

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****Pradhan Mantri Matsyasampada yoyana****Key features of the scheme:**

- It is a scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country.
- 20,050 crores has been sanctioned for its implementation during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories, as a part of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package.
- The scheme focuses on beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture.
- It seeks to adopt 'Cluster or Area based approaches'.

**Aims and targets of the scheme:**

- Enhance fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25.
- Increase fisheries export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore by 2024-25.
- Double incomes of fishers and fish farmers.
- Reduce post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10%.
- Generate additional 55 lakhs direct and indirect gainful employment opportunities in fisheries sector and allied activities.

**Uniqueness of the scheme:**

- While aiming to consolidate the achievements of Blue Revolution Scheme, PMMSY envisages many new interventions such as fishing vessel insurance, support for new/up-gradation of fishing vessels/boats, Bio-toilets, Aquaculture in saline/alkaline areas, Sagar Mitras, FFPOs/Cs, Nucleus Breeding Centres, Fisheries and Aquaculture start-ups, Incubators, etc.

**Other initiatives announced at the launch of PMMSY scheme:**

- Establishment of Fish Brood Bank at Sitamarhi.
- Aquatic Disease Referral Laboratory at Kishanganj.
- One-unit fish feed mill at Madhepura and two units of 'Fish on Wheels' assisted at Patna under Blue Revolution.
- Comprehensive Fish Production Technology Centre at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar.

**Gram Panchayat Development Plan and VPRP**

With the current Covid-19 situation, DAY-NRLM has designed an online training program to train all State Missions across the country on Village Poverty Reduction Plans (VPRP), in partnership with Kudumbashree (National Resource Organisation), National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

**What are Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)?**

- GPDP is conducted from 2nd October to 31st December, every year across the country, under the People's Plan Campaign (PPC).
- Local bodies, across the country are expected to prepare context specific, need based GPDP.
- It brings together both the citizens and their elected representatives in the decentralized planning processes.

**What are Village Poverty Reduction Plans (VPRP)?**

- PPC guidelines and the joint advisory issued by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Rural Development, has mandated Self Help Groups and their federations under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to participate in the annual GPDP planning process and prepare the Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP).
- VPRP is a comprehensive demand plan which needs to be integrated with the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- The VPRP is presented in the Gram Sabha meetings from Oct. to Dec. every year.

**Demands under VPRP are categorized into five major components:**

**Social inclusion** – plan for inclusion of vulnerable people/household into SHGs under NRLM

**Entitlement** – demand for various schemes such as MGNREGS, SBM, NSAP, PMAY, Ujjwala, Ration card etc.

**Livelihoods** – specific demand for enhancing livelihood through developing agriculture, animal husbandry, production and service enterprises and skilled training for placement etc.

**Public Goods and Services** – demand for necessary basic infrastructure, for renovation of the existing infrastructure and for better service delivery

**Resource Development** – demand for protection and development of natural resources like land, water, forest and other locally available resources

**Social Development** – plans prepared for addressing specific social development issues of a village under the low cost no cost component of GPDP.

**Additional Fact:**

The Article 243G of the Constitution intended to empower the Gram Panchayats (GPs) by enabling the State Governments to devolve powers and authority in respect of all 29 Subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule for local planning and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATION

### Indo-Pacific Trilateral Dialogue

Recently, India, Australia and France held a dialogue for the first time under a trilateral framework. The three sides have agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis.

**Key Points**

- Focus: Enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region. Australia, along with France, has emerged as a major strategic partner for India in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region (IOR), especially in the maritime domain. For instance:
  - India has logistics agreements with both countries. The logistics agreement provides for easier access to supplies of goods and services.
  - There is significant cooperation in information exchange for Maritime Domain Awareness.
  - France was the first country to deploy a Liaison Officer at the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC-IOR) as part of efforts to improve Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).
  - India conducted its first joint patrols with France in Reunion Island (western Indian ocean) in February 2020.
- **Chinese Factor:**
  - The trilateral cooperation will help to take on China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region. E.g in South China Sea.
  - This trilateral cooperation is an addition to the Quad which comprises the USA, Japan, Australia and India.
  - It also adds diplomatic muscle to the global coalition that is shaping up to counter China's belligerence.
- **Issues Discussed:**
  - Possibility of enhancing maritime security cooperation between the three countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
  - It also includes areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime domain awareness, mutual logistics support and capacity-building of friendly countries.
  - Development cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the need for a reformed multilateralism.
  - Cooperation on marine global commons. It includes blue economy, marine biodiversity and environmental challenges such as marine pollution.
  - Practical cooperation at the trilateral and regional level, including through regional organisations such as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Commission.
  - The increased salience of resilient and reliable supply chains.
  - India, Australia and Japan recently inked an initiative to build resilient supply chains, which is named as Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). France may join this initiative too.
  - Emerging challenges in the context of Covid-19 pandemic, including the financial impact of the pandemic on the Indian Ocean region countries.

**Way Forward**

- France and Australia are India's key partners in the Indo-Pacific region. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to build upon the progress that the three countries have achieved bilaterally in recent years.

## INDIAN POLITY

### Criminalisation of Politics

The Supreme Court had sought the amicus report on pending cases against legislators on the basis of a petition.

1. The report was recently filed by the apex court's amicus curiae and senior advocate Vijay Hansaria.

**Key findings:**

1. There are a total 4,442 cases pending against legislators across the country. Of this, the number of cases against sitting Members of Parliament and members of State legislatures was 2,556.
2. The cases were pending in various special courts exclusively set up to try criminal cases registered against politicians.
3. The cases against the legislators include that of corruption, money laundering, damage to public property, defamation and cheating.
4. A large number of cases were for violation of Section 188 IPC for wilful disobedience and obstruction of orders promulgated by public servants.
5. There are 413 cases in respect of offences, which are punishable with imprisonment for life, out of which in 174 cases sitting MPs/ MLAs are accused.
6. A large number of cases were pending at the appearance stage and even non-bailable warrants (NBWs) issued by courts have not been executed.
7. Highest number of cases are pending in Uttar Pradesh.

**What does the RPA say on this?**

Currently, under the Representation of Peoples (RP) Act, lawmakers cannot contest elections only after their conviction in a criminal case.

1. Section 8 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951 disqualifies a person convicted with a sentence of two years or more from contesting elections. But those under trial continued to be eligible to contest elections.

**Main reasons for Criminalization:**

1. Corruption
2. Vote bank.
3. Lack of governance.

**What is the way out?**

1. Political parties should themselves refuse tickets to the tainted.
2. The RP Act should be amended to debar persons against whom cases of a heinous nature are pending from contesting elections.
3. Fast-track courts should decide the cases of tainted legislators quickly.
4. Bring greater transparency in campaign financing.
5. The Election Commission of India (ECI) should have the power to audit the financial accounts of political parties.

**INDIAN AGRICULTURE****Initiatives to Promote Bamboo**

Recently, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has virtually inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in 9 states viz. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.

- A logo for the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has also been released.

**Key Points****Initiatives to Promote Bamboo:**

- Use of bamboo has been an ancient tradition in India and it is now being supported with modern technology and the youth is being provided with training for the bamboo industry.
- The Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees.
- As a result, anyone can undertake cultivation and business in bamboo and its products without the need of a felling and transit permission.

- Import policy has also been modified to ensure the progress of the bamboo industry in the country.
- NBM supports local artisans through locally grown bamboo species, which will actualise the goal of Vocal for Local and help increase the income of farmers, reducing dependency on imports of raw material.
- 10 most important species which are required by industry have been identified and quality planting material is being made available to farmers for plantations.
- Apart from the existing Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), 10,000 new FPOs will be formed in 5 years.
- Well-organized FPOs engage in providing a range of assistance to farmers like imparting better farm practices, collectivisation of input purchases, transportation, linkage with markets, and better price realisation as they do away with the intermediaries.
- Common Facility Centres are being set up close to the plantations which will reduce the cost of transportation and increase local entrepreneurship, moving to a zero-waste approach.
- **National Bamboo Mission:**
  - The restructured NBM was launched in 2018-19 for the holistic development of the complete value chain of the bamboo sector and is being implemented in a hub (industry) and spoke model.

**Objective:**

- Connecting farmers to markets so as to enable farmer producers to get a ready market for the bamboo grown and to increase the supply of appropriate raw material to the domestic industry.
- It also endeavours to upgrade skills of traditional bamboo craftsmen as per the requirement of contemporary markets with a tie-up with enterprises and premier institutes.
- The Sector Skill Councils established under the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) will impart skills and recognition of prior learning to traditional artisans, encouraging the youth to carry forward their family traditions.
- NSDA is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship that anchors the National Skill Qualifications Framework and allied quality assurance mechanisms for synergizing skill initiatives in the country.

**New Logo:**

- It portrays a bamboo culm in the centre of a circle composed of half an industrial wheel and half farmers, depicting the objectives of NBM appropriately.
- The green and yellow colour of the logo symbolise bamboo often termed as green gold.

**Way Forward**

- States need to take forward the objectives of the National Bamboo Mission which would contribute to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through an “Aatmanirbhar Krishi (self-reliant farming)”.
- With the abundance of bamboo and its rapidly growing industry, India should aim to establish herself in global markets for both engineered and handcrafted products by increasing the exports even further.

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM****South India's 1st and country's 2nd Kisan Train**

Context: Inaugural run of the train flagged off.

**Key facts:**

1. Location: It runs between Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) and New Delhi.
2. Kisan Rail will help in strengthening the agricultural economy and help in the speedy transportation of farm produce to distant places.
3. On 7th August, the first Kisan Rail was flagged off between Devlali in Maharashtra and Danapur in Bihar.



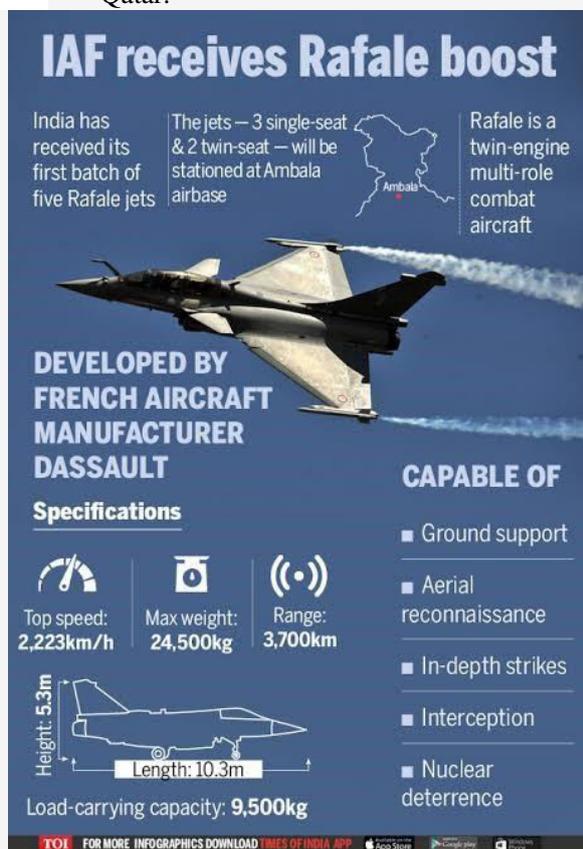
**Rafale aircraft:**

The Indian Air Force will formally induct the Rafale aircraft on 10th September 2020. The aircraft will be part of 17 Squadron, the “Golden Arrows”.

The first five Indian Air Force Rafale aircraft arrived at Air Force Station, Ambala from France on 27th July 2020.

**Key facts:**

1. Rafale is a French twin-engine and multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation being produced for both the French Air Force and for carrier-based operations in the French Navy.
2. India has inked a Rs 59,000-crore deal in 2016 to procure 36 Rafale jets from French aerospace major Dassault Aviation.
3. India is the fourth country to have the strategic platform with Rafale after France, Egypt and Qatar.



**Shikshak Parv Initiative:**

1. Ministry of Education organizes a webinar on Inclusive and Equitable Education under Shikshak Parv Initiative.
2. It is being celebrated from 8th September- 25th September, 2020 to felicitate the Teachers and to take New Education Policy 2020 forward.

**Jigyasa:**

1. It is a student – scientist connect programme launched in 2017.
2. The programme would be implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
3. The focus of this scheme is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with well planned research laboratory based learning.

**WHO South East Asia Region:**

The 73rd session is being hosted by the Government of Thailand (from Bangkok) while the previous session was held in New Delhi.

1. South East Asia is One of the six WHO Regions.
2. The Region has 11 Member States – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste.

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. The National Education Policy(NEP) 2020 Proposes to have foundational literacy and numeracy a target of early schooling . critically analyze the move if it further embattles the already stressed childhood.(250 words)**

**Ans.**

According to UNICEF, early childhood is defined as the period from conception through eight years of age. Early childhood care and education (ECCE) is more than preparation for primary school. It aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing. Target 4.2 of SDG 4 aims that by 2030, to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

**Significance of ECCE:**

- Early childhood is a time of remarkable growth with brain development at its peak.
- Over 85% of a child's cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of 6, indicating the critical importance of appropriate care and stimulation of the brain in a child's early years for healthy brain development and growth.
- It is, therefore of the utmost importance that every child has access to quality early childhood care and education (ECCE).

- The overall aim of ECCE will be to attain optimal outcomes in the domains of physical and motor development, cognitive development, socio-emotional-ethical development, cultural/artistic development, and the development of communication and early language, literacy, and numeracy.
- It also includes a focus on developing social capacities, sensitivity, good behaviour, courtesy, ethics, personal and public cleanliness, teamwork and cooperation.
- These years lay the foundations for her/ his learning and holistic development.
- Children will be better prepared for primary school and will reach better education outcomes.
- Quality ECCE also helps reduce repetition and drop-out rates.
- Positive outcomes are even more pronounced among children from vulnerable groups.
- It helps promote human resource development, gender equality and social cohesion, and to reduce the costs for later remedial programmes.
- An overview of 56 studies across 23 countries found impacts on health, education, cognitive ability, and emotional development.

**NEP 2020 and ECCE:**

- ECCE would be the greatest and most powerful equaliser.
- Universal provisioning of quality early childhood development, care and education must be thus being achieved by 2030, to ensure that all children entering Grade 1 are school ready
- The Policy projecting an expansion of the Right to Education Act to cover the three years of preschool before Class 1.
- It suggests a new integrated curricular framework for 3 to 8-year olds with a flexible system based on play, activity and discovery, and beginning exposure to three languages from age 3 onwards.
- The policy aims to provide High-quality early childhood care and education for all children between the ages of three and six by 2025.
- This will be done within schools and anganwadis, which will take care of the overall well-being of the child.
- These institutions will also provide similar support to families for children younger than three years of age—within their homes.
- This policy will result in a massive positive multiplier effect on society.

**Challenges:**

- One of the major issues of ECCE is the unavailability of trained teachers.
- Anganwadis are currently quite deficient in supplies and infrastructure for education.
- As a result, they tend to contain more children in the 2-4-year age range and fewer in the educationally critical 4-6-year age range.
- Anganwadis also have few teachers trained in or specially dedicated to early childhood education.
- Private pre-schools often consist of formal teaching and rote memorisation with limited play-based learning.
- A 2017 study by the Ambedkar University showed that “a significant proportion of children in India who completed pre-primary education, public or private, did not have the needed school readiness competencies when they joined primary school.

**Way forward:**

- For universal access to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), the Anganwadi Centres will be strengthened with high quality infrastructure, play equipment and well-trained Anganwadi workers/teachers.
- Every Anganwadi must have a well-ventilated, well-designed, child-friendly and well-constructed building with an enriched learning Funds for this programme will be provided by the Central and State governments.
- ECCE teacher training should be added as a skill gap in the list of National Skill Development Corporation to ensure that easy investment is available to produce efficient ECCE teachers.
- Universal access to quality early childhood education is perhaps the best investment that India can make for our children’s and our nation’s future.
- ECCE can also be introduced in Ashrams shalas in tribal-dominated areas in a phased manner.

**DAILY QUIZ**

1. Convention no. 185 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), often seen in the news, deals with?
  - a) Protection of Workers against Radiations
  - b) Equal treatment of labour
  - c) Seafarer Identity Document**
  - d) None of the above
2. Momentum for Change is an initiative of
  - a) UN Climate Change secretariat**
  - b) UNEP
  - c) World Bank
  - d) UNICEF
3. Okjokull glacier, recently seen in news is located in
  - a) Canada
  - b) Greenland
  - c) Antarctica
  - d) Iceland**
4. Consider the following statements about the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) initiative.
  1. The main objective of BBIN is to facilitate seamless cross-border movement of vehicles.
  2. Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing technical, advisory, and financial support to the BBIN.
  3. The initiative also aims to phase out all custom duties and tariff on international trade in goods and services between the member countries.Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - a) 1, 3
  - b) 2, 3
  - c) 1, 2, 3
  - d) 1, 2**
5. The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme aimed at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure for the farmers for their overall credit requirements such as
  1. Marketing of produce
  2. Maintenance of farm assets
  3. Consumption requirements of farmer households
  4. Post-harvest expenses**Select the correct answer code:**
  - a) 1, 2, 3
  - b) 1, 3, 4
  - c) 2, 3, 4
  - d) 1, 2, 3, 4**