31.8.23

1) Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs): SEBI has proposed to reduce the threshold of the minimum issue size for not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) to facilitate fund-raising.

* SSEs are platforms regulated by SEBI that allow NPOs to raise funds for their social initiatives.
* Idea of a SSE for listing of social enterprise and voluntary organisations for raising capital as equity, debt or like a mutual fund was mooted in the Union Budget 2019-20.
* Social enterprises include a revenue-generating business whose primary objective is to achieve a social objective, for example, providing healthcare or clean energy

2) Self-Respect Marriages: Recently, Supreme Court ruled that lawyers can solemnise ‘self-respect marriages’ (suyamariyathai or seerthiruththa) between two consenting adults under Section 7-A of the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) 1955.

* Also, public declaration of such marriage is not necessary.
* Section 7-A of HMA, added in 1967 and applicable only to Tamil Nadu, deals with the special provision on “self-respect and secular marriages”.
* Self-respect marriage allows partners to solemnize their marriage without a priest and through a joint declaration in presence of friends, relatives or other persons.

3) Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO): According to studies, PDO could make cyclones near the Equator more frequent in future.

* PDO is a sea surface temperature (SST) climate cycle describing sea surface temperature anomalies over the Northeastern Pacific Ocean.
* PDO is a naturally occurring phenomenon that shifts between warm and cool phases, with each phase lasting around 20-30 years.
* It is often described as a long-lived El Niño-like pattern of Pacific climate variability.
* Impact on climate: Change in location of the cold and warm water masses alters the path of the jet stream.

4) Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA): New Zealand Minister recently invited India to join the GRA for sharing researches on mitigation of climate change impacts on agriculture.

* GRA was launched in 2009 to promote international cooperation and investment in research to mitigate the effect of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.
* It aims to deepen and broaden mitigation research efforts across the agricultural sub-sectors of paddy rice, cropping, and livestock.
* It currently has 67 member countries (excluding India).