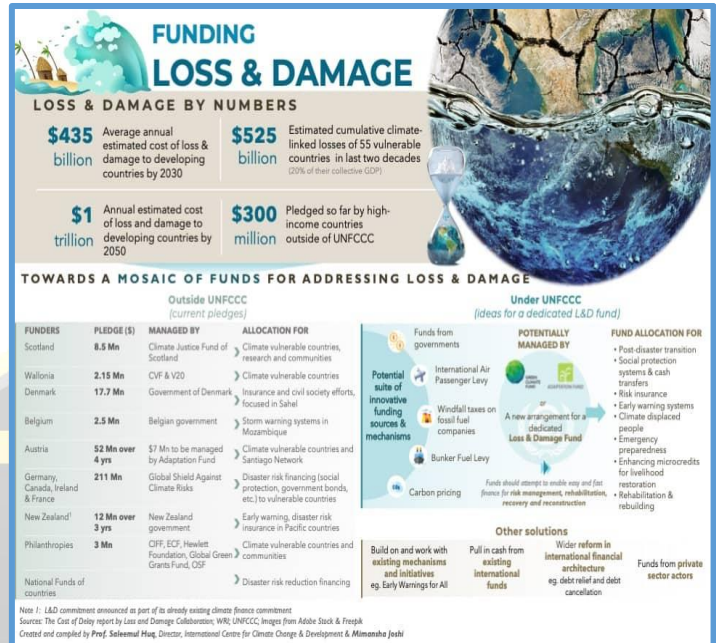
- ✓ The call for **affluent nations to acknowledge their responsibility for historic pollution**, spanning over 30 years, has gained prominence.
- ✓ Historic pollution, **raising the global surface temperature by over 1 degree Celsius**, disproportionately impacts the poorest nations.

#### ➤ Establishment of L&D Fund:

- ✓ At the **19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** in 2013, member countries formally agreed to establish the **Loss and Damage (L&D) fund**.
- ✓ This fund aimed to provide **financial and technical assistance to economically developing nations** facing L&D due to climate change.

#### ➤ Subsequent Developments:

- ✓ Despite the establishment, **COP 25 saw the creation of the Santiago Network for L&D without committed funds**.
- ✓ COP 26 initiated the **Glasgow Dialogue on finance for L&D**, spanning three years.
- ✓ In **November 2022, at COP 27**, representatives agreed to set up the **L&D fund and a Transitional Committee (TC)** to operationalize funding mechanisms.



### RECENT STAND-OFF:

#### ➤ Impasse at TC Meetings Causes:

- ✓ TC4 concluded on **Oct 20, 2023**, without a **consensus on L&D fund operations**.
- ✓ **Key issues:** Hosting at **World Bank**, **CBDR principle**, **climate reparations**, and eligibility of developing nations.
- ✓ Deepened **divide between developed and developing nations**.

#### ➤ TC5 Meeting and Recommendations:

- ✓ Impromptu TC5 in **Abu Dhabi** concluded recently.
- ✓ **Drafted recommendations** forwarded to **COP 28**, highlighting the contested nature of the L&D fund.

#### ➤ Developing Nations' Concessions:

- ✓ TC5 saw concessions from developing nations:



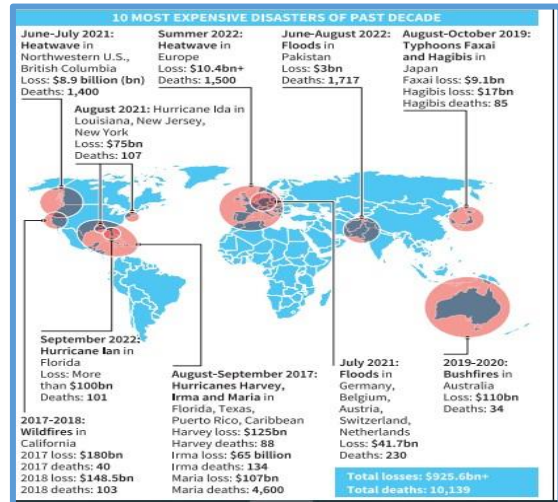
- Agreement to **host the fund at World Bank Financial Intermediary Fund** for four-year interim period.
- Managed by a **new independent secretariat**.

➤ **Uncertainty:**

- ✓ World Bank's willingness **unconfirmed**, and its **high overhead fee noted**.
- ✓ Developed nations, especially the **U.S.**, remain **non-committal as primary donors**, opting for voluntary support.
- ✓ Rejection of CBDR, **equity, and liability references dilutes the fund's spirit and intent**.

➤ **Fund Size Uncertainty:**

- ✓ **No indication of the fund's size** due to pressure from the U.K. and Australia.
- ✓ Current draft urges developed nations to provide funds without specifying an amount.



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**CHALLENGES AND CONSEQUENCES:**

- ✓ Discontent among developing nations arises from perceived neglect of their concerns, raising doubts about effective collaboration in addressing climate change.
- ✓ The impasse has broader implications, including economic, environmental, and security consequences, threatening climate justice and global climate action.

➤ **Ongoing Global Negotiations:**

- ✓ During COP27, the **European Union pushed for contributions from China, Arab states, and "large, developing countries,"** creating tensions around responsibility for funding.
- ✓ The impasse at TC meetings has implications for COP 28, with the **focus on the unwillingness of wealthy nations to fulfill commitments**, potentially derailing global climate action and putting more pressure on the COP 28 talks.

➤ **Ambiguity in Fund Setup:**

- ✓ The agreement **only commits to creating the fund without specifying its structure** and operational details.

➤ **Unclear Contribution Responsibilities:**

- ✓ Lack of clarity on **which countries will contribute to the fund**, leading to uncertainties in financial commitments.

➤ **Undefined Criteria for "Loss and Damage":**

- ✓ No consensus on what **qualifies as "loss and damage" caused by climate change**, including damage to infrastructure, property, and culturally significant assets.

➤ **Emphasis on Emission-Cutting vs. Adaptation:**

**LOSS & DAMAGE**  
[irreversible] & [repairable] = (CO2) MITIGATION + (Adaptation) ADAPTATION

**HOW CAN WE PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND PLACES?**  
Cut emissions massively. Support people and ecosystems to adapt to a changing climate. Address loss and damage as part of the global response to climate change.

**WHAT DOES LOSS AND DAMAGE LOOK LIKE?**

- Deteriorating livelihoods and loss of territory lead to forced migration and displacement.
- More extreme floods lead to increased loss of lives and property.
- Heat waves and water scarcity lead to crop failure, less food and water and loss of ecosystems.
- Sea level rise and coastal flooding lead to loss of territory, salinization of soils and loss of croplands.

**WE NEED CLIMATE ACTION**  
The planet is getting too hot. We must put a stop to greenhouse gas emissions (that's called mitigation) and prepare for climate shocks (that's called adaptation). But the shocks are getting worse, and more and more people can't handle the impacts. Communities need help when they are hit by permanent and unavoidable devastation (that's called addressing loss and damage).

1.5°C — 4°C





- ✓ Climate funding historically focuses on **emission reduction**, with a **limited portion allocated to projects for community adaptation to future impacts.**

#### INITIATIVES TO COMBAT LOSS & DAMAGE:

##### *India's Initiatives to Combat Loss and Damage:*

- **National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC):**
  - ✓ Established in **2015** to fund **climate change adaptation in vulnerable** Indian states and Union Territories.
- **National Clean Energy Fund:**
  - ✓ Created to **promote clean energy**, funded through a **carbon tax on coal usage by industries.**
  - ✓ Governed by an **Inter-Ministerial Group with the Finance Secretary as the Chairman.**
  - ✓ Mandate includes **funding research and development in both fossil and non-fossil fuel-based clean energy technology.**
- **National Adaptation Fund:**
  - ✓ Established in **2014** with a **Rs. 100 crores corpus to bridge the gap between climate change adaptation needs and available funds.**
  - ✓ Operated under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).**

##### *UNEP's Initiatives to Combat Loss and Damage:*

- **Role in Climate Knowledge and Science:**
  - ✓ UNEP plays a **leading role in producing accurate science** and knowledge on climate change impacts.
- **Support for Environmental Data Processing:**
  - ✓ UNEP supports **countries in collecting and processing environmental data.**
- **Landmark Studies:**
  - ✓ Produces critical studies like the **Emissions Gap Report** and the **Adaptation Gap Report**, providing **essential information to global policymakers.**
- **Community and Ecosystem-based Adaptation:**
  - ✓ Supports over **50 ecosystem-based adaptation projects** globally.
  - ✓ **Aims to restore approximately 113,000 hectares**, benefiting around **2.5 million people.**
- **Technical Assistance for Climate Information:**
  - ✓ Provides **demand-driven technical assistance for climate information**, including early warning systems and capacity building in various countries, such as **Timor-Leste, Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Ghana, Maldives, Sudan, and Pacific Island developing states.**



#### WAY FORWARD:

- **Addressing Gaps in Current Climate Finance:**
  - ✓ The Loss and Damage Fund should **specifically target gaps that existing institutions** like the Green Climate Fund fail to address.
- **Shortfall in Finance Flows:**



- ✓ Recognition that combined adaptation and mitigation **finance fell at least US\$17 billion** short of the **pledged US\$100 billion to developing countries in 2020.**
- **Role of the Transitional Committee:**
  - ✓ The Transitional Committee **plays a crucial role in recommending the setup and operations** of the fund.
  - ✓ It will **determine recipient countries and contributors**, demanding careful consideration.
- **Tackling Root Causes - Emission Reduction:**
  - ✓ **Effective mitigation of loss and damage requires addressing** the root cause of climate change – reducing emissions.
  - ✓ Drastic emission reduction is **paramount to prevent worsening impacts on countries.**
- **Urgent Need for Additional Resources:**
  - ✓ Highlighting the **urgency of securing more resources for mitigation**, adaptation, and loss and damage.
  - ✓ Emphasizing the **potential erosion of humanity's chances** to achieve Sustainable Development Goals without adequate resources.
- **Decision-Making on Funding Recipients:**
  - ✓ The fund's **effectiveness hinges on clear decisions** regarding which countries should receive funding and how contributions are allocated.
- **Sustaining Political Commitment:**
  - ✓ Stressing the **need for sustained political commitment to generate new finance.**
  - ✓ Ensuring funds are **strategically targeted to reduce emissions and enhance resilience.**
- **Learning from Experience:**
  - ✓ Emphasizing the importance of **learning and improving from recent experiences**, especially as the **Green Climate Fund becomes operational.**
- **Maintaining COP Credibility:**
  - ✓ Urging countries **not to lose momentum in their climate efforts.**
  - ✓ Highlighting the **significance of COPs as credible catalysts** rather than occasions for superficial victories.
- **Enhanced Finance Targeting:**
  - ✓ Advocating for **better-targeted finance to effectively address** both emissions reduction and vulnerability.



***PYQs***

***Prelims***

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the deposits of 'methane hydrate'? (2019)

Global warming might trigger the release of methane gas from these deposits.

Large deposits of 'methane hydrate' are found in Arctic Tundra and under the sea floor.

Methane in atmosphere oxidizes to carbon dioxide after a decade or two.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

***Mains***



Q. Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at World Leaders Summit of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, 2021. When was this idea first floated in the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? (2021)

Q. Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? (2021)





## PRELIMS POINTERS:

Topic	Key Points
<b>Geoglyph</b> 	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> A geoglyph in the form of a circle, said to be 3,000 years old, has been recently unearthed on the outskirts of Mudichu Thalapalli in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district of Telangana.</p> <p><b>WHAT IS A GEOGLYPH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <u>A large design or motif on the ground, typically longer than 4 meters.</u></li><li>▪ Formed by clastic rocks or durable landscape elements like stones, stone fragments, gravel, or earth.</li><li>▪ <u>Created by arranging or moving objects within a landscape.</u></li><li>▪ <b>Two types:</b> <u>positive geoglyph (formed by arranging materials on the ground) and negative geoglyph (formed by removing part of the natural ground surface).</u></li><li>▪ Another variation involves <u>seeding plants in a special design, known as <b>arborglyph</b>.</u></li><li>▪ Examples include the <b>Nazca Lines of Peru</b> and chalk giants carved into hillsides.</li><li>▪ Features of a geoglyph from Telangana dated to the Iron Age.</li></ul> 
<b>National Coal Index (NCI)</b>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> The National Coal Index increased by 3.83 points in September. This incline was influenced by temporary rise of coal prices in global markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rolled out by the Ministry of Coal on June 4, 2020.</li><li>▪ Price index reflecting the change in coal price relative to the fixed base year.</li><li>▪ Used to determine Premium or Revenue Share based on a market-based mechanism.</li><li>▪ <u>Encompasses all transactions of raw coal in the Indian market, including coking and non-coking coal in regulated and non-regulated sectors.</u></li><li>▪ Upward movement indicates rising demand for coal.</li></ul>
<b>New Guidelines on IT Governance for REs</b>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released final guidelines on information technology (IT) governance for regulated entities (REs) like banks, non-bank financial companies, credit information companies and other financial entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Regulated Entities (REs)</b> mandated to establish robust IT governance frameworks. Framework covers strategic alignment, risk and resource management, performance, and Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Management.</li><li>▪ Specifies roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, board-level Committee, and Senior Management.</li><li>▪ Emphasizes oversight mechanisms for accountability and mitigation of IT and cyber/information security risks.</li><li>▪ Establishment of Board-level IT Strategy Committee (ITSC) and IT steering committee.</li><li>▪ Guidelines for IT applications accessing critical or sensitive information.</li></ul>
<b>Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Implemented by the <b>Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India in North Eastern States and UT of Jammu &amp; Kashmir since 2012.</b></li></ul>



<p><b>Program</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus on legal empowerment, dissemination of simplified information, education, and communication materials, and capacity development of Panchayati Raj Functionaries and Village Chiefs.</li> <li>▪ Aims to empower the poor and disadvantaged sections of society to seek and demand justice services.</li> <li>▪ Uses technology for enhanced delivery of legal literacy.</li> <li>▪ Part of the Access to Justice Scheme named '<u>Designing Innovating Solutions and Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)</u>' from 2021 to 2026.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Dolphin</b></p>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> Tamil Nadu Government issued an order to implement ‘<b>Project Dolphin</b>’ under the <b>Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat programme of the government of India.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aims to strengthen marine ecology and overall health of the marine environment.</li> <li>▪ <u>Includes patrolling and surveillance, habitat improvement, removal of ghost nets, and local involvement with incentives.</u></li> <li>▪ Cost of implementation: 8.13 crore rupees during 2023-2024.</li> <li>▪ <b>Funding:</b> <u>60% from the Union government, remaining cost borne by the State.</u></li> <li>▪ Focus on improving dolphin species population and protecting their habitat while benefiting local communities.</li> <li>▪ <u>Coastal waters of Tamil Nadu and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve are major habitats for dolphins.</u></li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DO YOU KNOW?</b> The <b>Gangetic River dolphin</b> is <b>India's national aquatic animal.</b> It is a <b>Schedule I animal under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, of 1972.</b> It has been declared an <b>endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The <b>Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat program</b> is a continuous Centrally Sponsored Scheme that has been implemented by incorporating additional components and activities into the previous Centrally Sponsored Scheme known as "Assistance for the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" during the 11th Plan Period.</li> <li>❖ <b>Components of the program include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to Protected Areas, covering National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, and Community Reserves.</li> <li>• Protection of Wildlife Outside Protected Areas.</li> <li>• Implementation of recovery programs aimed at preserving critically endangered species and their habitats.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </div>
<p><b>Tanzania</b></p>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b> the Zanzibar (Tanzania) campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras was formally launched.</p>



**ABOUT TANZANIA:**

- An African country situated just south of the Equator.
- **Largest city and port city: Dar es Salaam.**
- **Highest mountain: Mount Kilimanjaro.**
- **Major rivers:** Ruvuma, Rufiji, Wami, and Pangani.
- **Climate** includes hot and humid coastal lowlands, hot and arid central plateau, high inland mountain and lake region, and highlands with tropical to temperate climates.
- Majority of Tanzanians are of Bantu descent.
- Official languages: Swahili and English.

