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science and technology

Duchenne muscular dystrophy

- A rare degenerative illness called Duchenne muscular dystrophy **makes muscles weaker** over time until it affects the entire body. One in five thousand boys are born with the condition.
- It **results from an X-chromosome mutation**. First, walking becomes challenging, then other motor functions follow, and finally, breathing and heart function are affected because the heart is also a muscle.
- Learning and behavioral problems may potentially be a symptom of the condition because the missing protein also has a purpose in the brain.

Regulation on Dark patterns

Dark patterns are **deceptive design techniques** that are used to trick users into making unwanted choices. They are often used by websites and apps to get users to sign up for newsletters, buy products, or share personal information.

Dark patterns can be difficult to detect, as they are **designed to be subtle and manipulative**.

Problems:

- **Hidden costs:** Dark patterns often involve hidden costs, such as subscription fees or cancellation fees.
- **Limited choices:** Dark patterns often limit the user's choices, making it difficult for them to opt out of unwanted transactions.
- **Confusing language:** Dark patterns often use confusing language to make it difficult for users to understand what they are agreeing to.
- **Pressure tactics:** Dark patterns often use pressure tactics, such as countdown timers or limited-time offers, to make users feel like they have to make a decision quickly.

Consequences:

- Dark patterns can have a number of negative consequences for users. They can lead to users signing up for unwanted subscriptions, buying products they don't want, or sharing personal information that they don't want to share. Dark patterns can also make it difficult for users to control their own data and privacy.

- There is a growing movement to regulate dark patterns. Some countries, such as the UK and the Netherlands, have already taken steps to regulate dark patterns. In the UK, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has issued guidance on dark patterns, and the Netherlands has passed a law that prohibits the use of dark patterns in online advertising.
- There are a number of different ways to regulate dark patterns. One approach is to ban the use of certain dark pattern techniques altogether. Another approach is to require websites and apps to disclose the use of dark patterns to users. A third approach is to give users more control over their own data and privacy.
- Regulating dark patterns is an important step in protecting consumers and promoting fair competition. It is important to develop effective regulations that will deter businesses from using dark patterns and protect consumers from their negative consequences.

Artificial Reefs

- Artificial reefs are human-made underwater structures that provide a habitat for marine life.
- **They are typically built in areas with a generally featureless bottom to promote marine life, and may be intended to control erosion, protect coastal areas, block ship passage, block the use of trawling nets, support reef restoration, improve aquaculture, or enhance scuba diving and surfing.**
- There are many different types of artificial reefs, including:
- **Shipwrecks:** Scuttled ships are one of the most common types of artificial reefs. They provide a variety of habitats for marine life, including cracks and crevices for fish to hide in, and hard surfaces for algae and invertebrates to attach to.
- **Oil and gas platforms:** When oil and gas platforms are decommissioned, they can be sunk to create artificial reefs. They are similar to shipwrecks in that they provide a variety of habitats for marine life.

- **Concrete reef modules:** Concrete reef modules are specifically designed to create artificial reefs. They are typically made of concrete blocks that are arranged in a variety of shapes and sizes to create a complex habitat for marine life.
 - **Reef balls:** Reef balls are hollow spheres that are made of concrete. They are designed to provide a variety of habitats for marine life, including cracks and crevices for fish to hide in, and spaces for algae and invertebrates to colonize.
- Artificial reefs can provide a number of benefits, including:**
- **Increased marine biodiversity:** Artificial reefs can provide a habitat for a variety of marine life, including fish, corals, algae, and invertebrates. This can lead to increased biodiversity in the surrounding area.
 - **Improved fisheries:** Artificial reefs can provide a nursery habitat for fish, which can lead to improved fisheries.
 - **Reduced erosion:** Artificial reefs can help to reduce erosion by slowing down the flow of water and trapping sediment.
 - **Improved water quality:** Artificial reefs can help to improve water quality by filtering out pollutants and providing habitat for bacteria that break down pollutants.
 - **Scuba diving and surfing destinations:** Artificial reefs can create popular scuba diving and surfing destinations.

Artificial reefs can play an important role in marine conservation and recreation. **They can provide a habitat for a variety of marine life, improve fisheries, reduce erosion, improve water quality, and create popular scuba diving and surfing destinations.**

It is important to note that artificial reefs are not a magic bullet for marine conservation. They need to be carefully designed and placed in order to be effective. Additionally, artificial reefs can have negative impacts on the environment if they are not properly managed. For example, artificial reefs can attract predators that prey on native marine life.

Technical textiles

- Technical textiles are textile materials and products that are used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.

- **They are manufactured using a variety of natural and synthetic fibers, and can be engineered to exhibit a wide range of properties, such as strength, durability, flexibility, flame resistance, moisture absorption, and filtration.**

Technical textiles are used in a wide range of industries, including:

- **Automotive:** Tire cords, seat belts, airbags, filters, soundproofing materials
- **Construction:** Geotextiles, roofing materials, insulation
- **Medical:** Implants, wound dressings, surgical gowns, bandages
- **Agriculture:** Agro-textiles, mulch films, insect nets
- **Protective clothing:** Firefighter gear, military uniforms, sports safety gear
- **Industrial:** Filtration materials, conveyor belts, hoses

Home furnishings: Carpets, upholstery, curtains

Here are some specific examples of technical textiles:

- **Kevlar:** A high-strength synthetic fiber that is used in bulletproof vests, stab-resistant clothing, and industrial applications such as hoses and ropes.
- **Nomex:** A flame-resistant synthetic fiber that is used in firefighter gear, military uniforms, and aircraft interiors.
- **Spandex:** A synthetic fiber that is known for its elasticity and is used in sportswear, lingerie, and medical textiles.
- **Geotextiles:** Textiles that are used to reinforce soil and prevent erosion.
- **Agro-textiles:** Textiles that are used to protect crops from weeds, pests, and the elements.

Technical textiles are a rapidly growing sector of the textile industry, due to their wide range of applications and their ability to provide innovative solutions to a variety of challenges.

Benefits of technical textiles:

Technical textiles offer a number of benefits over traditional textiles, including:

- **Strength and durability:** Technical textiles are often made from high-strength fibers, which makes them more durable than traditional textiles.
- **Flame resistance:** Technical textiles can be engineered to be flame-resistant, making them ideal for use in applications where fire safety is a concern.

- **Moisture absorption:** Technical textiles can be engineered to absorb moisture, which makes them ideal for use in applications where moisture needs to be wicked away from the body.
- **Filtration:** Technical textiles can be engineered to filter out pollutants and contaminants, making them ideal for use in applications such as air and water filtration.
- **Aesthetic appeal:** Technical textiles can be engineered to have a variety of aesthetic finishes, making them suitable for use in a variety of applications.

Future of technical textiles:

The future of technical textiles is very promising. As technology continues to advance, new and innovative technical textiles will be developed to meet the needs of a growing range of industries. Some of the emerging trends in technical textiles include:

- **Smart textiles:** Smart textiles are textiles that are embedded with sensors and other electronics to provide real-time data on the wearer's environment or health.
- **Biodegradable textiles:** Biodegradable textiles are made from sustainable materials that can be broken down by microorganisms in the environment.
- **Self-healing textiles:** Self-healing textiles are textiles that are able to repair themselves when damaged.

Battery energy storage systems (BESS)

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are **rechargeable batteries** that can store energy from different sources and discharge it when needed. BESS consist of one or more batteries and can be used to balance the electric grid, provide backup power, and improve grid stability.

How BESS systems work:

BESS systems **work by converting electrical energy into chemical energy and storing it in the batteries**. When energy is needed, the batteries are discharged and the chemical energy is converted back into electrical energy.

BESS systems can be used in a variety of ways, including:

- **Grid balancing:** BESS systems can help to balance the electric grid by storing excess energy

during times of low demand and discharging it during times of high demand. This helps to reduce the need for fossil fuel power plants to ramp up and down production.

- **Backup power:** BESS systems can provide backup power for homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure during power outages.
- **Peak shaving:** BESS systems can be used to reduce peak electricity demand, which can help to reduce energy costs and emissions.
- **Frequency regulation:** BESS systems can help to regulate the frequency of the electric grid, which is important for maintaining a reliable power supply.

Types of BESS

There are a number of different types of BESS available, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Some of the most common types of BESS include:

- **Lithium-ion batteries:** Lithium-ion batteries are the most common type of BESS used in grid-scale applications. They are relatively efficient and have a long lifespan. However, they can be expensive.
- **Lead-acid batteries:** Lead-acid batteries are less expensive than lithium-ion batteries, but they are also less efficient and have a shorter lifespan.
- **Flow batteries:** Flow batteries are a newer type of BESS that uses electrolytes to store energy. They are more efficient than lithium-ion and lead-acid batteries, but they are also more expensive.
- **Flywheels:** Flywheels are not technically batteries, but they can be used to store energy in a similar way. Flywheels are very efficient and have a long lifespan, but they are also very expensive.

Applications of BESS

BESS systems are used in a variety of applications, including:

- **Electric grids:** BESS systems are used to balance the electric grid, provide backup power, and improve grid stability.
- **Renewable energy:** BESS systems can be used to store energy from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, and discharge it when needed.
- **Smart homes:** BESS systems can be used to store energy from solar panels and other renewable energy sources and use it to power the home when the sun is not shining or the wind is not blowing.

- **Electric vehicles:** BESS systems are used in electric vehicles to store energy and power the vehicle.

Benefits of BESS

BESS systems offer a number of benefits, including:

- **Improved grid reliability:** BESS systems can help to improve grid reliability by providing backup power and regulating the frequency of the grid.
- **Reduced emissions:** BESS systems can help to reduce emissions by reducing the need for fossil fuel power plants to ramp up and down production.
- **Lower energy costs:** BESS systems can help to lower energy costs by reducing peak electricity demand and providing backup power.

- **Increased renewable energy deployment:** BESS systems can help to increase the deployment of renewable energy sources by storing energy from these sources and using it when needed.

Challenges of BESS

BESS systems also face a number of challenges, including:

- **Cost:** BESS systems can be expensive to install and operate.
- **Lifespan:** BESS systems have a limited lifespan, which means that they need to be replaced periodically.
- **Environmental impact:** The manufacturing and disposal of BESS batteries can have an environmental impact.

ANSWER WRITING NEW BATCH

Timing

17th-18th (Offline/Online)

Oct. | 9:00 AM



By- Amit Jain Sir

@ OLD RAJINDER NAGAR

Timing

17th-18th (Offline/Online)

Oct. | 5:00 PM



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VARUNA

- **Indian & French Navy** bilateral naval exercise 'VARUNA' was initiated in 1993.
- The exercise was later christened as 'Varuna' in 2001 and has since become a hallmark of robust India-France strategic bilateral relationship.

ICG Samudra Prahari

- ICG Samudra Prahari is a **specialized pollution control vessel of the Indian Coast Guard**. It is a 3000-tonne vessel and has a helicopter deck and an automatic marine pollution control system. It is capable of preventing, controlling and eliminating marine pollution.
- ICG Samudra Prahari was commissioned at ABG Shipyard in Gujarat in 2017. It is India's most advanced pollution control vessel and plays an important role in protecting the Indian coastline.

INS NIREEKSHAK

- INS Nireekshak is a **diving assistance and submarine rescue ship of the Indian Navy**. It was built by Mazgaon Shipyard, Mumbai in 1985 and put into service in 1995. It is a 4000-tonne vessel and has a dynamic positioning facility and a recompression chamber. It is capable of diving to a depth of 257 metres.
- INS Nireekshak is used in submarine debris rescue operations, diving training and undersea operations. It forms an important part of the diving capabilities of the Indian Navy.

SIMBEX

- India- Singapore naval Exercise

CENTRALSERVICING DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

- Central Servicing Development Organisation is a **premiere institution in the maintenance hierarchy of Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

- As the IAF inventory of aircraft began to expand in the early-sixties, both with the regard to aircraft types and the countries of origin, a need was felt to address the problem of aircraft maintenance management.
- A team was constituted to study the functioning of CSDE (Central Servicing Development Establishment). Consequently, CSDO was formed at Kanpur on 01 Nov 1968 with two detachments, one each at Delhi and Bangalore.

Operation Sajag

- Operation Sajag is a campaign run by the Government of India designed to **sensitize citizens and educate them about cyber-crimes**. This campaign was **launched in 2015** and has since played an important role in increasing cyber security awareness in India.
- Under Operation Sajag, the government organizes various programs and initiatives, including:
 - Awareness campaigns:** The government runs cyber security awareness campaigns through TV, radio, and social media. These campaigns inform citizens about cyber-crimes and encourage them to take cyber security measures.
 - Education Programs:** The government organizes cybersecurity education programs in schools, colleges, and business organizations. These programs educate citizens about the fundamentals of cyber security.
 - Security measures:** The government encourages citizens to take cyber security measures, such as using strong passwords and keeping their digital devices secure.
- Cyber security awareness in India has significantly improved as a result of Operation Sajag. In 2015, only 20% of Indians were aware of cyber-crimes. In 2023, this figure increases to 70%.

Some specific outcomes of Operation Sajag include:

Reduction in the number of cyber-crimes:
There has been a decline in the number of cyber-crimes in India since the launch of Operation Sajag.

Increased awareness about cyber-crimes:
Operation Sajag has significantly increased awareness about cyber-crimes in India.

Increase in cyber security measures:
Operation Sajag has encouraged Indians to take cyber security measures.

YUDH ABHYAS-23


It is an annual exercise conducted jointly by the Indian Army and the United States Army.

Bharat Drone Shakti

- A first-of-its-kind drone exhibition cum display
- The drones featured during the event can be employed for a variety of military and civil applications. By showcasing their capabilities through a series of aerial & statics demonstrations, the IAF and DFI seek to bolster the Government's initiative to make India a major drone hub by 2030.



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In Prelims**

2023

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2024

**For
You**

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First Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights (GSFR)

- The First Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights (GSFR) was hosted by the Government of India and the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Authority.
- The GSFR brought together over 500 delegates from 60 countries, including farmers, scientists, policymakers, and representatives from international organizations. The aim of the symposium was to share experiences and discuss possible future work on Farmers' Rights.
- Farmers' Rights are a set of rights recognized by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). These rights include the right to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed; the right to participate in decision-making processes related to plant genetic resources; and the right to benefit from the use of plant genetic resources.

The GSFR focused on four key themes:

- The importance of Farmers' Rights in ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture.
- The challenges and opportunities for realizing Farmers' Rights.
- Good practices and lessons learned from different countries.
- The way forward for Farmers' Rights.

The symposium produced a number of recommendations, including:

- Strengthening national and international mechanisms for implementing Farmers' Rights.
- Increasing awareness of Farmers' Rights among farmers and policymakers.
- Supporting farmers in exercising their Farmers' Rights.
- Investing in research and development on Farmers' Rights.

The GSFR was a significant event in the global movement for Farmers' Rights. It provided a forum

for stakeholders from around the world to share their experiences and discuss ways to move forward. The recommendations from the symposium will be used to inform future work on Farmers' Rights at the national and international levels.

The GSFR was a landmark event in the history of Farmers' Rights. It was the first time that such a large and diverse group of stakeholders had come together to discuss this important issue. The symposium produced a number of important recommendations that will help to strengthen Farmers' Rights and ensure that farmers can continue to play a central role in ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture.


Angel Tax

- It is a **tax levied on the capital raised** via the issue of shares **by unlisted companies if the share price of issued shares is seen in excess of the fair market value** of the company.
- The **excess funds raised** at prices above fair value **is treated as income, on which tax is levied.**
- It is levied at a rate of **30.9% on net investments in excess of the fair market value.**

Objective: To deter the generation and use of **unaccounted money** through subscription of shares of a closely held company, at a value which is higher than fair market value.

- **In 2019, the Government announced an exemption from the Angel Tax for startups** on fulfillment of **certain conditions. These are,**
- The startup **should be recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as an eligible startup.**
- The **aggregate amount of paid-up share capital and share premium** of the Startup **cannot be more than ₹ 25 crores.** This amount does not include the money raised from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Venture Capital Firms, and specified companies.

- 9
- For angel investors, the amount of investment that exceeds the fair market value can be claimed for a 100% tax exemption. However, the investor must have a net worth of ₹ 2 crores or an income of more than ₹ 25 Lakh in the past 3 fiscal years.
 - On whom?
 - Previously, angel tax provisions were applicable only for investments received from resident investors.
 - However, Finance Bill 2023 has extended its applicability to non-resident investors as well.



हिन्दी साहित्य (वैकल्पिक विषय)


2024-25 कक्षा कार्यक्रम फाउण्डेशन बैच

500+अद्यतन प्रश्नों के साथ बैच प्रारंभ


15th
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HISTORY OPTIONAL TEST SERIES

By: AASHAY SIR

Hindi / English Medium

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Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)

What is?

- The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) is an **initiative by India** as the G20 Chair.
- GBA is an India-led Initiative to develop **an alliance of Governments, International organizations** and Industry to facilitate adoption of biofuels. Bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels to drive biofuels development and deployment, the initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.

Objective:

- The Alliance intends to expedite the global uptake of biofuels through facilitating technology advancements, intensifying utilization of sustainable biofuels, shaping robust standard setting and certification through the participation of a wide spectrum of stakeholders.
- The alliance will also act as a central repository of knowledge and an expert hub. GBA aims to serve as a catalytic platform, fostering global collaboration for the advancement and widespread adoption of biofuels.

Benefits:

- GBA will support worldwide development and deployment of sustainable biofuels by offering capacity-building exercises across the value chain, technical support for national programs and promoting policy lessons-sharing.
- It will facilitate mobilizing a virtual marketplace to assist industries, countries, ecosystem

players and key stakeholders in mapping demand and supply, as well as connecting technology providers to end users. It will also facilitate development, adoption and implementation of internationally recognized standards, codes, sustainability principles and regulations to incentivize biofuels adoption and trade.

- The initiative will be beneficial for India at multiple fronts. GBA as a tangible outcome of the G20 presidency, will help strengthen India's position globally. Moreover, the alliance will focus on collaboration and will provide additional opportunities to Indian industries in the form of exporting technology and exporting equipment.
- **It will help accelerate India's existing biofuels programs such as PM-JIVAN Yojna, SATAT, and GOBARdhan scheme, thereby contributing to increased farmers' income, creating jobs and overall development of the Indian ecosystem.**

Green Ammonia

- Green ammonia is the ammonia that is **produced by a 100% renewable and carbon-free process.**
- Ammonia is a **pungent gas** that is widely **used to make agricultural fertilisers.** The current process of making ammonia is not a 'green' process.
- The production of green ammonia could offer further options in the transition to net-zero carbon dioxide emissions.
- In the Haber process, hydrogen and nitrogen are reacted together at high temperatures and pressures to produce ammonia, NH₃.

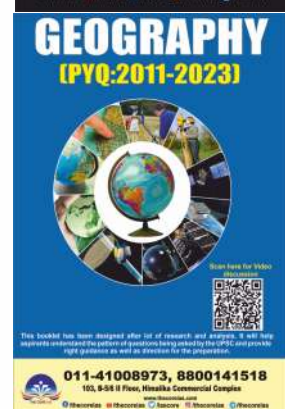
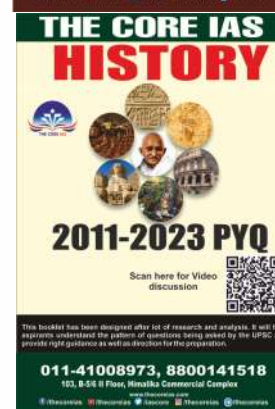
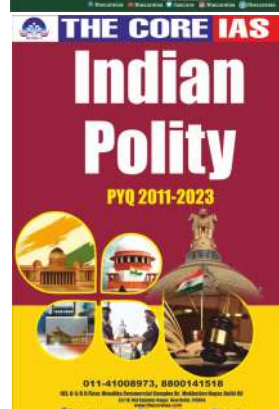
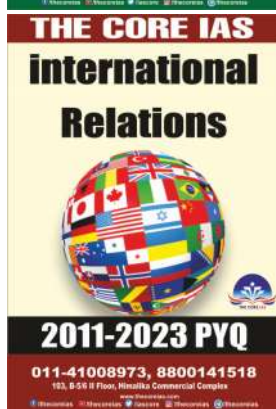
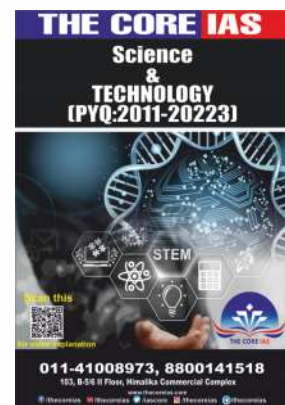
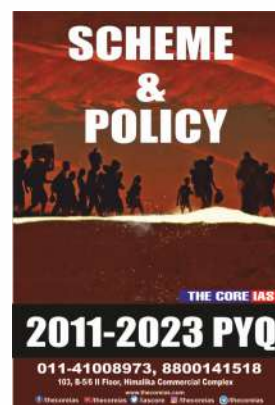
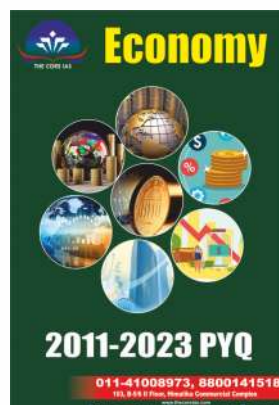
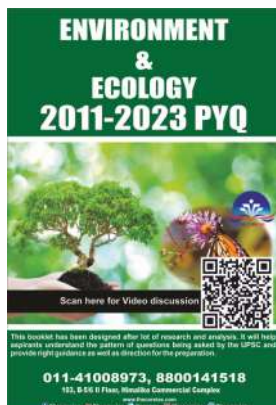
Malba Project

- Malba Project is a **Delhi-based startup facilitating a circular economy in the construction sector** in India. They are primarily **focusing on the prevention of illegal dumping of C&D waste** by making C&D waste collection facilities easily accessible for small waste generators.
- Malba Project's **tech-enabled system** consists of a Malba Map that keeps track of C&D waste hotspots and infrastructure in the city which helps keep a tab on the amount of such a waste being generated, collection

Point Management System helps municipal corporations streamline waste collection at a neighbourhood level, and digitises waste data in addition to setting up a MyMalba App, which is a cab aggregators-like app for residents to easily request C&D waste pickups from their sites.

- At the heart of Malba Project is creating a **win-win partnership between informal waste haulers, urban local bodies, and recycling plants** to provide an affordable, convenient waste pickup service for all waste generators, streamlining waste supply for recycling plants.

OTHER PYQ BOOKLETS



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Nadi Utsav


This noble initiative was conceived to create awareness and sensitize people about their ecology and environment. The 'Nadi Utsav' commenced in 2018, with its inaugural event held in Nashik (Maharashtra) city situated on the banks of River Godavri. The second 'Nadi Utsav' took place in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) city situated on the banks of river Krishna, and the third in Munger (Bihar) city situated on the banks of river Ganga.

Ramdurg Fort

- Ramdurg Fort is an important tourist spot located in the Ramdurg town of the Belagavi District of **Karnataka**.
- The fort served as a vital hub for trade and commerce in the region and it dates back centuries.




UPSC CSE 2022 **RESULT**



I am grateful for the apt and right guidance provided by Apur Sir and the Core IAS.
Sir gave me the analysis of PIB themes alongwith understanding the UPSC mindset in prelims.
The sessions for understanding the DEMAND in Mains exam helped me gain confidence and crack this exam.
I am really thankful for Sir's personal guidance and mentorship.

Shruti Jain
(Rank-165, CSE 2022)

SHRUTI
AIR-165





Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)

- The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) is a **statutory authority** under the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India. It was established in 2007 under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.
- **The WDRA's mission is to regulate and ensure implementation of the provisions of the Warehousing Act, 2007 for the development and regulation of warehouses, Regulations of Negotiability of Warehouse Receipts and promote orderly growth of the warehousing business.**

The WDRA has a number of powers and functions, including:

- Registering warehouses
- Regulating the warehousing business
- Issuing warehouse receipts
- Promoting the use of electronic warehouse receipts
- Providing financial assistance to warehouse owners
- Conducting research and development in the warehousing sector

The WDRA also plays an important role in promoting the use of warehouses for financing agricultural commodities. It has developed a number of schemes to facilitate this, such as the Warehouse Receipts Finance Scheme and the Electronic Warehouse Receipts Finance Scheme.

The WDRA has made significant progress in the development and regulation of the warehousing sector in India. It has helped to increase the number of registered warehouses and the volume of goods stored in warehouses. It has also played a role in promoting the use of electronic warehouse receipts and in facilitating the financing of agricultural commodities through warehouses.

The WDRA is committed to continuing to play a leading role in the development and regulation of

the warehousing sector in India. It is working to create a more efficient and transparent warehousing system that will benefit all stakeholders.

Samajik Adhikarita Shivirs

- These camps **aim to distribute various types of assistive devices** to over 47,000 pre-identified persons with disabilities and senior citizens under the Government of India's ADIP (Assistance to Divyang Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances) and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana schemes.
- The objective of organizing these camps is **to build a perspective for an inclusive society** across the country, ensuring empowerment and dignified living for persons with disabilities and senior citizens.
- The aim is **to provide equal opportunities for the persons with disabilities**, allowing them to lead productive, secure, and dignified lives.

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

Objective:

- To increase the representation of women in legislatures

Provision:

- This will include **reserving one-third of the seats kept for SC/STs**, and "as nearly as possible", one-third of the total seats in the general category.
- The seats will be reserved after the completion of the delimitation exercise based on the first Census conducted after the passage of the Bill. It mandates **women's reservation for 15 years** from the commencement of the Act, with Parliament empowered to extend it further.
- Rotation of seats reserved for women will happen only after each subsequent delimitation exercise, to be determined by Parliament by law, as per the Bill.

Effect:

- **It will take the number of women MPs in the Lok Sabha, as per its present strength of 543, to 181. The current House has 82 women MPs.**

Amendments in Constitution:

- The Bill, which seeks to insert clause (1) in **Article 330 A** to reserve seats for women, says by another clause that one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha be reserved for women from these categories, and a third clause on keeping aside, as nearly as possible, one-third of the total seats filled by direct election to the Lok Sabha for women.
- The Bill seeks to amend Article 332 A to mandate women's reservation in Legislative Assemblies, plus other amendments in the Article to keep one-third of SC/ST seats for women in the category, and, 33% of all seats – as nearly as possible – filled by direct election for women.
- The Bill seeks to insert in Clause 2 of **Article 239 AA**, after sub-clause (b), the following clauses: “(ba) Seats shall be reserved for women in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi”, and (bb), which says that one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs in the Delhi Assembly shall be reserved for women.

TRAI

What is TRAI?

TRAI stands for Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. It is an autonomous body established by the Government of India under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. TRAI is responsible for regulating the telecommunications sector in India.

TRAI's main objectives are to:

- **Protect the interests of consumers of telecommunications services.**
- **Promote competition in the telecommunications sector.**
- **Ensure the efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum.**

TRAI has a number of powers, including:

- **Setting tariffs for telecommunications services.**
- **Licensing telecommunications operators.**
- **Regulating the quality of telecommunications services.**

- **Investigating complaints from consumers.**

TRAI plays an important role in ensuring that consumers have access to affordable, reliable, and quality telecommunications services. It also plays a role in promoting competition in the telecommunications sector, which helps to keep prices down and improve service quality.

Here are some specific examples of TRAI's work:

- **TRAI has set tariffs for mobile phone services, which has helped to keep prices down.**
- **TRAI has licensed new telecommunications operators, which has increased competition in the market.**
- **TRAI has issued guidelines for the quality of telecommunications services, which has helped to improve service quality.**
- **TRAI has investigated complaints from consumers and taken action against operators who have violated regulations.**

TRAI is a valuable asset to the Indian government and plays a vital role in regulating the telecommunications sector.

Here are some of the key functions of TRAI:

- **Tariff regulation:** TRAI sets tariffs for telecommunications services, such as mobile phone, fixed-line, and broadband services. This helps to ensure that consumers have access to affordable, reliable, and quality telecommunications services.
- **Licensing:** TRAI licenses telecommunications operators, such as mobile phone companies, fixed-line operators, and internet service providers. This helps to ensure that only qualified operators are allowed to provide telecommunications services in India.
- **Quality of service regulation:** TRAI regulates the quality of telecommunications services, such as call drops, data speeds, and customer service. This helps to ensure that consumers receive the services they pay for.
- **Complaint handling:** TRAI handles complaints from consumers about telecommunications services. This helps to ensure that consumers' rights are protected.
- **Spectrum allocation:** TRAI allocates radio frequency spectrum to telecommunications operators. This helps to ensure that spectrum is used efficiently and effectively.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)

- A Mini Ratna (Category-I) non-banking financial institution under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- A Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFC) in 1987.
- IREDA has been notified as a “Public Financial Institution” under the Companies Act, 1956 and registered as NBFC with Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- IREDA is primarily engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.

Objectives:

- To give financial support to specific projects and schemes for generating electricity and/or energy through new and renewable sources and conserving energy through energy efficiency.
- To maintain its position as a leading organization to provide efficient and effective financing in renewable energy and energy efficiency/ conservation projects.

UPSC

According to **Article 315** of the Indian constitution, there shall be a permanent UPSC (Union Public Service Commission).

This body will conduct exam to appoint candidates to different posts of Indian Civil Services under the government of India.

Article 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution deals with the appointment of UPSC members, functions and powers of UPSC.

Composition:

The UPSC comprises of a chairman and ten members.

The President of India appoints the UPSC Chairman and other members. Each member holds office for a tenure of 6 years or till he becomes the age of 65 years.

Functions:

1. Conducts examination for All-India Services Central Services and Public Services for different Indian states and Union territory
2. Helps the states in composing and implementing schemes of combined recruitment for any services requiring special qualifications.
3. Serves the interests of the State on the demand of the Governor and with the consent of the President of India.
4. The UPSC shall be consulted in the matters of:
 - Demands for compensation of legal express obtained by a civil servant in defending proceeding instituted against him.
 - Matters relating to the interim appointments for a period exceeding one year
 - Matters of personnel management etc.

The Union Public Service Commission make suggestions which are advisory in nature. The recommendations from UPSC are not binding on the government.

DPIIT

DPIIT stands for **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**. It is a department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. DPIIT is responsible for formulating and implementing policies and schemes for the promotion of industry and internal trade in India.

Established in 1995 and reconstituted in 2000 with the merger of the Dept of Industrial Development.

Renamed in 2019.

Some of the key functions of DPIIT include:

- **Formulating and implementing policies for the promotion and development of industry in India.**
 - **Facilitating investment in India and promoting exports.**
 - **Protecting the interests of domestic industry and consumers.**
 - **Promoting internal trade and e-commerce.**
 - **Enforcing industrial laws and regulations.**
- DPIIT also offers a number of schemes and programs to support the growth of industry in India. These include:**
- The Make in India initiative

- The Startup India initiative
 - The Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) scheme
 - The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP)
 - The National E-Commerce Policy
- DPIIT is a key player in the Indian economy and plays a vital role in promoting industrial growth and development.

National E-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is a mission mode project under the Digital India program of the Government of India. Its objective is to make the functioning of all state legislatures paperless by converting them into digital houses. NeVA has been developed to make all the functions and data related to legislative bodies available online.

Main objectives of NeVA:

- Converting all state assemblies into digital houses.
- Making the proceedings paperless.
- Making the legislative process more efficient and transparent.
- To provide greater participation to the public in the legislative process.

Major benefits of NeVA:

- Makes the proceedings more efficient and time saving.
- Makes the legislative process more transparent and accountable.
- Provides greater participation by the public in the legislative process.
- Reduces paper use, which benefits the environment.
- NeVA is an important initiative of the Government of India that is helping to make the legislative process in the country more efficient, transparent and accountable.

Specific implementation initiatives of NeVA include:

- **Digitization of Bills and other documents:** NeVA stores and manages all bills, proposals, queries and other documents digitally.
- **Online Proceedings:** NeVA allows members to view and participate in proceedings online.
- **Security and Privacy:** NeVA ensures the security and privacy of information of members and the public.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is an **autonomous body established by the Government of India under the Competition Act, 2002**. The CCI is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act and promoting competition in the Indian economy.

The CCI has a number of powers, including:

- Investigating and taking action against anti-competitive practices, such as cartels, abuse of dominance, and unfair trade practices.
- Regulating mergers and acquisitions to ensure that they do not harm competition.
- Promoting competition in specific sectors of the economy.
- Advising the government on competition policy issues.

The CCI plays an important role in promoting competition and ensuring that consumers have access to goods and services at competitive prices.

Here are some specific examples of the CCI's work:

- In 2020, the CCI fined Google a record \$2 billion for abusing its dominance in the online advertising market.
- In 2021, the CCI ordered the merger of two airlines, Jet Airways and Air India, to be investigated.
- In 2022, the CCI issued guidelines for the e-commerce sector to promote competition and protect consumers.

The CCI is a significant force in the Indian economy and plays a vital role in promoting competition and protecting consumers.

TRIFED

- TRIFED stands for **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India**. It is a national-level cooperative body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. TRIFED was established in 1987 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

- The **main objective of TRIFED is to promote the socio-economic development of tribal people in India by marketing their products**

and providing them with access to financial and other resources. TRIFED works with tribal communities to collect, process, and market their products, such as minor forest produce (MFP), handicrafts, and agricultural produce. TRIFED also provides training and support to tribal entrepreneurs to help them develop their businesses.

TRIFED has a number of programs and initiatives to support tribal people. These include:

- **The Van Dhan Yojana:** This scheme aims to improve the lives of tribal people by promoting the collection, processing, and marketing of MFP.
- **The Tribal Artisans Development Scheme:** This scheme provides training and support to tribal artisans to help them develop their businesses.
- **The Tribal Mahila Swavalamban Yojana:** This scheme provides financial assistance to tribal women to help them start their own businesses.
- **The Tribal Cooperative Development Programme:** This program provides training and support to tribal cooperatives to help them become more efficient and effective.

TRIFED has made significant progress in promoting the socio-economic development of tribal people in India. It has helped to increase the incomes of tribal communities and create new opportunities for employment. TRIFED has also played a key role in preserving and promoting tribal culture and heritage.

Examples of TRIFED's work:

- TRIFED has helped to set up over 10,000 Van Dhan Kendras (Village Collection Centres) across India. These centres collect MFP from tribal communities and provide them with fair prices for their produce.
- TRIFED has also helped to set up over 500 Tribal Artisan Marketing Centres across India. These centres provide tribal artisans with a platform to sell their products to a wider market.
- TRIFED has also provided financial assistance to over 100,000 tribal women to start their own businesses.

TRIFED is a valuable asset to the Indian government and plays a vital role in promoting the socio-economic development of tribal people in India.

National Commission for Scheduled Caste (NCSC)

National Commission for Scheduled Caste (NCSC) is a constitutional body that has the responsibility for working to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Caste in India. The National Commission for Scheduled Caste was established under Article 338 of the constitution of India. The main motive of NCSC is to provide full protection to the SC community from discrimination and exploitation.

Composition:

- **NCSC has** Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and other 3 members.
- They are appointed by the **President of India**.
- The Chairman of NCSC has the status of Cabinet minister, and the Vice-Chairman has the rank of a state minister.

History:

- The special officer was designated as the commissioner of SC. And he/she was responsible for investigating all the matters relating to safeguarding Scheduled Castes and **Scheduled Tribes** in India.
- However, in 1987, the Government of India decided to create a multi-member commission for the betterment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes upon pressure from members of the Parliament of India.
- The idea was to form a multi-member commission instead of a one-member commission. To take forward the Idea, the 65th **Amendment to the Indian constitution** replaced the one-member commission with National Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, which includes multi-members.
- The **89th Constitutional Amendment Act 2003 replaced the NCSC** and Scheduled Tribes with NCSC and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
- In 2004, the first National Commission for Scheduled Caste was formed.
- For the safeguarding and betterment of Scheduled Castes in India, the constitution provided for a Special officer under Article 338 of the Indian constitution.

Functions:

- It monitors and investigates all the issues concerning the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes under the **Constitution of India**.
- It enquires into the complaint related to the safeguards of SCs.
- It participates in and advises on the planning process of various development of Scheduled Castes and also evaluates their development under any state and union.
- The commission presents the reports on working on those safeguards to the president annually or at other times when the commission wants.

- It can discharge other functions for the welfare, protection, and development of the Scheduled Castes of India.

Powers of a civil court:

- Examine a person on oath.
- Summon any person in the country for attendance and examine on oath.
- Production of any document that is required.
- To examine a witness and documents.
- It also has the power to Receive evidence on affidavits.



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National/International

India – Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council

- The India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (ISPC) is a high-level forum for dialogue and cooperation between the two countries. It was established in 2017 with the goal of strengthening the bilateral relationship and promoting cooperation in a wide range of areas, including trade, investment, energy, security, and culture.
- The ISPC is co-chaired by the Prime Minister of India and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. It meets annually to review the progress of the bilateral relationship and to set new goals for cooperation.
- The ISPC has made significant progress in strengthening the bilateral relationship. In the areas of trade and investment, the two countries have signed a number of agreements to promote cooperation in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing. In the area of energy, the two countries have agreed to increase cooperation in oil and gas exploration and production, as well as in renewable energy. In the area of security, the two countries have agreed to cooperate on counterterrorism and counter-proliferation. In the area of culture, the two countries have agreed to promote cultural exchanges and tourism.
- **The ISPC is an important forum for dialogue and cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia. It has helped to strengthen the bilateral relationship and to promote cooperation in a wide range of areas. The ISPC is expected to continue to play an important role in the development of the India-Saudi Arabia relationship in the years to come.**

Benefits of the ISPC:

- It has helped to strengthen the bilateral relationship between India and Saudi Arabia.
- It has promoted cooperation in a wide range of areas, including trade, investment, energy, security, and culture.

- It has helped to create new opportunities for businesses and people from both countries.
- It has helped to promote understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement

- The International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) is the world's leading conference on cement chemistry and its applications. It is held every four to six years and is attended by researchers, engineers, and industry professionals from all over the world.
- The ICCC provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas on the latest advances in cement chemistry.

It covers a wide range of topics, including:

- The composition and properties of cement and concrete
- The hydration of cement
- The microstructure and performance of cementitious materials
- The use of cement in sustainable construction
- The challenges and opportunities facing the cement industry

The ICCC is an important event for the cement industry because it helps to ensure that the industry is using the latest knowledge and technologies to produce high-quality, sustainable cementitious materials.

The ICCC is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in cement chemistry and its applications. It provides a unique opportunity to learn from the world's leading experts in the field and to network with other professionals in the industry.

Skill India Digital

Skill India Digital is a flagship initiative of the Government of India to provide digital skills training to the youth of India. The initiative was launched..

Skill India Digital offers a wide range of digital skills training programs, including:

- Web development
- App development
- Digital marketing
- Data science
- Cloud computing
- Cyber security
- Artificial intelligence
- Machine learning

The training programs are offered through a variety of channels, including online courses, offline training programs, and apprenticeships. The training is free of cost for all participants.

Skill India Digital has made significant progress in its goal of training 500 million people in digital skills. As of August 2023, over 300 million people have been trained in digital skills through the initiative.

Skill India Digital has been praised for its innovative approach to digital skills training. The initiative has used a variety of channels to reach people from all walks of life, and it has made digital skills training accessible to everyone.

Skill India Digital is an important initiative that is helping to bridge the digital skills gap in India. The initiative is providing the youth of India with the skills they need to succeed in the digital economy.

Benefits of Skill India Digital:

- It provides free digital skills training to the youth of India.
- It offers a wide range of digital skills training programs to choose from.
- It is accessible to people from all walks of life.
- It is helping to bridge the digital skills gap in India.

Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights (GSFR)

- **The Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights (GSFR) is an international event that brings together farmers, policymakers, scientists, and other stakeholders to discuss and advance the rights of farmers. The GSFR is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).**
- The GSFR is held every two years, and the next GSFR will be held in New Delhi, India, from September 12 to 15, 2023. The theme of the next

GSFR is "Farmers' Rights: Ensuring a Sustainable Future for Food and Agriculture."

- The GSFR is an important event for farmers because it provides a forum for them to share their experiences and perspectives, and to advocate for their rights. The GSFR also provides an opportunity for policymakers and other stakeholders to learn from farmers and to develop policies and programs that support farmers' rights.
- The GSFR has made a number of important contributions to the advancement of farmers' rights. For example, the GSFR has helped to raise awareness of farmers' rights and to build support for farmers' rights among policymakers and other stakeholders. The GSFR has also helped to develop new tools and resources to support farmers in exercising their rights.
- The GSFR is an important event for ensuring a sustainable future for food and agriculture. By supporting farmers' rights, the GSFR can help to ensure that farmers have the resources and support they need to produce food in a sustainable way.

Goals of the GSFR:

- To raise awareness of farmers' rights and to build support for farmers' rights among policymakers and other stakeholders.
- To develop new tools and resources to support farmers in exercising their rights.
- To promote the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).
- To identify and address the challenges facing farmers in exercising their rights.
- To develop recommendations for action to advance farmers' rights.

OIML certificates

- OIML certificates are issued by the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) to **measuring instruments that meet the requirements of its international recommendations**. OIML recommendations are voluntary, but they are widely followed by countries around the world.
- OIML certificates are important because **they provide a guarantee that the measuring instrument has been tested and calibrated to meet international standards**. This is important for ensuring that trade between countries is fair and that consumers can have confidence in the accuracy of the measuring instruments they use.

- There are a number of different types of OIML certificates, each of which is specific to a particular type of measuring instrument.

Most common types of OIML certificates include:

- **OIML Basic Certificate:** This certificate is issued to measuring instruments that meet the requirements of an OIML recommendation.
- **OIML Certificate of Conformity:** This certificate is issued to measuring instruments that have been tested and calibrated to meet the requirements of an OIML recommendation and a national standard.
- **OIML Certificate of Verification:** This certificate is issued to measuring instruments that have been tested and calibrated to meet the requirements of an OIML recommendation and a national standard, and that are used for trade purposes. OIML certificates are valid for a period of five years, after which the measuring instrument must be retested and re-certified.

OIML certificates are an important tool for ensuring the accuracy and reliability of measuring instruments around the world. They help to protect consumers and businesses from inaccurate measurements, and they promote fair trade.

Benefits of having an OIML certificate:

- **Increased customer confidence:** Customers are more likely to trust measuring instruments that have an OIML certificate. This is because they know that the instrument has been tested and calibrated to meet international standards.
- **Reduced risk of legal liability:** Businesses that use measuring instruments with an OIML certificate are less likely to be held legally liable for inaccurate measurements. This is because they can demonstrate that they have taken reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of their measuring instruments.
- **Improved trade performance:** Businesses that use measuring instruments with an OIML certificate are more likely to be successful in international trade. This is because their customers can be confident that their products and services are accurate and reliable.

National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM)

- The National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. It was established in 1962 with the objective of promoting research and development in the cement and building materials industry.

Functions:

1. Conducting research on cement and building materials
 2. Disseminating research findings to industry stakeholders
 3. Providing technical assistance to industry
 4. Standardizing cement and building materials
 5. Promoting the use of sustainable cement and building materials
- The NCCBM has made significant contributions to the development of the cement and building materials industry in India. It has played a leading role in developing new cementitious materials and technologies, and in promoting the use of sustainable construction practices.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS)

- The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) is a scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. It was established in 1982 to provide financial assistance to outstanding sportspersons who are living in indigent circumstances.

The PDUNWFS provides financial assistance for a variety of purposes, including:

1. **Medical treatment:** Financial assistance is provided for the medical treatment of outstanding sportspersons or their family members.
2. **Education:** Financial assistance is provided for the education of outstanding sportspersons or their children.
3. **Upkeep:** Financial assistance is provided for the upkeep of outstanding sportspersons who are unable to earn a livelihood due to injury or other reasons.

4. **Other needs:** Financial assistance may also be provided for other needs of outstanding sportspersons, such as housing and rehabilitation.
- The PDUNWFS is a valuable scheme that provides financial assistance to outstanding sportspersons who are in need. It helps to ensure that these sportspersons are able to maintain their livelihood and continue to contribute to the sporting community.

Gujarat Declaration

- World Health Organization (WHO) has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of “Gujarat Declaration”.
- **The declaration reaffirmed global commitments towards indigenous knowledges, biodiversity and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.**
- WHO underlined that the application of rigorous scientific methods is needed to better understand, assess and, where appropriate, apply more holistic, context-specific, complex and personalized approaches for health and well-being for all.
- It reiterates that India as host of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at Jamnagar, Gujarat has an important role in scaling up WHO’s capacities to support member states and stakeholders in taking forward the summit action agenda and other relevant priorities.
- **Deliberation was done on varied topics like Health and well-being of people and the planet, research and evidence, universal health coverage, primary health care and health systems, Data & routine information systems, digital health frontiers, biodiversity and sustainability, human rights, equity and ethics.**

Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)

When?

- The infrastructure plan was announced in 2021 during the G7 (or Group of Seven) summit in the UK.

- In 2022, during the G7 summit in Germany, the PGII was officially launched as **a joint initiative to help fund infrastructure projects in developing countries through public and private investments.**

Objective:

- It aims to mobilise nearly \$600 billion from the G7 by 2027 to invest in critical infrastructure that improves lives and delivers real gains for all of our people.
- In response to the infrastructure projects being undertaken and funded by China under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) at a global level, the G7 decided to present their alternative mechanism for it.
- The stated purpose of both the PGII and the BRI is to help secure funding for countries to build critical infrastructure such as roads, ports, bridges, communication setups, etc. to enhance global trade and cooperation.

G7:

- The G7 countries include the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the European Union (EU). US President had called it the Build Back Better World (B3W) framework. However, it did not register much progress.

What was the need for an alternative?

- To counter Belt and Road Initiative of China and the Chinese footprints at a global level.
- To stop public assets being handed over to foreign contractors or China itself by providing unsustainable debts to countries.
- Any serious connectivity initiative must be transparent and conform to the most basic principle of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Others are varied of the benefits they might reap from enhanced trade connectivity.
- However, the G7 say their initiative is meant to be transparent, focused on building climate change-resilient infrastructure, and help in achieving objectives of gender equality and health infrastructure development.

SCHEME

Malviya Mission

Malviya Mission is an initiative of the Government of India that **aims to provide high quality training for teachers**. This initiative was **launched in 2014** and was named after India's great educationist and leader Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya.

Under the Malviya Mission, teachers are encouraged to participate in a two-week online training programme. The program covers a variety of topics, including multidisciplinary learning, Indian knowledge systems, educational leadership, etc.

Objectives of Malviya Mission:

- To provide customized training to teachers, which will enhance the quality of higher education.
- Preparing teachers for the future.
- Increasing the quality of training.
- Nurturing leadership capabilities.
- To coordinate with the National Education Policy (NEP).

Under the Malviya Mission, 111 Malviya Mission Centers have been established across India. In these centres, a team of expert teachers and trainers are deployed to provide training to the teachers.

Malviya Mission is considered an important initiative for teacher training. This initiative has trained millions of teachers across India and helped improve the quality of higher education.

Benefits of Malviya Mission:

- It provides an opportunity to teachers to learn about the latest educational theories and practices.
- It provides opportunities to teachers for their professional development.
- It helps teachers to develop leadership abilities.
- It helps in improving the quality of higher education.

ULLAS

- A **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram on Education for All (erstwhile termed as Adult Education), was approved by Government of India for implementation during FYs 2022-27 in alignment with National Education Policy 2020.
- The Scheme has five components, namely
 - (i) **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy,**
 - (ii) **Critical Life Skills,**
 - (iii) **Basic Education,**
 - (iv) **Vocational Skills,**
 - (v) **Continuing Education.**

Gramodyog Vikas Yojna

- Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY) is a scheme of the Government of India which aims to promote small-scale industries in rural areas. The scheme was launched in 1957 and aims to create employment opportunities in rural areas, reduce poverty and strengthen the rural economy.
 - Under GVV, the government provides financial assistance to various types of small-scale industries in rural areas. These include agro-based industries, handicrafts, weaving, food processing, and other industries.
 - There are various forms of financial assistance provided under GVV, which include:
 - **Loan:** The government provides loans to small scale industries in rural areas. These loans are made available at low interest rates.
 - **Grants:** The government also provides grants to small-scale industries in rural areas. These grants can be used to start or expand industries.
 - **Technical assistance:** The government also provides technical assistance to small-scale industries in rural areas. This assistance helps industries improve and become more productive.
- GVY has played an important role in the development of small-scale industries in rural areas. The scheme has provided employment to millions of people in rural areas and helped in reducing poverty.

Benefits of GVV:

- It creates employment opportunities in rural areas.
- It helps in reducing poverty.
- It strengthens the rural economy.
- It promotes development in rural areas.

Project Udbhav

- Project Udbhav is an initiative set in motion by the Indian Army to rediscover the profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts of statecraft, warfare, diplomacy and grand strategy.
- The project endeavors to explore India's rich historical narratives in the realms of statecraft and strategic thoughts.
- It focuses on a broad spectrum including Indigenous Military Systems, Historical Texts, Regional Texts and Kingdoms, Thematic Studies, and intricate Kautilya Studies.
- The goal is to understand the profound depths of indigenous military systems, their evolution, strategies that have been passed down through the ages, and the strategic thought processes that have governed the land for millennia.
- The aim of Project Udbhav is not limited to just rediscovering these narratives but also to develop an indigenous strategic vocabulary, which is deeply rooted in India's multifaceted philosophical and cultural tapestry.

The Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana

- The Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched during 2020-21.
- The main objective of the Scheme is to enhance competency level of the target groups to make them employable both in self-employment and wage-employment for their socio-economic development.
- The target group under this scheme are SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers etc.

- The age criterion of scheme between 18-45 years and income criteria is no income limit for SCs, SafaiKaramcharis Including wastepicker and DNT.
- The annual family income should be below Rs.3 lakh for OBCs and the EBCs (Economically Backward Classes) annual family income below Rs.1 lakh.
- Types of Trainings, duration and average cost per candidate
 - I. Up-skilling/Reskilling (35 to 60 hours/ 5 days to 35 days):-Rs.3000/- to Rs.8000/-
 - II. Short Term Training (300 hours/3 months) :- Rs.22,000/-
 - III. Entrepreneurship Development Programme (90 hours/15 days):Rs.7000/-
 - IV. Long Term Training (650 hours/7 months) :- Rs.45,000/-

SHREYAS SCHEME

- The Ministry of Human Resources Development has launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS)
- To enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing 'on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend.
- SHREYAS is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three Central Ministries, namely the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour & Employment viz the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), the National Career Service (NCS) and introduction of BA/ BSc/BCom (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.
- SHREYAS is a programme conceived for students in degree courses, primarily non-technical, with a view to introduce employable skills into their learning,

promote apprenticeship as integral to education and also amalgamate employment facilitating efforts of the Government into the education system so that clear pathways towards employment opportunities are available to students during and after their graduation.

Objectives:

- To improve employability of students by introducing employment relevance into the learning process of the higher education system.
- To forge a close functional link between education and industry/service sectors on a sustainable basis.
- To provide skills which are in demand, to the students in a dynamic manner.
- To establish an 'earn while you learn' system into higher education.
- To help business/industry in securing good quality manpower.
- To link student community with employment facilitating efforts of the Government.

Implementation:

- The primary scheme will be operated **in conjunction with National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)** which provides for placing of apprentices upto 10% of the total work force in every business/industry.
- The scheme will be implemented by the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), initially the Banking Finance Insurance Services (BFSI), Retail, Health care, Telecom, Logistics, Media, Management services, ITes and Apparel. More sectors would be added over time with emerging apprenticeship demand and curriculum adjustments.

Significance:

- SHREYAS will be a **major effort in Education with skills to make degree students more skilled**, capable, employable and aligned to the needs of our economy so that they contribute to country's progress and also obtain gainful employment.

CRIIO 4 GOOD

It is an **online initiative** launched in collaboration with the **International Cricket Council, UNICEF, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India, to promote gender equality** among girls and boys through a series of **eight cricket-based animation films**. These films teach young boys and girls essential life skills while encouraging their participation in sports.

The themes of the program are Leadership, Problem-solving, Confidence, Decision-making, Negotiation, Empathy, Teamwork, Goal setting, making learning fun and relatable for young audiences. The program aligns **with NEP 2020's focus on gender parity and equal opportunities.**

RODTEP Scheme

- To **replace the existing MEIS** (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme).
- **to boost exports**
- To ensure that the **exporters receive the refunds** on the embedded taxes and duties previously non-recoverable.

Features of the RoDTEP Scheme

- **Refund of the previously non-refundable duties and taxes**
- **Automated system of credit**
- **Quick verification through digitisation**
- **Multi-sector scheme**

Why Need?

- A **dispute panel in the WTO ruled against India**, stating that the export subsidy programmes that were provided by the Government of India violated the provisions of the trade body's norms.
- The panel further recommended that the export subsidy programmes be withdrawn. This **led to the birth of the RoDTEP Scheme**, so as to ensure that India stays **WTO-compliant**.

INDEX/REPORT

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023:

India retains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023.

- It is published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.
- it is also a valuable benchmarking tool used by policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders to assess progress in innovation over time.
- The Global Innovation Index is a leading reference for measuring an economy's innovation ecosystem performance.
- Published annually.
- From a rank of 81 in 2015, India has risen to 40 in 2023.
- The consistent improvement in the GII ranking is owing to the immense knowledge capital, the vibrant start-up ecosystem, and the amazing work done by the public and private research organizations.
- The GII is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries.



THE CORE IAS

2022

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2023

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In Prelims**

2024

**For
You**

**53/18, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi, 110060**



011-41008973, 8800141518

keyword for mains

- Over 90% of the India's trade by volume and over 68% by value, moves through maritime routes at present.
- **Bengaluru is one of the cities that have employed innovation in getting everyone's daily life rid of plastic use. Under the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign, the "No Straw Nariyal Challenge" has been launched as a groundbreaking endeavour by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to address the pervasive issue of plastic waste associated with tender coconut vendors in every nook and corner of the city.**
- The three 'S', - Skill, Speed and Scale are the key to Capacity Building for StartUps as also for those engaged in any other vocation
- India Achieves Major Sanitation Milestone As 75% Villages Are Now ODF Plus under Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen
- Segregate waste, spread swachhata



The advertisement features a dark blue background. At the top center is the logo of 'THE CORE IAS', which consists of a stylized sun or flower icon above the text 'THE CORE IAS'. Below the logo, the text 'UPSC PRELIMS 2024' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath that, 'CSAT SPECIAL' is written in bold, yellow capital letters. To the right of this text is a portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored checkered shirt, and speaking into a small lapel microphone. Below the main text, '12th offline/online' is written in white, with '12th' being significantly larger. To the right of this is a red rectangular button with the word 'LIVE' in white. At the bottom, '0ct. 4:00 PM' is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters.

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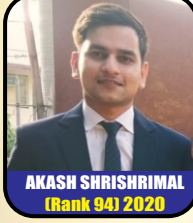
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