

GOVERNANCE**New India Literacy Programme**

Recently, a new scheme "New India Literacy Programme" for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 has been approved. It is also in line with Budget 2021-22, which announced that increased access to resources, online modules covering the entire gamut of adult education will be introduced.

- The estimated total outlay of the scheme is Rs.1037.90 crore which includes Central share of Rs. 700 crore and State share of Rs. 337.90 crore respectively for the FYs 2022 -27.
- Term "Adult Education" will be replaced by "Education For All".

What is the objective of the New India Literacy Programme?

- To impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21st century.
- **Other components include:**
 1. Critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare).
 2. Vocational skills development (with a view towards obtaining local employment).
 3. Basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency).
 4. Continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).

How will the Scheme be Implemented?

- The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode. The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, may be organized through face-to-face mode. All material and resources shall be provided digitally.
- School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme. Schools to be used for conducting surveys of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers.

Who will be Covered under the Scheme?

- Non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs in the country.
- The target is 5 (five) crore learners @ 1.00 crore per year by using "Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)" in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS.

Why is such a Scheme Needed?

- As per Census 2011, the absolute number of non-literates of the country in 15 years and above age group is 25.76 crore (Male 9.08 crore, Female 16.68 crore).
- Also, in consideration of the progress of persons certified as literates being to the tune of 7.64 crore under the Saakshar Bharat programme implemented during 2009-10 to 2017-18, it is estimated that currently around 18.12 crore adults are still non-literate in India.

What are the other Initiatives taken in this Direction?

- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):** It aims to promote skill development by catalyzing the creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions. It acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies, and organizations that provide skill training.
- **Digital India Programme:** It pulls together many existing schemes by restructuring and re-focusing them and then implementing them in a synchronized manner.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan:** It is one of the largest initiatives of the country with the target of making citizens digitally literate.
- **National Digital Literacy Mission:** It aims to empower at least one person per household with crucial digital literacy skills by 2020.
- **Samagra Shiksha:** It is an integrated scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Way Forward

There is a need for real emancipation of the people. Education systems across the world should provide the training required for children and working adults so that they can learn to read and write. National educational plans should include schooling for children and literacy training for adults as parallel elements.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation & India**

Recently, India has lashed out at the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for being "communal minded" amid the Karnataka hijab row.

What is the recent Controversy Between OIC & India?

- OIC Statement: The OIC has called on the UN Human Rights Council to take “necessary measures” on the issue of Muslim girl students being told not to wear the hijab in Karnataka schools. The OIC also urged India to “ensure the safety, security and well being of the Muslim community while protecting their way of life”.
- India's Response: India held that it is a democracy, and issues within the country are resolved in accordance with our Constitutional framework and mechanism, as well as democratic ethos and polity. Further, India criticised OIC for being “communal minded” and “hijacked by vested interests” – a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan.

What is the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation?

About:

- The OIC is the second largest intergovernmental organisation after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states.
- It is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
- The Organisation of the Islamic Conference was established by the First Islamic Summit Conference held in Morocco in September 1969, to marshal the Islamic world after an act of arson at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by a 28-year-old Australian in 1969.
- **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

What is the Status of India's relationship with OIC as an organisation?

- As a country with the world's second largest Muslim community, India had been invited to the founding conference at Rabat in 1969, but was humiliatingly ejected at Pakistan's behest.
- India stayed away because of a multiplicity of reasons:
 1. It did not want to join an organisation founded on religion.
 2. There was the risk that improving bilateral relations with individual member states would come under pressure in a grouping, especially on issues such as Kashmir.
- At the 45th session of the Foreign Ministers' Summit in 2018, Bangladesh, the host, suggested that India, where more than 10% of the world's Muslims live, should be given Observer status, but Pakistan opposed the proposal.
- After building close ties with powerful members such as UAE and Saudi Arabia, India has been confident of riding over any statement by the grouping.
- India has consistently underlined that J&K is an “integral part of India and is a matter strictly internal to India”, and that the OIC has no locus standi on the issue.
- In 2019, India made its maiden appearance at the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting, as a “guest of honour”. This first-time invitation was seen as a diplomatic victory for India, especially at a time of heightened tensions with Pakistan following the Pulwama attack.

BIODIVERSITY

World Sustainable Development Summit 2022

Recently, the Prime Minister addressed the The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit.

What is the World Sustainable Development Summit?

About:

- The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of TERI. It was earlier known as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. Instituted in 200.
- It is the only Summit on global issues, taking place in the developing world.

Objective:

- It has been conceptualized as a single platform to accelerate action towards sustainable development and climate change.
- It aims to bring together global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment sectors on a common platform.

What is TERI?

- TERI is a non-profit research institute.
- It conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development for India and the Global South.
- It was established in 1974 as Tata Energy Research Institute and renamed to The Energy Resources Institute in 2003.

What was India's Stand at the Summit?

Equitable Energy Access:

- India has fulfilled its commitments by ensuring that equitable energy access to the poor remains a cornerstone of its environmental policy.
- These included initiatives such as 90 million households getting access to clean cooking fuel under the Ujjwala Yojana scheme.
- And farmers being encouraged to set up solar panels under the PM-KUSUM scheme where farmers could use and sell surplus power to the grid, which would promote sustainability and equity.

Reducing Emissions:

- Discussed the LED bulbs distribution scheme (UJALA) that has been running for over seven years that had reportedly saved close to 220 billion units of electricity and prevented 180 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.
- The National Hydrogen Mission aims to tap into 'green hydrogen' and it was up to the academic and research institutes such as TERI to come up with scalable solutions.

Ramsar Sites:

- Mentioned international recognition for India's efforts by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and India now having 49 Ramsar sites (wetlands) spread over more than 1 million hectares. India is a megadiverse country. With 2.4% of the world's land area, India accounts for nearly 8% of the world's species.

Restoration of Degraded Land:

- Restoring degraded land has been one of the main focus areas since 2015 and more than 11.5 million hectares have been restored.
- India is on track to achieve the national commitment of Land Degradation Neutrality under the Bonn Challenge.
- India firmly believes in fulfilling all its commitments made under the UNFCCC. India also raised its ambitions during CoP-26 at Glasgow. For example, India announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by 2070 by 2030.

Coordinated Actions:

- Sustainability requires coordinated action for the global commons. India's efforts have recognised this inter-dependence. Through the International Solar Alliance, India's aim is "One Sun, One World, One Grid".
- The world must work towards ensuring availability of clean energy from a world-wide grid everywhere at all times. This is the "whole of the world" approach that India's values stand for.
- It also urged countries to act on the basis of globally agreed rules taking into account the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (acting on climate change based on national circumstances). The Paris Agreement goals cannot be reached unless equity is implemented by all countries staying within their fair share of the global carbon budget.

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States:

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (C.D.R.I.), aims to build strong infrastructure in areas prone to frequent natural disasters.
- On the side-lines of CoP-26, India also launched an initiative called "Infrastructure for Resilient Island States". The Island Developing States are the most vulnerable and hence need urgent protection.

Launched LIFE - Lifestyle For Environment Initiative:

- LIFE is about making lifestyle choices to improve our planet. LIFE will be a coalition of like-minded people across the world who will promote sustainable lifestyles.
- They will be called 3Ps - Pro Planet People. This global movement is the Coalition for LIFE.

What is Sustainable Development and Climate Change?**Sustainable Development:**

- Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- This most widely accepted definition of Sustainable Development was given by the Brundtland Commission in its report 'Our Common Future' (1987). Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global effort that has one major objective — achieving a better future for all.

Climate Change:

- It is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates.

- Climate data records provide evidence of climate change key indicators, such as global land and ocean temperature increases, rising sea levels, ice loss at Earth's poles and in mountain glaciers, frequency and severity changes in extreme weather such as hurricanes, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, floods and precipitation, and cloud and vegetation cover changes, to name but a few.

PRELIMS FACT**Darkathon-2022**

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) launched a 'Darkathon' for cyber experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of markets in the dark web. The role of NCB as the nodal agency on the matter of drug law enforcement in India has gained prominence in recent times.

What is Darkathon-2022?

- The competitors will have to provide a "solution" based on crawling of darkweb to identify and catalog darknet markets selling drugs with a mechanism to automatically add new markets and drop inactive ones, identify drug traffickers based in India and the drugs on sale and digital footprinting of active drug traffickers.
- The number of drug seizures from parcel or courier consignments increased by almost 250% in India after the outbreak of the pandemic and a good number of them are linked to drug trafficking through darknet markets.

What is Darknet and Concerns?**About: Internet consists of three layers:**

- The first layer is public, consisting of sites that one uses frequently such as Facebook, Twitter, Amazon and LinkedIn. This layer makes up only 4% of the entire internet.
- The second layer, the deep web, is a network where data is stored in inaccessible databases (i.e. cannot be accessed through traditional search engines like Google). It is used to provide access to a specific group of people. The data is generally sensitive and private (government private data, bank data, cloud data etc), so kept out of reach.
- The third layer is the darknet which is also known as a part of the 'Deep Web'. It is a network built over the internet which is encrypted.
 1. It is basically a layer of the Internet accessible only by using special software like TOR (The Onion Router), or I2P, which stands for Invisible Internet Project.
 2. Anything present on the dark web will not be pulled up in internet searches, thereby offering a high degree of anonymity.

Concerns over Darknet:

- In February 2016, in a study titled 'Cryptopolitik and the Darknet', researchers analysed content over the TOR network. Of the 2,723 websites they could classify by content, 1,547 – 57 % – hosted illicit material ranging from drugs (423 sites), illegitimate pornography (122) and hacking (96), among others.
- There were also reports of log-in details of streaming sites like Netflix being sold on the dark web marketplaces for cheap rates.
- The network is also used by several activists especially those living under oppressive regimes to communicate without any government censorship.
- The TOR network was used by activists during the Arab Spring.

Darknet and India:

- The Information Technology Act, 2000 deals with cybercrime and comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. There are only six sections in the law that deal with cybercrime.
- With the changing times, India needs a code of criminal procedures dealing with cybercrime that would come under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which deals with policing issues.
- Also, there is a need for police, trained in changing cyber trends who are dedicated only to cybercrime and not transferred to other police units.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Dairy development and livestock can be an instrument of promoting socio-economic development of rural people, particularly the poor and landless labour. Discuss in the light of recent measures undertaken for dairy development in India. (150 words)

Introduction

The huge increase in milk supply through concerted efforts on a cooperative level is known as the White Revolution. Forty-eight years after Operation Flood – that made India the world's largest milk producer – India continues to be on the lookout for the next breakthrough in agricultural produce and productivity.

White Revolution 2.0 has effectuated dairy firms' marketing strategy for milk and milk products, resuscitating the outlook of product-market mix.

Body**Milk production in India:**

- India emerged as the largest milk producer and consumer in 2019.
- Niti Aayog estimates that the country is expected to increase its milk production to 330 million metric tonnes (mt) in 2033–34 from the current level of 176 mt.
- Currently India has 17% of world output of dairy products, surpassing USA in 1998 as world's largest producer of dairy. All this was achieved by operation Flood which was launched in 1970's.
- According to market research company IMARC, the milk and dairy products industry reached Rs7.9 lakh crore in 2017.
- In 2016, the milk sector alone was valued at Rs3 lakh crore and is projected to scale Rs7.3 lakh crore by 2021.
- The per capita milk availability in India has gone up from 126 gm per day in 1960 to 359 gm per day in 2015.

Government initiatives for the dairy sector:

1. National Programme for Bovine Breeding
2. Rashtriya Gokul Mission
3. National Bovine Genetic Centre
4. Quality Mark
5. National Kamdhenu Breeding Centres
6. E-Pashuhaat portal
7. National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)
8. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)
9. National Dairy Plan-I (NDP-I)
10. Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)
11. Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in dairy activities (SDCFPO)

Challenges faced:

- Indian cattle and buffaloes have among the lowest productivity.
- Similarly, there is a shortage of organized dairy farms and there is a need of high degree of investment to take dairy industry to global standards.
- Improving productivity of farm animals is one of the major challenges
- Crossbreeding of indigenous species with exotic stocks to enhance genetic potential of different species has been successful only to a limited extent.
- The sector will also come under significant adjustment pressure to the emerging market forces. Though globalization will create avenues for increased participation in international trade, stringent food safety and quality norms would be required.
- Access to markets is critical to speed up commercialization. Lack of access to markets may act as a disincentive to farmers to adopt improved technologies and quality inputs.

Measures needed:

- Increase in the market share depends on how dairy firms' capabilities and their resources are utilised given the opportunities and threats emanating from emerging markets economies.
- Contract/corporate dairying and emerging global dairy trade are required to rope in dairy supply chains stakeholders in order to expand their outreach and "on-the-go" product positioning into the target segment.
- Digital technology-enabled dairy firms need to identify their compatible partners and competitors for co-creation through product-process innovation via relationship/value-based marketing.
- Freshness in milk, and convenience to store milk or milk products can be a technology innovation brought in by large dairy firms in association start-ups.
- Education and Training at Panchayat level for small and medium size farmers
- Subsidizing cattle production and encouraging cattle markets
- Facility of logistics for produced milk
- Improved Veterinary facility specially in artificial insemination of cattle
- Encouraging private sector firm to procure dairy produced at rural level
- Low interest loans for small and medium scale farmers for cattle purchase
- Encouraging rural women to take up animal husbandry
- Insurance of cattle against diseases like Anthrax, Foot and Mouth, Peste des Ruminantes, etc.

- Nurture dairy entrepreneurs through effective training of youth at the village level coupled with dedicated leadership and professional management of farmers' institutions.
- Agricultural practices, sanitation, quality of drinking water & fodder, type and quality of pipelines – all of these need to be aligned to the goal of healthy milk

Conclusion

The Government initiatives can ensure sustainable growth of the dairy sector as well as boost incomes of millions of small and marginal dairy farmers. Linking the animal husbandry with food processing industry, agriculture, researches & patents has all the possible potential to make India a nutritional power house of the world. Animal husbandry is the imperative hope, definite desire and urgent panacea for India as well as the world.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Vikas engine:

1. It is a family of liquid fueled rocket engines.
2. It is used to power the second stage of GSLV Mark I and II.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about Artemis program:

1. It is NASA's next mission to the Moon.
2. It is an uncrewed test flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited:

1. It is a Maha Ratna Government of India Enterprise.
2. It works under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Geological Survey of India (GSI)

1. It functions under Ministry of Earth Sciences
2. It creates and updates national geoscientific data and carries out mineral resource assessment.

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Black carbon (BC)

1. Black carbon is a form of particulate air pollutant, produced from incomplete combustion.
2. Black carbon stays in the atmosphere for several months to years.
3. Black Carbon is the strongest absorber of sunlight and heats the air directly.

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