23.8.23

1) Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Lok Sabha Speaker inaugurated 9th India Region Conference of the CPA in Udaipur

* Genesis: Founded in 1911, as the Empire Parliamentary Association and renamed as CPA in 1948.
* Objective: The association is to serve the Parliamentarians of the Commonwealth Countries by providing machinery for regular consultation and exchange of ideas.
* Members: It has more than 180 Parliaments and Legislatures in 53 Commonwealth countries.
* 9 regions of CPA: Africa; Asia; Australia; British Islands and Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic; India; Pacific; South-East Asia.

2) Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF): Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reconstituted the ABBFF.

* It conducts the first level examination of bank frauds (of ₹3 crores or more) before references are made to investigative agencies such as CBI.
* It is empowered to examine the role of officials of
  + public sector banks,
  + public sector insurance companies; and
  + public sector financial institutions
* It can also periodically carry out fraud analysis in financial systems and give inputs on policy formulation related to frauds by the RBI and CVC

3) Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR): TRAI sought to reduce license fee as a percentage of AGR in its recommendations titled “License Fee and Policy Matters of DTH Services”.

* In case of DTH service, AGR should mean total revenue as reflected in the audited accounts from the operation of DTH, as reduced by
  + Subscription fee charges, sale of hardware, service entertainment tax.

4) Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment scheme: Under the scheme, Centre has earmarked Rs 80,000 crore as interest-free loans for states undertaking capital works in the current fiscal.

* Under the scheme, State Governments will get special assistance in the form of 50-year interest free loan up to an overall sum of Rs. 1.3 lakh crore during the financial year 2023-24.
* Capital expenditure refers to outlay of government funds in the form of investments or development spending towards creation of assets for the long term

Places in News:

1) Katchatheevu:

* Katchatheevu is an uninhabited island in the Palk Strait, between India and Sri Lanka.
* It lies northeast of Rameswaram (India) and southwest of Jaffna (Sri Lanka).
* It is important to the fisherfolks of the two countries who have been traditionally using the islet for fishing.
* In 1974, as part of ‘Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement’, India ceded Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka.