

PIB

GS-II

1. Drone Rules, 2021.
2. 'SUJALAM' Campaign.
3. SAMRIDH Scheme.
4. Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane.
5. National Monetisation Pipeline.
6. National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).
7. Accreditation of Private Exploration Agencies.
8. Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme.
9. Draft Electricity Rules, 2021.
10. Operation Blue Freedom.
11. Vehicle scrappage policy.
12. 'Pani Maah' Campaign.
13. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme.
14. Sankalp Programme.
15. NICRA.

GS-III

1. North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22.
2. EASE 4.0.
3. MoU between ICAI and IPAR.
4. Directed Energy Deposition.
5. India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit.
6. Geological Survey of India Mobile App.
7. Ratification of Kigali Amendment.
8. Ramsar list.
9. Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021.
10. Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4)

Foreign Affairs

Short Liners

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-II

Drone Rules, 2021

Why in News

- Government has decided to repeal the UAS Rules, 2021 and replace the same with the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021.

Background

- In March 2021, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) published the UAS Rules, 2021.
- They were perceived by academia, Startups, end-users and other stakeholders as being restrictive in nature as they involved considerable paperwork, required permissions for every drone flight and very few "free to fly" green zones were available.

About Drones

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**, commonly known as drones, offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy like – agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, defence, and law enforcement etc.

Features of the New Drone Rules

a. Approvals abolished:

- Unique authorisation number.
 - Unique prototype identification number.
 - Certificate of manufacturing and airworthiness.
 - Certificate of conformance.
 - Certificate of maintenance.
 - Import clearance.
 - Acceptance of existing drones.
 - Operator permit.
 - Authorisation of R&D organisation.
 - Student remote pilot licence.
 - Remote pilot instructor authorisation.
 - Drone port authorisation etc.
- b. Digital sky platform shall be developed as a user-friendly single-window system. There will be minimal human interface and most permissions will be self-generated.
- c. Interactive airspace map with green, yellow and red zones shall be displayed on the digital sky platform within 30 days of publication of these rules.
- No permission required for operating drones in green zones.
- d. No remote pilot licence required for micro drones (for non-commercial use) and nano drones.
- e. Import of drones to be regulated by DGFT. However, the requirement of import clearance from DGCA is abolished.
- f. Drones present in India on or before 30 Nov 2021 will be issued a unique identification number through the digital sky platform provided, they have a DAN, a GST-paid invoice and are part of the list of DGCA-approved drones.
- g. Maximum penalty for violations reduced to INR 1 lakh.
- h. Safety and security features like 'No permission – no takeoff' (NPNT), real-time tracking beacon, geo-fencing etc. to be notified in future. A six-month lead time will be provided to the industry for compliance.
- i. Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries.
- j. Drone promotion council to be set up by Government with participation from academia, startups and other stakeholders to facilitate a growth-oriented regulatory regime.

Way Forward

- Drones can be significant creators of employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas.
- In view of its traditional strengths in innovation, information technology, frugal engineering and huge domestic demand.
- India has the potential to be global drone hub by 2030.

'SUJALAM' Campaign

Why in News

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti began 'SUJALAM', a '100 days campaign' as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to create more and more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management at village level particularly through creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Grey water management activities.
- The effort of campaign would be directed towards achieving the ODF plus status for villages across the country in an accelerated manner in a short time.
- The Campaign has started from today i.e. 25th August, 2021 and will continue to run for the next 100 days.



Key Activities

- Organizing Community consultations, Khuli Baithaks and Gram Sabha meetings to analyze the current situation.
- Pass resolution to maintain ODF sustainability and achieve needed number of soak pits to manage the grey water.
- Develop a 100 days' plan to undertake sustainability and soak pit construction related activities.
- Construct requisite number of soak pits.
- Retrofit toilets where needed through IEC and community mobilization.
- Ensure all newly emerging Households in the village have access to toilets.

Expected Outcome

- The campaign will not only build desired infrastructure i.e. soak pit for management of greywater in villages but will also aid in sustainable management of waterbodies.
- Furthermore, the campaign would boost the momentum of SBMG phase II activities through community participation and it will increase awareness about ODF-plus activities.
 - Hence ensuring long term maintenance and sustainability of built infrastructure.
- The Campaign would use the platform of awareness and behaviour change achieved during the first phase of the SBMG and provide focus for sustaining the same along with achieving the visual cleanliness by the way of SLW Management.

Conclusion

- The disposal of waste water and clogging of waterbodies in the villages or on the outskirts of the villages remain one of the major problems.
- The Campaign would help in management of the wastewater and in turn would help to revive the waterbodies.

SAMRIDH Scheme

Why in News

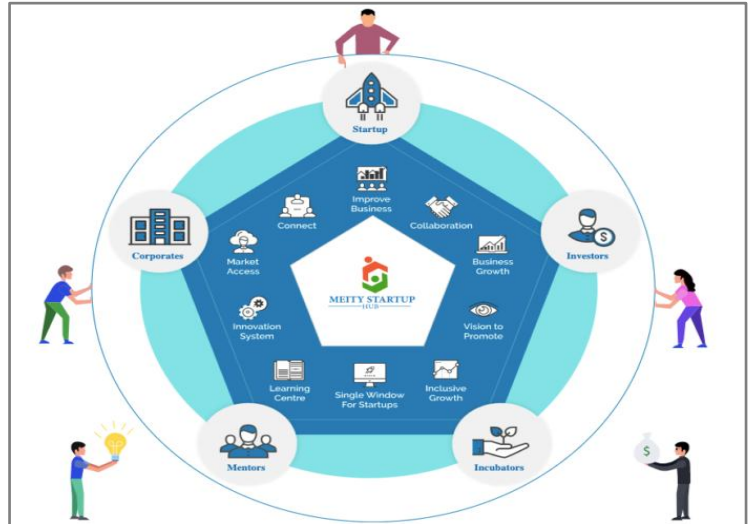
- The "Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH)" programme was recently launched by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- This was launched with the objective of creating a conducive platform to Indian Software Product star-ups to enhance their products and securing investments for scaling their business.
- The programme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH).

Background

- Startups are new types of wealth creators in our country.
- Government is going to support startups and entrepreneurs in the most challenging phase which is the initial risk phase and also stated to serve 1.3 billion people India will scale up the network of incubators and accelerators to phenomenal levels.

About the Programme

- The SAMRIDH programme will focus on accelerating the 300 start-ups by providing customer connect, investor connect, and international immersion in next three years.
- An investment of up to ₹ 40 lakh to the start-up based on current valuation and growth stage of the Start-Up will be provided through selected accelerators.
- It will also facilitate equal matching investment by the accelerator / investor.
- The programme aims to further the Indian start-up growth which has seen the emergence of 63 Unicorns is now the third largest Unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of 168 Bn USD.



Conclusion

- SAMRIDH scheme will pick up startups that are ready for acceleration stage and will provide them with funding support, mentorship and a lot of other support that is required by startups at this stage.
- The scheme heralds a very important milestone in our journey towards building confidence in our startup community.

Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane

Why in News

- Keeping in view interest of sugarcane farmers (GannaKisan), the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2021-22 (October - September) at Rs. 290/- per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10%, providing a premium of Rs. 2.90/qlt for each 0.1% increase in recovery over and above 10%, & reduction in FRP by Rs. 2.90/qlt for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.
- There is no deduction in case of sugar mills where recovery is below 9.5%. Such farmers will get Rs. 275.50 per quintal for sugarcane in ensuing sugar season 2021-22 in place of Rs. 270.75/qlt in current sugar season 2020-21.
- The FRP approved shall be applicable for purchase of sugarcane from the farmers in the sugar season 2021-22 (starting w.e.f. 1st October, 2021) by sugar mills.

Background

- The sugar sector is an important agro-based sector that impacts the livelihood of about 5 crores sugarcane farmers and their dependents and around 5 lakh workers directly employed in sugar mills, apart from those employed in various ancillary activities including farm labour and transportation.
- The cost of production of sugarcane for the sugar season 2021-22 is Rs. 155 per quintal. This FRP of Rs. 290 per quintal at a recovery rate of 10% is higher by 87.1% over production cost, thereby giving the farmers a return of much more than 50% over their cost.
- In the current sugar season 2020-21, about 2,976 lakh tons of sugarcane of worth Rs. 91,000 cr was purchased by sugar mills, which is at all time high level & is the second highest next to the procurement of paddy crop at Minimum Support Price.
- Keeping the expected increase in the production of sugarcane in the ensuing sugar season 2021-22, about 3,088 lakh tons of sugarcane is likely to be purchased by sugar mills.
 - The total remittance to the sugarcane farmers will be about Rs. 1, 00,000 crore.
 - Export of sugar has improved liquidity of sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price dues of farmers.

Mechanism

- The FRP has been determined on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation with State Governments and other stake-holders.

Alternative Usage

- Government is also encouraging sugar mills to divert excess sugarcane to ethanol which is blended with petrol, which not only serves as a green fuel but also saves foreign exchange on account of crude oil import.
 - This would address the problem of excess sugarcane as well as delayed payment issue because farmers would get timely payment.
 - This is expected to significantly increase in the next 3 years as we go upto 20% blending by 2025.
 - Increase in export & diversion of sugarcane to ethanol is ensuring timely cane price payments to farmers.

National Monetisation Pipeline

Why in News

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, has recently launched the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities: 'National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP Volumes 1 & 2)'.
- The pipeline has been developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation' under Union Budget 2021-22.
- NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6.0 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.*

Asset Monetisation

- Asset monetisation, based on the philosophy of Creation through Monetisation, is aimed at tapping private sector investment for new infrastructure creation.
- This is necessary for creating employment opportunities, thereby enabling high economic growth and seamlessly integrating the rural and semi-urban areas for overall public welfare.
- The strategic objective of the programme is to unlock the value of investments in brownfield public sector assets by tapping institutional and long-term patient capital, which can thereafter be leveraged for further public investments.

Background

- Union Budget 2021-22 has identified monetisation of operating public infrastructure assets as a key means for sustainable infrastructure financing.
 - Towards this, the Budget provided for preparation of a '*National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)*' of potential brownfield infrastructure assets. NITI Aayog in consultation with infra line ministries has prepared the report on NMP.
- NMP aims to provide a medium term roadmap of the programme for public asset owners; along with visibility on potential assets to private sector. Report on NMP has been organised into two volumes.

Framework

- The pipeline has been prepared based on inputs and consultations from respective line ministries and departments, along with the assessment of total asset base available therein.
- Monetization through disinvestment and monetization of non-core assets have not been included in the NMP. Further, currently, only assets of central government line ministries and CPSEs in infrastructure sectors have been included.



Monetization of 'Rights' NOT 'ownership', Assets handed back at the end of transaction life



Brownfield de-risked assets, stable revenue streams

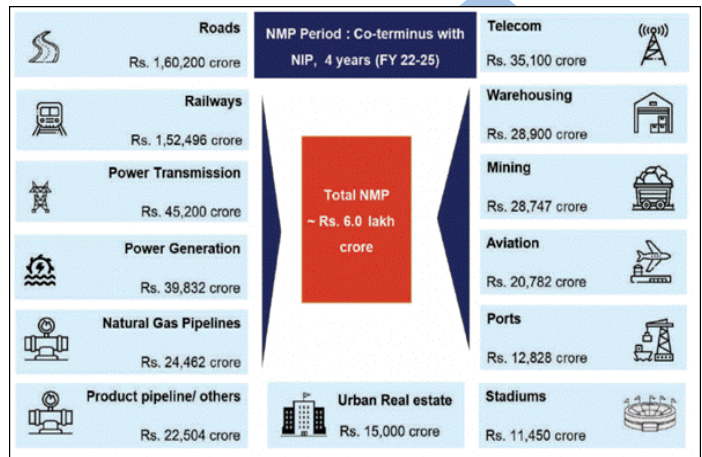


Structured partnerships under defined contractual frameworks with strict KPIs & performance standards

- Process of coordination and collation of asset pipeline from states is currently ongoing and the same is envisaged to be included in due course.
- The framework for monetisation of core asset monetisation has three key imperatives.
- This includes selection of de-risked and brownfield assets with stable revenue generation profile with the overall transaction structured around revenue rights.
 - *The primary ownership of the assets under these structures, hence, continues to be with the Government with the framework envisaging hand back of assets to the public authority at the end of transaction life.*

Estimated Potential

- The aggregate asset pipeline under NMP over the four-year period, FY 2022-2025, is indicatively valued at Rs 6.0 lakh crore. The estimated value corresponds to ~14% of the proposed outlay for Centre under NIP (Rs 43 lakh crore).
 - This includes more than 12 line ministries and more than 20 asset classes. The sectors included are roads, ports, airports, railways, warehousing, gas & product pipeline, power generation and transmission, mining, telecom, stadium, hospitality and housing.



Implementation & Monitoring Mechanism

- The programme is envisaged to be supported through necessary policy and regulatory interventions by the Government in order to ensure an efficient and effective process of asset monetisation.
- These will include streamlining operational modalities, encouraging investor participation and facilitating commercial efficiency, among others.
- Real time monitoring will be undertaken through the asset monetisation dashboard, as envisaged under Union Budget 2021-22, to be rolled out shortly.
- The end objective of this initiative to enable 'Infrastructure Creation through Monetisation' wherein the public and private sector collaborate, each excelling in their core areas of competence, so as to deliver socio-economic growth and quality of life to the country's citizens.

Conclusion

- The NMP is aimed at creating a systematic and transparent mechanism for public authorities to monitor the performance of the initiative and for investors to plan their future activities.
- Asset Monetisation needs to be viewed not just as a funding mechanism, but as an overall paradigm shift in infrastructure operations, augmentation and maintenance considering private sector's resource efficiencies and its ability to dynamically adapt to the evolving global and economic reality.
- New models like Infrastructure Investment Trusts & Real Estate Investment Trusts will enable not just financial and strategic investors but also common people to participate in this asset class thereby opening new avenues for investment.

**UPSC
IAS/IPS
CLASSROOM
PROGRAMME
2022**

₹1,30,000



National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Due to the heavy dependence on imports for edible oils, it is important to make efforts for increasing the domestic production of edible oils in which increasing area and productivity of oil palm plays an important part.
- A financial outlay of Rs.11, 040 crore has been made for the scheme, out of which Rs.8,844 crore is the Government of India share and Rs.2,196 crore is State share and this includes the viability gap funding also.

Background

- Since 1991-92, many efforts have been made by the Government of India to increase the production of oilseeds and oil palm.
 - The oilseeds production has increased from 275 lakh tons in 2014-15 to 365.65 lakh tons in 2020-21.
- For harnessing the potential of palm oil production, in the year 2020, an assessment has been made by the *Indian institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR)* for cultivation of oil palm which has given an assessment of around 28 lakh ha.
 - Thus, there is huge potential in oil palm plantation and subsequently production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO). At present only 3.70 lakh hectares is under Oil Palm cultivation.
 - Oil palm produces 10 to 46 times more oil per hectare compared to other oilseed crops and has yield of around 4 tons oil per ha.
 - Thus, it has enormous potential for cultivation.
- Keeping the above in view, and also the fact that even today around 98% of CPO is being imported, it is proposed to launch the Scheme to further increase the area and production of CPO in the country.
 - The proposed scheme will subsume the current National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.

Brief Details

- There are two major focus areas of the Scheme.
- a. The oil palm farmers produce Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) from which oil is extracted by the industry. Presently the prices of these FFBs are linked to the international CPO prices fluctuations.
 - For the first time, the Government of India will give a price assurance to the oil palm farmers for the FFBs. This will be known as the Viability Price (VP).
 - This will protect the farmers from the fluctuations of the international CPO prices and protect him from the volatility.
 - To give impetus to the North-East and Andaman, the Government will additionally bear a cost of 2% of the CPO price to ensure that the farmers are paid at par with the rest of India.
 - The states who adopt the mechanism proposed by the Government of India would benefit from the viability gap payment proposed in the scheme and for this they will enter into MoUs with the Central Government.
- b. The second major focus of the scheme is to substantially increase the assistance of inputs/interventions.
 - A substantial increase has been made for planting material for oil palm and this has increased from Rs 12,000 per ha to Rs.29000 per ha.
 - Further substantial increase has been made for maintenance and inter-cropping interventions. A special assistance @ Rs 250 per plant is being given to replant old gardens for rejuvenation of old gardens.
- Assistance for seed gardens @ Rs.40 lakhs and Rs.50 lakhs for Rest of India and North-East & Andaman regions respectively.
- Special assistance will be provided for the North-East and the Andaman regions in which special provisions are being made for half-moon terrace cultivation, bio fencing and land clearance along with integrated farming.

Way Forward

- Under this scheme, it is proposed to cover an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare (ha.) for oil palm till the year 2025-26 and thereby reaching the target of 10 lakh hectares ultimately.
- The production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is expected to go up to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and up to 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.

- The scheme will immensely benefit the oil palm farmers, increase capital investment, create employment generation, shall reduce the import dependence and also increase the income of the farmers.

Accreditation of Private Exploration Agencies

Why in News

- The Ministry of Mines has adopted the scheme for accreditation of private exploration agencies developed by the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training of the Quality Council of India (QCI-NABET).
- This was done with the view to increase the pace of exploration in the country and to bring advance technology in exploration of minerals.

Background

- At present, only Government agencies are involved in exploration and the pace of exploration is limited by their capacity.
 - The present step of the Government is a major regulatory reform in the mineral sector aimed to unleash the economic potential of the sector by bringing more agencies in exploration of minerals.
 - This will increase the pace of exploration, create new employment opportunities in the sector and bring more explored blocks for auction.
 - The scheme will also help in encouraging new entrepreneurs in the field of exploration and bringing latest technology and expertise to the sector.
- *The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, MMDR Act* was recently amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2021, w.e.f. 28.03.2021 which, inter alia, empowers the Central Government to notify entities, including private entities, that may undertake prospecting operations, subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by the Central Government.

Brief Details

- The QCI-NABET will grant accreditation to private exploration agencies for undertaking prospecting operations of minerals in accordance with the standards and procedures of the scheme.
- The interested private exploration agencies shall be required to obtain accreditation in accordance with the scheme and thereafter apply to the Ministry for their notification under the second proviso to sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act.
- The Ministry has formulated guidelines for the considering the exploration agencies for notification containing detailed procedure, terms and conditions for the same.

Expected Outcome

- a. This will unleash the Economic Potential of Mineral Sector.
- b. This will Increase Pace of Exploration and Create New Employment Opportunities.
- c. The Scheme will Encourage New Entrepreneurs.

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

About the Scheme

- In order to boost domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) with an outlay of Rs 400 crore for creating state-of-the-art testing infrastructure in partnership with the private industry.
- The scheme was launched by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.
- The scheme would run for the duration of five years and envisages setting up of 6-8 Greenfield Defence Testing Infrastructure facilities that are required for defence and aerospace related production.

Features

- The projects under the scheme will be provided with up to 75 per cent Government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'.
- The remaining 25 per cent of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) constituents of which will be the Indian private entities and state governments.

- In this regard, Department of Defence Production/Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DDP/DGQA) has published eight Expression of Interest (EOIs) catering to setting up of defence test facilities in selected domains.

Draft Electricity Rules, 2021

Why in News

- The Ministry of Power has circulated the “Draft Electricity (promoting renewable energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2021”.
- They have placed them on the Ministry of Power website - <https://powermin.gov.in/> and sought comments within 30 days.

Details

- The Tariff for the Green Energy shall be determined by the Appropriate Commission, which may comprise of the average pooled power purchase cost of the renewable energy, cross-subsidy charges (if any) and service charges covering all prudent cost of the distribution licensee for providing the green energy.
- The draft rules regarding green hydrogen state “Green hydrogen” is the hydrogen produced using electricity from the renewable sources.
 - The obligated entity including the Industries can also meet their Renewable Purchase Obligation by purchasing green hydrogen.
 - The quantum of green hydrogen would be computed by considering the equivalence to the Green hydrogen produced from one MWh of electricity from the renewable sources or it's multiple.
 - The norms shall be notified by the Central Commission.
- The Appropriate Commission shall put in place regulations in accordance with this Rule to provide Green Energy Open Access to consumers who are willing to consume the Green energy.
 - All applications for open access of Green Energy shall be granted within a maximum of 15 days. Provided that only Consumers who have contracted demand/sanctioned load of hundred kW and above shall be eligible to take power through green energy open access.
 - There shall be no limit of supply of power for the captive consumers taking power under green energy open access.
 - Provided further that reasonable conditions such as the minimum number of time blocks for which the consumer shall not change the quantum of power consumed through open access may be imposed so as to avoid high variation in demand to be met by the distribution licensee.

Conclusion

- These rules are proposed for purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants.
- The draft rules have the following subheads within which details are provided: Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO); Green energy open access; Nodal Agencies; Procedure for grant of green energy open access; banking; and cross subsidy surcharge.

Operation Blue Freedom

Why in News

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar flags off ‘Operation Blue Freedom’ to create a World Record at Siachen Glacier.

About the Expedition

- A team of people with disabilities from across the country undertook an expedition till Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.
 - The team of people with disabilities, trained by ‘Team CLAW’, a team of Armed Forces veterans, undertook this expedition till Kumar Post (Siachen Glacier) to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.
 - Recently, the Government of India had permitted a team of selected people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.

- This pioneering expedition has brought India on the global stage as a leader in empowering Divyangjan and set a benchmark for other nations to emulate.

Objectives

- To evolve the perception of society towards who they (disabled people) are and what they are capable of.
- To secure their right to dignity.
- To exercise their ability to contribute value and inspire freedom.

Team CLAW

- Team CLAW (Conquer Land Air Water) is a team of ex-Indian Special Forces commandos.
- Each team member had been a soldier in the Army/Navy Special Forces and was highly trained with multiple specialisations in Mountaineering, Skydiving, Scuba diving, Un-armed combat, Multi-terrain survival tech, Emergency Med Response, etc.
- The initiative was founded by Major Vivek Jacob who was with the Indian Army Special Forces.

Vehicle Scrappage policy

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the much-awaited Vehicle Scrappage Policy with an aim to phase out old and unfit vehicles in an environment-friendly manner.
- Personal vehicles that are older than 20 years will be de-registered from June 1, 2024 if they fail the automated fitness test or their registration certificates have not been renewed.
- Similarly, heavy commercial vehicles older than 15 years will be de-registered from April 1, 2023.
- The Centre has mandated setting up of automated testing stations to minimise manual testing of vehicles as per the road map.

About the Policy

- The policy aims to scrap old, unfit and polluting vehicles by creating an infrastructure for automated testing of vehicles that have completed the registration period.
- **Registration Certificate:** Validity of Registration Certificate for Personal Vehicle is 15 Years, whereas for commercial vehicle, it is 10 years from the date when it is issued.
- **Fitness Certificate:** As per the motor vehicle law, renewal of fitness certificate annually is mandatory for a commercial vehicle once it is older than eight years.
 - For the first eight years, such vehicles will need to undergo the test after every two years.
 - Fitness tests are required to know the quality of the vehicle, if it is still fit to run on the roads and how much effect it will have on the environment.
 - A vehicle will be declared fit or unfit after conducting multiple tests like brake test, engine performance and others.
 - If a vehicle passes the fitness test then it will have to repeat the same after every 5 years to keep a check.
 - A valid fitness certificate will be necessary for renewal of registration certificates after 15 years.
 - The renewed certificate will be issued for a period of 5 years in case of private vehicles.

Vehicles to be scrapped

- Under the new policy, vehicles will not be scrapped merely on the basis of age. As mentioned earlier, they will be scientifically tested through authorised, automated testing centres.
- Unfit vehicles will be scrapped scientifically which will ensure that registered vehicle scrapping facilities all over the country are technology driven and transparent.
- The term 'unfit' vehicles include those who fail to qualify a fitness test; have been damaged due to fire, riot, natural disaster, accident or any other calamity; declared obsolete or beyond repair; vehicles which have outlived their utility.
- A vehicle which fails the fitness test is deemed unfit from plying on the roads and their registration certificates will not be renewed.
- However, one re-test will be permitted after the necessary repair, rectification, and re-inspection -- if ordered by the appellate authority.
 - If it fails the re-test too then the vehicle will be declared an *End of Life Vehicle (ELV)*.

- Since it is a voluntary scheme, owners of such vehicles will have the option of scrapping their vehicles. He or she will have to take the vehicle to a registered vehicle scrapping facility.

Compensation

- The Centre has announced several incentives that will be offered to people for retiring their old and unfit vehicles. 4% TO 6% of the new vehicle will be the compensation.
- There will be zero registration fees for new vehicle purchased if the owner shows a certificate of deposit.
- State governments have been asked to offer concessions on motor vehicle tax. The concessions include up to 25 per cent for non-transport vehicles and up to 15 percent for transport vehicles.
- Vehicle manufacturers have been advised to provide 5 per cent discount on purchase of new vehicle against certificate of deposit.

Conclusion

- Opting for a new vehicle will also lower maintenance cost and consumers will be able to have increased savings on fuel too.
- Holding on to vehicles older than 15 years will become inexpensive affair for owners as cost for renewal of fitness certificate might go up by 62 times for commercial vehicles and by 8 times for private vehicles.
- In addition, states will impose **green tax** over and above the road tax that every vehicle owner needs to pay.
- The national policy will give a new identity to the auto sector and promote a circular economy, making the process of economic development more sustainable and environment-friendly.
- It will boost manufacturing, create employment and increase our savings. Cost of new vehicles will also comedown as the scrap would provide copper, aluminium, steel, plastic and rubber to the industry

'Pani Maah' Campaign

Why in News

- The Union Territory of Ladakh has recently launched a month-long campaign- 'Pani Maah' (Water Month).

Objective

- To increase the pace of implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission** in the UT and to inform and engage village communities on the importance of clean water.

About 'Pani Maah'

- It will run at the Block and Panchayat level in two phases.
- 1. **First phase**
 - The focus will be on Swachhta Sarvekshan and Sanitation drives by Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Pani Samiti members.
 - During this phase water sample will be collected from all identified sources and service delivery points for testing.
 - It will also include awareness and sensitisation campaigns.
- 2. **Second Phase**
 - It will focus on organizing the Pani Sabhas/ Gram Sabhas/ Block level meetings and door to door visits for effective communication on water quality and service delivery under JJM.
 - During this phase, **Jal Jeevan Mission** implementation, water quality test reports and analysis will be discussed with the villagers in an open forum.
 - A village/ block-wise schedule has also been prepared for water sample collection and the Gram Sabhas to ensure maximum participation of villagers in the campaign.
- The campaign will adopt a **three-pronged approach**-
 1. focussing on water quality testing,
 2. planning and strategizing water supply,
 3. seamless functioning of Pani Sabha in villages.
- Through this month-long campaign, village communities will be encouraged to send water samples to water quality laboratories for quality checks and monitoring.

Funding

- The Union Territory of Ladakh has also announced an award of Rs. 5 lakh per village for the first 5 'Har Ghar Jal' villages of each district in UT and Rs. 25 lakh to the first 'Har Ghar Jal' block in each district.
- Outstanding PRI members, BDOs, AEEs and other concerned stakeholders will be honoured on Republic Day 2022 for their contribution towards making villages, blocks and districts, 'Har Ghar Jal'.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme

Why in News

- Government of India has launched the Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to boost Agriculture Infrastructure relating to Post-Harvest Management (PHM) and Community Farming Assets in the country.
- Under this scheme financing facility of ₹1 lakh crore is to be disbursed by banks/lending institutions as loans to eligible beneficiaries.

Objective

- The objective of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme is to mobilize a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support in order to improve agriculture infrastructure in the country.

Brief Details

- The scheme provide financial assistance in the form of interest subvention and credit guarantee for setting Post Harvest Management (PHM) projects which will help better post harvest management and reduction in wastage.
- The following community farming assets projects are eligible under the scheme:-
 - Organic inputs production.
 - Bio stimulant production units.
 - Infrastructure for smart and precision agriculture.
 - Projects identified for providing supply chain infrastructure for clusters of crops including export clusters.
 - Projects promoted by Central/State/Local Governments or their agencies under PPP for building community farming assets or post-harvest management projects.

Sankalp Programme

About the Programme

- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Scheme is a World Bank loan assisted programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with three key Result Areas (RA), namely
 - Institutional Strengthening at Central, State, and District level.
 - Quality Assurance of skill development programmes.
 - Inclusion of marginalized population in skill development programmes.

**PRELIMS
TEST SERIES
2021**

BATCH II

₹4999

Key Areas

- SANKALP has undertaken several initiatives to contribute to improvement in employability, some of which are asunder:
 - a. Strengthening of District Skill Committees for improved access to and demand driven skill trainings for employment.
 - b. Emphasis on skill certification in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at Gram Panchayat level for improving employment qualitatively.
 - c. Funded development of an IT system namely "Skill India Portal" to capture the data for skilling related activities across the country.
 - d. Gender Action Plan (GAP) has been prepared for promoting inclusion of women in Short term skilling and livelihood opportunities.

Outcome

- The implementation period of SANKALP is till March, 2023, and the positive outcome so far is seen in the following areas:
 - Strengthening of the District Skill Committees leading to demand-driven approach for the implementation of the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY).
 - District-level skill planning through District Skill Development Plans.
 - Focus on improving access to skill training for Women, SC/ST and other marginalized weaker sections of the society.

NICRA

Why in News

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India launched a flagship network project 'National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA) in 2011.
- The project aims at strategic research on adaptation and mitigation, demonstration of technologies on farmers' fields and creating awareness among farmers and other stakeholders to minimize the climatic change impacts on agriculture.

Areas Covered

- In the strategic research, the main thrust areas covered are
 - Identifying most vulnerable districts/regions.
 - Evolving crop varieties and management practices for adaptation and mitigation.
 - Assessing climate change impacts on livestock, fisheries and poultry and identifying adaptation strategies.

Status

- So far, 7 climate resilient varieties and 650 district agricultural contingency plans have been developed besides assessing the risk and vulnerability of Indian agriculture to climate change.

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-II

North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22

Why in News

- Recently NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER) have released the first edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22.
- Its main objective was to localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Background

- The NER District SDG Index& Dashboard, a collaborative effort by NITI Aayog and Ministry of DoNER, with technical support from UNDP, is the first of its kind in the country as it focuses on the North Eastern Region, which is of critical significance to the country's development trajectory.

About the Index

- The Index measures the performance of the districts of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura on the Sustainable Development Goals and their corresponding targets and ranks the districts based on the same.
- It is based on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index –the principal and official tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs at the national and State/ Union Territory levels and shares the common ethos of benchmarking performance and ranking on the SDGs to foster competition among the districts.

Brief Details

- The NER District SDG Index aims at delineating progress at the district level on a basket of indicators and enhancing analytical understanding of sectoral issues as well as data gaps, while assisting in designing future courses of action in the region.
- The modular nature of the index makes it a policy tool and a ready reckoner for gauging progress of districts on the expansive set of the Global Goals, including health, education, gender, economic growth, institutions, climate change and environment, among others.
- Out of the 103 districts considered for ranking, 64 districts belonged to the Front Runner category while 39 districts were in the Performer category in the composite score and ranking of districts.
- All districts in Sikkim and Tripura fall in the Front Runner category and there are no districts in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.
- East Sikkim [Score 75.87] ranks first in the region followed by districts Gomati and North Tripura [Score 75.73] in the second position.
- The score for the 103 districts ranges from 53.00 in Kiphire [Nagaland] to 75.87 in East Sikkim [Sikkim].

Conclusion

- The index offers insights into the social, economic, and environmental status of the region and its districts in their march towards achieving the SDGs.
- It is a unique policy tool which has immense potential to measure district level progress, highlight critical gaps, facilitate resource allocation, and will be a handy tool for policy makers in the eight North Eastern States, Ministry of DoNER and other Union Ministries.

EASE 4.0

Why in News

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman recently unveiled the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank (PSB) Reforms Agenda 'EASE 4.0' for 2021-22 - *tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking*.
- She also unveiled the annual report for the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0 for 2020-21 and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on EASE 3.0 Banking Reforms Index.
- EASE 4.0 aims to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation and deeply embed digital and data into PSBs' ways of working.*

About EASE Reform













- EASE stands for Enhanced Access and Service Excellence.
 - It is a common reform agenda for Public Sector Banks aimed at institutionalising clean and smart banking.
- EASE is part of the reforms agenda designed on the suggestions made at the PSB Manthan held in November 2017, comprising top leadership of the public sector lenders and representatives from the government.

About EASE 4.0

- The EASE 4.0 reforms looks at four key initiatives for public sector banks to adopt:

- a. Smart lending backed by analytics.
- b. 24x7 banking with resilient technology and cloud based IT systems.
- c. Data enabled agriculture financing.
- d. Collaborating with the financial ecosystem
- PSBs will have to design and improve the performance of their loan initiation processes by simplifying them on the basis of standard operating procedures and time-bound actions.
- Banks will have to introduce end-to-end digitised loans to new customers.
 - The lenders will have to focus on customising loans terms, interest rate and processing charges for customers availing digital loans based on their past behaviour and information from third-party sources.
- The PSBs will have to broaden their customer base and increase credit off-take through analytics and technology-driven credit offers. Banks can look at lending opportunities like pre-approved car loans and EMI offers on e-commerce/point-of-sale terminals.
- Banks can also make analytics-based credit decisions for MSMEs by assessing their transactional data, GST and tax data, etc.

EASE 4.0: Key initiatives

<p>Smart Lending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Dial-a-loan for doorstep facilitation  Credit@click: End-to-end digital retail and MSME lending for New to bank customers  Analytics-based credit offers 	<p>24*7 banking with resilient technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Deeper penetration of Mobile & Internet banking  Cloud-based IT systems and improved cyber resilience  Process automation
<p>Data-enabled agricultural financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Dial-a-loan for Agri loans  Partnerships with AgriTechs for data exchange  Automated processing and sanctioning 	<p>Collaborating with financial ecosystem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Digital payments in semi-urban and rural areas  At scale delivery of doorstep banking services  Co-lending with NBFCs

Modifications in Technology

- Under the EASE 4.0 reforms, PSBs will have to fast-track the migration of their IT systems to secure cloud-based solutions in line with board-approved policies and the regulatory framework.
 - The PSBs will have to conduct time-bound audits and testing in line with board-approved policies.
 - The public sector banks will have to strengthen *cyber resilience by fast-tracking implementation of advanced cyber-security measures* such as *zero trust network segmentation*, as well as adoption of AI- & ML-based threat detection, API security and analytics-based cyber-risk quantification.
 - PSBs have been asked to draw up and implement board-approved roadmaps for the automation of high-volume and manual processes.
- Public sector banks will have to focus on long-term talent/leadership development and succession planning with business outcome-focused appraisals.
 - The banks will have to implement an IT-based performance appraisal system with centralised tracking and monitoring linked to the performance management system.

Ease 3.0 Awards

- State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India have won the awards for best performing banks for PSB Reforms EASE 3.0 based on the EASE index.
- Indian Bank won the award for the best improvement from the baseline performance. SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.

MoU between ICAI and IPAR

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the signing Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia (IPAR).

Details

- Approval for signing Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia (IPAR) would help in establishing mutual co-

operation in the areas of Professional Accountancy Training, Professional Ethics, Technical Research, Advancement of Accounting Knowledge, Professional and Intellectual Development.

Implementation Strategy and Targets

- The proposed MoU aims to strengthen cooperation in matters of accountancy profession through exchange of views, information in respect of Professional Accountancy Training, Professional Ethics, Technical Research, and Professional Development of Accountants.
- It is also intended to promote mutual cooperation through seminars, conferences and joint activities mutually beneficial to both the parties and provide updates on the development of the accountancy profession in India and Russia to promote the profession in the world.
- The parties will also create a linkage to each other's websites as a means of information support.

Major impact

- This is expected to provide an additional impetus to prospects of the ICAI Members to get professional opportunities in Russia in short to long term future.
- The aim of MoU is to work together to develop a mutually beneficial relationship for the best interest of ICAI members and the two respective organizations.
- With this MoU, ICAI would be able to help strengthen the partnership with Russia by providing the Export of Services in Accountancy profession.

Benefits

- ICAI members are holding middle to top level positions in various organisations across the countries and can influence the decision/policy making strategies of respective organisations of a country.
- ICAI through its vast network of Chapters and Representative Offices, is committed to play an important role by sharing the prevalent practices in their respective countries so that the Government of India can adopt the best practices being followed by them to attract foreign investment and to encourage them to establish their setup in India.

About ICAI & IPAR

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body established under the *Chartered Accountants Act, 1949* for the regulation of the profession of Chartered Accountants in India.
- ICAI has contributed immensely in the field of education, professional development, maintenance of high accounting, auditing and ethical standards in furtherance of the profession of Chartered accountants, which is recognized globally.
- The Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia (IPAR) is the largest non-profit association of accountants in Russia.

Directed Energy Deposition

Why in News

- A team of scientists from the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, indigenously developed powders suitable for additive manufacturing using inert gas atomizer available at ARCI by melting unused scrap material. Utilising this, ARCI is developing the *Laser-DED process for the repair of aero-engine components made of Ni-based super alloy*.
- They indigenously made powders suitable for the additive manufacturing process called the **Directed Energy Deposition** process.

Background

- Ni-based super alloys are widely used in aero-engine components.
- Despite having exceptional properties, they are prone to damage due to extreme operational conditions.
- Manufacturing defects during the casting or machining process are another major cause of rejection, and tons of such unused components are scrapped due to minor defects.

Details

- Furthermore, the ARCI team developed a technology to **refurbish pinion housing assembly** (critical component in helicopters used for power transmission to the main fan) by machining out the damaged layer and rebuilding it using laser cladding process followed by final machining.
- Laser cladding and Laser-DED (both processes) are the same.
- In general, for two-dimensional deposition (surface coating), the term laser cladding is used, and for the manufacture of three-dimensional parts, the term laser-DED is used.

Post Clad Heat Treatment Method

- A post-clad heat treatment method was also designed to minimize microstructural inhomogeneity and ensure minimal substrate properties variation.
- These laser-clad repaired prototypes were found to be free from distortion and exhibited excellent performance.
- The team has also developed repair and refurbishment technologies for other industrial sectors, such as refurbishing diesel engine cylinder heads made of grey cast iron and refurbishing shafts used in the refinery.
- This work has been published in the journal '*Transactions of The Indian Institute of Metals*'.

About Directed Energy Deposition

- **Directed Energy Deposition (DED)** is a 3D printing method which uses a focused energy source, such as a plasma arc, laser or electron beam to melt a material which is simultaneously deposited by a nozzle.
- As with other additive manufacturing processes, DED systems can be used to add material to existing components, for repairs, or occasionally to build new parts.
- Directed Energy Deposition works by depositing material that has been melted onto a specified surface where it solidifies, fusing materials together to form a structure.

Conclusion

- Thus the impact of repair and refurbishment technology developed by ARCI can be best realized in the aerospace sector due to expensive materials, manufacturing costs, and stringent quality checks.

India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit

Why in News

- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Ms. Anupriya Patel recently inaugurated the "India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit" organised by **Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC)** with the support from Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Commerce.
- The focus of today's summit is on collaborations in engineering sector.
- The summit offers an important platform for engagement of Indian industry on India-ASEAN partnership in engineering trade and investments.

Background

- Engineering exports constitutes one-fourth of the merchandise exports and is the largest foreign exchange earners among all export sectors and the performance of engineering exports has been remarkable in the last few years.
- ASEAN, with over 15 percent share in India's global engineering shipment, is likely to be a key region to focus with a target of around USD 16 billion of exports for 2021-22.
- ASEAN will be an important region for India with an export target of US\$ 46 billion in meeting the global export target of US\$ 400 billion in financial year 2021-22.
- ASEAN as a region is the third largest export destination of Indian engineering products after EU and North America.
 - Among the ASEAN member nations, Singapore and Malaysia are major export destinations for Indian engineering products.

Brief Details of the Summit

- Supported by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of External Affairs, the four-day India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit is expected to see the participation of over 300 delegates from the Indian industry.

- A sizable number of delegates from ASEAN countries will also join the summit. The summit will also cover B2B meetings, interactions etc.
- The thematic sessions will cover a range of topics including country sessions, and emerging areas of cooperation like Industry 4.0, integration of MSME in the regional value chain.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu joined the event as “Partner State” while Government of Haryana as “Focus State”.
- This year is special for both partners as it marks the 25th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue partnership and 10 years of the Strategic Partnership.
- An E-Book on India-ASEAN trade and investment emphasizing engineering and MSME sector was also launched during the inaugural session.

Recent Initiatives

- India has set a target of USD 400 billion of merchandise exports for fiscal 2021-22 and also envisioned a roadmap to achieve this milestone.
- The Government has recently approved the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme worth US\$ 26 billion covering 13 sectors, including electronics, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, specialty steel, automobiles, and medical devices for attracting investment and enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities.

Conclusion

- Both India and ASEAN have large share of skilled population, robust service and manufacturing sectors and there are many complementary sectors and products available for greater cooperation.
- With a combined economy of approx. US\$ 5.8 trillion, there is significant potential for enhancing trade and investment partnership between India and ASEAN.

Geological Survey of India Mobile App

Why in News

- Geological Survey of India, the 170-year old premier Geological Institution under the Ministry of Mines has recently launched the GSI Mobile App (Beta Version) in the year 2020 and upgrading it periodically.
- Through the App, people will become more enlightened about various facets of GSI activities.
- It is also in line with the Digital India campaign initiated by the Central Government.

About the App

- The App is available for Android platform as of now and can be downloaded from Google Play Store.
- Since its launch on August 27, 2020 the App has been downloaded by thousands of people across the country and also received 4.5 stars in reviews and a rating of 3+ in Google Play Store.

Details

- The App is divided into various sections where it talks about the legacy of GSI, the in-house publications of the organisation, various case studies on different missions of GSI, the picture gallery etc.
- E-news division updates masses about the latest news as far as the organization is concerned in terms of work and the career opportunities as well as the training facilities that are available with GSI. It also deals with various maps, videos and downloads of GSI work.

CSE PRELIMS 2021
POLITY TEST

10
TESTS
₹499

- The e-book section would give the masses an idea of the exploration works done by GSI.
- It connects the YouTube, Facebook and Twitter pages of GSI from the app as well.
- This App will be further upgraded for higher versions of Android OS and for iOS compatible mobiles (i-Phones) and many more features will be added in the near future.

Conclusion

- Besides bringing the activities and achievements of GSI to the general public, the purpose of such an App is to draw the attention of the student community towards the subject of Geology and its importance in nation building.
- GSI requests the users and common people to come up with suggestions as to what more they would like to know about GSI.

About GSI

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways. It is headquartered in Kolkata.
 - Its main functions relate to creating and updating of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment. These objectives are achieved through ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting and investigations, multi-disciplinary geoscientific, geo-technical, geo-environmental and natural hazards studies, glaciology, seism tectonic study, and carrying out fundamental research.
- GSI's chief role includes providing objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and geoscientific information of all kinds, with a focus on policy making decisions, commercial and socio-economic needs.
- GSI also emphasises on systematic documentation of all geological processes derived out of surface and subsurface of India and its offshore areas.
- The organisation does so by using the latest and most cost-effective techniques and methodologies, including geophysical and geochemical and geological surveys.

Ratification of Kigali Amendment

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by India, adopted by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on October, 2016 at 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held at Kigali, Rwanda.

Background

- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, is an international environmental treaty for protection of the Ozone Layer by phasing out the production and consumption of man-made chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances (ODS).
 - The stratospheric ozone layer protects humans and the environment from harmful levels of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.
- India became a Party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 19 June 1992 and since then has ratified the amendments to the Montreal Protocol.
- Though the present approval of the Cabinet, India will be ratifying the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons.
- India has successfully met the phase out targets of all the Ozone Depleting Substances as per the Montreal Protocol Schedule.

About Kigali Amendment

- Under the Kigali Amendment; Parties to the Montreal Protocol will phase down production and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons, commonly known as HFCs.
- Hydrofluorocarbons were introduced as non-ozone depleting alternative to Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
 - While HFCs do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, they have high global warming potential ranging from 12 to 14,000, which have adverse impact on climate.
- Recognizing the growth in use of HFCs, especially in Refrigeration and Air-conditioning sector the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, reached agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) held in October 2016 in Kigali,

Rwanda to add HFCs to the list of controlled substances and approved a timeline for their gradual reduction by 80-85 per cent by the late 2040s.

- India will complete its phase down of HFCs in 4 steps from 2032 onwards with cumulative reduction of 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 85% in 2047.
 - All amendments and adjustments of the Montreal Protocol, prior to the Kigali Amendment have Universal support.

Benefits

- HFC phase down is expected to prevent the greenhouse gas emissions, helping prevent climate change and would benefit the people.
- The industry producing and consuming Hydrofluorocarbons will be phasing out Hydrofluorocarbons as per the agreed schedule under and transition to non-HFC and low global warming potential technologies.

Implementation strategy and targets

- National strategy for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons as per the applicable phase down schedule for India will be developed after required consultation with all the industry stakeholders by 2023.
- Amendments to the existing legislation framework, the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules to allow appropriate control of the production and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons to ensure compliance with the Kigali Amendment will be done by mid-2024

Major Impact

- Hydro fluorocarbons. Phase down is expected to prevent the emission of up to 105 million tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases, helping to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of global temperature rise by 2100, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.
- Implementation of HFC phase down under the Kigali Amendment through the adoption of low-global warming potential and energy-efficient technologies will achieve energy efficiency gains^ and carbon dioxide emissions reduction - a "climate co-benefit,"
- HFCs phase down implementation will involve synergies with on-going government programmes and schemes of the Government of India with the objective to maximize the economic and social co-benefits, besides environmental gains.
- There would be scope for domestic manufacturing of equipment as well as alternative non-HFC and low-global warming potential chemicals to enable the industry to transition to the low global warming potential alternatives as per the agreed HFC phase down schedule.
- In addition, there would be opportunities to promote domestic innovation for new generation alternative refrigerants and related technologies.

Ramsar list

Why in News

- Four more wetlands from India get recognition from the Ramsar Secretariat as Ramsar sites. These sites are Thol and Wadhvana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana.
- With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares.

Background

- Wetlands provide a wide range of important resources and ecosystem services such as food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood moderation, erosion control and climate regulation.
- They are, in fact, are a major source of water and our main supply of freshwater comes from an array of wetlands which help soak rainfall and recharge groundwater.

About the Sites

- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary*, the largest wetland in Haryana is a human-made freshwater wetland. Over 250 bird species use the sanctuary throughout the year as a resting and roosting site.

- The site supports more than ten globally threatened species including the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern.
- **Sultanpur National Park from Haryana** supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds at critical stages of their life cycles.
 - More than ten of these are globally threatened, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing, and the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Black-bellied Tern.
- **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary from Gujarat** lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found here.
 - The wetland supports more 30 threatened waterbird species, such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing, and the vulnerable Sarus Crane, Common Pochard and Lesser White-fronted Goose.
- **Wadhvana Wetland from Gujarat** is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.
 - They include some threatened or near-threatened species such as the endangered Pallas's fish-Eagle, the vulnerable Common Pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck.

Facts

- With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares.
- While Haryana gets its first Ramsar sites, Gujarat gets three more after Nalsarovar which was declared in 2012.
- *The aim of the Ramsar list is "to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits".*

Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021

Why in News

- In line with the target to phase out single use plastic by 2022, keeping in view the adverse impacts of littered plastic on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibits identified single use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.

Background

- Pollution due to single use plastic items has become an important environmental challenge confronting all countries.
- India is committed to take action for mitigation of pollution caused by littered Single Use Plastics.
- *In the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly held in 2019, India had piloted a resolution on addressing single-use plastic products pollution, recognizing the urgent need for the global community to focus on this very important issue.*
 - The adoption of this resolution at UNEA 4 was a significant step.

Brief Details

- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:-
 - a. Ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration.
 - b. plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.
- In order to stop littering due to light weight plastic carry bags, with effect from 30th September, 2021, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from fifty microns to seventy five microns and to one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.
 - This will also allow reuse of plastic carry due to increase in thickness.

- The plastic packaging waste, which is not covered under the phase out of identified single use plastic items, shall be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way through the Extended Producer Responsibility of the Producer, importer and Brand owner (PIBO), as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- For effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility the Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility being brought out have been given legal force through Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021.

Initiatives taken

- The waste management infrastructure in the States/UTs is being strengthened through the Swachh Bharat Mission. The following steps have also been taken to strengthen implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and also to reduce the use of identified single use plastic items:
- The States/UTs have been requested to constitute a Special Task Force for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- The State /UT Governments and concerned Central Ministries/Departments have also been requested to develop a comprehensive action plan for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and its implementation in a time bound manner.
- *Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986*, have been issued to all States/Union Territories inter alia for setting up for institutional mechanism for strengthening enforcement of Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016.

Awareness Creation

- The Government has also been taking measures for awareness generation towards elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- A two month long Awareness Campaign of Single Use Plastic 2021 has been organized.
- The Ministry has also organized pan India essay writing competition on the theme for spreading awareness amongst school students in the country.
- To encourage innovation in development of alternatives to identified single use plastic items and digital solutions to plastic waste management, the India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021, has been organized for students of Higher Educational Institutions and startups recognized under Startup India Initiative.

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4)

Why in News

- Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare recently presided over the release of National Fact Sheet Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4), India, 2019.

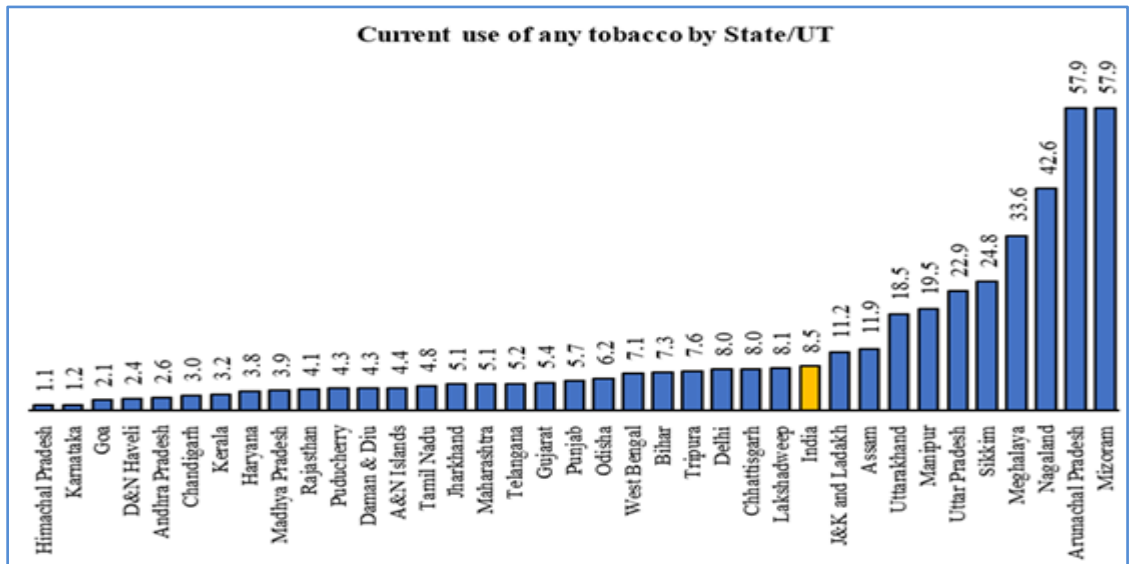
About the Survey

- It is conducted in 2019 by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- It was designed to produce national estimates of tobacco use among school going children aged 13-15 years at the state level and Union Territory (UT) by sex, location of school (rural-urban), and management of school (public-private).
- This was the 4th round of such survey. The first three rounds of GYTS were conducted in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

Key Facts

- Nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 used any form of the tobacco product (smoking, smokeless, and any other form) in their life. Between the last two surveys, the current use declined by 42% (2009-2019).
- Prevalence of tobacco use among boys was 9.6% and among girls was 7.4%. Use of any form of tobacco was higher among boys than girls.
- The prevalence of smoking tobacco was 7.3%. In case of smokeless tobacco product, the prevalence was 4.1%.
- Use of e-cigarette among the students was 2.8%.

- The current use of tobacco among students across the States/UTs ranged from the highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram (58% each) to the lowest in Himachal Pradesh (1.1%) and Karnataka (1.2%).



- The median age at initiation of cigarette and bidi smoking, and smokeless tobacco use were 11.5 years, 10.5 years and 9.9 years respectively.
- 69% of current cigarette smokers and 78% of current bidi smokers bought cigarettes/bidis from a store, paan shop, street vendor or vending machine.
- Among the current smokers who bought cigarette/bidi, 45% of cigarette smokers and 47% of bidi smokers were not refused because of their age. This points out to the easy availability of tobacco products.
- 71% of students thought other people's cigarette smoking is harmful to them and 58% of students favoured ban on smoking inside enclosed public places.
- 85% of school heads were aware of COTPA, 2003. 83% of schools were aware of the policy to display 'tobacco-free school' board.

e-RUPI

Why in News

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 2nd launched digital payment solution e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.
- Prime Minister said that the eRUPI voucher is going to play a huge role in making Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) more effective in digital transactions in the country and will give a new dimension to digital governance.

About e-Rupi

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which oversees the digital payments ecosystem in India, has launched e-RUPI, a voucher-based payments system to promote cashless transactions.
- It has been developed in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

Launch of Digital Payment Solution - eRUPI

A person and purpose specific digital payment solution launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Salient Features:

- e-RUPI's prepaid feature assures timely payment to the service provider without involvement of any intermediary
- It is expected to be a revolutionary initiative in the direction of ensuring a leak-proof delivery of welfare services
- It can also be used for delivering services under schemes meant for providing drugs and nutritional support.

2/2

Brief Details

- e-RUPI is basically a digital voucher which a beneficiary gets on his phone in the form of an SMS or QR code. It is a pre-paid voucher, which he/she can go and redeem it at any centre that accepts its.
- It is a one time contactless, cashless voucher-based mode of payment that helps users redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app, or internet banking access.
- e-RUPI does not require the beneficiary to have a bank account, a major distinguishing feature as compared to other digital payment forms.
- It ensures an easy, contactless two-step redemption process that does not require sharing of personal details either.
- Another advantage is that e-RUPI is operable on basic phones also, and hence it can be used by persons who do not own smart-phones or in places that lack internet connection.
- Being a prepaid voucher, e-RUPI would assure real time payments to the service provider.
- NPCI has partnered with 11 banks for e-RUPI transactions. They are Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and State Bank of India and Union Bank of India.

Example

- If the Government wants to cover a particular treatment of an employee in a specified hospital, it can issue an e-RUPI voucher for the determined amount through a partner bank.
- The employee will receive an SMS or a QR Code on his feature phone / smart phone. He/she can go to the specified hospital, avail of the services and pay through the e-RUPI voucher received on his phone.

CSE PRELIMS 2021
ECONOMY
TEST

10
TESTS
₹499



FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SL	Topic	Details
01	Exercise Malabar 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Navy is participating in the sea phase of Exercise Malabar 2021 from 26 - 29 August 2021 along with the US Navy (USN), Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Malabar series of maritime exercise commenced in 1992 as an IN-USN Exercise. In 2015, Japan joined Malabar as a permanent member. The 2020 edition witnessed participation of the Royal Australian Navy.
02	KAZIND-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, "KAZIND-21" will be conducted at Training Node, Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan. It is a country in the Central Asia and its Capital is Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana.
03	Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two ships of the Indian Navy, namely INS Ranvijay (Guided Missile Destroyer, D55) and INS Kora (Guided Missile Corvette, P61), on deployment to the Western Pacific, carried out a Maritime Partnership

		Exercise with BRP Antonio Luna (Frigate, FF 151) of the Philippine Navy on 23 Aug 21 in the West Philippine Sea.
04	Ex Malabar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat arrived at Guam, an Island Territory of the USA on 21 Aug 21 as part of their on-going deployment to nations in South East Asia and the Pacific Ocean. The two ships are scheduled to participate in the annual Exercise MALABAR-21, between navies of Australia, India, Japan and the USA. MALABAR series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral IN-USN exercise.
05	EXERCISE KONKAN 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Konkan 2021 was held between INS Tabar and HMS Westminster on 16 Aug 21 in the English Channel. The Bilateral Konkan exercise is a naval exercise conducted between India and the United Kingdom. The Konkan series of exercises was started in 2004. Since then, the exercise is hosted in rotation by both the Navies and has grown in complexity, scale, and intensity.
06	Switzerland	A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland to strengthen the relation within the framework of the international scientific and technological collaboration and to promote cooperation in fields of mutual interest.
07	Bangladesh	A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, the Republic of India and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, People's Republic of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation.
08	United States of America	A Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed between Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, the Government of the Republic of India, and the Florida International University (FIU) board of trustees on behalf of its Department of Earth and Environment, College of Arts, Sciences and Education, United States of America on cooperation in field of Geology.
09	VIETNAM PEOPLE'S NAVY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In continuation with ongoing deployment of Indian Navy ships in the South China Sea, INS Ranvijay and INS Kora undertook bilateral maritime exercise with Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) frigate VPNS Ly Thai To(HQ-012). The bilateral interaction aims to consolidate the strong bond shared by the two navies and would be another step towards strengthening India-Vietnam defence relations.
10	Zair-Al-Bahr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second edition of exercise Zair-Al-Bahr between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted from 09-14 Aug 21 in the Persian Gulf.
11	AL-MOHED AL-HINDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maiden version of AL-MOHED AL-HINDI EXERCISE is set to begin
12	INDRA-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closing ceremony of the Indo-Russia joint exercise INDRA was held on 12 Aug 2021. The aim of the exercise was to acquaint each other with operational planning, procedures, combat drills and conducting of joint operations against international terrorist groups.
13	Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Cabinet has recently approved MoU between Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) and Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), the Netherlands for research collaboration.

SHORT LINERS

1. **National Food and Nutrition Campaign:** The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has recently launched National Food and Nutrition Campaign for farmers.
 - It is organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
2. **MANTHAN- 2021:** Manthan- 2021 is organized by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in coordination with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.
 - Hackathon "MANTHAN 2021" is a unique national initiative to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by our intelligence agencies.
3. **Stop TB Partnership Board:** Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya took over charge as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board.
 - UN TB targets are set to end TB by 2030.
4. **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD):** It is a treatment process designed to remove all the liquid waste from a system.
 - The focus of ZLD is to reduce wastewater economically and produce clean water that is suitable for reuse (e.g. irrigation), thereby saving money and being beneficial to the environment.
5. Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma along with Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has recently attended a MoU signing programme between Inland Water Authority of India & Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Ltd. for setting up a new 'Ship Repair Facility' at Pandu in Guwahati.
6. **Stockholm World Water Week 2021 :** World Water Week in Stockholm is a week-long global water conference held each year in late August or early September.
 - Known as World Water Week, the event is organized and led by the *Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)*. Events and conference sessions address a wide range of the world's water, development and sustainability issues and related concerns of international development.
 - *The theme of World Water Week 2021 is Building Resilience Faster*, with a focus on concrete solutions to the world's greatest water-related challenges, starting with the climate crisis and including water scarcity, food security, health, biodiversity, and impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
7. **The Spices Board** in association with the Embassy of India, Bangkok organized an International Buyer Seller Meet (IBSM) and a webinar bringing together the Indian spice exporters, leading spice importers in Thailand, trade associations, chamber of commerce, leading supermarket chains, departmental stores etc.
 - Spices Board is the link between Indian and International spice trade.
 - It has been actively taking a lead in promoting and strengthening the Indian-International spice trade for the benefits of spice community in India for many years, more so during the pandemic period.
8. **e-Shram portal :** Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav recently unveiled the logo for the E-Shram portal. This will focus on targeted identification of the unorganized workers.
 - This initiative will help take welfare schemes to their doorstep, who are the builders of our Nation.
9. CSIR-CMERI embraces a '*Collaborative Model with the Markets*' whereby the Innovation Potential of the Institute is shared with the MSMEs and Start-Ups and partner them through their growth process.
 - CSIR-CMERI is undergoing a continuous process of 'Developing New Mechanical Systems' as per the requisites of the Industries and the MSMEs of the Nation. However, to achieve Global Standards in Manufacturing, an Integrated Manufacturing Ecology is required which will have a grid of the latest Technology Facilities along with Advanced Testing and Measurement Facilities.
 - This will help in immediate assessment of the results/outputs of the existent Technology Facilities.
 - An Integrated Manufacturing Ecology will help in achieving Manufacturing Excellence as it will substantially reduce deviation from established parameters.

- The Integrated Manufacturing Facilities will be the benchmarks of the Future for a Comprehensive Manufacturing Model.
10. **Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd., the Pune-based biotechnology company, working on the nation's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, submitted the interim clinical data of the Phase-I study to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the Government of India's National Regulatory Authority (NRA).**
 - *HGCO19*, the vaccine, has already demonstrated safety, immunogenicity, neutralization antibody activity in the rodent and non-human primate models.
 11. **Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL), a Coal India Ltd subsidiary has become the first PSU in the country, which has got all its employees and their family members vaccinated against Covid-19.**
 - NCL is Singrauli based Miniratna company of the Government of India.
 12. Government of India has relaxed the rules for import of crushed and de-oiled GM soya cake (Non-living organism only). This is going to benefit the farmers, poultry farmers and fishermen in a big way.
 13. The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has been established as a unified regulator to develop and regulate financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India.
 - IFSCA vide circular dated 9th July 2021 issued the framework for setting up of **International Trade Financing Services Platform ("ITFS")** at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) for providing Trade Financing Services.
 - The ITFS would be an electronic platform for facilitating the trade finance requirements of exporters and importers by providing access to multiple financiers.
 - Once operational, it will play an instrumental role in arranging credit for exporters & importers from global institutions through Factoring, Forfaiting and other trade financing services at competitive cost.
 - The platform is expected to be leveraged by exporters and importers across the world for availing trade finance services, thereby making GIFT IFSC a preferred location for international trade financing.
 14. Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's National Telemedicine Service eSanjeevani has conducted more than 1 Crore (i.e. 10 million) tele-consultations across India.
 15. **Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) or Thermocol** is used as a composite material in core of reinforced concrete sandwich, could resist earthquake forces on up to four-storey buildings.
 16. **The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a \$500 million loan to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru with construction of two new metro lines totalling 56 km in length.**
 - An additional \$2 million technical assistance grant from ADB will help the state government formulate urban development plans and their implementing frameworks, focusing on TOD and multimodal integration.
 - The grant will also be used to strengthen the capacity of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited and other state agencies to implement these initiatives.
 17. **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) passed a final order against Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) for indulging in anti-competitive conduct of Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) in the passenger vehicle segment by way of implementing Discount Control Policy vis-à-vis dealers, and accordingly, imposed a penalty of ₹200 crore (Rupees Two Hundred Crore Only) upon MSIL, besides passing a cease-and-desist order.**
 - Thus, CCI found that MSIL not only imposed the Discount Control Policy on its dealers, but also monitored and enforced the same by monitoring dealers through MSAs, imposing penalties on them and threatening strict action like stoppage of supply, collecting and recovering penalty, and utilisation of the same.
 18. **Yuktdhara** : The Government has launched a new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara', that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
 - The portal was launched by Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh.

- The initiative is joint efforts of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Rural development made towards realising a Government to Government (G2G) service for rural planning in support of decentralized decision making.
19. August, 22 is celebrated as World Sanskrit Day.
- This day was chosen because the academic year in ancient India started on this day.
 - On this day the students start the study of Vedas in the gurukulas.
 - From the full moon of the month of Paush to the full moon of the month of Shraavana, the studies are stopped to learn other vedantic scriptures.
 - This tradition is still unbroken in modern Vedic schools.
20. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd, has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.
 - NTPC is also planning to set up a hydrogen-based micro-grid system on a pilot basis at Simhadri.
21. ZyCoV-D is a DNA plasmid-based COVID-19 vaccine developed by Indian pharmaceutical company Cadila Healthcare, with support from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council.
- It is approved for emergency use in India.
22. 35th edition of Hyderabad Sailing Week Yachting Association of India (YAI) Sailing Championship was recently organised at Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad from 13 Aug to 19 Aug 21.
23. Ministry of Road transport and Highways has issued notification G.S.R. 575(E).11th August, 2021- Rule 167A regarding Electronic Monitoring and Enforcement of Road Safety.
- The rules specify the detailed provisions for placement of electronic enforcement devices (speed camera, closed-circuit television camera, speed gun, body wearable camera, dashboard camera, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), weigh in machine (WIM) and any such technology).
24. Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats.
- Defence Laboratory Jodhpur, a DRDO laboratory developed the advanced Chaff material and chaff cartridge-118/I in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), a Pune based laboratory of DRDO, meeting qualitative requirements of IAF.
 - The Indian Air Force has started the process of induction of this technology after completion of successful user trials.
25. The Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the first e-vehicle friendly highway in the country, with a network of Solar-based Electric Vehicle Charging stations (SEVCs) set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under the FAME-1 [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles in India] scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- The state-of-the-art charging station at Karna Lake Resort was virtually inaugurated by Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries.
26. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Permanent Mission of India to the WTO (PMI), Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI) within The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- This will provide valuable academic and research opportunities to the employees of CTIL and the Department of Commerce in the field of international trade and investment law.
27. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a revival package of Rs.77.45 crore (Rs. 17 crore towards fund based support and Rs.60.45 crore towards non-fund based support) for revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC), a central Public Section

- Enterprises under the administrative control of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Regional (MDoNER).
- Revival package will help NERAMAC to implement various innovative plans namely providing better farming facilities, training to farmers in clusters, organic seeds and fertilizer, post harvesting facilities in order to promote the products of NE farmers in the world market through participation in events, registration of GI (Geographical Indications) products etc., promoting FPOs and other growers.
28. *The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Permanent Mission of India to the WTO (PMI), Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI) within The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.*
29. *For making available high quality and high speed internet access to the States of North Eastern Region of the country, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has signed an Agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for hiring of 10 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL), Bangladesh via Cox Bazar/Kuakata.*
30. A 'Joint Guidance for the Australia - India Navy to Navy Relationship' document was signed between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy today, 18 August 2021. The signing ceremony was held virtually between Adm Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy and Vice Admiral Michael J Noonan, Chief of Navy, Australian Navy.
31. *Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently launched the first ever initiative to develop green cover over barren lands in the Himalayan terrains of Leh-Ladakh by planting bamboo saplings.*
- It was launched by KVIC Chairman Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena.
 - Bamboo saplings have been planted under Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought) of KVIC.
 - Project BOLD is a part "Khadi Bamboo Festival" designed to celebrate "Azadika Amrit Mahotsav".
32. *Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, has recently informed about the setting up of a separate IAS/Civil Services Exam Centre for Ladakh, to be located at Leh.*
33. **MakeMyTrip** : Ministry of Tourism in its ongoing efforts to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry especially in the times of the pandemic, has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MakeMyTrip (India) Private Limited and Ibibo Group Private Limited on 17.08.2021. Ministry of Tourism has already signed MoUs with Easy my Trip, Clear trip and Yatra.com.
34. **MeitY-NASSCOM Start-up Women Entrepreneur Awards**: The MeitY-NASSCOM Start-up Women Entrepreneur Awards aim to recognize and cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit in women and inspire the next generation of women to lead the Indian digital era so as to serve as guiding role models.
35. **Student Entrepreneurship Program' (SEP 3.0)**: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with La Fondation Dassault Systemes (Dassault Systemes Foundation) in India on Monday launched the third series of the 'Student Entrepreneurship Program' (SEP 3.0) for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- The theme of SEP 3.0 is based on the 'Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program', conceptualized and rolled out in France by La Main à la Pate Foundation and La Fondation Dassault Systemes Europe in 2017.
36. **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources** : Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the world's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi.
- **The National Gene Bank established in the year 1996 to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR)** for future generations, has the capacity to preserve about one million germplasm in the form of seeds.

37. **BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security** : The implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development noted that BRICS countries are well positioned to take a leading role in helping to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- The strong agricultural research base in BRICS countries and the need to harness and share knowledge, facilitate transfer of technologies from lab to land to provide improved solutions for enhanced productivity, especially in the face of climate change, maintaining agro biodiversity and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources was acknowledged.
38. *In a tribute to all those who lost their lives due to the partition of the nation and were displaced from their roots, the Government has decided to observe 14th August every year as the day to commemorate their sacrifice.*
- Declaration of such a day would remind present and future generations of Indians of the pain and suffering faced by the people during the partition.
 - Accordingly, the Government declares 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.
39. **NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated power generating company under Ministry of Power has floated a global Expression of Interest (EoI) to set up a Pilot Project on Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas in City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network in India.**
- This pilot on hydrogen blending with natural gas will be the first of its kind in India and would explore the viability of decarbonizing India's natural gas grid.
40. **TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services)** : Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched an online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services), developed by the National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- TAPAS is the initiative of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, to provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching.
 - The main objective of introducing the course modules is to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants.
 - It can be taken up by anyone who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics and there is no fee for joining.
 - The five basic courses are on :
 - Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention.
 - Geriatric/Elderly Care.
 - Care and Management of Dementia.
 - Transgender Issues.
 - Comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.
41. **Open Network for Digital Commerce**: ONDC is globally first-of-its-kind initiative that aims to democratise Digital Commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network.
- As UPI is to the digital payment domain, ONDC is to e-commerce in India.
 - ONDC will enable, buyers and sellers to be digitally visible and transact through an open network. No matter what platform/application they use.
 - ONDC will empower merchants and consumers by breaking silos to form a single network to drive innovation and scale, transforming all businesses from retail goods, food to mobility.

**DISTANCE
LEARNING
PROGRAMME**

Unlimited Study Materials
Test Series for Pre & Mains
Daily Mains Answer Writing
Recorded Video Classes

₹41,300



42. *In continuance with its thrust on promoting agricultural and processed food products exports to newer destinations, APEDA collaboration with Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (HPMC) today exported first consignment consisting of five unique varieties of apples – Royal Delicious, Dark Baron Gala, Scarlet Spur, Red Velox & Golden Delicious to Bahrain.*
- The apples are sourced from the farmers of Himachal Pradesh and exported by APEDA registered DM Enterprises. The apples will be showcased at the apple promotion programme organized by leading retailer – Al Jajira group commencing from 15th August, 2021 which also commences 75th year of India's independence celebration on theme – Bharat Ki Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
43. **Son Chiraiya:** Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, today launched 'SonChiraiya' – (A brand and logo) - for marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- While launching the brand and logo, he said that helping women to become financially empowered and live a dignified life is one of the priority areas of the Government.
 - This initiative will certainly prove as a step towards increased visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.
 - Ministry expects to link many more such SHG members, with variety of professionally packaged, hand-crafted ethnic products, reaching the doorsteps of the customers globally.
44. **International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI)**, an Autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, has developed indigenous technology for the production of Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) cathode material for Li-ion Batteries (LiBs) at its Centre for Nanomaterials.
- ARCI and Allox Minerals, a Hyderabad based company, signed an Agreement for Know-How Transfer on August 12, 2021.
 - This has the potential of making such batteries for electric vehicles cheaper.
45. *Dr Jitendra Singh has recently released "IndiGau', India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.*
- This indigenous chip was developed by the concerted efforts of scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad, an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.
 - IndiGau is purely indigenous and the largest cattle chip of the world.
46. **Durand Cup, the world's third oldest and Asia's oldest football tournament is poised to make a comeback after a year's hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- With the dynamic support of All India Football Federation (AIFF), IFA (West Bengal) and the Government of West Bengal, the 130th Edition of Durand Cup is set to become a landmark event.
 - The prestigious tournament was first held in 1888, at Dagshai (Himachal Pradesh) and is named after Mortimer Durand, who was then the Foreign Secretary in charge of India.
47. **The total installed renewable energy capacity in India, excluding large hydro, has crossed the mile-stone of 100 GW.**
- Presently, India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed RE capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity.
 - While 100 GW has been installed, 50 GW is under installation and 27 GW is under tendering.
 - India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. If large hydro is included the installed RE capacity increases to 146 GW.
48. **World Elephant Day:** *In a move to spread awareness about the plight of elephants and recognize the importance of elephants in our ecosystem, World Elephant Day is celebrated on August 12.*
- Asian elephants are listed as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
 - The current population estimates indicate that there are about 50,000 -60,000 Asian elephants in the world. More than 60 % of the population is held in India.

49. **Technology Sub-Mission (TSM):** Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), a Technology Sub-Mission (TSM) has been set up to facilitate the adoption of modern, innovative and green technologies and building materials for faster and quality construction of houses in various States/Union Territories (UTs).
- Under TSM, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) initiated Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) with an objective to identify and mainstream innovative technologies from across the globe that are disaster resilient, sustainable, cost effective, fast and adaptable to suit different geo-climatic conditions of the country.
50. ARHC Scheme is being implemented in all Statutory Towns as per Census 2011 and Towns notified subsequently, Notified Planning Areas and areas of Development/Special Area Development/Industrial Development Authorities.
- As a positive development, so far, under Model-1, 3,964 existing Government funded vacant houses have been converted into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes for urban migrants/poor. Request for Proposal (RFP) have been issued for 5,734 houses in various States.
51. **EOS-03:** ISRO has recently launched a state-of-the-art Earth Observation Satellite.
- Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-03 is an excellent agile Earth Observatory being launched from the second Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
 - It will be placed in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit by GSLV-F10.
 - Subsequently, the Satellite will reach geostationary orbit using its on-board propulsion system.
52. **Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA):** Chief Election Commissioner of India and current Chairman, FEMBoSA Shri Sushil Chandra accompanied by Election Commissioners Shri Rajeev Kumar and Shri A.C.Pandey, today inaugurated the 11th Annual meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2021.
- The theme of the meeting was 'Use of Technology in Elections'.
 - A Thimphu Resolution was unanimously adopted by the FEMBoSA members to extend tenure of chairmanship to two years during the current pandemic situation.
53. **National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC):** The 5th edition of the National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) was organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry [CII].
- The theme for this year's conclave was "Technology enabled Government Procurement - Towards Efficiency, Transparency, and Inclusiveness".
54. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act 2020, mandates that each FCRA NGO has to now compulsorily open 'FCRA account' in SBI, Main Branch, New Delhi for initial remittance/receipt of foreign contribution (FC) from a foreign source.
- Prior to enactment of The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act 2020, exclusive FCRA bank accounts could be opened in any branch of scheduled banks.
55. **Model Tenancy Act:** Model Tenancy Act aims to promote rental housing by balancing and protecting the interests of both the tenants and landlords by regulating renting of premises in an efficient and transparent manner through an adjudicating mechanism for speedy dispute resolution.
- To ensure speedy dispute resolution it is provisioned that Rent Court and Rent Tribunal both shall endeavour to dispose the cases within sixty days and in case of delay in disposal, reasons for delay are mandated to be recorded in writing.
 - For disputes related to essential services, it is provided that the Rent Authority, after examining the matter, may pass an interim order directing restoration of supply of essential services immediately.
 - Further, Rent Authority shall conduct an enquiry within one month of filing of application by the tenant in this regard.
 - Under the provisions of MTA, the information and documents submitted by landlord and tenant for intimation of tenancy will be in sole custody of Rent Authority.
 - Unless otherwise agreed between landlord and tenant in the tenancy agreement, roles and responsibilities on both parties have been clearly delineated in the schedule-II of the Act.

- This will help in avoiding disputes between landlord and tenant and will not hinder flexibility in framing tenancy agreement.
56. **Ujjwala 2.0:** The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has recently launched Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - PMUY) by handing over LPG connections, at Mahoba Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing.
57. **World Lion Day** is celebrated on August 10 of every year to raise awareness about lions and to mobilise support for their protection and conservation.
- According to the World Wide Fund for animals (WWF), even though a lion is often referred to as the “king of the jungle,” it actually only lives in grasslands and plains.
58. ***A new low cost capsule i.e. Pusa Decomposer Technology developed by ICAR - Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi can turn crop residue into manure in 15 to 20 days and therefore, can prevent stubble burning.***
- These are capsules that consist of a combination of microbes that hastens the process of decomposition of stubble.
 - These are also low-cost capsules making it convenient for farmers to use.
59. **In order to bring in greater transparency in reporting of financial statements, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide notification dated 24.03.2021 has amended the Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 effective from 01st April, 2021 to mandate various disclosures by companies in their financial statements.**
60. **Operation Green:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched Operation Greens scheme in November, 2018 for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain with the objectives to enhance value realization of TOP farmers; reduction in post-harvest losses; price stabilization for producer and consumers and increase in food processing capacities and value addition etc.
- The scheme provides for short term intervention by way of providing transportation and storage subsidy @ 50% and long term intervention through value addition projects in identified production clusters with Grant-in-aid @ 35% to 70% of eligible project cost subject to maximum of Rs. 50 crore per project.
 - Under the scheme, state-wise funds are not allocated as the scheme is demand driven and projects are approved as per scheme guidelines on the basis of applications received for setting up of projects in eligible production clusters.
61. **August 10 is observed as World Biofuel Day in honour of Sir Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine.**
- The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India (GOI) launched the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded loan interest subvention scheme that provides financial assistance to innovative waste to energy biomethanation projects and business models.
62. **The government has decided to set up the 'Indian Institute of Heritage' at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar.** This will impact higher education and research in the fields related to rich Indian heritage and its conservation.
63. **Seekho Aur Kamao** : It is a skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group and aiming at providing employment and employment opportunities, improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
- In the last 7 years appx. 3.92 lakh persons have been benefitted under this employment oriented scheme.
64. **Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai:** Ministry of Minority Affairs has started an awareness campaign “Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai” on Covid-19 Vaccination to prevent apprehensions and rumors, under which various organizations associated with the Ministry like State Waqf Boards, State Haj committees, State Channelizing agencies and Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs) empanelled in the Ministry for the implementation of various schemes were urged to reach out to the people and work towards spreading awareness and getting rid of the vaccine hesitancy amongst the local communities.

65. **Shri Anil Kumar Jain**, the CEO, National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the Chairman of Coordination Committee, India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IGF), announced today the launch of India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) -2021.
- The theme of this year's meeting is *Inclusive Internet for Digital India*.
 - United Nations based forum namely Internet Governance Forum is an Internet Governance policy discussion platform to bring representatives together from various groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
66. **National Handloom Day** has been celebrated on August 7 every year since 2015 to commemorate the Swadeshi Andolan that began in 1905 on this very day.
67. **"Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Batteries"** and **"National Hydrogen Mission"** are two flagship programs of Government of India so as to meet out the targets of reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emission under Paris Climate Agreement 2015 and **"Mission Net Zero Carbon Emission Railway"** by 2030.
68. **PM-DAKSH** : Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App, developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with NeGD, to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- Through these portal and app the youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programmes more easily.
 - The Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from the year 2020-21.
 - Under this Yojana, eligible target group are being provided skill development training programmes on :
 - a. Up-skilling/Re-skilling.
 - b. Short Term Training Programme.
 - c. Long Term Training Programme.
 - d. Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP).
 - These training programs are being implemented through Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions.
69. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has said that he has been getting many requests from citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyan Chand. The Khel Ratna Award will hereby be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
70. **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** have granted conditional exemption from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 to the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar.
- The exemption allows the aerial survey and photogrammetry of centrally protected monuments in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) using drones.
71. The **Union Minister for Power and New &Renewable Energy, Shri R.K Singh** launched **"Reform and regulatory knowledge base for power sector"**, an e certification program to provide regulatory training to the practitioners from diverse backgrounds.
72. The composite **Global Hunger Index** score of India improved from 38.9 to 27.2 in 2020.
73. A notification of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways exempts Battery Operated Vehicles from the payment of fees for the purpose of issue or renewal of registration certificate and assignment of new registration mark.
74. *Shri Deepak Das takes charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA).*

YOJANA

INDEX

1. Indian Bureaucracy.
2. Dynamics of Civil Services.
3. Probity in Governance.
4. Public Administration for Social Change.
5. IFS: The Continuing Salience.
6. Reforms in the Civil Services.
7. Healthcare.
8. The Covid-19 Experience.
9. Catch the Rain.
10. The Power of Human Development

APTI PLUS

Indian Bureaucracy

Introduction

- Bureaucracy is the backbone of the administrative machinery of the country which forms the permanent executive branch of the government.
- Civil servants have played a crucial role in many national activities such as the conduct of free and fair elections, disaster response, construction and maintenance of critical infrastructures such as highways and railways, and the preservation of national unity and integrity.
- Indian Constitution through Articles 310, 311 and 312 confers the protection from political interference and unwarranted harassment.
- The esprit de corps and the camaraderie amongst the civil servants' fraternity have been the single biggest strength of our Civil Service.
 - Some traditions such as not letting down the subordinate officers, instilling faith in them, and creating a sense of intimacy between batches have been of tremendous help for the civil servants in the face of dealing with adversity.
- Every year April 21 is celebrated as 'Civil Services Day' to call on civil servants to renew their dedication and commitment to public service and excellence in work.

Background

- The original conception of the 'civil service' can be traced back to the Royal Charters which gave the East India Company, the powers to raise a cadre of troops for both civilian and military purposes.
- The introduction of competitive exams in the mid-1800s was an important development which gave primacy to merit-based appointment as opposed to the privilege-based appointment through a referral system.
- The commissions that were set up in reforming the public services strongly suggested that the Statutory Public Service Commission be brought into force.
- During the Constituent Assembly Debates (CAD), there were detailed discussions and arguments about the continuity, the role and loyalty of Indian civil servants, and whether it was wise to continue with the same system in post-Independence.
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played crucial role in setting up the Civil Services in independent India and is, therefore, rightly called the 'Iron Man of India'.

- The first Indian to clear the ICS exam was Satyendra Nath Tagore in the year 1864.
- Until 1922 post Montagu Chelmsford Reforms, the exam was conducted only in London.
 - However, there was a fair share of Indians who started clearing the exams.
 - The notable names being Bihari Lal Gupta and Ramesh Chandra Dutt, who later became the President of the Indian National Congress in 1899 and wrote the pioneering book on 'The Economic History of India'.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose did not join the Indian civil service even after clearing the exam.
- Sir Senegal Narasinga Rau was another eminent personality among the ICS who was appointed as the Constitutional Advisor on 1st July 1946.
- Sukumar Sen, India's First Chief Election Commissioner, later went on to become Sudan's first Chief Election Commissioner.

**CRACK
UPSC CSE
AT
EASE**

**PAY FEES FOR 1 YEAR GET ASSISTANCE FOR
2 YEARS***

UNLIMITED BENEFITS OF



VIDEO
LECTURES



DOWN-
LOADABLE
PDFS



MOCK TESTS
FOR PRELIMS
& MAINS



DAILY
ANSWER
WRITING

*T & C apply

Constitution and Civil Services

- **Article 310** enshrines that civil servants of the Union and All-India Services are appointed by the President of India and civil servants at the State level are appointed by the Governor of the State.
 - They continue to hold office as per the pleasure of the President and Governor, respectively.
 - Therefore, they have the security of tenure.
- **Article 311** mentions the procedures and conditions for removal, dismissal from service, and reduction in rank, thus ensuring due process of law.
 - This ensures that civil servants are protected from political interference and undue harassment.
- **Article 312** lays down The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the State Public Service Commissions are constitutional bodies.

Conclusion and Contemporary Issues

- Aspiration to become a Civil Servant is quite high among the youth, mainly due to the authority and opportunity it provides to put an impression on the lives of common people.
 - Some of the fundamental tenets of a good bureaucracy are political neutrality, objectivity in decision-making, empathy, equity, etc.
- **Ethics in public administration** are important because civil servants are often holding offices that give them a lot of power and authority. Therefore, an officer's moral compass is key for good governance.
- In the last decade, several reforms have been undertaken. Be it the introduction of lateral entry to have expert consultants at the Joint Secretary level, the regular training programmes of training at various levels for career civil servants and a record of performance evaluation.
 - Legislations such as the **Right to Information Act, 2005** lays down rules and procedures for a citizen's right to information, thus creating more transparency and accountability in governance.
- **The Citizen's Charter in India**, initiated by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Government of India (DARPG)**, is to "include standards of service and time limits that the public can reasonably expect, avenues of grievance redress and a provision for independent scrutiny with the involvement of citizen and consumer groups?"
- Although the duties and responsibilities vested upon a bureaucrat, demands general skills over the whole administration to be the essential factor, specialisation may be considered higher up in the ladder based on the officer's qualifications, interests and work experience depending upon the needs and exigencies at that time.
- Therefore, more and more young professionals from varied socio-economic and academic backgrounds need to enter the civil services to enrich it further and take part in nation-building

Dynamics of Civil Services

Introduction

- Modern democracy evolved based on elections and the people's 'representatives' (not the people themselves, as only in a direct democracy e.g. in Switzerland) started ruling and governing the state.
 - Hence there was a need to objectively administer there in the day-to-day matters without favour or disfavour based on caste, class, race, gender, place of birth, language, and so on.

Background

- Max Weber distinguished between the three types of authority (legitimate power):
 - a. **Traditional authority** (based on succession, rituals, subjective desires, etc.).
 - b. **Charismatic authority** (based on gifted quality, e.g., Swami Vivekananda, Lord Rama, etc.).
 - c. **Rational-legal authority** i.e. Bureaucracy.

Bureaucracy & Its Functioning

- It was the most ideal type sought after because of its objectivity and rationality. He defined bureaucracy as the 'formal organisation' with the following characteristics:
 - **Formal selection and promotion**, based on well-defined norms and criteria, primarily merit and transparency.
 - **Written Rules, regulations, processes, and procedures** so that biases and personal likes/dislikes do not favour or disfavour anyone.

- **Hierarchical structure**- well defined senior, middle and junior levels so that the seniors may inspect. Monitor, and give guidance to their juniors on the one hand, and may hear appeals/revisions arising against the orders of junior officers: further, feedback from below may result in changing rules/procedures/criteria/norms, etc.
- **Specialisation and division of labour and responsibility**- a clear balancing of tasks, sharing power (discretion or force against other's wishes) and responsibility.
- **Professionalism prevails over personal whims.**
- **Career-orientation**- To have stability and continuity, bureaucracy is by nature permanent-a long period of a career with different assignments to gain experience

Selection : At different levels, of Group A, B, and C, the candidates are selected based on competitive examinations- by UPSC, State PSCs, or State Staff Selection Boards.

Training : After imparting training they start working.

Promotion and Duties

In civil Services, one has to serve for at least **fourteen years** to become Director and to serve for at least **eighteen years** to become a Joint Secretary (Govt. of India) while it takes at least **thirty-two years** to become Secretary (Govt. of India).

Issues

- Bureaucracy is often blamed for 'red tapism' (i.e. delay) and indecisiveness in many forms:
 - a. Sometimes, higher officers note in the file: 'please discuss' (Varta Karen) but do not mention the date and time.
 - b. Sometimes it is necessary to take the considered opinion of the Ministry of Law or Ministry of Finance (if the Rules are not clear or the issue is complex) for taking an appropriate decision but not always.
 - c. Queries by the superiors are made in parts and frequently, not once by taking all aspects. This delays the decision-making process unnecessarily.
 - d. Often a plea of '**too much work**' is given for delay; hence more decentralisation, better division of works, and separating 'urgent', 'important' and 'routine' tasks are highly required.
 - e. **Too busy**, hence cannot attend phone calls or give personal hearing to the aggrieved persons': This leads to further delay, deterioration of a situation. Corrupt practices by the subordinates or middlemen, inefficiency due to not attending the feedback.
 - f. **Prevalence of the 'transfer industry'** in most of the states at different levels. The principle of three years' tenure is hardly followed and many officers are transferred within a year or even earlier without sufficient/genuine reasons.
 - g. *There has been the triad of 'liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG), hence policy decision is sometimes based on the hypothesis that public sector is bad, and private sector is good.*
 - Therefore, various entities' shares are sold and even the entire enterprise is sold under the euphemism of 'disinvestment'.
 - Further, the over-reporting of development works and under-reporting of losses by the civil servants is unfortunate and it betrays the oath of Constitution taken en masse at the training Academics.

Conclusion

- Bureaucracy is compatible with democracy wherein the people's representatives are on the driver's seat, hence they need to guide the civil servants whose independent advice and alternative views should not be considered as things done in a reverse order.
- As Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of Independent India perceptively justified the permanent civil services, especially the All India Services for advancing free and frank opinion, based on matured experiences, on the one hand and uniting various parts of India socially, culturally, economically and administratively, on the other.
- If we may make a SWOT analysis of civil services, we find that its strengths (selection on merit, acting as per rules, permanence) are more than its weaknesses (red-tapism, some black sheep); it has an opportunity to serve the nation through new ways, changes, reducing human interface, but threats are to be removed at the earliest for strengthening the administrators.

Probity in Governance

Introduction

- Ethics is a set of standards that helps guide behaviour, choices and actions of individuals. It is multidimensional as it is governed by the value system of the society including the concept of rights, obligations, fairness, virtues, etc.
 - Ethics and probity form the cornerstone of the public administration system.
 - Responsibility and accountability is integral to ethics.
- Ethics in public is not limited to the expression of high moral values alone. It also refers to the framework for holding the public functionaries legally accountable for their acts of omission and commission.

Concept

- The word 'ethics' is from the original Greek term 'ethics', meaning 'arising from habit'.
- Culture, values, character, the sense of right and wrong are quintessential determinants of ethics.
- At the same time, the role of institutions and institutional frameworks to ensure ethical governance cannot be understated.

Background

- Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1964) or 'Santhanam Committee':**
 - It has observed, "The lack of moral earnestness, which has been a conspicuous feature of recent years, is perhaps the greatest single factor which hampers the growth of strong traditions of integrity and efficiency."
- The Second Administrative Reforms Commission in its Second Report on Ethics suggested that** -"Any framework of ethical behaviour must include the following elements:
 - Codifying ethical norms and practices.
 - Disclosing personal interest to avoid conflict between public interest and personal gain.
 - Creating a mechanism for enforcing the relevant codes.
 - Providing norms for qualifying and disqualifying a public functionary from office"
- Adherence to key principles of Integrity, Honesty, and Objectivity promotes trust and confidence among the stakeholders and enhances credibility.**
 - The conduct of Government functionaries should be beyond reproach in all circumstances.
 - Any deficiency in their professional or personal conduct places their personal integrity and quality of work in unfavourable light and raises doubts about their actions.
- United Nations Convention against corruption**

United Nations Convention against corruption	Nolan Committee	Code of Good Governance of Spain
It envisages that in order to fight corruption, each State Party shall,	Seven Principles of Public Life:	Principles of ethics and good conduct developed in the Code:
(a) Promote inter alia, integrity, honesty and responsibility among its public officials, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system.	(a) Selflessness	(a) objectivity
(b) Establish codes or standards of conduct for the correct, honourable and proper performance of public functions.	(b) Integrity	(b) integrity
(c) Establish measures and systems to facilitate the reporting by public officials of acts of corruption to appropriate authorities.	(c) Objectivity	(c) neutrality
(d) Establish measures and systems requiring public officials to make declarations regarding, their outside activities, employment, investments, assets and substantial gifts or benefits from which a conflict of interest may result with respect to their functions as public officials.	(d) Accountability	(d) responsibility
(e) Take disciplinary or other measures against public officials who violate the codes or standards established in accordance with this article.	(e) Openness	(e) credibility
	(f) Honesty	(f) impartiality
	(g) Leadership	(g) confidentiality
		(h) dedication to public service
		(i) transparency
		(j) exemplary conduct
		(k) austerity
		(l) accessibility
		(m) efficiency
		(n) honesty
		(o) promotion of the cultural and environmental environment, and
		(p) equality between the sexes

- **The Government of India has prescribed a Code of Conduct, applicable to Ministers both in the Union Government and State Government.**
 - It envisages inter-alia, disclosure of assets and liabilities by the Minister, severing all connections with the business which he was interested in before joining the Government, not to accept any contributions or gifts for himself or any family member, etc.
- **Code of Conduct for the Civil Servants**
 - Compendium of instructions containing 'dos and don'ts' for Civil Servants was issued in the 1930s and collectively called 'Conduct Rules'.
 - In pursuance of the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee, the Conduct rules were revised and enlarged resulting in CCS Conduct Rules 1964 being followed.
 - These rules are a dynamic set of instructions for the Government servants as based on the introduction of new dimensions in the legal framework.
 - Some notable inclusions are the requirement of observing courtesy, prohibiting demanding and accepting dowry, prohibiting sexual harassment of women employees.
 - It may also be mentioned that deviations are observed through various mechanisms and there are strict penalty provisions as prescribed in CCS (CCA) Rules as Major Penalty and Minor Penalty.

International Exposure

- The General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003.
 - Article 8 of the Resolution refers to "Codes of Conduct for public officials".
 - The Committee on Standards in Public Life in the United Kingdom, popularly known as the *Nolan Committee* outlined the seven principles of public life.

Framework

- Probity in governance is absolutely essential for an efficient and effective system of governance. Ethics and probity cannot be seen in isolation. Both are intertwined and have to be seen as complementary to each other.
- The Consultation Paper on 'Probity in Governance' issued in 2001 by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution highlighted many legislative and institutional issues including:
 - Need for enforcing section 5 of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act.
 - The necessity for a law providing for the confiscation of illegally acquired assets of public servants.
 - Enactment of a Public Interest Disclosure Act.
 - Enactment of a Freedom of Information Act.
 - The necessity for enacting a Lok Pal Bill in addition to the Central Vigilance Commission Act.
 - Strengthening of the Criminal Judicial System.
- **Apart from the existing framework accountability and transparency can be enhanced by:**
 - a. Minimizing the discretions in various functions.
 - b. More extensive use of information technology in all fields of governance.
 - c. Making Citizens' charter more elaborate with clear time lines for delivery of services and related activities as well as identifying the officer responsible for that delivery: further a monthly report on compliance to Citizens' charter can be placed on the website of the organization.

Conclusion

- The Government functionaries are part of the society and to that extent are influenced by societal norms.
- At the same time being part of the governance structure. They have to be more responsible and seen to be above board all the time. There is a strong legal and institutional framework for ensuring probity.
- It needs to be strengthened and made more effective by nudging people to follow the laws of the land and making punishments for the delinquents very severe.

Public Administration for Social Change

Introduction

- To overcome the challenges such as inter-operability, infrastructural challenges, digital divide and Covid-19 pandemic, etc., India is taking new initiatives to develop the overall effectiveness of service delivery mechanism from a citizen's perspective and trying to bridge the gap between urban and rural e-governance structures.

- As a coordinator and service provider. The Governments are required to embrace Information and Communication Technology to meet the demands of their citizens.
 - E-Governance became an inevitable evolution in successful governance in the modern era.

About e-Governance

- The e-Governance aims to make the interaction between government and citizens (G2C), government and business enterprises (G2B), and inter-agency relationships (G2Gi) convenient transparent friendly, effective and cost-effective.
- According to the 'Gartner e-Governance Maturity Model', there are four phases of e-governance, i.e.
 - Phase I- Information;
 - Phase II - Interaction;
 - Phase III Transaction
 - Phase IV-Transformation.

Background

- Though the Government of India established various endeavours to successfully implement the e-Governance Initiative, the complexities exist due to the inter-operability among central, state, district, and local governments.
- According to the UN E-government, Survey 2020 of the UN of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA, India was placed 100th in the E-Governance Development Index Department.

Evolution of E-Governance in India	
1970	Establishment of Department of Electronics by the Government of India
1977	Establishment of National Informatics Center (NIC)
1987	Launching of NICNET, the national satellite-based computer network
1990	Process of extending of NICNET via the State capitals to all district headquarters
1999	Ministry of Information Technology was created
2000	12-point minimum agenda for e-governance was prepared
2006	National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was launched which is comprised of 27 Mission Mode projects and 8 components
2009	National e-Governance Division was created by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology as an independent Business Division under the Digital India Corporation
2011	4 Projects – Health, Education, PDS, and Posts were introduced to make the list of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) to 31
2015	Digital India Programme

Initiatives taken by the Government

- The Government of India introduced the **National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment (NASDAQ)** framework in August 2019 to assess the effectiveness of the e-Governance initiatives of the different government departments from the central to the local level.
- The biometric Identification Scheme, 'Aadhaar brought the digital revolution to e-governance.
- National e-Governance Plan (NeGP):**
 - Common Support Infrastructures such as SWANs, SDCs, CSCL, and Electronic Service Delivery Gateways.
 - Suitable governance systems development to monitor and coordinate the implementation of NeGP.
 - Public-Private Partnership.
- Digital India Initiative**
 - The Digital India Initiative was launched in 2015 to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas by promoting investment in digital infrastructure, fostering digital literacy, and expanding online services provision.
 - The vision of the Digital India programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy by focusing on the following key vision areas:
 - Digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen.
 - Governance & Services on demand.
 - Digital empowerment of citizens.
- National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment (Nasdaq)**
 - Nasdaq was launched to
 - Promote the participation of various departments and ministries at State and Central level to adopt the e-Government framework in day-to-day functioning.
 - Encourage e-participation of citizens and businesses in policymaking.
 - Help India in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).

Present Scenario

- **Aarogya Setu App** and **Co-WIN App** are the main e-governance tools that supported the citizens and government to trace the Covid patients and manage the vaccination.
- **e-Doctor tele-video consultation** facilities have been launched as an alternative to reduce hospital visits.
- **Smart city** infrastructure was used for rapid response for real-time movement crisis predictions.

Way Forward

- Government is required to develop effective e-governance through:
 - a. Interoperability of e-governance infrastructure between intra-governmental departments and agencies
 - b. Developing inclusive E-governance structure to make sure that there is no one is left out
 - c. Legislating effective data protection law and administrative regulations
 - d. Enhancing data security levels to avoid data leakage, misuse, etc.
 - e. Reducing digital divide by creating an inclusive digital ecosystem, e-literacy for inclusiveness, improving accessibility for higher uptake
 - f. Mandatory sector-specific service focus to attain SDG goals.
- e-Governance became an important ICT tool for disseminating Covid-19 related data in a more transparent, safe, interoperable, and secure manner.

IFS: The Continuing Salience

Introduction

- The Indian Foreign Service was created for India's diplomatic, consular and commercial representation overseas.
 - It has managed India's external relations with other nations through a host of methods.
- The service is responsible for representing India in international platforms and negotiating on its behalf, maintaining friendly relations and protecting India's national interests, and gathering important information abroad and reporting back to the nation on the same.
- Foreign Service entails the wing of the government that is responsible for representing a country's interests abroad and also garnering and disseminating pertinent information that forms the core of foreign policy decisions.

Background

- On 13 September 1783, the Board of Directors of the East India Company passed a resolution at Fort William, to create a department that would help "relieve the pressure" on the Warren Hastings administration in conducting its "secret and political business".
- The British found it necessary to restructure the foreign department for better management, and Governor-General Ellenborough, therefore, carried out administrative reforms and created four departments: foreign, Home, Finance, and Military.

Present Scenario

- Established on October 9, 1946, the Indian Foreign Service has been in existence for 74 years and has witnessed India gradually transform into a modern nation-state with global relevance.

THE IAS GAZETTE

A Journal that stands apart!

Get
1 year
Subscription
Package

(July 2021 to
June 2022)

₹1,800

₹1,500
(Including Courier charges)



- Currently, approximately 850 officers are manning around 193 Indian missions and posts abroad and in India, dealing with bilateral political and economic cooperation, trade and investment promotion, cultural interaction, press, and media liaison as well as a whole host of multilateral issues.
- In essence, an India Foreign Service Officer represents India in Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates and permanent missions to multilateral organisations like the UN,
 - a. Protects India's national interests in the country of their posting.
 - b. Promote friendly relations with the receiving states as well as their people that include NRI/PIOs.
 - c. Reports accurately on the developments in the country of posting which influences the drafting of India's policies.
 - d. Negotiates various agreements on various issues with the authorities of the receiving states.
 - e. Extends consular facilities to foreigners and Indian nationals abroad.

Reforms

- Attempts to reform the IFS must focus on streamlining the recruitment process in a manner that can effectively handle the large number of applicants that apply each year without compromising on the quality of the application process.
- Opening up the IFS to allow entry of outside actors must be done in a phased and structured manner to ensure an adequate balance between different levels/ranks of officials.
- The IFS must also keep up with the changes in the diplomatic world, as different forms of diplomacy, like public and digital diplomacy, gain more relevance.

Way Forward

- In an increasingly globalised world, the importance of an effective foreign service cannot be underestimated.
- This is especially relevant for an emerging power like India, which has harboured intentions of becoming a leading power in global politics and has been actively pursuing this goal.
- Resultantly, India's diplomatic corps, under the India Foreign Services have acted as an effective catalyst in India's transformation into a global power.
- The Indian Foreign Service will continue to play a critical role in ensuring a secure and prosperous existence for India with the international sphere.

Reforms in the Civil Services

Introduction

- Civil Service is essential for the functioning of the government.
 - It has long been regarded as the 'steel frame' of administration in India from colonial days.
 - The colonial legacy of civil service is continuing in this fast-changing era of globalisation.
- It is in this context that civil service reform forms a quintessential part of good governance. A rethinking and a reorientation are needed in the civil service for effective service delivery.

Background

- a. **Ancient India:** Kautilya's Arthashastra stipulates seven basic elements- *Swamin (the ruler), Amatya (the bureaucracy), Janapada (territory), Durga (the fortified capital), Kosa (the treasury), Danda (the army), and Mitra (the ally) - of the administrative apparatus.*
- According to Arthashastra, the higher bureaucracy consisted of the mantrins and the amatyas.
- While the mantrins were the highest advisors to the King, the amatyas were the civil servants.
- b. **Medieval India:** During the Mughal era, the bureaucracy was based on the mansabdari system.
 - The mansabdari system was essentially a pool of civil servants available for civil or military deployment.
- c. **British India:** The big changes in the civil services in British India came with the implementation of Macaulay's Report 1835.
- The Macaulay Report recommended that only the best and brightest would do for the Indian Civil Service to serve the interest of the British Empire.
- d. **Post-Independence:** After independence, Indian civil services system retained the elements of the British structure like a unified administrative system such as an open-entry system based on academic achievements, permanency of tenure.

- When India was partitioned following the departure of the British in 1947, the Indian Civil Service was divided between the new dominions of India and Pakistan.
- The Indian remnant of the ICS was named the Indian Administrative Service.
- The modern Indian Administrative Service was created under Article 312(2) in part XI V of the Constitution of India, and the All India Services Act, 1951.

Classification of Services

- **Part XIV of the Indian Constitution** provides for different types or classes or services for India.
 - The name of the chapter is Services under Union and the States.
 - The Constitution has not elaborated the types and categories of services.
 - In accordance with the Constitution, we divide the services into the followings categories-All India Services (AIS). State Services and Local and Municipal Services.
 - *There are four groups or central services- Central Services Group A, B, C & D.*
- **In Group A of central services there are 34 types.**
 - Some of them are Indian Foreign Service, Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Indian Economic Service, Indian Information Service, Indian Railway Service, etc.
- **In the Group B Services** following categories are included-Central Secretariat Service, Geographical Survey of India. Zoological Survey of India. Central Secretariat Stenographers Service.
 - *The highest personnel cadre strength among the entire civil services system in India is with Central Secretariat Service and Indian Revenue Service (IT and C&CE).*

Civil Services Reform

- The civil service, as the primary arm of government, must keep pace with the changing times in order to meet the aspirations of the people. The purpose of 'reform' is to reorient the Civil Services into a dynamic, efficient and accountable apparatus for public service delivery built on the ethos and values of integrity, impartiality and neutrality.

Issues

- Poor capacity building.
- Inefficient incentive systems that do not appreciate.
- Upright and outstanding civil servants but reward them.
- Corrupt and the incompetent.
- Outmoded rules and procedures that restrict the civil servant from performing effectively
- Systemic inconsistencies
- Empanelment.
- Lack of adequate transparency and accountability procedures - there is also no safety for whistle blowers.
- Arbitrary and whimsical transfers- insecurity in tenures impedes institutionalization.
- Political interference
- Administrative acquiescence.
- Dominance of few elite services in promotions, work allocations, and assignments

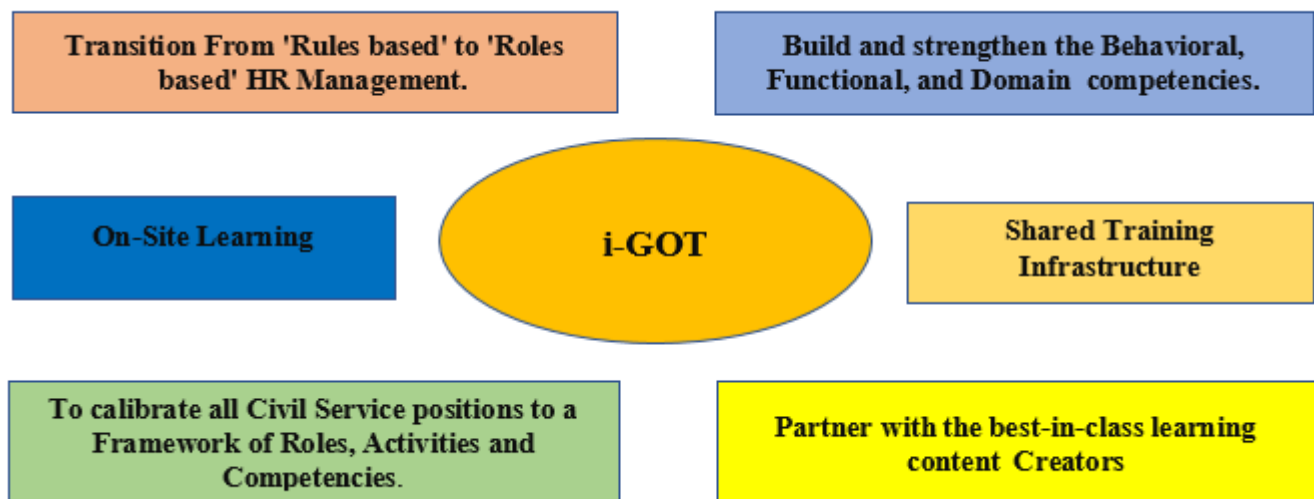
Generalist officers Vs. Specialist Officers:

- Civil Services are conceived primarily to deliver the core functions of the state such as the implementation of government schemes and programmes, maintenance of law and order, and implement government orders.
 - However, changing needs with the advent of globalisation, and economic reforms, the role of the state has changed.
 - Therefore, there are new challenges use to technological evolution (for example cybersecurity) and complex business, trade, legal aspects which the Government needs to navigate.
 - Thus, there is a higher demand (of specialist officers) for domain knowledge at the policy level.

Recent Reforms

- **Mission Karma yogi:** The Government has announced a new comprehensive Civil Services reforms programme aimed at better services delivery to the public.

- The government's policy think-tank NITI Aayog has a chapter dedicated to the issue in a landmark 2018 report. The Strategy for New India@-75 report stresses the need to put in place a reformed system of recruitment.
- Civil Servants would be trained to be "more creative, constructive, and imaginative. innovative, proactive, professional,
- Progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.
 - The fundamental focus of the reform is the creation of a 'citizen-centric civil service capable of creating and delivering services conducive to economic growth and public welfare.
 - To cover around 46 lakh Central employees, a sum of Rs.510.86 crore will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
 - The expenditure is partly funded by multilateral assistance to the tune of USD 50 million.
- The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building has been so designed that it remains entrenched in Indian culture and sensibilities while drawing learning resources from the best institutions and practices from across the world.
 - The Programme will be delivered by setting up an Integrated Government Online Training- iGOT Karma yogi Platform
 - A Public Human Resources Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, with Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent HR practitioners, national and international experts would oversee the entire capacity building exercise.
 - An expert body called *Capacity Building Commission* will be set up to harmonise training standards, create shared faculty and resources, and have a supervisory role over all Central Training Institutions.



Salient Features of i-GOT

Conclusion

- Civil Service Reform is a deliberate change effort by the government to improve its capacity to effectively and efficiently execute policies.
- Rationalization and harmonization of service may be the need of the hour.
- The reform is to raise the quality of public services delivered to the citizens and enhance the capacity to carry out core government functions, thereby, leading to sustainable development.
- Civil Service Reforms should realign the outdated structure and culture of the services aiming to raise the quality and sensitivity of services to the citizens that are essential for sustainable economic and social development.

Healthcare

Introduction

- The past year and the recent second wave of Covid-19 in India have been difficult to deal with for each of us. But the pace of vaccination drive in India and across the globe has given us a new hope to return to normalcy.

Background

- India is the world's second-largest exporter of Ayurvedic & Alternative Medicines with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 22% during 2015-20 in the healthcare sector.

Steps taken during Covid-19

- Ensured timely lockdown.
- Creation of extensive support system through setting up of COVID-19 warriors' network and a national taskforce.
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat economic stimulus relief package of 20 lakh crore amounting to 10% of GDP.
- 80 crore people being given free food grains under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana.
- MGNREGA wage rate was increased to Rs. 202 per person per day.
- National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was launched on India's 74th Independence Day in August 2020.
- Currently **100 % FDI for wellness** is allowed in the construction of hospitals under automatic route and 100 % in the AYUSH sector.
- National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020 was recently passed.
- The bill is aimed to regulate and maintain standards of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals in India.
- Due to these measures, India has the world's highest Covid-19 recovery rate of around 95% and there are signs of the Indian Economy returning to pre-Covid levels.

Conclusion

- India offers affordable healthcare services for all and is a famous destination for medical tourism. The Indian government had launched a single-window portal in 2017 to promote medical and wellness tourism in the country.
- India offers a smooth process for the issue of medical visas and provides the best healthcare facilities, frontier technologies, finest doctors, and financial savings with the lowest waiting time.
- Technology-driven growth through the introduction of emerging technologies like Artificial intelligence (AI), Robotics, Augmented reality (AR), Virtual reality (VR), 3D printing, and 3D imaging can also be seen in the healthcare sector in India, in near future.

The Covid-19 Experience

Introduction

- The Covid-19 pandemic has left an indelible mark on India's Living memory. Its second wave cast a dangerous spell with many lives lost. The pandemic has created a dual crisis, affecting both health and the economy.

Universal Health Coverage

- UHC promises every individual access to quality healthcare, including promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services, without the cost of financial hardship.
- Responsiveness and efficacy of the building block of health systems can be significantly enhanced by answering three policy questions around UHC –
 - Who is covered (questioning the extent of population coverage).
 - Which Services are covered.
 - What amount of costs are covered.

Background of UHC

- Success stories from our neighbors may serve us well in understanding what, and how their UHC focused health systems may have prepared them to battle the ongoing pandemic.
 - Sri Lanka had armoured itself with an intricate network of health facilities along with free and equal public health care including Covid-19 at the point of health care delivery.
 - The Republic of Korea managed to duck the scourge due to its existing universal, single-payer National Health Insurance Scheme which covers around 97% of its total population with the remaining 3% covered wholly with government subsidies.
 - More than 87% of people in Vietnam covered under national health insurance, it is the local community that has often played a crucial role in not just raising awareness but also in service delivery.

UHC in Indian Scenario

- Millions of poor and vulnerable people across the globe are still deprived of essential primary healthcare. In this regard, it would be important to highlight Astana Declaration's (2018) political commitment towards a sustainable primary healthcare (PHC) approach to UHC.
 - Expressing concern over the growing costs of health care over the years, the Declaration backed PHC as the cost inclusive, effective, and efficient approach to addressing public health needs, and emphasized preventive care to minimise the burden on the existing infrastructure.
- In pursuit of the commitment towards a sustainable PHC, India's Ayushman Bharat has managed to operationalise more than 75,500 wellness centers at the primary level with a footfall of over 44.24 crore beneficiaries by April 2021.
- While public funding is key to driving a UHC program in India, private sector emphasis will help pool funds, spread administrative costs, and improve accountability.

Way Forward

- Asia-Pacific experience shows that when both target populations, in terms of reaching the last mile, as well as the targeted range of benefits, are prioritized results are more tangible.
 - This includes improvements in existing social determinants of health, such as nutrition, environment, gender equality, water, sanitation, and hygiene.
 - A multi-dimensional approach in conjunction with electorally important areas, including unemployment, pollution, among other social determinants, needs to be taken in overcoming challenges posed by the pandemic.
- Strengthening of social safety nets across verticals for immigrants, the vulnerable, socially, and economically deprived is the need of the hour and must be facilitated as a part of the national development agenda in the next 3-4 years including establishing service delivery systems for migrants and mobile population to prevent spread during the pandemic.
- Health must be turned into an issue of the masses. Only then will any vision for UHC manifest in reality.

Catch the Rain

Introduction

- The impending water crisis is the reality of the world with the increasing global population, rapidly rising urban areas, continuous bioenergy demands, and climate change.
- Water shortage is already affecting 2.3 billion people who live in water-stressed regions of the world.
- In India, the average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1816 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively which may further reduce to 1486 cubic meters in the current year.
 - Annual per-capita water-availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered a water-stressed condition.

Background

- Out of the primary reasons that lead to water shortage in any country, population and climate change issues may be resolved through global cooperation, but it is hardly possible to stop urbanisation or energy demand considering these are by-products of development.
- According to the UN "Summary Progress Update 2021: SDG 6 - water and sanitation for all", the level of water stress in India is as high as 66 percent with the trend showing an increase over the years.
- According to UN statistics, globally 72 percent of all water withdrawals are used by agriculture, 16 percent by municipalities for households and services and 12 percent by industries.
- It is thus, clear that agriculture will be the worst hit activity in case of a water crisis and it makes sense for water management schemes in any country to pay critical attention to rural regions where most agricultural activity happens.

About the Project

- Under this campaign, drives to make check dams, water harvesting pits, rooftop RWHS etc; removal of encroachments and de-silting of tanks to increase their storage capacity; removal of obstructions in the channels which bring water to them from the catchment areas etc; repairs to step-wells and using defunct bore-wells and unused wells to put water back to aquifers etc are to be taken up with the active participation of people.

Recent Developments

- The latest campaign "Catch the Rain" seeks to address the above issue by substituting the use of available groundwater with rainwater by employing rainwater harvesting techniques across the country.
- *Catch The Rain with the tagline "Catch the rain, where it falls. when it falls"* is to nudge the states and stakeholders to create appropriate *Rainwater Harvesting Structures (RWHS)* suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata before monsoon 2021.
 - The Campaign will include drives to make check dams, water harvesting pits etc.
- To facilitate these activities, states have been requested to open "Rain Centres" in each district.
- "Catch the Rain" Campaign attempts to bring into action gram panchayats or water-stressed districts to support the efforts of the government for propagating sustainable agriculture through rainwater harvesting.
- The Campaign succeeds the many previous schemes also focusing on water conservation and management and will effectively augment the groundwork that has been laid by preceding schemes.

Participation

- There are fundamentally three stakeholders - government. people. And institutions- who must take up differing accountabilities in the campaign.
- At the institutional level, heads of IIMs, IITs, Central Universities having large tracts of lands with them, have been requested to take steps to harvest rainwater.
- The State Bank of India has consistently ensured grassroots level reach of water management programs of the government through active social media engagement.
- IIM Ahmedabad already has a dedicated rainwater harvesting system that also acts as a groundwater recharge system while Tamil Nadu Agricultural University also has a wastewater treatment facility and rainwater harvesting structure in their main campus.

Benefits

- The Campaign's benefits to agriculture are immense. Not only does it promise to provide a sustainable flow of water for generations to come and replenish lost soil moisture, but it also opens the way for water surplus and high monsoon receiving states to share water with water- scarce and low monsoon receiving states. Thereby reducing the stark inter-state disparities between agricultural output and farmer's incomes.

Way Forward

- This campaign can prove to be another big step towards making India self-reliant in every aspect possible.
- Without the use of high-end imported technology or knowledge partnerships. India stands to gain sustainability in the most precious bio-resource.
- The water crisis will eventually be the reality of the world and the only ones safe from it will be those who act swiftly and who act now.

The Power of Human Development

Introduction

- The human resource of a nation is one of the core pillars on which rests its future potential and journey.
- Its optimal performance creates better social outcomes such as higher standards of living, a better quality of life, equitable and inclusive access to resources, and low chances of intra-societal hostility.

सक्षम

2022

Programme includes:

- Answer Writing Practice
- Test Series Programme
- Personalised Mentorship
- Subject-wise Sessions

₹50,000 → ₹35,000

Offer Valid: 7th July, 2021



- In the same context, the Prime Minister recently asserted in the Parliament that the government had no business to be in business- and stressed upon the need for a reduction in bureaucratic procedures where none are required.
 - Disinvestment of the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) is one step towards that direction only.

Recent Initiatives

- This year, despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the government estimates to meet most of its disinvestment targets, pegged currently at INR 1.75 lakh crores.
- The last year's decision to merge ten PSU banks into four by the government also traces its roots in a bid to stymie inefficiencies, bureaucratic in decisiveness and promote a transparent system of accountability in public bodies.
- There is a widespread national consensus on the need to reform or arguably, 'transform' the civil service examinations conducted by the UPSC, to better align with the needs and aspirations of a 21st century nation growing at an unprecedented pace.
 - Lateral entries in the positions such as Joint secretaries and directors in central ministries are presently being experimented with.
- Creation of a **National Recruitment Agency (NRA)** to conduct examinations for the middle and lower rungs of government service is another example of streamlining public administration within the country and replacing the current web of agencies and examinations.
- India has grown in terms of digital infrastructure and access to and variety of available digital resources such as SWAYAM portal (online education), e-Aadhaar services. Online PAN, Voter card, and Income Tax Return (ITR) services, online banking and portals like My-Gov., Digilocker, Udyami, and e-visa services.
- **JAM Trinity, DBT and Digital India** are the three important Government interventions in technological field which are vastly promoted by the Government.

Conclusion

- Decisions like rapidly disinvesting from sick, underperforming PSUs, setting up a national recruitment agency for government recruitment, promoting the lateral entry of experts into government service, encouraging digitization to improve governance outcomes, and bringing efficient government services to the doorsteps of India's villages, will play a decisive role in ensuring ease of living for Indian citizens while also stemming bureaucratic hurdles, red tape, corruption and policy unpredictability for foreign and domestic investors alike.
- This will also take India's economic and social progress to the grassroots, to the most vulnerable sections of society, thus, truly shaping the future of an emergent global power.

KURUKSHETRA

INDEX

1. Agriculture in India -A Retrospect and Future Prospects.
2. Agricultural Exports- Growth, Potential and Opportunities.
3. Emerging Trends in Agricultural Production.
4. Expanding Viable Agri-Finance.
5. Prospects of Agri-Tourism.
6. Gandhiji and Sanitation.
7. Scaling Agri - Startups and Enterprises.
8. Agriculture-Key to India's Prosperity

APTI PLUS

Agriculture in India -A Retrospect and Future Prospects

Introduction

- In the years since Independence, food shortages and deficits were common and the country was grappling with.
- Most of the cropped area rainfed and the monsoon was a crucial determinant of production with fertiliser application, miniscule.
- However, at present, India is food surplus. Technology has helped the country to achieve food security.
 - New varieties of wheat and rice, investments in irrigation, increasing availability of fertilisers and pesticides resulted in a huge increase in productivity and availability of food grains.
- Whilst India has achieved food security, nutritional security remains elusive.

Background

- India has witnessed famines in 1964-65 and 1965-66. However, it was only until the 1960s where India made significant efforts to combat food shortages.
- a. **High yielding varieties (HYVs) & Application of Fertilisers and pesticides**
 - Research was already underway in the 1950s and 60s on the development of **high yielding varieties (HYVs)**, the application of fertilisers and pesticides.
 - In the mid-1960s, the **Green Revolution** was underway in the country.
 - Owing to this rise in productivity, **per-capita net availability of food grains** has seen a significant improvement.
 - In 1951, the availability stood at 394.9 grams/ day.
 - By 2020, this number has increased to 512.6 grams/day.
- b. **Formal credit:** The availability of credit allowed farmers to procure the necessary inputs to enhance their productivity.
- c. **Operation Flood:** A similar achievement was made in the **production of milk**, through **Operation Flood**, launched in 1970 through the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.
 - By 1997, India was the largest producer of milk in the world.
- d. **Agriculture Produce Market Regulations (APMR) Acts**
 - Being a state subject, state governments enacted **Agriculture Produce Market Regulations (APMR) Acts** during the 60s and 70s.
 - a. These regulations meant that agriculture produce could only be bought by licensed and registered traders in these markets.
 - b. These regulations also meant that anyone who was not a licensed and registered trader could not procure from farmers and all transactions would take place in the designated market **yards (Mandi)**.
 - The objective behind these regulations was to ensure that agriculture trade was carried out in a transparent, unhindered, and fair manner, with adequate remuneration to farmers as the key outcome of these regulations.
- e. **The Food Corporation of India (FCI)**
 - The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was setup in **1965**, to undertake price support operations, to distribute food grains under the **public distribution system (PDS)** and to maintain buffer stocks of food grains.
 - **Minimum support prices (MSPs)** were determined through the Agriculture Prices Commission, which was then renamed as the **Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP)** in the **1980s**.
 - The procurement at MSP of these crops further incentivised their cultivation, further increasing the availability of food grains in the country.

Are you aiming
to clock 300+ score
in Mains Optional?

Give your
dream the
right direction

ONLINE
**OPTIONAL
FOUNDATION
COURSES**

Subjects offered:

SOCIOLOGY ■ GEOGRAPHY

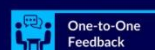
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HOME SCIENCE (For Odisha Administrative Service)



Personalised
Attention



One-to-One
Feedback

New System

Aspects	Constraints	Steps Taken
Agriculture Marketing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Markets failed to grow. 2. Fragmentation present in the system created inefficiencies in the movement and trade of agricultural commodities. 3. Licensing system prevents new entrants into the market. 4. With markets often far away from villages, commission agents acted as a conduit between farmers and traders. 5. Intermediation costs, owing from fragmentation and presence of intermediaries, occupied a larger chunk of final retail prices. 6. Linkages to food-processing and export markets remained weak. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction of the three farm bills were aimed at addressing these inherent inefficiencies in agriculture marketing. 2. State Governments have also been amending their own APMC Acts towards a more liberal trading environment. 3. To further support infrastructure creation in agriculture, a Rest. 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has also been created, in which existing APMC market yards are also eligible.

Aspects	Constraints	Steps Taken
Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change and Air Pollution are two important factors which are by-product of Agriculture. 2. Degrading soil health due to decline in <i>Soil organic carbon (SOC)</i> and imbalance in Fertilizer usage. 	We need to put a framework to make sure than agricultural sustainability remains our focus.
Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groundwater levels are depleting in several areas as the pace of extraction is exceeding the pace of recharge. <p>➤ <i>Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana</i> were the states with the highest levels of over-exploitation in this regard.</p> <p>➤ Close to 90 percent of all groundwater extracted annually is for agricultural purposes</p>	The efficiency of micro-irrigation reduces water use which ranges from 30-60 percent, depending on the method of irrigation employed (drip or sprinkler).
Nutritional security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to the <i>National Family Health Survey 4 (2015-16)</i>, 35.7 percent of children under 5 were underweight and 38.4 percent were stunted. 2. The <i>Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) 2016-18</i> found the prevalence of underweight and stunting to be 33.4 percent and 34.7percent respectively. 	<p>Poshan Abhiyaan and Mission Poshan 2.0 was launched.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will take care of Low diet diversity, which results into stunting and obesity.
Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), block chain, Internet of Things (IoT) amongst others are permeating industries like never before. 2. Agri-Tech, or Ag-Tech, has emerged as one of the most attractive investment destinations for start-ups. 3. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has been developing the IDEA platform, a database of 10 crores+ farmers, on which the private sector can build solutions that can be scaled across India. 4. <u><i>A recent report by Bain & Company has highlighted the growing importance of ag-tech in India, with India already the 3rd largest ag-tech market.</i></u> 	

Sustainable Intensification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agro-climatic regional planning (ACRP) is a concept that has started gaining traction again. 2. Shifting the production base of rice and wheat to areas where the benefits of the Green Revolution have not yet reached 3. Aligning cropping systems with agro-climatic systems may boost biodiversity. 4. Agro-ecological farming is another concept that has been brought back into the limelight, given the sustainability concerns with the present system of production. 5. In 2019, the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) constituted a High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security & Nutrition, which called for a large scale transition to agro ecological principles. 6. In India, Natural farming is promoted as Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Program (BPKP) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). 7. NITI Aayog has been taking the lead in promoting natural farming, through a multidimensional approach, involving scientific evaluation, documentation of best practices and case studies, global and national level consultations, and technological interventions for traceability and certification of produce.
Cooperative Model	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Central Government is committed to creating 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). 2. The recently formed Ministry of Cooperation is a further demonstration of the commitment to strengthen farmer collectives.

Conclusion

- The three key challenges that Indian agriculture must tackle in the coming years are:
 - Agriculture marketing.
 - Sustainable intensification.
 - Achieving nutritional security.
- All three goals are inter-linked, and policy must be designed taking these inter-linkages into account.

Agricultural Exports- Growth, Potential and Opportunities

Introduction

- India is predominantly an agrarian country with a prominent place on world map as a major contributor to global food basket. However, Agricultural Export has been quite low, resulting into less remuneration for the huge agrarian economy.
 - It was merely 1.1 percent in 2000 that rose to 2.27 percent in 2017 valued at 39 billion US dollar.
 - Currently, India ranks amongst the top 10 exporters of agricultural products in the world, but can be among the top five exporters according to the World Trade Centre.
 - Promotion of agri-exports by renewed thrust and focus on supportive policies, infrastructure, Science and Technology(S&T) interventions, and value addition could potentially propel India into the top bracket of agricultural exporters.

Background

- According to Economic Survey (2019-20), India has been a net exporter of agri-products since the roll out of economic reforms in 1991.
 - Marine products, basmati rice, buffalo meat, spices, non-basmati rice, cotton raw, oil meals, sugar, castor oil and tea are the major commodities exported from India.
- During April, 2020 to February, 2021 value of agri-exports aggregated to Rs. 2.74 lakh crore as compared to Rs. 2.31 lakh crore in the same period last year registering an increase of 18.49 percent.
 - Commodity-wise, wheat registered a growth of 727 percent as far as exports are concerned.
 - Recently, India has expanded its cereals export foot prints by shipping rice, wheat and other cereals to newer destinations.

Red Rice

- Recently, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the USA. It is a **naturally iron rich** variety **grown traditionally in Brahmaputra valley of Assam**.
 - Locally it is referred to as 'Bao-Dhaan'.

Village Rice

- APEDA has recently facilitated export of a **patented rice variety**, 'Village Rice' to Ghana and Yemen through air and sea routes.
 - Enriched with protein, fibre and a variety of minerals, the 'Village Rice' was sourced directly from farmers of Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu by a start-up.
- During 2019-20, India exported fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 9,182.88 crores which comprised of fruits worth Rs. 4,832.81 crores and vegetables worth Rs. 4,350.13 crores.

Recent Initiatives regarding Export Promotion

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has worked to prepare a comprehensive action plan/ strategy towards promotion of agriculture trade. As part of it, Export Promotion Forums (EPFs) are created.
 - EPFs for eight agri and allied products have been made functional viz. Grapes, Mango, Banana, Onion, Rice, Nutri-cereals, Pomegranate and Floriculture.
- The Department of Commerce came up with a comprehensive *Agriculture Export Policy (AEP)* that was formally launched by Government of India in December, 2018.
 - AEP was developed with a target to double agricultural exports from present US dollar 30+ billion to US dollar 60+ billion by 2022 and reach US dollar 100 billion in the next few years thereafter.
- Development of robust infrastructure
 - Government has initiated a major exercise to create Mega Food Parks, integrated cold chains and state-of-art testing centres.
 - Logistics and facilities are being developed and improved for pre-harvest and post-harvest handling, storage and distribution and processing.
 - Given the perishable nature of horti-products, major ports are under renovation to provide 24x7 customs clearance and sufficient quarantine areas with better hinterland connectivity.
 - The Department of Commerce has been assigned a proactive role in capacity building, supporting and handholding of such agencies.
- The stakeholders have suggested constituting separate funds dedicated to marketing of organic, value added, ethnic, GI, region specific and branded products.
 - This fund may primarily be utilised to launch media campaigns across key targeted markets.
- Market intelligence tool
 - APEDA and MPEDA are operating 'agri-exchange' and 'fish-exchange' portals respectively to provide market intelligence to their stakeholders.
 - The Federation of Indian Export Organisations runs an India Trade Portal that provides information related to tariff scenario (in Free Trade Agreement and non-FTA situations), delivers SPS (Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary) notifications, and also provides a window for Indian Embassies to offer market leads.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Presence of pesticide and chemical residues
 - It is major cause of concern for agricultural exports in India.
 - Lack of awareness among farmers regarding the judicious and timely use of chemicals has been a major impediment.
 - Consignments of India food exports sometimes get rejected due to residue levels that are higher than Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) set by importing nations.
 - APEDA, in collaboration with trade bodies, has taken measures to create awareness on such issues among farmers.
- In order to ensure desired quality of agri-produce for exports, Traceability and to the Farm level is vital.
 - A number of digital platforms have been developed for enabling smooth flow of business and ensuring transparency in the system.

- India Railways '**Kisan Rail**' is an exclusive service primarily to enable farmers and producers to transport their agricultural produce from rural areas to major towns and cities at affordable cost.
 - '**Kisan Rath**' mobile application facilitates farmers and traders to get best transportation services for their produce at competitive prices.
 - The scheme '**Transport and Marketing Assistance**' for specified agricultural products are providing assistance for the international component of freight along with assistance for the marketing of agricultural produce.
 - The Ministry of Civil Aviation is set to launch the '**Kisan Udan**' scheme to facilitate air transport of perishables, especially in the north- eastern region and tribal districts.
- c. **Farm Factories:** It is a new approach in which high value crops are grown in temperature, moisture and nutrition controlled environments assuring high organic yield.
- Fruits and vegetables are best suited for farm factories as they naturally use less water with higher profitability as against cash and cereal crops.
- d. **Value Addition of fruits and vegetables is another area where great potential exists due to increasing demand of processed products.**

Emerging Trends in Agricultural Production

Background

- The **Real Gross Value Added (RGVA)** at constant prices by primary sector (including agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying) has registered a compound growth rate of 3.99 percent per annum.
 - The share of this sector in employment generation has decelerated from 69.40 percent in 1951 to 43 percent in 2021.
 - The contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to foreign exchange earnings has also slid down from 44.24 percent in 1960-61 to 14.34 percent in 2020-21.

Trends in Agricultural Production

a. Food crops

- In India, the major food crops are cereals like rice, wheat, maize, power, bajra etc. and pulses like gram, tur, moong beans, masur, peas etc.
- Total food grain production in the country went up from 50.8 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 305.44 million tonnes in 2020-21, reflecting an annual compound growth rate of 2.60 percent.
- Whereas, the production of cereals shot up by more than six times, the production of pulses went up merely by three times during the period under reference.
- India is the largest producer of pulses in the world.

b. Commercial crops

- The major commercial crops of India are cotton, jute, tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, oil seeds etc.
- Among commercial crops, production of potato went up at the highest annual compound growth rate of 5.02 percent followed in descending order by rubber (4.05 percent) and cotton (3.63 percent) from 1950-51 to 2020-21.

c. Horticultural Production

- The diverse agro climatic conditions and wide varieties of soil in the country make it possible to grow almost all types of horticultural products like fresh fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, flowers, aromatic and medicinal crops, spices and plantation crops.
- As per first advance estimate of the Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare, total horticultural production in India has reached at 326.58 million tonnes in 2020-21 as compared to 145.78 million tonnes in 2001-02, registering ACGR of 4.34 percent during this period.

d. Vegetables

- Vegetables more than 59 percent of total horticulture production in India.
- The production of vegetables stood at 193.61 MT from an area of 10.71 million hectares in 2020-21.
- *India occupies second position in the world in production of brinjal, cabbage, cauliflower and onion, and third in potato and tomato.*

e. Fresh fruits

- They account for nearly 31 percent of total horticulture production in the country.

- The annual production of fresh fruits is expected to reach at the level of 103.23 MT from an area of 6.96 million hectares in 2020-21.
- The country occupies first position in the world in the production of fruits like mango, banana, sapota, pomegranate and aonla and vegetables like peas and okra.
- India has emerged as the **second largest fruit and vegetable producer in the world after China.**
- f. Spices**
 - *India has the honour to be the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices and spice products.*
- g. Milk Production**
 - *India has been the largest producer of milk in the world continuously for last more than two decades*
- Poultry Production.**
- h. As a result of robust performance of poultry farming in the country, India has emerged as the third largest producer of eggs in the world.**
 - The per capita availability of egg has also reached at 86 eggs per annum in 2019-20.
- i. Fisheries and Aquaculture**
 - Due to its vast coast line and varied inland resources, India has emerged as second largest fish producing country accounting for 7.58 percent of global production.
 - The sector has been one of the major sources of foreign exchange earnings, with India being one of the leading seafood exporting nations in the world.
 - In order to boost the fish production through the creation of additional infrastructure facilities in the country, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) worth Rs7,522 crore was created in October 2018.
- The fund aims to boost annual fish production to 20 million tonnes by 2022-23 and generate over 9.40 lakh employment opportunities.
- With a view to bring about blue revolution through sustainable development of the fisheries sector, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana was launched on 10th September 2020.

Diversification of Agriculture

- In recent years, agricultural sector has been diversifying to produce more livestock products like milk, egg, meat, fish and other marine products.
- The crop sector includes field crops, plantation crops, horticultural crops, drugs and narcotics crops.
- Among the farm sector products there has been a shift toward commercial crops and horticultural crops viz., fruits, vegetables, spices etc.

Agricultural Trade

- Presently, India is not only self-sufficient in food grains but also a net exporter of agricultural products, occupying seventh position in the world.
- Whereas, the overall balance of trade of India has always been negative, the trade balance of agricultural goods has not only been positive but also increased nearly by 22 times during the last two decades, which reflects the significance of agriculture in generating foreign exchange for the country.
- The major export destinations of India's agriculture and allied products are Bangladesh, China, Iran, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherland, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, UK, USA and United Arab Emirates etc.

Recent Initiatives

- a. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)**
 - It is a centrally sponsored scheme, launched from 1st April, 2014 for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector.
 - The MIDH provides financial, technical and administrative support to State Governments for the development of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushroom, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa, bamboo and saffron.
- b. Apart from this, in order to promote horticultural exports, several centres for perishable cargoes and for post-harvest handling facilities have been set up with the assistance of APEDA in the country.**

Way Forward

- Despite a steady decline in its share in gross value added, Agri and Allied Sector continues to remain the largest **employment providing sector** and a **major source of foreign exchange earnings**.
- But, India **lags far behind the developed countries** of the world in the yield **per hectare of field as well plantation crops**.
- In order to improve productivity of agriculture, adoption of modern farm practices along with the rational and efficient use of quality inputs including Hayseed's, water, fertilisers and pesticides is essential.
- Easy access to institutional credit at affordable rate of interest is also needed to be promoted for the purchase of modern agriculture machinery, tools, equipment's and other expensive inputs.

Expanding Viable Agri-Finance

Introduction

- Agriculture financing plays an important role in supporting both on and off-farm agricultural activities and businesses.
 - For a farmer, access to affordable institutional credit becomes crucial to start and sustain a good crop cycle based on quality inputs.
 - In an indirect manner, credit facilitates for other important agricultural functions such as marketing, warehousing, storage and transportation, all of which are crucial to productivity.
 - Agricultural credit also plays an important role in providing essentials during adversity.
 - To be able to absorb the shock of crop failure due to reasons such as drought and pest infestation or loss incurred due to price crash, the farmers must be financially equipped.

Background

- Two core features of agricultural production are the long time lag between Input investment and profit realisation, and the large covariate risks imposed on agricultural production by weather shocks. These two dimensions create a set of interlocking problems.
 - Both on the supply side (financial institutions face large and systemic risks in providing credit to agriculture) and on the demand side (farmers face many risks beyond their control in trying to finance the investments necessary to increase productivity).
- The timeline of the agricultural credit initiatives in India can be traced back to early 20th century, with measures that sought to establish and strengthen the **Credit Co-operative Movement**.
 - The objective of this movement was to provide affordable credit to farmers, small and marginal ones.
- Realising the importance of institutional credit in fostering the growth and development of the agriculture sector, the **All India Rural Credit Survey Committee (AIRCSC, 1951-54)** laid the foundation of the institutional framework to establish a sound credit delivery system for financing agriculture and allied activities.
- **The nationalisation of commercial banks in 1969**, the economic reforms in 1991 and the introduction of Kisan Credit Card (KCC, in 1998) followed by **the doubling of agricultural credit (in 2004)** led to a large-scale credit expansion with a view to create a strong institutional base in rural areas.
- An important intervention for expanding the coverage of agricultural credit, especially to small and marginal farmers, involved the establishment of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in 1976.
- At the end of March 2020, there are 43 RRBs managing an aggregate network of 22,042 branches throughout the country.

Important Interventions and Initiatives

- a. **Priority sector lending:** Priority sector lending was launched in 1974 to statutorily earmark fraction of credit to areas deemed as priority sector.
 - The objective of the PSL has been to ensure that vulnerable and weaker sections of the society get access to credit.
 - At present, RRBs and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) are required to meet a target of 75% towards PSL.
 - Besides the overall PSL target banks are required to achieve agriculture target of 18 percent and a sub-target of 8 percent of ANBC for small and marginal farmers.
 - Data reveals that, at the aggregate level, banks failed to achieve the agriculture target of 18 percent at system-wide level (17.2 percent in 2018-19).
 - However, banks have been able to achieve the sub-target of small and marginal farmer under PSL.

- b. **NABARD:** Another important approach to promote sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural development was creation of "*The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development*" (NABARD) in 1982.
- NABARD, in 1992, introduced the Self-Help Group (SHG) model to further enhance financial inclusion of the excluded segments.
 - With the primary objective to connect the Informal workforce to the formal banking sector, the SHGs employ their pooled resources to disburse loans to their members through the agency of the banks.
- c. **Kisan Credit Card Scheme:** The Kisan Credit Card scheme, introduced in 1998, is aimed at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure for the farmers for their overall credit requirements.
- As per 2020 data, 65.3 million KCC are operative and ₹6.97 lakh crore is outstanding against these operative KCCs.
- d. **Banking System:** Banks in India have made commendable progress in terms of scale and outreach of formal credit to the agriculture sector.
- In India, Scheduled **Commercial Banks (79 percent)** are the major players in supplying credit to agriculture sector followed by Rural **Cooperative Banks (15 percent)**, Regional **Rural Banks (5 percent)** and micro finance institutions (1 percent).
 - Small finance banks set up with the objective of deepening financial inclusion have started their operations recently.
- e. **Government Initiatives:**
- **Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)** for providing credit for crop production at reduced interest rate,
 - **Soil Health Cards (SHC)** for improving agricultural productivity,
 - **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)** to ensure Irrigation facilities and
 - **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**, for providing a safety net against natural calamities.
 - **Digitisation of Land Records:** In August 2008, the **Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)** was launched by Government of India, with the aim to **minimise scope of land or property disputes and enhance transparency in the land records.**
 - **One Nation One Market:** National Agriculture Market popularly known as e-NAM **launched in 2016**, is an innovative initiative in agricultural marketing to enhance farmer's accessibility digitally.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** These accounts have been linked with several social security and insurance schemes i.e., **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana in May 2015.**

Challenges

- Data on the average loan taken by agricultural households as per the **NABARD's Financial Inclusion Survey Report 2016-17**, indicated that 72 percent of the credit requirement was met from institutional sources and 28 percent from non-institutional sources.
- The report further states that out of the total agricultural households, approximately 30 percent still avail credit from non-institutional sources.
- This may be because farmers are availing agricultural loans against gold as collateral.
- This ultimately leads to diversion of funds and consequently, high incidence of indebtedness among the farmers.
- Further, the short term crop loans are eligible for Interest Subvention Scheme that incentivises farmers to avail such agricultural loans leading to mutualisation of government subsidy.
- The problem of financial exclusion gets aggravated due to lack of legal framework for landless cultivators as the absence of documentary evidence becomes a major hindrance for extending credit to this segment of the farming community, who take up cultivation work on oral lease.

Way Forward

- Banks should provide crop loans, eligible for interest subvention, only through KCC mode to curb the mis-utilisation of interest subsidy.
- To improve ease of credit, the limit of Rs. 3.00 lakh for waiving collateral security by the banks in case of tie-up arrangements should be revised to Rs. 5.00 lakh under the existing KCC guidelines subject to the condition that the tie-up arrangements are between the producers and processing units without any intermediaries.
- For better monitoring of branches by banks and easier implementation of KCC, there should be uniformity in **scale of finance (SoF)** for both crops and allied activities.

- The corpus of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) should be enhanced.
- Government of India should push state governments to complete the digitisation process and updating of land records in a time bound manner.
- Aggressive efforts are needed to improve institutional credit delivery through technology driven solutions to reduce the extent of financial exclusion of agricultural households. Also, Government of India should identify the successful models, for example, mobile
 - A win-win model to spur agriculture growth is linkage of Farmer Producer Organisations(FPOs), marketing cooperatives and integrators with banks, as exemplified by the SHG-bank linkage programme.
 - This will enable them to reap the benefits of economies of scale as well as of assured markets for their produce.
 - This will also be in line with the enhanced role being envisaged for FPOs in the agri-ecosystem and synergise the efforts of the policymakers in propelling farmer incomes.

Prospects of Agri-Tourism

Introduction

- Agri tourism combines agriculture-based activities and tourism aspects that brings visitors to the farms, where they not only enjoy the vacation and leisure but also understand and appreciate the activities performed by the farmers, who in turn get an opportunity to maximize their profit and employment potentials on farm products and services.
 - It is presently getting popularity as producers emphasize diversification in agriculture and an increase in profit; urban visitors prefer the touring to rural areas to experience the peaceful rural environment.
- In India, agro-tourism stands on three pillars, viz. farm recreation, farm stays and marketing of local farm produce.
- With diversified agro-ecosystems, rich heritage in artifacts, historical facts, natural resources and infrastructure; agro-tourism has been considered as a potential option to boost agrarian economy in India.

About Agri-Tourism

- Agri-tourism is 'regarded as the intersection of tourism and agriculture.
- **These activities and ventures have a dual purpose**
 - being educating the tourists about the local practices of farm with certain entertainment for them
 - involves source of income generation for the host farmer.
- **The main focus** is on increasing **farm income** along with providing recreation, entertainment, and/or educational experiences to visitors.

Types of Agri-tourism

- Agri-tourism can be categorized based on the type of farm setting, farm facility or experience and types of activities involved. It can be of **passive tourists contact, indirect tourists contact and direct tourists contact**.
 - In case of passive tourists contact it restricts to accommodation, food and entertainment activities of the tourists (passive agritourist).
 - Indirect contact agritourist adds other activities like exposure of tourists to farm demonstrations and basic farm education.
 - Direct contact agro-tourism includes all the above-mentioned activities as well as participation of the tourists in different farm operations like seeds sowing, planting, gardening, harvesting the produce, milking a cow, etc.

Benefits

a. Agri-Economy

- Agri-tourism would increase the share of agriculture in national GDP thereby providing additional source of income along with conventional agriculture and tourism industry.
- Agri-tourism has a potential to reduce the uncertainty of farming or agro-entrepreneurship/ agri-businesses by generating additional income and creating job opportunities to the farm families.
- Agri-tourism brings together elements of agriculture and tourism all together, providing an opportunity for both to thrive better financially.
 - It helps farmers in direct marketing of their farm produce to consumers.

- It also reduces the migration from rural to urban areas and attracts as well as retains the youth in agriculture.
- b. **Benefits Local Communities**
 - It enables additional revenue generation for local businesses and services due to presence of tourists in the locality, upliftment of common facilities for local communities and tourists, maintenance of rural landscapes and natural environments for tourists and local people.
 - It helps in raising public awareness about agricultural activities and related issues and values, thus improving
 - Use of local agricultural products and services.
 - Generation of income and employment in rural areas thereby strengthening rural economy.
 - Creation of facilitative environment for establishment of rural entrepreneurship through micro enterprises.
- c. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Agri-tourism provides recreation to whole family in a **cost-effective manner**.
- d. **Educational value:** Educational value of agro-tourism in terms of creating awareness about rural life and knowledge about agriculture among urbanites further widens its scope.

Agri-Tourism in India

- The tourism sector in India generated about 37 million employments, thereby contributing about **nine percent of total employment** in 2015.
 - Ecological beauty, water bodies and traditional handicrafts of the region enables the tourism in rural areas.
- Agri-tourism Development Corporation(ATDC) was established in 2004.
 - The main activities include operating agro-tourism centres, encouraging more farmers to take up agro-tourism, and conducting training and research programmes.
- Under Maharashtra State Agritourism *Vistar Yojana*, ATDC launched training and skills development programmes in 2007.
 - This initiative aimed to help and conserve the village environment, traditions, culture, customs, arts and handicrafts and initially involved 52 farmers.
- *The Montana homestay and annual flower festival of Sikkim*, the spice garden tours in Kerala and Tamil Nadu are attraction of the tourists as well.
- *Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC)* has been promoting agro- tourism in terms of integrated horticulture farms, dairy, fishing, vegetable poly houses and farm stays of the tourists at guest houses to enjoy natural environment and rural life.

Budget Allocation

- Favorable policy environment is reflected since 10th **Five Year Plan** in terms of promotion of brand 'Incredible India', enhanced budget allocation from Rs.525crores to Rs.2900crores for tourism sector and allocation of Rs.50lakhs per village for village tourism.

Challenges

- Development of agro-tourism needs continuous efforts in land development (knowledge center), developing accommodations and other facilities (farm stay), developing enterprise (processing, value addition and marketing farm produces) and other required infrastructure development for establishment of agro-tourism centre.
- Lack of farmer's knowledge, lack of training opportunities to learn about agro-tourism and absence of infrastructure support.
- Difficulty in identification of potential farmers and entrepreneurs who can implement agro-tourism projects requires skilled advisory services.

Steps need to be taken

- Proper recognition of the agro-tourism industry.
- Supportive government policies.
- Education and capacity building of the farmers to develop their agri-business/entrepreneurial skills.
- Formation of farmers' cooperative for implementation of agro-tourism.
- Financial assistance.
- Training of the farmers for improvement in products and service quality.
- Proper marketing.

- Risk management and conflict management.
- Development of strategic partnerships.
- Setting up location specific successful agritourist models.

Conclusion

- Agri-tourism offers benefits to farmers, farm families, rural communities, tourists and tourism operators.
- It is important to provide advisory services and building capacities of the farmers, who are the nucleus of agro-tourism industry, to implement, manage and sustain the agro-tourism centres.
- It is vital to create information on the available agritourist centres across different states of the country to draw attention of the potential tourists.
- Agri-tourism needs to be an integral part of available tourism packages, and developing strategic partnerships for its further promotion in India, will contribute in strengthening Indian economy in general and rural economy in particular.

Gandhiji and Sanitation

Background

- He had a life-learning lesson on swachhata from UK, a boy who used to clean child Mohandas's house at Porbandar.
- This lesson from the little boy who kept their house clean yet himself was considered unclean and untouchable, moved young Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and transformed him into a lifelong crusader against inequality, injustice, insanitation, and untouchability.

Gandhiji's Sanitation Movement in South Africa

- When 'whites' petitioned that Indians should not be given ownership rights in free hold properties in South Africa because they neither had a sense of sanitation nor they wanted to improve, Gandhiji opposed it.
- He also arranged a visit of an English doctor from Transvaal to describe the condition of Indian community and their settlement.
 - In South Africa, when Natal Indian Congress was constituted in 1894 with active help of Gandhiji, his first advice and campaign was for individual and social sanitation.
- Before the eruption of black plague, Gandhiji once again alarmed the British to improve sanitary conditions of Indian settlements.
- He said every educated Indian had a unique privilege: he could become a missionary in hygiene and sanitation.
 - He started writing on issues of latrines and open defecation more frequently.

Gandhiji's Sanitation Movement in India

- From very early days of his public life, Gandhi realised that sanitation and sacral hygiene was a huge problem in India.
 - He was convinced that it was not the lack of knowledge alone but also the mind-set, which prevented the people to adopt clean habits at home and in public places.
 - Thus, sanitation and hygiene become an important constructive programme for Gandhiji.
- Gandhiji's popularity was rising exponentially and hundreds of youth wanted to join his movement and attend the Satya rah Ashram set up in 1915.
 - Gandhiji welcomed all but warned that anyone wanted to join the Ashram had to pass the test of cleaning the toilet bucket.
 - He described insanitation, poverty and idleness, as a trinity of evil plaguing our villages.

Gandhiji's ideals in Indian Constitution

- When India adopted its constitution on 26 January, 1950, it was a fresh start in its system of governance.
 - Part IV of Indian Constitution provides for Directive Principles of State Policy.
 - These principles are fundamental in the governance and it is the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.
 - Article 47 of the Constitution provides inter alia that the State shall regard raising the standards of living of its people and improvement of public health as among its primary duties.
 - Article 48-A provides for protection and improvement of environment as an endeavour of the State.

- Without adequate and appropriate sanitation none of the three-raising the standards of living, improving public health and protection and improvement of environment-are possible.

Gandhiji's ideals in Five Year Plans

- Fittingly, the five-year plans launched since 1951 attempted to address the basic amenities to independent India's people.
 - In the first five-year plan (1951-56), health and sanitation was identified as a priority and a budget of Rs.140Crore was sanctioned for these two priorities.
 - In 1954, the **National Water Supply and Rural Sanitation Programme** was launched for providing water supply and improving sanitary practices in rural India.
 - Only when the UN declared 1980s as **International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade, Sixth Plan (1980-85)** gave some prominence to rural sanitation.
 - In 2014, inadequate sanitation caused economic loss equivalent to 6.4 percent of India's GDP at US\$ 53.8 billion. It accounted for over 55 percent of the global burden of Open Defecation.

Swachh Bharat Mission

- The Swachh **Bharat Abhiyan (SBM)** became an embodiment of the collective spirit of the nation, showing that with a strong and committed political leadership, public financing, partnerships and most importantly people's participation in the development process, no goal is impossible to achieve.
- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** is implementing this in a Mission Mode from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- The Phase II will provide impetus to the rural economy through construction of household toilets and need based community sanitary complexes, as well as the infrastructure for solid and liquid waste management such as compost pits, soak pits, waste stabilisation ponds, bio-gas plants, material recovery facilities etc.

Scaling Agri - Startups and Enterprises

Introduction

- Agri-Startups and Agri-business enterprises are emerging considerably across the country to support the agriculture value chain activities and also to deliver efficient, innovative technologies products and services to the agricultural development stakeholders including farmers and consumers.
- Government of India's Start-up India initiative; Agri-entrepreneurship and Innovation component of RKVY-RAFTAAR; Start-up incubation and innovation funding support from DBT, DST, NABARD and NITI Aayog; are accelerating the scaling-up of Agri-Startups.

Startup India

- This Government of India initiative was announced on 15th August, 2015.
- The action plan of this initiative is focussing on three areas:
 - Simplification and Handholding,
 - Funding Support and Incentives,
 - Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPI & IT)** is supporting startups for the registration, land permissions, foreign investment proposals, and environmental clearances.
- In 2015-16, India had approximately 200 startups registered on Startup India portal representing all the sectors.
- In 2021, agriculture and allied sector account for 14,311 startups.

Initiatives Taken by Govt of India

Sl	Scheme or Initiative	Details
01	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agricultural and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR)	1. In 2018, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DACFW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare came up with this scheme under the component called "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development.

		2. It aims to encourage start-ups in agriculture and to contribute directly or indirectly to enhance the income of farmers by providing them with some new opportunities and providing employment to youth.
02	Agribusiness Incubation Centres	Under the scheme, 24 RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubation Centres were established across India and for their handholding, five Knowledge Partners are entrusted.
03	Science Technology and Entrepreneurship Park	Under Department of Science and Technology, Science Technology and Entrepreneurship Park were already operating in India and supporting the aspiring entrepreneurs to set up businesses and scale up further.
04	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)	1. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of our country. 2. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.
05	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)	This has been set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and Innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs
06	A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)	1. It is curated by Ministry of MSME, Govt. 2. Under the scheme, Livelihood business Incubator and Technology Business Incubators can be established.
07	Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)	PM launched Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, wherein Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Bank or MUDRA Banks provide loans at low rate to micro-finance institutions and non-banking financial institutions, who in turn provide low-interest loans to start-ups and MSMEs. Loans up to Rs 10 lakh can be availed under the MUDRA scheme.

Initiatives Taken by ICAR

Sl	Scheme or Initiative	Details
01	Intellectual property and technology management (IP&TM)	1. The IP&TM scheme launched during 2008 can be seen as driver towards implementation of policy. 2. Under the scheme Institute Technology Management Unit (ITMU) were established across all 100 institutes in ICAR.
02	Business Planning and Development (BPD)	1. World bank funding under National Agricultural Innovation Project led to establishment of Business Planning and Development Units at Institutions/Universities of ICAR. 2. Under this project ten BPD units were initially established, five in ICAR institutes and five in state agricultural universities.
03	Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation	1. Syngenta Foundation India and Tata Trusts jointly established the Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation (AEGF) in 2019. 2. AEGF adopts a decentralised approach towards empowering rural youth and training them to become Agri-Entrepreneurs

	(AEs) in rural areas
--	----------------------

Initiatives Taken by State Governments

1. **Kerala** has initiated a government start up nodal agency called "**Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM)**".
 - o KSUM supports start up ecosystem by means of different components such as infrastructure, human capital development, funding, governance, public-private partnership, global collaborations and scaling existing and establishing new start-up ventures from Start-Up-Boot Up-Scale up model for moving fast from ideas to IPO.
2. **Telangana** has launched incubation centre in India as "T-H Startups, Andhra Pradesh has 17,000-sq.ft. Technological Research and Innovation Park as a Research and Development laboratory.
 - o It has also created a fund called "Initial Innovation Fund" of Rs 100 crore for entrepreneurs.

Funding Sources

- **Bootstrapping/Self-financing:** Bootstrapping a start-up means growing your business with little or no venture capital or outside investment. It means relying on your own savings and revenue to operate and expand.
- **Friends and Family:** This is also a commonly utilised channel, funding by entrepreneurs still in the early stages.
- **Business Plan/Pitching Events:** This is the prize money/grants/finance benefits that is provided by institutes, organisations that conduct business competitions and challenges.
- **Incubator:** Incubators are organisations set-up with a specific goal of assisting entrepreneurs, building and launching their start-ups.
- **Government Loan Schemes:** The government has initiated a few loan schemes to provide collateral-free debt aspiring entrepreneurs and help them gain access to low-cost capital.
 - o Some such schemes include CGTMSE, MUDRA, and Stand-up India.
- **Angel Investors:** Angel investors are individuals who invest their money into high potential start-ups in return for equity.
- **Crowd funding:** Crowd funding refers to raising money from many people who each contribute a relatively small amount. This is typically done via online crowd funding platforms.
- **Venture Capital Funds:** Venture capital (VC) funds are professionally managed investment funds that invest exclusively in high growth start-ups.
- **Banks/NBFCs:** Formal debt can be raised from banks and NBFCs at this stage as the start-up can show market traction and revenue to validate their ability to finance interest payment obligations.
- **Initial Public Offering (IPO):** Initial Public Offer (IPO) refers to the event where a start-up lists on stock market for the first time.

Agriculture-Key to India's Prosperity

Introduction

- India is the world's agricultural powerhouse not just in terms of diversity of crops but also in terms of the sheer quantities of production. Agriculture employs a majority of the almost 70 percent Indian population living in rural hinterlands.
- Consequently, India is the world's **largest producer of milk, pulses, and Jute**, and ranks as the **second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnut, vegetables, fruit, and cotton**, accounting for **10.9 percent and 8.6 percent of the world fruit and vegetable production**, respectively.
- It is also one of the **leading producers of spices, fish, poultry, livestock, and plantation crops**.

Important Aspects of Indian Agri-Sector

- **The gross value addition** of agriculture sector in India has consistently increased through the past decade.
- **Top Producers but not Top Exporter**
 - o India holds second rank in the world wheat production but ranks 34th in its export.
 - o Similarly, despite being world Number 3 in production of vegetables, the export ranking of India is only 14th.
 - o Same is the case for fruits, where India is the second largest producer in the world, but its export ranking is 23rd.

Issues

- **Lack of adoption of global best practices** has resulted in little net development in the sector with the achievements being offset by the stagnant system.

- While India has become surplus in most agri-commodities, *farmers have been unable to get better prices* due to lack of investment in cold storage, warehouses, processing, and export.
- *Farmers of the country are also professionals* and thus heavily rely on rudimentary practices. This is further worsened by migration of youth, especially the educated bunch, to urban areas.
- The sector also faces *large regional disparities* with some states experiencing high agricultural prosperity while other states struggle at subsistence level.

Government Initiatives

a. **The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020**

- It attempts to remedy the existing situation and also widen India's area on the said agriculture map.
- The law aims to open up the vastly and rather arbitrarily regulated agricultural market of the country.
- Through infusion of technology the act stands to modernise the long stagnant sector and make it globally competitive.
- It also offers opportunity to the private sector to collaborate with farmers to reach a mutually beneficial optimum.

b. **The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has been organising the 'India Agricultural Outlook Forum' since 2017.**

- The first Agricultural Outlook Forum was organised in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture with the focus being on farmer venue and sustainability, role of innovative technology, use of big data in agriculture, and strengthening of crop estimation systems.

c. **Promotion of Agri Trade:** The department has also prepared a comprehensive action plan for promotion of agri trade.

- *Export promotion forums* for eight agri & allied products viz. Grapes, Mango, Banana, Onion, Rice, Nutri-Cereals, Pomegranate and Floriculture have been constituted under the aegis of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Department of Commerce.

Conclusion

- Despite the challenges and loopholes, India's agriculture is a success story worthy of analysis and deriving learnings from.
- Focus of ongoing reforms has not been only one economic and trade related aspects of agriculture but also on driving sustainability in the sector and fulfilling the country's global environmental commitments.
- Through water management, decreased use of pesticides and agricultural education, India is making great strides in not just agricultural production but also in larger environment friendly governance.
- The agriculture powerhouse of the world is set to undergo a complete metamorphosis through expert created, targeted policies.

**CSE
MAINS TEST
SERIES
2022**

**20
TESTS**

₹12000

COURSE VALIDITY: 365 DAYS





APT PLUS

Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

**PIB
YOJANA
KURUKSHETRA
COMPILATION
AUGUST 2021**



IAS GYAN
PREDICT THE UNPREDICTABLE