

- ▶ Lok Adalat is an **Alternative Dispute Redressal Mechanism (ADRM)**.
 - ⊕ **ADRM** involves various methods of resolving conflicts **outside** of the **traditional court system**.
 - ⊕ They have played key role in **reducing the burden of judiciary** and provided a **speedy, cheaper, and more amicable approach to resolve conflict**.
- ▶ **Key Aspects of Lok Adalat:**
 - ⊕ **Establishment:** Under **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
 - ⊕ **Tiers:** Constituted at different levels namely, National Lok Adalat, State Authority level, High court level, District Court level and Taluk level.
 - ◆ **National Level Lok Adalats** are held for at regular intervals where on a single day Lok Adalats are held throughout the country.
 - ◆ **Mobile Lok Adalats** are also organised.
 - ⊕ **Jurisdiction:** **Disputes/cases pending** in the court of law or at **pre-litigation stage**.
 - ⊕ **Nature of cases:** Civil Cases, Matrimonial Disputes, Land Disputes, Partition/Property Disputes, Labour Disputes etc.,
 - ⊕ **Powers:** Have the same powers as are vested in a **Civil Court** under the **Code of Civil Procedure (1908)**.
 - ◆ **Decisions/Awards** are **final and binding** on all parties.
 - » **No Appeal** shall lie to any Court against its Award.

Other Major ADRM in India

- ▶ **Arbitration** (quasi-judicial proceeding, decision is binding)
- ▶ **Mediation** (decision making on voluntary and consensual basis)
- ▶ **Conciliation** (conciliator assists the parties to reach a mutually satisfactory agreed settlement, **non-binding**).

20 years of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

- ▶ On December 9, 2003, UNCAC was signed in Mexico. It entered into **force in 2005**. ▶

Key features

- ⊕ Only **legally binding** universal anti-corruption instrument.
- ⊕ **Parties:** 190 (including **India**)
- ⊕ Covers different **forms of corruption**, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the **private sector**.
- ⊕ It covers **five main areas:**
 - ◆ **Preventive measures** (establishment of anticorruption bodies etc),
 - ◆ **Criminalization and law enforcement** (States are obliged to establish some offences).
 - ◆ International cooperation (States bound to render mutual legal assistance)
 - ◆ **Asset recovery**, and
 - ◆ **Technical assistance** and information exchange.
- ⊕ The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** serves as the custodian of the Convention and as the Secretariat of its Conference of States Parties.
 - ◆ **Conference of the States Parties** is the main policymaking body of the Convention.
 - ◆ It **meets every two years** and adopts resolutions and decisions to further its mandate.
- ▶ **Successes of UNCAC**
 - ⊕ Providing a **comprehensive framework** to combat corruption.
 - ⊕ **Near-universal ratification**
 - ⊕ Its **Review Mechanism** is triggering concrete anti-corruption measures. ⊕
Contributed to establishing **new institutions and anti-corruption policies**

Challenges

- ▶ UNCAC does not define corruption
- ▶ Gap between laws, institutions and their effectiveness.
- ▶ UNCAC review process does not require civil society engagement

► **Self Help Group- Bank Linkage Program (SHG-BLP)** Initiative has played key role in facilitating credit for SHGs. ►

SHG-BLP was started by **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** in 1992.

- ⊖ Its aim is to deliver financial services to the poor and vulnerable sections of society.
- ⊖ It's key **components** are
 - ◆ **Credit Linkage** of SHGs through bank accounts
 - ◆ **Sensitization** of branch managers
 - ◆ **Assisting SHGs** by positioning of **Bank Sakhis** at rural branches
 - ◆ **Inculcating community based repayment mechanism**

► **SHGs** are a **voluntary small informal group of 10-20 individuals** (5 in cases of hilly areas or scattered population).

- ⊖ They come together for promoting **savings habit** among members and for a common cause to raise and **manage resources** for the **benefit** of **group members**.

► **Transformation brought by SHG:**

- ⊖ Promoted **entrepreneurship culture** in rural areas.
- ⊖ Encourages **social equity** and **gender equality** (most of the SHG are being run by women).
 - ◆ Kudumbashree (Kerala) and Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal(Maharashtra) are key examples of it. ⊖ SHG facilitate micro-loans to members to sustain businesses.

► **Challenges faced by SHG:** Lack of proper training and skill development, existing patriarchal mind-set restrict women participation etc.

Other Key Initiatives for SHG:

► **DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission)** Saksham centres facilitates delivery of financial services to SHGs. It includes-

- ⊖ **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**- enables SHGs to set up non-farm enterprises at rural level

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

Lakhpati Didi scheme

COP28 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Concludes with the Adoption of First Global Stocktake

► **Global stocktake** is a process for countries to see where they're collectively making progress towards meeting the **goals of Paris Agreement**. It is like taking inventory.

- ⊖ In **Paris agreement (2015)**, it was decided that countries would assess their progress for the first time in 2023 and, then, every five years.

► **Key Highlights:**

- ⊖ **Reduce Global greenhouse gas emissions:** There is need to cut 43% GHG emissions by 2030, compared to 2019 levels.
 - ◆ But it notes Parties are off track to meeting their **Paris Agreement goals**.
- ⊖ **Transitioning away from fossil fuels:** For the first time, parties agreed on it and will achieve **net zero emissions** by 2050 (just and equitable manner).
- ⊖ **Agreed on Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework:** It reflects a global consensus on **adaptation targets** and the need for **finance, technology** and **capacity-building** support to achieve them.
- ⊖ **Other:**
 - ◆ **Tripling of global installed capacity of renewable energy** by 2030.
 - ◆ Doubling global average **annual rate of energy efficiency** improvements by 2030.
 - ◆ Accelerating efforts to the phase-down of **unabated coal power**.
 - » Unabated coal power refers to the use of coal **without substantial efforts** to **reduce the emissions**.

Azerbaijan and Brazil will host COP29 (2024) and COP30 (2025), respectively.

Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

- ▶ SSE is a **separate segment of the Stock Exchange** that can help Social enterprises to raise funds from the public through the stock exchange mechanism.
- ▶ To be recognised as a social enterprise, organisations need to **demonstrate that 67% of their activities have targeted**
 - ⊕ **underserved or less privileged population** segments or
 - ⊕ **regions which have recorded lower performance in the development priorities** of central or state governments
- ▶ **Not-for-profit Organizations (NPOs) and For-profit social enterprises** can list themselves in SSEs.
- ▶ **Fundraising can be done through**
 - ⊕ **Issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds and donations through Mutual funds** for NPOs
 - ◆ ZCZPs are issued only by an NPO registered on a Social Stock Exchange and have a **specific tenure** and no principal is repaid on maturity.
 - ⊕ **Issuance of Equities and debt instruments** for-profit social enterprises
- ▶ **Significance of SSEs:**
 - ⊕ **Bridges the trust and credibility gap** between the social sector and individuals.
 - ⊕ **Enhanced transparency and reporting standards** over the functioning of the NPOs
 - ⊕ **Reduces burden on government** by leveraging private sector participation.

Enterprises not eligible to be identified as a Social Enterprise

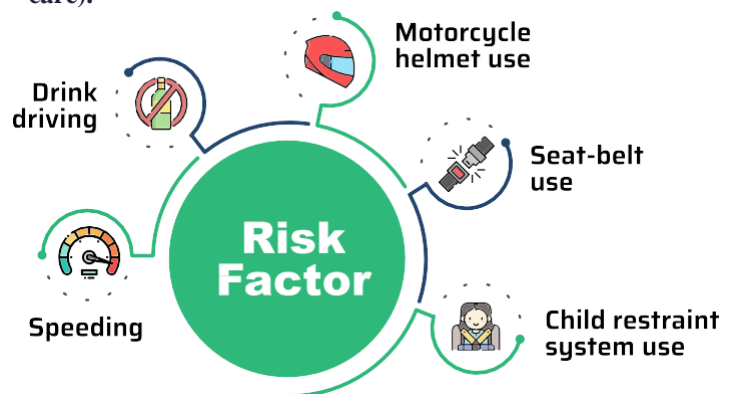
- ▶ corporate foundations
- ▶ political or religious organizations or activities,
- ▶ professional or trade associations,
- ▶ infrastructure, and housing companies, except affordable housing

released by the World Health Organisation

- ▶ The report covers progress between 2010 and 2021 and sets a **baseline for efforts to meet the United Nations Decade of Action 2021–2030 target** to halve road traffic deaths by 2030.
- ▶ **Key findings in the report**
 - ⊕ **The global fatality rate per lakh population has fallen 16% since 2010.**
 - ⊕ **Nine in 10 deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries** ⊕ As of 2022, **140 countries have legislation meeting WHO best practices for at least one of the five key risk factors.**
 - ⊕ **131 countries have national legislation mandating third-party liability insurance for vehicles.**
- ▶ **Measures to be taken**
 - ⊕ **Legislation, policies, plans and strategies** related to multimodal transport use
 - ⊕ **Road safety inspections and audits**
 - ⊕ **Specifying minimum safety standards for vehicles**
 - ⊕ **Concerted action for speed management**
 - ⊕ **laws governing road user behaviours**
 - ⊕ **Legislation on distracted driving** ▶

India's Initiatives

- ⊕ High priority to **identification and rectification of black spots**
- ⊕ **Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019** hikes penalties for traffic violations
- ⊕ **Indian Road Safety Campaign**
- ⊕ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had formulated a **4Es strategy (education, engineering, enforcement and emergency care).**



Also in News



Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary

- ▶ Recently, a **Royal Bengal Tiger** was spotted at Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim.
 - ⊕ IUCN Status of Royal Bengal tiger is 'Endangered'.
- ▶ **About Wildlife sanctuary:**
 - ⊕ It lies in the **Pangolakha Range** of Himalayan Mountains.
 - ◆ This range separates Sikkim from Bhutan.
 - ⊕ **Neora Valley National Park** (West Bengal) links it with Toora Strict Reserve of Bhutan.
 - ⊕ **Forest Type: Subtropical Pine Forest, Subtropical Broadleaf Hill Forest and Alpine Moist Pasture.**
 - ⊕ **Fauna** - Brown dipper, Red panda, Snow leopard etc.
 - ⊕ **Key river:** Chukha



AKTOCYTE

- ▶ **AKTOCYTE (nutraceutical tablets)** has shown remarkable results in **enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients.**
 - ⊕ **Nutraceutical** refers to a food products that provides medical or health benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease.
- ▶ It minimizes **side effects of radiotherapy.**
 - ⊕ **Radiotherapy** is a **cancer treatment** that uses **high doses of radiation to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors.**
- ▶ **Developed by:** Department of Atomic Energy along with private pharma company.
- ▶ It is approved by **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).**



Currency Devaluation

- ▶ Argentina has **devalued** its currency **Argentine Peso** to handle the economic crisis.
- ▶ **About Devaluation:**
 - ⊖ **Devaluation** is the deliberate attempt by the **government or central bank** to lower its currency value.
 - ⊖ **Advantages:** Promotes **exports**, reduction in **trade deficit** etc.
 - ⊖ **Disadvantages:** Raises the value of external debt, etc.
- ▶ On the other hand, **Depreciation** refers to **decrease** in the **value of currency** with respect to **other currencies** mainly due to **market forces**.



Office of Chief Commissioner for Person with Disabilities (CCPwD)

- ▶ The Office of CCPwD has **banned online and over-the-counter sale of hearing aids**.
- ▶ It was established under **Section 57 of The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995** (replaced by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016)
- ▶ ⊖ It works under the Ministry of **Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- ▶ **Mandate:** To safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities as provisioned in the Act.
- ▶ **Functions:**
 - ⊖ **Performs Quasi-judicial function** and has the **power of Civil Court**.
 - ⊖ **Monitors the funds** disbursed for the welfare of PwD.
 - ⊖ **Monitors the Implementation** of the provisions of the disabilities Act, 2016.



PACE Mission

- ▶ NASA is **preparing** to launch 'Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, and Ocean Ecosystem' (PACE) mission in early 2024.
- ▶ **Mission will provide a combination of global atmospheric and oceanic observations.**
 - ▶ **By monitoring aerosols in the atmosphere along with plankton on the surface of the ocean**, scientists can collect information about the health of the Earth.
- ▶ It aims to benefit society in the areas of **water resources, the impact of disasters, ecological forecasting, human health, and air quality**.



Chilika Lake

- ▶ A new species of marine amphipod 'Demaorchestia alanensishas' been found in **Chilika Lake** (Odisha).
- ▶ ⊖ Amphipods are member of the invertebrate order Amphipoda (class Crustacea).
- ▶ **About Chilika Lake:**
 - ⊖ It is **Asia's largest brackish water and world's second largest coastal lagoon**.
 - ⊖ It was **first Indian Wetland of International Importance (WII)** under **Ramsar Convention**.
 - ◆ It was first site in Asia which was **removed from Montreux Record (MR)** in **2002**.
 - ◆ MR is register of WII where **changes in ecological character have occurred or are likely to occur**.
 - ⊖ It is famous for **Nalabana Bird Sanctuary** and **Irrawaddy dolphin**.



Countervailing duties (CVD)

- ▶ The U.S. and the EU have imposed CVDs on Indian products against the RoDTEP scheme.
- ▶ ⊖ The **RoDTEP scheme rebates/refunds the Central, State and local duties/taxes** to the exporters that are not being rebated/refunded.
- ▶ CVDs are **tax or tariffs levied on imported goods to counter/offset the export subsidies** given to producers of goods in the exporting country.
- ▶ They **nullify the negative domestic impacts** that producers of the same good might experience due to foreign competition.
- ▶ **WTO allows imposition of CVD** after a nation has investigated the subsidised exports.



Anarcho-Capitalism

- ▶ **Anarcho-Capitalism** refers to a **political philosophy which calls for the abolition of the state** and for the **provision of law and order to be controlled by private companies** in a free market.
- ▶ **Traditionally, free market advocates have supported the private provision of most goods and services, except police and courts.**
- ▶ ⊖ Anarcho-capitalists believe that **private companies competing in a free market can provide policing and legal services** better than the state.
- ▶ Anarcho-capitalism term was coined by **Murray Rothbard**.

Places in News



Poland (Capital: Warsaw)

- ▶ Donald Tusk becomes Poland's new Prime Minister.
- ▶ **Political features**
 - ⊖ It lies in **Central Europe**.
 - ⊖ It is bordered **Baltic Sea** (North), **Russia and Lithuania** (northeast), **Belarus and Ukraine** (East), **Slovakia and Czech Republic** (South), **Germany** (West).
 - ⊖ It is a member of **European Union**.
- ▶ **Geographical features**
 - ⊖ **Major Mountains:** Carpathians, Sudeten and Tatra mountains
 - ⊖ **Major Rivers:** Vistula, Neisse, Oder, and Motlawa.

