

GOVERNANCE**ShramShakti Portal**

Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched “ShramShakti”- a National Migration Support Portal, to smooth the formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers. A training manual “ShramSaathi” was also launched for migrant workers.

Key Points

It has been launched to collect data related to tribal migrant workers and link them with the existing welfare schemes.

Objectives of ShramShakti Portal:

- Various data will be recorded via Shram Shakti include demographic profile, livelihood options, skill mapping and migration pattern.
- It will help in empowering the workers who generally migrate in search of employment and income generation.
- It would help the national and state governments in formulation of effective strategies and policy decisions for welfare of migrant workers at both source and destination states.
- To address the issues various related migrants:

Trafficking,

- Wages harassment issues,
- Occupational hazards at the workplace, etc.

Linking with other schemes:

- This portal will link the migrant population with the existing Welfare Schemes under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Recent Government Initiatives to Help Migrant Workers:

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched ‘AtmaNirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)’ portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Database of labour migrants in Indian states and overseas citizens, who returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission and filled SWADES Skill Card, has been integrated with the ASEEM portal.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed an online dashboard called ‘National Migrant Information System (NMIS)’.
- It would maintain a central repository of migrant workers and help in speedy inter-state communication to facilitate the smooth movement of migrant workers to their native places.

Initiatives for Tribal Welfare:**Pradhan Manti Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY):**

- It is a market-linked tribal entrepreneurship development program for forming clusters of tribal SHGs and strengthening them into Tribal Producer Companies.
- It also aims to set-up tribal community owned Minor Forest Produce (MFP)-centric multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (the Kendra) in predominantly tribal districts.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs):

- EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality middle and high-level education to ST children in remote areas and enable them to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population.
- These are being set up by grants provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED):

- TRIFED came into existence in 1987. It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- TRIFED has its key objectives of promoting tribal art & craft, hand looms and set-up tribal community owned Minor Forest Produce (MFP)-centric multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.

INDIAN ECONOMY**RBI suggests a tougher regulatory framework for NBFCs**

The RBI has suggested a tougher regulatory framework for the non-banking finance companies’ (NBFC) sector to prevent recurrence of any systemic risk to the country’s financial system.

Key Points

- RBI released a discussion paper on the revised regulatory framework which is formulated on a scale-based approach, and sought comments within a month.
- The regulatory and supervisory framework of NBFCs will be based on a four-layered structure — the base layer (NBFC-BL), middle layer (NBFC-ML), upper layer (NBFC-UL) and the top layer.
- If the framework is visualised as a pyramid, the bottom of the pyramid, where least regulatory intervention is warranted, can consist of NBFCs currently classified as non-systemically important NBFCs (NBFC-ND), NBFCP2P lending platforms, NBFCFAA, NOFHC and Type I NBFCs.
- The next layer may comprise NBFCs currently classified as systemically important NBFCs (NBFC-ND-SI), deposit-taking NBFCs (NBFC-D), HFCs, IFCs, IDFs, SPDs and CICs.
- The extant regulatory framework for NBFC-NDs will now be applicable to base layer NBFCs.
- The extant regulatory framework applicable for NBFC-NDSI will be applicable to middle layer NBFCs.
- NBFCs residing in the upper layer will constitute a new category.
- The current threshold for systemic importance, which is ₹ 500 crore now, is proposed to be revised to ₹ 1,000 crore.
- As per the proposals, the extant NPA classification norm of 180 days will be reduced to 90 days.

Non-Banking Financial Company

It is a financial institution that does not have a full banking license or is not supervised by a national or international banking regulatory agency.

The most important difference between non-banking financial companies and banks is that NBFCs don't take demand deposits.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

USA's new President restores America's participation in Paris Climate Agreement

Joe Biden assumed office as President of the USA recently.

Among the first orders he signed was one to restore America's participation in the United Nations Paris Agreement on climate change.

Key Points

- America's return will take effect on February 19.
- USA has promised enforcement mechanism to achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050, including a target no later than the end of his term in 2025, aided by a planned federal investment that will total \$1.7 trillion over ten years, besides private investments.
- The plan revolves around 10 million well-paying clean energy jobs with a focus on solar and wind power.
- This year's UN climate conference in Glasgow will see the new administration engaging UNFCCC member-nations to raise global ambition.

Important Facts

- The withdrawal from the Paris Agreement meant that the U.S. was no longer bound by its national pledge made under the pact: to achieve an economy-wide reduction of its GHG emissions by 26%-28% below the 2005 level in 2025.
- America also stopped its contribution to the UN's Green Climate Fund, to which it had pledged \$3 billion, after transferring an estimated \$1 billion.
- In the past, the U.S., under George W. Bush, had pulled out of the previous pact, the Kyoto Protocol, in 2001.

What is the Paris Agreement?

- In December 2015, 195 countries signed an agreement (came into force on Nov 2016) within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance
- Objective: To slow the process of global warming by limiting a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Another crucial point in this agreement was attaining "net zero emissions" between 2050 and 2100. Nations have pledged "to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century".

- Developed countries were also told to provide financial resources to help developing countries in dealing with climate change and for adaptation measures.
- As part of a review mechanism, developed countries were also asked to communicate every two years the “indicative” amount of money they would be able to raise over the next two years, and information on how much of it would come from public financial sources.
- In contrast, developing countries have only been “encouraged” to provide such information every two years on a voluntary basis.
- The agreement also includes a mechanism to address financial losses faced by less developed nations due to climate change impacts like droughts, floods etc. However, developed nations won’t face financial claims since it “does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation”.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CSIR-CMERI unveils India’s First-ever Aqua Rejuvenation Plant

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur (West Bengal) unveiled the first-ever Waste Water Treatment Technology Model which purifies Waste Water for Irrigation/Farming purposes.

It facilitates an Organic Farming Model through treated Waste Water.



Key Points

- Aqua Rejuvenation Plant (ARP) is an Integrated Waste Water Rejuvenation Model which has Six-Stage purification profile for comprehensive treatment of Waste Water, based upon diverse purification parameters.
- The approx. 24,000 litres of Water that can be rejuvenated using ARP will be sufficient for almost 4 acres of Agricultural Land (barring seasonal variations in water requirements).
- The used filtration media have been specially developed to handle Indian Sewage Water Parameters and based upon Geographical Variations they may be modified.
- The system has dual benefit. While the treated water is being used for irrigation purpose, the filtered sludge generated is also utilized as manure / fertilizer.
- The bio char prepared from dry leaves falling in autumn season is also used for mixing in soil as it reduces the water requirement for irrigation thus saving precious water.

INDIAN SOCIETY

Performance of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme has recently completed 6 years of its launch in 2015. On the occasion of National Girl Child Day (24th January), the performance of BBBP scheme was discussed.

The National Girl Child Day was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.

Key Points

Main Objectives:

- Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.

- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- Protecting rights of Girl child.

Multisectoral Nationwide Campaign:

- BBBP is a national campaign and focussed multisectoral action in 100 selected districts low in Child Sex Ratio (CSR), covering all States and UTs.
- This is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Performance of BBBP Scheme:

- Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) has improved by 16 points from 918 (2014-15) to 934 (2019-20), as per the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data.
- Out of 640 districts covered under BBBP, 422 districts have shown improvement in SRB from 2014-15 to 2018-2019.

Notable Examples:

- Mau (Uttar Pradesh) from 694 (2014-15) to 951 (2019-20),
- Karnal (Haryana) from 758 (2014-15) to 898 (2019-20),
- Mahendergarh (Haryana) from 791 (2014-15) to 919 (2019-20), etc.

Health:

- ANC Registration: Percentage of 1st Trimester ANC (AnteNatal Care) Registration has shown an improving trend from 61% in 2014-15 to 71% in 2019-20.
- Institutional Deliveries: Percentage of Institutional Deliveries has shown an improving trend from 87% in 2014-15 to 94% in 2019-20.

Education :

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): GER of girls in the schools at secondary level has improved from 77.45 (2014-15) to 81.32 (2018-19) as per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) provisional data.

Toilet for girls: Percentage of schools with functional separate toilets for girls has shown improvement from 92.1% in 2014-15 to 95.1% in 2018-19.

INDIAN POLITY**Bringing a Law into Force**

The farmers have rejected the government's offer of keeping the three contentious farm laws on hold for one to one-and-a-half years. Farmers insist that the laws be repealed.

Over the years, Parliament has repealed several laws and there have also been precedents of the government not bringing a law into force for several years after it has been passed.

Key Points**Bringing/Repealing a Law:**

- Parliament has the power to make a law and to remove it from the statute books (a law can be struck down by the judiciary if it is unconstitutional).
- A Bill is a draft proposal, which needs to be passed in the Lower and Upper House, and only after the President gives his assent, it becomes an Act.
- Repeal means to revoke, abrogate or cancel particularly a statute. Any statute may repeal any Act in whole or in part, either expressly or impliedly by enacting matters contrary to and inconsistent with the prior legislation.

President's Assent:

- Article 111 of the Constitution specifies that the President can either sign off on the Bill or withhold his consent.
- A Bill is sent to Parliament for reconsideration if the President withholds his assent on it. And if Parliament sends it back to the President, he has no choice but to approve it. Thus, the President enjoys only a 'suspensive veto'.

Making Law Operational:

Rules & Regulation: Parliament gives the government the responsibility of making rules and regulations for efficient functioning of the Act.

- The government not only has the power to make rules but can also suppress rules made by it earlier.
- If the government does not make rules and regulations, a law or parts of it will not get implemented.

- The Benami Transactions Act of 1988 is an example of a complete law remaining unimplemented in the absence of regulations.

Time Period: Parliament has recommended that the government make rules within six months of passing a law.

- A parliamentary committee has observed that this recommendation is “being followed in breach by various ministries”.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

Two new species of a rare ant genus discovered in India

Two new species of a rare ant genus have been discovered in India.

The species of the ant genus *Ooceraea* found in Kerala, and Tamil Nadu add to the diversity of this rare genus.



Key Points

- One of them found in the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala, has been named *Ooceraea joshii*, in honour of Prof. Amitabh Joshi, a distinguished evolutionary biologist.
- The newly discovered ant species with ten segmented antennae, establish an old world lineage that contains a species emerging as the only model organism among the ant subfamily.

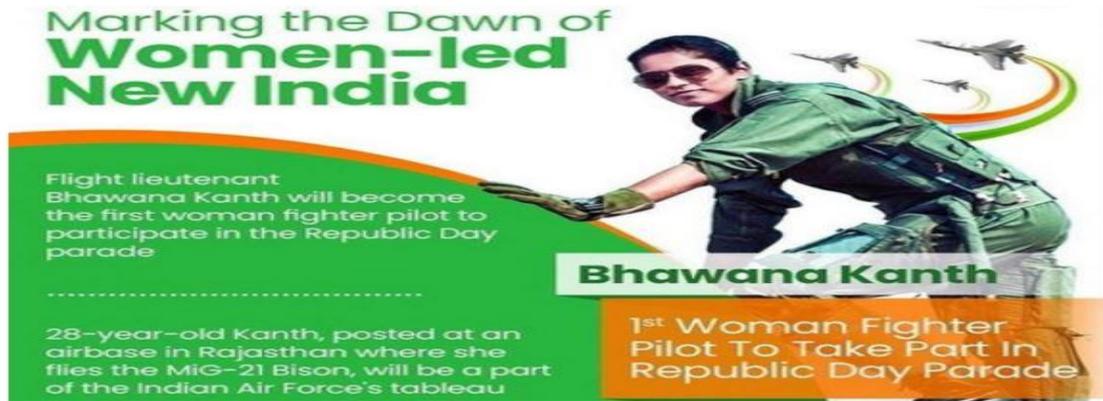
IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021

- To recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of Disaster Management, Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- For the year 2021, (i) Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (in the institutional category) and (ii) Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari (in the Individual category) have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for their excellent work in Disaster Management.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual

Bhawana Kanth

- Flight lieutenant Bhawana Kanth is set to become the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade.
- She will be a part of the Indian Air Force's (IAF's) tableau that will showcase mock-ups of the light combat aircraft, light combat helicopter and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane.
- She is currently posted at an airbase in Rajasthan where she flies the MiG-21 Bison fighter plane.
- Kanth is also one of the first women fighter pilots in the IAF.



DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum- Pacific Zone.

Ans:

The Circum-Pacific Belt, also referred to as The Ring of Fire, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

Location: A nearly continuous chain of volcanoes surrounds the Pacific Ocean. The chain passes along the west coast of North and South America, from the Aleutian Islands to the south of Japan, from Indonesia to the Tonga Islands, and New Zealand.

Formation: This Circum-Pacific chain of volcanoes (often called the Ring of Fire) and the mountain ranges associated with it owe their formation to the repeated subduction of the oceanic lithosphere beneath the continents and the islands that surround the Pacific Ocean.

The Ring of Fire is the result of plate tectonics (Convergent, Divergent Plate Boundary, Transform Plate Boundary).

Harbors Majority of Volcano & Earthquakes: Seventy-five percent of Earth's volcanoes—more than 450 volcanoes—are located along the Ring of Fire.

Ninety percent of Earth's earthquakes occur along its path, including the planet's most violent and dramatic seismic events.

List of Some Volcano Circum-Pacific Belt: Mount Fuji of Japan, The Aleutian Islands of US, Krakatau Island Volcano in Indonesia, etc.

Formation of Hot Spots: The Ring of Fire is also home to hot spots, areas deep within the Earth's mantle from which heat rises.

This heat facilitates the melting of rock in the brittle, upper portion of the mantle. The melted rock, known as magma, often pushes through cracks in the crust to form volcanoes.

Conclusion

As the Circum-Pacific Belt harbors the majority of global Volcanic eruptions & Earthquakes, it holds immense significance regarding the study of the earth's interior.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Where is Periyar Tiger Reserve situated?
 - a) Kerala
 - b) Tamil Nadu
 - c) Karnataka
 - d) Andhra Pradesh
2. The first-ever Waste Water Treatment Technology Model which purifies Waste Water was recently unveiled for which of the following purpose?
 - a) Farming
 - b) Household purposes in rural areas
 - c) Processing wood to make paper
 - d) In producing steel for automobiles
3. Which of the following is India's first permanent Arctic research station?
 - a) Dakshin Gangotri
 - b) Maitri

- c) Bharati
- d) **Himadri**

4. Consider the following statements about Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW):

1. It is indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. The weapon is designed to strike ground targets.

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

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Exercise Kavach is a bi-lateral military exercise of Indian Airforce and Royal Australian Air Force.
2. The Andaman and Nicobar command is the first integrated theatre command in India.
3. Exercise Sea-Vigil and TROPEX are biennial coastal security exercises.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) **1 only**
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only



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