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National and International News

<p>Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xi Jinping and Joe Biden participate in the APEC summit prior to their bilateral meeting. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is a regional economic forum and was formed in 1989. Aim of the grouping - “leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific and create greater prosperity for the people of the region through regional economic integration”. The focus of APEC has been on trade and economic issues and hence, it terms the countries as “economies”. It has been operating on the basis of non-binding commitments with decisions taken through commitments and consensus undertaken on a voluntary basis. The grouping's current members are Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Indonesia, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan. APEC accounts for nearly 62 per cent of global GDP and nearly half of global trade.
<p>Person in news: Upendranath Brahma</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid homage to Bodofa Upendranath Brahma, whose life journey gives strength to several people. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upendranath Brahma was an Indian Bodo social activist and the former president of All Bodo Students' Union. He was later elected as the President of All Bodo Students Union in 1986, a position he held for several years. During his tenure as the president, he worked towards the betterment of the Bodo community, advocating for their rights and addressing their issues. Bodos are the single largest community among the notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam. Bodos living in the hills would be conferred a Scheduled Hill Tribe status. Bodo language with Devanagari script would be the associate official language for the entire Assam.
<p>COP29: A Step Forward in Carbon Markets Amidst</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the COP29 climate conference in Baku, countries reached a landmark decision to advance a long-delayed agreement to



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<p>Stalled Finance Negotiations</p>	<p>establish a global carbon market under the Paris Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the agreement on carbon markets is seen as a breakthrough, the critical issue of climate finance remains unresolved, with developing nations emphasizing the need for an updated, substantial funding goal. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conference of Parties (COP) serves as the main governing body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). • Agreement on Global Carbon Markets at COP29: • Carbon market overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The global carbon market, outlined under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, allows countries to trade carbon credits - certified reductions in carbon emissions. ○ This market aims to provide financial incentives for emission reductions, with prices set by emission caps established by participating nations. • Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It facilitates international collaboration to lower carbon emissions. ○ It offers two pathways for countries and companies to trade carbon offsets, supporting the achievement of emission reduction targets set in their climate action plans, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs). ○ The first option, known as Article 6.2, allows two countries to establish a bilateral carbon trading agreement under their own terms. ○ The second, Article 6.4, seeks to develop a centralized, UN-managed system to enable both countries and companies to offset and trade carbon emissions. • Progress at COP29: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In a landmark decision at the first day of the global climate talks here, COP29 have officially adopted the new operational standards for a mechanism of the Paris Agreement under Article 6, setting the stage for a global carbon market. ○ This adoption of Article 6.4, achieved during the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), sets the stage for operationalising Article 6, which has faced years of deadlock.
<p>Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has revealed that city self-governments in 18 states, serving 241 million people, are facing a 42 percent shortfall between their resources and expenditures. <p>Key Points:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is an independent authority established by the Constitution of India to audit the receipts and expenditures of the Central Government, State Governments, and other bodies that receive funding from the Government. • The CAG is an All-India body in the sense that it controls the entire financial system of the country at both the Central and the State levels. • The CAG heads the Indian Audit & Accounts Department and acts as the Guardian of the Public Purse. • Article 148 to Article 151 of the Constitution of India deal with the provisions related to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). • The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
Operation Dronagiri	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology launched Operation Dronagiri at Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a pilot project under National Geospatial Policy 2022 to demonstrate the potential applications of geospatial technologies and innovations in improving the quality of life of citizens and ease of doing business. • It is part of the numerous efforts of DST in liberalizing geospatial data, developing geospatial infrastructure, geospatial skill and knowledge as well as standards in implementing the policy. • In the first phase it will be implemented in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra. • It gains a powerful backbone with support from Integrated Geospatial Data Sharing Interface (GDI), that will make spatial data accessible and bring transformation. • The activities under Operation Dronagiri will be overseen by IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation (IITNiF). • The Geospatial Innovation Accelerators (GIAs) at IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay, IIM Calcutta and IIT Ropar will act as the operational arms of Operation Dronagiri. • Implementing agency: The entire implementation process will be driven by Geospatial Innovation Cell, Department of Science and Technology.



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