

**ECONOMY**
**Wings India 2022**

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is jointly organising Wings India 2022 from 24th – 27th March 2022, Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India. It is Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation).

**What is the Objective of Wings India 2022?**

- It is in synergy with India's commitment to transform the country into World's top aviation hub.
- It seeks to provide a congenial forum catering to the rapidly changing dynamics of the sector, focusing on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation and regional connectivity.
- It will provide a much-desired fillip to the aviation and restructured focused forums shall be instrumental in attaining the objective of connecting the Buyers, Sellers, Investors, and other stakeholders at a common vantage forum 'Wings India 2022'.

**What are highlights of the Indian Civil Aviation Market?**

- **Aviation Sector:** India's Civil Aviation is among the fastest-growing aviation markets globally and will be a major growth engine to make India a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024.
- **Passenger Traffic:** 3rd largest aviation market by domestic air passenger traffic which stood at 274.05 million in FY20. It grew at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12.91% during FY16-FY20.
- **Airports:** 75 airports opened in 75 years of Civil Aviation in India while under the aegis of Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN), within a span of 3 years, work has been initiated to provide scheduled connectivity to 76 unserved / 20 underserved airports, 31 heliports and 10 water aerodromes.
- **Fleet Strength:** 713 aircraft of scheduled Indian carriers operating year around; private scheduled airlines plan to add over 900 aircrafts in the next 5 years.
- **Commitment to Greener Airspace:** Comprehensive regulatory policies and strategies adopted to reduce aviation carbon footprints.
- **Ensuring Hassle-free Travel:** Incorporated systematic approaches to redress passenger grievances, and improve operational efficiencies across the system.

**What are Opportunities Under Indian Aviation Market?**

- **FDI:** 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) allowed under Automatic route for Ground Handling Services and Maintenance Repair and Overhaul Services (MRO) and for both green and brownfield projects.
- **Scope of Growth:** The Indian civil Aviation MRO market, at present, stands at around USD 900 million and is anticipated to grow to USD 4.33 billion by 2025 increasing at a CAGR of about 14-15%. The nation's airplane fleet is projected to quadruple in size to approximately 2500 airplanes by 2038.
- **Connecting New Airports:** The government aims to develop 100 airports by 2024 (under the UDAN Scheme) and create world-class civil aviation infrastructure to be at par with global standards.

**What is UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme?**

- It is the world's first Regional Connectivity Scheme to Connect un-served & Under-served airports at affordable prices contributing to boost regional tourism and economic growth of the country.
- With commencing of the desired operations, the Indian aviation sector will boom without accounting for the spillover traffic on commercial routes operating in the tier-1 and tier-2 cities.
- The UDAN scheme has been developed over the years by the government to support the economy.
  1. UDAN 2.0 focused on priority areas and helicopter operations.
  2. UDAN 3.0 is based on Inclusion of seaplane routes.
  3. UDAN 4.0 to further enhance the connectivity to remote & regional areas of the country.
- With the advent of COVID-19, Lifeline UDAN was conceptualised to aid India in its fight against the pandemic.
- The scheme is benefiting the economy as a whole and promoting national integration.

**What is the Airports Authority of India?**

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995 by merging erstwhile National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India.
- The merger brought into existence a single Organisation entrusted with the responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure both on the ground and air space in the country.

**What is the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry?**

- FICCI is the largest & oldest apex organisation of Indian business & industry is the rallying point for free enterprises in India. It was established in 1927.
- With a nationwide membership of over 1500 corporates and over 500 chambers of commerce and business associations, FICCI speaks directly and indirectly for over 2,50,000 business units.
- FICCI organises a large number of events including Exhibitions, Conferences, Seminars, Business meets etc. for promoting business.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**Hypersonic Missiles**

Recently, Russia used a hypersonic missile for the first time in the ongoing conflict with Ukraine.

**What is a Hypersonic Missile?**

- A hypersonic missile is a weapon system which flies at least at the speed of Mach 5 i.e. five times the speed of sound and is manoeuvrable.
- The manoeuvrability of the hypersonic missile is what sets it apart from a ballistic missile as the latter follows a set course or a ballistic trajectory.
- Thus, unlike ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles do not follow a ballistic trajectory and can be manoeuvred to the intended target.
- The two types of hypersonic weapons systems are Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles. The HGV are launched from a rocket before gliding to the intended target while the hypersonic cruise missile is powered by air breathing high speed engines or 'scramjets' after acquiring their target.

**What are the advantages of hypersonic missiles?**

- They can enable responsive, long range strike options against distant, defended or time critical threats (such as road mobile missiles) when other forces are unavailable, denied access or not preferred.
- Conventional hypersonic weapons use only kinetic energy i.e. energy derived from motion, to destroy unhardened targets or even underground facilities.

**Are hypersonic missiles detectable in flight?**

- Hypersonic weapons can challenge detection and defence due to their speed, manoeuvrability and low altitude of flight.
- The Ground based radars or terrestrial radars cannot detect hypersonic missiles until late in the flight of the weapon. This delayed detection makes it difficult for the responders to the missile attack to assess their options and to attempt to intercept the missile.
- Which countries possess hypersonic weapons?
- While the US, Russia and China are in advanced stages of hypersonic missile programmes, India, France, Germany, Japan and Australia too are developing hypersonic weapons.

**What is the Indian Hypersonic Missile Programme?**

- India is also developing an indigenous, dual capable (conventional as well as nuclear) hypersonic cruise missile as part of its Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle Programme and has successfully tested a Mach 6 scramjet in June 2019 and September 2020.
- India operates approximately 12 hypersonic wind tunnels and is capable of testing speeds up to Mach 13.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**International Day of Forests**

Every year 21st March is celebrated as the International Day of Forests (IDF) by the United Nations (UN). It has to be noted that just a day after i.e. 22nd March is celebrated as the World Water Day by the UN.

**What is International Day of Forests?**

- The UN proclaimed 21st March as the IDF in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests.
- Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organise activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.
- The organisers are the UN Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organisations in the field.
- The theme for 2022 is 'Forests and sustainable production and consumption'.

**What is the Significance of Forests?**

- Forests cover one-third of the land surface on Earth and provide various environmental benefits, including their primary role in maintaining the balance of the hydrological cycle, contributing to climate regulation, and preserving biodiversity.

- Apart from the ecological perspective, studies from an economic perspective conclude that forest resources can contribute to a nation's economic growth and maintaining forest cover is essential for various agricultural and forestry-related activities. Forests provide more than 86 million green jobs while supporting the livelihoods of many people.
- Everyone on the planet has had some form of contact with forests. This includes communities that directly rely on these ecosystems for their lives and livelihoods or communities which rely on the products obtained from these forests.
- Forest sustainable management and resource use are critical to preventing climate change and contributing to present and future generations' prosperity and well-being. Forests are also important for poverty alleviation.
  1. Despite these priceless environmental, economic, social, and health benefits, global deforestation continues at an alarming rate.
  2. The FAO has estimated that 10 million hectares were cleared each year globally between 2015 and 2020. Closer home, India lost 132kha of natural forest in 2020 alone, according to the Global Forest Watch, a worldwide platform that monitors forests and changing patterns.
  3. According to another study, Amazon Forests have started emitting Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) instead of absorbing it.

#### **What is the State of Forests in India?**

- The country has 3,07,120 square kilometres of forest in the open category, which increased by 4,203 sq km in the last two years (2019-21), according to India's State of Forest Report 2021.
- Add scrub land (46,539 sq km) to this and the total becomes 3,53,659 sq km, constituting 10.76% of degraded forest and scrub land in India. If we consider only forest area, it is 43.03%.
- The report showed a continuing increase in forest cover across the country, but experts flagged some of its other aspects as causes for concern, such as a decline in forest cover in the Northeast, and a degradation of natural forests.

#### **What are the Major Government Initiatives for Forests?**

- **National Mission for a Green India:** It is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It was launched in February, 2014 with the objective to safeguard the biological resources of our nation and associated livelihoods against the peril of adverse climate change and to recognise the vital impact of forestry on ecological sustainability, biodiversity conservation and food-, water- and livelihood-security.
- **National Afforestation Programme (NAP):** It has been implemented since 2000 for the afforestation of degraded forest lands. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, (CAMPA Funds):** Launched in 2016, 90% of the fund is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre. The funds can be used for treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities.
- **National Action Programme to Combat Desertification:** It was prepared in 2001 to address issues of increasing desertification and to take appropriate actions. It is implemented by the MoEFCC.
- **Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme (FFPM):** It is the only centrally funded program specifically dedicated to assist the states in dealing with forest fires.

### **PRELIMS FACT**

#### **INS Shivaji**

Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has recognised INS Shivaji as the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the field of Marine Engineering. MSDE's designation of INS Shivaji as a Centre of Excellence is the first of its kind for any military organisation, and it reflects the INS Shivaji's continued commitment to skill and technology development.

#### **What is INS Shivaji?**

- INS Shivaji is an Indian Naval Station in Lonavala, Maharashtra.
- It houses the Naval College of Engineering, which educates and trains Indian Navy and Coast Guard officials.
- It has three premier training entities, namely Centre of Marine Engineering and Technology (CMET), Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering and School of Basic Sciences
- The Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence School, which trains naval personnel on all aspects of NBCD, is also located in the station.

- The naval Station was commissioned as HMIS (His Majesty's Indian Ship) Shivaji in February, 1945.
- INS Shivaji's Centre of Excellence (Marine Engineering) was established in 2014 with a broad mandate that included the induction of niche technologies for naval applications, quality research in collaboration with R&D (Research and Development) and academic institutes of high reputation.
- The larger goal here is to improve the skills of the personnel across the Indian Navy, Friendly Foreign Navies, and the entire ecosystem.

**What is the Centre of Excellence (CoE)?**

- CoE is a body that provides leadership, best practices, research, support, training of trainers and skill training for a specific sector/s.
- The literal meaning of a Centre of Excellence is – ‘A place where the highest standards are maintained’.
- As per the National Policy for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, 2015, it was decided that National Skills Universities and Institutes will be promoted in partnership with States as centres of excellence for skill development and training of trainers.
- The Centre of Excellence in the skilling ecosystem is envisioned as a one-stop resource centre established/working in partnership with industry to raise training standards, boost productivity, address emerging skill gaps, and align training and research with industry needs.
- With the intent to overcome skill demand-supply mismatch, to have continuous supply of skilled workforce and disseminate best practices, “Centre of Excellence” is proposed to be recognized by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- The initiative will encourage such bodies already engaged in research and development activities in the skilling domain and allied fields to work on key emerging areas where there is knowledge deficit or skill gap, so as to set up Centres of Excellence.

**What are some Major Initiatives of MSDE?**

1. SANKALP Scheme
2. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
3. Recognition of Prior Learning
4. Skill Management and Accreditation of Training Centres (SMART)
5. STRIVE

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. Digitisation and computerisation of land records will play a significant role in land resource management and governance as well as resurgence of the national economy in the years to come. Discuss. (250 words)**

**Introduction**

Digitization of land records was introduced to computerize all land records including mutations, improve transparency in the land records maintenance system, digitize maps and survey, update all settlement records and minimize the scope of land disputes. This would provide clear titles of land ownership that could be monitored easily by government officials, facilitate quicker transactions, and reduce disputes. Most importantly it would reduce construction timelines and overall cost for the developer, the benefits of which can be transferred to consumer making property prices more attractive. In her budget speech, the Finance Minister talked of land resource management. Any reform or initiative that strengthens land governance, impacts the economy positively and has a ripple effect across sectors.

**Body**

**Proposed reforms in Budget 2022-23 Speech**

- **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN)**
  1. It is an Aadhaar-like identification for a land parcel or plot. Each land parcel or plot is assigned a unique identification number.
  2. Like Aadhaar, the agencies and services can use the land database from anywhere in the country to authenticate a farmer or the beneficiary’s identity for the purpose of delivery of services.
- **National Generic Document Registry System (NGDRS) — One Nation One Registration Software System**
  1. It is undoubtedly a major initiative for urban property registration.
  2. It is a software application platform that facilitates online registration of immovable properties and documents as compared to the manual registration process used earlier.
- **Transliterating the land records in any language** under Schedule VIII of the Constitution.

The objective is to break the linguistic barriers in land records.

1. Presently, land records are largely in regional languages.
2. These linguistic barriers need to be overcome in order to open up the national economy.

**Need for digitization of land records:**

- **High litigation:**
  1. A World Bank study from 2007 states that some estimates suggest that land-related disputes account for two-thirds of all pending court cases in the country. These land disputes include those related to the validity of land titles and records, and rightful ownership.
  2. A NITI Aayog paper suggests that land disputes on average take about 20 years to be resolved. Land disputes add to the burden of the courts, tie up land in litigation, and further impact sectors and projects that are dependent on these disputed land titles.
- **Agricultural credit:**
  1. Land is often used as collateral for obtaining loans by farmers. It has been observed that disputed or unclear land titles inhibit supply of capital and credit for agriculture.
  2. Small and marginal farmers, who account for more than half of the total land holdings, and may not hold formal land titles, are unable to access institutionalised credit.
- **Development of new infrastructure:**
  1. Land that was earlier used for farming, is now being used to set up industries, power plants, manufacturing units, build roads, housing, and shopping malls.
  2. However, several of the new infrastructure projects are witnessing delays, with land related issues often being a key factor.
  3. These delays occur because of non-availability of encumbrance free land (evidence that the property in question is free from any monetary and legal liability), non-updation of land records, resistance to joint measurement survey of land records, demands for higher compensation by land owners, and filing of large number of arbitration cases by land owners.
  4. For example, obtaining a land ownership certificate can take around 60 days in Gujarat and up to 12 months in Chennai and Odisha.
- **Urbanisation and the housing shortage:**
  1. More recently, land use is also changing due to urbanisation and further expansion of such urban areas.
  2. While census towns are places with urban characteristics (population above 5,000, at least 75% of the population engaged in non-agricultural work, and a population density of at least 400 people per sq. km.), statutory towns are urban areas with a local authority.
  3. Under new schemes for urban development (Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT), cities are trying to raise their own revenue through property taxes and land based financing. This further necessitates the importance of providing a system of clear land titles in urban areas.
- **Benami transactions:**
  1. A Benami transaction is one where a property is held by or transferred to a person, but has been provided for or paid by another person.
  2. The White Paper on Black Money (2012) had noted that black money generated in the country gets invested in Benami properties.
  3. Unclear titles and non-updated land records enable carrying out property transactions in a non-transparent way.
  4. The Standing Committee on Finance (2015) examining the Benami Transactions Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2015 noted that generation of black money through Benami transactions could be pre-empted and eliminated by digitisation of land records and their regular updation.

**Unused land:**

1. A large proportion of government land lies unused. A large part of the unused land is high-value property in prime areas in major cities
2. Land hoarding by government agencies has created artificial scarcity and is one of the main drivers of skyrocketing urban real estate prices.

**Challenges in digitization of land records:**

- In India, we have a system of registered sale deeds and not land titles.
- The Transfer of Property Act, 1882, provides that the right to an immovable property (or land) can be transferred or sold only by a registered document.
- These documents are registered under the Registration Act, 1908. Therefore, the transaction gets registered, and not the land title.
- This implies that even bona fide property transactions may not always guarantee ownership, as earlier transactions could be challenged.
- Land ownership is established through multiple documents maintained by different departments, making it cumbersome to access them

- For example, sale deeds are stored in the registration department, maps are stored in the survey department, and property tax receipts are with the revenue department
- These departments work in silos and do not update the data in a timely manner, which results in discrepancies. One has to go back to several years of documentation to find any ownership claims on a piece of property, which causes delays.
- The cost of registering property is high and, hence, people avoid registering transactions
- While registering a sale deed, the buyer has to pay a stamp duty along with the registration fee.
- In India, stamp duty rates across states vary between 4% and 10%, compared to 1% and 4% in other countries. The registration fee is an additional 0.5% to 2%, on an average.
- Under the Registration Act, 1908, registration of property is not mandatory for transactions such as the acquisition of land by the government, property leased for less than one year, and heirship partitions

**Conclusion**

A good land records system is a necessity for any harmonious and progressive society. The book would ultimately lead to an improved land governance system, reduction in land disputes, prevention of Benami transactions and a comprehensive Integrated Land Information Management System in the country, by sharing best practices.

**DAILY QUIZ**

Q1. To obtain full benefits of demographic dividend, what should India do?

- Promoting skill development**
- Introducing more social security schemes
- Reducing infant mortality rate
- Privatization of higher education

Q2. Which day is celebrated as the World Water Day by the UN.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- 25<sup>th</sup> March
- 12<sup>th</sup> March

Q3. What is Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation)?

- Wings Nepal 2022
- Wings India 2022**
- Wings China 2022
- NA

Q4. Consider the following statements:

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is jointly organising Wings India 2022.
- It is host in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only**
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q5. Consider the following statements:

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has recognised INS Shivaji as the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the field of Marine Engineering.
- INS Shivaji is an Indian Naval Station in Lonavala, Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2**
- Neither 1 nor 2