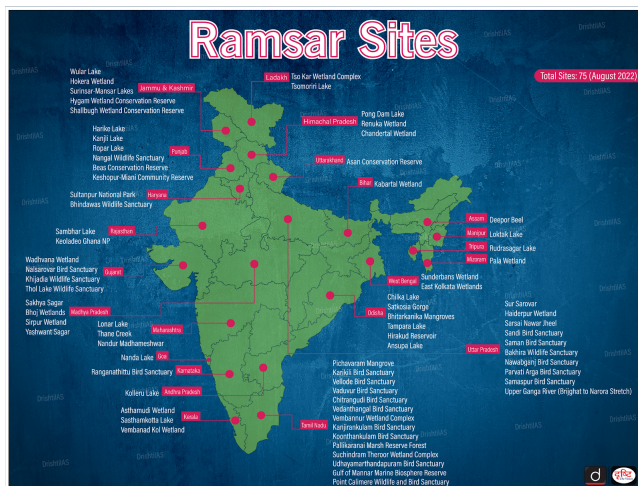




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Bhoj Wetland



The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** recently ordered the MP state govt to stop the **operation of cruise vessels as well as other motor-propelled boats in the Bhoj wetland** on account of the drastic damage being done to water bodies.

- The Bhoj Wetland, also known as **Bhopal Lake** is a **designated Ramsar site** and hence, a **wetland of international importance (Ramsar Convention 1971)**.
- It consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs -
 - **"Upper Lake"** - created in the 11th century by construction of an earthen dam across the Kolans River.
 - **"Lower Lake"** - constructed ~200 years ago, largely from leakage from the Upper lake. It is surrounded by the city of Bhopal.

Read More: [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#), [Wetlands in India](#), [Ramsar Convention 1971 \(Infographic\)](#)

Foreigners' Tribunals

Recently, the Assam state government disclosed that since 2001, a total of 3,100 people have been declared and convicted as foreigners by tribunals in Assam and have been deported. These people were **declared non-citizens by Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs)**.

- Steps against people with doubtful citizenship are taken according to the **Foreigners' Act of 1946**, the **Foreigners (Tribunal) Order of 1964** and **notifications issued by the Centre** from time to time.
- FTs are **quasi-judicial bodies** to whom an individual can represent his/her case if their name does not figure in the final [National Register of Citizens \(NRC\)](#). **Only FTs are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.**
 - The FTs judge their citizenship on the basis of documents provided or the lack of them.

Read More: [Foreigners Tribunals](#), [Citizenship of India](#)

South Korea and Quad



South Korea has expressed its will to join the **Quad grouping** and now the decision of expansion rests with the latter.

- Currently, Quad is a grouping of **India, Australia, the US, and Japan** formed on a common ground of democratic values of the countries. It aims to ensure and support a **“free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region**.
- On the bilateral front, India and South Korea are negotiating expansion of the **[Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#)** (in place since 2010).

Read More: [Quad](#), [India-South Korea Relations](#)

Expansion of PM Ujjawala Yojana

The Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension of **[Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \(PMUY\)](#)** for release of 75 lakh LPG connections **over 3 years from FY 23-24 to FY 25-26** increasing the total number of beneficiaries to 10.35 crore.

Initiatives to expand LPG coverage:

- **PAHAL (Pratyaksh Hastantarit Labh):** To reduce "ghost" accounts and illegal use of household cylinders for commercial purposes, the LPG cylinders were not sold at subsidised price and rather at market price.
 - The applicable subsidy was directly transferred to the individual's bank account electronically.
- **GIVE IT UP:** Instead of removing subsidies forcefully, people were encouraged to voluntarily surrender their subsidies which helped redirect the funds to those who genuinely needed assistance in acquiring LPG cylinders.

Read More: [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#)