

GOVERNANCE
Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0

Recently, the Ministry of Health virtually launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0. India is implementing the largest immunisation programme globally where it annually covers more than three crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children through the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

What is IMI 4.0?

- It will ensure that Routine Immunization (RI) services reach unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and pregnant women. Children up to two years will be covered in this drive.
- While the pace of routine immunisation has slowed down due to Covid-19 pandemic, IMI 4.0 will immensely contribute in filling the gaps and make lasting gains towards universal immunisation.
- Three rounds of IMI 4.0 will be conducted in 416 districts, including 75 districts identified for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav across 33 States/UTs. These districts have been identified based on vaccination coverage as per the latest National Family Health Survey-5 report, Health Management Information System (HMIS) data and burden of vaccine-preventable diseases.

What is the Universal Immunisation Programme?

- The Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- In 1985, the Programme was modified as 'Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)'. UIP prevents mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. But in the past, it was seen that the increase in immunization coverage had slowed down and it increased at the rate of 1% per year between 2009 and 2013.
- To accelerate the coverage, Mission Indradhanush was envisaged and implemented since 2015 to rapidly increase the full immunization coverage to 90%.

What is Mission Indradhanush (MI)?

- It was launched to fully immunize more than 89 lakh children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated under UIP.
- It provides vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i.e. diphtheria, Whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B infections, Japanese encephalitis (JE), rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and measles-rubella (MR). However, vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B is being provided in selected districts of the country.
- Mission Indradhanush was also identified as one of the flagship schemes under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

What is Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)?

- It was launched in October 2017.
- Under IMI, greater focus was given on urban areas which were one of the gaps of Mission Indradhanush.
- It focused to improve immunisation coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunisation to more than 90% by December 2018 instead of 2020.

What is Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0?

- It was a nationwide immunisation drive to mark the 25 years of Pulse polio programme (2019-20).
- It had targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts spread over 27 States.
- It aimed to achieve at least 90% pan-India immunisation coverage by 2022.

What is Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0?

- IMI 3.0 was launched in 2021.
- Focus of the IMI 3.0 was the children and pregnant women who had missed their vaccine doses during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Beneficiaries from migration areas and hard to reach areas were targeted as they might have missed their vaccine doses during Covid-19.

What are the Achievements So Far?

- As of April 2021, during the various phases of Mission Indradhanush, a total of 3.86 crore children and 96.8 lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated.
- The first two phases of Mission Indradhanush resulted in 6.7% increase in full immunisation coverage in a year. A survey (IMI- CES) carried out in 190 districts covered in Intensified Mission Indradhanush (5th Phase of Mission Indradhanush) shows 18.5% points increase in full immunisation coverage as compared to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4.
- The Full Immunisation Coverage among children aged 12-23 months of age has increased from 62% (NFHS-4) to 76.4% (NFHS-5).

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

India-Australia Interim Trade Agreement

Recently, India and Australia have announced that they are set to conclude an Interim Trade Agreement in March 2022 and a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) 12-18 months thereafter. The agreement will cover “most areas of interest for both countries” including goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and customs procedures.

Earlier, India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).

What is an Interim Trade Agreement?

- An interim or early harvest trade agreement is used to liberalise tariffs on the trade of certain goods between two countries or trading blocs before a comprehensive FTA (Free Trade Agreement) is concluded.
- Government’s emphasis on interim agreements may be tactical so that a deal may be achieved with minimum commitments and would allow for contentious issues to be resolved later.
- The problem, though, is that these early harvest schemes potentially target the low-hanging fruits, leaving the tougher goods and services for later.
- This strategy can lead to significant delays in wrapping up the more broad-based FTAs, which could potentially lead to impediments.
 1. India had concluded an early harvest agreement with Thailand in 2004 but has not been able to conclude a comprehensive FTA with the country.
 2. India also has a trade agreement with Sri Lanka dealing with goods but was not able to conclude an agreement on services and investments.
- Early harvest agreements that do not graduate into full-scale FTAs are exposed to legal challenges from other countries that are members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- It is often beneficial to negotiate the entire deal together, as an early harvest deal may reduce the incentive for one side to work towards a full FTA.

What are Free Trade Agreements?

- It is a pact between two or more nations to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them.
- Under a free trade policy, goods and services can be bought and sold across international borders with little or no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions to inhibit their exchange.
- The concept of free trade is the opposite of trade protectionism or economic isolationism.
- FTAs can be categorised as Preferential Trade Agreement, CECA, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

What is India’s Current Trade Relation with Australia?

- Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at about USD 12.5 billion in Financial Year (FY) 21 and has already surpassed USD 17.7 billion in the first 10 months of FY22.
- India has imported merchandise worth about USD 12.1 billion from Australia in the first 10 months of the fiscal and has exported merchandise worth USD 5.6 billion in the same period.
- Key imports from Australia include coal, gold and Liquefied Natural Gas while key exports to the country from India include diesel, petrol and gems and jewellery.

What Opportunities does the Agreement Brings?

- The agreement with Australia is set to bring opportunities across sectors including mining, pharmaceuticals, health, education, renewables, railways, gems and jewellery, tourism, defence and textiles.
 1. India is also likely to seek easier visa access for both students and professionals visiting Australia.

2. Australia is likely to seek market access for wines and agricultural products which are not produced on a large scale in India.
- Both countries are also looking at mutual recognition of educational qualifications to boost the number of Indian students seeking education in Australia and vice versa and boost tourism in both countries. India and Australia have also signed an MoU to boost tourism between the two countries.
- The agreement would lead to deeper cooperation between the two countries in critical minerals and rare earth elements which are critical to future industries including renewable energy and electric vehicles. As Australia has plentiful supplies of rare earths and critical minerals in but it needs places for them to be processed.

What is QUAD's Impact on Trade Relations between India and Australia?

- India and Australia are both members of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) along with the US and Japan. Recently, the fourth meeting of the foreign ministers of the QUAD grouping (India, the US, Australia and Japan) was held in Melbourne, Australia.
- Both countries have noted that the coalition has given impetus to increasing trade relations between all members of the QUAD.
- Australia noted that it already had FTAs with both the US and Japan and that all four countries could start building a framework for economic cooperation within the countries of the QUAD after they announced a deal with India.

What Other Free Trade Agreements is India Currently Negotiating?

- India is currently in the process of negotiating FTAs with the UAE, the UK, Canada, the European Union and Israel, besides Australia.
- India is also looking to complete an early harvest agreement with the UAE and the UK in the first half of 2022.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Earth Observation Satellite EOS-04

Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation's earth observation satellite EOS-04 and two small satellites (INSPIRESat-1 and INS-2TD) were successfully placed into the intended orbit by the PSLV-C52 rocket. This launch was the 54th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket, and the 23rd of its most powerful XL-version that has six strap-on boosters.

What are Earth Observation Satellites?

- Earth observation satellites are the satellites equipped with remote sensing technology. Earth observation is the gathering of information about Earth's physical, chemical and biological systems.
- Many earth observation satellites have been employed on sun-synchronous orbit.
- Other earth observation satellites launched by ISRO include RESOURCESAT- 2, 2A, CARTOSAT-1, 2, 2A, 2B, RISAT-1 and 2, OCEANSAT-2, Megha-Tropiques, SARAL and SCATSAT-1, INSAT-3DR, 3D, etc.

What are the Three Satellites Launched?

EOS-04:

- EOS-04 weighing 1,710 kg and with a mission life of ten years designed to provide high quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as Agriculture, Forestry and Plantations, Soil Moisture and Hydrology and Flood mapping.
 1. It will complement the data from Resourcesat, Cartosat and RISAT-2B series of satellites that are already in orbit.
 2. The first of these newly named satellites, EOS-01, launched in November 2020, is in orbit right now. EOS-02, a micro-satellite to be flown on a new launch vehicle called SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) is yet to be launched, while launch of EOS-03 had ended in a failure in August, 2021.
- It will be placed in a sun synchronous polar orbit of 529 km, is a radar-imaging satellite which would have made it a part of the RISAT series earlier.
- In fact, it would replace the RISAT-1 which was launched in 2012 but has been non-functional for the last few years.
 1. RISATs use synthetic aperture radars to produce high-resolution images of the land.
 2. One big advantage that radar imaging has over optical instruments is that it is unaffected by weather, cloud or fog, or the lack of sunlight.

3. It can produce high-quality images in all conditions and at all times, making it suitable for surveillance.

INSPIRESat-1:

- INSPIRESat-1 is part of a constellation of satellites planned under the International Space Program in Research and Education (INSPIRE) involving the Small-spacecraft Systems and Payload Centre (SSPACE) at IIST, University of Colorado (US), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, and National Central University (NCU), Taiwan.
- Two scientific payloads on INSPIRESat-1, with a mass of 8.1 kg and mission life of one year, are aimed at improving the understanding of ionosphere (part of Earth's upper atmosphere) dynamics and the sun's coronal heating processes.

INS-2TD:

- INS-2TD is a technology demonstrator for the first India-Bhutan joint satellite that is scheduled to be launched in March, 2022. The two countries had signed a space agreement last year, and its first outcome would be the launch of BhutanSat, or INS-2B, on a PSLV rocket in March, 2022.
- The thermal imaging cameras of the INS-2TD are meant for earth observation purposes, like assessment of land and water surface temperature, and identification of forest and tree cover.

How many satellites does India have in space?

- India currently has 53 operational satellites, of which 21 are earth observation ones and another 21 are communication-based.
- Eight are navigation satellites, while the remaining three are science satellites.

PRELIMS FACT

Medaram Jathara Festival

Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned Rs 2.26 Crores for various activities pertaining to Medaram Jathara 2022. Medaram Jathara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe for four days.

What are the Key Points?

- Medaram Jathara is also known as Sammakka Saralamma Jathara.
- It is a tribal festival honoring the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- It is celebrated in the state of Telangana. The Jatra begins at Medaram in Tadvai Mandal in Warangal district. Medaram is a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the region.
- It is celebrated once in two years in the month of "Magha" (February) on the full moon day.
- People offer bangaram/gold (jaggery) of a quantity equal to their weight to the goddesses and take holy bath in Jampanna Vagu, a tributary to River Godavari.
- It was declared a State Festival in 1996.

What are the Important things about the Koya Tribe?

About:

- Koya tribe is the largest adivasi tribe of Telangana and listed as Scheduled Tribe in Telangana.
- The community is spread across Telugu speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- Koyas popularly call themselves as Dorala Sattam (Lords group) and Putta Dora (original lords). Koyas call themselves "Koitur" in their dialect, like Gonds.

Habitat and livelihood:

- The Godavari and Sabari rivers which are flowing through their area of habitation exercise profound influence on Koyas' economic, social and cultural life.
- The Koyas are mainly settled cultivators. They grow Jowar, Ragi, Bajra and other millets.

Language:

- Many koya People have forgotten their Koya Dialect and adopted Telugu as their mother tongue but some in other parts still speak Koya dialect.

Religion and festival:

- Lord Bhima, Korra Rajulu, Mamili and Potaraju are the important deities to Koyas.
- Their main festivals are Vijji Pandum (seeds charming festival) and Kondala Kolupu (festival to appease Hill deities).

- Koyas perform a robust colourful dance called Permakok ata (Bison horn dance) during festivals and marriage ceremonies.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. The minimum support price (MSP) regime is fraught with limitations which affects the price realization by the farmers and thus is in need for reforms to make it more robust and effective. Analyse. (250 words)

Introduction

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers. Currently, it fixes MSPs for 23 crops grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. The government recently hiked the MSP for wheat by Rs. 40 to Rs. 2,015 per quintal and for mustard seed by Rs. 400 to Rs. 5,050 per quintal for the current crop year in order to boost crop area as well as income of farmers.

Body

Yes, MSP helps farmers to an extent

- MSP has been beneficial in transferring incomes to rural areas and to counter farm level inflation.
- It can also counter the agricultural distress brought on by natural hazards in the country. It gives farmers hope of earning more in the new sowing season.
- In the last few years, India has become a net importer of pulses. Massive hike in the MSP of these crops will encourage the farmers to grow nutritional crops. It will help in changing the cropping pattern which was long due.
- A higher MSP regime will also help in achieving the Government's target of doubling farmer's income by 2022.
- It also acts as an incentive for farmers to produce the crop which is in short supply.
- Higher profits for the farmer will also help them to invest in necessary infrastructure and equipment.
- The MSP to some extent will protect the farmer by guaranteeing a minimum floor price so that they can plan in advance for the next season.

However, MSP is fraught with limitations

The trouble with MSP is that while it is touted as an all-important factor for farmers promising an instant rise in their income and stability, it also has many drawbacks in implementation. This affects the price realisation of farmers, in reality for several reasons.

- **Methodology:** MSP covers numerous costs such as the cost of sowing (A2) and labour (FL). These considerations are controversial with suggestions that it should be based on comprehensive costs (C2), which also include land rent costs.
- **Inflation:** Too much of a hike on MSP either paves way for inflationary effects on the economy, with a rise in prices of food grains and vegetables, or loss to government treasury if it decides to sell at a lower price as compared to the higher MSP it bought at.
- **Diverse factors:** MSP is a nationwide single price policy. However, the actual costing for production varies from place to place, more severely so in areas lacking irrigation facilities and infrastructure. Thus, not all farmers have equal benefits.
- **Procurement at MSP is flawed:** First, procurement of wheat and paddy for meeting the requirement of the public distribution system (PDS) is undertaken largely by state governments.
 1. Of the total procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers, the Food Corporation of India's (FCI's) share is less than 10%.
 2. In the north-east and many other states, procurement operations are almost non-existent and farmers are forced to sell below MSP.
 3. As the experiences of these schemes show, the benefit of higher MSPs for kharif crops or rabi, is unlikely to be available to most farmers as the states lack adequate storage capacity, working capital and manpower for undertaking large-scale procurement of all commodities.
 4. The MSP-based procurement system is also dependent on middlemen, commission agents and APMC officials, which smaller farmers find difficult to get access to.
- **Agri-Infrastructure:** Hiking the MSP without investing in infrastructure is just a short-term play. While it does deliver immediate results, long-term developments to back-it up are also important.

- **Environmental harm:** It degrades the soil because of irrespective of the soil condition, some crops are preferred which have MSP over them which results in exploitation of ground water resources, alkalinity, decrease in the production of the crops in long run and much harm to environment.

Conclusion

The government should shift its focus from providing only price support to farmers and focus on building better infrastructure, minimizing the gap between farmers and the market, land reforms, policy reforms to increase flow of credit to farmers, establishing food-processing industries for perishable goods, providing better irrigation facilities etc so, that agriculture emerges as a viable means of sustenance.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Electricity Market Report is published by which of the following?

- World Economic Forum
- International Telecommunication Union
- International Renewable Energy Agency
- International Energy Agency**

Q2. Consider the following statements:

- The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- The Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2**
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. On India's 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister announced that the Centre will launch 'PM Gati Shakti Master Plan', what is Gati Shakti Master Plan?

- A centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India.
- An Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'.
- An Indian initiative to undertake the deep ocean exploration focused on India's exclusive economic zones and continental shelf.
- A Rs. 100 lakh-crore project for developing 'holistic infrastructure' in India.**

Q4. Consider the following statements about Kathak:

- It is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance.
- It is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani music.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2**
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q5. The one and a half degree channel lies closest to which of the following countries?

- Indonesia
- India
- Maldives**
- Sri Lanka