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- Emission Gap Report,
- Adaptation Gap Report,
- Global Environment Outlook,
- Invest in a Healthy Planet.

- It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

About United Nations Environment Assembly

- UNEA is the governing body of the UNEP.
- It is the world's highest level decision-making body on the environment.
- It meets **biennially** i.e., once every two years
- It was created after Rio+20 in June 2012, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Related Information: Methane Emissions

- Methane is a greenhouse gas which is 32 times more potent than CO₂ over a 100-year period.
- Agriculture is one of the major sources of Methane emissions.
- **Major Sources of Methane** emissions from land are:

1. **Ruminants** are the animals that have specialised stomach bacteria capable to digest tough and fibrous material like grass.
 - The digestive process causes the animals to belch out methane.
 - The most commonly reared ruminants are buffalo, beef and dairy cows.
2. **Expansion of rice cultivation:** Rice farming causes methane release if the crop is grown in water logged fields.
 - In flooded conditions, water become **anoxic** i.e., depleted of oxygen. Here the bacteria breaks down plant matter to produce methane.

Environment

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Why in News?

In a report released by UNEP, it has urged to reduce human-caused methane emissions by 45% to avoid worst of climate change.

About UNEP:

- The UNEP is a global environmental authority established on 5th June 1972 after **UN Conference on Human Environment**.
- Key Functions:
 - Sets the global environmental agenda,
 - promotes the sustainable development within the United Nations system,
 - serves as an advocate for global environment protection.
- Key Reports published by UNEP:

Anamalai Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

People from **Pulayar** community residing in the limits of **Anamalai Tiger Reserve** in Tamil Nadu are gearing up for their annual festival of local deity **Vairapattan**.

About Anamalai Tiger Reserve:

- It is one of the four Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu forming part of the Southern **Western Ghats**.
- It also forms part of the **Anamalai Parambikulam Elephant Reserve**.
- **Key Tribes:** Kadars, Malasars, Malaimalasar, Pulaiyars, Muduvars and the Eravallan (Eravalar).
- **Vegetation:** Wet evergreen forest and semi-evergreen forest, Montane shola-grassland, moist deciduous, dry deciduous, thorn forests and marshes.
- **Key Fauna:** **Nilgiri Tahr**, Asiatic elephant, Sambar, Barking deer, Spotted deer, Mouse deer, Gaur, Tiger, etc.
- Other Protected Areas in Tamil Nadu:
 - Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
 - Kalakkad - Mundanthurai TR
 - Sathyamangalam TR
 - Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
 - Mukurthi National Park
 - Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
 - Guindy National Park

Science and Technology

Co-WIN App

Why in News

Recently, CoWIN platform is going to introduce four-digit security code to minimise errors and inconvenience caused to citizens registering for COVID vaccination.

Key Points

- Description:
- Co-WIN, a cloud-based IT platform, is supposed to handle minute details for

India's Covid-19 immunisation programme, including registering beneficiaries, allocating vaccination centres, sending text messages with name of their vaccinator to beneficiaries and live monitoring of vials in cold storage.

- Agencies Involved:
- The Co-WIN platform is owned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and was earlier the platform used for conducting Pulse Polio and other crucial immunisation programmes across the country.
- The same platform has been expanded for doling out Covid-19 vaccines and the Ministry of Electronics and IT along with the National Informatics Centre are handling the backend and the tech infrastructure for it.
- Features:
- Monitoring and tracking: This app enables monitoring the inoculation drive and tracking the listed beneficiaries for vaccination on a real-time basis.
- Thus, it also helps to counter proxy vaccinations.
- Aadhaar enabled: This app would enable beneficiaries to be identified efficiently through use of Aadhaar platform.

Economy

NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)

NPCI, recently, refused to ban cryptocurrency transactions and put the onus on banks whether to ban transactions of cryptocurrency trades or not.

About NPCI:

- National Payments Corporation of India acts as an umbrella body for operation of retail payment in India.

- It was established by the **RBI and Indian Bank's Association** under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- Presently, NPCI operates the following payment systems:
 - National Financial Switch (NFS).
 - Immediate Payment System (IMPS).
 - RuPay Cards- Debit cards, prepaid cards, credit cards
 - National Automatic Clearing House (ACH).
 - Aadhaar Enabled Payments System (AEPS).
 - Operation of Cheque Truncation System.
- Products of NPCI:
 - RuPay.
 - National Common Mobility Card.
 - Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM).
 - Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
 - Bharat Bill Payment System.
- A Chairperson,
- Five Members having experience in law or legislation, trade unionism, women's voluntary organizations, administration, economic development, health, education or social welfare;
- At least **one Member** shall be from amongst persons belonging to the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** each.
- All these are **nominated** by the **Central Government**.

Key Functions:

- Review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
- Recommend remedial legislative measures.
- Facilitate redressal of grievances.
- Advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

Polity and Governance

National Commission for Women (NCW)

Why in News?

NCW will soon submit report on post-poll violence in West Bengal to Ministry of Home Affairs.

About NCW:

- It is a **statutory** body established in 1992 under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**.
- It aims to strive towards enabling women to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life through suitable policy formulation, legislative measures, etc.

Composition of NCW: