

Jal Jeevan Mission

❖ Context

- Recently, Minister of State for Jal Shakti said in the Lok Sabha that Since August 2019, Government of India in partnership with States is implementing **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)-Har Ghar Jal** to make provision of potable water to every rural household of the country by 2024, through tap water connection.

Key Highlights

- At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission, 3.23 Crore (17%) households were reported to have tap water connections.
- So far, around 7.48 Crore (38%) rural households have been provided with tap water connections in last 3 years.
- Centre in June reported **52% rural households** as having tap water connections.
- Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Puducherry** reported more than 80% of households with fully functional connections.
- Less than **half the households** in Rajasthan, Kerala, Manipur, Tripura, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim had such connections.
- Goa, Telangana and Haryana have achieved **100% tap connectivity** to all households.
- Union Territories** like Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, have also provided **100%** of their households with tap water connections.
- Fully functional tap water connection**
 - It is defined as a household **getting at least 55 litres of per capita per day** of potable water all through the year.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- It was **launched in 2019**.
- It is under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- Objectives**
 - To **provide safe and adequate drinking water** through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.
 - It **focuses on integrated demand and supply-side** management of water at the local level.
- Significance**
 - It ensures **drinking water security**.
 - The Mission is **based on a community approach** to water.
 - It looks to **create a jan andolan for water**, thereby making it everyone's priority.
 - It promotes and **ensures voluntary ownership** among local communities by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labor and voluntary labor.
- Fund sharing**
 - Between the **Centre and states - 90:10**
 - For Himalayan and North-Eastern States - 50:50**
 - For other states, and 100% for Union Territories.**

Namami Gange Programme

❖ Context

- The **United Nations (UN)** has recognized **Namami Gange initiative** to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the **top 10 World Restoration Flagships** to revive the natural world.

Key highlights

- The Award was received by Director General, Namami Gange at a function in the **15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)** in Montreal on 14th December 2022, the World Restoration Day.
- Namami Gange was **selected from over 150 such initiatives from 70 countries** across the globe.
- They were selected under the banner of the **United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**
 - It is a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
 - It is designed to prevent and reverse the degradation of natural spaces across the planet.
- The recognized initiatives, including Namami Gange, will now be **eligible to receive UN support, funding or technical expertise**.

• Implementation

- Three-tier mechanism** for project monitoring comprising of
 - A high-level task force under Cabinet Secretary assisted by the NMCG at the **national level**.
 - A state-level committee under Chief Secretary assisted by the **SPMG** at the **state level**.
 - A district-level committee under the **District Magistrate**.

• Funding

- The Centre funds 100% of the projects/activities under this programme.

• The main pillars of the programme are

- Sewage Treatment Infrastructure, River-Front Development, River-Surface



- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has previously won the "Public Water Agency of the Year" in the Global Water Awards, 2019 by Global Water Intelligence 3.

About Namami Gange Programme

- Namami Gange Programme', is an Integrated Conservation Mission.
- It was **launched in June 2014** with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore.
- **Objectives**
 - Effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.
- **Nodal Ministry/Department**
 - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Implementing Agency**
 - National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
 - NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council
 - NMCG was set up in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA
 - Chaired by the Prime Minister.

Cleaning, Biodiversity, Afforestation, Public Awareness, Industrial Effluent Monitoring, Ganga Gram

• Significance of Ganga

- River Ganga has significant economic, environmental and cultural value in India.
- Ganga is important for India as it is home to 40% of India's population, 2500 species of flora and fauna and 8.61 billion sq. km. basin, which is home to over 520 million people.
- Ganga is also very important from spiritual point of view.



Bangladesh Economic Crisis

❖ Context

➤ Bangladesh has, recently, reached out to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) seeking help.

Key Highlights

- According to an IMF press release, Bangladesh will receive **economic assistance worth \$4.5 billion (around Rs 37,000 crore)** under IMF's **Extended Credit Facility (ECF) and the Extended Fund Facility (EFF)**.
- The Bangladesh economy had overtaken India's in terms of per capita income in 2020 on the back of robust economic growth for the better part of the last two decades, and especially since 2017.
- Unlike many countries including India that saw their GDP contract in 2020 following the Covid-19 pandemic, the economy of Bangladesh actually grew during this period.

Problem

- The IMF states that Bangladesh's robust economic recovery from the pandemic has been interrupted by Russia's war in Ukraine.

- The inflation rate in November was 8.85% as against 5.98% in November 2021.
- Bangladesh has typically been **hugely dependent on its export earnings**, but as the western economies slow down so do the Bangladesh as western consumers are putting off their demand for a later date.
- Bangladesh's currency, the **Taka**, weakened partly under the pressure of the surge in the US dollar and partly on account of the worsening current account deficit.
- A weaker Taka further aggravated the **inflationary spiral** because all imports become costlier still.
- The weakness in the external front also resulted in **Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves getting depleted**.
- Last December, the forex reserves were valued at \$46,154 million. As of now, they are just \$33,790 million — **a fall of more than one-fourth of its total valuation**.

Goals of IMF's programme

- **Creating additional fiscal space** through higher revenue mobilisation and rationalisation of expenditures.
- This will allow the government to increase growth-enhancing spending as well as mitigate the impact on the vulnerable through higher social spending and better-targeted social safety net programs.
- **Containing inflation** with increased exchange rate flexibility so that the country can buffer external shocks better.



- It has led to a **sharp widening of the current account deficit, rapid decline of foreign exchange reserves, rising inflation and slowing growth.**
- Strengthening the financial sector** by enhancing governance and regulatory aspects.
- Boosting growth potential** by creating a conducive environment to expand trade and foreign direct investment among other things.

Pennaiyar River

❖ Context

- The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to constitute an Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal to resolve the disputes between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over constructions in Pennaiyar River

Key Highlights

- The river originates in the **Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapura district** of Karnataka and flows through Tamil Nadu before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.
- It has a **catchment area of 1,424 square miles (3,690 sq. km) located in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states.**
- This is the **second longest river in Tamil Nadu**, with a length of 497 km, after the Kaveri.
- Bangalore, Hosur, Tiruvannamalai, and Cuddalore** are the important cities on the banks of the river.
- Major tributaries are the **Chinnar, Markanda, Vaniar, and Pamban.**
- The river is extensively dammed for irrigation, especially in Tamil Nadu.
- The river is considered sacred by Hindus, and festivals are held during the **Tamil month of Tai (January–February).**

Constitution Provisions

- Schedule 7** of the Constitution distinguishes between the use of water within a state and the purpose of regulating interstate waters.
- It gives the Union Parliament the power to formulate laws and mechanisms for regulating interstate rivers (**Union List: Entry 56, List 1**).
- The states retain autonomy regarding water utilisation for purposes such as water supply, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power (**State List: Entry 17 of List 2**), subject to the provisions of Entry 56, List 1.
- Under **Article 262**, the Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of, or in, any inter State river or river valley.
- The resolution of water disputes is governed by the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.**
- According to its provisions, if a State Government makes a request regarding any water dispute and the Central Government is of opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, then a Water Disputes Tribunal is constituted for the adjudication of the water dispute.

News in Between the Lines

SURYA KIRAN -XVI



❖ Context

- The **16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise “SURYA KIRAN-XVI”** between India and Nepal will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from 16 - 29 December 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- Exercise “SURYA KIRAN” is **conducted annually** between India and Nepal.
- Aim**
 - To enhance interoperability in jungle warfare & counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and HADR under UN mandate.
- Functions**
 - The two armies, through these contingents, shall be sharing the experiences gained during the conduct of various counter-insurgency operations over the years in their respective countries.
 - During the exercise, participants will be training together to develop inter-operability and share their experience including Counter Insurgency

and Counter Terrorist operations and also on Humanitarian Relief operations.

➤ **Significance**

- The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

❖ **Context**

- The **5th edition of Youth Co:Lab**, Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India on Thursday December 15th 2022.

❖ **Youth Co:Lab**

- Youth Co:Lab is an initiative **launched in 2019 by UNDP India in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission**.
- It aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and **empower youth** to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.

❖ **About AIM**

- Flagship initiative set up by the **NITI Aayog in 2016**.
- It has also launched **AIM Prime, AIM iCREST**, etc to boost industrial exposure of students and innovators.

➤ **Objectives**

- To **create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship** across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- To **provide platform and collaboration opportunities** for different stakeholders.
- To create awareness and create an **umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem** of the country.

➤ **Function**

- **Entrepreneurship promotion** through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs.
- To **provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated**.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)



Social Progress Index (SPI)



❖ **Context**

- **Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** will release the Social Progress Index (SPI) for states and districts of India on December 20, 2022.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The report has been **prepared by Institute for Competitiveness, Social Progress Imperative** and was mandated by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India.
- The report sheds light on the achievements of the districts that have performed well on the index and the role of the states in achieving social progress.
- The report will act as a **critical enabler** and tool for policymakers in the coming years for achieving sustained socio-economic growth.

❖ **About SPI**

- SPI is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the Social Progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels.
- SPI assesses the performance of states and districts on three dimensions of social progress-
 - Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.

Beyport Uru



- **Context**
 - The **District Tourism Promotion Council, Kozhikode** has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous Beyport *Uru* (boat).
- **Key highlights**
 - It is a wooden dhow (ship/sailing boat/sailing vessel) **handcrafted by skilled artisans and carpenters** in Beyport, Kerala.
 - The Beyport Urus are a **symbol of Kerala's trade relations and friendship with the Gulf countries**.
 - The *Urus* are purely made of **premium wood**, without using modern techniques.
 - The wood is sawed the traditional way which requires a lot of expertise.
 - It takes **one to four years** to build each *Uru* with the entire process being done manually.
 - Beyport has been a legendary maritime hub for traders from across the world since the 1st Century C.E.. The *Uru* ships have been in demand for around 2,000 years.
- **Geographical Indication**
 - It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
 - A geographical indication right enables those who have the **right to use the indication to prevent its use by a third party** whose product does not conform to the applicable standards.
 - However, a protected geographical indication does not enable the holder to prevent someone from making a product using the same techniques as those set out in the standards for that indication.

Patriot Missile Defence System



- ❖ **Context**
 - The US is going to send the Patriot missile battery to Ukraine.
- ❖ **Key highlights**
 - The Patriot is a **surface-to-air guided missile system** that was first deployed in the 1980s.
 - Each Patriot battery consists of a truck-mounted launching system with eight launchers that can hold up to four missile interceptors each, a ground radar, a control station and a generator.
 - It can target aircraft, cruise missiles and shorter-range ballistic missiles.
 - The U.S. batteries are regularly deployed around the world.
 - In Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, they guard against potential strikes from **Iran, Somalia and North Korea**.
 - In addition, Patriots also are operated or being purchased by the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Taiwan, Greece, Spain, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Romania, Sweden, Poland and Bahrain.

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