

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**Van Dhan Internship Programme**

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs launched the “Van Dhan Internship Programme” organised by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

About:

- 18 interns (to be called Minister’s interns) from some of the reputed Institutes of Rural Management/ Management Institutions/ Institutes of Social Work/ Social Services of the country are participating in the “Van Dhan Internship Programme”.
- The period of internship is 6 months (extendable depending upon the need of the organisation).
- These interns have been selected to work in various districts in tribal areas on Van Dhan programme. They will support the TRIFED activities on livelihood promotion, value addition of NTFTs, marketing and credit linkages.

GOAL (Going Online as Leaders)

The second phase of GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) has been jointly launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Facebook to digitally mentor 5000 young women in India’s tribal-dominated districts.

- The GOAL is a Facebook program aimed at guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities
- The programme will help to connect underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills.
- It will also provide economically and socially marginalized young women with the tools and guidance for the development of livelihood skills.
- It will help to close the digital gender gap by enabling more women to get online and access digital services.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**Ex Eastern Bridge-V**

Indian Air Force is participating in a Bilateral Joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO), named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V, scheduled from 17-26 Oct 19, at Air Force Base Masirah.

About:

- The last exercise, EX EASTERN BRIDGE-IV was held in 2017 at Jamnagar.
- IAF contingent comprises of MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft.
- Besides strengthening bilateral relations, the exercise will enhance inter-operability during mutual operations between the two Air Forces and will provide an opportunity to learn from each other’s best practices.

Tulagi Island

A Chinese company has signed an agreement to lease an entire island in the Solomon Islands.

About:

- The Solomons' Central Province made a "strategic cooperation agreement" on Tulagi island with the state-owned China Sam Enterprise Group for the development of the special economic zone.
- The agreement with China Sam mentions developing a refinery on the island, but its potential for dual use as a Chinese military base is certain to raise concerns with the United States and Australia.
- Recently, China and the Solomons officially established diplomatic relations after China persuaded the impoverished Pacific nation to sever ties with Taiwan and become its ally. Days later another Taiwan loyalist in the region, Kiribati, did likewise.

Tulagi island-

- Tulagi, an island about two square kilometres with a population of 1,200, is the site of a former Japanese naval base and was the scene of fierce fighting in World War II.
- The island of Tulagi served as a South Pacific headquarters for Britain and then Japan. During Second World War, its natural deepwater harbour across from Guadalcanal was coveted by the military.

World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2019

According to WIPO's annual World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report, China accounted for nearly half global patent filings in 2018.

Key findings:

- In all, innovators worldwide filed 3.3 million patent applications (up 5.2% for a ninth straight yearly increase), 3 million trademark applications, and 1.3 million industrial design applications.
- Asia has become a global hub for innovation. Asia accounted for more than two-thirds of all patent, trademark and industrial design applications in 2018.
- China ranked first in all three categories and had as many patent filings as the next 10 places combined, including Japan (3rd), South Korea (4th) and the European Patent Office (5th).
- China accounted for nearly half of global patent filings last year, with a record 1.54 million applications, led by telecoms and computer technology. Number of patents filed by China increased by 11.6 % in 2018 from 2017.
- The US ranked second with almost 600,000 patent applications, down 1.6 percent on the previous year and the first drop in a decade.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- It is the global forum for intellectual property policy, services, information and cooperation. WIPO assists its 192 member states in developing a balanced international IP legal framework to meet society's evolving needs.

Global Tuberculosis Report 2019: WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently released its 2019 edition of the Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report. The report provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic and progress in the response at global, regional and country levels for India. WHO has been publishing global TB report every year since 1997.

Key Findings

- TB remains the top infectious killer in the world claiming over 4,000 lives a day.
- Geographically, most TB cases in 2018 were in the WHO regions of South-East Asia (44%), Africa (24%) and the Western Pacific (18%).
- Eight countries that accounted for two thirds of the global total include India (27%), China (9%) and Indonesia (8%).
- The above countries are also in WHO's list of 30 high TB burden countries that accounted for 87% of the world's cases in 2018.
- In 2018, there were about half a million new cases of rifampicin-resistant TB (of which 78% had multidrug resistant TB).
- The three countries with the largest share of the global burden were India (27%), China (14%) and the Russian Federation (9%).
- Globally, 7.0 million new cases of TB were notified in 2018 – an increase from 6.4 million in 2017.

- Most of the increase in global notifications of TB cases since 2013 is explained by trends in India and Indonesia, the two countries that rank first and third worldwide in terms of estimated incident cases per year.
- In India, notifications of new cases rose from 1.2 million to 2.0 million between 2013 and 2018 (+60%).
- Despite increases in TB notifications, there is still a large gap between the number of new cases reported (7.0 million) and the estimated 10.0 million incident cases in 2018.
- This gap is due to a combination of underreporting of detected cases and underdiagnosis (i.e. people with TB do not access health care or are not diagnosed when they do).
- Ten countries accounted for about 80% of the gap, with India (25%), Nigeria (12%), Indonesia (10%) and the Philippines (8%) accounting for more than half of the total.
- The latest treatment outcome data for new cases of TB show a global treatment success rate of 85% in 2017, an increase from 81% in 2016. The improvement was mainly due to progress in India.
- Funding for the provision of TB prevention, diagnostic and treatment services has doubled since 2006.
- In India, domestic funding quadrupled between 2016 and 2019.

Suggestions:

- Annual financing for TB prevention and care and for TB research needs to approximately double.
- Access to TB care and preventive treatment needs to be expanded.
- Substantial costs faced by TB patients and their households should be mitigated.
- Multisectoral action on the broader determinants of the TB epidemic needs to be intensified.
- Intensified research and development is required to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and End TB Strategy targets set for 2030.
- The End TB Strategy milestones for 2020 and 2025 can only be achieved if TB diagnosis, treatment and prevention services are provided within the context of progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- UHC means that everyone can obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.
- SDG Target 3.8 is to achieve UHC by 2030.

INDICES, DAYS, AWARDS, EVENTS ETC.**India Innovation Index 2019**

NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner released the India Innovation Index (III) 2019.

About:

- The study examines the innovation ecosystem of Indian states and union territories.
- The aim is to create a holistic tool which can be used by policymakers across the country to identify the challenges to be addressed and strengths to build on when designing the economic growth policies for their regions.
- The states have been bifurcated into three categories: Major States, North-East & Hill states, and Union territories/City States/Small States.
- The Index is calculated as the average of the scores of its two dimensions - Enablers and Performance.
- The Enablers are the factors that underpin innovative capacities, grouped in five pillars: (1) Human Capital, (2) Investment, (3) Knowledge Workers, (4) Business Environment, and (5) Safety and Legal Environment.

- The Performance dimension captures benefits that a nation derives from the inputs, divided in two pillars: (1) Knowledge Output and (2) Knowledge Diffusion.

Key highlights:

- There seems to be a west-south and north-east divide across the country. The top ten major states are majorly concentrated in southern and western India.
- Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India. Karnataka's number one position in the overall ranking is partly attributed to its top rank in the Performance dimension.
- Among the major states, Maharashtra performs the best in the dimension of Enablers.
- Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among the north- eastern & hill states, and union territories/city states/small states respectively.
- Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh are the most efficient states in translating inputs into output.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**DREAM' Project Launched For 100% Matric Results In Odisha**

- Following lacklustre results in the last matriculation examination, the School and Mass Education Department of Odisha government has joined hands with Ganjam district administration to boost pass percentage in Odia medium schools.
- For this purpose, Drive For Result Enhancement In Annual Matriculation Examination (DREAM) initiative has been envisaged. Given poor success rate of matric students in Odisha last year, the state government had received criticism from several quarters. Show cause notices were also issued to 68 schools, which performed poorly in the examination.
- 'DREAM' project has been conceived to put special focus on the weaker students. Moreover two more examinations have been included between the Pre-Test and Test examinations to give weaker students proper practice ahead of the final matric exam.

Poverty Levels In Odisha Dipped By 25% In 20 Years

Odisha Chief Minister claimed that poverty levels in the state have dropped by 25 per cent over the past 20 years, precisely the period he has been ruling the state. Odisha's transformative initiatives and policies have resulted in the sharpest drop in poverty, about 25 per cent, bringing millions out of poverty in the last two decades.

- Odisha and Bihar are among the poorest states in the country.
- While 33.34 per cent of Bihar were poor in 2011-12, the corresponding number for Odisha in the same base year stood at 32.59 per cent, officials said.
- The Odisha government had said its KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme will benefit small and marginal farmers and help in poverty reduction in the rural areas.
- The state government's Mission Shakti scheme also helps rural women enhance their income which will help reduce poverty, they said.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Strive for Progress not perfection.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns- Examine the impact of India's huge dependence on imports to meet its energy and oil needs. Also, suggest measures to attain self-sufficiency in this regard.

Answer :

India is largely dependent on fossil fuel imports to meet its energy demands. As per World Bank, India's dependence on energy imports is expected to exceed 53% of the country's total energy consumption by 2030 from 34.3% in 2014.

Impacts of India's dependence on imports of oil and energy needs**Economic impacts**

- Impacts Current Account Deficit (CAD): High import bill has an adverse impact on our exchange rate via large outgo of foreign exchange on energy imports thereby raising CAD.
- Direct impact on inflation: Any fluctuation in international crude oil prices directly impacts domestic markets raising transportation costs thereby increasing prices of basic goods and services.

Strategic impacts

- Impacts foreign policy decisions: India's overreliance on oil exporting countries provides leverage to major powers for diplomatic bargaining with India.
- For ex: India had to succumb to the USA's sanctions to discontinue its import of cheap Iranian oil.
- Similarly, Pakistan's strategic location creates significant hindrances to TAPI gas pipeline.
- Securing sea lines: India had to constantly keep vigil on global threats like piracy, terrorism, oil spills, etc to secure its sea lines of communication particularly in the Arabian Sea.

Measures to attain self-sufficiency in energy needs of India

- Raising domestic production: The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) would boost the exploration, licensing and production of fossil fuel based hydrocarbons. Expanding production in existing oil and gas fields of K-G basin, Cambay basin and Indian Ocean while simultaneously exploiting potential sites in North Eastern Region (Arunachal Pradesh), etc.
- Renewable energy: Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydropower, etc are the most suitable options to eliminate import dependence. India has set a target of generating 175GW of renewable energy (100GW by solar + 60GW wind) by 2022.
- Alternative sources: Domestic production of alternative sources of energy like biofuels (bioethanol, bio-CNG, etc) should be increased. The National Policy on Biofuels 2018 suggests providing viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries, which is a step in the right direction.
- Diversifying imports: India should look beyond middle-eastern countries or OPEC members for oil imports. Newer emerging alternatives like US' shale gas production, opportunities in Russia's far eastern region should be exploited.
- Strategic Petroleum Reserves: Building petroleum reserves like underground tank storage is needed to manage any disruption in oil demand and supply. India should expand its SPR network from already existing storage networks at Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur.

Conclusion

With a target of above 8% sustained annual growth rate in GDP, India's energy imports may rise rapidly and impair our energy security. As suggested by our Prime Minister, India needs to bring down its oil import dependence from 77% in 2013-14 to 67% by 2022 when India will celebrate its 75th year of independence. It is also to be noted that energy sufficiency is directly linked to energy conservation. Rapid utilization of energy should be done in tandem with efforts to reduce its misuse and wastage for sustainable growth.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS

1. “Van Dhan Internship Programme” is launched by which ministry?
 - (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development
 - (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
 - (c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
2. With reference to the Going Online as Leaders (GOAL), consider the following statements:
 1. It is a Microsoft program in association with Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 2. It aims at inspiring, guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only**
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. With reference to the WIPO’s annual World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report 2019, consider the following statements:
 1. India accounted for nearly half global patent filings in 2018.
 2. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only**
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Bilateral Joint exercise EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V is between India and which of the following countries?
 - (a) Oman**
 - (b) Qatar
 - (c) Saudi Arabia
 - (d) U.A.E
5. With reference to the India Innovation Index (III) 2019, consider the following statements:
 1. It is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
 2. Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only**
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Consider the following statements:
 1. The Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report is published by World Health Organisation.
 2. According to the report, TB incidence per 1,00,000 population in India has increased significantly from 2017.
 3. Globally, India accounts for the second highest number of TB cases after China.Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 only**
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 2 and 3 only