

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**
**Child well-being index**

The index is prepared by NGO World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD to measure and tracks children's well-being comprehensively.

- The index contains 24 indicators based on three key dimensions of healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.
- Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry topped the index rankings whereas Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh were at the bottom of rankings
- The report helps States to prioritise the areas of interventions with respect to improving the status of children
- Some of the key indicators that need to be studied in the future include mobile usage, digital access, financial literacy, mental health and quality of relationships per se, between parents/peers and children

**Land Degradation**

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that India has committed to rejuvenate 50 lakh hectares (5 million) of degraded land between 2021 and 2030.

Background:

- India faces a severe problem of land degradation, or soil becoming unfit for cultivation. About 29% or about 96.4 million hectares are considered degraded.
- A report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) earlier this month underlined that land everywhere was bearing the brunt of severe climate change impacts already and would lead to extreme food insecurity if steps weren't taken.

**Initiatives by Government of India:**

- In January 2019, India became part of the "Bonn Challenge", a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, Soil Health Management Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana will tackle this land degradation.
- India for the first time will be hosting the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from September 2 to 13.
- India will implement provisions of New Delhi Declaration which is to be adopted at the end of conference and a Centre for Excellence will be established at Dehradun.

**Scheme to Screen Children for Leprosy & TB**

The Union government has rolled out a scheme for universal screening of children below 18 years for leprosy and tuberculosis (TB).

- It is going to benefit almost 25 crore children and adolescents annually. This will help in ensuring timely screening for the diseases and will put them on treatment (if required).
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Mobile Health teams will act as the delivery agent for the scheme. They will perform the screening of children for TB and Leprosy.
  - Earlier, the screening of children of age group 0-6 years was done at Anganwadis and children of 6-18 years group were enrolled in government and government-aided schools.
- RBSK is aimed at early identification and intervention of diseases in children from their birth to 18 years of age so as to cover the 4 Ds—
  - Defects at birth,
  - Deficiencies,
  - Diseases, &
  - Developmental delays, including Disability.

**Leprosy & TB burden in India**

- India eliminated leprosy in 2005. All states except Chhattisgarh and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli have eliminated leprosy, but still, 1.15-1.2 lakh new leprosy cases are detected every year.

- Tuberculosis kills an estimated 4.8 lakh Indians every year and more than 1,400 every day.
  - India has the highest TB burden in the world.
  - More than a million missing cases are notified every year.
  - Most such cases remain either undiagnosed, or are inadequately diagnosed, and are treated in the private sector.

#### Way Forward

- There is still stigma attached to leprosy, because of which authorities need to administer preventive medication to all the peer groups- family, parents, etc, very discreetly.
- Early detection and timely intervention will help in preventing disability and completely curing the disease.

### **GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**

#### Tech-Saksham

The Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a project named 'Tech Saksham' to accelerate MSME growth through technology enablement.

- It is a Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) partnered project which brings together technology majors Dell Technologies India, HP India, etc to address technological gaps faced by MSMEs in their growth.
- Vision: To bridge the gap in technology adoption for MSMEs so as to provide an impetus for them to be competitive on a global scale, increase their contribution to country exports and leverage cost efficiencies.
- Duration: It is a three-year-long comprehensive project which, in its first phase, will focus on sectors that are labour-intensive and have the propensity to respond positively to tech-adoption, and will spark a larger discussion in other MSME clusters.
- Expected Outcome: Through various policy recommendations, knowledge sessions, mentoring initiatives, and useful resource banks for MSMEs, the project will help in addressing critical barriers in the MSME ecosystem such as awareness and cost of technology purchase/maintenance, resources and manpower required to run the technologies, return on investments, etc.

### **ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**

#### Rare Tarantula Sighted in Tamil Nadu

The spider belonging to the Genus Poecilotheria, commonly known as the Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula was spotted in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests in Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu.

#### Peacock Parachute Spider (Gooty Tarantula)

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has categorised it as Critically Endangered.
- It is endemic to India.
- The known habitat of this species is in the Eastern Ghats especially degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh.
- Species of this genus can be identified based on the banding patterns on the underside of the legs.
- Tarantulas are biological pest controllers and there is a huge demand for them by collectors in the pet trade. There is an urgent need to protect them

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**

#### Chandrayaan-2 Scans Mitra Crater

Recently, the Chandrayaan-2's orbiter has scanned a crater on the moon named after 20th century's acclaimed radio physicist Sisir Kumar Mitra. The set of images taken by the Chandrayaan-2, also include the images of impact craters namely:

- Jackson: Named after a Scottish astronomer.
- Mach: Named after an Austrian physicist and philosopher.
- Korolev: Named after the father of the space programme of the erstwhile USSR.

The Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union (IAU)—the global authority for naming planetary features in the solar system— had named the impact based crater after Professor Sisir Kumar Mitra in 1970.

#### Lunar Craters

- Lunar Craters are bowl-shaped landforms created by Volcanism and Cratering.
- There are hundreds of thousands of moon craters ranging from less than a mile across to giant basins.
- The largest crater on the Moon is called South Pole-Aitken Basin.
- Moon's lack of water, atmosphere, and tectonic plates, there is little erosion, and craters are found that exceed two billion years in age.

#### FEDOR

FEDOR is short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research is a Russian humanoid robot which has recently reached International Space Station(ISS).

- FEDOR weighing 160 kg & standing 180 cm tall, was sent in an unmanned Soyuz capsule from the launch pad at Russia's space facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.
- It will copy human movements and will help with high-risk tasks at the ISS specially to work on the outside of the ISS
- While FEDOR is Russia's first robot in space, in 2011, NASA sent up Robonaut 2 and in 2013 Japan sent up a small robot called Kirobo into Space.

#### Related Info:

The International Space Station is habitable artificial satellite in low Earth orbit. The ISS programme is a joint project between five participating space agencies:

- NASA – USA
- Roscosmos – Russia
- JAXA – Japan
- ESA – Europe
- CSA – Canada

The ownership and use of the space station is established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements. The ISS serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory in which crew members conduct experiments in biology, human biology, physics, astronomy, meteorology, and other fields.

### **ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Odisha Draft Health Policy Paints Grim Realities**

Even though healthcare in Odisha is in a shambles, the State government is planning to bring a new health policy soon with a 15-year vision.

- As per the data furnished in the draft health policy, Malaria, and TB have assumed alarming proportions in the State whereas Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis and Swine Flu are spreading its tentacles. Besides, a large number of people in the State suffer from malnutrition and anaemia.
- The draft policy also cited that the State hospitals lack infrastructure and require experts to provide treatment to patients. As many as 86% Medicine Specialist, 80% Paediatrician, 79% Surgery Specialist and 62% Gynaecologist posts are lying vacant in different hospitals across the State.
- There are only 10 health workers in Odisha for 10,000 people as against 23 health workers mandated by the World Health Organization, the draft policy stated.

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**What you want exists. Don't settle until you get it.**

### **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns: What are the scientific objectives of Chandrayaan 2? Why is important to explore the lunar South Pole?**

**Ans:** Chandrayaan 2 is an Indian lunar mission that will boldly go where no country has ever gone before — the Moon's South Polar Region. Through this effort, the aim is to improve our understanding of the Moon — discoveries that will benefit India and humanity as a whole. These insights and experiences aim at a paradigm shift in how lunar expeditions are approached for years to come — propelling further voyages into the farthest frontiers.

The Moon is the closest cosmic body at which space discovery can be attempted and documented. It is also a promising test bed to demonstrate technologies required for deep-space missions. Chandrayaan 2 attempts to foster a new age of discovery, increase our understanding of space, stimulate the advancement of technology, promote global alliances, and inspire a future generation of explorers and scientists.

The Moon provides us the best linkage to Earth's early history and an undisturbed record of the nascent Solar System environment. While a few mature models do exist, the Moon's origin still needs further explanations. Extensive mapping of the lunar surface will aid us in studying variations in its composition — an essential piece of information in tracing the Moon's origin and evolution. Evidence of water molecules — discovered by Chandrayaan 1 — and the extent of its distribution on the lunar surface and sub-surface also require further studies.

This area is of special interest because it receives very little sunlight. Some parts remain permanently in the shade, due to the tilt of the moon's axis. There are giant craters down there creating what are called cold traps: regions cold enough to freeze not just water but also a range of volatile compounds. The temperature of the lunar cold traps can go as low as minus 200 degrees Celsius – so cold that most gases freeze.

The compounds in those cold traps have been possibly frozen for as many as 3 billion years and could contain a record of the early Solar System. They could confirm the Giant Impact Hypothesis: that the moon was formed when, 4.4 billion years ago, an object the size of a planet collided with the earth.

Chandrayaan 2 will use the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover to attempt a soft landing in a high plain between two craters — Manzinus C and Simpelius N — at a latitude of about 70° south. The region receives very little light, which makes the charging of solar panels difficult, meaning that the lander and rover could run out of power.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ**

1. With reference to project 'Tech Saksham', which of the following statements is/are correct?
  1. The project is launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
  2. It is a joint project of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
  3. It is launched to accelerate the growth of Startups through technology enablement.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 3
  - (c) 2 only
  - (d) **2 and 3**
2. With reference to the Child's Well-Being Index Report, consider the following statements:
  1. Kerala has bagged the top spot in the Child's Well-Being Index Report.
  2. The report is a collaborated work of an NGO World India and the NITI Aayog.
  3. The index is computed on the basis of 3 dimensions (that include, healthy individual development, positive relationships, and protective contexts) & 24 indicators.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2
  - (c) **1 and 3**
  - (d) 2 and 3
3. With reference to 'Peacock Parachute Spider (Gooty Tarantula)', which of the following statements is/are correct?
  1. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has categorised it as 'Endangered'.
  2. Species of this genus can be identified based on the banding patterns on the underside of the legs.
  3. It is endemic to India and known habitat of this species is in the Eastern Ghats especially degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

  - (a) 1 and 2
  - (b) **2 and 3**
  - (c) 1 and 3
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
4. Consider the following statements:
  1. India is facing a severe problem of land degradation as about 29% of land is considered degraded.
  2. As a part of Bonn Challenge commitment, India will convert degraded land of nearly 5 million hectares to fertile land by 2030.
  3. India joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 1 and 2
  - (c) 2 and 3
  - (d) **1, 2 and 3**
5. Recently Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Mobile Health teams have conducted Screening of children for which disease/s?
  - (a) Tuberculosis
  - (b) Leprosy
  - (c) Malaria
  - (d) **Both (a) and (b)**
6. Which of the following are the names of the Lunar Craters?
  1. Korolev
  2. Jackson
  3. Mitra

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

  - (a) 3 only
  - (b) 1 and 3
  - (c) 2 and 3
  - (d) **1, 2 and 3**
7. Recently in news, FEDORS is/an
  - (a) **Robot**
  - (b) Super Computer
  - (c) Rocket
  - (d) Missile