

MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)



Why is it crucial for fighting climate change?

The ‘State of World Mangroves 2022’ points out that mangroves are estimated to hold up to four times the amount of carbon as some other ecosystems. “The loss of even 1% of remaining mangroves could lead to the loss of 0.23 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent, equating to over 520 million barrels of oil,” the report states.

An initiative like MISHTI is in line with India’s Nationally Determined Contributions announced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent, through additional more forest and tree cover by 2030. India joined the Mangrove Alliance for Climate, at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties in Egypt.

The country lost 40 per cent of its mangrove cover during the last century. Kerala, for instance, lost 95 per cent of its mangroves in the last three decades, according to a study. This decline has been attributed to the conversion of the habitat to agriculture, aquaculture, tourism and urban development.

As these salt-tolerant trees store most of the carbon in their soil and sediments, they can stay locked for a millennium if left undisturbed. Mangroves are important nursery and breeding grounds for fish. Restoration projects worldwide can potentially lure the carbon offset market, which facilitates increased carbon credits trading.

Further, MISHTI has the potential to improve livelihood. The initiative could potentially generate and contribute to livelihood through initial engagement for plantation, tourism initiatives in regenerated areas and increased catch of commercial marine resources.

Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)



Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) are a new funding model created to help South Africa, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, and Senegal transition away from fossil energy and toward clean energy in a way that also addresses social issues associated with such an energy transition. They are also expected to leverage parallel investments in the energy systems of the JETP countries. While there is pressure from some of the JETP countries to make a bridging transition to gas, this is technically unnecessary, economically disadvantageous, and dangerous for the climate. Each of the JETP countries has significant solar and wind resources they should be supported to develop. JETPs need to support a direct transition to clean energy that provides signals to the wider investment community that participating governments are committed to a global clean energy transition.

The first such partnership was announced in 2021 at the 26th United Nations Climate Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, when South Africa was promised USD 8.5 billion in financing by the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Germany, and the European Union. The G7 Leaders' Communiqué (2022) announced a second tranche of JETPs, with India, Indonesia, Senegal, and Vietnam named as the next beneficiaries of the approach. Multilateral development banks, national development banks, and development finance agencies are now

actively engaged in the International Partnership Group (IPG), the JETP donor coordination group.

Although it was initially thought that JETPs would facilitate the transition away from coal specifically, the inclusion of Senegal, which is not a significant coal user compared to the other JETP countries has broadened the scope of the JETPs so that they now have the potential to apply to all fossil fuel-dependent countries.

JETPs are a new approach and are still very much in the process of evolving; they are being created through ongoing experience rather than having been designed upfront. This means it is still uncertain how the process will work in each country, including how to meaningfully engage with external audiences and stakeholders that have a critical role in helping the JETPs be successfully accepted and effectively implemented.

The energy transition is unlikely to be smooth, with infrastructure, technology, and behaviours creating tipping points or abrupt shifts from the fossil fuel status quo. These tipping points can feed off each other to create a paradigm shift in the energy system.

The G7 nations' plan of persuading India to start negotiations on a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), an initiative of the rich nations to accelerate phasing out of coal and reducing emissions has hit a road-block. JETP makes various funding options available for this purpose in identified developing countries. The Power Ministry has refused to give its consent to the negotiations so far, as it argues that coal cannot be singled out as a polluting fuel, and energy transition talks need to take place on equal terms.

All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21



The Ministry of Education, Government of India has released All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021. The Ministry has been conducting All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) since 2011, covering all higher educational institutions located in Indian Territory and imparting higher education in the country. The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teacher's data, infrastructural information, financial information etc.

Following are the key highlights of the survey:

Student Enrollment

- The total enrollment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.14 crore in 2020-21 from 3.85 crore in 2019-20.
- Since 2014-15, there has been an increase of around 72 Lakh in the enrolment (21%).
- The Female enrolment has increased to 2.01 crore from 1.88 crore in 2019-20.
- There has been an increase of around 44 Lakh (28%) since 2014-15.
- The percentage of female enrolment to total enrolment has increased from 45% in 2014-15 to around 49% in 2020-21.
- As per 2011 population projections for 18-23 years age group, GER has increased to 27.3 from 25.6 in 2019-20.
- Notable increase of 1.9 points is observed in GER of ST students in 2020-21, as compared to 2019-20.
- Female GER has overtaken Male GER since 2017-18. Gender Parity Index (GPI), the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from 1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21.

- The enrolment of SC students is 58.95 Lakh as compared to 56.57 Lakh in 2019-20 and 46.06 Lakh in 2014-15.
- The enrolment of ST students has increased to 24.1 Lakh in 2020-21 from 21.6 Lakh in 2019-20 and 16.41 Lakh in 2014-15.
- The average annual enrolment of ST students has increased to around 1 Lakh during the period 2014- 15 to 2020-21, from around 75,000 during the period 2007-08 to 2014-15.
- Enrolment of OBC students has also increased by 6 Lakh to 1.48 crore in 2020-21, from 1.42 crore in 2019-20.
- There is a notable increase in OBC student enrolment since 2014-15 of around 36 Lakh (32%).
- The total Student Enrolment in North East States is 12.06 Lakh in 2020-21 as compared to 9.36 Lakh in 2014-15.
- The female enrolment in North East States is 6.14 lakh in 2020-21, higher than the male enrolment of 5.92 lakh [For every 100 male students, there are 104 female students in NER].
- The female enrolment outnumbered male enrolment for first time in 2018-19, and the trend continues.
- The enrolment in Distance Education is 45.71 Lakh (with 20.9 Lakh Female), an increase of around 7%

Number of Institutions

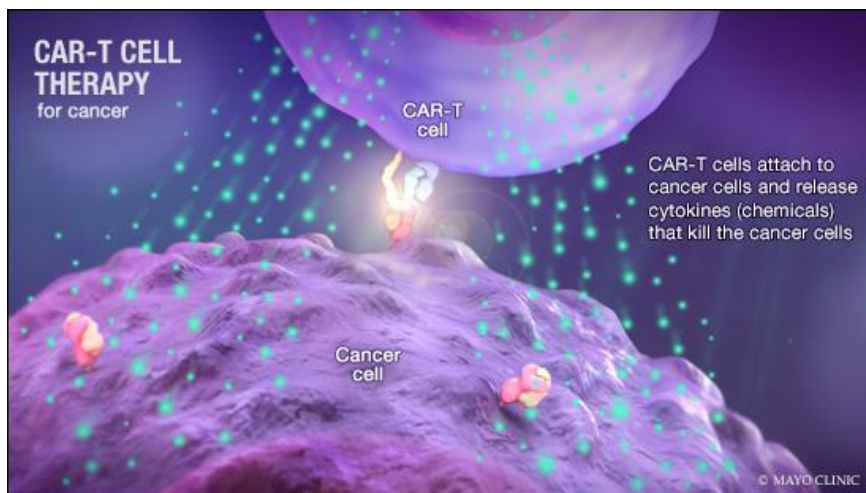
- The total number of Universities / University like institutions registered is 1,113, Colleges 43,796 and Standalone Institutions 11,296.
- During 2020-21, the number of Universities has increased by 70, and the number of Colleges has increased by 1,453.
- Since 2014-15, there has been increase of 353 Universities (46.4%).
- The Institutes of National Importance (INIs) have almost doubled from 75 in 2014-15 to 149 in 2020-21.
- 191 new Higher Education Institutions have been established in North Eastern States since 2014-15.
- Highest number of Universities is in Rajasthan (92), Uttar Pradesh (84) and Gujarat (83).

- During 2014-15 to 2020-21, on average, 59 Universities have been added annually. This was about 50 during 2007-08 to 2014-15.
- 17 Universities (of which 14 are State Public) and 4,375 Colleges are exclusively for women.
- The College Density, the number of colleges per lakh eligible population (population in the age-group 18-23 years) has been 31. This was 27 in 2014-15.

States with Highest college density:

- Karnataka (62), Telangana (53), Kerala (50), Himachal Pradesh (50), Andhra Pradesh (49), Uttarakhand (40), Rajasthan (40), Tamilnadu (40). Top 8 Districts with Highest number of Colleges: Bangalore Urban (1058), Jaipur (671), Hyderabad (488), Pune (466), Prayagraj (374), Rangareddy (345), Bhopal (327) and Nagpur (318).
- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat are top 8 States in terms of number of colleges.
- 43% universities and 61.4% colleges are located in Rural Areas.

CAR T-cell therapy



Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy is an approach that uses your own immune cells to fight cancer and has shown great promise in treating some types of blood cancers.

CAR T cell therapy involves removing immune cells called T cells from the blood and introducing a new gene into those cells that enables them to recognize the cancer. After the gene is inserted, the T cells are infused back into the bloodstream, where they multiply and initiate a variety of immune responses aimed at attacking the cancer cells.

CAR T cell therapy is used to treat certain kinds of lymphoma, pediatric leukemia, and adult leukemia. It is also being investigated for the treatment of other cancers, including some solid tumors that appear in the chest.

CAR T-cell therapy makes T cells focus their attention toward a substance the body thinks is harmful called an antigen, which is found on the surface of specific cancer cells. In the manufacturing of CAR T cells, a protein is added to the T cell's surface to help them achieve this focus. This protein is called a chimeric antigen receptor, or CAR. This CAR protein is actually made up of 3 other proteins: 1 protein that recognizes antigens on the cancer cell and 2 proteins that signal the T cell to activate when that first protein attaches to an antigen on the cancer cell. When a T cell has a CAR added to it, it is called a "CAR T cell." CAR T cells work by floating around the body and looking for cells that carry the antigen programmed into the CAR protein, like certain cancer cells. When a CAR T cell comes in contact with an antigen on a cancer cell, it activates. Activated CAR T cells multiply and signal to other parts of the immune system to come to the site of the cancer cell. These signaling proteins are called cytokines. All of these cytokines and activated T cells then cause significant inflammation focused at the cancer cell, which causes the cancer cell to die. If all of the cancer cells die, the cancer can become in remission, which means the cancer has disappeared either temporarily or permanently.

Clean energy transition plan



India, with a large population and growing economy is the fifth most polluted country in the world. Coal and traditional power generation account for a large share in this pollution. The country mainly relies on fossil-fuel-based power generation, and more than 59% of its total installed capacity comes from coal, lignite, gas and diesel sources. The total installed capacity of India is 400 GW.

India's energy transition started in the early 1980s when it set up a dedicated governing body for non-conventional energy matters, called the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the first country to do so. In 1986, the country set up its first wind power plants in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, reaching total wind power installed capacity of about 13 GW by 2010. In 2009, the country set up its first solar power plant in Punjab with a capacity of two megawatts (MW). Since then, India has been working aggressively toward increasing its dependency on renewable and non-emission energy.

As a step toward growth, India started allowing private power generation from 2003. This enabled private investors to set up power plants in the country, making it a popular energy investment destination. The country eased the norms for foreign investment in power and renewable energy. This led to growth in the participation of global players in Indian non-conventional energy projects and large-scale foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow.

Until 2000, India had a cumulative wind power generation capacity of 1.17 GW. Since then, renewable energy in India has grown rapidly. The total wind power capacity in the country increased at a CAGR of 17.5% to 40.4 GW in March 2022 from that in 2000

Since 2016, India's solar power installed capacity has been increasing rapidly, with the country almost doubling its capacity every year. The total solar capacity increased from 500 MW in 2011 to about 6.8 GW in 2016. In 2019, this number increased more than four times to 28.2 GW. As of March 2022, India's total solar power installed capacity stood at 54 GW, placing it among the top five global players. In the last seven years, the country witnessed a whopping CAGR of 41% in solar installations.

In January 2022, India's MNRE signed a partnership agreement with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to strengthen its collaboration for renewable energy development in the country. Under this partnership, both sides will facilitate knowledge sharing and support the country's efforts to advance cost-effective decarbonization by developing domestic green hydrogen. This will help India enable cost-effective green hydrogen production, storage, distribution and innovative technologies from IRENA.

India is one of the largest energy consumers and the third-largest renewable energy producer in the world. To strengthen its energy transition, the government implemented several policies and schemes to encourage manufacturing and research in renewable energy. In the recent Budget 2022–23, India allocated Rs. 19,500 crore (US\$ 2.61 billion) for domestic solar cells and module manufacturing. Similarly, Rs. 1,050 crore (US\$ 141 million) was allocated to the wind power sector. The production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes will support Indian manufacturers in setting up integrated manufacturing units of high-efficiency solar modules. These initiatives are expected to boost production and export of renewable energy equipment in India.

At the COP-26 summit in November 2021, India pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2070. This involves reducing the transport, industrial and power plant emissions in the country. As India is considerably dependent on fossil-fuel based power generation, it plans to switch to non-fossil fuel in the near future. As per a resolution passed during the UN climate change summit, India hopes to achieve an installed non-fossil fuel electricity capacity of 500 GW by 2030. The country is also considering halting operations at the ongoing coal-based power plants.

By reducing the economy's carbon intensity to less than 45%, India plans to decrease its carbon emission by 1 billion tonnes. In August 2021, as part of the National Solar Mission, the centre set a target of achieving 300 GW of solar energy in India by 2030. With the development plans and industry growth, solar is expected to be the biggest contributor to the energy needs of India in the future.

Short selling in stock market



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) defines short selling as the sale of a security or share that the seller does not own. In short selling, an investor sells borrowed shares in the market in the hope of buying them back at a cheaper price.

Short selling is exactly the opposite to usual stock market investments, where an investor has bought a stock, hoping that its price will rise in future. In short selling, an investor holds a short position after anticipating a decrease in the value of a stock.

Simply put, an investor makes money by betting on a company's stock or assets.

Short selling is a highly complicated trading strategy that reaps huge profits on correct predictions. At the same time, it could lead to heavy losses if the value of a shorted stock does not go down.

Dharma guardian



The annual exercise between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Force

It said that the joint exercise will enable the armies from the two countries to share best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for conducting tactical operations under a UN mandate, in addition to developing interoperability, bonhomie, camaraderie, and friendship between the two armies.

The exercise will further enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian and Japanese troops, furthering the bilateral relations between the two nations. This annual training event with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations against the backdrop of the current global situation.

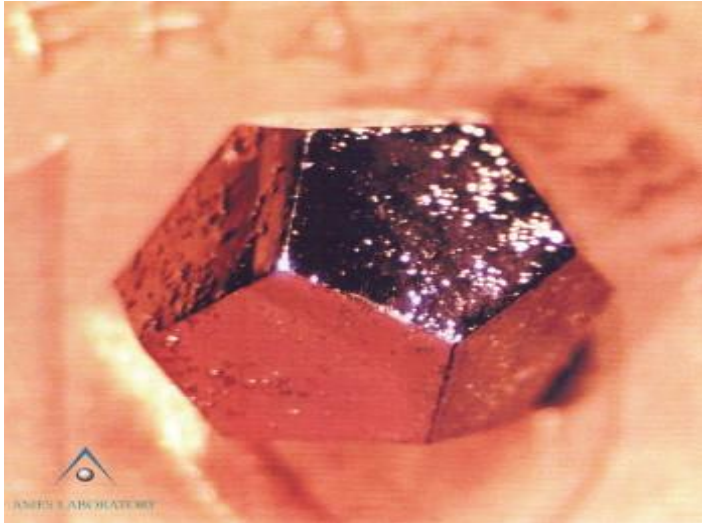
Other Exercise between India and Japan

Malabar Exercise :India and Japan, along with the United States and Australia participate in the naval exercise named Malabar. It is a multilateral naval exercise that was started in 1992. It began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States.

Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) :The JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with a special focus on maritime security cooperation. It is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). The exercises aimed at enhancing interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.

Shinyuu Maitri : Shinyuu Maitri is a Japanese Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) and Indian Air Force bilateral air exercise. The objective of this exercise is to undertake Joint Mobility and tactical interoperability among two forces.

Scientists have reported finding only the third natural source of quasicrystals



Scientists have discovered a new type of quasicrystal, one with 12-fold symmetry, in the Sand Hills of north central Nebraska, USA. It said that this quasicrystal was formed during an accidental electrical discharge, possibly by a lightning strike or a downed power line in a dune. Quasicrystal is essentially a crystal-like substance. However, unlike a crystal, in which atoms are arranged in a repeating pattern, a quasicrystal consists of atoms that are arranged in a pattern that doesn't repeat itself regularly.

it's also the first time that researchers have found a quasicrystal somewhere other than meteorites or the debris from nuclear blasts. Scientists have been producing them in laboratories for years now, but it's quite rare to discover naturally occurring quasicrystals.

For the longest time, physicists believed every crystalline arrangement of atoms must have a pattern that repeats itself perfectly over and over again. However, this changed in 1982, when material scientist Dan Shechtman discovered crystal structures that are mathematically regular, but that do not repeat themselves.

They are used in manufacturing non-stick frying pans, needles for acupuncture and surgery, dental instruments and razor blades.

The scientists behind the latest research also mentioned that the discovered quasicrystal has a dodecagonal or 12-sided atomic structure, which is quite unusual because the previously found quasicrystals, as well as the lab-grown ones, have five-fold symmetric patterns.

Millets and health



Known as the ancient native crop of India, Millet is also one of the oldest cultivated grains in the world. It has been growing throughout Africa and Southeast Asia for thousands of years.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture in India, Millets are traditional grains, grown and consumed in the Indian subcontinent from the past 5000 years. According to researchers of International Crops Research Institute of the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), if rice is replaced by millet in meals for a duration ranging from three months to four and a half years, it can boost growth in children and adolescents by 26 per cent to 39 per cent.

As per the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Millets are nutritionally superior to other grains, it contains high number of proteins, essential amino acids, minerals and vitamins. IIMR states that Millets contain:

- 7-12 per cent protein
- 2-5 per cent fat
- 65-75 per cent carbohydrates
- 15-20 per cent dietary fibre
- Finger millet (Ragi) is the richest source of calcium, it contains around 300-350 mg/100 g

IIMR also adds that Millets are also a natural source of iron, zinc, calcium and other nutrients that are essential for curbing the problem of malnutrition, which is highly prevalent in India.

According to Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), Millets have high amount of dietary fibre therefore it often acts as a “prebiotic,” which means it supports good bacteria in your digestive system.

Millets have higher content of niacin, which helps the body manage more than 400 enzyme reactions. Niacin is also very important for healthy skin and organ function.

Food Security and Standard Authority of India adds that millets can help prevent cardiovascular diseases as millet consumption decreases triglycerides and C. Millets are also known for preventing Type 2 diabetes and reducing blood pressure.

Apart from all these health benefits of the crop, Millet is also tagged as ‘Smart Crop’ as there are advantages loaded in its favour such as low-maintenance, disease, pest resistance and ecological benefits, states International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics. It also adds that Millet is known as C4 crops as they have higher efficiency in absorbing and utilizing carbon dioxide. It also adds that most varieties of Millets are well known for their hardiness and have the capacity to withstand prolonged periods of drought, high temperatures and still produce grains and fodder.

Turkey-Syria earth quake



The Arabian Peninsula is part of a tectonic plate that is making its way north into the Eurasian Plate, and the entire nation of Turkey is getting squeezed aside.

That tectonic shift has been behind earthquakes for millennia in the area, including one that flattened the Syrian city of Aleppo in 1138. More recent quakes, such as the 1999 one that struck the city of İzmit, have killed many thousands.

This earthquake occurred because "two pieces of the Earth are sliding horizontally past each other," the same kind of quake that occurs along the San Andreas fault in California. In this case, the Arabian Plate is sliding past the Anatolian Plate. That sliding motion also meant the shaking was spread out for many kilometers along the fault.

The catastrophic earthquake which struck Turkey is unique not only because of its huge magnitude, but also because the events leading up to it occurred within the East Anatolian fault system, where major earthquakes have not occurred in the past. Earlier, most of the major earthquakes in Turkey occurred along the North Anatolian fault system.

Sudden movement along faults within the Earth causes earthquakes due to the release of stored-up 'elastic strain' energy in the form of seismic waves. Elastic strain energy refers to the energy stored in a structure due to its elastic deformation. The elastic strain energy released in the form of seismic waves propagates through the Earth and causes the ground to shake.

Greater Tipra land demand



The demand is to carve out a separate state of 'Greater Tipraland' for the indigenous communities in Tripura under Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

The 'Greater Tipraland' idea does not restrict only to Tripura, and seeks to also include Tripuris living in Assam, Mizoram, and Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

If 'Greater Tipraland' state is formed, tribals, who form one-third of the population will control two-thirds of the territory, and non-tribals, who form two-thirds of the population, will have to settle with only one-third of Tripura's area.

The demand for a Greater Tipraland to be carved out of the current third-smallest state in terms of area stems from a desire for an ethnic homeland for indigenous communities in the region, who have been reduced to minorities after the influx of Bengalis in the area during Partition. There was another influx during the 1971 liberation war in Bangladesh.

As per Article 2 of the Constitution "Parliament may, from time to time, by law admit into the Union, or establish, new States on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit". Article 3 of the Constitution adds - "Parliament may by law—

- (a) form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State;
- (b) increase the area of any State;
- (c) diminish the area of any State;
- (d) alter the boundaries of any State;
- (e) alter the name of any State"

Draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022



The Bill is aimed at providing for the declaration, preservation, protection and maintenance of geo-heritage sites and geo-relics of national importance, for geological studies, education, research and awareness purposes.

The draft bill defines Geoheritage sites as “sites containing geo-relics and phenomena, stratigraphic type sections, geological structures and geomorphic landforms including caves, natural rock-sculptures of national and international interest; and includes such portion of land adjoining the site,” that may be required for their conservation or to access to such sites.

And, a Geo-relic is defined as “any relic or material of a geological significance or interest like sediments, rocks, minerals, meteorite or fossils”. The GSI will have the power to acquire geo-relics “for its preservation and maintenance”.

The 32 geo-heritage sites spread across 13 states include the Volcanogenic bedded Barytes of Mangampeta in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh, the Akal Fossil Wood Park in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan and others.

The Bill states that despite identifying these sites, there are concerns over their preservation. “Due to the absence of any legislation in the country for the protection, preservation and maintenance of the geoheritage sites, these are increasingly threatened with destruction not only

by the natural causes of decay but also by population pressure and changing social and economic conditions which is aggravating the situation.”

It states, “The fossil wealth of dinosaur remains of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, marine fossils of Kutch and Spiti...oldest life forms viz. stromatolites of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh...are of great geoheritage and geotourism value. The world’s oldest metallurgical records of gold, lead and zinc in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are still preserved but are under great threat.”

The key proposals say: It would authorise the Central Government to declare a geoheritage site to be of national importance. This would be under the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act). Through a public notification in the Official Gazette, the government would spell out what areas were to be acquired by it, and objections to this can be raised within two month.

Provision is made for compensation to the owner or occupier of land who incurs loss or damage from the land due to the exercise of any power under this Act. The market value of any property will be ascertained in accordance with the principles set out in the RFCTLARR Act.

The Bill imposes a prohibition on construction, reconstruction, repair or renovation of any building within the geoheritage site area or utilisation of such area in any other manner, except for construction for preservation and maintenance of geoheritage site or any public work essential to the public.

India, UAE, France trilateral



India, France and the UAE announced a formal trilateral cooperation initiative in the areas of defence, nuclear energy and technology.

The trilateral initiative will serve as a forum to promote the design and execution of cooperation projects in the fields of energy, with a focus on solar and nuclear energy.

Defence and security bind the three countries as they seek to collaborate and enhance training between the military personnel of the three nations. They also plan to jointly produce military hardware. The trio is also sometimes also referred to as the ‘Rafale group’ as France has sold its fighter jets to both India and the UAE. Besides, France has a military base in Abu Dhabi, its first-ever outside Africa, to keep an eye on shipping lanes and curb piracy particularly around the Horn of Africa region.

Their initiatives on environment, climate change and defence seek to increase joint influence in the Indo-Pacific region. A joint statement said that the three countries will work to align their economic, technological and social objectives as per the Paris Agreement. On energy, the three nations plan cooperation in solar and nuclear where India and France have together initiated the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to promote solar as a clean and sustainable energy. India and France are partners in the Indo-Pacific Parks Partnership where they aim to reinforce protected areas and natural parks.

The three nations also seek to cooperate in combating climate change and protect biodiversity with the UAE taking the initiative on the Mangroves Alliance to which India made commitments

during the Cairo conference on climate change in November last year. They also plan to focus on single-use plastic pollution, desertification and food security by promoting and taking initiatives related to the International Year of Millets-2023.

The India-France-UAE trilateral also fits in with India's growing relations in the Gulf. The most notable initiative being the I2U2 group – India, Israel, the UAE and the US, also known as the West Asia Quad. The West Asia Quad seeks to not only deepen economic partnership among the four nations but also further partnership in water, transportation, clean energy and food security.

For India, UAE is strategic as the country hosts the largest percentage of the huge Indian diaspora residing in the Gulf. Moreover, the country receives a substantial part of its remittances from the Gulf countries including the UAE.

The trilateral, for India, fits in with its 'minilateral' strategy in which the country is working with a number of smaller groups to achieve diplomatic and strategic objectives in a multi-polar world where the UN is largely being seen as outdated with too many conflicts and crises plaguing the world.

Other areas where the countries agreed to collaborate include measures against infectious diseases, technological innovation and promoting cultural cooperation.

Draft norms for lending and borrowing of government securities



The Reserve Bank of India has published draft norms for lending and borrowing of government securities with wider participation in the securities lending market. The RBI proposed introduction of securities lending and borrowing in government securities (G-secs) with an aim

to facilitate wider participation in the securities lending market by providing investors an avenue to deploy idle securities and enhance portfolio returns.

"Government Securities Lending (GSL) transactions shall be undertaken for a minimum period of one day and a maximum period of ninety days," said the draft Reserve Bank of India (Government Securities Lending) Directions, 2023.

The draft said government securities issued by the central government excluding Treasury Bills would be eligible for lending/borrowing under a GSL transaction. Government securities issued by the central government (including Treasury Bills) and the state governments would be eligible for placing as collateral under a GSL transaction, it added.

An entity eligible to undertake repo transactions in government securities, and any other entity approved by the Reserve Bank would be eligible to participate in GSL transactions as lender of securities.