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# NOVEMBER

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# 2023

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***Useful For Prelims 2024***



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# science and technology

## Picocystis Salinarum

- Globally widespread picoplanktonic green algae.
- One of the **smallest green algae**.
- Found in hypersaline soda lake Sambhar, Rajasthan.
- First observed in India in Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan, despite being found in saline-soda lakes worldwide.

### Features

- Adapted to hypersaline conditions, showcasing its ability to survive in extreme environments.
- Exhibits enhanced photosynthetic activity in highly saline-alkaline conditions, a notable feature as photosynthesis is typically suppressed under hyperosmotic conditions in most photosynthetic organisms.
- Utilizes chaperone proteins as a key response to high salinity-alkalinity.

### Sambhar Lake:

- India's largest saline wetland located in Rajasthan.
- Characterized as an ephemeral Salt Lake.
- Designated as a Ramsar Site, recognizing it as a wetland of international importance.
- **Receives water from five rivers: Samaod, Khari, Mantha, Khandela, Medtha, and Roopangarh.**

## 2D Protein Monolayer Unravels Amyloidosis

### Key Features:

- Scientists assembled lysozyme molecules into a **2D monolayer** at the interface of a pure water subphase.
- The arranged layers of lysozyme provide a unique model for investigating the complexities of Amyloidosis.

- Utilized the **Langmuir-Blodgett (LB)** technique to create specialized two-dimensional protein layers.
- This technique involves forming monolayers of molecules, including proteins, at air-water and air-solid interfaces.
- Observed changes in the structure and shape of lysozyme molecules under different pH conditions.
- **These changes mirror abnormalities seen in Amyloidosis.**
- Offers deeper insights into Amyloidosis, contributing to a better understanding of disease mechanisms.
- Establishes a versatile platform for exploring nanotechnology applications in protein science.

### Lysozyme:

- Lysozyme is a naturally occurring enzyme present in bodily secretions such as tears, saliva, and mucus.
- Plays a vital role in the body's defense system by combating bacteria.
- Acts by breaking down the cell walls of specific bacteria, disrupting their structure and leading to destruction.
- Principal component of airway fluid.
- Serves as a model protein in the study of diseases like Amyloidosis, associated with multi-organ dysfunction.

### Amyloidosis

- Amyloidosis encompasses a set of uncommon disorders marked by the buildup of anomalous protein aggregates known as amyloids in diverse organs and tissues across the body.
- Comprising misfolded proteins, these amyloid formations can interfere with the regular functioning of organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver, and spleen, leading to gradual damage over time.

## South East Asia's first Night Sky Sanctuary

- The Sanctuary is being set up with the help of Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru
- **The Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle village in Eastern Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary**
- It will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray telescopes
- **It is adjacent to the Indian Astronomical Observatory, the second-highest optical telescope in the world, of Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Hanle.**
- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru is affiliated to the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

## Radiative Cooling Technology

### Context:

Researchers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bengaluru, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, have developed a pioneering paint leveraging radiative cooling technology. In response to rising global temperatures and the demand for sustainable cooling solutions, this cost-effective and eco-friendly paint offers a promising and effective cooling solution.

### Radiative Cooling Paint Composition:

- **Formulated from a groundbreaking magnesium oxide (MgO)-polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) polymer nanocomposite.**
- Utilizes materials that are abundantly available, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly, ensuring non-toxicity.

### Performance:

- Exhibits exceptional cooling capabilities, featuring high solar reflectivity and infrared thermal emissivity.
- **Integration of dielectric nanoparticles in MgO-PVDF results in remarkable solar reflectance (96.3%) and outstanding thermal emission (98.5%).**

### Applications:

- Specifically designed to combat rising heat impact on buildings, providing efficient cooling and reducing reliance on electricity during hot summer days.
- Demonstrates superior optical characteristics, reducing surface temperatures by approximately 10°C under intense sunlight, surpassing the effectiveness of standard white paints.

### What is this technology?

- Radiative cooling technology aims to dissipate heat from an object by releasing thermal radiation into the atmosphere, resulting in a cooler object.
- This process achieves cool surfaces by emitting thermal radiation directly into the extremely cold universe (around 3 Kelvin) through the atmospheric transmission window (8 – 13  $\mu\text{m}$ ), operating without electricity.

### Significance:

- In response to escalating global warming and the urban heat island effect, there is a growing demand for efficient cooling solutions.
- Traditional active cooling devices such as air-conditioners and refrigerators consume significant electrical energy, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and heightened surface temperatures.
- Radiative cooling technology offers a sustainable alternative by emitting thermal radiation without electricity usage, utilizing the atmospheric transmission window.

## NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is a joint Earth observation mission between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). NISAR aims to provide global observations with high spatial and temporal resolution.

### Key points:

- **Objective:** NISAR's primary objective is to monitor Earth's surface and study changes in the Earth's crust. It focuses on a variety of Earth science applications, including monitoring

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ecosystems, tracking changes in glaciers and ice sheets, studying earthquakes, and observing volcanic eruptions.

- **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR):** The mission involves the use of a synthetic aperture radar instrument, which allows for high-resolution imaging and the ability to observe Earth's surface in various wavelengths, including day and night and through clouds.
- **Global Coverage:** NISAR is designed to provide a global view and monitor changes in different regions of the world, contributing valuable data for scientific research and applications.
- **Collaboration:** The collaboration between NASA and ISRO underscores the international cooperation in space exploration and Earth observation. Each space agency brings its expertise to the mission.

### Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM)

- The upgraded SRGM is a **medium calibre anti-missile/anti-aircraft point defence weapon system** which provides a sustained rate of fire and high accuracy.
- It will be manufactured by M/s **BHEL**.
- The weapon system is capable of multiple engagements in multi-threat scenarios and has a proven record of very good performance against missiles and highly maneuverable fast attack crafts.
- The upgraded SRGMs will be installed onboard the Navy's in-service and newly built ships.

### Missile Cum Ammunition Barge

#### Context:

Fourth Missile cum Combat Ammunition Barge LSAM 10 launched.

#### Description:

- LSAM 10 was built by MSME shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited (SEPPPL), Visakhapatnam for the Indian Navy.
- The availability of these boats **will accelerate the operational commitments of the Navy** by facilitating transportation, embarkation and disembarkation of cargo/ammunition for Indian Naval ships both at the wharves and outlying ports.

- These boats have been **indigenously designed** and built under the relevant naval rules and regulation of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- Barges are flat-bottomed inland waterway vessels that do not have their own means of mechanical propulsion.

### New Treatment for Indian Red Scorpion Sting

#### Context:





Novel therapeutic formulation developed for improved treatment of Indian red scorpion sting.

#### Points:

- **The newly developed therapeutic drug formulation (TDF) comprises low doses of commercial equine anti-scorpion antivenom (ASA),  $\alpha$ 1- adrenoreceptor agonist (AAAs) and vitamin C.**
- It is used for inhibiting the venom's toxicity and associated symptoms which can help improve the clinical management of scorpion sting patients.
- The Indian red scorpion (**Mesobuthus tamulus**) is one of the most dangerous scorpions in the world and has a life-threatening sting.
- Intravenous administration of equine anti-scorpion antivenom (ASA), raised against M. tamulus venom (MTV), is the only available treatment for scorpion stings.
- But, the low proportion of venom-specific antibodies against the toxin poses a problem. Hence, high anti-venom is required to treat the sting and this may cause adverse serum reactions in treated patients.
- The new TDF has been developed by a team of scientists from Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology as well as reserachers from scholars from Tezpur University NIELIT, Guwahati.

### AI Safety Summit 2023

It was a landmark event that brought together international governments, leading AI companies, civil society groups, and experts in research to discuss the risks and benefits of advanced artificial intelligence (AI) systems, known as frontier AI.

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### Key outcomes:

- **The Bletchley Park Declaration:** The summit concluded with the signing of the Bletchley Park Declaration, a landmark agreement among 28 countries to collaborate on the safe and responsible development of frontier AI.
- **Establishment of an AI Safety Institute:** The UK government announced the launch of the world's first AI Safety Institute, which will be tasked with developing and implementing safety measures for frontier AI.
- **Agreement on safety testing framework:** The summit participants agreed on a framework for safety testing of frontier AI systems, which will help to identify and mitigate potential risks.
- **Commitment to international cooperation:** The summit reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in addressing AI safety challenges, recognizing that AI-related risks are inherently global.
- **International cooperation is essential to addressing AI safety challenges.**
- **Safety testing is an important tool for identifying and mitigating AI risks.**
- **We need to develop new ethical norms and guidelines for the development and use of AI.**
- **AI safety is a complex and long-term challenge, but it is one that we must address to ensure a safe and beneficial future for all.**

### Significance:

The AI Safety Summit 2023 was a significant step forward in the global effort to ensure the safe and responsible development of AI. The summit brought together key stakeholders from around the world to discuss the challenges and opportunities of frontier AI, and it resulted in concrete commitments to collaboration and action. The summit's outcomes are likely to have a lasting impact on the development and use of AI in the years to come.

### Key takeaways:

- **Frontier AI has the potential to revolutionize many aspects of our lives, but it also poses significant risks.**

### RISC-V (DIR-V) Program

- The DIR-V program **aims to uplift India's semiconductor ecosystem.**
- The program has the objective of promoting indigenous innovation in the field of microprocessors.
- The three key principles of the program are innovation, functionality, and performance.
- India's computing systems will leverage the DIR-V (Digital India RISC V) program and will have a serious presence in all the capabilities that we need in the automotive, space tech, IoT sensors and mobility.
- RISC-V is an **open-source** computer model.
- RISC-V stands for 'Reduced Instruction Set Computer' and '**V** is for **fifth generation**.'
- The aim is to establish India as a RISC-V Talent Hub for the world and a supplier of RISC-V System on Chips for servers, mobile devices, automotive, IOT and microcontrollers worldwide.

# PRELIMS MENTORSHIP

*Timing*

**19<sup>th</sup> Feb.**  
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### INS Surat

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- It is the **fourth ship of the indigenously designed and constructed Project 15B (Vishakhapatnam Class) destroyers.**
- INS Surat has been built with an innovative block construction methodology, in which the ship's hull has been assembled at different geographical locations before being integrated at the Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.
- The ship's crest depicts the Hazira lighthouse that was built in 1836 at the southern entrance of Khambhat and an Asiatic lion symbolising majesty and strength.

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### Exercise AUSTRAHIND

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#### Objective:

- Foster collaborative partnerships and share best practices between the Indian and Australian military forces.

#### Key Highlights:

- Promoting **Inter-Operability** in joint operations and compatibility.
- Exchange of tactical ideas and joint practice of techniques and procedures.
- Enhancing mutual understanding between the Indian and Australian militaries.
- Reinforcing and strengthening defense cooperation between the two nations.
- Facilitating the exchange of ideas for the effective execution of military operations.
- Furthering the understanding and synergy between the armed forces of India and Australia.

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### ICGS Sajag

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- ICGS Sajag is part of the Indian Coast Guard fleet of **offshore patrol vessels** (OPVs), based on the West Coast of India in Porbandar.

- It operates under the command of the Commander Coast Guard Region (North West).
- The ship is equipped with modern weapon systems, sensors, and state-of-the-art navigation and communication systems, including an integral helicopter to support both surface and air operations.

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### INS Imphal

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- the third amongst the **Project 15B** stealth-guided missile destroyers, was unveiled by the Defence Minister.
- **Imphal's crest design depicts the Kangla Palace on the left and 'Kangla-Sa' on the right.**
- **The Kangla Palace is an important historical and archaeological site of Manipur.**
- **Kangla-Sa is a mythical being from Manipur with a dragon's head and a lion's body. It is symbolic as the guardian of the people. Kangla-Sa is also the state emblem of Manipur.**
- INS Imphal guided missile destroyer with a displacement of 7,400 tons and an overall length of 164 meters.
- She is a potent and versatile platform equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles and torpedoes.
- She is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots (56 km/hr).

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**CSAT SPECIAL**



**8th Feb.**

offline/online

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- The vessel has a high indigenous content of almost 75%.
- This is the first capital warship to be named after a city in the North-Eastern region.

### ASW Shallow Water Craft (CSL) Project

- The contract for building eight ASW Shallow Water Craft (SWC) ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).
- **The first three ships of the eight were launched at Kochi. The three ships are Mahe, Malvan and Mangrol.**
- The Mahe class ASW Shallow Water Crafts have been named after ports of strategic importance along the coast of India.
- These ships will be equipped with indigenously developed, state-of-the-art underwater sensors, and are envisaged to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters as well as Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.
- All the ships will have over 80% indigenous content, making a significant achievement in 'Make in India'.

### Ex Surya Kiran

- This is the 17th edition of Ex Surya Kiran which started in 2011.
- The annual exercise is conducted alternatively in **India and Nepal**.
- The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under the United Nations Charter on peacekeeping operations.
- The exercise will focus on the employment of drones and counter-drone measures, medical training, aviation aspects and environment conservation.
- Through these activities, the troops will enhance their operational capabilities, refine their combat skills and strengthen their coordination in challenging situations.

### Exercise Mitra Shakti

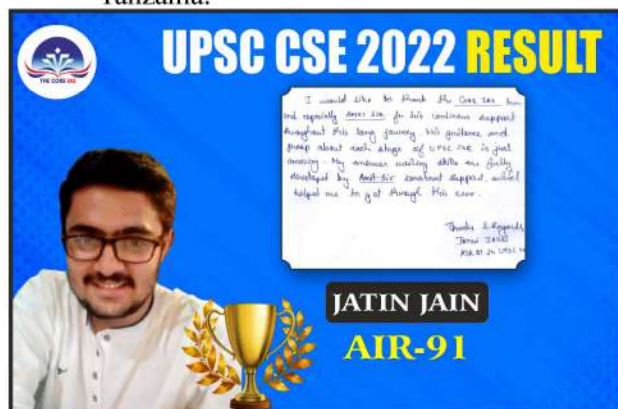
- Sharing of best practices will further enhance the level of defence cooperation between the **Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army**.
- The aim of the exercise is to jointly rehearse the conduct of sub-conventional operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- The scope of the exercise includes synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.

### CORPAT & EX-BONGOSAGAR

- The 4th edition of BONGOSAGAR-23, the bilateral exercise between the **Indian Navy and the Bangladesh Navy** and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal in November 2023 for two days.
- Both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability.

### MAHASAGAR

- MAHASAGAR is the Indian Navy's outreach initiative for a high-level virtual interaction between **Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region**. The word MAHASAGAR means '**vast ocean**'.
- During this meeting, the Chief of the Naval Staff interacted with Heads of Navies/ Maritime Agencies and Senior Leadership from IOR littorals, viz., Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.





- The theme of the interaction was ‘**Collective Maritime Approach towards Countering Common Challenges**’, which highlights the present and necessary imperative for harmonising and collaborating capacities and capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

### Exercise Vajra Prahar

- 14th Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise “VAJRA PRAHAR 2023” commenced in Meghalaya.**
- Ex Vajra Prahar aims at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- The first edition was conducted in the year 2010 in India.

### INDUS-X

#### Context:

First INDUS-X Investors Meet held in Delhi ahead of **2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue**.

#### Key Findings:

- The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defence organised the first INDUS-X Investors Meet in November 2023 at New Delhi as a precursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue.
- The meeting brought all the stakeholders such as Startups/MSMEs, Investors, Incubators, and Industry from both sides under one roof to discuss the collaborative agendas and opportunities.
- The **India – U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) was launched in June 2023** during the State Visit of the Prime Minister of India to the US to expand strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions of India and the US. Read more about INDUS-X in the linked article.

### INS Sumedha

- INS Sumedha is the **third of the indigenously developed Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV) of the Saryu class** deployed for multiple roles independently and in support of Fleet Operations.
- The ship has several weapon systems, sensors, state-of-the-art navigation and communication systems and an Electronic Warfare system.
- INS Sumedha can carry an Advanced Light Combat Helicopter onboard.

#### Importance:

- Indian Navy ships are regularly deployed as part of the Indian Navy’s mission of building ‘**Bridges of Friendship**’, strengthening international cooperation with friendly countries, and addressing maritime concerns across the globe.

The current visit seeks to accentuate India’s solidarity with friendly countries and, in particular, strengthen existing bonds of friendship with Namibia.

## ENVIRONMENT ECOLOGY

# 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Online/Offline  
(Hindi / English Medium)

(By: Amit Jain Sir)

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**JATIN JAIN**

AIR-91  
**THE CORE IAS**

**SHRUTI**

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### International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP)

- The International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) is a proposed port at the Galathea Bay, Great Nicobar Island.
- **It is a part of the holistic development of Great Nicobar Island.**
- **It is being developed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.**
- The holistic development of the Great Nicobar Island aims to improve the economic opportunity for the rapid increase in the size of all types of vessels – from feeders to large inter-continental carriers. The development also helps to bridge the infrastructural gaps of the island.
- The transshipment project is expected to be completed with an investment of Rs 41,000 crore (USD 5 Billion).
- Kolkata-based Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port is the nodal agency for the implementation of this project.

#### Significance:

- Strategic location in terms of proximity (40 nautical miles from Malacca Strait) to the International Trade Route with existing transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang, and Colombo
- Availability of natural water depth of more than 20 metres
- Potential to capture transshipment cargo from all the ports in the proximity including domestic one
- Can help revenue loss, reduce logistics inefficiencies, and create an opportunity to become a large hub for Asia-Africa, Asia-US/Europe container traffic trade
- At present, about 75 percent of the nation's transhipped cargo is handled at ports outside the country. The project can help save US dollars 200-220 million a year on transshipment cargo.


### Asian Development Bank

- The Asian Development Bank's primary mission is to "foster economic growth and cooperation" among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- **Founded in 1966 and based in Manila, Philippines, the ADB assists members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.**
- The ADB has been responsible for major projects in the region and raises capital regularly through the international bond markets. The ADB also relies on member contributions, retained earnings from lending, and the repayment of loans for the funding of the organization.

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) primary mission is to promote economic growth and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- The majority of the ADB's members are in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The ADB provides assistance to its developing member countries in the region.
- It also provides financing to certain private sector projects as well as public-private partnerships through grants, loans, technical assistance, and equity investments to promote development.
- The ADB is controlled by member countries, with the U.S. and Japan having the largest stake.



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### Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE)

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) to support Australian and Indian circular economy startups.
- Startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) in India and Australia working on circular economy technologies and solutions will benefit from this initiative.
- The India Australia RISE Accelerator is delivered in partnership between CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, and the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).**
- The nine-month accelerator programme enables Australian and Indian innovators and industry partners to tackle shared national and global challenges. The program focuses on environment and climate technologies.
- RISE will help businesses navigate early steps in a new region, validate and adapt technology and research overseas, fast-track connections to the right partners, customers and talent, and build credibility to succeed in international markets.

### Krishi 24/7

#### Context:

The Union Agriculture Ministry, in collaboration with the Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Wadhvani AI), developed Krishi 24/7.

#### Benefits:

- Krishi 24/7 is a pioneering AI-powered innovative solution designed for automated**

**agricultural news monitoring and analysis. The initiative receives support from Google.org, demonstrating the fusion of technology and agriculture.**

- One of its prominent features is the ability to scan news articles in various languages, transcending language barriers. It then translates these articles into English, making them more accessible for analysis.
- The solution will help the department in identifying relevant news, generate timely alerts, and take prompt action to protect farmers' interests and promote sustainable agricultural growth through improved decision-making.
- The introduction of Krishi 24/7 addresses the significant requirement for an efficient mechanism that can identify and manage agricultural news articles. This is instrumental in facilitating timely decision-making processes, particularly for events that impact the agricultural sector.
- It plays a pivotal role in aiding the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW).** By helping identify pertinent news articles, generating timely alerts, and enabling swift action, the solution protects farmers' interests and fosters sustainable agricultural growth through improved and informed decision-making.
- The tool scans news articles in multiple languages and translates them into English. It extracts essential information from news articles, such as headline, crop name, event type, date, location, severity, summary, and source link, ensuring that the ministry receives timely updates on relevant events published on the web.

### National Coal Index

#### Context:

The National Coal Index increased by 3.83 points in September 2023. This incline was influenced by the temporary rise of coal prices in global markets.

#### What is the National Coal Index?

- The NCI is a **price index** which reflects the change in the price level of coal on a particular month relative to the fixed base year.
- The base year for the NCI is FY 2017-18.**
- Prices of coal from all the sales channels of coal, including import, as existing today are taken into account for compiling the NCI.

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- The amount of revenue share per tonne of coal produced from auctioned blocks would be arrived at using the NCI by means of a defined formula.
- NCI is composed of a set of five sub-indices: three for Non-Coking Coal and two for Coking Coal.
- The three sub-indices for Non-Coking Coal are combined to arrive at the Index for Non-Coking Coal and the two sub-indices for Coking Coal are combined to arrive at the Index for Coking Coal.
- Thus, indices are separate for Non-coking and Coking Coal.
- As per the grade of coal pertaining to a mine, the appropriate sub-index is used to arrive at the revenue share.

### REC signs MoU with RailTel

#### Context:

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) signs MoU with RailTel, a miniratna under the Railway Ministry, to Finance Infrastructure Projects in Telecom, IT and Railway Signaling.

#### Details:

- **The projects encompass a wide range of areas, including Data Center products and services, Telecom & IT products and services, Railways & Metro projects, and the KAVACH Train Collision Prevention System.**
- The MoU also extends the possibility of financing overseas ventures related to High-Speed Rail, metro, IT network, and the Upgradation of the Railway Network, as part of bilateral country discussions and Infrastructure Projects in Southeast Asia and Eastern Africa where RailTel is currently focusing.
- **REC:** REC is a Maharatna CPSE established in 1969, under the Ministry of Power, providing long-term loans and other finance products for the Power-Infrastructure sector comprising Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewable Energy and new technologies like Electric Vehicles, Battery Storage, Green Hydrogen, etc. It has now ventured into the non-power infrastructure sector also.

### LEAPAHEAD Initiative

#### Context:

STPI launched the LEAP AHEAD initiative.

#### LEAP AHEAD Initiative:

- **A joint collaboration of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR.**
- **Aimed at supporting start-ups to succeed.**

#### Focus:

- Start-ups can receive funding support of up to <sup>1</sup> 1 Crore and a comprehensive three-month mentorship program that combines virtual and in-person sessions for a well-rounded learning experience.
- It will also provide start-ups with access to an extensive network and personalized guidance through one-on-one mentorship sessions with seasoned investors and industry experts.
- The initiative will enable startups to establish a product market fit, identify customer segments, grow hacking strategies, business compliance, leadership recruitment and fundraising.

**STPI:** STPI is an organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology engaged in promoting software exports, nurturing tech startup ecosystem and working for the dispersal of the IT/ITES Industry.

**TiE:** The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), was founded in 1992 in Silicon Valley by a group of successful entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and senior professionals with roots in the Indus region. It is a nonprofit organization devoted to entrepreneurs in all industries, at all stages, from incubation, throughout the entrepreneurial lifecycle.

### OTHER PYQ BOOKLETS

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## Alarming countdown

**Context:** The United Nations' recent report, titled "Broken Record," serves as a poignant reminder of the escalating urgency to address the alarming levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The report implies that warnings about the consequences of rising emissions are not only being overlooked but are also breaking new records.

### Key Highlights:

- **The Paris Agreement (PA) aimed to limit temperature increases to below 2°C, with efforts to stay "as far as possible" below 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels.**
- The Broken Record report indicates that current commitments by countries would still result in a temperature overshoot of 2.5°C-2.9°C by the end of the century.
- Urgent action is required as even the most optimistic scenarios give only a 14% chance of keeping temperatures below 1.5°C.
- Many nations have pledged to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions, but the report questions the credibility of these commitments.
- While the PA has led to some reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the pace of progress has been insufficient.
- **Those emissions in 2022 increased by 1.2% over 2021, nearly returning to pre-pandemic levels.**

### Importance:

- The consequences of delayed action are manifesting in unprecedented climate events, threatening ecosystems, and human well-being globally.
- Urgent intervention is essential to mitigate the intensifying impacts of climate change.
- Immediate and collective efforts are imperative to avert catastrophic climate outcomes.
- International cooperation and commitment are pivotal to addressing the root causes of emissions and devising effective solutions.

### Solutions:

- The report emphasizes the need for greater and faster emissions reductions, particularly from the wealthiest nations.
- Historical responsibility for carbon emissions must be acknowledged, and ambitious commitments are required to lead the way in reducing global emissions.
- Time is of the essence, and the world must expedite the implementation of sustainable practices and policies to achieve the necessary emission reductions.
- The need for immediate and effective action to reduce carbon emissions has been emphasized.

## Workshop on Green Development Pact for a Sustainable Future

NITI Aayog in partnership with Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) is organizing a workshop on the "Green Development Pact (GDP) for a Sustainable Future" in India. The workshop aims to gather practical insights for implementing the Green Development Pact, as part of a series of discussions related to the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

India's G20 presidency emphasized that there is need for cooperative solutions amidst global challenges and successfully secured the adoption of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration on the Green Development Pact. The workshop aims to generate actionable recommendations for the successful implementation of the Green Development Pact, with specific focus on energy transition, ecosystem conservation, and disaster-resilient infrastructure. The outcomes of the workshop will be compiled as an outcome document providing a blueprint for sustainable climate action globally.

The workshop is focused on three distinct sessions with each segment aimed to coalesce into specific action points and strategies that are required to implement the vision laid out in the NDLD:

1. **Implementing Clean, Sustainable, Just, Affordable & Inclusive Energy Transition -**  
To promote energy security, facilitate technology

access, and encourage innovation, it is imperative to address the affordability and reliability of deploying clean and sustainable energy sources and technologies. At the same time there is a need to facilitate low-cost finance and support reliable, diversified and responsible supply chains. Energy security, access and affordability, sustainability and justice would be main areas for discussions.

2. **Restoring, Conserving and sustainably using ecosystems** - The Leaders' Declaration emphasizes the importance of healthy ecosystems in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, drought, land degradation, pollution, food insecurity and water scarcity. This theme consists of issues for discussion such as mainstreaming lifestyles for sustainable development (LiFE), designing a circular economy and ending plastic pollution.
3. **Adaptation and disaster resilient infrastructure** - The Leaders' Declaration acknowledges the disproportionate impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and pollution on vulnerable communities with particular emphasis on women and girls. To build national and community resilience, India's G20 Presidency catalyzed efforts in disaster risk reduction by "Institutionalizing the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group". Topics for discussion under this session include climate forecast, mainstreaming disaster risk and resilience, coastal states/ city-level preparation and financing climate resilience.

This workshop will endeavor to bring together various views from experts, entrepreneurs, innovators, academia, representatives of think-tanks, and government working on energy, environment, climate and disaster resilience to identify the way forward and the required resources to achieve the objectives and outcomes mentioned in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Power.



### Induction cooktop

#### Objectives:

- To reduce the consumption of fossil fuels for cooking
- To improve indoor air quality
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- To promote energy efficiency
- To improve the health of citizens

#### Key features:

- Subsidized pricing of induction cookstoves
- Awareness campaigns and outreach programs
- Training and capacity building for manufacturers and retailers
- Establishment of testing and certification facilities

#### Benefits:





- Reduced energy consumption
- Improved indoor air quality
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Improved health of citizens
- Economic benefits for manufacturers and retailers

### National Efficient Cooking Programme

The National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) is a government initiative in India that aims to promote the adoption of clean and energy-efficient cooking technologies, such as induction cookstoves, to reduce the environmental impact of cooking and improve the health of citizens. The program is being

### Graded Response Action Plan

- The GRAP was first notified in January 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The GRAP is a set of emergency action plans that are implemented in four stages based on the severity of air pollution, which is determined by the air quality index (AQI).

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- The first stage of GRAP is imposed when the overall air quality is in the 'poor' category, and includes measures such as fines for garbage burning and sweeping without sprinkling water, enforcement of dust mitigation measures, and guidelines for use of anti-smog guns at construction sites.
- The second stage of GRAP is imposed when the air quality enters the 'very poor' category, and includes additional measures such as a ban on diesel generators, increased parking fees, and an advisory for vulnerable populations.
- The third stage of GRAP is imposed when the air quality breaches the 'severe' category, and includes a ban on construction and demolition activities, hot mix plants, brick kilns, and stone crushers.
- The fourth and final stage of GRAP is enforced when the air quality is in the 'severe plus' category, and includes measures such as stopping entry of non-essential trucks into Delhi, banning diesel-operated vehicles, and potentially discontinuing physical classes for certain school grades and moving them online.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management has been set up for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas for better coordination, and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index.

#### What are the revised measures?

- **Stage I – 'Poor' Air Quality** (AQI ranging between 201-300): Enforce NGT / Hon'ble SC's order on over aged diesel / petrol vehicles.
- **Stage II - 'Very Poor'** (AQI 301-400): Rigorous actions to combat air pollution at identified hotspots in the region.
- **Stage III - 'Severe'** (AQI 401-450): Impose strict restrictions on **BS III petrol and BS IV** diesel four-wheelers in certain areas and may suspend physical classes in schools for primary grade children up to Class 5.
- **Stage IV - 'Severe Plus'** (AQI greater than 450): When the AQI exceeds 450, four-wheelers registered outside Delhi, except for electric vehicles, CNG vehicles, and BS-VI diesel vehicles, will not be allowed to enter the city.

### Cloud seeding

- Cloud seeding involves **introducing artificial particles into clouds to accelerate the condensation process and the formation of larger rain droplets, thereby creating favourable conditions for rainfall.**
- Its possible benefits include increasing rainfall (benefiting the agriculture sector), aiding in water resource management, hydropower generation, reducing droughts, controlling forest fires, hail suppression, fog dissipation, and snowpack augmentation.

### CITES

#### Context:

- India has been under the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process for Red Sanders since 2004.
- This development is an acknowledgement of India's compliance and reporting.

#### CITES RST Process:

- The CITES RST process enables disciplinary action in the form of trade suspensions directed at countries that do not meet its obligations.
- This is a process through which the **CITES** Standing Committee places increased scrutiny on the exports of a species from a country to determine if the Convention is being properly implemented.
- **The red sanders species was listed for the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process around 2004.**
- This is because the red sanders species was under threats of illegal harvesting and smuggling leading to their depletion from natural forest.

#### Red Sanders:

- The Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is a high-market value tree, endemic to a few districts in Andhra Pradesh.
- **The species is listed as Appendix II under CITES since 1994.**
- However, red sanders wood sourced from artificial propagation (plantations) comprises a major part of legal export.
- The removal of the RTS process for red sanders will help the farmers growing red sanders to increase their income through the cultivation and export of Red Sanders from the plantations.

- It would also help in motivating farmers to grow more red sanders trees as a source of sustainable income.

## Recognising the impact of climate change on health

**Context:** As India prepares for the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), it becomes imperative to delve into the profound impact of climate change on the country's health.

### Issues:

- Climate change leads to increased morbidity and mortality, exacerbating existing health challenges.
- Elevated temperatures, heat waves, and extreme weather events directly contribute to sickness and death.
- Climate change disrupts nutrition, reduces working hours, and intensifies climate-induced stress.
- Rising global temperatures, if unchecked, may render parts of India uninhabitable, amplifying health risks.
- Communicable and non-communicable diseases face a compounded burden due to climate change.
- Growth of disease vectors, changes in infection seasonality, and the introduction of new pathogens pose significant challenges.
- Climate change exacerbates non-communicable diseases, including kidney injuries and respiratory issues.
- Mental health concerns, such as depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, often accompany climate emergencies, yet remain inadequately recognized and addressed in India.
- Rapid, unplanned urbanization exacerbates the urban heat island effect, impacting health in urban areas.
- Poorly planned urban spaces contribute to the burden of climate-induced health challenges, compounding existing issues like air pollution and stress.

### Significance:

- As temperatures reach unprecedented levels in 2023, global climate emergencies are expected to increase in frequency.

- Urgent action is necessary to prevent further interference with food security, livelihoods, and exacerbation of health challenges.
- The interconnection between climate change and health demands immediate attention, recognizing the intricate pathways through which climate impacts well-being.
- Non-communicable diseases and mental health, often overlooked, require comprehensive management strategies.

### Solutions:

- Modify health information systems to gather data on the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on health.
- Incorporate socio-economic factors to better understand and address the heightened vulnerability of certain populations.
- Implement upstream interventions focusing on urban planning, green cover, water conservation, and public health initiatives.
- Recognize the need for action at global, regional, and local levels to effectively mitigate climate change impacts on health.
- Integrate research findings into policy options, and encourage political decision-making for meaningful change.

## The OECD report on climate finance

**Context:** The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released a report indicating that economically developed countries fell short of their commitment to **mobilise \$100 billion annually for climate mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries in 2021.**

### Importance:

- The report offers a glimpse into the climate finance perspectives of rich countries, including the U.S., U.K., Germany, France, Switzerland, Canada, and others.
- It becomes significant ahead of the COP28 climate talks in the UAE, where climate finance is expected to be a contentious issue.
- The report follows the pledge by developed nations at the COP26 talks in Glasgow in 2020 to double adaptation finance. However, the failure to meet the \$100 billion goal and the subsequent



shortfall can erode trust among developing countries regarding the commitment of developed nations to address the climate crisis.

#### Findings:

- Developed countries mobilised \$89.6 billion in 2021, falling short of the promised \$100 billion. Finances for adaptation decreased by 14% in 2021 compared to the previous year.
- \$73.1 billion mobilised in 2021 by the public sector, \$49.6 billion was provided as loans. The reliance on loans, especially at commercial rates, raises concerns about exacerbating debt stress in poorer countries.
- The UNFCCC requires developed countries to provide “new and additional financial resources” for climate needs. There are concerns that developed nations may divert overseas development assistance (ODA) to fulfil climate finance obligations, violating the principle of additionality.
- The lack of a commonly agreed definition of ‘climate finance’ allows developed countries to keep it vague. This ambiguity enables the arbitrary classification of various funding sources, including ODA and high-cost loans, as climate finance, avoiding scrutiny.
- Private financing for climate action has stagnated for a decade, while public funding from multilateral channels increased. The private sector’s reluctance to massively scale up climate investments, particularly in adaptation, underscores the central role of public funding.
- The report estimates that by 2025, developing countries will require around \$1 trillion a year in climate investments, rising to roughly \$2.4 trillion each year between 2026 and 2030. The \$100 billion goal appears insufficient to meet these growing financial needs.

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## Kozhikode and Gwalior in UNESCO Creative Cities Network

### Context:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has welcomed 55 new cities into its Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

### Recognition of Kozhikode as City of Literature:

- Kozhikode is the first Indian city to earn the prestigious title of 'City of Literature' from UNESCO.
- The city has a rich history of hosting prominent literary gatherings like the Kerala Literature Festival.
- This recognition underscores Kozhikode's role as a center for intellectual exchange and literary discourse.
- Kozhikode boasts more than 500 libraries and is home to renowned writers like S. K. Pottekkatt, contributing to Malayalam literature and culture.

### Designation of Gwalior as the City of Music:

- Gwalior becomes the second Indian city, after Varanasi in 2015, to be designated as the 'City of Music' by UNESCO.
- The city is known as the birthplace of Tansen, a legendary musician and composer in Indian history.
- Gwalior is the cradle of the Gwalior Gharana, the oldest and most influential school of Hindustani classical music.
- The annual Tansen Sangeet Samaroh in Gwalior is one of India's largest music festivals, attracting enthusiasts and artists from across the country and abroad.

### UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- Established in 2004.
- UCCN promotes collaboration among cities recognizing creativity as vital for urban development.

- It aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 11, focusing on Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- The network encompasses seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature, and music.

### Indian Cities in the UCCN:

- **Jaipur: Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)**
- **Varanasi: Creative City of Music (2015)**
- **Chennai: Creative City of Music (2017)**
- **Mumbai: Film (2019)**
- **Hyderabad: Gastronomy (2019)**
- **Srinagar: Crafts and Folk Art (2021)**

## Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- The Kashi Tamil Sangamam commemorates a variety of **characteristics of the North and South of India's shared history and culture.**
- The overarching goal is to strengthen the bonds between the peoples of the North and the South by bringing their respective knowledge systems and cultural traditions closer together.
- It is being put on by the Ministry of Education in association with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and other ministries including Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing, Information & Broadcasting, etc.
- The project is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), which places a strong emphasis on fusing the richness of Indian Knowledge Systems with contemporary knowledge systems by the year 2020.
- **The program's two implementing organisations are IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU).**

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## Santali Language


- Santali is the language of the Santali tribe in India.
- **Speakers of Santali are found in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Odisha, Tripura and West Bengal. It also has speakers in Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.**
- It belongs to the Munda subfamily of the Austroasiatic languages.
- **It is one of the Eighth Schedule languages of India.**
- It is widely written in the **Ol Chiki script** which was developed in 1925 by Santali writer

Raghunath Murmu. Prior to that, the language was primarily oral.


- It is also written in other scripts such as the Bengali, Odia and Roman scripts.

## Sindhudurg Fort

- The Indian Navy will conduct an **‘Operational Demonstration’** at the Sindhudurg Fort.
- The fort was **built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1660.**
- The primary objective of the fort was to check the rising influence of European merchants and the Siddis of Janjira.



# UPSC CSE 2022 RESULT



*I am grateful for the apt and right guidance provided by Avit Sir and the Core IAS.  
Sir gave me the analysis of PQS themes along with 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  
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**SHRUSTI**

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## Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023

The **Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023** is a draft bill introduced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) of India in November 2023. **The bill aims to overhaul the existing regulatory framework for broadcasting services in the country and bring it in line with the technological advancements in the sector.** The bill seeks to replace the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and other policy guidelines currently governing the broadcasting sector in India.

### Key features:

- **Consolidated framework:** The bill provides for a consolidated framework to regulate all broadcasting services, including linear television, radio, and over-the-top (OTT) platforms.
- **Self-regulation:** The bill introduces a system of self-regulation for broadcasters, with a Content Evaluation Committee and a Broadcast Advisory Council to oversee the content aired on various platforms.
- **Accessibility for persons with disabilities:** The bill mandates the use of subtitles, audio descriptors, and sign language to make broadcasting services accessible to persons with disabilities.
- **Infrastructure sharing:** The bill encourages infrastructure sharing among broadcasting network operators to reduce costs and improve efficiency.
- **Carriage of platform services:** The bill provides for the carriage of platform services, such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, on cable networks.
- **Dispute resolution mechanism:** The bill establishes a structured dispute resolution mechanism to resolve grievances between broadcasters, distributors, and consumers.

### Impacts:

- **Increased government oversight:** The bill gives the government more power to regulate broadcasting content, which could lead to censorship concerns.
- **Greater transparency:** The bill mandates broadcasters to disclose their ownership and financial information, which could lead to greater transparency in the sector.
- **Improved accessibility:** The bill's provisions on accessibility could make broadcasting services more accessible to persons with disabilities.

## Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) with a total outlay of Rs.24,104 crore to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9-line Ministries.
- **PM-JANMAN comprises central sector and centrally sponsored schemes.**
- The programme focuses on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries including the Tribal Affairs Ministry.
- The interventions under the programme are the provision of pucca houses, connecting roads, piped water supply, community water supply, mobile medical units with medicine cost, construction of hostels, vocational education and skilling, construction of Anganwadi centres, construction of multipurpose centres, energization of HHs, the provision of 0.3 KW solar off-grid system, solar lighting in streets and MPCs, setting up of VDVVs, and installation of mobile towers.
- Other than the above, Ayush Wellness Centres will also be provided by the AYUSH Ministry.

## ECI signs MoU with the Ministry of Education

### Context:

ECI signs MoU with the Ministry of Education to bring electoral literacy to classrooms.

### Details:

- The MoU emphasises the development of an institutional framework to incorporate electoral literacy formally into the school and college education system.
- It extends the ECI's flagship Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) in schools and colleges.**
- The MoU tries to address the issue of apathy towards the electoral process among urban and young people and aims to encourage them to vote and participate in the democratic process in future elections.
- The voting percentage was 67.4% in the 2019 general elections. The ECI seeks to improve this figure.

### Salient features:

- Systematically integrating voter education and electoral literacy into the curriculum, starting from classes 6 to 12 in all schools, and then at the university level also.
- Textbooks will update and include material on electoral literacy.
- Training of teachers in this regard.
- Establishing Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in schools and colleges.
- Encourages various activities to promote voter awareness among students.
- Seeks to evolve a robust mechanism to fulfil the aspirational goal of ECI to hand over the voter ID card to every student immediately after their attaining the age of 18 years.
- Include electoral literacy in adult literacy programmes.
- Designate one room in every senior secondary school as the 'Democracy Room' for the regular display of voter education materials and the conduct of Continuous Electoral and Democracy Education (CEDE) activities throughout the year.

- Developing critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills amongst university students to actively participate in university-level politics, including engaging in informed debates and discussions.
- Devise a system of credits for students taking part in CEDE to pursue higher studies.

## Central Vigilance Commission

### Context:

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is observing the Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 from 30th October to 5th November, 2023, centered around the theme "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation."

### Background:

- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964.
- CVC was set up based on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by **Shri K. Santhanam**, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.
- The CVC became a Statutory Body with the enactment of **CVC Act, 2003**.
- The CVC is an independent body, free of control from any executive authority, (It is NOT controlled by any ministry or department).
- The CVC is responsible only to the Parliament.
- The CVC is NOT an investigating agency.
- The CVC may have the investigation done through the CBI or Chief Vigilance Officers (CVO) in government offices.
- President of India appoints CVC members by warrant under his hand and seal.
- The Oath of office is administered by the President.
- A three-member committee made of –**
- The Prime Minister, The Home Minister, The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha – Makes the Recommendation for appointment of Vigilance Commissioners.**
- The Vigilance Commissioners are appointed for a term of Four years OR until they attain 65 years of age (whichever is earlier).



- On retirement – they are NOT eligible for reappointment in any central or state government agency.

### Functions of CVC

- The CVC monitors all vigilance activity under the Central Government. It advises various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.
- The CVC recommends appropriate action on complaints on corruption or misuse of power.
- Lokpal, Central Government or Whistle blowers can approach the CVC regarding complaints.
- The CVC – Under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 – can inquire into offences reported against certain categories of Public Servants. (CVC is NOT an Investigating agency).
- The Annual Report of the CVC not only gives the details of the work done by it but also brings out the system failures which leads to corruption in various Departments/Organisations, system improvements, various preventive measures and cases in which the Commission's advises were ignored etc.

### Composition of CVC:

The CVC is comprised of 3 members:

- A Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson)
- Up to Two Vigilance Commissioners (Members)

### Removal of members (according to CVC Act)

The Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner can be removed from his office only by order of the President on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity after the Supreme Court reports that the officer ought to be removed after inquiry, on a reference made to it by the President.

### Also, a member can be removed if the member:

- Is Adjudged as an insolvent
- Is convicted of an offence that involves moral turpitude according to Central Government
- Engages in Office of profit outside the duties of his office
- Is declared unfit by reason of infirmity of mind or body, by the President
- Participates / Concerned / Interested to Participate – in any way in the profit / in any benefit – in any contract or agreement made by or on behalf of the Government of India

## National e-Governance Division

- The NeGD was **created in 2009** as an independent business division under the Digital India Corporation.
- The division supports the ministry in Programme Management and implementation of the e-Governance Projects and provides technical and advisory support.**
- NeGD's major operational areas include programme management, project development, technology management, capacity building, awareness and communications-related activities under the flagship Digital India Programme.
- It has developed DigiLocker, Umang, Poshan Tracker, Academic Bank of Credits, National AI Portal, MyScheme, India Stack Global, etc.**

## Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission, or CIC, is a **statutory body established under the Right to Information Act, 2005.**
- The Central Information Commission is **headed by a Chief Information Commissioner of India and has a maximum of 10 Information Commissioners.**
- The CIC members should be people of eminent personal life with a wide knowledge of laws, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, governance, etc.
- The **President appoints** the Central Information Commission on the committee's recommendation, consisting of the Prime Minister as head, the opposition leader in Lok Sabha, and any cabinet ministers of the union nominated by the Prime Minister as members.
- The **tenure of the Central Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners is decided by the central government or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.**
- They are **not eligible for reappointment.**
- The salary, allowances, and service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner or Information Commissioners depend on the central government.

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- The President can remove the CIC Commissioner on the advice of the Supreme Court on the ground of proven misbehavior or incapacity.

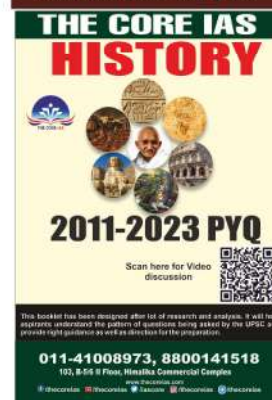
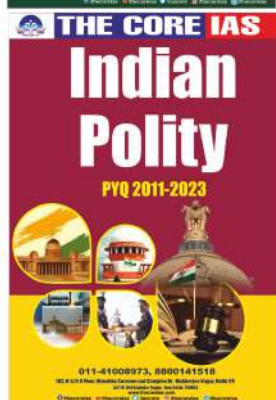
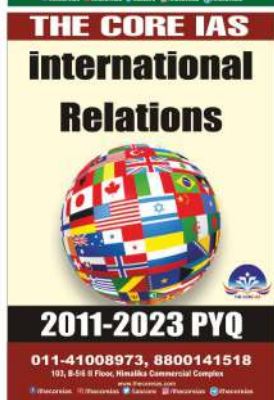
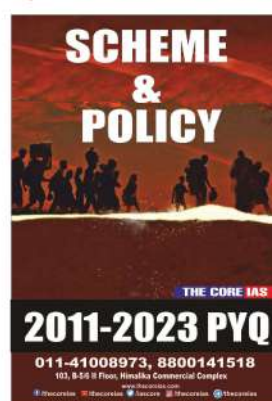
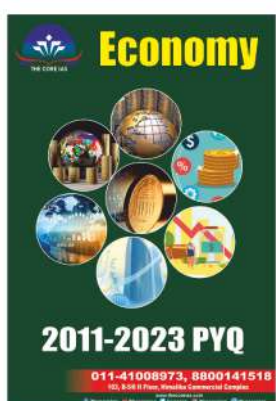
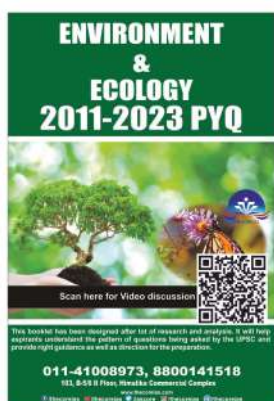
## Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository

- During the Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit, PM Narendra Modi announced the launch of two India-led initiatives:
- Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR)**
- It is a comprehensive resource hub, pooling essential lessons and expertise from G20 members and guest nations.

Its primary aim is to bridge the knowledge gap in the choices and methodologies required for the design, construction, deployment, and governance of DPIs.

- Social Impact Fund (SIF)**
- It is envisioned as a government-led, multistakeholder initiative to fast-track DPI implementation in the global south.
- This fund will offer financial support to provide upstream technical and non-technical assistance to countries in developing DPI systems.
- India has pledged an initial commitment of 25 million USD.

## OTHER PYQ BOOKLETS



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### Project Collaboration Agreement

- WHO (World Health Organization) and the Ministry of Ayush will jointly complete the work of formulation of the Traditional Medicine Global Strategy 2025-34.
- **The Ministry of Ayush and WHO together will shoulder the responsibility of preserving the rich heritage of Traditional and Complementary Medicine as well as making it modern, authentic, and global.**
- The main objective is to integrate aspects like standardization, quality, and safety of Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems into the National Health System and to disseminate them at the international level.
- This agreement will mainstream Traditional and Complementary Medicine into India's National Health System and also serve the global health objectives.
- Its focus is to develop an international herbal pharmacopoeia focusing on herbs native to South-East Asia.

### G7 (Group of Seven) Trade Ministers Meeting

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry participated in the G7 (Group of Seven) Trade Ministers Meeting in Osaka, Japan.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Enhancing Supply Chain Resilience**
- **Collaborative Regulatory Framework**
- **Global Value Chains Framework**
- **Public-Private Partnership**
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**
- **Rules of Origin of products**
- **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**

G7:



- **G7 stands for Group of Seven, which is an international intergovernmental economic organization consisting of seven member countries.**
- **The member countries are the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom.**
- Its members are the **world's largest IMF advanced economies and wealthiest liberal democracies.**
- As of 2020, the collective accounts for slightly more than 50% of global net wealth (that's \$418 trillion), 32 to 46 percent of global GDP and includes about 770 million people, or 10 percent of the world's population.

#### Background:

- G7 was founded in 1975 as the G6, consisting of the six richest countries in the world at that time.
- Canada joined the group in 1976, and the group became known as the G7.
- The group meets annually to discuss global economic issues and make decisions that can affect the global economy.
- **All the G7 countries are a part of G20.**
- **The G7 does not have a formal charter or a secretariat.** The presidency, which rotates among member countries each year, is in charge of setting the agenda. **Sherpas, ministers and**

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**envoys hammer out policy initiatives before the summit.**

#### Objectives:

- To promote economic growth and stability, enhance international trade, and coordinate policies on economic issues among the member countries.
- To address global challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity, and geopolitical tensions.

### India – Sri Lanka Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA)

#### Context:

India and Sri Lanka re-launched the negotiations of the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA).

#### Details:

- Both sides undertook discussions on Trade in Goods, Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Trade in Services, Custom Procedure and Trade Facilitation, Rules of Origin, Trade Remedies, Economic & Technology Cooperation and Dispute Settlement.
- Both sides discussed challenges and issues in trade relations and acknowledged the possibility of enhancement of bilateral trade between the countries.

### India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue

#### Context:

The 15th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue was held in New Delhi.

#### Details:

- Both sides reviewed the defence cooperation between both countries and agreed to enhance bilateral defence engagements further.
- Both sides identified ways to augment existing areas of collaboration, especially in the domain of maritime security and multilateral cooperation.

### International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS)

#### Context:

The Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous organization of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of





Commerce and Industry hosted the 3rd International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS) in New Delhi.

#### Purpose:

- ICSTS aimed to create awareness and facilitate discussions on the challenges and advantages of voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) in enhancing the environmental and social aspects of global value chains.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Bilateral Agreement with ARSO:** QCI and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) signed an agreement to enhance trade relations and harmonize standards, with a focus on promoting global trade.
- **International Partnerships:** India established partnerships with Brazil and Mexico and further extended cooperation with ARSO in the realm of Voluntary Sustainability Standards.
- **Importance of Sustainability Standards:** Emphasis was placed on sustainability standards as essential rules to ensure that the products purchased do not harm the environment or the people involved in their production.
- **ONDC Initiative:** The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative was spotlighted for its role in driving digitalization in e-commerce within India, enhancing accessibility and efficiency in the digital age. It adhered to international standards, ensuring data confidentiality and trustworthiness.
- **Digital Readiness Assessment:** QCI was designated to assess the digital readiness of entities, facilitating their smooth integration into the ONDC Network's Seller App.
- **Alignment of Agricultural Standards:** During ICSTS, India Good Agricultural Practices (IndG.AP.) standards were compared to GLOBAL Good Agricultural Practices (GLOBALG.A.P.) standards through the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) mechanism. Furthermore, the creation of National Interpretation Guidelines (NIG) occurred at the event, enabling the alignment of Indian agricultural practices with global standards and offering guidelines for their application in India.
- **Benefiting Farmers:** These efforts are expected to benefit approximately 12,000 farmers by ensuring that they meet international standards for quality and sustainability.

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## India-France Letter of Intent

### Context:

India-France Letter of Intent in Public Administration and Administrative Reforms signed.

### Details:

- The Letter of Intent was signed between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India and M/o Public Sector Transformation & the Civil Service of France.
- The Letter of Intent aims to boost the bilateral partnership between India and France through exchange visits focused on administrative reforms, good governance webinars, research publications, institutional exchanges, capacity-building programs and replication of good governance practices.
- A Joint Working Group will be set up under the aegis of the Letter of Intent that will chart out the roadmap for fulfilling the mandate of the Letter of Intent.

## Quality Council of India (QCI)

- QCI is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
- The Chairperson is nominated by the Prime Minister of India.
- It was jointly founded in 1997 through a collaboration between the Government of India and prominent industry associations, namely the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).**
- QCI's primary objective is to enhance and promote quality standards across diverse sectors in India.
- It assumes responsibility for accreditation, certification, and quality promotion within the Indian context.

### Other Points:

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was designated as the focal point for all matters related to quality.

- DPIIT collaborates with QCI to structure and facilitate the implementation of Cabinet decisions in this regard.
- QCI operates under the governance of a Council comprised of 39 members, including the Chairperson and Secretary General.**
- The Council features equal representation from the Government, Industry, and other Stakeholders, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach to quality-related initiatives.

## World Food India 2023

### Context:

The second edition of 'World Food India 2023' was inaugurated recently in New Delhi.

### World Food India 2023

- World Food India 2023** serves as a gateway to India's food economy, fostering collaboration between domestic and international investors.
- This event brings together a diverse range of participants, including manufacturers, producers, food processors, investors, policymakers, and organizations from across the global food ecosystem.**
- Seed Capital Assistance to over one lakh Self Help Group (SHG) members is provided.**
- The mascot for World Food India 2023 is "MillInd," a probot, representing the event.**
- At World Food India A special session on Ayush Aahar will also be organized. The session will discuss the importance of the Ayush diet, the health benefits of the Ayush diet, etc. The session will also discuss the efforts to make Ayurveda a part of the daily lives of common people across the globe. The efforts to promote innovation in the Ayush sector, consultations with unicorns, and new start-ups entering Ayush sector will be discussed in detail.**

### Focus Pillars:

- Shree Anna (Millets): Leveraging India's Super Food for the World**
- Exponential Food Processing: Positioning India as the Global Hub**

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## Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

- A statutory body under the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- **Designated as the Central Authority for handling inter-country adoptions in line with the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by India in 2003.**

### Functions:

- Nodal body regulating the adoption of “orphaned, surrendered, and abandoned children” in India.
- Monitors and regulates entities such as State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARAs), Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs), Authorized Foreign Adoption Agencies (AFAAs), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), and District Child Protective Units (DPU).

### Legal Framework in India:

- Child placement with a family is governed by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956; the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890; and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.
- Mandatory registration of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and linking to CARA is outlined in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

### Hague Convention:

- The Convention establishes safeguards for children and families involved in inter-country adoptions.
- Aims to prevent the illegal abduction, sale, or trafficking of children during adoptions.
- **Objectives:**
- Protect children and families from illegal or ill-prepared inter-country adoptions.
- Prevent abduction, sale, or trafficking of children.
- Establish minimum standards while recognizing that it does not serve as a uniform law of adoption.

## Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) Initiative

- Announced during the 2022 Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo.
- Designed to track “dark shipping” and establish a more comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of maritime activities in partner countries' waters across three vital Indo-Pacific regions: the Pacific

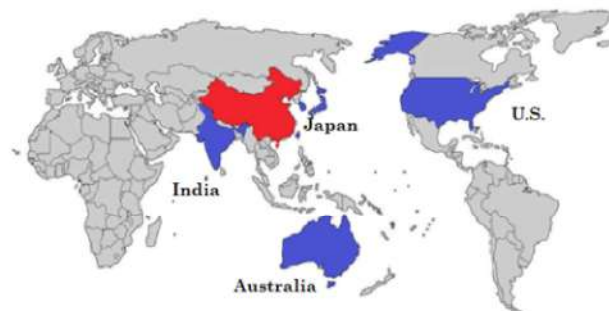
Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

### Purpose:

- A technology and training program aimed at improving maritime domain awareness within the Indo-Pacific area and increasing transparency in its significant maritime routes.
- Utilizes advanced technology, including commercial satellite radio frequency data collection, to supply partner countries in Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean region, and the Pacific with near real-time data regarding activities occurring within their maritime territories.

### About QUAD:

The "Quad" Counter to China



- **The Quad is an informal strategic forum comprising four nations, namely –India, United States of America, Australia and Japan.**
- **Primary objectives of the Quad are, to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.**
- **The group for the first time met in 2007 on the side lines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).**





- It is considered an alliance of maritime democracies.
- The forum is maintained through meetings, semi-regular summits, information exchanges, and military drills of all the member countries.
- The motive behind the Quad is, to keep the strategic sea routes in the Indo-Pacific, free of any military or political influence.
- The core objective of the Quad is, to secure a rules-based global order, freedom of navigation and, a liberal trading system.
- The coalition also aims to offer, alternative debt financing for nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### **Purpose:**

- Quad is not a security or military partnership.
- Its purpose is to advance cooperation on key priorities in specific sectors that is consistent with international law
- It promotes shared values of its members and underpins peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- A U.S. State Department spokesperson said that "We work to support the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity through open dialogue and information sharing on a diverse set of issue areas, including Maritime Security".

#### **Significance:**

- Helping to vaccinate a big part of the world and getting a lot of vaccines out there,
- Strengthening maritime security to push back against aggression and coercion in the Indo-Pacific region,
- Working together on emerging technologies and making sure that they can be used in positive ways and an increasingly broad and deep agenda.
- It also supports many activities/platforms as part of its shared approach to the Indo-Pacific.

### **India – US Commercial Dialogue**

- The Commercial Dialogue (CD) is a cooperative undertaking at the ministerial level between India and the U.S. to facilitate regular discussion to deepen ties between business communities, encompassing regular government-to-government meetings to be held in conjunction with private sector meetings, with an aim to facilitate trade

and maximize investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sectors.

### **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific**

India is hosting the 33rd Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi.

#### **Details:**

- This conference is being hosted by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- The WOAH Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific has 36 member countries including India.
- The conference will host delegates from its member countries, regional and international organizations and representatives from the private sector and private veterinary organizations in the region.

#### **Significance:**

- The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic emphasize the crucial role of scientific expertise in assessing risks at the human-animal-environment interface.
- COVID-19 pandemic also underscored the necessity to enhance resilience and capacity in Veterinary Services for future challenges.
- Hence, to avoid vulnerabilities of potential pandemics, Conferences like WOAH Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific will facilitate closer contact, active dialogue, and meaningful debates among delegates, invited experts and key regional partners and will foster valuable discussions and build essential networking relationships.

#### **WOAH Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific:**

- The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has set up five Regional Commissions to express specific problems facing its members in the different regions of the world. These Commissions can be seen as full-fledged regional institutional bodies.
- The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific **organizes a Conference once every two years** in one of the countries of the region.

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- **These conferences aim to develop technical items and foster regional cooperation for the control of animal diseases. Regional programmes are also considered to reinforce major disease surveillance and control.**
- The Regional Commissions report on their activities and submit recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates.

### India-OPEC Energy Dialogue

- The 6th high-level meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue was held at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Austria.
- The meeting focused on key issues related to oil and energy markets with a specific emphasis on ensuring availability, affordability and sustainability, which are necessary to ensure the stability of energy markets.
- **The sides noted the World Oil Outlook 2023, which forecasted that India would be the fastest-growing major developing economy, averaging long-term growth of 6.1% between 2022 and 2045 and accounting for over 28% of incremental global energy demand during the same period.**

### National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX)

- It is a digital health claims platform developed by the National Health Authority.
- **The IRDAI issued a circular in June 2023 wherein it advised all insurers and providers to onboard the NHCX.**
- The NHCX will serve as a gateway for exchanging claims-related information among various stakeholders in the healthcare and health insurance ecosystem.
- The integration with NHCX will facilitate seamless interoperability of health claims processing, enhancing efficiency and transparency in the insurance industry benefiting policyholders and patients.

### The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

It is a unique type of trade pact that the United States is pushing among the region's governments. India and 12 nations led by the United States

inaugurated the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in 2022 to provide an economic alternate solution to China's Geostrategic footprint in the Indo-Pacific area.

**The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic relationships between all of the participating nations to enhance resilience, sustainable development, inclusiveness, economic expansion, fair treatment, and competitive spirit in the Indo-Pacific region.**

**IPEF with twelve initial partners who collectively account for 40% of global GDP.**

The nations shared a determination to create a free, accessible, transparent, inclusive, interconnected, robust, safe, and affluent Indo-Pacific region with the potential for sustained and inclusive growth in the economy, according to a joint statement.

#### IPEF has four pillars:

- Trade
- Supply Chains
- Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Infrastructure
- Tax and Anti-Corruption

#### Significance

Manufacturing, business activity, global trade, and investment are all centred around the Indo-Pacific area. For millennia, India has been a major hub in the Indo-Pacific region's commercial operations. As a result, finding shared and innovative answers to the region's economic difficulties is critical. The Indo-Pacific region is home to half of the world's population as well as more than 60% of world GDP. This is a significant step toward rebuilding US economic dominance in the area and providing Indo-Pacific countries with a viable alternative to China's approaches to these key challenges.

#### Issues:

- **Non-Tariff Barriers:**
- IPEF can act as a good platform to settle issues related to **non-tariff barriers like sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).**
- **Non-Tariff Barriers:** It is a way to restrict trade using trade barriers in a form other than tariffs. Nontariff barriers include quotas, embargoes, certificates, sanctions, levies and other restrictions.

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- **MSMEs in developing countries** are not able to tap the opportunities provided by the platforms like IPEF because of the non-tariff barriers. And hence ironing out these differences can give a boost to countries like India.
- IPEF may consider developing a standardized framework for acceptable quality of goods, which can be gradually enhanced over time.
- Rather than enforcing excessively high standards, the focus should be on capacity building, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing to help developing countries in the south remain competitive.
- The presence of **Public Development Banks (PDBs)** within the IPEF member countries could have a catalytic impact, provided that the economic framework of these Indo-Pacific nations is appropriately designed.
- By effectively utilizing PDBs with adequate government backing for strategic projects aligned with the objectives of IPEF, the bond between developed and developing countries could be strengthened.

### International Sugar Organization (ISO)

- The ISO functions as a crucial intergovernmental entity dedicated to advancing the dynamics of the worldwide sugar market.
- Representing 87% of global sugar production and 64% of consumption, the organization boasts a diverse membership of approximately 88 nations, including India.
- Administered by the ISO, the ISA aims to cultivate international cooperation in sugar-related affairs, stimulate discussions among governments to enhance the global sugar economy, disseminate market information, and promote diversified sugar use.

### Sugar Industry in India

- India has secured its position as the largest consumer and the second-largest producer of sugar on the global stage. Boasting a considerable

15% share in worldwide sugar consumption and maintaining a robust 20% production rate, India wields significant influence over international sugar dynamics.

- Serving as the Eastern Hemisphere's market leader in sugar, India complements Brazil's dominant presence in the Western Hemisphere. This dual leadership solidifies India's role as a pivotal player in shaping the global sugar landscape.

### Geographical Conditions:

- **Temperature and Climate:** The growth of sugar thrives in regions with temperatures ranging between 21-27°C, coupled with a hot and humid climate—a characteristic well-suited for the cultivation of sugarcane.
- **Rainfall:** A crucial factor in sugar cultivation, the optimal range of rainfall falls between 75-100 cm, ensuring the adequate moisture required for the growth of sugarcane.
- **Soil Type:** Deep and rich loamy soil serves as the preferred medium for sugar cultivation, providing the necessary nutrients for the thriving sugarcane crops.

### Distribution and Production Regions:

- **Northern Belt:** Encompassing states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, and Bihar, the northern belt stands as a significant hub for sugar production in India.
- **Southern Belt:** Spanning Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, the southern belt capitalizes on a tropical climate. This region is conducive to higher sucrose content in crops, translating to increased yields per unit area when compared to northern India.
- **Regional Disparities:** The varying climatic conditions between the northern and southern regions contribute to regional disparities in sugar production, with the southern belt enjoying advantages in terms of yield and quality due to its tropical climate.

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# SCHEME

## YANTRA

- YANTRA is a platform, championed by NIMHANS along with Jignasa, to reinforce and rekindle the effectiveness of Ayush system of medicine in curing as well as enriching the quality of lives of the people.
- With an objective to revitalise the Ayush system of medicine, be it Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Sowa Rigpa or Homoeopathy, this platform has a focus approach to make Ayush systems as mainstream in Public Health and Primary Healthcare to fulfil the Universal Health Coverage goal set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- It aims to bring all school boards from different States and the Union Territories to a common platform.
- It is launched under the ambit of National Education Policy 2020.
- It will conduct large-scale assessments, including the National Achievement Survey (NAS).
- The center will be responsible for managing India's participation in international assessments like the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).

### Objective:

- It focuses on determining the process of policymaking, evaluation criteria, and assessment skills.
- It aims to:
- **Promote critical and creative thinking**
- **Impart education associated with the industry**
- **Improve the quality of education**

### Significance:

- It will act as a common platform for the interaction of all concerned stakeholders.
- It will help in developing a holistic approach that ensures a fair assessment system that promotes equity in performance and equivalence in student assessment.
- It will reassess the prevailing rote learning culture in India's education system.
- It will emphasize that multiple dimensions of a student's abilities and potential are equally important for the overall education of a child.
- It will strike a balance between formative and summative assessments. It will further reduce the burden of high-stakes examinations and effectively measure a student's progress.
- PARAKH would address the issue of students of some state boards being at a disadvantage during college admissions as against the students of CBSE schools.

## PARAKH

- The State Educational Achievement Survey by PARAKH was conducted to understand the baseline performance in developing the competencies at the end of the foundational, preparatory, and middle stages.
- **The primary objective of this survey is to assess the learning competencies of students at the end of each educational stage, i.e., foundational, preparatory, and middle (classes 3, 6 and 9) with a primary focus on Language and Mathematics.**
- The insights gained from this survey will lead to evidence-based decision-making and the implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the education system.

### What is PARAKH?

- PARAKH stands for **Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**.
- PARAKH has been notified by the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) as India's first national assessment regulator.
- It is established as a National Assessment Centre for setting standards and prescribing norms to improve the educational ecosystem of India.



- It will bring uniformity among different boards and reduce wide disparities.

### Workshop on Transformative Technology – Promoting Development, Growth and Innovation through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs)

NITI Aayog to organise workshop on the Transformative Technology – Promoting Development, Growth and Innovation through DPIs.

This workshop will endeavour to bring together various views from experts, entrepreneurs, innovators, academia, representatives of think-tanks, and government in the DPI space to identify the way forward and the required resources to achieve the objectives and outcomes mentioned in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

**It will be divided into following four segments:**

1. **Digital Identities for Empowering People:** Digital Identity is the foundation for any well-thought-out DPI ecosystem as that is the key for the citizen to unlock all the benefits and services available to them and is a major accelerant for inclusion. The segment will explore various pathways for implementation of digital identity systems and deliberate on concerns, strategies, standards and regulatory structures of digital identity systems.
2. **Payments: Fuelling the Digital Economy:** The UPI platform has been the driver of the exponential growth of digital payments in India. UPI has simplified the process of digital transactions enabling financial inclusion. This segment will discuss successes of UPI in India, replicability of UPI in other countries and internationalization of UPI.
3. **Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA): a DPI-led approach to help India become an AI model-building nation:** This segment will delve into implications of DEPA for various stakeholders, regulatory challenges in AI, possibilities of international regulatory framework for data sharing and ethical considerations, such as fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI development.
4. **Unlocking Opportunities: The Power of Open Networks:** The segment will explore role of open networks in reshaping digital ecosystems,

challenges in implementation of open networks and avenues of public-private partnership in development of open networks.

This workshop will be an opportunity for industry, academics, experts, and civil society representatives to collaborate and design a roadmap for enabling, inclusive, open, fair, non-discriminatory, secure and resilient digital economies within all countries, while respecting applicable legal frameworks.

### Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

#### Context:

Recently, a youth delegation from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh who are attending the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP) called on the President of India.

#### Organized by:

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan with support from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to facilitate the development of tribal youth.

#### Objectives:

- Cultural Learning
- Exposure to Advancements
- Preservation of Heritage
- Peer-Interaction
- Interactions
- Personality Development
- Exposure to Industry
- Literature on Development Schemes

### Jal Diwali -"Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign"

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is all set to unveil a progressive initiative "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign" under its flagship scheme - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), in partnership with the Ministry's National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM). Odisha Urban Academy is the knowledge partner.
- The campaign aims to provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance. They will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in

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their respective cities. These visits will elucidate the vital procedures involved in delivering clean and safe drinking water to households. Additionally, women will gain insight into water quality testing protocols which ensure that citizens get water of the required quality. The overarching goal of the campaign is to instill a sense of ownership and belonging among women towards water infrastructure.

- **The women play a significant role in household water management.** By empowering women with knowledge about water treatment processes and infrastructure, MoHUA aims to enhance their ability to ensure access to safe and clean drinking water for their households. The campaign aims to address issues of gender equality by promoting inclusivity and diversity in sectors traditionally dominated by men.
- **The phase I of “Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign”, “Jal Diwali” shall witness participation from all States/ UTs (barring the 5 States under Model Code of Conduct), with an expected participation of more than 15,000 SHG women, nationwide. The focus areas of the campaign include:**
  1. Familiarizing the women with functioning of Water Treatment Plants & water testing facilities
  2. Promote inclusivity & involvement through souvenirs & articles created by Women SHGs
  3. Familiarizing & educating the women about AMRUT scheme & its impact on water infrastructure
- **The anticipated outcomes of the campaign include increased awareness and knowledge on water treatment, sense of ownership and responsibility, promotion of inclusivity, empowerment of SHGs, positive community impact and model for future initiatives.**
- MoHUA has called upon all State and City officials to actively participate and support this initiative, marking a significant stride towards including women in the vital space of water infrastructure under AMRUT.

## Digital Life Certificate Campaign (DLC) 2.0

### Context:

A nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign 2.0 was launched with a target of 50 lakh DLCs of Central Government Pensioners.

### Details:

- The Digital Life Certificate (DLC) i.e., Jeevan Pramaan has been promoted by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare for the 'ease of living' of Central Government pensioners.
- **The Department with the Ministry of Electronics and IT along with UIDAI is developing a Face Authentication technology system based on the Aadhar database, which will make it possible to submit LC from any Android-based smartphone.**
- As per this facility, the identity of a person is established through the face authentication technique and DLC gets generated.
- This technology, launched in November 2021, reduced the dependence of pensioners on external biometric devices and made the process more accessible and affordable to the masses by leveraging smartphone-based technology.

## Legal Literacy and legal Awareness Program (LLLAP)

### Initiation:

- **Launched by the Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India since 2012.**
- **Implementation in North Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura) and UT of Jammu & Kashmir.**

### Focus:

- Major focus on legal empowerment of communities, dissemination of simplified Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in local languages, and capacity development of Panchayati Raj Functionaries and Village Chiefs.

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**Aim:**

- Aimed at empowering the poor and disadvantaged sections of society to seek and demand justice services.
- Program named ‘**Designing Innovating Solutions and Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)**’ formulated for the period 2021 to 2026.

**Objectives:**

- Utilize technology for enhanced delivery of legal literacy, Knowledge Products, and implementation of innovative and holistic ideas.
- Forge partnerships across Ministries, allied Departments, Institutions, and Schools to mainstream legal literacy.
- Build and enhance the capacities of existing grassroots/frontline workers and volunteers.
- Develop indicators to measure legal literacy and legal awareness in India.
- Conduct concurrent evaluation and assessment of Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programs to ensure effectiveness.

**CITIIS 2.0**

**Context:** The Union government approved the **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) 2.0** programme that seeks to support projects **promoting a circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management at the city level.**

The programme envisages supporting **competitively selected projects promoting a circular economy** with a focus on **integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the state level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the national level.**

**About CITIIS 1.0:**

CITIIS, a sub-component of Smart Cities Mission, is a joint program of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). CITIIS 1.0 was launched in 2018 and assisted 12 cities across India in sustainable urban infrastructure projects

**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana****Context:**

Recently, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has discussed the technical challenges in the implementation of the Aquaculture Crop Insurance scheme for Shrimp and Fish farming under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme.

**About:**

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched in 2020 to bring about **Blue Revolution** through the sustainable development of the fisheries sector over a period of five years (2020-2025).
- It is an umbrella scheme to develop the fisheries sector with a total outlay of Rs. **20050 crores.**

**Components**

- The **Central Sector Scheme (CS)** component with a non-beneficiary-oriented scheme and a Beneficiary oriented scheme (Central Assistance for General Category – 40%; SC/ST/Women – 60%).
- A **Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** component also with a non-beneficiary-oriented scheme and Beneficiary oriented scheme. The different break-ups of funding are: Central Assistance for Northeastern States – 90%, Other States – 60%; and UTs – 100%.

**Insurance coverage:**

- Rs.5,00,000/- against accidental death or permanent total disability,
- Rs.2,50,000/- for permanent partial disability
- Hospitalization expenses in the event of accident for a sum of Rs. 25,000/-.

**Objectives:**

- Develop fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- Harness the potential of fisheries sector in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner
- Efficient use of land and water resources to enhance fish production and productivity.
- Modernize value chain considering post-harvest management and quality improvement.
- Double fishers and fish farmers’ incomes

- Generate employment in the fisheries sector.
- Enhance fisheries sector's contribution to overall agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) and exports.
- Provide social, economic and physical security to fish farmers and fishermen.
- Develop a robust fisheries management and regulatory framework.

### IREDA Launches CSR Portal to Improve Transparency in CSR Initiatives

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal for enhancing transparency in its CSR initiatives. The portal will facilitate transparency in receipt and disposal of CSR requests from various organizations and institutions. It will be accessible to all 24x7, with a CSR policy and proposal checklist for examination of CSR requests. The portal will also contribute to the more efficient execution of IREDA's social welfare initiatives as part of its CSR efforts, making them readily available to the public.

### Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - MoU signed by National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) and SIDBI

This strategic partnership brings together the expertise of DAY-NRLM and SIDBI to create a transformative initiative aimed at promoting women-led enterprises among experienced members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The primary focus of this collaboration is to demonstrate on-the-ground activities that establish a reliable and sensitive support structure for the capacity enhancement of women entrepreneurs (WEs). Furthermore, it aims to institutionalize standard protocols, systems, and procedures for streamlined access to formal finance, as well as the development of a comprehensive framework for new financial products and schemes.



### Key outcomes expected from this collaboration are:

- Enhanced capacity and ability of State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLM) teams to promote the graduation of seasoned SHG members into micro-entrepreneurs
- The establishment of a reliable and sensitive support architecture for women-led enterprises, involving a network of field cadres, mentors, and experts
- The implementation of standardized protocols within DAY-NRLM to support women-led enterprises
- The formation of partnerships with financial institutions and a network of financiers
- The design and implementation of new financial schemes, such as credit guarantees and interest subventions
- The creation of clear, scalable models for promoting women-led enterprises which can be replicated nationwide

This strategic partnership reflects the Government's commitment to women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, focusing on making the entrepreneurial landscape more inclusive and supportive of women-led businesses. By combining the strengths of DAY-NRLM and SIDBI, this initiative seeks to open up new avenues for women entrepreneurs, ultimately contributing to the economic growth and prosperity of the nation.

### Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023

It is a groundbreaking initiative by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in India that aims to regulate and streamline the digital advertising landscape. This comprehensive policy, approved in November 2023, encompasses various aspects of digital advertising, including empanelment of digital platforms, rate discovery, content guidelines, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 represents a significant step towards regulating and streamlining the digital advertising landscape in India. It is expected to promote transparency, efficiency, and ethical practices in the industry while also enhancing the reach of government advertisements and protecting consumer interests.





Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)  
India

#### Key objectives:

- **Enhance transparency and efficiency in digital advertising:** The policy introduces a competitive bidding mechanism for rate discovery, ensuring fair pricing and transparency in advertising costs.
- **Expand the reach of government advertisements:** By empaneling a wider range of digital platforms, including websites, OTT (Over-the-top) services, and podcasts, the policy enables the government to reach a larger audience and disseminate information effectively.
- **Promote ethical and responsible digital advertising:** The policy establishes clear guidelines for content moderation and prohibits misleading or deceptive advertisements.
- **Empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC):** The policy empowers the CBC, the government's advertising arm, to effectively manage and execute digital advertising campaigns.

#### Significant features:

- **Empanelment process:** Websites with a minimum of 2.5 lakh unique users per month, OTT platforms, and podcasts can apply for empanelment with the CBC.
- **Competitive bidding for rate discovery:** A competitive bidding process will be conducted to determine advertising rates, ensuring transparency and fairness.
- **Content moderation guidelines:** Advertisers must adhere to guidelines that prohibit misleading, deceptive, or offensive content.

- **Dispute resolution mechanism:** A structured dispute resolution mechanism is established to address grievances between advertisers, platforms, and consumers.

#### Impacts:

The Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 is expected to have a significant impact on the digital advertising industry in India. It is likely to lead to:

- **Increased transparency and efficiency in digital advertising:** The competitive bidding mechanism and clear guidelines are likely to bring more transparency and efficiency to the digital advertising market.
- **Wider reach for government advertisements:** The empanelment of a wider range of digital platforms will enable the government to reach a larger audience and enhance the effectiveness of its public service campaigns.
- **Improved consumer protection:** The content moderation guidelines are likely to protect consumers from misleading or deceptive advertisements.
- **Empowered CBC:** The CBC will have a stronger mandate to manage and execute digital advertising campaigns effectively.

#### SATHEE Portal

- The Education Ministry plans to write to all states to encourage aspirants to use the newly launched SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) portal for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) preparation.
- **SATHEE, an online coaching platform launched by the Ministry and IIT-Kanpur, is available for free and aims to bridge the barrier for students who cannot afford paid training programs.**
- SATHEE offers a 45-day crash course for JEE aspirants with live and recorded lectures, expertly designed curriculum, and doubt-clearing sessions.
- The platform uses artificial intelligence (AI) to interact with students, customising the learning pace for each student.
- Nearly 5,000 students have registered on the platform, with a goal to reach one lakh students.
- Pan-India mock tests are held, following the format used by the National Testing Agency for JEE.

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- The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy's goal of providing inclusive, high-quality education across the country.

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

A **central sector scheme** under the government of India which provides income support to the farmers and their families.

First implemented as the **Rythu Bandhu scheme** by the Government of Telangana where a certain amount was handed directly to the eligible farmers.

This scheme was introduced to augment the source of income of many small and marginal farmers.

Government launched the PM-KISAN scheme in 2019 in Gorakhpur.

Under this scheme, all small and marginal farmers will be provided with income support of Rs.6,000

per year in three instalments which will be deposited directly to their bank accounts. The total annual expenditure for this scheme is expected to be Rs.75,000 crore which will be financed by the Union Government.


#### Objectives:


- To provide income support to all eligible land-holding farmers and their families.
- PM-KISAN scheme also aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.
- The scheme is expected to increase the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries. It aims to cover around 2 crores more farmers with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 87,217.50 crores that will be funded by the Central Government.



I am thankful to Amit Jain Sir for unconditional support and guidance via answer writing and current affairs classes and help me realise my own potential.

Sangeeta Raghav  
UPPCS - 2018  
RANK - 02





**SANGEETA RAGHAW**

**Rank-2**

**UPPCS-2018**



# INDEX/REPORT

## Global TB Report 2023

### Context:

Recently World Health Organization released its Global TB Report 2023.

### Key Highlights of India's Progress:





- According to the Global TB Report 2023 released by WHO, India has made tremendous progress in improving case detection and reversing the impact of COVID-19 on the TB programme.
- India has made significant progress in improving case detection for tuberculosis (TB). The treatment coverage has increased to 80% of estimated TB cases, representing a 19% increase from the previous year.
- India has managed to reduce TB incidence by 16% in 2022 compared to 2015. This reduction is nearly double the global rate of TB incidence decline, which stands at 8.7%.
- Both India and the global TB mortality rates have decreased by 18% during the same period. The World Health Organization (WHO) revised the TB mortality rates for India, reducing them by over 34%, from 4.94 lakhs in 2021 to 3.31 lakhs in 2022.
- India and the WHO collaborated extensively to refine and finalize the data, involving over 50 meetings between technical teams. The data included evidence generated within the country, mathematical modeling, and information from the Ni-kshay portal, which tracks the treatment course of TB patients.
- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan** has garnered a tremendous response, with over 1 lakh Ni-kshay Mitras adopting more than 11 lakh TB patients. The Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana has disbursed about Rs 2613 crore to over 95 lakh TB patients since its launch in 2018. New patient-centric initiatives, such as the Family

Care Giver Model and Differentiated Care, aim to reduce mortality and improve treatment success rates.

- India has demonstrated a commitment to prioritize TB elimination efforts by investing additional resources in the National TB Elimination Programme under the National Health Mission.
- The mortality of TB has also reduced by 18% during the same period for India and globally.
- The report notes that India's intensified case detection strategies have resulted in the highest-ever notification of cases in 2022, during which, over 24.22 lakh TB cases were notified, surpassing the pre-COVID levels.
- The report also notes that India has taken bold steps to prioritize TB elimination efforts by investing additional resources in the National TB Elimination Programme being implemented under the aegis of the National Health Mission.

## Logistics Performance Index (LPI) Ranking

- To assess the measures taken and outcomes achieved in improving performance across six parameters of LPI including
  - Customs.**
  - Infrastructure**
  - Ease of arranging shipments**
  - Quality of logistics services**
  - Tracking and Tracing and**
  - Timeliness.**
- It highlighted that the targeted action plan is important to improve the logistics efficiency of the country and thereby India's ranking in the World Bank LPI.
- The measures taken by the stakeholder Ministries/ Departments will be showcased to the World Bank LPI team.

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# keyword for mains

- Gender equality is quintessence to any equality; there can be no equality in society if there is no gender equality
- Peace is not an option. It is the only way
- Artificial Intelligence is a powerful tool to fight poverty, deliver goods and services to remote areas, and reskill workforce for the future
- Artificial intelligence is one of the most significant production shift since industrial revolution; the world is near an inflection point
- **India's bioeconomy stood at just about \$10 Billion, today it is \$80 Billion. In just 8/9 years it has gone (up) 8 times and we look forward to having \$300 Billion by 2030.**

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