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(Preliminary Examination)

Current Issues

(February - 2022)

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Current Issues

(February - 2022)

ECONOMY SURVEY & BUDGET 2022-2023

- KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ECONOMIC SURVEY 2021-22
- 9.2 PERCENT GROWTH EXPECTED IN REAL TERMS IN 2021-22
- GDP PROJECTED TO GROW 8.0-8.5 PERCENT IN 2022-23
- PANDEMIC: GOVERNMENT'S SUPPLY SIDE REFORMS PREPARING ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINED LONGTERM EXPANSION
- CAPEX GROWS BY 13.5 PERCENT (YoY) DURING APRIL-NOVEMBER, 2021
- FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES TOUCH US\$ 633.6 BILLION ON 31st DECEMBER, 2021
- MACROECONOMIC STABILITY INDICATORS SUGGEST ECONOMY WELL PLACED TO TAKE ON CHALLENGES OF 2022-23
- MASSIVE GROWTH IN REVENUE RECEIPTS
- SOCIAL SECTOR: EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AS PROPORTION OF GDP INCREASES TO 8.6 PERCENT IN 2021-22 (BE) AS COMPARED TO 6.2 PERCENT IN 2014-15
- WITH REVIVAL OF ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS BOUNCED BACK TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS DURING LAST QUARTER OF 2020-21
- MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS REBOUND STRONGLY AND SURPASS PRECOVID LEVELS
- BANK CREDIT ACCELERATES TO 9.2 PERCENT AS ON 31st DECEMBER, 2021
- Rs 89,066 CRORE RAISED VIA 75 IPOs; SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN IN ANY YEAR IN LAST DECADE

- CPI-C INFLATION MODERATES TO 5.2 PERCENT IN 2021-22 (APRIL-DECEMBER)
- FOOD INFLATION AVERAGES AT A LOW OF 2.9 PERCENT IN 2021-22 (APRIL-DECEMBER)
- EFFECTIVE SUPPLY SIDE MANAGEMENT KEEPS PRICES OF MOST ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES UNDER CONTROL
- AGRICULTURE: GVA REGISTERS BUOYANT GROWTH OF 3.9% IN 2021-22
- RAILWAYS: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SEES SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE TO Rs. 155,181 CRORE IN 2020-21; BUDGETED TO FURTHER INCREASE TO Rs. 215,058 CRORE IN 2021-22, A FIVE TIMES INCREASE COMPARED TO 2014 LEVEL
- PER DAY ROAD CONSTRUCTION INCREASES TO 36.5 KMS IN 2020-21 – RISE OF 30.4 PERCENT COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR
- SDGs: OVERALL SCORE ON NITI AAYOG DASHBOARD IMPROVES TO 66 IN 2020-21

The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament today. The highlights of the Economic Survey are as follows:

KEY POINTS

STATE OF THE ECONOMY:

- Indian economy estimated to grow by 9.2 percent in real terms in 2021-22 (as per first advanced estimates) subsequent to a contraction of 7.3 percent in 2020-21.
- GDP projected to grow by 8- 8.5 percent in real terms in 2022-23.
- The year ahead poised for a pickup in private sector investment with the financial system in good position to provide support for economy's revival.
- Projection comparable with World Bank and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 percent and 7.5 percent respectively for 2022-23.
- As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projections, India's real GDP projected to grow at 9 percent in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 percent in 2023-2024, which would make India the fastest growing major economy in the world for all 3years.

- Agriculture and allied sectors expected to grow by 3.9 percent; industry by 11.8 percent and services sector by 8.2 percent in 2021-22.
- On demand side, consumption estimated to grow by 7.0 percent, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by 15 percent, exports by 16.5 percent and imports by 29.4 percent in 2021-22.
- Macroeconomic stability indicators suggest that the Indian Economy is well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23.
- Combination of high foreign exchange reserves, sustained foreign direct investment, and rising export earnings will provide adequate buffer against possible global liquidity tapering in 2022-23.
- Economic impact of “second wave” was much smaller than that during the full lockdown phase in 2020-21, though health impact was more severe.
- Government of India’s unique response comprised of safety-nets to cushion the impact on vulnerable sections of society and the business sector, significant increase in capital expenditure to spur growth and supply side reforms for a sustained long-term expansion.
- Government’s flexible and multi-layered response is partly based on an “Agile” framework that uses feedback-loops, and the use of eighty High Frequency Indicators (HFIs) in an environment of extreme uncertainty.

FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS:

- The revenue receipts from the Central Government (April to November, 2021) have gone up by 67.2 percent (YoY) as against an expected growth of 9.6 percent in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates (over 2020-21 Provisional Actuals).
- Gross Tax Revenue registers a growth of over 50 percent during April to November, 2021 in YoY terms. This performance is strong compared to pre-pandemic levels of 2019-2020 also.
- During April-November 2021, Capex has grown by 13.5 percent (YoY) with focus on infrastructure-intensive sectors.
- Sustained revenue collection and a targeted expenditure policy has contained the fiscal deficit for April to November, 2021 at 46.2 percent of BE.
- With the enhanced borrowings on account of COVID-19, the Central Government debt has gone up from 49.1 percent of GDP in 2019-20 to 59.3 percent of GDP in 2020-21, but is expected to follow a declining trajectory with the recovery of the economy.

EXTERNAL SECTORS :

- India's merchandise exports and imports rebounded strongly and surpassed pre-COVID levels during the current financial year.
- There was significant pickup in net services with both receipts and payments crossing the pre-pandemic levels, despite weak tourism revenues.
- Net capital flows were higher at US\$ 65.6 billion in the first half of 2021-22, on account of continued inflow of foreign investment, revival in net external commercial borrowings, higher banking capital and additional special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.
- India's external debt rose to US \$ 593.1 billion at end-September 2021, from US \$ 556.8 billion a year earlier, reflecting additional SDR allocation by IMF, coupled with higher commercial borrowings.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed US\$ 600 billion in the first half of 2021-22 and touched US \$ 633.6 billion as of December 31, 2021.
- As of end-November 2021, India was the fourth largest forex reserves holder in the world after China, Japan and Switzerland.

MONETARY MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION:

- The liquidity in the system remained in surplus.
- Repo rate was maintained at 4 per cent in 2021-22.
- RBI undertook various measures such as G-Sec Acquisition Programme and Special Long-Term Repo Operations to provide further liquidity.

THE ECONOMIC SHOCK OF THE PANDEMIC HAS BEEN WEATHERED WELL BY THE COMMERCIAL BANKING SYSTEM:

- YoY Bank credit growth accelerated gradually in 2021-22 from 5.3 per cent in April 2021 to 9.2 per cent as on 31st December 2021.
- The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) declined from 11.2 per cent at the end of 2017-18 to 6.9 per cent at the end of September, 2021.
- Net Non-Performing Advances ratio declined from 6 per cent to 2.2 per cent during the same period.
- Capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of SCBs continued to increase from 13 per cent in 2013-14 to 16.54 per cent at the end of September 2021.
- The Return on Assets and Return on Equity for Public Sector Banks continued to be positive for the period ending September 2021.

EXCEPTIONAL YEAR FOR THE CAPITAL MARKETS:

- Rs. 89,066 crore was raised via 75 Initial Public Offering (IPO) issues in April-November 2021, which is much higher than in any year in the last decade.
- Sensex and Nifty scaled up to touch peak at 61,766 and 18,477 on October 18, 2021.
- Among major emerging market economies, Indian markets outperformed peers in April-December 2021.

PRICES AND INFLATION:

- The average headline CPI-Combined inflation moderated to 5.2 per cent in 2021-22 (April-December) from 6.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2020-21.
- The decline in retail inflation was led by easing of food inflation.
- Food inflation averaged at a low of 2.9 per cent in 2021-22 (April to December) as against 9.1 per cent in the corresponding period last year.
- Effective supply-side management kept prices of most essential commodities under control during the year.
- Proactive measures were taken to contain the price rise in pulses and edible oils.
- Reduction in central excise and subsequent cuts in Value Added Tax by most States helped ease petrol and diesel prices.
- Wholesale inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) rose to 12.5 per cent during 2021-22 (April to December).
- This has been attributed to:
 - Low base in the previous year,
 - Pick-up in economic activity,
 - Sharp increase in international prices of crude oil and other imported inputs, and
 - High freight costs.

DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CPI-C AND WPI INFLATION:

- The divergence peaked to 9.6 percentage points in May 2020.
- However, this year there was a reversal in divergence with retail inflation falling below wholesale inflation by 8.0 percentage points in December 2021.
- This divergence can be explained by factors such as:
 - Variations due to base effect,

- Difference in scope and coverage of the two indices,
- Price collections,
- Items covered,
- Difference in commodity weights, and
- WPI being more sensitive to cost-push inflation led by imported inputs.
- With the gradual waning of base effect in WPI, the divergence in CPI-C and WPI is also expected to narrow down.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

- India's overall score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard improved to 66 in 2020-21 from 60 in 2019-20 and 57 in 2018-19.
- Number of Front Runners (scoring 65-99) increased to 22 States and UTs in 2020-21 from 10 in 2019-20.
- In North East India, 64 districts were Front Runners and 39 districts were Performers in the NITI Aayog North-Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22.
- India has the tenth largest forest area in the world.
- In 2020, India ranked third globally in increasing its forest area during 2010 to 2020.
- In 2020, the forests covered 24% of India's total geographical, accounting for 2% of the world's total forest area.
- In August 2021, the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, was notified which is aimed at phasing out single use plastic by 2022.
- Draft regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging was notified.
- The Compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) located in the Ganga main stem and its tributaries improved from 39% in 2017 to 81% in 2020.
- The consequent reduction in effluent discharge has been from 349.13 millions of litres per day (MLD) in 2017 to 280.20 MLD in 2020.
- The Prime Minister, as a part of the national statement delivered at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow in November 2021, announced ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 to enable further reduction in emissions.
- The need to start the one-word movement 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) urging mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and destructive consumption was underlined.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD MANAGEMENT:

- The Agriculture sector experienced buoyant growth in past two years, accounting for a sizeable 18.8% (2021-22) in Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country registering a growth of 3.6% in 2020-21 and 3.9% in 2021-22.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy is being used to promote crop diversification.
- Net receipts from crop production have increased by 22.6% in the latest Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) compared to SAS Report of 2014.
- Allied sectors including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries are steadily emerging to be high growth sectors and major drivers of overall growth in agriculture sector.
- The Livestock sector has grown at a CAGR of 8.15% over the last five years ending 2019-20. It has been a stable source of income across groups of agricultural households accounting for about 15% of their average monthly income.
- Government facilitates food processing through various measures of infrastructure development, subsidized transportation and support for formalization of micro food enterprises.
- India runs one of the largest food management programmes in the world.
- Government has further extended the coverage of food security network through schemes like PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).

INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at 17.4 percent (YoY) during April-November 2021 as compared to (-)15.3 percent in April-November 2020.
- Capital expenditure for the Indian railways has increased to Rs. 155,181 crores in 2020-21 from an average annual of Rs. 45,980 crores during 2009-14 and it has been budgeted to further increase to Rs. 215,058 crores in 2021-22 – a five times increase in comparison to the 2014 level.
- Extent of road construction per day increased substantially in 2020-21 to 36.5 Kms per day from 28 Kms per day in 2019-20 – a rise of 30.4 percent.
- Net profit to sales ratio of large corporates reached an all-time high of 10.6 percent in in July-September quarter of 2021-22 despite the pandemic (RBI Study).
- Introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, major boost provided to infrastructure-both physical as well as digital, along with measures to reduce transaction costs and improve ease of doing business, would support the pace of recovery.

SERVICES:

- GVA of services crossed pre-pandemic level in July-September quarter of 2021-22; however, GVA of contact intensive sectors like trade, transport, etc. still remain below pre-pandemic level.
- Overall service Sector GVA is expected to grow by 8.2 percent in 2021-22.
- During April-December 2021, rail freight crossed its pre-pandemic level while air freight and port traffic almost reached their pre-pandemic levels, domestic air and rail passenger traffic are increasing gradually – shows impact of second wave was much more muted as compared to during first wave.
- During the first half of 2021-22, service sector received over US\$ 16.7 billion FDI – accounting for almost 54 percent of total FDI inflows into India.
- IT-BPM services revenue reached US\$ 194 billion in 2020-21, adding 1.38 lakh employees during the same period.
- Major government reforms include, removing telecom regulations in IT-BPO sector and opening up of space sector to private players.
- Services exports surpassed pre-pandemic level in January-March quarter of 2020-21 and grew by 21.6 percent in the first half of 2021-22 - strengthened by global demand for software and IT services exports.
- India has become 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world after US and China. Number of new recognized start-ups increased to over 14000 in 2021-22 from 733 in 2016-17.
- 44 Indian start-ups have achieved unicorn status in 2021 taking overall tally of unicorns to 83, most of which are in services sector.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND EMPLOYMENT:

- 157.94 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered as on 16th January 2022; 91.39 crore first dose and 66.05 crore second dose.
- With revival of economy, employment indicators bounced back to pre-pandemic levels during last quarter of 2020-21.
- As per the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PFLS) data up to March 2021, employment in urban sector affected by pandemic has recovered almost to the pre-pandemic level.
- According to Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) data, formalization of jobs continued during second COVID wave; adverse impact of COVID on formalization of jobs much lower than during the first COVID wave.
- Expenditure on social services (health, education and others) by Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2 % in 2014-15 to 8.6% in 2021-22 (BE)

AS PER THE NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY-5:

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) came down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under-five mortality rate and institutional births have improved in 2019-21 over year 2015-16
- Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), 83 districts have become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts.
- Increased allotment of funds to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) to provide buffer for unorganized labour in rural areas during the pandemic.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



- The Union Budget seeks to complement macro-economic level growth with a focus on micro-economic level all inclusive welfare.
- Tabling the Union Budget 2022-23 in Parliament on 1st February 2022, the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman said that we have entered into Amrit kaal, the 25-year-long leadup to India @100.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address had set-out the vision for India@100.
- By achieving certain goals during the Amrit Kaal, the government aims to attain the vision. They are:
 - Complementing the macro-economic level growth focus with a micro-economic level all-inclusive welfare focus,
 - Promoting digital economy & fintech, technology enabled development, energy transition, and climate action, and
 - Relying on virtuous cycle starting from private investment with public capital investment helping to crowdin private investment.

OVERVIEW

- India's economic growth estimated at 9.2% to be the highest among all large economies.
- 60 lakh new jobs to be created under the Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in 14 sectors.
- PLI Schemes have the potential to create an additional production of Rs 30 lakh crore.
- Entering Amrit Kaal, the 25 year long lead up to India @100, the budget provides impetus for growth with four priorities:
 - PM GatiShakti
 - Inclusive Development
 - Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action
 - Financing of investments

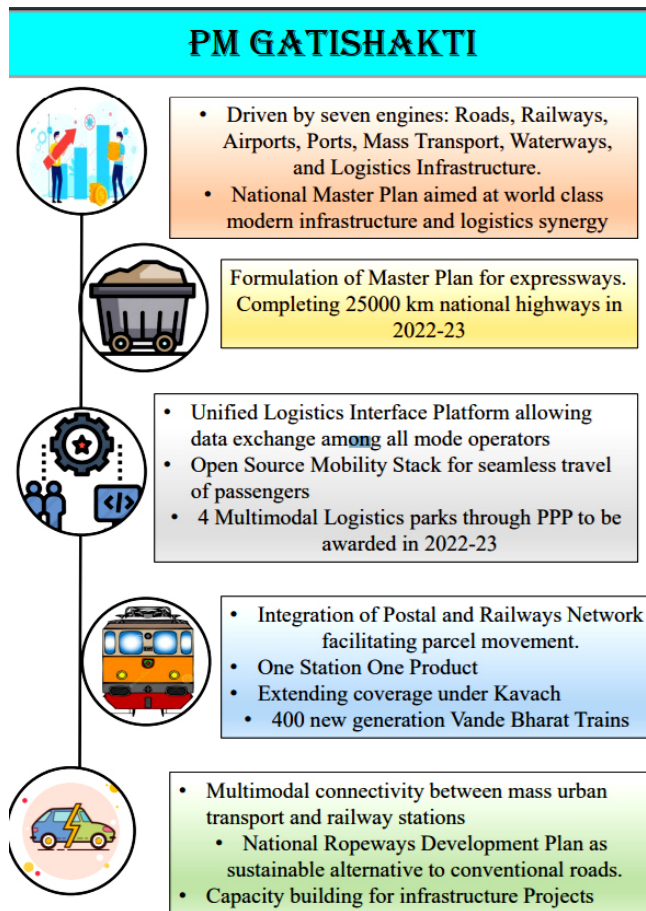
PM GATISHAKATI NATIONAL MASTER PLAN

About:

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi Modal Connectivity, launched in October 2021, is an initiative aimed at coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects. The objective is to bring down logistics costs.
- GatiShakti is a digital platform bringing development projects of 16 ministries, including railways and roadways, together for integrated planning and implementation.
- When launched, the GatiShakti scheme subsumed the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline announced in 2019.

Focus Area for Budget 2022-23:

- Its scope will encompass the seven engines (Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure).
- It will also include the infrastructure developed by the state governments as per the GatiShakti Master Plan.
- The touchstone of the Master Plan will be worldclass modern infrastructure and logistics synergy among different modes of movement – both of people and goods – and location of projects.



What are the Major Proposals for PM GatiShakti?

Road Transport:

- PM GatiShakti Master Plan for Expressways will be formulated in 2022-23 to facilitate faster movement of people and goods.
- National Highways network to be expanded by 25,000 km in 2022-23. Rs. 20,000 crore to be mobilized for the expansion.

Seamless Multimodal Movement of Goods and People:

- The data exchange among all mode operators will be brought on Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), designed for Application Programming Interface (API).
 - ✓ This will provide real time information to all stakeholders, lead to efficient movement of goods through different modes, and improve international competitiveness.
- Open-source mobility stack, for organizing seamless travel of passengers will also be facilitated.

Multimodal Logistics Parks:

- Contracts for implementation of Multimodal Logistics Parks at four locations through PPP (Public-Private Partnerships) mode will be awarded in 2022-23.

Railways:

- Railways will develop new products and efficient logistics services for small farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises, besides taking the lead in integration of Postal and Railways networks to provide seamless solutions for movement of parcels.
- ‘One Station-One Product’ concept to help local businesses & supply chains.
- As a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat, 2,000 km of network will be brought under Kavach, the indigenous world-class technology for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.
- 400 new-generation Vande Bharat Trains to be manufactured during the next three years.
- 100 PM GatiShakti Cargo Terminals for multimodal logistics facilities will be developed during the next three years.

Mass Urban Transport including Connectivity to Railways

- Innovative ways of financing and faster implementation will be encouraged for building metro systems of appropriate type at scale.
- Multimodal connectivity between mass urban transport and railway stations will be facilitated on priority.

Parvatmala : National Ropeways Development Programme:

- As a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative to conventional roads in difficult hilly areas, National Ropeways Development Programme will be taken up on PPP mode.
 - ✓ The aim is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.
- This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.

Capacity Building for Infrastructure Projects:

- With technical support from the Capacity Building Commission, central ministries, state governments, and their infra-agencies will have their skills upgraded.
- This will ramp up capacity in planning, design, financing (including innovative ways), and implementation management of the PM GatiShakti infrastructure projects

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture

- Rs. 2.37 lakh crore direct payment to 1.63 crore farmers for procurement of wheat and paddy.
- Chemical free Natural farming to be promoted throughout the country. Initial focus is on farmer's lands in 5 Km wide corridors along river Ganga.
- NABARD to facilitate fund with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture & rural enterprise.
- 'Kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.

Ken Betwa project

- 1400 crore outlay for implementation of the Ken - Betwa link project.
- 9.08 lakh hectares of farmers' lands to receive irrigation benefits by Ken-Betwa link project.

MSME

- Udyam, e-shram, NCS and ASEEM portals to be interlinked.
- 130 lakh MSMEs provided additional credit under Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)
- ECLGS to be extended up to March 2023.
- Guarantee cover under ECLGS to be expanded by Rs 50000 Crore to total cover of Rs 5 Lakh Crore.
- Rs 2 lakh crore additional credit for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- Raising and Accelerating MSME performance (RAMP) programme with outlay of Rs. 6000 Crore to be rolled out.

Skill Development

- Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to empower citizens to skill, reskill or upskill through online training.
- Startups will be promoted to facilitate 'Drone Shakti' and for Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS).

Education

- 'One class-One TV channel programme of PM EVIDYA to be expanded to 200 TV channels.
- Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to be set up to promote critical thinking skills and simulated learning environment.

- High-quality e-content will be developed for delivery through Digital Teachers. Digital University for worldclass quality universal education with personalised learning experience to be established.

Health

- An open platform for National Digital Health Ecosystem to be rolled out.
- "National Tele Mental Health Programme' for quality mental health counselling and care services to be launched.
- A network of 23 telemental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and Inter-national Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (ITB) providing technology support.

Saksham Anganwadi

- Integrated benefits to women and children through Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
- Two lakh anganwadis to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis.

Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal

- Rs. 60,000 crore allocated to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under Har Ghar, Nal se Jal.

Housing for All

- Rs.48,000 crore allocated for completion of 80 lakh houses in 2022-23 under PM Awas Yojana.

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE)

- New scheme PM-DevINE launched to fund infrastructure and social development projects in the North-East.
- An initial allocation of Rs.1,500 crore made to enable livelihood activities for youth and women under the scheme.

Vibrant Villages Programme

- Vibrant Villages Programme for development of Border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure on the northern border

Banking

- 100 per cent of 1.5 lakh post offices to come on the core banking system
- Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUS) in 75 districts.

PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT & INVESTMENT

- For the Amrit Kaal, the next phase of Ease of Doing Business EODB 2.0 and Ease of Living, will be launched.
- This new phase will be guided by an active involvement of the states, digitisation of manual processes and interventions, integration of the central and state-level systems through IT bridges, a single point access for all citizen-centric services, and a standardization and removal of overlapping compliances.

e-Passport

- e-Passports with embedded chip and futuristic technology to be rolled out.

Urban Planning

- Modernization of building byelaws, Town Planning Schemes (TPS), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) will be implemented.
- Battery swapping policy to be brought out for setting up charging stations at scale in urban areas.

Land Records Management

- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number for IT-based management of land records.

Accelerated Corporate Exit

- Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (CPACE) to be established for speedy winding-up of companies.

AVGC Promotion Task Force

- An animation, visual effects, gaming, and comic (AVGC) promotion task force to be setup to realize the potential of this sector.

Telecom Sector

- Scheme for design-led manufacturing to be launched to build a strong ecosystem for 5G as part of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme.

Export Promotion

- Special Economic Zones Act to be replaced with a new legislation to enable States to become partners in 'Development of Enter-prise and Service Hubs'.

Atmanirbharta in Defence

- 68% of capital procurement budget earmarked for domestic industry in 2022-23, up from 58% in 2021-22.
- Defence R&D to be opened up for industry, startups and academia with 25% of defence R&D budget earmarked.

SUNRISE OPPORTUNITIES

- Government contribution to be provided for R&D in Sunrise Opportunities like Artificial Intelligence, Geospatial Systems and Drones, Semiconductor and its ecosystem. Space Economy, Genomics Pharmaceuticals, Green Energy, and Clean Mobility Systems.

ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE ACTION

- Additional allocation of Rs. 19,500 crore for Production Linked Incentive for manufacture of high efficiency solar modules to meet the goal of 280 GW of installed solar power by 2030.
- Five to seven per cent biomass pellets to be co-fired in thermal power plants:
- CO2 savings of 38 MMT annually,
- Extra income to farmers and job opportunities to locals.
- Help avoid stubble burning in agriculture fields.
- Four pilot projects to be set up for coal gasification and conversion of coal into chemicals for the industry
- Financial support to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who want to take up agroforestry.

FINANCING OF INVESTMENTS

- Public investment to continue to pump-prime private investment and demand in 2022-23.
- Outlay for capital expenditure stepped up sharply by 35.4% to Rs. 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs. 5.54 lakh crore in the current year.
- Outlay in 2022-23 to be 2.9% of GDP.
- 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of Central Government estimated at Rs. 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, which is about 4.1% of GDP

GIFT-IFSC

- World-class foreign universities and institutions to be allowed in the GIFT City.
- An International Arbitration Centre to be set up for timely settlement of disputes under international jurisprudence.
- (GIFT is being developed as a global financial and IT Services hub, a first of its kind in India, designed to be at or above par with globally benchmarked financial centres.
- "GIFT SEZ Limited" has been formed by Gujarat International Finance TecCity Company Limited (GIFTCL) for development of Multi Services SEZ at Gandhinagar with the prime focus on development of IFSC and allied activities in SEZ.)

MOBILISING RESOURCES

- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be given infrastructure status.
- Venture Capital and Private Equity invested more than Rs. 5.5 lakh crore last year facilitating one of the largest start-up and growth ecosystem. Measures to be taken to help scale up this investment.
- Blended funds to be promoted for sunrise sectors.
- Sovereign Green Bonds to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infra structure.

Digital Rupee

- Introduction of Digital Rupee by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23.

Providing Greater Fiscal Space to States

- Enhanced outlay for 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment':
- From Rs. 10,000 crore in Budget Estimates to Rs. 15,000 crore in Revised Estimates for current year
- Allocation of Rs. 1 lakh crore in 2022-23 to assist the states in catalysing overall investments in the economy: fifty-year interest free loans, over and above normal borrowings
- In 2022-23. States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP, of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Budget Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 34.83 lakh crore
- Revised Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 37.70 lakh crore
- Total expenditure in 2022-23 estimated at Rs. 39.45 lakh crore
- Total receipts other than borrowings in 2022-23 estimated at Rs. 22.84 lakh crore
- Fiscal deficit in current year: 6.9% of GDP (against 6.8% in Budget Estimates)
- Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4% of GDP

DIRECT TAXES

To take forward the policy of stable and predictable tax regime:

- Vision to establish a trustworthy tax regime.
- To further simplify tax system and reduce litigation.

Introducing new 'Updated return'

- Provision to file an Updated Return on payment of additional tax.
- Will enable the assessee to declare income missed out earlier.
- Can be filed within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year.

Cooperative societies

- Alternate Minimum Tax paid by cooperatives brought down from 18.5 per cent to 15 per cent.
- To provide a level playing field between cooperative societies and companies.
- Surcharge on cooperative societies reduced from 12 per cent to 7 per cent for those having total income of more than Rs.1 crore and up to Rs.10 crores.

Tax relief to persons with disability

- Payment of annuity and lump sum amount from insurance scheme to be allowed to differently abled dependent during the lifetime of parents/ guardians, i.e., on parents/ guardian attaining the age of 60 years.

Parity in National Pension Scheme Contribution

- Tax deduction limit increased from 10 per cent to 14 per cent on employer's contribution to the NPS account of State Government employees.
- Brings them at par with central government employees.
- Would help in enhancing social security benefits.

Incentives for Start-ups

- Period of incorporation extended by one year, up to 31.03.2023 for eligible start-ups to avail tax benefit.
- Previously the period of incorporation valid up to 31.03.2022.

Incentives under concessional tax regime

- Last date for commencement of manufacturing or production under section 115BAB extended by one year i.e. from 31st March, 2023 to 31st March, 2024.

Scheme for taxation of virtual digital assets

- Specific tax regime for virtual digital assets introduced.
- Any income from transfer of any virtual digital asset to be taxed at the rate of 30 per cent.
- No deduction in respect of any expenditure or allowance to be allowed while computing such income except cost of acquisition.

- Loss from transfer of virtual digital asset cannot be set off against any other income.
- To capture the transaction details, TDS to be provided on payment made in relation to transfer of virtual digital asset at the rate of 1 per cent of such consideration above a monetary threshold.
- Gift of virtual digital asset also to be taxed in the hands of the recipient.

Litigation Management

- In cases where question of law is identical to the one pending in High Court or Supreme Court, the filing of appeal by the department shall be deferred till such question of law is decided by the court.
- To greatly help in reducing repeated litigation between taxpayers and the department.

Health and Education Cess

- Any surcharge or cess on income and profits not allowable as business expenditure.

Deterrence against taxevasion

- No set off, of any loss to be allowed against undisclosed income detected during search and survey operations.

Rationalizing TDS Provisions

- Benefits passed on to agents as business promotion strategy taxable in hands of agents.
- Tax deduction provided to person giving benefits, if the aggregate value of such benefits exceeds Rs 20,000 during the financial year.

INDIRECT TAXES

Remarkable progress in GST

- GST revenues are buoyant despite the pandemic Tax payers deserve applause for this growth.

Special Economic Zones

- Customs Administration of SEZs to be fully IT driven and function on the Customs National Portal - shall be implemented by 30th September 2022.

Customs Reforms and duty rate changes

- Faceless Customs has been fully established. During Covid-19 pandemic, Customs formations have done exceptional frontline work against all odds displaying agility and purpose.

Project imports and capital goods

- Gradually phasing out of the concessional rates in capital goods and project imports; and applying a moderate tariff of 7.5 percent . conducive to the growth of domestic sector and 'Make in India'.
- Certain exemptions for advanced machineries that are not manufactured within the country shall continue.
- A few exemptions introduced on inputs, like specialised castings, ball screw and linear motion guide - to encourage domestic manufacturing of capital goods.

Review of customs exemptions and tariff simplification

- More than 350 exemption entries proposed to be gradually phased out, like exemption on certain agricultural produce, chemicals, fabrics, medical devices, & drugs and medicines for which sufficient domestic capacity exists.
- Simplifying the Customs rate and tariff structure particularly for sectors like chemicals, textiles and metals and minimise disputes; Removal of exemption on items which are or can be manufactured in India and providing concessional duties on raw material that go into manufacturing of intermediate products in line with the objective of "Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.

SECTOR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

Electronics

- Customs duty rates to be calibrated to provide a graded rate structure - to facilitate domestic manufacturing of wearable devices, hearable devices and electronic smart meters.
- Duty concessions to parts of transformer of mobile phone chargers and camera lens of mobile camera module and certain other items - To enable domestic manufacturing of high growth electronic items.

Gems and Jewellery

- Customs duty on cut and polished diamonds and gemstones being reduced to 5 per cent: Nil customs duty to simply sawn diamond - To give a boost to the Gems and Jewellery sector.
- A simplified regulatory framework to be implemented by June this year - To facilitate export of jewellery through ecommerce.
- Customs duty of at least Rs 400 per kg to be paid on imitation jewellery import - To disincentivise import of undervalued imitation jewellery

Chemicals

- Customs duty on certain critical chemicals namely methanol, acetic acid and heavy feed stocks for petroleum refining being reduced; Duty is being raised on sodium cyanide for which adequate domestic capacity exists This will help in enhancing domestic value addition

MSME

- Customs duty on umbrellas being raised to 20 per cent. Exemption to parts of umbrellas being withdrawn.
- Exemption being rationalised on implements and tools for agrisector which are manufactured in India
- Customs duty exemption given to steel scrap last year extended for another year to provide relief to MSME secondary steel producers
- Certain Anti- dumping and CVD on stainless steel and coated steel flat products, bars of alloy steel and highspeed steel are being revoked - to tackle prevail-ing high prices of metal in larger public interest.

Exports

- To incentivise exports, exemptions being provided on items such as embellishment, trimming, fasteners, buttons, zipper, lining material, specified leather, furniture fittings and packaging boxes.
- Duty being reduced on certain inputs required for shrimp aquaculture - to promote its exports.

Tariff measure to encourage blending of fuel

- Unblended fuel to attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs. 2 litre from the 1st of October 2022 - to encourage blending of fuel.

POLITY OF GOVERNANCE

ASIA'S BIGGEST BIO-CNG PLANT INAUGURATED



KEY POINTS

- PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Asia's biggest Bio-CNG (GOBAR-Dhan) plant in Indore (Madhya Pradesh) via video conferencing on February 19, 2022.
- The principle of Bio-CNG plant is to implement “waste to wealth”, and “circular economy” to maximise resource recovery.
- The municipal solid waste-based Gobar-Dhan plant is in line with PM's vision of creating "garbage-free cities" under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.

OPERATION GANGA' FOR EVACUATION OF UKRAINE

OPERATION GANGA IN A NUTSHELL

Govt of India launches ops to repatriate stranded Indians from Ukraine

4 ministers sent to oversee evacuation efforts

			
Jyotiraditya Scindia Romania	Kiren Rijiju Slovak Republic	Hardeep Puri Hungary	Gen VK Singh Poland


**MEA
activates
@opganga
Twitter
handle**

Airlines running evacuation flights








**IAF's C-17
Globemaster**
also operational
from today

3 more Globemaster
aircraft to visit
Poland, Hungary,
Romania

6 flights carrying 1,377 Indians departed for India in last 24 hrs

KEY POINTS

- The government of India, amidst the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, has launched 'Operation Ganga' to evacuate around 15000 Indians in Ukraine on Feb. 27, 2022.
- Under Operation Ganga, the government of India has set up several Control Centers to assist the evacuation of Indian Nationals in Ukraine through the border crossing points with Romania, Poland, Slovak Republic, and Hungary.

CENTR KEN-BETWA LINK PROJECT AUTHORITY CONSTITUTED

KEY POINTS

- The Central government has constituted a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) i.e., Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) (headed by a CEO of additional secretary rank) for the implementation of the Ken-Betwa interlinking of rivers (ILRs) project on February 15, 2022.
- It also formed a 20-member National Steering Committee (SC) which will monitor the implementation.
- It will be chaired by the Secretary (Currently- Pankaj Kumar), Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- This project involves transfer of water from the Ken river to the Betwa River through the construction of Daudhan Dam and a canal linking the two rivers, the Lower Orr project, Kotha barrage and Bina complex multipurpose project.

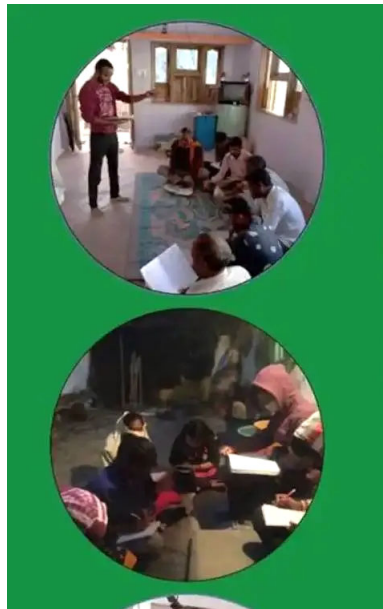
CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 5 YRS



KEY POINTS

- Government has approved the continuation of Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) over the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with financial outlay of Rs. 1827.00 crore.
- Minor modifications have been made in the eligibility criteria such as increasing income ceiling from Rs.1.5 lakh per annum to Rs.3.5 lakh per annum and revising the renewal criteria under the scheme.
- The scholarships are given to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop-out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME FOR ADULT EDUCATION



New India Literacy Program

A new scheme on 'Education for All' - erstwhile termed as 'Adult Education'

Estimated budget for 5 years

Total budget
Rs. 1037.90 Cr.

KEY POINTS

- Government has approved a new scheme New India Literacy Programme for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020.
- The objective of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21st century such as critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare); vocational skills development (with a view towards obtaining local employment); basic education (including preparatory, middle, and

secondary stage equivalency); and continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).

- It has also been decided that from now onwards that the term "Education For All" will be used in place of "Adult Education" by the Ministry in view of the fact that the terminology "Adult Education" is not incorporating appropriately all non-literates of 15 years and above age group.

GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC PACKAGING UNDER PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES



KEY POINTS

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- The guidelines will promote development of new alternatives to plastics and provide a roadmap for businesses to move towards sustainable plastic packaging.
- The guidelines coupled with prohibition of identified single use plastic items with effect from 1st July 2022, are important steps for reducing pollution caused due to littered plastic waste in the country.
- Reuse of rigid plastic packaging material has been mandated in the guidelines to reduce the use of fresh plastic material for packaging.
- In a significant first, the guidelines allow for sale and purchase of surplus extended producer responsibility certificates, thus setting up a market mechanism to public waste management.

ENROLMENT OF GRADUATES AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE NOT MANDATORY, CLARIFIES GOVT

KEY POINTS

- The Government has clarified that it does not have any proposal to make it mandatory for graduates to register at employment exchange at districts across the country.
- The registration at employment exchanges across the country for availing employment related services is voluntary.
- The Ministry is implementing National Career Service (NCS) Project to provide a variety of career related services viz. job search and matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, etc.
- The services are available online on the National Career Service Portal (www.ncs.gov.in).
- This information was given by Shri Rameswar Teli, Minister of State, Ministry of Labour & Employment in Rajya Sabha on 3rd February

TWO MORE INDIAN WETLANDS ADDED TO RAMSAR LIST



KEY POINTS

- The Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been listed as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- The announcement by the Ramsar Secretariat in Iran came on the eve of International Wetlands Day (2nd February) With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 48.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi tweeted, "Excellent news! India having the largest network of Ramsar Sites in South Asia manifests the commitment of our citizens to protect flora and fauna and live in harmony with nature."

SEHAT PLAT FORM STARTS HOME DELIVERY OF MEDICINES

KEY POINTS

- Home delivery of medicines under the Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation, SeHAT platform has become operational from 1st February.
- As part of the Government's commitment to Digital India and e-Governance, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had launched SeHAT in May last year.
- SeHAT is the tri-services teleconsultation service of the Ministry of Defence designed for all entitled personnel and their families.
- Home delivery of medicines started with Base Hospital Delhi Cantt and it will be extended to more and more stations in coming times.
- The Defence Ministry said SeHat a great example of innovation, especially at a time when the nation is fighting the COVID-19.

GOVT ORDERS BLOCKING 35 PAKISTAN-BASED SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

KEY POINTS

- The Centre has ordered blocking of 35 Pakistan-based YouTube channels and two websites that were involved in spreading anti-India fake news in a coordinated manner over digital media.
- Besides, two Twitter accounts, two Instagram accounts and one Facebook account have also been blocked by the Government for being involved in spreading coordinated anti-India disinformation over the internet.
- These include the Apni Duniya Network operating 14 YouTube channels, and Talha Films Network operating 13 YouTube channels.

- A set of four channels and a set of two other channels were also found to be acting in synchronization with each other.
- All these networks appeared to be operated with a single goal of spreading fake news oriented towards the Indian audience, according to Secretary in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Shri Apurva Chandra

INDIAN NAVY INDUCTS TWO MADE IN INDIA ADVANCED LIGHT HELICOPTERS



KEY POINTS

- In a boost to maritime security, the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh by Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) chief Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Port Blair.
- The induction marks a continuing increase in the capabilities of the Andaman and Nicobar Command in the past two decades of its raising as India's only joint theatre command.
- The ALK MK III aircraft is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and represents a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of military aircraft, in line with the government's push towards "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".
- Till date, over 300 of these aircraft have been delivered by HAL and are being flown by the Armed Forces.
- Amongst its variants, the MK III variant is a maritime role variant encompassing state-of-the-art sensors and weapons that add punch to India's prowess at sea.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

INDIA KICK STARTS CREATION OF G-20 SECRETARIAT



KEY POINTS

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.
- India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.
- G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.
- As per practice, a G20 Secretariat is being established to handle work relating to substantive /knowledge/content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency.
- It will be manned by officers and staff from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and other relevant Ministries / Departments and domain knowledge experts.
- The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024.

EXPORT IMPORT RESUMES AT THE INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER

KEY POINTS

- The export-import activity resumed at the Benapole-Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) on February 5 after remaining suspended since February 1 due to strike by the truckers and workers union at the landport.

- Trading resumed after the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) issued a notification allowing the truckers a month's time during which the BSF will not check the driving licences and registration certificates of the vehicles entering the check post at Petrapole on the Indian side of the border.
- The truckers and workers union have been demanding six months time for renewal of the licences and papers which have expired during the Covid period over the last two years.
- They have also been protesting against the requirement of a newly introduced ID card system at the ICP.

INDIA-ASEAN DIGITAL WORK PLAN 2022



KEY POINTS

- The second ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting has approved the India ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022.
- The work plan includes a system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet, capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTS) such as Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Advanced Satellite Communication, Cyber Forensics, etc.
- The ongoing and proposed projects in ICTs will strengthen collaboration between India and ASEAN by leveraging complementary strengths of each other.
- The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and dialogue partner countries - Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, UK and US.

CHINESE PLA RETURN MISSING ARUNACHAL YOUTH



KEY POINTS

- Following the efforts of the Indian Army along with all government agencies, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) handed over Miram Taron, the missing Indian teenager from Arunachal Pradesh on 27th January at Damai, Border Personnel Meeting Point across Anjaw District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The 17 year old teenager, Miram Taron from Upper Slang District of Arunachal Pradesh had inadvertently strayed and went missing from the border on 18th January 2022.
- Indian Army has thanked China's PLA for upholding the Border Defence Cooperation Agreements.

PHILIPPINES TO PURCHASE INDIA'S BRAHMOS ANTI-SHIP MISSILE SYSTEM

KEY POINTS

- BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) signed a contract with the Department of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines on January 28, 2022 for supply of Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System to Philippines.
- The BAPL is a joint venture company of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The contract is an important step forward for Government of India's policy of promoting responsible defence exports.

INDEX**EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX 2021****KEY POINTS**

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Democracy Index 2021 on February 10, 2022.
- The Democracy Index (started in 2006) provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.
- The index is based on 60 indicators grouped into five categories: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation and Political culture.

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEX 2022**KEY POINTS**

- Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of the United States Chambers of Commerce (USCC) released the 10th edition of the International Intellectual Property (IIP) Index 2022 Compete for on February 24, 2022.
- India has ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the 2022 IIP Index. India's overall score has increased from 40% (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64% (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition.

Top-5 Countries

Rank	Country	Score
1	The USA	95.48%
2	United Kingdom	94.14%
3	Germany	92.46%
4	Sweden	92.14%
5	France	92.10%

TOP 10 COUNTRIES OUTSIDE US FOR LEED

KEY POINTS

- The US Green Building Council (USGBC) released the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021 on February 9, 2022.
- The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.

Top-5 Rankings

Rank	Country	Project Count
1	China	1077
2	Canada	205
3	India	16
4	Republic of Korea	42
5	Spain	100

GLOBAL DIGITAL SKILLS INDEX 2022

KEY POINTS

- Salesforce, a leading player in Customer Relationship Management, published the 2022 Global Digital Skills Index which highlights the growing global digital skills crisis and the need for action; on Feb. 4, 2022
- India has scored 63 out of 100, leads the digital skills readiness, and has the highest readiness index among the 19 countries. The Index is based on a survey of over 23,500 workers in 19 countries, with an average global readiness score of 33 out of 100.
- Three major skills gaps identified in the 2022 global index are: The everyday skills gap, The generational skills gap, and The leadership and workforce skills gap.

AWARDS

DADASAHEB PHALKE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS 2022

KEY POINTS

- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 was held in Mumbai on February 20, 2022.
- This year Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 celebrated the opulence of Indian Cinema and also commemorated the 75 years of Independence or Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Winners

- ✓ Film of the Year: Pushpa : The Rise
- ✓ Best Film : Shershaah
- ✓ Best Actor : Ranveer Singh (83)
- ✓ Best Actress : Kriti Sanon (Mimi)
- ✓ Outstanding Contribution to Films : Asha Parekh
- ✓ Critics Best Actor : Sidharth Malhotra
- ✓ Critics Best Actress : Kiara Advani
- ✓ Best Actor in Supporting Role : Satish Kaushik (Kaagaz)
- ✓ Best Actress in Supporting Role : Lara Dutta (Bell-Bottom)
- ✓ Best Actor in Negative Role: Aayush Sharma (Antim: The Final Truth)
- ✓ People's Choice Best Actor : Abhimanyu Dasani
- ✓ People's Choice Best Actress: Radhika Madan
- ✓ Best Debut : Ahan Shetty (Tadap)
- ✓ Best Playback Singer Male : Vishal Mishra
- ✓ Best Playback Singer Female : Kanika Kapoor
- ✓ Critics Best Film : Sardar Udham Singh
- ✓ Best Director : Ken Ghosh (State of Siege : Temple Attack)
- ✓ Best Cinematographer : Jayakrishna Gummadi (Haseena Dilruba)
- ✓ Best Short Film : Pauli
- ✓ Best Actor in Web Series : Manoj Bajpayee (The Family Man 2)
- ✓ Best Actress in Web Series : Raveena Tandon (Aranyak)
- ✓ Best Web Series : Candy

- ✓ Best Actor in Television Series : Shaheer Sheikh (Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi)
- ✓ Best Actress in Television Series : Shraddha Arya (Kundali Bhagya)
- ✓ Television Series of the Year : Anupama
- ✓ Most Promising Actor in Television Series : Dheeraj Dhoopar (Kundali Bhagya)
- ✓ Most Promising Actress in Television Series : Rupali Ganguly (Anupama)

PROFESSOR NEENA GUPTA AWARDED RAMANUJAN PRIZE FOR YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS 2021



KEY POINTS

- The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2021 was awarded to Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician of the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, in a virtual ceremony on 22nd February 2022.
- She received the award for the year 2021 for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- Professor Gupta's solution for solving the Zariski cancellation problem, a fundamental problem in Algebraic Geometry, earned her the 2014 Young Scientists Award of the Indian National Science Academy (NSA).

SPORTS

BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS 2022

The Winter Olympics 2022, officially called the XXIV Olympic Winter Games, was an international winter multi-sport event held in Beijing (China) from February 4-20, 2022.

About the Event

- A total number of 109 events across 7 sports (15 disciplines) were held with a participation of 2871 athletes represented 91 teams.
- There are seven new medal events, including men's and women's big air freestyle, women's monobob, mixed team competitions in freestyle skiing aerials, ski jumping, and snowboard cross, and the mixed relay in short track speed skating.
- Haiti and Saudi Arabia marked their Winter Olympic debut.
- Bing Dwen Dwen (Panda) was the mascot of the Winter Olympics 2022.
- The Games' official slogan is Together for a Shared Future.
- The emblem for the Winter Olympics 2022, Winter Dream.

India's Sole Participant

- From India, only one athlete participated in the Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing, China, alpine skier Mohammad Arif Khan, which also marked his winter games debut.
- He is the first Indian skier to have qualified for the Olympics in both slalom and giant slalom.
- He clinched a 45th place finish in the giant slalom event with a time of 1 : 24.89.
- He was the country's flag bearer during the opening ceremony.

Medals Tally (Top 5)

NOC	G	S	B	Total
Norway	16	8	13	37
Germany	12	10	5	27
China	9	4	2	15
USA	8	10	7	25
Sweden	8	5	5	18

- The Presidency of the Games was formally handed over to Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, in Italy, to host the Winter Olympics 2026.

INDIA WINS RIGHT TO HOST 2023 IOC SESSION IN MUMBAI



KEY POINTS

- India won the right to host the 2023 International Olympics Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai.
- This will be the second time India hosts an IOC session, having done so in 1983 in New Delhi.
- India won the bid unopposed at the 139th IOC session that was held in Beijing, China, on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics.
- Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, IOC member Nita Ambani, IOA president Narinder Batra and Minister of Sports Anurag Thakur presented India's proposal for the hosting rights at this year's IOC Session.

SAI APPOINTS 398 COACHES TO STRENGTHEN PREPARATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING OLYMPICS



KEY POINTS

- In a major step that will strengthen the coaching backbone of India, the Sports Authority of India has extended offers of employment to 398 coaches at various levels in 21 disciplines.
- Many among them are ex-international athletes who have competed or won medals in elite competitions such as the World Championships and Olympics.
- There are 4 Arjuna Awardees, 1 Dhyanchand Awardee and 1 Dhronacharya Awardee among those who have been selected for the positions.
- Of the total number of 398, 101 coaches are joining on deputation from PSUs and other government bodies.
- Besides ex-international athletes, those who have completed their Diploma in Sports Coaching from NSNIS Patiala or a recognized Indian or foreign University have also been inducted.
- Several SAI coaches who were previously on contract, but whose contracts had ended, have been recruited back in service as per their eligibility.
- The recruitment comes in the wake of the effort of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to provide 360 degree support to athletes as they prepare for important national and international competitions, including Olympic 2024, 2028.

INDIA WIN ICC UNDER 19 MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP 2022



KEY POINTS

- India beat England by four wickets to win their fifth ICC Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup in the West Indies on February 5.

- The two unbeaten sides met at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua and Barbuda as England went in search of only their second title, but it was India who extended their record of most tournament wins.
- Raj Bawa took five for 31 as England lost wickets early in their innings before 95 from James Rew restored hope in the push for a first trophy since 1998.
- It was not to be as both Shaik Rasheed and Nishant Sindhu made fifties before Dinesh Bana crashed back-to-back sixes to seal the win.

INDIA-SRI LANKA T-20 SERIES 2022

KEY POINTS

- India defeated Sri Lanka last night by six wickets in the third and final T-20 match to clean sweep the series: 3-0 in Dharamsala on February 27, 2022.
- Shreyas Iyer was adjudged player of the match and player of the series for his performance in all three matches.

INDIA-WI T20 SERIES 2022

KEY POINTS

- India beat West Indies by 17 runs in third and final T20 to complete a 3-0 series whitewash at Eden Gardens, Kolkata on Feb. 20, 2022.
- India won the opening T20I match by six wickets and the second T20I by eight runs. Suryakumar Yadav (India) was named as the Player of the Series.

INDIA-WI ODI SERIES 2022

KEY POINTS

- India defeated West Indies by 96 runs in third and final ODI to complete a 3-0 series in Ahmedabad on February 11, 2022.
- Prasidh Krishna (India) was named as the Player of the Series.
- India won the first ODI by six wickets and the second by 44 runs.
- It was India's eleventh consecutive bilateral ODI series victory against the West Indies

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE 2022



KEY POINTS

- Dabang Delhi beat three-time champion Patna Pirates 37-36 in the final of the Pro Kabaddi League
- Season 8 in Bengaluru on Feb. 25, 2022 to lift the title for the first time.
- Delhi's star raider Naveen Kumar (13 points) and all-rounder Vijay (14 points) secured Super 10s as they overcame a tough challenge from three-time champions Patna Pirates.
- Pro Kabaddi League, (known as Vivo Pro Kabbadi for sponsorship reasons) is a men's professional Kabaddi league of India, launched in 2014.

MEXICAN OPEN 2022

KEY POINTS

- The Mexican Open 2022 is a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts, was held in Acapulco, Mexico from February 21-26, 2022.
- It will be the 29th edition of the men's Mexican Open, and part of the 2022 ATP Tour.

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Cameron Norrie (UK)
Men's Doubles	Feliciano Lopen (Spain)/Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)	Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador). Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands)

RIO OPEN 2022

KEY POINTS

- The Rio Open 2022 was held at Jockey Club Brasileiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from February 14-20, 2022.
- 2022 Rio Open was the 8th edition of the Rio Open, and part of the ATP Tour 500 of the 2022 ATP Tour.
- 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz of Spain became the youngest to clinch an ATP 500 title after defeating Diego Schwartzman in the final of the 2022 Rio Open in Men's Singles category.
- Fabio Fognini and Simone Bolelli of Italy won the 2022 Rio Open Doubles title defeating Jamie Murray (the United Kingdom) and Bruno Soares (Brazil).

DUBAI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

KEY POINTS

- The 2022 Dubai Tennis Championships was held at the Aviation Club Tennis Centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from February 14-26, 2022.
- The 2022 Dubai Tennis Championships was an ATP 500 event on the 2022 ATP Tour and a WTA 500 tournament on the 2022 WTA Tour.

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Andrey Rublev (Russia)	Jiri Vesely (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Tim Putz (Germany)/ Michael Venus (New Zealand)	Nikola Pietrangeli/ Mate Pavic (Croatia)
Women's Singles	Jeļena Ostapenko (Latvia)	Veronika Kudermetova (Russia)
Women's Doubles	Veronika Kudermetova (Russia)/Elise Mertens (Belgium)	Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine)/(Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)

KHELO INDIA EXTENDED BY 5 YEARS, BUDGET INCREASED BY 48%

KEY POINTS

- With a view to achieving the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports, the Government has decided to continue the Scheme of Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports for another five years.
- The budgetary allocation to the scheme has been enhanced by 48% with a total outlay of Rs 3165.50 crore for the next five years.
- It has also been included in the PM's Awards Scheme. The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- It aims at infusing sports culture and achieving sporting excellence in the country thus allowing the populace to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence

PR SREEJESH WINS WORLD GAMES ATHLETE OF THE YEAR 2021 AWARD



KEY POINTS

- Veteran Indian Hockey goalkeeper P R Sreejesh has won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year for his 2021 performances, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade.
- In 2020, Indian Women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour for her 2019 show.
- Sreejesh beat competition from sport climber Alberto Gins Lopez of Spain and Italy's wushu player.

- Michele Giordano for the award. Sreejesh has represented India in 244 senior international matches.
- At the 2016 Olympics in Rio, Sreejesh led the Indian Hockey team to the quarterfinals of the tournament.
- He led the Indian team that won the silver medal at the 2016 Men's Hockey Champions Trophy held at London.

NEERAJ CHOPRA NOMINATED FOR LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS



KEY POINTS

- India's first-ever winner of an Olympic athletics gold medal, Neeraj Chopra has been selected as one of the six nominees for the 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award.
- The 24-year-old javelin thrower is only the third Indian to be nominated for the prestigious award after wrestler Vinesh Phogat and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar in 2020.
- A panel of over 1,300 sports journalists and broadcasters globally selected the nominees in seven categories.
- The winners will be revealed in April following a vote by the Laureus World Sports Academy, made up of 71 sporting greats.

SMRITI MANDHANA NAMED ICC WOMEN'S CRICKETER 2021



KEY POINTS

- India's opening batter Smriti Mandhana has been named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for 2021.
- Smriti has won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy awarded to the ICC Women's Cricketer of the year for the second time after 2018.
- The left-handed opener beat competition from Tammy Beaumont of England, Lizelle Lee of South Africa and Gaby Lewis of Ireland to clinch the honour.
- Smriti has also become the second woman cricketer after Australia's Ellyse Perry to win the honour more than once.

SYED MODI INTERNATIONAL: PV SINDHU WINS WOMEN'S SINGLES; ISHAN BHATNAGAR - TANISHA CRASTO BAGS MIXED DOUBLES TROPHY

KEY POINTS

- Two-time Olympic medalist, P.V. Sindhu has won the Women's singles title at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament.
- Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in the summit clash in Lucknow.
- The Men's singles final of the tournament was declared as a 'No Match' after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid. 19.
- The all-French clash was scheduled between Arnaud Merkle and Lucas Claerbout.
- Meanwhile, the Indian duo of Ishan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto clinched the Mixed Doubles title.
- The pair defeated compatriots T. Hema Nagendra Babu and Srivedya 21-16, 21-12 in the summit clash.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S FIRST GRAPHENE INNOVATION CENTRE IN KERALA

Why in News

Recently, the Kerala government announced that the country's first Graphene Innovation Centre would come up in Thrissur, Kerala.

- It is a joint venture of Digital University of Kerala, Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) and Tata Steel Limited.
- Earlier in 2020, the researchers from the City University of Hong Kong had produced a laser-induced form of graphene masks that inactivate the coronavirus species.

What is the Graphene Innovation Centre?

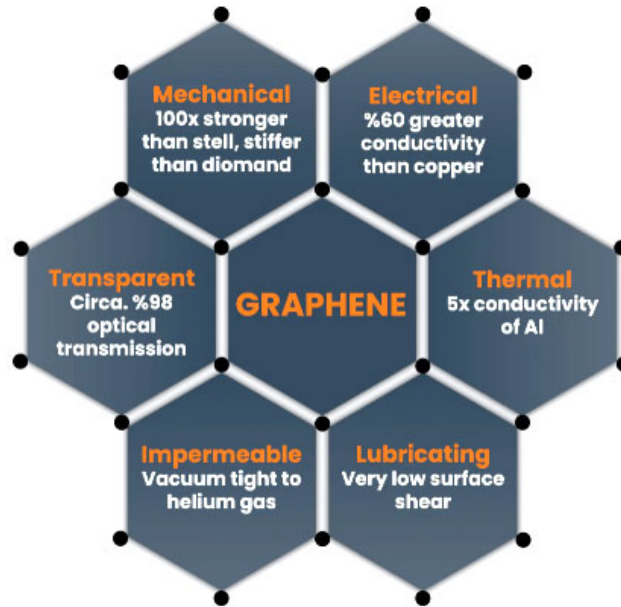
- An Innovation Center is a cross-functional plan that creates a safe haven for new ideas.
- With opportunities for individual and group collaboration across time zones and continents, it's a place that fosters a culture of innovation through the creation, sharing, and testing of ideas.
- The India Innovation Centre for Graphene would come up in Thrissur at a cost of Rs 86.41 crore.
 - ✓ Of the 86.41-crore, the Union Government would provide Rs 49.18 crore and private business houses Rs 11.48 crore.
- The state government would provide the basic infrastructure for the project. The Centre would help attract investors to develop graphene products.

What is its Significance?

- The project would give a major fillip for scientific research as well as the state's industrial sector.
- Kerala's human resources capital could be effectively exploited by the proposed Centre, which would help Kerala to emerge as a knowledge-based economy.

What is Graphene?

- Graphene is a one-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice. It is the building-block of Graphite, but graphene is a remarkable substance on its own with a multitude of astonishing properties.
- It is the thinnest, most electrically and thermally conductive material in the world, while also being flexible, transparent and incredibly strong.



- Often referred to as a wonder material for its extraordinary electrical and electronics properties, graphene could replace Indium and thereby bring down the cost of OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens in smartphones, studies have shown.
- Graphene has a lot of promise for additional applications: anti-corrosion coatings and paints, efficient and precise sensors, faster and efficient electronics, flexible displays, efficient solar panels, faster DNA sequencing, drug delivery, and more.

ISRO LAUNCHED SATELLITE 'EOS-04'



ISRO Successfully launched
Earth Observation Satellite
 two other co-passengers on
PSLV-C52

KEY POINTS

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its Earth Observation Satellite 'EOS-4 and two small satellites namely 'INSPIRE sat-1' and 'INST-2TD' by the PSLV-C52 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh) on Feb. 14, 2022.
- EOS-04 and two co-passenger technology demonstrator and scientific satellites (INSPIRE sat-1 and INST-2TD) were injected successfully into a sun-synchronous polar orbit of 529 km altitude.
- This was ISRO's first launch mission of 2022 and the 54th flight of the PSLV rocket, and the 23rd of its most powerful XL-version that has six strap-on boosters.
- India currently has 53 operational satellites; of which 21 are earth observation satellites, 21 are communication-based, 8 are navigation satellites and the remaining 3 are science satellites.

EOS-04

- The 1700 kg EOS-04 is a radar imaging satellite.
- It can be used to capture images for agriculture, forestry, flood mapping, soil moisture and hydrology.
- The satellite has a mission life of 10 years.
- It will complement the data from Resourcesat, Cartosat and RISAT-2B series of satellites that are already in orbit.

INSPIRE Sat-1

- InspireSat-1 is a student satellite that was developed by the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, University of Colorado Laboratory for Atmospheric & Space Physics (US), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and National Central University (Taiwan).
- The 8.1kg satellite, with mission life of one year, will use two payloads to study ionosphere dynamics and the Sun's coronal heating process.

INST-2TD

- INS-2TD is a technology demonstrator for the first India-Bhutan joint satellite (INS-2B) that is scheduled to be launched in March 2022.
- INS-2DT technology demonstrator satellite has a thermal imaging camera that is meant for earth observation purposes, like assessment of land and water surface temperature, and identification of forest and tree cover.

NEW SOLAR PLANT AT COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

KEY POINTS

- Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy, is to become power-positive with the commissioning of its 12 MWp solar power plant near Payyannur in the Kannur district of Kerala.
- CIAL's solar plants together generate two lakh units of power a day whereas the daily consumption of power in the airport stands at 6 lakh units.
- The airport became the first in the world in 2015 to be fully powered by solar energy.

FIRST SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT COMMISSIONED



KEY POINTS

- Indian Railways and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has successfully commissioned India's first Solar Photovoltaic Plant of 1.7-MegaWatt at Bina, Madhya Pradesh on February 24, 2022.
- The installation of the solar plants is to achieve conversion of Indian Railways to 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission and 'Go Green' by 2030.
- The plant is under extensive testing and will be in operation for Indian Railways.

‘KISAN DRONE YATRA’ INAUGURATED

KEY POINTS

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the ‘Kisan Drone Yatra’, an initiative by Garuda Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. and flagged off 100 ‘Kisan Drones’ in various cities and towns across India to spray pesticides in farms to support the farmers across India on February 19, 2022.
- The 100 Kisan Drones were set off in 100 villages in 16 states across India which includes Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.
- The farmers can use the high capacity Kisan drones to transport their produce such as fruits, vegetables and flowers to markets in a minimal time and boost their income.

INDIA WILL SET UP ITS FIRST IIT OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY IN UAE

KEY POINTS

- The Indian Institute of Technology will establish its first branch outside India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of the India-UAE trade deal signed on February 18, 2022.
- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between the UAE and India will help in a new phase of joint strategic cooperation in all sectors.
- The two nations will also set up an India-UAE cultural council to facilitate and promote cultural projects, cross-cultural exchanges and exhibitions.

INDIA'S FIRST BIOMASS-BASED HYDROGEN PLANT IN MP

KEY POINTS

- India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will soon be inaugurated at Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- The plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock on daily basis.
- It is being established by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd. and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of Rs. 24 crore.

IIT MADRAS ESTABLISHED INTER-DISCIPLINARY WATER MANAGEMENT & POLICY CENTRE

- IIT Madras has established an Inter-disciplinary Water Management & Policy Centre. 'AquaMAP' with an aim to solve water problems in India on February 7, 2022.
- This Centre will provide smart solutions for challenging water problems by designing scalable models by leveraging innovative technologies.
- These models would be implemented at chosen locations across the country, as a proof of concept.

VIGYAN SARVATRA PUJYATE CELEBRATES INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN S&T



KEY POINTS

- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrating India's achievements in different sectors in 75 years of Independence, a weeklong commemoration titled Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate was held from February 22 to 28 simultaneously in 75 locations across the length and breadth of the country including the national capital of Delhi.
- As a feather in the cap, a Science & Technology Mega Expo and National Science Book Fair were held in New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also showcased its rich cache of science and technology related literature in the National Science Book Fair.
- Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate was designed to inspire India's youth and help them navigate into building a progressive nation through Science and Technology.

75 START UPS REGISTERED IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY



KEY POINTS :

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, and MOS Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said, around 75 startups have registered under space technology category in the Startup India portal.
- In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh said that many more startups registered under other Categories are also involved in the space domain.
- The Minister said to facilitate private sector participation in Space activities, Department of Space, is revising the existing policies in space domain and new policy framework is being drafted to address various space sectors such as SpaceCom, Remote Sensing, Technology Transfer, Navigation, Space Transportation, Space exploration and Space Situational Awareness.
- Provisions are being factored in the above policy framework for the development of private sector including MSMEs and startups in space sector.
- In a related reply to another question in the Lok Sabha on the steps taken by the Government to bring private players on board to get their participation in the Space activities of ISRO.
- Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Government of India has announced reforms in June, 2020, in the space sector towards enabling the private players to provide end to end services

SOCIAL ISSUES

PM-POSHAN Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the central government requested state governments/union territory administrations to explore the possibility of introducing millets under the PM POSHAN Scheme preferably in the districts where eating millets is a culturally accepted food habit.

- NITI Aayog has also been advocating the need to introduce millets in the mid-day meal programme (now PM POSHAN Scheme), moving away from rice and wheat.

Mid Day Meal Scheme | 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Cabinet Approves

PM POSHAN SHAKTI NIRMAN

WITH CENTRAL OUTLAY OF
₹54,061.73 CRORE FOR NEXT 5 YEARS
2021-22 TO 2025-26

Ensuring Nutrition, Encouraging Education

What are the Benefits of Millets?

- Millets or nutri-cereals, which include Jowar, Bajra, and Ragi, are rich in minerals and B-complex vitamins, as well as proteins and antioxidants, making them an ideal choice for improving the nutritional outcome of children.
- Multidimensional benefits associated with millets can address the issues related to nutrition security, food systems security, and farmers' welfare.
- Further, many unique features linked with millets makes them a suitable crop which is resilient to India's varied agro-climatic conditions.
- India pushed a resolution to declare 2023 as the international year of millets which has been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

What is the PM Poshan Scheme?

- In September 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM-POSHAN for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools with the financial outlay of Rs 1.31 trillion.
- The scheme replaced the national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- It has been launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).

OPERATION AAHT

Why in News?

Recently, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking.

- As part of “Operation AAHT”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- The National Crime Records Bureau registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year





What is Operation AAHT?

- The Indian Railways, which transported over 23 million passengers each day (pre-pandemic), is the largest fastest and most reliable carrier for suspects who trafficked scores of women and children.
- Under Operation AAHT, the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilised to collect, collate and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, the identity of carriers/agents, kingpins etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.
- Under this, the RPF could act as a bridge cutting across States to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.
- Also, cyber cells would start patrolling the web/social media to look for digital footprints of Human Trafficking and the focus would be more on trains originating from districts bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

SCHEMES

PARVATMALA SCHEME

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2022-23 announced National Ropeways Development Programme – “Parvatmala” to improve connectivity in hilly areas



What is the Scheme?

- The scheme will be taken up in PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode, which will be a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.
- The idea is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.
- This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.
- The scheme is being presently started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North Eastern states.
- The Finance Minister announced that contracts for 8 ropeway projects for a length of 60 km would be awarded in 2022-23.

Who is the Nodal Ministry?

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) will have responsibility for development of ropeway and alternative mobility solutions technology, as well as construction, research, and policy in this area.
- In February 2021, the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 was amended, which enabled the MORTH to also look after the development of Ropeways and Alternate Mobility Solutions.
 - ✓ The move will give a boost to the sector by setting up a regulatory regime.
 - ✓ The MORTH has so far been responsible for development of Highways and regulating the road transport sector across the country.

What is the Significance?

Economical mode of transportation:

- Given that ropeway projects are built in a straight line over a hilly terrain, it also results in lower land acquisition costs.
- Hence, despite having a higher cost of construction per km than roadways, ropeway projects' construction cost may happen to be more economical than roadways.

Faster mode of transportation:

- Owing to the aerial mode of transportation, ropeways have an advantage over roadway projects where ropeways can be built in a straight line, over a hilly terrain.

Environmentally friendly:

- Low dust emissions. Material containers can be designed so as to rule out any soiling of the environment.

Last mile connectivity:

- Ropeway projects adopting 3S (a kind of cable car system) or equivalent technologies can transport 6000-8000 passengers per hour.

OMBUDSPERSON APP FOR SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF MNREGA SCHEME

KEY POINTS

- The Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has launched the Ombudsperson App for MNREGA.
- This app will facilitate hassle free reporting, categorization of grievances and disposal of complaints by the Ombudsperson.
- According to the Ministry, this app will ensure transparency and accountability in the ecosystem of MNREGA.
- The app is part of the several technological and digital initiatives taken to make the developmental schemes more efficient.

SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNTS (SEED) LAUNCHED

KEY POINTS

- The Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched SEED - Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-notified Tribes.
- Launching the initiative, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar said De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities (DNTs, NTS, SNTs) are the one of the most deprived and economically weaker communities in India and that the government is committed for the upliftment of the last man standing and is determined to bring him into the mainstream of overall development.
- The four component of the SEED scheme are: (i) Educational empowerment- Free coaching to students from these communities for Civil Services, entry to professional courses like medicine, engineering, MBA, etc. (ii) Health Insurance through PMJAY of National Health Authority. (iii) Livelihoods to support income generation. (iv) Housing (through PMAY/IAY).
- The scheme will ensure expenditure of Rs.200 crore to be spent over five years beginning 2021-22.

TEN CITIES TO IMPLEMENT SMILE SCHEME FOR TRANSGENDERS, BEGGARS, ON PILOT MODE



KEY POINTS

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched SMILE (Support for DMarginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) on pilot basis in ten cities.
- The central sector scheme has two components – one for transgender persons and the other for persons engaged in the act of begging.
- Under the scheme, transgender persons will have access to Composite Medical Health in convergence with PM-JAY supporting Gender Reaffirmation Surgeries through selected hospitals.
- Transgender persons will also be eligible for skill development and livelihood benefit of the PM-DAKSH.
- Likewise, transgender students studying in IX to post-graduation level will be eligible for scholarships and each state will have a Transgender Protection Cell that will monitor cases of offences against transgender persons and ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of offences.
- The component for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging focuses on survey and identification, mobilisation, rescue and comprehensive resettlement of beggars.

INDUCTION OF WOMEN FIGHTER PILOTS IN IAF BECOMES A PERMANENT SCHEME



KEY POINTS

- The Defence Ministry has decided to convert the Experimental Scheme for Induction of Women Fighter Pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF) into a permanent scheme.
- In a tweet, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, it is a testimony to the capability of India's Nari Shakti (women power) and our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment towards women empowerment.
- Indian Air Force undertakes various induction publicity measures to encourage youth, including women to join it.
- A total of 16 women have been commissioned as fighter pilots after the experimental scheme for their induction.
- In 2018, flying officer Avani Chaturvedi of the Air Force became the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo.
- India's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot Shivangi Singh captured the imagination of the country when she took part in the Republic Day parade this year

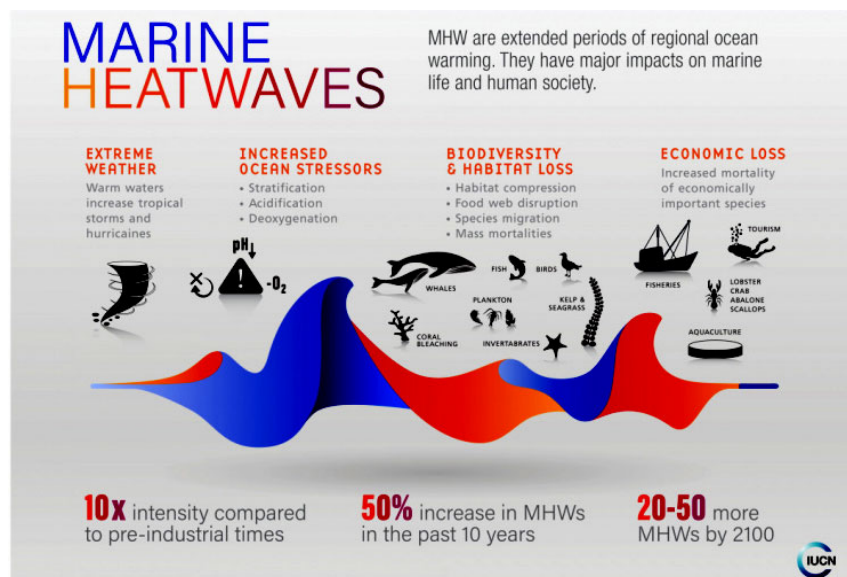
ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGY

MARINE HEATWAVES

Why in News?

According to a study, marine heatwaves - or the ones that form on oceans - have been on the rise in the waters around India.

- Emerging studies have reported their occurrence and impacts in the global oceans, but are little understood in the tropical Indian Ocean.
- Also, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), the sea surface temperature over the Indian ocean is likely to increase by 1 to 2 °C when there is 1.5°C to 2°C global warming.



What are the Findings of the Study?

- The Western Indian Ocean region experienced the largest increase in marine heatwaves at a rate of about 1.5 events per decade, followed by the north Bay of Bengal at a rate of 0.5 events per decade.
- The marine heatwaves in the Western Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal increased drying conditions over the central Indian subcontinent.
- Correspondingly, there is a significant increase in the rainfall over south peninsular India in response to the heatwaves in the north Bay of Bengal.

- ✓ From 1982 to 2018, the Western Indian Ocean had a total of 66 events, while the Bay of Bengal had 94 events.
- ✓ These changes are in response to the modulation of the monsoon winds by the heatwaves.
- ✓ This is the first time that a study has demonstrated a close link between marine heatwaves and atmospheric circulation and rainfall.

What are Marine Heatwaves?

- Marine heatwaves are periods of extremely high temperatures in the ocean.
- These events are linked to coral bleaching, seagrass destruction, and loss of kelp forests, affecting the fisheries sector adversely.
 - ✓ Study showed that 85% of the corals in the Gulf of Mannar near the Tamil Nadu coast got bleached after the marine heatwave in May 2020.
- The most common drivers of marine heatwaves include ocean currents which can build up areas of warm water and air-sea heat flux, or warming through the ocean surface from the atmosphere.
 - ✓ Winds can enhance or suppress the warming in a marine heatwave, and climate modes like El Niño can change the likelihood of events occurring in certain regions.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY AND TWO NEW RAMSAR SITES

Why in News?

Recently, World Wetlands Day was celebrated on the 2nd of February 2022 across the globe.

- On the occasion, “National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas” was prepared by the Space Applications Center (SAC - one of the major centers of ISRO).
 - ✓ The original Atlas was released by SAC in 2011 and has over the years been used extensively by all the State Governments also in their planning processes.
- Two new Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance), Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in UP were also announced on the occasion.

Why is The Day Celebrated on 2nd February?

- This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.
 - ✓ The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
 - ✓ The countries with the most Ramsar Sites are the United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (142), as per the Ramsar List. Bolivia has the largest area with 148,000 sq km under the Convention protection.
- It was first celebrated in 1997.

- Theme for 2022: Wetlands Action for People and Nature

VOLATILE ORGANIC MOLECULES & EVS

Why in News?

Recently, a study conducted by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research revealed that India can slash emissions of Volatile Organic Molecules (VOC) by 76% in the next eight years by swapping all two- and three-wheelers with electric vehicles and all diesel-fuelled ones with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

- Gases escaping out of a vehicle's exhaust account for 65-80% of an automobile's emissions.
- India is home to 14 out of the top 20 most polluted cities globally. Around 1.67 million deaths were linked to air pollution in 2019. The country lost 1.36% of its gross domestic product the same year.
- Therefore, adopting electric vehicles can help India achieve a cleaner future.

What are Volatile Organic Molecules?

- VOCs are carbon-containing chemicals released by petrol and diesel vehicles. They impact air quality and human health.
 - ✓ However, VOCs can have a natural origin, too.
 - ✓ Plants emit these chemicals to attract pollinators, defend themselves from pests and predators and adapt to environmental stress.
- **Effect of VOCs on Health:** VOCs can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, damage body organs and cause cancer.
 - ✓ Long-term exposure to VOCs is not good because the majority of the VOCs are carcinogenic (cancercausing).
 - ✓ It is also linked to medical conditions such as asthma and heart disease.
 - ✓ Black carbon is linked to health problems such as respiratory and cardiovascular disease, cancer and congenital disabilities. It also contributes to climate change.
- **Positive Feedback Loop:** VOCs can drive the formation of other dangerous pollutants.
 - ✓ For instance, they react with sunlight and nitrogen dioxide to form ground-level ozone.
 - ✓ VOCs also trigger the formation of Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}), a pollutant that reaches deep into the lungs, affecting their normal functioning.
 - ✓ They react in the air to produce secondary organic aerosols, minute particles suspended in the air.
- **Issues Related to VOCs:** Human-made VOCs are a cause for concern, yet they don't draw enough attention.
 - ✓ Benzene, a chemical that induces cancer, is the only VOC included in the National ambient air quality standards.

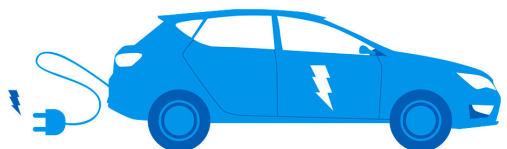
- ✓ The other pollutants under ambient air-quality standards considered are PM10, PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, ammonia, lead, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene.









What are Electric Vehicles?

- An EV operates on an electric motor instead of an internal combustion engine and has a battery instead of a fuel tank.
- In general, EVs have low running costs as they have fewer moving parts and are also environmentally friendly.
- In India, the fuel cost for an EV is approximately 80 paisa per kilometre. Contrast this with the cost of petrol which is today more than Rs 100 per litre in Indian cities, or Rs 7-8 per kilometre to operate a
- petrol-based vehicle.

Advantages & Disadvantages of
Electric Vehicles

droom
Bharat droom



ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
 <p>Doesn't depend on fossil fuels for your commutation</p>	 <p>Priced 30-40% higher than their regular counterparts</p>
 <p>Electric vehicles are known for their always-on power delivery</p>	 <p>Charging infrastructure not adequate</p>
 <p>Electric vehicles are silent operators</p>	 <p>Driving range offered by battery technology is not adequate</p>
 <p>Running on electricity means good bye to exhaust gases. Say hello to clean air!</p>	 <p>Battery packs that power them are highly susceptible to wear & tear and expensive</p>

INDIA'S FIRST' E-WASTE ECO-PARK IN DELHI

KEY POINTS

- The Delhi Cabinet has approved to set up India's first of its kind 'electronic-waste eco-park' for effective management of e-waste on February 24, 2022. The e-waste park is being planned in Narela industrial area and will be spread across 20 acres.
- This eco-park will act as an Integrated Facility, by engaging in dismantling, segregating, refurbishing, material-wise storage, testing and plastic recycling.
- It has also announced 'Delhi Film Policy 2022' to boost tourism and promote the city as a brand. It will also make it a hub for modern film-making, meeting European Standards.

TERI WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

Why in News

- The 21st edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), 2022, held virtually from February 16-18, 2022.
- The Summit focused on the umbrella theme : 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.

KEY POINTS

- PM Modi has delivered the inaugural address at the summit virtually. He reiterated the two initiatives of LIFE (Lifestyle For Environment) and Pro Planet People (3-Ps)
- Environment ministers from nearly a dozen countries took part in the event which had delegates from 131 countries.
- The experts at the summit have discussed on topics such as climate change, sustainable consumption and production, energy & resource security, resilience, and global commons.
- The Summit released Act4Earth Manifesto and Act4Earth Strategy papers in order to reinforce commitment at all levels to enhance ambition and action.
- Vedanta has signed an MoU with TERI to 'Sustainable Use of Resources for a Resilient Planet through Transformative Actions' and improve its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.

INDIA TO REPLACE DIESEL BY RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AGRICULTURE BY 2024.

KEY POINTS

- Union Power Minister RK Singh has announced on February 11, 2022 that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024.
- For this, states should develop action plan to achieve the assigned targets and specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency and conservation.
- This initiative is a part of the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net zero emitter by 2070.

REPORTS

INDIA PRESS FREEDOM REPORT 2021 LAUNCHED

Why in News

- The India Press Freedom Report, 2021 was released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group on Feb. 2, 2022.

KEY POINTS

- According to the report, 13 media houses and newspapers were targeted in the country, 108 journalists were attacked, and 6 journalists were killed.
- The highest number of journalists/media organisations targeted was in Jammu and Kashmir (25), followed by Uttar Pradesh (23) and Madhya Pradesh (16).
- Eight female journalists faced arrest, summon and registration of First Information Reports (FIRS).
- J&K recorded the maximum attacks by State actors while Tripura had the most cases of attacks by non-State actors.

HURUN INDIA WEALTH REPORT 2021

Why in News

- Hurun Report, the world's largest rich list compiler, released the second edition of Hurun India Wealth Report 2021 on February 18, 2022.

KEY POINTS

- The number of dollar-millionaire households in India has increased by 11% to 458000 households compared to last year.
- These households have a net worth of at least Rs.7 crore.
- The number of Indian dollar-millionaire households is estimated to increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 600000 households by 2026.
- With 20300 millionaires households, Mumbai is India's millionaire capital, followed by Delhi and Kolkata with 17400 and 10500 millionaire households, respectively.

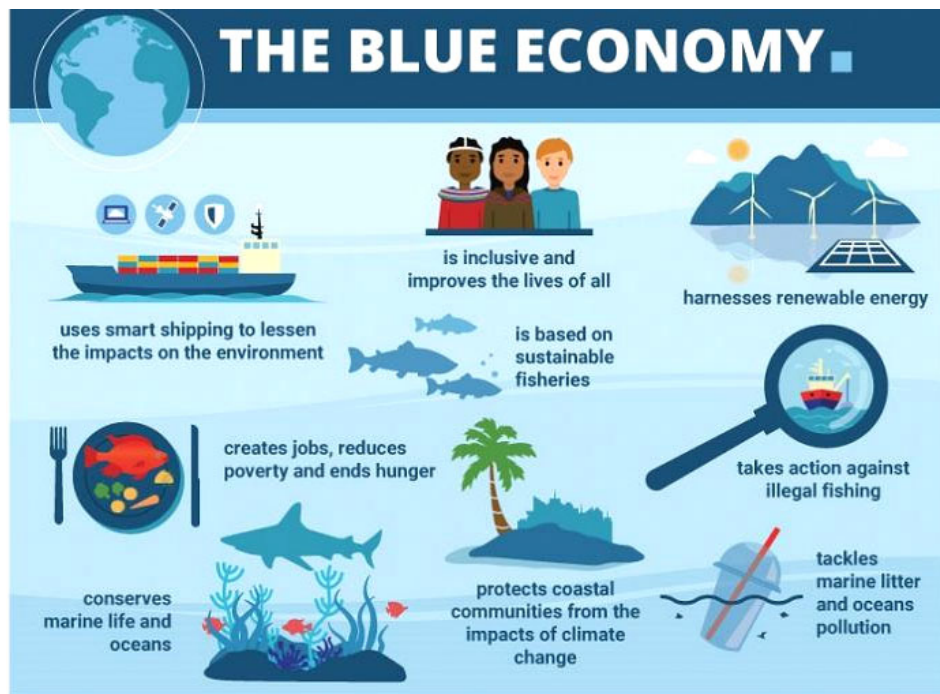
ECONOMY SCENARIO

PROMOTING BLUE ECONOMY

Why in News?

Recently, the union minister of science and technology and earth science said that the Blue Economy is the sixth dimension of Government of India's Vision of New India by 2030.

- A Draft Policy document on Blue Economy has been prepared by the Ministry Of Earth Sciences taking into consideration the reports of the expert working groups which emphasizes holistic development and growth of India's Blue Economy.



What is the Blue Economy?

- The concept was introduced by Gunter Pauli in his 2010 book- "The Blue Economy: 10 years, 100 innovations, 100 million jobs".
- It is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health.
- It advocates the greening of ocean development strategies for higher productivity and conservation of ocean's health.

- Blue Economy emphasizes on integration of development of the ocean economy with social inclusion, environmental sustainability, combined with innovative business models.
- It encompasses
 - ✓ **Renewable Energy:** Sustainable marine energy can play a vital role in social and economic development.
 - ✓ **Fisheries:** Sustainable fisheries can generate more revenue, more fish and help restore fish stocks.
 - ✓ **Maritime Transport:** Over 80% of international goods traded are transported by sea.
 - ✓ **Tourism:** Ocean and coastal tourism can bring jobs and economic growth.
 - ✓ **Climate Change:** Oceans are an important carbon sink (blue carbon) and help mitigate climate change.
 - ✓ **Waste Management:** Better waste management on land can help oceans recover.

What is the Significance of the Blue Economy?

- **High Return on Investment:** According to a research commissioned by the high-level panel for a sustainable ocean economy shows that USD1 invested in key ocean activities yields five times i.e. USD5 in return, often more.
- **Synergy With SDG:** It supports all of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG14 'life below water'.
- **Sustainable Energy:** Supporting the increasing demand for renewable energy, offshore regions have tremendous potential in the form of offshore wind, waves, ocean currents including tidal currents, and thermal energy.
- **Importance For India:** With an over 7,500-km-long coastline spread across nine coastal states, 12 major, and 200 minor ports, India's blue economy supports 95% of the country's business through transportation and contributes an estimated 4% to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

NITI AAYOG TO LAUNCH FINTECH OPEN HACKATHON

KEY POINTS

- NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all Hackathon event for ideating and coming up with the most creative solutions for the FinTech space.
- The Hackathon aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the Fintech Ecosystem.
- The hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code.

RBI'S MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEET

KEY POINTS

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das decided to maintain the status quo on key policy rates for the 10 consecutive times on Feb. 10, 2022.
- The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. For the current fiscal year, RBI retained its retail inflation projection at 5.3%.
- Currently, RBI has proposed to increase the limit on the amount for e-RUPI vouchers issued by Governments to Rs.100000 per voucher and allow use of the voucher multiple times.

Rates

1. Policy Repo Rate - 4.00%
2. Reverse Repo Rate - 3.35%
3. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 4.25%
4. Bank Rate - 4.25%
5. CRR - 4.00%
6. SLR - 18.00%

NABARD LAUNCHED “JIVA” PROGRAMME

KEY POINTS

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the ‘JIVA programme’ to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states on February 9, 2022.
- It aims to effectively implement the principles of agro ecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital towards efficient farming.
- JIVA is an agro ecology-based programme, an amalgamation of several projects under the watershed programme of NABARD and will be implemented in 11 states covering five agro-ecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, NIUA TO JOINTLY DESIGN SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN INDIA

- The World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India Program' which will aim to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors.
- This initiative is particularly noteworthy as it comes after the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated India's commitment to turn net zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.

POLICY FACILITATING PRODUCTION OF GREEN HYDROGEN USING RENEWABLE ENERGY NOTIFIED

KEY POINTS

- The Ministry of Power has notified the Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy paving way for the production of green hydrogen/ green ammonia using renewable sources of energy.
- This is a big shot in the arm to the National Hydrogen Mission that aims to aid the government in meeting its climate targets by 2030 as hydrogen and ammonia are envisaged to be the future fuels to replace fossil fuels.
- The implementation of this Policy will provide clean fuel for the consumption of the common citizens as well as industries, thereby reducing dependence on fossil fuel and crude oil imports.
- This in turn will help in meeting the international commitments for clean energy. The government also aims to make India an export hub for green hydrogen and green ammonia.

IBP ROUTE SEES MAIDEN BARGE VOYAGE BETWEEN HALDIA AND PANDU



KEY POINTS

- The Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBP Route) was successfully used for the first time for a voyage of barges (boats for transport of bulk goods) with a consignment of 1798 MT of finished steel products from Haldia in West Bengal to Pandu in Assam on 16th February.
- This maiden voyage showcased multimodal movement of cargo along with harnessing of the power of river - sea combination.
- The well-knit arterial network of rivers available in the Eastern part of the country coupled with the advantageous position of Haldia Dock Complex, having well established connectivity by rail, road and inland waterways deep into the hinterland, would add fillip towards optimally realizing the full potential of multi-modal logistic chain in the region.
- This paves the way for seamless and robust integrated logistics solutions towards utilising inland waterways and IBP Route in a more cost efficient and environment friendly manner thereby benefitting the region and the country as a whole.

FDI IN FOOD PROCESSING RECORD \$ 10.A8 BILLION.

KEY POINTS

- The total FDI received in the food processing sector since April 2000 till November 2021 was US \$ 10.88 billion.
- Foreign Direct Investment policy and data is looked after by Department for Promotion of industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- As per information from DPIIT, some of the major companies that invested in the Indian food processing sector includes: B.S.A. International, Belgium; Cadbury Schweppes Mauritius Lid, Mauritius; Unilever PLC, United Kingdom; Orkla Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, Singapore, Dannone Asia Pacific Holdings Ltd, Singapore; Roquette Freres, France, Relay B.V.. Netherland; Pepsico PanimexINC, Mauritius, etc.
- This information was given by Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

INDIA TO REPLACE DIESEL WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY TO ACHIEVE TARGET ZERO IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR



KEY POINTS

- Power Minister R K Singh has stressed that India will replace diesel with renewable energy to achieve target of zero diesel use in the agricultural sector by 2024. Mr Singh chaired a virtual meeting with States and Union Territories to discuss the Energy Transition Goals of the country.
- The objective of this meeting was to ensure the state's participation in fulfilling India's climate commitments and each State and UT can be assigned energy saving targets. Addressing the meeting, Mr. Singh stressed on the need for collaborative efforts between the Central and State Governments towards the large-scale deployment of energy efficiency measures in potential sectors of the economy.
- He emphasized the need to have State-specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency and conservation.

SCHEME ON ENHANCEMENT OF COMPETITIVENESS IN INDIAN CAPITAL GOODS SECTOR PHASE-II

KEY POINTS

- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has notified the Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector-Phase-II for providing assistance to common technology development and services infrastructure.
- The scheme has a financial outlay of Rs.1207 crores with budgetary support of Rs.975 crore and industry contribution of Rs 232 crore.

- The objective of Phase-II is to expand and enlarge the impact created by Phase-I pilot scheme, thereby providing greater impetus through creation of a strong and globally competitive capital goods sector that contributes at least 25% to the manufacturing sector.

AIR INDIA OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO TATA SONS

KEY POINTS

- Air India has been officially handed over to the Tata Sons Limited with the completion of the disinvestment process.
- The Tata Group takes over the management and control of the airline. The transaction covers three entities, Air India, Air India Express and AI SATS, Civil Aviation Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Sc India said, this proves the Government's ability and the resolve to carry out disinvestment effectively in non-strategic sectors in the future.
- In a statement by the Tata Group, Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited Shri N. Chandrasekaran said that Tata Group is excited to have Air India back and the group is committed to making this a world class airline.
- He said, Tata Group warmly welcomes all the employees of Air India lo the Group.
- The Air India strategic disinvestment transaction has been completed with Government receiving a consideration of Rs. 2,700 crore from the Talace Private Limited - a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Song.

PERSONS IN NEWS

LEGENDARY SINGER LATA MANGESHKAR PASSES AWAY



KEY POINTS

- Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai on February 6, 2022.
- The veteran singer, popularly known as the Melody Queen, was 92. She had been admitted to hospital on 8 January after having tested positive for COVID-19.
- Government announced a two-day national mourning in memory of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar.
- As a mark of respect, the national flag flew at half-mast for two days.
- A state funeral was accorded to the legendary singer who received the Bharat Ratna in 2001.
- Lata Mangeshkar was born on September 28, 1929, to a Marathi and Konkani musician Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar.
- Originally named Hema, she was the eldest of five siblings, including veteran singer Asha Bhosle.
- Her father Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar was a classical singer and theatre actor, Lata Mangeshkar recorded her first playback song for a Marathi film, Kiti Hasaal, at the age of 13, and even acted in a Marathi film, Pahili Mangalagour in the year 1942.
- In year 1946, she recorded her first Hindi film playback song for Aap Ki Seva Mein, directed by Vasant Jogalekar.
- In 1972, Lata Mangeshkar won the first National Award for Best Female Playback Singer for the film Parichay.
- Over the years, the veteran singer won numerous national and international awards including the prestigious Bharat Ratna, the title of Officer of the French Legion of Honour, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, three National Film Awards, four Filmfare Best Female Playback Awards, Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award and many more.
- In 1984, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh instituted the Lata Mangeshkar Award, while the Government of Maharashtra also instituted a Lata Mangeshkar Award in 1992 to promote singing talent.