

TARGET PRELIMS 2024 BOOKLET-32 INTERNATIONAL BODIES-2

Table of Contents

1. Ot	her UN BOdiesher un BOdies	2
A) B) C) D) E)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Report: Investment Trend Monitor Report: Commodities and Development Report Report: World Investment Report Report: Trade and Development Report 2023. Other Reports by UNCTAD	2 2 2
A) B) C) D) E)	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Report, 2023 Report: World Populations Prospects Report: World Economic Situation and Prospect Report, 2024. International Migration Stock: 2020 Other Reports:	3 3 3
3) A) B) C)	International Labour Organization (ILO) Report: World Employment and Social Outlook Other REports by ILO	4 4
4) A)	Important ILO Conventions	
5)	Other ILO related Facts Useful for Prelims	. 5
6) A) B) C)	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Report: State of FOod and Agriculture (SOFA): Report: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report: Global Forest Resource Assessment	6 6
7) A) B) C) D)	Other Important Initiatives by FAO International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste: 29 Sep Food Loss Index (FLI) World Food Day: 16th October World Soil Day: 5th Dec	8 8 8
8)	World Food Program (WFP)	. 8
9) A)	Global Network Against Food Crisis (GNAFC)	
10)	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	. 9

A)	Report: UNICEF's Flagship Publication - "The State of the World's Children	10
B)	Climate Changed Child: A Children's Climate Risk Index Supplement (2023)	10
C)	Children Displaced in Changed Climate (Oct 2023)	10
D)	UNICEF Crypto Fund	10
11)	United nations Educational, SCIENTIFIC, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	10
A)	UNESCO Initiatives: UNESCO Creative Cities Network	11
B)	UNESCO Initiatives: International Network of Geo-Parks	12
C)	UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program –done with Environment	13

1. OTHER UN BODIES

1) UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

- UNCTAD is a <u>permanent inter-governmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964</u>. It is <u>part of the UN Secretariat</u> and <u>reports to UNGA and ECOSOC</u>. It has its <u>own membership</u>, leadership and budget. It is also part of <u>United Nations Development Group</u>.
- It is headquartered in Geneva.
- Functions
 - » UNCTAD support developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively. It also equips them to deal with potential drawbacks of greater economic integration.

A) REPORT: INVESTMENT TREND MONITOR

- B) REPORT: COMMODITIES AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT
- C) REPORT: WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT

D) REPORT: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023

- The report projects <u>world economic growth</u> to slow from <u>3% in 2022 to 2.4% in 2023</u> with few signs of rebound next year.
 - It says that most regions will see significant slow down.
- Tighter Monetary Policy has so far contributed little to ease pressure.
- **Economic inequality** remains a significant challenge.
- Prospects of meeting the SDGs by 2030 is fading as a combination of rising interest rates, weakening currencies and slowing growth prospects is putting a lot of pressure of fiscal situation

E) OTHER REPORTS BY UNCTAD

- Least Developed Countries Report
- E-Commerce Development Report
- Review of Maritime Transport
- Technology and Innovation Report

2) UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (UNDESA)

- UNDESA is part of the UN Secretariat and holds its developmental pillar.
- Formed in 1948.
- Headquartered in New York City.
- It is also a member of United Nations Development Group.

- It <u>is responsible for</u> taking follow-up to major UN Summits, Services to UN ECOSOC, Services to second and third committee of the UNGA etc

A) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) REPORT, 2023

- The report monitors global progress on SDG.
- The SDG Report 2023: Special Edition provides a <u>powerful call to action</u>, <u>presenting a candid assessment of</u> the SDGs based on the latest data and estimates.
- While highlighting the existing gaps and urging the world to redouble its efforts, the report emphasizes the immense potential for success through strong political will and the utilization of available technologies, resources, and knowledge.

B) REPORT: WORLD POPULATIONS PROSPECTS

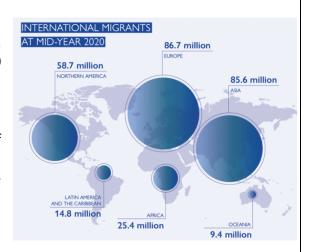
- Biannual Report
- The 2022 Revision of World Population Prospects is the twenty-seventh edition of official United Nations population estimates and projections that have been prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.
- It presents population estimates from 1950 to the present for 237 countries or areas, underpinned by analyses of historical demographic trends.
- This latest assessment considers the <u>results of 1,758 national population censuses conducted between</u> <u>1950 and 2022</u>, as well as information from vital registration systems and from 2,890 nationally representative sample surveys
- The 2022 revision also <u>presents population projections to the year 2100</u> that reflect a <u>range of plausible</u> <u>outcomes at the global, regional, and national levels</u>.
- The report estimated that <u>India will surpass China's population in 2023</u>.
 - **Note:** According to the UN data, India has surpassed China to become <u>world's most populous</u> nation with 142.86 crore people. China has a population of 142.57 crore (April 2023)

C) REPORT: WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECT REPORT, 2024

- The report presents an <u>outlook for the global economy</u> and <u>underscores</u> the importance of global cooperation and prudent policies to lift global growth.

D) INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STOCK: 2020

- Total number of international migrants in the world: 281 million (2020) [248 million in 2015, 220 million in 2010 etc.]
- COVID-19 has negatively hampered the international migrations.
 - **European region** hosted highest number of migrants followed by Asia and North America.
 - **USA** has the <u>highest number of migrants</u> (more than 50 million)



E) OTHER REPORTS:

- State of World's indigenous people
- The World's Women Report

3) INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

- Introduction:

- » It is a <u>UN agency dealing with labour issues</u>, particularly <u>international labour standards</u>, <u>social</u> <u>protection</u>, and <u>work opportunities for all</u>. ILO <u>registers complaints against entities that are violating international rules</u>; however, it <u>does not impose sanctions on governments</u>.
- » It came into existence in 1919 and India is a founder member.
- **Membership:** ILO has <u>187 member states</u> (186 of the 193 UN members plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO)
- **Headquarters** Geneva
- Functions
 - » To adapt international conventions for welfare of people
 - » To watch the progress of their implementation
 - » To undertake extensive research work and advisory activities in the field of labour welfare
 - » To extend technical assistance to governments

A) REPORT: WORLD EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL OUTLOOK

B) OTHER REPORTS BY ILO

- » World Social Protection Report
- » World Wage Report
- » World of Work report
- » Global Employment trend
- » Youth employment

C) ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE (JUNE 2023)

- **Decent jobs**: Not just any jobs. The ILO <u>advocates investment in decent and green job opportunities</u>, skills development, and economies that promote sustainable livelihoods.
- **Social Dialogues**: Strong and independent workers and employers' organization are central to increasing productivity, resolving world of work disputes, and helping build cohesive societies.

4) IMPORTANT ILO CONVENTIONS

- The **8 fundamental Conventions:** The ILO's governing body has identified 8 conventions as "fundamental" covering subjects that are considered as fundamental principles and rights at work:
 - 1. Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organize Convention, 1948
 - 2. Right to Organize and collective bargaining convention, 1949
 - 3. Forced Labour Convention, 1930
 - 4. Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957
 - 5. Minimum Age Convention, 1973
 - 6. Worst Form of Child Labor Convention, 1999 Convention No 182
 - It calls for <u>prohibition and elimination of the worst form of child labour</u>, including slavery, forced labour and trafficking. It prohibits the use of children in armed conflict, prostitution, pornography, and illicit activities such as drug trafficking, and in hazardous work.
 - In Aug 2020, this convention achieved universal ratification i.e. all 187 member states of ILO have ratified the convention. This is the first ILO convention to get ratification by all members. This was achieved by the ratification by the Kingdom of Tonga.
 - It's universal ratification means that all children now have legal protection against the
 worst form of child labor. It reflects a global commitment that the worst form of child
 labour, such as slavery, sexual exploitation, the use of children in armed conflict or other
 illicit or hazardous work that compromises children's health, morals or psychological
 wellbeing, have no place in our society.
 - 7. Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951
 - 8. Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958
- India has, in June 2017, ratified, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 and Worst Form of Child Labor Convention, 1999. With this India has ratified 6 of the 8 conventions. The two conventions which India hasn't ratified yet are:
 - 1. Freedom of Association and Protection of Rights to Organize Convention (No 87)
 - 2. Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention (no 98)

A) OTHER CONVENTIONS: INTERNATIONAL SEAFARER'S IDENTITY DOCUMENTS CONVENTION, 2003

Provides a globally recognized seafarers identity card

5) OTHER ILO RELATED FACTS USEFUL FOR PRELIMS

- Alliance 8.7
 - » This is a <u>global partnership</u> for which the ILO provides the secretariat. This alliance brings together <u>various partners and countries</u> to coordinate, innovate and accelerate progress to <u>end</u> child labor, forced labor, human trafficking and modern slavery.

- » Note: "Ending child labour by 2025 in all its forms" is included under Target 8.7 of the SDG.
- International Year for Elimination of Child Labor: 2021
 - » Led by ILO in collaboration with partners.
 - » It aims to raise awareness of the issue and to help accelerate the pace of progress

6) FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

- FAO is a specialized <u>agency of the UN</u> that <u>leads international efforts to defeat hunger</u>. Its <u>parent</u> organization is UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- **Headquarters** Rome Italy; Motto: "Let there be bread".
 - » **Goal** of FAO is to <u>achieve</u> **food security** <u>for all</u> and make sure that people <u>have regular access to</u> enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- Extent of Work: It has more than 194 member states and work in over 130 countries worldwide.
- Functions
 - » <u>Discussion Forum</u>: <u>Source of Knowledge and information</u> and helps <u>developing countries</u> and <u>countries in transition</u> modernize and <u>improve agriculture</u>, forestry, and fishery practices ensuring good nutrition, and food security for all.
 - » To continuously review the food and agriculture position of the world
 - » To undertake <u>research</u> with a view to devise new techniques and methods to improve the production of food.
 - » To eradicate animal diseases and to control pests.

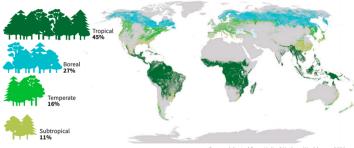
A) REPORT: STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SOFA):

B) REPORT: THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD

c) REPORT: GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

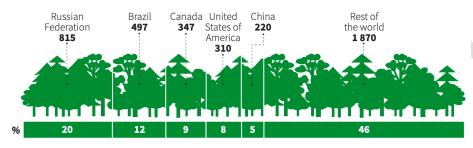
- FAO brings out this report every five year (last in 2020)
- Key Highlights
 - » Total Forest Area in the world is 4.06 billion hectares, which is 31% of the total area.
 - » Geographical distribution:
 - Tropical domain has the <u>largest proportion of the world's forests</u> (45%), followed by boreal (27%), temperate (16%), and subtropical (11%).

Proportion and distribution of global forest area by climatic domain, 2020

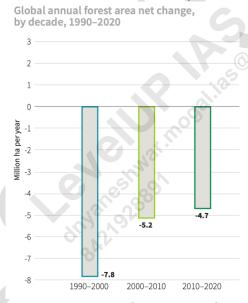


- 5 countries contribute to 54% of the world's forests - Russia, Brazil, Canada, USA, and China.

Top five countries for forest area, 2020 (million ha)



- The world has **lost 178 million hectares** of forest since 1990, which is an <u>area about the size of</u> Libya.
 - The <u>rate of net forest loss decreased substantially</u> over the period 1990-2020 due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries, plus increase in forest area in others through afforestation and natural expansion of forests.



- More than 700 million ha (18% of total) of forests is legally established protected areas.
- Primary Forests account for 1 billion Ha.
 - Primary forests are forests composed of <u>native species</u> in which there are <u>no clearly visible</u> indications of human activities and the ecological processes haven't been significantly disturbed.
- More than 2 billion Ha of forests has management plans.
- Key Highlights About India

- India has <u>ranked third among the top 10 countries</u> that have gained in forest areas in the last decade [China > Australia > India]
- Asian continent reported the highest net gain in forest area in 2010-2020.

7) OTHER IMPORTANT INITIATIVES BY FAO

A) INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE: 29 SEP

B) FOOD LOSS INDEX (FLI)

- To monitor SDG Target 12.3, FAO has created the <u>Food Loss Index</u>. The focus on the indicator is on <u>percentages of food removed from the supply chain</u>.
- About SDG 12 and 12.3
 - SDG 12 seeks to "ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns."
 - SDG 12.3: "By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses"

C) WORLD FOOD DAY: 16TH OCTOBER

- In the honor of date of founding of FAO in 1945.
- It is celebrated as a <u>day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger</u>. The day is <u>celebrated by many other organizations concerned with food security</u>, including the <u>World Food Program</u> and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

D) WORLD SOIL DAY: 5TH DEC

- WSD is held <u>annually on 5th Dec</u> as a mean to focus attention on the <u>importance of healthy soil, and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources</u>. In 2013, UNGA designated <u>5th Dec 2014</u> as the first official World Soil Day.
- Why 5th Dec?
 - The date of 5th December was chosen because <u>it corresponds to the official birthday of the late</u> **H.M. King Bhumibol** Adulyadej, King of Thailand, who was one of the main proponents of the initiative.

8) WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP)

- Details about World Food Program
 - » The WFP is the leading humanitarian organization <u>saving</u> lives and changing lives, <u>delivering</u> food assistance in emergencies, and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.
 - » It was founded in 1961 and has his headquarter in Rome with offices in 80 countries.
 - In 1965, after the agency had proved its worth by contributing to alleviating multiple crisis, it was enshrined as a full-fledged UN Program.

Funding

- WFP operations are <u>funded by voluntary donations principally from governments of the world</u>,
 and also from <u>corporations and private sector</u>.
 - In 2019, it <u>received a fund of \$8 billion</u> of which the <u>largest donors were USA and</u> Germany.
- Nobel Peace Prize for WFP: For its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions
 for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of
 hunger as a weapon of war and conflict, WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020

WFP and India

- WFP has been working in India since 1963.
 - It has <u>focused on reforms</u> in the <u>Targeted PDS</u>. It <u>also provides policy inputs</u>, advocacy and technical assistance for improving access to food.
 - It has also <u>completed a pilot on rice fortification</u> used in government's mid-day-meal in Varanasi.

9) GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST FOOD CRISIS (GNAFC)

- GNAFC is an <u>alliance of humanitarian and development actors</u> united by the commitment to tackle the root cause of food crises and promote sustainable solutions through coordination.
- It was launched by EU, FAO, and WFP during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to respond to the WHS's call for new approaches to tackle protracted crisis and recurrent disasters, reduce vulnerability, and manage risk, by bridging the divide between development and humanitarian partners.
- It works towards achieving the zero-hunger goal of the SDG 2030

A) REPORT: GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISIS (GRFC), 2023

- Published by the <u>Food Security Information Network</u> (FSIN) in support of <u>Global Network against food</u> crisis.
- The report for 2023 highlights the <u>number of people experiencing acute food insecurity</u> and requiring urgent food and livelihood assistance is on rise.
- In 2022, <u>around **258 million people** across 58 countries and territories</u> faced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels, <u>(up from 193 people in 53 countries and territories in 2021)</u>.

About Food Security Information Network: It is a technical platform for the <u>exchange of expertise</u>, <u>knowledge and best practices</u> on food security and nutrition analysis. It is <u>sponsored by FAO, WFP, and IFPRI</u>.

10) UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

- History of UNICEF

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was created by UNGA in 1946
to provide emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers in countries that had been
devastated by World War II.

- In 1950, its <u>mandate was extended to address the long-term need of children and women</u> in developing countries everywhere.
- In <u>1953</u>, this organization became <u>permanent part of the UN system</u>, and the current name was adopted (though older acronym was continued)

- Current Details

- UNICEF works in <u>over 190 countries and territories</u> to <u>save Children's lives</u>, to <u>defend their rights</u>,
 and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescent.
- Headquarters: New York City, USA

A) REPORT: UNICEF'S FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION - "THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

B) CLIMATE CHANGED CHILD: A CHILDREN'S CLIMATE RISK INDEX SUPPLEMENT (2023)

- Children are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Their bodies and minds are <u>uniquely</u> <u>vulnerable to the impacts of climate change</u> such as pollution, deadly diseases, and extreme weather.
- Killer children disease are spreading more.
- Children are more likely to suffer from air pollution than adults.
- <u>Infants and young children</u> are less able to regulate their body temperature
- Child malnutrition is worsened by crop failure.
- 40 million children are having their education disrupted
- Extreme heat is associated with an increase in mental health problems.

C) CHILDREN DISPLACED IN CHANGED CLIMATE (OCT 2023)

- The report notes that <u>there were **43.1 million international displacements of children** linked to weather-related disasters over a <u>six-year period</u> the equivalent to approximately 20,000 child displacement per day.</u>
- Almost all 95% of the recorded child displacements were driven by floods and storms.

D) UNICEF CRYPTO FUND

- Launched in 2019, it is the <u>first crypto currency dominated financing vehicle within the UN</u>. In fact, it is the <u>first use of cryptocurrency</u>, <u>without converting to local currency</u> (known as fiat) in the UN system.
- Advantages:
 - » UNICEF's ability to hold, receive and invest in cryptocurrency through the Crypto Fund has allowed us to expand services and opportunities for people around the world.
 - » Dramatic increase in the efficiency and transparency of investments by UNICEF

11) UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

- It is a <u>specialized agency of UN under ECOSOC</u> which is aimed at **promoting world peace and security** through <u>international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture</u>. It was founded in <u>1945</u> and is headquartered <u>in Paris</u>. It acts as a catalyst for far-reaching and important <u>environmental and sustainable development initiatives</u>.

A) UNESCO INITIATIVES: UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK

- Why in news?
 - Kozhikode (Kerala) and Gwalior in MP have been added to the <u>prestigious creative cities list of</u>
 UNESCO for contributions in the fields of literature and music respectively (Nov 2023)
- About the Network
 - The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable development.
 - The cities which currently make up this network work together towards a <u>common objective</u>: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
 - All over the world, these cities, each in its way, make culture the pillar, not an accessory, of their strategy.
 - As of Nov 2023, UCCN counts 350 cities in more than 100 countries, representing 7 creative fields
 - Crafts & Folk Art
 - Design
 - Film
 - Gastronomy
 - Literature
 - Music
 - Media Arts
- Indian Cities which are in the list are:
 - Jaipur (2015) is designated as a Creative City of Crafts & Folk Arts.
 - Varanasi (2015) and Chennai (2017) are designated as a Creative City of Music
 - Hyderabad (2019): Creative City of Gastronomy
 - Mumbai (2019): Creative City of Films
 - Srinagar (2021): Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art.
 - Kozhikode (2023): Literature
 - It is the first city in India to get added in prestigious literature category.
 - The city has <u>long history of hosting various literary events</u>, such as the <u>Kerala Literature</u> <u>Festival</u>, which is one of the largest literary gathering in Asia. The city also is <u>home to 500</u> libraries.
 - **Gwalior** (2023): Music
 - The city is regarded as the <u>birthplace of Tansen</u>, one of the greatest musician and composer in Indian history.
 - The city is also the <u>origin of the 'Gwalior Gharana</u>' the oldest and the most influential school of the Hindustani Classical Music

• The city also hosts <u>Tansen Sangeet Samaroh</u>, which attracts thousands of music lovers and artists from across the country.

B) UNESCO INITIATIVES: INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF GEO-PARKS

- UNESCO Global Geo-parks are single, <u>unified geographical sites and landscape of international geological significance</u>. These are <u>managed with a holistic concept of protection</u>, <u>education and sustainable development</u>.
- There <u>bottom up approach of combining conservation with sustainable development</u> while **involving local communities** is becoming increasingly popular.
- How many UNESCO Global Geo-parks (UGGp) are there?
 - At present there are 195 territories from 48 nations.

- Beginning of the program

- UNESCO's work with geoparks started in 2001. In 2004, <u>17 European and 8 Chinese geoparks</u> came together at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to form the **Global Geopark Network** (GGN).
- IN 2015, the 195 member states of UNESCO ratified the creation of a new label, the UNESCO Global Geoparks, during 38th general conference of the organization.
 - This expressed governmental recognition of the importance of managing outstanding geological sites and landscapes in a holistic manner.
- The Geopark tag is akin to that of a 'World Heritage Site' for historical monuments.
- Is a UNESCO's Global Geopark only about geology?
 - No, while a UNESCO Global Geopark <u>must demonstrate geological heritage of international significance</u>, the purpose is to explore, develop and celebrate the <u>links between that geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural, cultural and intangible heritages</u>.
- Once a UNESCO Global Geopark, always a UNESCO Global Geopark?
 - No
 - A UNESCO Global Geopark is given this designation <u>for a period of four years</u> after which the functioning and quality of each UNESCO Global Geopark is thoroughly re-examined during a <u>revalidation process</u>.
- Pre-requisite for getting Geo-Park Status
 - An aspiring Geopark must have a <u>dedicated website</u>, a <u>corporate identity</u>, <u>comprehensive</u> <u>management plan</u>, <u>protection plans</u>, <u>finance and partnerships for it to be accepted</u>.

- India: No Geoparks recognized by UNESCO yet (April 2023)
 - » Important Sites which have been considered:

BAGH IN MADHYA PRADESH IS AWAITING UNESCO RECOGNITION AS <u>INDIA'S FIRST GLOBAL</u> GEOPARK (NOV 2022)

- **About Bagh:** It is a <u>region in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district</u> and is <u>adorned with Buddhist caves</u>. The caves here date back to <u>4th-6th century CE</u> and the walls are covered with <u>precious Buddhist</u> work.
- Bagh also is home to <u>fossils of dinosaurs to giant gymnosperms to prehistoric sharks</u>. Thanks to these resources unearthed, a <u>portion of Bagh has now been declared as Dinosaur Fossil National</u>

 Park. It is considered among ASIA's oldest dinosaur sites.
- India's leading <u>palaeontologists</u> and <u>geologists</u> have gathered at the Dinosaur Fossil National Park in Bagh, based in the Dhar division of MP, to prepare a dossier for UNESCO's <u>coveted Geopark tag</u>.
- In 2018, Geological Survey of India had chosen heritage locations in Maharashtra and Karnataka for UNESCO site Status

LONAR CRATER LAKE - AN ANCIENT CIRCULAR LAKE CREATED BY METEORITE STRIKE IN MAHARASHTRA

- It got <u>National geo-heritage tag in 1979</u>.
- It is <u>relatively young geo-logically</u>, <u>just about</u> 50,000 years old.
- A meteorite <u>estimated to weigh two-million-tonnes slammed into the Earth</u>, creating a 1.83-km diameter crater where the lake formed. It is distinguished by a near-perfect, circular ejecta blanket, which refers to earth thrown up during the collision, around it.



ST. MARY'S ISLANDS AND MALPE BEACH IN COASTAL KARNATAKA

- It is <u>estimated to be an 88-million year old formation</u> that goes back to a time when greater India broke away from Madagascar (continental drift phase). This archipelago consist of a <u>group of four little islands</u> of **volcanic origin**.
- This archipelago is <u>very high on geological importance</u> and it is also one of the important historical places of Indian civilization.
- Note: St Mary's island was declared a <u>National geo-heritage site</u> in 1975.

C) UNESCO'S MAN AND BIOSPHERE PROGRAM –DONE WITH ENVIRONMENT

D) UNESCO INITIATIVES: INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE/ MASTERPIECE OF THE ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

- Why in news?

Garba dance from Gujarat becomes the <u>15th cultural item</u> from India to make it to <u>UNESCO's</u>
 <u>Intangible Cultural Heritage List</u> (Dec 2023)

About Intangible Cultural Heritage

- An intangible cultural heritage is a <u>practice</u>, <u>representation</u>, <u>expression</u>, <u>knowledge</u>, <u>or skill as well as instruments</u>, <u>objects</u>, <u>artifacts</u>, <u>and cultural</u> spaces that are considered by <u>UNESCO</u> to <u>be part of a place's cultural heritage</u>. It is sometimes called the <u>living cultural heritage</u>.
- It focuses on intangible aspects of culture.

- About Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage, 2003

It is an <u>international treaty signed in 2003</u>, acknowledging that <u>cultural heritage is more than tangible places</u>, <u>monuments and objects</u>. It also encompasses <u>traditional and living expressions</u>.

Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention

- The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention consists of <u>24 members</u> and <u>is</u> <u>elected in the General Assembly of the Convention</u> according to the <u>principle of equitable</u> geographical representation and rotation.
- Core Functions of the Committee:
 - » Promoting the Objective of the Convention
 - » Providing guidance on best practices
 - » Making recommendations on measures for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
- The committee also examines the requests submitted by State Parties for the inscription of intangible heritage on the lists as well as proposals or programs and projects.
- India has been elected as a <u>member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003</u>
 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the **2022-26 cycle**.
 - In the past India has served as a member in two stints 2006 2010 and 2014-18.
- The elections took place during the <u>9th general assembly of the 2003 Convention held at UNESCO</u> headquarters, Paris, from 5th to 7th July 2022.
- India ratified the convention in Sep 2005.
- **Intangible Cultural Heritages of India:** So far, <u>15 Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)</u> elements from India have been inscribed till date on the UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
 - How is an element included in this list?
 - Nomination by a state party. (In India, Ministry of culture has appointed the <u>Sangeet Natak Akademi</u>, as <u>nodal office</u> for matters relating to preparation of the nomination dossiers for UNESCO.
- Elements inscribed from India so far include:

S.No.	ICH Element	Year o	<u>f</u>
		<u>Inscription</u>	

1.	Tradition of Vedic chanting	2008
2.	Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana	2008
3.	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre	2008
4.	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India	2009
5.	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala	2010
6.	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan	2010
7.	Chhau dance	2010
8.	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India	2012
9.	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	2013
10.	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India	2014
11.	Yoga	2016
12.	Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauryz, Nooruz, Nowruz, Navruz, Nevruz, Nowruz, Navruz	2016
13.	Kumbh Mela	2017
14.	Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021
15.	Garba of Gujarat	2023

- National List for Intangible Cultural Heritage

- It is an <u>attempt to recognize the diversity of Indian culture embedded in its intangible heritage</u>. It aims to **raise awareness** about the various intangible heritage elements from different states of India at national and international level to ensure their protection.
- Detailed list is provided in the below link. Please cover it properly
 - https://www.indiaculture.nic.in/national-list-intangible-cultural-heritage-ich