

GOVERNANCE**SAAMAR Campaign to Tackle Malnutrition**

SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction) campaign has been launched by Jharkhand government to tackle malnutrition in the state.

Key Points

- The campaign aims to identify anaemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem
- It has a 1000 days target, under which annual surveys will be conducted to track the progress.
- To tackle severe acute malnutrition children, every Anganwadi Centres will be engaged to identify these children and subsequently will be treated at the Malnutrition Treatment Centres.
- In the same process the anaemic women will also be listed and will be referred to health centres in serious cases.
- Angawadi's Sahayika and Sevika will take them to the nearest Health Centre where they will be checked again and then registered on the portal of State Nutrition Mission.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**Shaphari: Certification Scheme for Aquaculture Products**

Recently, the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) has developed a certification scheme for aquaculture products called 'Shaphari'.

Key Points

- Shaphari is based on the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's technical guidelines on aquaculture certification.
- Shaphari is a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.
- It is a market-based tool for hatcheries to adopt good aquaculture practices and help produce quality antibiotic-free shrimp products to assure global consumers.
- Components and Process:

Two Components:

- Certifying hatcheries for the quality of their seeds.
- Those who successfully clear multiple audits of their operations shall be granted a certificate for a period of two years.
- Approving shrimp farms that adopt the requisite good practices.

Process: The entire certification process will be online to minimise human errors and ensure higher credibility and transparency.

Significance:

The certification of hatcheries will help farmers easily identify good quality seed producers.

Certified aquaculture products will help exporters to export their consignments to markets under stringent food safety regulations without the fear of getting rejected.

It will bolster confidence in India's frozen shrimp produce, the country's biggest seafood export item.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**India-Netherlands**

Recently, India's Prime Minister (PM) and the PM of the Netherlands held a Virtual Summit.

Key Points**Review of Bilateral Engagements:**

- Exchanged views on further expanding and diversifying the relationship in trade and economy, water management, agriculture sector, smart cities, science & technology, healthcare and space.
- Agreed that the ambitious and innovative flagship programs like Clean India, Digital India, Make in India, Sagarmala, Ayushman Bharat and Startup India have provided immense opportunities for Indo-Dutch (India-Netherlands) collaboration in multiple sectors.
- Exchanged views on regional and global challenges such as climate change, counter-terrorism and Covid-19 pandemic and agreed to leverage the emerging convergences in new areas like Indo-Pacific, Resilient Supply Chains and Global Digital Governance.

Strategic Partnership on Water:

- Agreed on instituting a 'Strategic Partnership on Water' to further deepen the Indo-Dutch cooperation in the water related sector, and upgrading the Joint Working Group on Water to Ministerial-level.

India-Netherlands Relation

Economic and Trade:

- Economic Partnership between India & Netherlands is a key pillar of the bilateral ties.
- The Netherlands was the third largest investor in India, after Mauritius and Singapore for Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 with Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) inflows of USD 3.87 billion across a variety of sectors..
- In 2017-18, the bilateral trade between India and the Netherlands was around USD 8.77 billion. In 2018-19, it was around USD 12.87 billion.
- By 2025, it shall touch around USD 18-23 billion.
- The Netherlands is India’s 5th largest trading partner in the European Union. And is also one of the leading investor nations in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

F1 Racing Adopted 100% Sustainable Fuel

Recently, the Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) has announced the first barrels of 100% sustainable fuel, made from bio waste and developed to stringent F1(Formula One) specifications, have been delivered to Power Unit manufacturers.

FIA announced its intent to make F1 carbon neutral by 2030 and to have sustainable races by 2025.

Key Points

F1 Current Carbon Footprint:

Direct Effect: F1’s driving activities produce approximately 2,56,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, which is the equivalent to powering roughly 30,000 houses in the UK over the same time period.

Indirect Effect: The main issue is not the cars themselves, which accounted for only 0.7% of the sport’s emissions in 2019, but the logistics of transporting teams and equipment across the globe.

- In 2019, road, sea and air logistics for equipment transportation accounted for 45% of F1’s emissions with business travel for teams contributing an additional 27.7%.
- Rounding up the list, factories and facilities servicing the sport represent 19.3% of emissions, and event operations, another 7.3%.

100% Sustainable Fuels:

Background:

- One of the most high-profile ways in which F1 plans to reduce its environmental impact is through the continued evolution of energy-efficient engines.
- Starting from 1989 when the FIA Alternative Fuel Commission was formed, F1 has committed to a number of initiatives designed to improve engine efficiency, with the most notable being its global fuel economy initiative in 2007 which aims to reduce fuel consumption by 50% across the competition.
- In 2020, the FIA announced that it had developed a 100% sustainable fuel and that engine manufacturers were already in the process of testing it, intending to start using it by 2026.

About:

- A 100% sustainable fuel essentially represents the third generation and most advanced iteration of biofuels, which typically are made from by-products of industrial or agricultural waste.
- F1 cars already use biofuels but current regulations only mandate that the fuel include 5.75% of bio-components.
- In 2022 that number will increase to 10% and by 2025, when new power units are proposed to enter the competition, the FIA hopes to transition completely to 100% advanced sustainable fuels.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT

Growing Population of dolphins in Chilika lake

The population of dolphins in Chilika, India’s largest brackish water lake, and along the Odisha coast has doubled this year compared with last year.



Growing numbers: An Irrawaddy dolphin seen in the Chilika lake in Odisha. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Key Point

- The State Environment Department released the final data on the dolphin census conducted in January and February 2021, indicating a spectacular growth in numbers.
- Three species were recorded during the census.
- 544 Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins were sighted this year, compared with 233 last year.
- The endangered Irrawaddy dolphins are mostly found in Chilika lake.
- The highest growth has been noticed in the case of humpback dolphins with a population of 281.
- These humpback dolphins were not part of any riverine systems, so they cannot be identified as residential mammals. They were spotted travelling along the Odisha coast and the number is likely to fluctuate in the next census.

INDIAN ECONOMY**G20 Move Towards Global Minimum Corporate Tax**

The US Treasury Secretary has urged G20 nations to move towards a global minimum corporate tax. It is an attempt to reverse a “30-year race to the bottom” in which countries have resorted to slashing corporate tax rates to attract multinational corporations (MNCs).

Key Points

- The US proposal envisages a 21% minimum corporate tax rate, coupled with cancelling exemptions on income from countries that do not legislate a minimum tax to discourage the shifting of multinational operations and profits overseas.
- The proposal for a minimum corporate tax is tailored to address the low effective rates of tax shelled out by some of the world’s biggest corporations, including digital giants such as Apple, Alphabet and Facebook, as well as major corporations such as Nike and Starbucks.
- These companies typically rely on complex webs of subsidiaries to Hoover profits out of major markets into low-tax countries such as Ireland or Caribbean nations such as the British Virgin Islands or the Bahamas, or to central American nations such as Panama.

Challenges:

- The proposal impinges on the right of the sovereign to decide a nation’s tax policy.
- Taxation is ultimately a sovereign function, and depending upon the needs and circumstances of the nation, the government is open to participate and engage in the emerging discussions globally around the corporate tax structure.
- A global minimum rate would essentially take away a tool that countries use to push policies that suit them. A lower tax rate is a tool they can use to alternatively push economic activity.

India’s Position

Cut in Corporate Tax: In a bid to revive investment activity, the Finance Minister announced, in September 2019, a sharp cut in corporate taxes for domestic companies to 22% and for new domestic manufacturing companies to 15%.

- The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 resulted in the insertion of a section (115BAA) to the Income-Tax Act, 1961 to provide for the concessional tax rate of 22% for existing domestic companies subject to certain conditions including that they do not avail of any specified incentive or deductions.
- Also, the existing domestic companies opting for the concessional taxation regime will not be required to pay any Minimum Alternate Tax.
- The cuts effectively brought India’s headline corporate tax rate broadly at par with the average 23% rate in Asian countries.
- China and South Korea have a tax rate of 25% each, while Malaysia is at 24%, Vietnam at 20%, Thailand at 20% and Singapore at 17%.
- The effective tax rate, inclusive of surcharge and cess, for Indian domestic companies is around 25.17%.
- The average corporate tax rate stands at around 29% for existing companies that are claiming some benefit or the other.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve: Maharashtra**

Three labourers were killed and two others injured during an operation to douse a forest fire at Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Maharashtra.

Key Points**Location:**

- It is situated in Gondia and Bhandara districts of Maharashtra.
- Gondia District shares common boundaries with the state of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the north and eastern side respectively.
- Strategically, the Tiger Reserve is located in the heart of central Indian Tiger landscape which contributes almost one sixth of the total tiger population of the country.

Formation:

- It was notified as the 46th Tiger Reserve of India in December 2013.
- NNTR comprised of the notified area of Nawegaon National Park, Nawegaon Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, New Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary and Koka Wildlife Sanctuary.

Connectivity:

- NNTR has connectivity with the major tiger reserves in Central India like,
- Kanha and Pench tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
- Tadoba-Andhari Tiger reserve in Maharashtra,
- Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh,
- Indirectly with the Kawal and Nagarjuna Sagar in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and, Achanakmar Tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh.
- It is also connected to important tiger bearing areas like Umred-Karhandla sanctuary and Brahampuri Division (Maharashtra).

Flora:

- The major forest type is "Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest".
- Few thorny plants are also found.
- Bamboo occurs in abundance.

Fauna:

- Large Carnivores such as leopards and smaller carnivores like wild dogs, wolf jackals, jungle cats and also the good population of sloth bears are seen.
- The important herbivore includes Cheetal, Sambar, Nilgai, Chousingha, Barking deer, Wild pig and Indian gaur. Mouse deer has also been recorded from the area.
- More than 300 species of birds have been reported from the area.

Other Protected Areas in Maharashtra:

- Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.
- Melghat Tiger reserve.
- Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary.
- Karnala Bird Sanctuary.
- Sanjay Gandhi National Park.
- Pench National Park.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns What is refugee problem in India? Discuss its issues and challenges. (250 words)

Ans:

Myanmarese citizens, including little children fleeing from a Myanmar's military, being turned away at the Indian border in the Northeast has once again revived the domestic debate about refugee protection in India.

India's Refugee Problem

Refugee flows to India are unlikely to end any time soon given the geopolitical, economic, ethnic and religious contexts of the region.

There is an urgent need to clinically address the issue of refugee protection in India and put in place appropriate legal and institutional measures.

Issues/Challenges

- **Lacks differentiation between Refugees & illegal Immigrants:** Illegal Immigration and Refugees are two different things. However, as per Indian law, both categories of people are viewed as one and the same and are covered under the Foreigners Act, 1946. Due to this,

government's policies and remedies to deal with these issues suffer from a lack of clarity as well as policy utility.

- **Lack of Proper Legal Framework:** India is legally ill-equipped to deal with refugees and illegal immigrants separately due to a lack of legal provisions. India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol the key legal documents pertaining to refugee protection.
- **Ad-hocism in dealing with refugees:** The absence of such a legal framework also leads to policy ambiguity whereby India's refugee policy is guided primarily by ad hocism which, of course, often has its own 'political utility'.
- Domestic politicisation of refugee protection Absence of a legal framework and Ad hoc measures enable the government in office to pick and choose 'what kind' of refugees it wants to admit for whatever political or geopolitical reasons, and what kind of refugees it wants to avoid giving shelter, for similar reasons.
- **Complicates geopolitical faultlines:** Absence of legal framework & politicization of refugee problem opens the door for geopolitical considerations while deciding to admit refugees or not.
- **Example:** Consider the most recent case of Myanmarese refugees fleeing to India for protection from the junta at home.
- New Delhi's concern is that if it takes a decision that irks the Generals in Myanmar, Beijing would get closer to the junta and use the opportunity to hurt India's interests in Myanmar.
- If New Delhi had a domestic legislation regarding refugees, despite not being a signatory to the relevant international conventions, it could have tempered the expectations of the junta to return the fleeing Myanmarese.
- **Credibility of India as responsible power questioned:** India, for the most part, has had a stellar record on the issue of refugee protection, a moral tradition that has come under great stress of late. New Delhi has been one of the largest recipients of refugees in the world in spite of not being a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

Why India has not signed 1951 Refugee Convention?

- Lop-sided definition of Refugee that favours West
- The definition of refugees in the 1951 convention only pertains to the violation of civil and political rights, but not economic rights, of individuals, for instance.
- If the violation of economic rights were to be included in the definition of a refugee, it would clearly pose a major burden on the developed world.

Conclusion

- A domestic refugee law should allow for temporary shelter and work permit for refugees.
- This is crucial because in the absence of proper legal measures, refugee documentation, and work permit, refugees may end up becoming illegal immigrants using illicit means.
- Make a distinction between temporary migrant workers, illegal immigrants and refugees and deal with each of them differently through proper legal and institutional mechanisms.

DAILY QUIZ

1. The 'Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve' is located in which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Jharkhand

2. With reference to the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT), consider the following statements:

1. The MAT was introduced due to an increase in the number of zero tax paying companies.
2. Only domestic companies in India are covered under the provision of MAT.

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. Consider the following statements regarding Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

3. It is headquartered in Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Despite the growing ties, there is a trend of decline in India's bilateral trade with the Netherlands since 2017.
- 2. The Netherlands is home to the largest Indian community on the European mainland.

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

- a) 1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements about Jyotirao Phule:

- 1. His ideologies were based upon Libertarianism and Egalitarianism.
- 2. He was the founder of Satyashodhak Samaj.
- 3. He was bestowed with the title of Mahatma.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



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