



# ENLITE IAS

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## mission chandrayaan 3



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## POLITY

### 1. Solicitor-General of India

#### In News

Tushar Mehta reappointed as S-G for three years

#### About Solicitor General

- The Solicitor General of India is the **second-highest law officer** of the country.
- The SG assists the Attorney General, and is assisted by Additional Solicitor Generals of India (Addl. SGIs).
- Unlike the Attorney-General the SG is **not created by the Constitution** and not mentioned in the *Article 76*.
- The SGI and the Addl. SGIs advise the Government and appear on behalf of the Union of India.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** recommends the appointment and officially appoints the Solicitor General.
- The duties of the Solicitor General are laid out in *Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987*.
- SGIs are bound by **certain restrictions** concerning private practice.

### 2. Delhi Ordinance

#### In News

The legality of the Delhi Ordinance.

#### About the Ordinance

- The Ordinance amended the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991 (GNCTD Act)**
- It **took away** the **services** from the jurisdiction of the Delhi government.
- The services had been **earlier restored** to the Delhi government by the Supreme Court in a landmark judgment.
- It has nullified the court's decision.

#### Other provisions of the Ordinance

- If the secretary to the council of ministers forms an opinion that the cabinet decision is not in accordance with the law or rules of procedure, he can bring it to the notice of the Lieutenant Governor for his decision.
- It introduces a new procedure for summoning and proroguing a session of the Assembly.

- Under this new procedure the proposal for convening the Assembly shall be submitted through the Chief Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister for their opinion before issuing the summons.

### 3. Data Protection Bill

#### In News

Cabinet clears Data Protection Bill

#### About the Bill

- The Union Cabinet cleared the ***Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill***.
- It is one of the four proposed legislations in the IT and Telecom sectors to provide the framework for the rapidly growing digital ecosystem.
- It specifies norms on *management of personal data* of Indian residents and requires *explicit consent* from people whose data is collected and used.
- It *outlines practices* for entities that collect personal data, how that data should be stored and processed to ensure there is no breach.
- The Bill has a clause for offering voluntary undertaking in case an entity wants to admit that a breach has occurred and pay penalty as mitigation measure to avoid court litigation.
- Penalty of up to ₹250 crore could be levied for each instance of breach with an upward revision of ₹500 crore.
- It allows laypersons to complain to the ***Data Protection Board of India***.
- The Data Protection Board will consist of technical experts constituted by the government.

### 4. Nari Adalat

#### In News

Coming, women-only courts for alternative dispute resolution.

#### About Nari Adalat

- The Centre is launching a unique initiative of setting up ***women-only courts*** at the *village level*.
- It will be an ***alternate dispute resolution*** forum for issues like domestic violence, property rights and countering the patriarchal system.
- The scheme would be launched on a pilot basis in 50 villages each in ***Assam*** and ***Jammu and Kashmir***.
- The Nari Adalat of each village would have ***7-9 members***.

- *Half* of which would be the *elected members of the gram panchayat* and the other half women with *social standing* like teachers, doctors and social workers.
- Main functions include:
  - Raising awareness about the legal rights and entitlements of women.
  - Resolving cases falling within its jurisdiction.
- The services provided will include:
  - Alternate dispute resolution and grievance redressal
  - Counselling
  - Evidence-based decision making
  - Pressure group tactics
  - Negotiation, mediation and reconciliation with mutual consent
- It will be promoting awareness about women's rights, legal opinions, various schemes and collecting public feedback.
- The head of Nari Adalat will be called the *Mukhya Nyaya Sakhi* and Members will be known as *Nyaya Sakhis*.

## 5. Draft guidelines for exhibition of Public Service Awareness (PSA)

### In News

Draft norms for exhibition of government films released.

### About the Guidelines

- A draft of comprehensive guidelines for exhibition of ***Public Service Awareness (PSA) films*** made by the Central Government.
- The guidelines are also meant to rationalise the screening of PSA films in *cinema theatres*.
- The PSA films, approved by the ***I&B Ministry***, have been ***granted exception*** from certification under ***Section 9 of the Cinematograph Act***.
- It is ***mandatory for all*** film exhibitors/theatre owners/digital cinema service providers/agencies/licensee applicants to screen the PSA films/approved films in the cinema theatres.
- The screening of PSA films in cinema theatres were for 15 to 20 minutes or 1/5th of the total film duration and was reduced to *two minutes* in 2021.
- The screening of all government films should be done during ***PST [Prime Screen Time]*** and ***for a period of 15 days***.
- The ***Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)*** will maintain ledger records of distribution of PSA films.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. White-rumped vulture**

#### **In News**

White-rumped vulture faces a perilous future in Nilgris' Sigur plateau.

#### **About White-rumped vulture**

- The white-rumped vulture is an *Old World vulture* native to *South and Southeast Asia*.
- It regularly occurs in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and southern Vietnam.
- They are medium-sized, dark vultures. Adults are 75 to 85 cm tall, their wing span is 180 to 210 cm, and their weight ranges from 3.5 to 7.5 kg.
- They occur in *temperate areas*, mostly in plains and occasionally in hilly regions.
- It has been listed as *Critically Endangered* on the IUCN Red List since 2000.
- They die of *kidney failure* caused by *diclofenac poisoning* and *Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)* in cattle.

### **2. Pennaiyar River**

#### **In News**

Supreme Court Bench recuses from hearing Pennaiyar river water dispute


#### **About Pennaiyar River**

- Major tributaries are the *Chinnar, Markanda, Vaniar, and Pamban*.
- The river is extensively dammed for irrigation, especially in Tamil Nadu.

#### **About the Pennaiyar river water dispute**

- In 2018, *Tamil Nadu* filed a suit against *Karnataka* for constructing check dams and diversion structures on the Pennaiyar River.
- In 2019, Tamil Nadu formally requested the Union government to constitute a Tribunal for adjudication of disputes over the waters of the river.
- The court gave the Centre three months to constitute the tribunal to resolve the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The Union Cabinet is yet to take a final decision on forming a tribunal.






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## Pennaiyar River

### Pennaiyar River

- Source - Nandi Hills , Karnataka
- Passing States - Karnataka , Tamil Nadu
- Mouth - Bay of Bengal
- There are reservoirs at Krishnagiri and Sathanur.
- Mention of the river is found in Sangam and medieval literature.

**An ambitious project to interlink rivers in the state has been announced to deal with the crisis in water deficit areas**




**Pennaiyar-Palar link** | Proposal to transfer Pennaiyar waters to Palar through a 23.55km link canal from the Sathanur dam

**Pennaiyar-(Nedungal Anicut)Palar link** | Around 3.5tmcft of water from the Krishnagiri dam will be diverted for 5 days from October to December to river Kallar, a tributary of Palar

**Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar link** | Scheme envisages diversion of 7tmcft of Cauvery water from Kattalai barrage through a 258km link canal to Vaigai and then on to Gundar

**Cauvery-Sarabanga link** | Diversion of 2tmcft from Mettur through a 182km link canal to Sarabanga for irrigating land in Salem, Namakkal and Perambalur



**Pic Credit - The Statesman**

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### 3. Shelf Cloud

#### In News

Massive ‘shelf cloud’ formation spotted in Haridwar

#### About Shelf Cloud

- The shelf cloud resembles a shelf hanging from the sky and is a **wide, low cloud** that appears **before a big storm**.
- They are technically called **Arcus clouds** and usually appear as a **broad arc** across the sky that can sometimes **appear to be rotating horizontally**.
- They form when **cold and dense air** is forced into a **warmer air mass** by wind.
- This rush of cold air often occurs in a **thunderstorm’s downdraught**, where cold air rushes towards the ground before spreading out to create a gust front.
- Shelf clouds produced by thunderstorms are **always preceded** by a rush of **dry and cold air**.
- A shelf cloud will usually be associated with a **solid line of storms**.
- *The wind will come first with rain following behind it.*



## SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

### 1. StartUps Intellectual Property Rights Protection Scheme (SIPP)

#### In News

StartUps Intellectual Property Rights Protection is aimed at promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### About StartUps Intellectual Property Rights Protection Scheme

- The SIPP scheme is *administered* by the *Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry*, and is implemented through a network of *facilitators*.
- The scheme aims to:
  - Create *awareness* among start-ups about the importance of IP protection
  - Provide *financial support* for filing patents, trademarks and designs
  - Offer *legal assistance* to protect their IP assets against infringement.
- *Criteria to be eligible* for the SIPP scheme:
  - The start-up should be *incorporated* as a Private Limited Company or a Registered Partnership Firm or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)
  - The start-up should *not be more than 10 years old* from the date of its incorporation
  - The *turnover* of the start-up should *not have exceeded ₹100 crores* in any of the previous financial years
  - The start-up should have a unique business idea or a product that is innovative and has the potential to create a scalable business model.

### 2. Har Ghar Jal initiative

#### In News

Centre's potable water mission may miss 2024 target.

#### About Har Ghar Jal initiative

- Har Ghar Jal is a scheme initiated by the *Ministry of Jal Shakti* of Government of India under *Jal Jeevan Mission*.
- *Goa* and *Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu* became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified *State* and *UT* respectively with *100% tap-water access*.

#### Current Status

- About 63% of rural households have tap connections.
- About 9.1 crore households have benefitted from the programme since 2019.
- It is expected that *only about 75%* households to be covered by *March 2024*.

- The gap between reported and verified connections is wide.

### Challenges faced by the Mission

- The COVID-19 pandemic
- A dearth of qualified manpower in States
- The scale of the exercise
- State-specific issues
- The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war



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## Jal Jeevan Mission

**Why in news?**

- The government's ambitious 'Har Ghar Jal' initiative to provide all rural households in India with potable water connections by 2024 under its flagship Jal Jeevan Mission will likely to fall short of its target, as per the survey reports.

**Jal Jeevan Mission**

- Launch - 2019
- Aim - It envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- It has a community based approach
- Motto - Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas
- Ministry - Jal Shakti Ministry
- Funding - Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- Associated SDG - SDG 6 that safe and affordable water to all
- Strategy - This Mission focuses on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.



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### 3. National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

#### In News

Prime Minister launches National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.

# Sickle Cell Disease

**Why in news?**

- Prime Minister launches National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.

**Sickle Cell Disease**

- What is it? - It is an inherited blood disorder.
- Effect
  - It affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body.
  - People with this disease have atypical hemoglobin molecules called hemoglobin S, which can distort red blood cells into a sickle, or crescent, shape.
- What causes it? - The cause of Sickle cell disease is a defective gene, called a sickle cell gene.
- Symptoms:
  - Early stage: Extreme tiredness or fussiness from anemia, painfully swollen hands and feet, and jaundice.
  - Later stage: Severe pain, anemia, organ damage, and infections.
- Treatments - The only cure for this disease is bone marrow or stem cell transplantation.

**Massive exercise**

Sickle cell disease is a genetic condition that affects an estimated 15 lakh people in India

- The Ministry plans to screen 7 crore persons in 17 highly affected States by 2025-26. One crore screenings had been scheduled for 2022-23
- So far, a little over one lakh persons have been screened
- India seeks to eliminate the sickle cell disease by 2047

The Health Ministry is working on maintaining a central registry of SCD patients

**SICKLE CELL ANEMIA**

The sickle red blood cells are more rigid, sticky and easily deformed, they can block the smaller blood vessels.

**National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**

- The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Program, introduced in the Union Budget 2023.
- It focuses on addressing the significant health challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among tribal populations of the country.
- It will be implemented in 17 high-focus states across the country.
- It aims to improve the care and prospects of all sickle cell disease patients while reducing the prevalence of the disease.
- It will be executed in a mission mode as part of the National Health Mission (NHM).
- It aims to eliminate sickle cell genetic transmission by the year 2047.
- The program targets screening approximately 7.0 crore people over a period of three years.

## Key Objectives

**Provision of affordable and accessible care to all SCD patients**

**To ensure quality of care for SCD patients**

**To reduce the prevalence of SCD**

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#### 4. Scheme for minor rape victims

##### In News

Centre announces scheme for minor rape victims

##### About the Scheme

- The scheme is under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** and aims to provide integrated support and assistance to girl child victims under one roof.
- It included *maternity, neo-natal and infant care, psychological and legal support*.
- The scheme would *operate under the aegis* of the **Nirbhaya Fund**.
- An amount of **₹74.1 crore** has been allocated for the same.
- The *administrative structure of Mission Vatsalya* in collaboration with State governments and Child Care institutions [CCIs] will assist to actualise the scheme.
- It will also provide **insurance cover** for the minor girl victim and her new-born under one roof to enable access to justice and rehabilitation.
- Any girl who is below 18 years of age and is a victim of rape as per the provisions of the POCSO Act and has become pregnant due to such assault or rape would be covered under the scheme.
- It is **not mandatory** for the victim to have a **copy of the First Information Report (FIR)** for availing the benefits under the scheme.

##### About Mission Vatsalya

- The **fund sharing pattern** is in the ratio of **60:40** between Centre and State & Union Territories with Legislature respectively.
- It supports the children through **Non-Institutional Care under Private Aided Sponsorship**.

## Mission Vatsalya



**Mission Vatsalya**

- Funding - Centrally Sponsored Scheme since 2021-22.
- Ministry: The Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Mission Vatsalya Scheme is a roadmap to achieve development and child protection priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to 'leave no child behind'.

**Components under Mission Vatsalya**




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## 5. Vision 2047

### In News

PM Modi meets Council of Ministers, speaks of 'Vision 2047'.

### About Vision 2047

- Vision India 2047 is an attempt to bring to the attention imperatives and catalysts for development of a ***better India by 2047***.
- It identifies key areas like agriculture, commerce, infrastructure, Industry, Urban landscape, security & defence, technology and governance.
- It follows the ***whole of government approach*** and identify *long term goals* and corresponding *short term goals*.
- The aspiration of India @2047 are:
  - Attaining new heights of prosperity
  - Make best facilities available in Rural and urban India
  - Eliminate unnecessary interference by government
  - Building modern infrastructures
- The major focus areas of Vision are:
  - Focus on young civil servants
  - Digital transformation of Governance
  - Benchmarking Governance
  - Public grievance redressal

## 6. Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States

### In News

**Ministry of Home Affairs**, launches "Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States".

### About the Scheme

- It is to ensure 'zero death' and minimum loss of property during disasters.
- It is done by ***strengthening disaster risk reduction system*** in India to make it ***disaster resilient***.
- The Scheme finds its origin from the ***recommendation*** of the ***Fifteenth Finance Commission***.
- Objective of the scheme is to ***expand and modernize*** Fire Services in the States.
- The concerned ***State Governments*** shall contribute ***25% of total cost*** of the projects.
- The fund for the scheme is from ***allocation of Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)***.

- An amount of **Rs. 5,000 Crore** was earmarked for the Expanding and Modernization of Fire Services.
- An amount of **Rs. 500 crore** has been kept for *incentivizing* the States on the basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.

## 7. National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)

### In News

The third edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) portal was launched

### About NeSDA

- NeSDA initiative has been undertaken by **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG)**, Govt. of India and was launched in **2018**.
- Aims of NeSDA
  - To boost the *e-government endeavors* at *all levels of governance*
  - To embark on the journey for **Digital Government excellence**.
- The overall objective to measure the **depth and effectiveness** of *existing* e-Governance service delivery mechanisms.
- This framework, based on the **Online Service Index (OSI)** of **UNDESA eGovernment Survey**.
- It has been *customized* for the Indian federal structure and the e-Governance landscape of the States and UTs.
- DARPG has successfully released 2 editions of NeSDA study viz., NeSDA 2019 and NeSDA 2021.

### About NeSDA 2023 Framework

- The framework for NeSDA 2023 has the following *three* dimensions:
  - Portals Coverage
  - Mandatory Services Coverage
  - Assessment Parameters
- It proposes to evaluate the maturity of e-Government at the *City level* by assessing City Portal.

## 8. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

### In news

Mobile App developed under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for quick reporting of Fish Diseases and timely scientific advice to aqua-farmers.

### About the Scheme

- PMMSY was launched by the *Department of Fisheries; Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying*.
- It helps to bring about ecologically healthy, economically viable, and socially inclusive development of the fisheries sector of India.
- It brings about *Blue Revolution* through *sustainable* and *responsible* development of the fisheries sector in India.
- It is at a total investment of ₹ 20,050 crore for holistic development of the fisheries sector including the welfare of fishers.
- It is *implemented in all the States and Union Territories* for a period of *five years* from *FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25*.

### About Mobile App 'Report Fish Disease'

- The *National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)* has developed an App called Report Fish Disease to strengthen the reporting of farmer based diseases.
- It will help the farmers to get *scientific advice* for quickly addressing the disease problem on their farms.
- The app will be a central platform for connecting fish farmers, field-level officers and fish health experts.

## 9. Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana

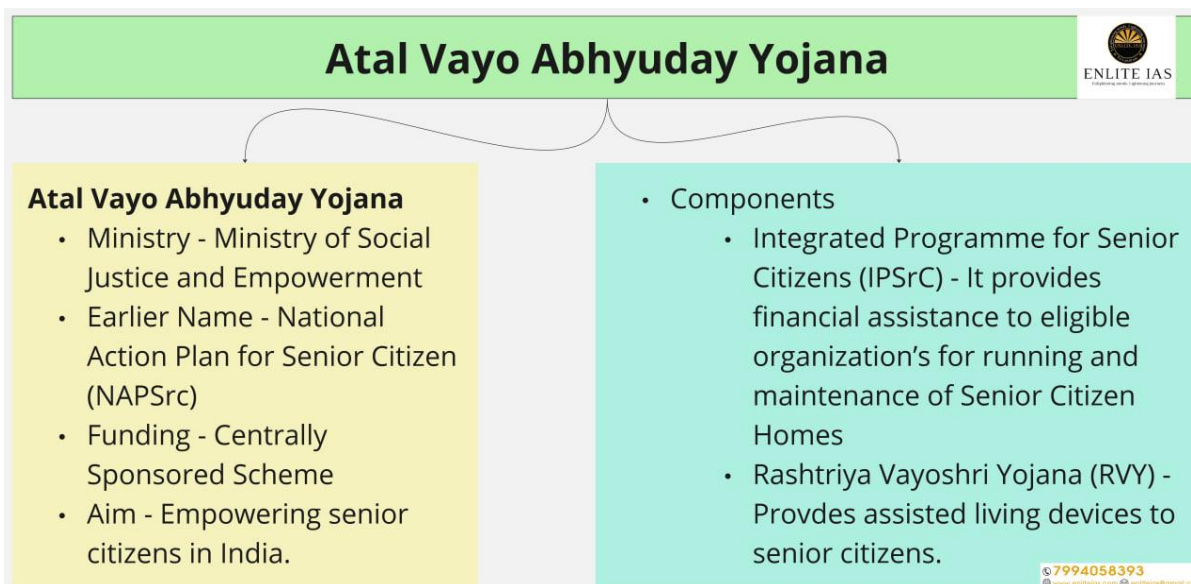
### In News

Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana: Empowering the Elderly for a Dignified Life.

### About Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana

- This scheme recognizes the invaluable contribution made by the elderly to society and seeks to ensure their well-being and social inclusion.
- This scheme is for creating an *inclusive* and *equitable society* for all its citizens.
- A total of 552 Senior Citizen Homes, 14 Continuous care homes, 19 mobile Medicare units and 5 physiotherapy clinics are being assisted and maintained by different NGOs across the country.






## 10. Comprehensive Scheme to promote Coal Gasification Projects

### In News

Coal Ministry considering Comprehensive Scheme to promote Coal Gasification Projects.

### About the Scheme

- This initiative is set to meet the *future energy needs* of the country while *stimulating other sectors*.
- It has set a target to achieve ***coal gasification of 100 Million Tonne (MT) coal*** by FY 2030.
- The adoption of gasification technology in India will *reduce the reliance on imports* of Natural Gas, Methanol, Ammonia and other essential product.
- India ***imports*** approximately *50% of its Natural Gas*, over *90% of its total Methanol* consumption and around *13-15% of its total ammonia*.
- It has the potential to *alleviate the environmental burden* by ***reducing carbon emissions*** and *fostering sustainable practices*.
- The *selection of entities* for the scheme will be carried out through a competitive and transparent ***bidding process***.
- It is also considering an *incentive to reimburse* the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation cess on coal utilized in gasification projects for a *period of 10 years*.

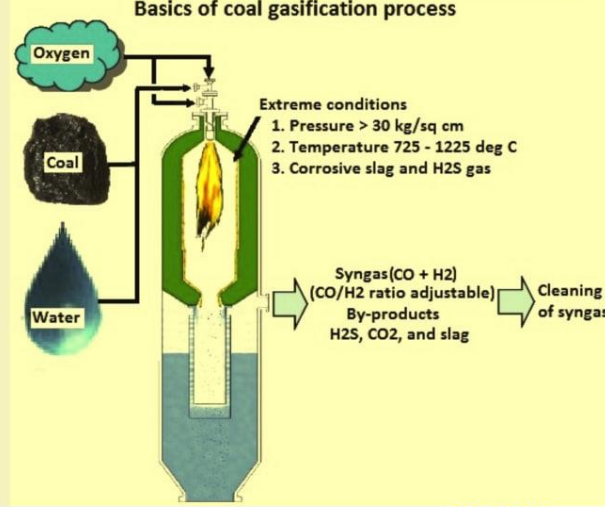


## Coal Gasification

### Coal Gasification

- It is the process of producing syngas.
- Syngas consists of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), natural gas (CH<sub>4</sub>), and water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O).
- Benefits
  - Transporting gas is a lot cheaper than transporting coal.
  - Help address local pollution problems.
  - Has greater efficiency than conventional coal-burning

### Basics of coal gasification process



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## 11. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region

### In News

Review progress of Phase-III of Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region.

### About the Mission

- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region aims to **develop end to end organic value chains** in North Eastern States.
- The mission is being **implemented** in the states of *Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura*.
- It aims at:
  - Development of **certified organic production** in a **value chain mode** to link growers with consumers
  - Support the development of entire value chain
- Mission goals:
  - To **install dedicated institutional systems** at centre and under each of the state for development and promotion of organic farming
  - To create **at least one to two replicable end-to-end organic value chain models** in each of the state with the integration of growers, handlers, processors, and market facilitation agencies.

- To *empower 30-50 thousand farmers* of northeastern region through the *creation of about 100 farmer producer companies* and equip such companies with full value chain under its ownership.
- To *convert subsistence farming to commercial organic farming* with end-to-end facilities
- To make Northeastern states as *major suppliers* of organic commodities for national and international markets.
- To *improve production system* to ensure *higher productivity with better profitability*.
- To enable states to *evolve their own brand*.

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## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

### 1. United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

#### In News

Union Tourism Minister to represent India at UN meet on Sustainable Development Goals.

#### About UN-HLPF

- The *United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)*, through its *outcome on "The Future We Want"*, established the *United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2012*.
- It is a *subsidiary body* of both the *United Nations General Assembly* and the *United Nations Economic and Social Council*.
- The Forum *replaced* the *Commission on Sustainable Development*.
- The *format and organizational aspects* of the Forum are outlined in *General Assembly resolution*.
- It is the central United Nations platform for the *follow-up and review* of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* at the global level.
- The Forum *meets annually* under the *auspices of the Economic and Social Council* for eight days.
- The Forum *adopts intergovernmentally negotiated political declarations*.



## 2. Multipolar World Order

### In News

SCO at summit calls for multipolar world order.

### About Multipolar World Order

- A multipolar world is a world where there are *multiple centers of power and influence, rather than one dominant superpower* or a *bipolar rivalry*.
- In a multipolar world, different regions and countries have their own interests, values, and agendas.
- They *cooperate* or *compete* with each other on various issues and *no single power can dominate* the international system on its own.
- The relationships among the powers are characterized by a *balance of power*, where the *actions of one power are checked by the actions of the others*.
- It will be based on the *universally recognized principles* of international law, multilateralism, equal, joint, indivisible, comprehensive and sustainable security, cultural and civilizational diversity, mutually beneficial and equal cooperation of states.

## 3. Japan-India Association (JIA)

### In News

Prime Minister met H.E. Mr. Yoshihide Suga, Chairman, Japan-India Association (JIA)

### About JIA

- It was *established in 1903* by former Prime Minister of Japan Shigenobu Ōkuma.
- Japan-India Association was formed for the purpose of *deepening friendship and promoting mutual relations* between Japan and India.
- In *1939*, the association was *authorized as a foundation* by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.
- The association *supported the Indian independence movement during the WWII*.
- After the WW II the association was *disbanded by Allied Forces* for the reason of having supported the Indian independence movement.
- In *1947*, India gained her Independence and the association *restored activities* by changing their name to *Japan-India Economic Association*.
- In *1952*, the association restored the association's name to *Japan-India Associationn and expanded its activities to different cultures*.

#### 4. Zaporizhzhya

##### In News

The risks surrounding *Zaporizhzhya*, the nuclear power plant in a war zone.


##### About Zaporizhzhya

- It is a city in southeast Ukraine, situated on the banks of the *Dnieper River*.
- It is the administrative centre of Zaporizhzhia Oblast and was founded in 1770.
- Zaporizhzhia is known for the *historic island of Khortytsia*, which is a former Cossack stronghold with the Khortytsia National Reserve and the open-air Museum of Zaporizhian Cossacks.
- Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant is located southwest of Zaporizhzhia city, along the *Dnieper River*.

##### About the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant

- Zaporizhzhya NPP has *six VVER-1000 reactors* providing a total power-generation capacity of 6 GW.
- The VVER-1000 reactor and its power-generation units at Zaporizhzhya are also placed inside a large *airtight chamber called a containment*.






## Ukraine

**Why in news?**


- The Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed "brave" Ukraine on the 500th day of Russia's invasion.

**Ukraine**

- Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe.
- It is the second-largest European country after Russia.
- Capital - Kyiv
- Borders
  - East and Northeast - Russia
  - North - Belarus
  - West - Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary
  - Southwest - Romania and Moldova
  - South and Southeast - Black Sea and Sea of Azov
- Language - Ukrainian, Russian
- Grasslands - Steppes
- Rivers - Dnieper, Seversky Donets, Dniester and the Southern Bug to Black Sea and Sea of Azov
- Mountain Range - Carpathian Mountains and the Crimean Mountains.
- Climate - Temperate Steppe Climate



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## 5. Permanent Court of Arbitration

### In News

India rejects ruling by Permanent Court of Arbitration in dispute with Pakistan.

### About Permanent Court of Arbitration

- The Permanent Court of Arbitration was *established by treaty in 1899*.
- It is an *intergovernmental organization* providing a variety of *dispute resolution services* to the international community.
- Its *headquarters* is in the *Peace Palace in The Hague*.
- It has *offices in various cities* in order to make its services more accessible in different regions of the world.
- The PCA has a *Financial Assistance Fund* which aims at helping developing countries meet part of the costs involved in international arbitration.
- It has a *three-part organizational structure* consisting of:



- Administrative Council
- Members of the Court
- International Bureau
- It has *specialized panels of arbitrators and experts* in connection with its specialized rules of procedure for *environmental and outer space disputes*.
- Recently *India said it cannot be compelled to participate in the proceedings* at the Permanent Court of Arbitration over the *Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects in Kashmir*.

## 6. Muslim World League

### In news

Secretary General of Muslim World League calls on PM.

### About MWL

- MWL is an *international NGO* headquartered in *Makkah*, with members from *all Islamic countries and sects*.
- It presents true Islam and promotes friendship among people and its goal is to *clarify the true message of Islam*
- The Muslim World League was founded in *accordance with a resolution* adopted during the meeting of the *General Islamic Conference*.
- The council of MWL consists of - The Supreme Council, The World Supreme Council for Mosques, Islamic Fiqh Council and Organization of Muslim Scholars.
- The Activities of the MWL are:
  - *Holding conferences, seminars and meetings* around the world. With participation from scholars, intellectuals and opinion leaders to debate and discuss topics of interest to Muslims and others.
  - *Sign agreements* with various official and popular organizations around the world and take initiatives to achieve common objectives.
- The *Secretariat General* of the Muslim World League is the *executive wing* of the organization.
- It supervises the day to day activities of the ‘League’ and implements the policies and resolutions adopted by the Constituent Council.

## 7. Arab League

### In News

MoS for External Affairs to visit Syria following its return to Arab League.

### About Arab League

- It is a **regional organization** in the **Arab world**, which is located in Northern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, and Western Asia.
- The Arab League was **formed in Cairo in 1945**.
- It was **formed with six members**: Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria
- Currently, the League has **22 members**.
- The aims of the league:
  - To **strengthen** and **coordinate** the political, cultural, economic, and social programs of its members.
  - To **mediate disputes** among them or between them and third parties.
  - To **coordinate military defense measures**.
- Each member has **one vote on the League Council**, *decisions being binding only on those states that have voted for them*.
- In 1959 it held the first Arab petroleum congress.
- In 1964 established the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
- In 2011 the Arab League suspended Libya's participation in the league amid its regime's violent response to the Libya Revolt.
- The Arab League voted to suspend Syria's participation in 2011. The suspension remained in effect throughout 12 years of civil war till 2023.

## 8. UN Human Rights Council

### In News

In UNHRC vote, India stands against desecration of Koran.

### United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)



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**Why in news?**

- In UNHRC vote, India stands against desecration of Koran.

**United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

- UNHRC is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world
- The Council has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis
- Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland
- The Council was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.



**Function**

- It investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in UN member states, and addresses important thematic human rights issues.

Pic Credit - UNHRC

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## 9. Buffer Zone

### In News

China pitched four tents in 'buffer zone' in Ladakh

### About Buffer Zone

- A buffer zone is a *region of land* that **separates** two or more bodies of **water**, often **between nations**.
- Common *types of buffer zones* are demilitarized zones, border zones and certain restrictive easement zones and green belts.
- They are set up for multiple reasons, such as to prevent violence, protect the environment, shield residential and commercial zones from industrial accidents or natural disasters, or even isolate prisons.
- Buffer zones often result in large uninhabited regions that are themselves noteworthy in many increasingly developed or crowded parts of the world.

**Buffer Zone at Indo-China Border**

- The buffer zones are the areas that were *regularly patrolled by the Indo Tibetan Border Police and the Army*.
- Recently, China has demanded the creation of a 15-20km buffer zone or no patrol zone inside India.
- Chinese army is *already entrenched 18km inside India-claimed lines*.
- Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) pitched four tents in a buffer zone in eastern Ladakh's *Chushul*.

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## ECONOMY

### 1. Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)


#### In News

Important Changes Regarding Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS).

#### About the LRS


- It is a *foreign exchange policy initiative* introduced by the *Reserve Bank of India in 2004*.
- It intended to simplify and streamline the process of *remitting funds outside India*.
- The Liberalised Remittance Scheme is *available* to the following individuals and circumstances:
  - The Foreign Exchange Management Act states that LRS is available to *all resident individuals, including minors and students*.
  - The eligible citizens *must have* an Indian bank account, a valid Permanent Account Number (PAN), and a passport.

### Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)



**Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

- Introduced in 2004.
- Maximum limit of transaction \$250,000 in a year
- Aim - LRS simplifies the process of remitting money outside India and encouraging foreign investments by Indian individuals.
- Permissible Transactions - Education, travel, medical treatment, gifting, investment in shares or property, etc.
- Non-Permissible Transactions- Trading in foreign exchange or buying lottery tickets.
- LRS is not available to Corporations, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts etc.



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## 2. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

### In News

PMI signals services growth eased to 3-month low in June.

### About PMI

- The PMI is an index of the *prevailing direction of economic trends* in the *manufacturing* and *service sectors*.
- It consists of a *diffusion index* that summarizes whether *market conditions* are *expanding, staying the same, or contracting* as *viewed by purchasing managers*.
- The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about *current and future business conditions* to company decision-makers, analysts, and investors.
- The *three principal producers* of PMIs are:
  - The Institute for Supply Management (ISM),
  - The Singapore Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management (SIPMM)
  - The S&P Global
- The S&P Global produces metrics based on ISM's work for over 30 countries which includes India.


## 3. Electoral Bonds

### In News

Electoral Bonds chief source of donations for political parties

### About Electoral Bonds

- Electoral Bond is a *bearer instrument* in the *nature of a Promissory Note* and an *interest free banking instrument*.
- A *citizen of India* or a *body incorporated in India* will be eligible to *purchase* the bond.
- The Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced in *2018* for the *purpose of electoral funding*.



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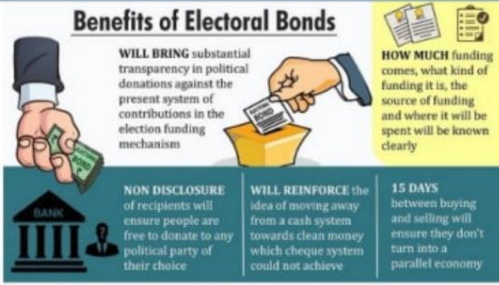
## Electoral Bonds

### Why in news? - Electoral Bonds chief source of donations for political parties

#### Electoral Bonds

- State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds.
- Electoral bonds are purchased anonymously by donors and are valid for 15 days from the date of issue.
- As debt instruments, these can be bought by donors from a bank, and the political party can then encash them.
- These can be redeemed only by an eligible party by depositing the same in its designated account maintained with a bank.
- The bonds are issued by SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
- The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.

#### Benefits of Electoral Bonds



**WILL BRING** substantial transparency in political donations against the present system of contributions in the election funding mechanism

**HOW MUCH** funding comes, what kind of funding it is, the source of funding and where it will be spent will be known clearly

**NON DISCLOSURE** of recipients will ensure people are free to donate to any political party of their choice

**WILL REINFORCE** the idea of moving away from a cash system towards clean money which cheque system could not achieve

**15 DAYS** between buying and selling will ensure they don't turn into a parallel economy

#### Eligibility

- Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951
- Have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly

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#### 4. Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)

##### In News

PM hails role of Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) in transforming India's logistics sector.

##### About ULIP

- ULIP is designed to **enhance efficiency** and **reduce the cost of logistics** in India.
- It is done by creating a **transparent, one window platform** that can provide **real-time information to all stakeholders**.
- It brings all the digital data related to the **transportation sector** into a single portal.
- Around **33 systems of 7 ministries** integrate through 106 APIs covering more than 1600 data fields.
- Three key components** which are defining the ULIP platform:
  - Integration** with existing data sources of ministries
  - Data exchange** with **private** players
  - Unified document reference** in the supply chain.



## 5. Online Gaming

### In News

**28% tax** to be imposed on online gaming firms.

### About Online Gaming

- Online gaming describes any video game that offers **online interactions with other players**.
- Video games used to be *classified* by an *Online Content PEGI descriptor* to signify whether they were online or not.
- In India the online gaming Industry was a **₹6,800 crore business in FY2022** and is estimated to touch **₹25,240 crore by FY2027**.

### About new taxation

- In the recently concluded *50th GST Council meeting*, it was decided that online gaming would be taxed at **28% on the full-face value of the placed bets**.
- The new provision means that tax will be levied on the entry bet at 28%, taking the taxation amount to ₹28 for an amount of 100 rupees.
- A tax burden where *taxes exceed revenues* will make the online gaming industry *unviable*.
- It will *boost black-market operators* at the expense of legitimate tax-paying players.
- The steep rise in GST will *discourage both domestic and foreign investors*.

## 6. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

### In News

Agreement reached for using India's UPI in France.

### Features of UPI

- It caters to the **"Peer to Peer" collect** request which can be scheduled and paid as per requirement and convenience.
- Immediate money transfer through mobile device round the clock **24\*7 and 365 days**.
- **Single Click 2 Factor Authentication** – Aligned with the Regulatory guidelines, yet provides for a very strong feature of seamless single click payment.
- **Virtual address of the customer for Pull & Push** provides for incremental security with the customer not required to enter the details such as Card no, Account number; IFSC etc.
- **QR Code** facility
- **Merchant Payment** with Single Application or In-App Payments.
- Utility Bill Payments, Over the Counter Payments, QR Code (Scan and Pay) based payments.

### About UPI in France

- India and France have agreed to use UPI in France.
- Allowing the UPI payment system in France will open up huge opportunities in the way Indians can spend there.
- UPI can *eliminate the use of forex cards* and also the *need to carry cash to spend*.
- Indian tourists will be able to make *rupee payments* using UPI.

## Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

**Why in news?**

- Agreement reached for using India's UPI in France.

**Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

- UPI is a technology that consolidates various bank accounts into a single mobile app .
- Providing an instant real-time payment system,
- Allowing users to transfer money across multiple bank accounts without revealing details of one's bank account to the other party.
- Launched by the NPCI in 2016 along with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks Association (IBA).
- The UPI ID of the recipient can be used to transfer money.
- Function - It runs as an open-source application programming interface (API) on top of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)
- Regulation - Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**Features of UPI**

The infographic features a central 'UPI' logo with 'UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE' written below it. Surrounding the logo are seven colorful segments, each containing a feature:

- Complaints can be raised through the mobile app directly
- Pay or request money instantly 24x7 even on bank holidays
- All bank accounts can be accessed using a single UPI app (BHIM)
- No need to provide ATM card/account details while making transactions
- Neither the payee nor the beneficiary is required to share bank details
- Payment can be made directly through the VPA (Virtual Payment Address)
- Fund transfer or bill payment is completely free of cost

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## **HISTORY/ART & CULTURE**

### **1. National Maritime Heritage Complex**

#### **In News**

Indian Coast Guard & Indian Navy sign MoU with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd for developing gallery at National Maritime Heritage Complex.

#### **About National Maritime Heritage Complex**

- The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is being *developed at Lothal* in Gujarat, by the *Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)*.
- It is in collaboration with Government of Gujarat.
- It is being built at the *historic Indus Valley Civilization region of Lothal* in Gujarat under the *Sagarmala Scheme* of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- The evolution of India's Maritime Heritage during various eras would be exhibited through various galleries.
- It will have various unique structures such as National Maritime Heritage Museum, Light House Museum, Heritage Theme Park, Museum Themed Hotels & Maritime themed eco-resorts, Maritime Institute etc.

### **2. Ashadha Purnima**

#### **In News**

Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) to celebrate Ashadha Purnima.

#### **About Ashadha Purnima**

- It is the *second most sacred day* for Buddhists after the *Buddha Purnima* or the *Vaishakha Purnima*.
- The day is celebrated as *Guru Purnima* as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.
- It falls every year on the full moon day of the month of Ashadha as per the Indian lunar calendar.
- It is known as Esala Poya in Sri Lanka and Asanha Bucha in Thailand.
- The day marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first five ascetic disciples.
- The *International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)*, under the aegis of *Ministry of Culture* will celebrate Ashadha Purnima.

### 3. Alluri Sitarama Raju

#### In News

President of India Graces the Closing Ceremony of 125th Birth Anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju.

#### About Alluri Sitarama Raju

- Alluri Sitarama Raju was an *Indian revolutionary* who waged an *armed campaign* against the British colonial rule in India.
- He was born in a village called *Mogallu near Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh in 1897*.
- Initially he was *influenced by Gandhiji's Non-cooperation movement*.
- He roamed the hills and forest areas as a *bala sanyasi* and mingled with the local tribal community.
- In *August 1922*, he launched what is now known as the *Rampa Rebellion* against the British.
- He was honoured for his valour and fiery spirit with the title, "*Manyam Veerudu*".

#### About Rampa Rebellion

- The Rampa administrative area was home to about **28,000 tribes** and followed the '*Podu*' *system of cultivation*.
- Britishers wanted to *evict them* so that they could *plunder these areas for wood*.
- The *Madras Forest Act, 1882* was passed, thereby restricting the free movement of the tribal communities and prohibiting them from engaging in their traditional Podu agricultural system.
- Sitarama Raju demanded justice for the tribals and used *guerrilla warfare* to fight against the British.
- He was *treacherously trapped, tied to a tree, and shot dead*.

### 4. Sangam Period

#### In News

Sangam-age stud, bead unearthed in Tamil Nadu.

#### About Sangam Period

- The Sangam period refers to that period in the *early history of south India*, when *large numbers of poems in Tamil* were composed by a number of authors.
- It is established by scholars that the Sangam Age flourished from *Third Century B.C. to Third Century A.D.*
- The term 'Sangam' refers to an assembly or '*meeting together*' of Tamil poets.

- It has been named after the *Sangam academies* held during that period that flourished under the royal patronage of the *Pandya kings of Madurai*.
- It is believed that there existed **three Sangams**.
- The **First Sangam**, is believed to be held at **Madurai**, attended by **gods** and **legendary sages**
- The **Second Sangam** was held at **Kapadapuram**, only **Tolkappiyam** survives from this.
- The **Third Sangam** was also held at **Madurai**.
- A few Tamil literary works of third Sangam have survived and are useful sources to reconstruct the history of the Sangam period.
- Important literary works are as follows:
  - **Tolkappiyam** written by **Tolkappiyar**.
  - **Madweikkangi** written by **Malgudi Marudan**
  - **Murugarupadai** is a song written by **Nakkirar**.
  - **Palamoli** written by **Mururai Ariyar**.
  - **Thirukkural** is written by the great saint **Thiruvalluvar**

#### **New Discoveries**

- A gold stud, a bone point and a carnelian bead have been unearthed by archaeologists at **Porpanaikottai** in **Pudukottai** district of Tamil Nadu
- A Sangam-age fort is believed to have existed at the site.
- A habitation mound spread over 1.26 hectares is believed to have existed within the fort.

## **5. Lambani Craft**

### **In News**

PM hails Guinness World Record for 'largest display of Lambani items'.

### **About Lambani Craft**

- It is an art of **embellishing clothes** practiced by the **Lambadas** or **Lambanis**.
- They are the **tribes in Sanduru**, the Banjaras of Bellary and Bijapur in Karnataka, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh.
- These communities **moved from Central Asia** through Afghanistan or Kashmir into Rajasthan, Gujarat and the South of India,
- The Lambanis have probably retained the most elaborate outfits of all.
- The **Lambani embroidery consists** of the patchwork, appliqué, beadwork and embroidery together.
- Lambani embroidery uses a total of **fourteen types of stitches**.
- Most of the **stitches follow a geometric pattern** like squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, diagonal and parallel lines.

- When many lines of different stitches are arrayed together, the fabric becomes a festive array of colours and designs on its surface.
- A Guinness world record was created for the ‘largest display of Lambani items’.
- Over 450 women artisans and cultural practitioners from Lambani create embroidered patches with *GI-tagged Sandur Lambani embroidery*.
- They created 1,755 patchwork pieces.

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## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **1. Euclid Space Mission**

#### **In News**

Europe's Euclid space telescope set for launch to explore 'dark universe'.

#### **About Euclid Space Telescope**

- Euclid is a spacecraft carrying a *wide-angle space telescope* with a *600-megapixel camera*.
- Euclid is designed to explore the *evolution of the dark Universe*.
- It will *record visible light* and a *near-infrared spectrometer and photometer* to determine the *redshift of the detected galaxies*.
- It will make a *3D-map of the Universe* by observing billions of galaxies out to *10 billion light-years*, across more than a third of the sky.
- The Euclid spacecraft is approximately 4.7 m tall and 3.7 m in diameter.
- It consists of *two major components*: the *service module* and the *payload module*.
- The payload module comprises a 1.2-m-diameter telescope and two scientific instruments.
- The service module contains the satellite systems.
- Nominal mission lifetime is six years.
- Euclid will launch on a *SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle* from Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA.
- Its *operational orbit* will be halo around a point known as the *Sun-Earth Lagrange point 2*.

### **2. Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**

#### **In News**

DoT Launches Bharat 6G Alliance to Drive Innovation and Collaboration in Next-Generation Wireless Technology

#### **About Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**

- The Bharat 6G Alliance is an *alliance* of domestic industry, academia, national research institutions and standards organisations *facilitated by the Government*.
- B6GA *aims to bring together* Indian startups, companies, and the manufacturing ecosystem to establish consortia that drive the *design, development and deployment of 6G technologies* in India.
- The primary objective of B6GA is to *understand the business and societal needs* of 6G beyond technology requirements, foster consensus on these needs, and promote high-impact open research and development (R&D) initiatives.
- The B6GA is expected to chart its own course of action based on the *Bharat 6G Vision Document* and further developments.



- Key goals of B6GA
  - To facilitate **market access** for Indian telecom technology products and services
  - Enabling the country to emerge as a **global leader** in 6G technology.
- B6GA will focus on the following:
  - To help grow 5G Advanced/6G IPs and essential patents from India;
  - Design and build Indian 5G Advanced/6G products and solutions;
  - Support and energise Indian participation in 3GPP/ITU;
  - To help build consortia of Indian Startups and companies;
  - To facilitate market access for Indian 5G/6G technology products;
  - Build coalition with like-minded 6G Global Alliances.

### 3. Biosimilar Guideline

#### In News

Health activists and patient groups seek revision of existing Biosimilar Guideline for increased access to critical drugs.

#### What is Biosimilar Drug?

- Biosimilar drugs and reference drugs are **made from living organisms** but they may be made in **different ways and of slightly different substances**.
- To be called a **biosimilar drug**, a biological drug must be shown to be as **safe** as, work as well as, and **work in the same way** as its **reference drug**.
- It is safe and effective treatment options for many illnesses including arthritis, kidney conditions, and cancer.
- They **increase access** to lifesaving medications at **potentially lower costs**.

#### About New Biosimilar Guideline

- **World Health Organisation (WHO)** have issued the new revised Guidelines.
- The incorporation of the new revised Guidelines in Indian will have tremendous opportunities for manufacturing to introduce affordable, safe and efficacious biosimilars.
- The reform in Indian guidelines would reduce the **time and cost of biosimilar development**.
- It **reduces the entry barriers** and allows more companies to enter into the biosimilar market.
- It **increases the competition** and reduce the prices and access of these critical medicines at an affordable price.

#### 4. E20 fuel

##### In News

E20 fuel outlets will have pan-India presence by 2025.

##### About E20 fuel

- E20 fuel is *petrol blended with 20% ethanol*.
- *Ethyl alcohol or ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH)* is a biofuel that is made by *fermenting sugar* derived from sugarcane or other organic matters.
- India has launched the *Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme* to mix this biofuel with petrol to reduce the consumption of Petrol.
- India has *already met* its *E10 target*, so petrol used in the country has 10% ethanol.
- E20 programme can save the country \$4 billion or Rs 30,000 crore per annum.
- Ethanol is a *less polluting fuel*, and offers *equivalent efficiency at lower cost* than petrol.
- Reaching the goal of 20% ethanol in gasoline would benefit the country's agricultural industry as farmers' incomes would rise because of these measures.

#### 5. Dark Patterns

##### In News

Understanding dark patterns

##### About Dark Patterns

- The phrase '*dark pattern*' was first introduced in *2010* by *Harry Brignull*, a user experience researcher in the U.K.
- It was used to *characterise deceptive strategies used to trick clients* that benefits the company implementing it.
- A dark pattern refers to a design or user interface technique that is intentionally crafted to manipulate or deceive users.
- It will prompt the user to make *certain choices or take specific actions* that may not be in their best interest.
- A common dark pattern is the "*sneak into basket*" *technique* used on *e-commerce websites* which is employed by *automatically adding additional items to the cart* without the user's explicit consent or clear notification.
- The dark patterns in digital platforms infringe on the *consumer's right to full transparency of the services* they use and control over their browsing experience.

##### Types of Dark Patterns

- Creating a sense of *urgency or scarcity* while online shopping

- **Confirm shaming** wherein a consumer is criticised for not conforming to a particular belief.
- The **forced action of signing up** for a service to access content.
- **Advertising one** product or service but **delivering another**, often of lower quality.
- **Hidden costs** where the bill is revised or costs are added when the consumer is almost certain to purchase the product.
- **Disguised advertisements** of a particular product by way of depicting it as news.

#### **How do we address dark patterns?**

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** and the **ASCI** have identified the issue and taken certain steps to handle the same.
- Companies are being asked to desist from using such tactics in the e-market.
- Major Indian online marketplaces received a letter from the Department of Consumer Affairs warning them on implementing dark patterns.

## **6. Candida auris**

### **In News**

Drug-resistant fungus, identified as a global threat, found in hospitalised stray dogs in Delhi.

### **About Candida auris**

- Candida auris is a **species of fungus** that **grows as yeast** that can cause serious infection and was first discovered in **2009**.
- It is one of the few species of the genus Candida which **cause candidiasis in humans**.
- It causes **bloodstream infections** and **even death**, particularly in hospital and nursing home **patients with serious medical problems**.
- **Antifungal medicines** commonly used to treat Candida infections **often don't work for Candida auris**.
- It can be **misidentified** as other types of fungi unless specialized laboratory technology is used.
- It can be **acquired in hospitals** by patients with weakened immune systems.
- It has been tagged as an “urgent” and “critical” threat by CDC, WHO.

## 7. Majorana zero modes

### In News

In a recent study, researchers reported that they had taken an important step towards topological quantum computing.

### About Majorana Zero modes

- *Majorana zero modes (MZMs) are non-Abelian anyons that hold promise for facilitating topologically protected quantum computation.*
- They can *emerge as localized zero-energy states at the end of 1D topological superconductors.*
- *Scanning tunnelling microscopy (STM) experiments* have demonstrated the presence of MZMs as localized end states of Fe chains on a Pb surface.
- *STM is particularly well suited to visualize MZMs on the atomic scale.*
- High-resolution spectroscopy with the STM can explore various concepts for topological superconductivity as it helps to visualize the presence of localized zero-energy states at topological surface and boundary modes.

### About Topological Quantum Computing

- A topological quantum computer is a *theoretical quantum computer* proposed by Russian-American physicist *Alexei Kitaev in 1997.*
- It employs *quasiparticles in two-dimensional systems*, called *anyons*, whose *world lines pass around one another to form braids in a three-dimensional spacetime.*
- The advantage of a quantum computer based on quantum braids over using trapped quantum particles is that the former is *much more stable.*
- The *existing quantum computers* have a big problem: *they're very fragile.* - A tap of your fingers on a table on which there's a computer and it could lose its quantum abilities.
- The Majorana zero modes can be used to realise the more powerful topological quantum-computing.

## 8. SAGAR SAMPARK

### In News

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates 'SAGAR SAMPARK' Differential Global Navigation Satellite System to Strengthen Maritime sector.

### About SAGAR SAMPARK

- It is the *indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS).*

- DGNSS is a *terrestrial based enhancement system* which *corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)*.
- It allows for *more accurate positioning information* and will help mariners in safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas.
- DGNSS increases the availability and redundancy as per International standards and helps the mariners to *improve their positioning within 5 meters*.
- It significantly improves the accuracy of GPS positioning, reducing errors caused by the atmospheric interferences, satellite clock drift and other factors.

## 9. National Research Foundation

### In News

Proposed National Research Foundation looks to tap CSR funds

### About National Research Foundation

- The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the *National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill*.
- The NRF was one of the key *recommendations* of the *National Education Policy 2020*.
- The *idea was borrowed* mainly from the National Science Foundation of the U.S. and also from German, U.K., Swiss, Norwegian, South Korean, and Singapore science agencies.
- It will act as a *coordinating agency* between researchers, various government bodies and industry.
- It will help to *bring industry into the mainstream of research*.
- The NRF will operate with a budget of *₹50,000 crore for five years*.
- *28%* of the fund will be the government's share, and the remaining *72%* will come from the *private sector*.

## 10. Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy

### In News

Indo-Japanese researchers develop 'disease-modifying' treatment for Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy.

### About Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy

- *Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)* is a severe type of *muscular dystrophy* that *primarily affects boys*.
- it is one of the most frequent *genetic conditions* affecting approximately 1 in 3,500 male births worldwide.

- It is a condition that causes *skeletal and heart muscle weakness* that quickly gets worse with time.
- It is usually *recognized* between *three and six years of age*.
- *Dystrophin, an enzyme* secreted in the *muscles*, helps in *wear and tear and regeneration of muscles*.
- Because of the genetic disorder, *muscles cannot produce dystrophin*.
- This damages and weakens the muscles, and patients become wheelchair-bound in their early teens and die prematurely.
- Boys born before 1970 with DMD had a median lifespan of around 18 years.

#### **About Treatment for DMD**

- Currently available treatments were *gene therapy, Exon-skipping* and *disease modifying agents*.
- It helps the patient to have prolonged the lifespan but despite that, patients die when they are aged 28 to 30 years.

#### **About new disease-modifying' treatment**

- A disease-modifying treatment for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) was developed by a group of Indo-Japanese researchers.
- It is *developed using a food additive* — a beta-glucan produced by N-163 strain of a yeast *Aureobasidium pullulans*.

## **11. Chandrayaan 3 mission**

### **In News**

ISRO to launch Chandrayaan-3 by LVM3 rocket.

### **About Chandrayaan 3 mission**

- Major objectives of the Mission:
  - Demonstrate *safe and soft landing* on the surface of the Moon,
  - Conduct *rover operations* on the Moon, and
  - Conduct *on-site experiments* on the Lunar surface.
- It consists of an
  - *indigenous lander module (LM)*
  - *propulsion module (PM)*
  - *a rover*.
- The propulsion module has *Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE)* payload to study the spectral and Polari metric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.

## Chandrayaan-3



### Why in news?

- Chandrayaan-3 launched successfully by Indian space agency ISRO.

### Chandrayaan-3

- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2
- The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit.
- It would launched by LVM3
- Mission Life - One Lunar day (~ 14 earth day).
- Chandrayaan-3 mission is aimed at demonstrating critical technologies to land the spacecraft on the south pole of the moon.
- Components - propulsion, lander and rover.

### Launch Vehicle MarkIII (LVM3)

- LVM3 is configured as a three stage vehicle with two solid strap-on motors (S200), one liquid core stage (L110) and a high thrust cryogenic upper stage (C25).
- LVM3 is the new heavy lift launch vehicle of ISRO for achieving a 4000 kg spacecraft launching capability to GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit) in a cost effective manner.

## MISSIONS TO MOON

Artemis:  
United States

Chandrayaan-3:  
India

Chang'e Project:  
China

Luna-25:  
Russia



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Pic Credit - India Today

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## DEFENCE/MILITARY EXERCISES

### 1. INS Shankush

#### In News

Submarine INS Shankush to undergo life extension at MDL under ₹2,725-crore contract.

#### About INS Shankush

- INS Shankush (S45) is a *Shishumar-class diesel-electric submarine* of the Indian Navy.
- Shankush is a *Sub-Surface Killer [SSK]* class submarine.
- INS Shishumar was the first *HDW-class submarine* to undergo life extension.
- After completion of *Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC)*, INS Shankush will be combat-ready and join the active fleet of the Indian Navy with upgraded combat capability.
- The *Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)* had *approved* the MRLC programme for six submarines - four Kilos and two HDWs.
- The Navy has *16 conventional submarines* in service - seven Kilo class, four HDW, and five French Scorpene-class submarines.

### 2. JIMEX 23

#### In News

Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) will be hosted by the Indian Navy.

## JIMEX 2023



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**Why in news?**

- The Indian Navy is hosting the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23), which takes place at/off Visakhapatnam.

**JIMEX 2023**

- This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.
- This exercise will witness the participation of INS Delhi, INS Kamorta, fleet tanker INS Shakti, a submarine, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and Dornier, ship-borne helicopters and fighter aircraft.
- JIMEX 23 provides an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices and facilitates operational interactions between IN and JMSDF to foster mutual cooperation and reaffirm their shared commitment towards maritime security in the region.



Bilateral Exercise Between India and Japan

Exercise	Type
SHINYUU Maitri	Air Force
Dharma Guardian	Military Exercise
Veer Guardian	Air Force



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### 3. SALVEX

#### In News

IN-USN Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise conducted at Kochi.

#### About SALVEX

- It was the *7th edition of Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise.*
- IN and USN have been participating in joint Salvage and EOD exercises *since 2005.*

### 4. EX 'OP SOUTHERN READINESS – 2023

#### In News

INS Sunayna participates in CMF EX 'OP SOUTHERN READINESS - 2023'.

#### About EX 'OP SOUTHERN READINESS - 2023

- The exercise Operation Southern Readiness is the *annual training exercise of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)* which is a *multinational initiative.*
- It aimed at enhancing maritime security, countering piracy to ensure safety and freedom of navigation in the region.
- It is being attended by representative delegations from USA, Italy, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and ship participation from UK, Spain & India.
- It is a multinational maritime partnership, which exists to uphold the *Rules-Based International Order (RBIO).*
- *India is not a member of CMF.*
- At the India-US 2+2 dialogue held in 2022, India had announced that it would join the CMF as an Associate Partner.

#### About Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

- Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is a *multi-national naval partnership.*
- It exists to promote security, stability and prosperity across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters.
- It encompass some of the world's most important shipping lanes.
- It mainly focus areas are defeating terrorism, preventing piracy, encouraging regional cooperation, and promoting a safe maritime environment.

## 5. Rafale-M jets

### In News

DAC nod for buying 26 Rafale-M jets.

### About Rafale-M jets

- The Rafale-M is the *Marine version* of the Rafale Jets.
- The Marine version of the jets will operate from aircraft carriers on sea.
- It will include *foldable wings*, a *longer airframe* for landing on carriers, and a *tail hook for arrested landing on a carrier*.
- The nose and main landing gears on the M version have been reinforced to satisfy the difficult aircraft carriers landing and catapulting conditions for the aircraft.
- The Rafale M nose gear also incorporates the “*jump strut technology*” in the shock absorber to give the aircraft an angle of attack during catapulting.
- The M version of the aircraft can *carry a wider range of weapons*, including anti-ship missiles and air to surface missiles and radar meant for maritime operations.
- The Rafale M, have common spares and support as the Rafale fighter Jets operated by the Indian Air Force.

## Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)



### Why in news?

- Defence Acquisition Council approves proposal to buy 26 Rafale jets, 3 Scorpene submarines.

### Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- The DAC is the highest decision-making body of the defence Ministry on procurement.
- Objective - To ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the armed forces.
- Formation - It was formed after the Group of Minister's recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post-Kargil War (1999).
- Composition:
  - The defence minister is the chairman of DAC.
  - Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.



Pic Credit - Rafale - RIAT 2009 + Indian Navy

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## **INDEX/REPORTS**

### **1. Panchayat Development Index (PDI)**

#### **In News**

Ministry of Panchayat released the Panchayat Development Index

#### **About the Index**

- PDI is a *computation score* based on **local indicators of 9 themes** which spur Panchayats to attain SDGs.
- It will pave the way for **outcome oriented development goals** at Panchayats.
- **Ministry of Panchayat** has constituted **Committee on Panchayat Development Index**.
- It measure the incremental progress towards the achievement of **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)** through Panchayats.
- Report has come with 144 local targets, 577 local indicators and 688 data points on 9 themes of LSDGs.
- It will act as a *baseline for Panchayat for setting local targets & local action points with measurable indicators*.

### **2. Trade in services for development Report**

#### **In News**

India doubles its share of global commercial services exports between 2005 and 2022.

#### **About the Report**

- The report is **co-published** by the **World Bank** and the **WTO**.
- It is motivated by a shared view that the *structural changes associated with a more service-centric world economy*.
- The important aim of the publication is to recall the **benefits of advancing the negotiating agenda on trade in services**, and the opportunity costs of not doing so.
- The publication aims to foster reflection on how best to mobilize additional support – and better assistance – for developing and least-developed economies.

#### **Key finding in the Report**

- The global commercial services exports almost tripled between 2005 and 2022.
- India has doubled its share of **global commercial services exports** to 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005.
- India and the Philippines will need to **upskill and reskill their workforces** and invest in the development of their domestic services sector.
- India has become a popular destination for **medical travel**, and hosted around 3.5 million foreign patients from 2009 to 2019.

### 3. Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

#### In News

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) released Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

#### About Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted by *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP)*.
- It covers *WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)* along with set of nearly 60 trade facilitation measures categorized into eleven sub-groups.
- The survey is *fact-based* rather than perception-based.
- A *three-step approach* to data collection and validation is generally followed, implemented over 6-month period *every 2 years*.
- The Survey reflects the *efficacy of Trade facilitation* measures taken by *Customs*.

#### Finding of the Survey

- It has positioned India at the forefront of global trade facilitation efforts.
- India has an impressive score of *93.55% in 2023* vis a vis 90.32% in 2021.
- It has recognized India's exceptional progress across various sub indicators, with the country achieving a *perfect score of 100% in four key areas*.
- India has witnessed a substantial improvement in the score for “*Women in Trade Facilitation*” component from 66.7% in 2021 to 77.8% in 2023.
- India is the *best performing country* amongst all the countries of *South Asia region*.

#### About UNESCAP

- The *Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)* was established in Shanghai to focus on economic development and post WW II reconstruction.
- In *1976*, ECAFE moved to its current headquarters in Bangkok, changed its name to *ESCAP*.
- The UNESCAP is the *Secretariat* of the United Nations for the Asian and Pacific region.
- One of the main functions of UNESCAP is to promote economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration.
- It has *53 member states and 9 associate members*.

#### 4. Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)

##### In News

Ministry of Education releases combined report on Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)

##### About Performance Grading Index

- Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a relatively new index that measures the *performance of States/UTs* on a *uniform scale* to catalyse the transformational change in the *field of school education*.
- The objectives of the PGI is to provide *insight on the status of school education* in States & UTs.
- The PGI evaluation classifies States and UTs into *grade/ levels*, as opposed to ranking.
- The PGI is constructed based on identified *70 indicators* and *2 Categories* containing *5 Domains*.

##### About PGI-D

- The PGI-D scores are the *aggregate score of 6 categories* of educational attainment of districts.
- The *six categories* are:
  - Outcomes
  - Effective Classroom Interactions
  - Infrastructure Facilities & Student's Entitlements
  - School Safety & Child Protection
  - Digital Learning
  - Governance Process.
- The category-wise analysis brings out areas of good practices and weak links among districts.
- It provides insights into *future action plan*.
- The *data for PGI-D drawn* from several sources:
  - Information System for Education Plus (UDISE +)
  - National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2017
  - Data provided by respective Districts.

## 5. Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) 2023

### In News

Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2022: Special focus on gender.

### About JMP

- Joint *Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP)* has reported country, regional and global estimates of progress on drinking *water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)*.
- It was started in *1990* and is published by *WHO/UNICEF*
- The *JMP 2023* specially *focus* on gender, compiles data on global progress towards achieving universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
- It provides an in-depth analysis of *gender inequalities* between and within countries, revealing the unique risks that women and girls face from *inadequate access to safe WASH*.

### Key findings from the new report

- 2.2 billion still lacked *safely managed drinking water*, including 115 million people drinking surface water.
- 3.5 billion people still lacked *safely managed sanitation*, including 419 million who practised open defecation.
- 2 billion still lacked *basic hygiene services*, including 653 million with no facility at all.
- Adolescent girls and women living in rural areas are more likely to use reusable materials.
- 1.8 billion people still do not have drinking water on-premises.

## 6. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

### In News

415 million Indians came out of multidimensional poverty in 15 years, says UNDP study.

### About the Global MPI

- It *complements traditional monetary poverty measures* by capturing the acute deprivations in health, education, and living standards that a person faces simultaneously.
- The global MPI shows *who is poor* and *how they are poor* and can be used to create a comprehensive picture of people living in poverty.
- The MPI *assesses poverty at the individual level*.
- If a person is deprived in a *third or more of ten (weighted) indicators*, the global MPI identifies them as '*MPI poor*'.




- The *extent – or intensity – of their poverty* is also measured through the *percentage of deprivations they are experiencing*.
- It permits comparisons both across countries and world regions, and within countries by ethnic group, urban/rural area, subnational region, and age group.

### Finding of MPI

- In 2005-06, about 645 million people were in **multidimensional poverty in India**, with this number declining to about 370 million in 2015-16 and 230 million in 2019-21.
- People who are multidimensionally poor and deprived under the **nutrition indicator** in India declined from 44.3% in 2005-06 to 11.8% in 2019-21
- The **child mortality** fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.
- People **deprived of cooking fuel** fell from 52.9% to 13.9%.
- Those **deprived of sanitation** fell from 50.4% in 2005/2006 to 11.3% in 2019/2021.

## Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2023



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**Why in news?**

- 415 million Indians came out of multidimensional poverty in 15 years, says UNDP study.

**Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2023**

- Released by - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- The index is a key international resource that measures acute multidimensional poverty across more than 100 developing countries.
- It was first launched in 2010 by the OPHI and the Human Development Report Office of the UNDP.

Three dimensions of poverty by 10 indicators

**Health**

- Nutrition
- Child mortality

**Education**

- Years of schooling
- School attendance

**Living standards**

- Cooking fuel
- Sanitation
- Drinking water
- Electricity
- Housing
- Assets

**Global Data**

- Globally, 1.1 billion people (18% of the total population) out of 6.1 billion people, are acutely multidimensionally poor and live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has 534 million poor and South Asia has 389 million.
- Children under 18 years old account for half of MPI-poor people (566 million).
- The poverty rate among children is 27.7%, while among adults it is 13.4 %.

**About India**

- India still has more than 230 million people who are poor.
- India is among 25 countries, including Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam, that successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.



Pic Credit - The Hindu + UNDP

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