Bharat 6G Alliance

Context: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has introduced the Bharat 6G Alliance, aiming to foster innovation and collaboration in the field of next-generation wireless technology.

- The Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) has been formed to advance the vision of universal and affordable connectivity and develop indigenous technology in India's telecommunications sector.
    - The B6GA is a collaborative platform that includes public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and Standards development organizations.
- The B6GA aims to foster international collaboration and knowledge exchange by establishing partnerships with other 6G Global Alliances.
- The official website of the Bharat 6G Alliance (https://bharat6galliance.com) has been launched.
- Two projects were announced with a grant of 240.51 crores under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF):
    - The consortium of SAMEER, IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati, and IIT Patna will work on the development of a 6G THz Testbed with Orbital Angular Momentum (OAM) and Multiplexing.
    - The consortium consisting of IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi, Signalchip Innovations, Signaltron Systems Pvt Ltd, Sasmos het Technologies Ltd, SFO Technologies Pvt. Ltd, ERNET India, Quanfluence Private Ltd, Sterlite Technologies Limited, Nav tech, and Tejas network will collaborate on the Advanced Optical Communication Test Bed.

Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA):

- B6GA aims to understand the business and societal needs of 6G beyond technology requirements.
- It promotes high-impact open research and development initiatives for 6G technology.
- B6GA brings together Indian startups, companies, and the manufacturing ecosystem to drive the design, development, and deployment of 6G technologies in India.
- It accelerates standards-related patent creation within the country and actively contributes to international standardization organizations.
- The goal is to position India as a global leader in 6G innovation, facilitate market access for Indian telecom technology products and services, and promote technology ownership and indigenous manufacturing.
- B6GA aims to reduce imports, boost export opportunities, and augment the creation of Intellectual Property.

Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF):

- TTDF scheme was launched by DoT/USOF to bridge the digital divide and develop state-of-the-art technologies.
- 5% of annual collections from USOF are allocated to the TTDF Scheme for funding research and development.
- The scheme encourages indigenous technologies and forms synergies among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry.
- Grants are provided to Indian entities for the development and manufacturing of telecom technologies.
- The scheme targets the creation of standards, research, design, prototyping, use cases, pilots, and proof of concept testing to meet countrywide requirements and build the telecom ecosystem.

Online filing of Accounts of Political Parties

Context: The Election Commission has introduced a web portal allowing political parties to file their financial accounts online.

- The Election Commission has launched a web portal (https://iems.eci.gov.in/) for political parties to file their financial accounts online.
- Political parties are required to submit Contribution Reports, Audited Annual Accounts, and Election Expenditure Statements to the Election Commission/Chief Electoral Officers of States/Union Territories.
- The online filing system aims to facilitate the filing process and ensure timely submission of financial statements.
- The availability of data online is expected to enhance compliance and transparency.
- Reminders will be sent to political parties through registered mobile numbers and emails to ensure they meet the filing deadlines.
- A guiding manual, FAQs, and hands-on training programs will be provided to assist political parties in using the online filing module.
- Parties not opting for online filing must provide written reasons and continue to file hard copies along with CDs/Pen drives.
- The Commission will publish all financial reports filed offline along with the party's justification for not using the online system.

Political Funding

Statutory Provisions:

- Section 29B of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) allows political parties to accept voluntary contributions from individuals and companies, except Government Companies.
- Section 29C of the RPA mandates parties to declare donations exceeding 20,000 rupees by submitting a report to the Election Commission (EC). Failure to do so disqualifies a party from tax relief under the Income Tax Act.

Methods Used by Indian Political Parties to Raise Funds:

- **Individual Persons:**
  - Political parties can receive donations from individual persons as per Section 29B of the RPA.
- **State/Public Funding:**
  - The government provides funds to parties for election-related purposes.
  - Direct Funding: The government directly provides funds to political parties (prohibited by tax).
  - Indirect Funding: Other methods include free media access, public rally venues, and subsidized transport facilities (regulated manner).
- **Corporate Funding:**
  - Donations by corporate bodies are governed by the Companies Act, 2013.
  - Companies must be at least three years old to donate to political parties.
  - Contributions can be up to 7.5% of average net profits made in the preceding three financial years.
  - Such contributions must be disclosed in the company's profit and loss account.
  - Board of Directors' approval is required for the contribution.
  - Violations may result in fines up to 5 times the contributed amount and possible imprisonment for defaulting officers.
- **Electoral Trusts:**
  - Non-profit companies created in India to receive voluntary contributions.
  - Electoral trusts formed after January 2013 must declare received and disbursed funds.
  - Central Government rules mandate donating 95% of total income to registered political parties in a financial year.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

Context: The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.

- The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission is a program launched in India to address the health challenges posed by sickle cell disease, primarily among tribal populations.
- It was announced in the Union Budget 2023 and aims to eliminate sickle cell genetic transmission by 2047.
- **Coverage:** The program will be implemented in 17 high-focus states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, and Uttarakhand.
- **Objectives:** The main objective is to eliminate sickle cell genetic transmission and reduce the burden of sickle cell disease.

- **Target:**
  - The program aims to cover the entire population from zero to 18 years of age and gradually expand the coverage up to 40 years.
  - Over a period of three years (2023-24 to 2025-26), approximately 7.0 crore people will be screened for sickle cell disease.
- **Three pillars of the strategy:**
  - Health promotion:
    - Focuses on creating awareness and providing pre-marital genetic counselling.
  - Prevention:
    - Involves universal screening and early detection of sickle cell disease.
- **Holistic management and continuum of care:**
  - Includes managing individuals with sickle cell disease at primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare levels.
  - Treatment facilities will be available at tertiary healthcare facilities.
  - Establishing a patient support system and encouraging community adoption.
- **Implementation:**
  - The program will be executed as part of the National Health Mission (NHM).
  - Integration will be done with existing mechanisms under NHM, such as the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA).

Sickle Cell Disease

Topic	Sickle Cell Disease
Definition	Hereditary disease causing misshapen red blood cells
Cause	Mutations in hemoglobin genes
Inheritance	Autosomal recessive
Impact	Anaemia, impaired blood flow, chronic pain syndromes, severe infections, tissue necrosis, organ damage
Risk Groups	Sub-Saharan Africa, India, Saudi Arabia, Mediterranean countries, endogamous communities
Management	High fluid intake, healthy diet, folic acid supplementation, pain medication, vaccination and antibiotics
Cure	Gene therapy (in development), stem cell transplants (in development)
World Sickle Cell Day	June 19th

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Locally Aquired Malaria

Context: Recently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported locally acquired malaria (LAM) cases in Florida and Texas, marking the first instances of such cases in the country in two decades.

Transmission of Malaria:

- Malaria transmission requires mosquitoes to bite an infected person and then bite another person, transmitting the disease locally.
- Local transmission occurs when the disease presents in individuals with no recent travel history.

CDC Recommendations and Urgent Evaluation:

- The CDC has recommended that healthcare professionals consider malaria as a diagnosis for patients with fever of unknown origin, irrespective of their travel history.
- Patients suspected of having malaria should be urgently evaluated in an appropriate medical facility.

Locally Acquired Malaria Cases in Florida and Texas:

- Florida has reported four locally acquired malaria cases this year, with two cases reported from Sarasota County between June 18 and 24, 2023.
- Florida reported 23 malaria cases associated with international travel in 2023.
- One case of locally acquired malaria was identified in Cameron County, Texas.

Malaria Symptoms and Diagnosis:

- Malaria usually presents with flu-like symptoms including fever, chills, nausea and sweating.
- If left untreated, malaria can result in disorientation, seizures, anemia and kidney damage.

eSARAS Mobile App

Context: Recently, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched the eSARAS mobile app to support and promote products made by women in Self-help Groups (SHGs).

eSARAS Mobile App:

eSARAS is an e-commerce mobile app that serves as a platform for marketing product s. This initiative is driven by the DAY-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in India.

Aim:

The app aims to provide a more effective and accessible marketplace for showcasing and selling the finest and authentic handicrafts and handlooms produced by these women artisans.

FDRVC:

The Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trust have jointly constituted the Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC).

DAY-NRLM Marketing Initiatives:

- The DAY-NRLM employs a 360-degree marketing approach to support SHGs.
- On-ground events such as SARAS Melas and Saras Food Festivals are organized to further promote and showcase these products to a wider audience.

Empowering SHGs:

- The primary aim of the DAY-NRLM is to provide each SHG household with 2-3 sources of livelihood.
- Non-farm enterprises including the marketing of SHG products, play a vital role in achieving this

Greedflation

Context: Recently, there has been growing concern over the phenomenon of "greedflation" and its potential impact on the economy.

What is Greedflation?

Greedflation refers to the phenomenon where companies increase prices beyond what is justified by actual production costs or market demand, driven by profit-seeking motives.

Motive:

Greedflation occurs when companies prioritize maximizing their profits over maintaining reasonable pricing based on cost factors or market dynamics.

Impact on Inflation:

Greedflation can contribute to inflationary pressures in an economy as prices rise without corresponding increases in production costs or demand.

Consumer Impact:

Greedflation leads to higher prices for consumers, reducing their purchasing power and potentially affecting consumer confidence.

Negative Implications:

Greedflation can undermine economic stability, distort market dynamics and impact income distribution as excessive price increases disproportionately affect consumers' budgets.

Global Perspective:

Greedflation is not limited to a specific country or region; it can occur in both developed and developing economies, impacting consumer welfare and macroeconomic stability.

Monitoring and Mitigation:

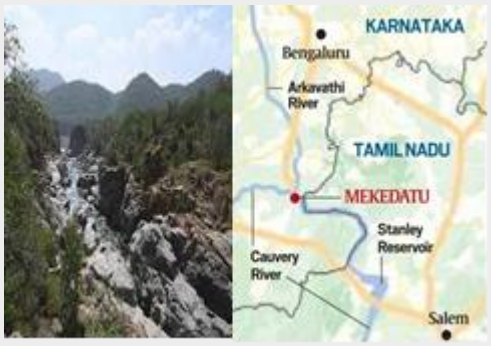
Governments and central banks closely monitor price movements and market behavior to identify and address instances of greedflation through appropriate regulatory measures and monetary policy interventions.

The Mekedatu Reservoir Project

Context: Recently, there is a proposal for the construction of the Mekedatu Reservoir Project near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district of Karnataka.

Aim:

The project aims to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and neighboring areas (4.75 TMC) and has the potential to generate 400 MW of power. Howeve r, environmentalists have raised concerns and suggested alternative solutions for resolving the city's water problem.



About Mekedatu Reservoir Project:

- The Mekedatu Reservoir Project is a multi-purpose project involving the construction of a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Karnataka.
- The project is located 4 km from the Tamil Nadu border and approximately 100 km from Bengaluru.
- The reservoir, named after the village where it is expected to be constructed, will have a capacity of 284,000 million cubic feet (TMC).
- The proposed project site is at the confluence of the Cauvery River and its tributary, Arkavathi.
- The main issue surrounding the project is the objection raised by Tamil Nadu, the lower riparian state, which argues that the project goes against its water requirements.
- As per the Cauvery tribunal and Supreme Court order, any project on the Cauvery River requires the no-objection of the lower riparian state.

Place in News
Pangong Tso Lake

Context: Recently, infrastructure development has taken place on the north bank of Pangong Lake in Ladakh and Tibet by India and China.

Geographical Location:

Pangong Tso Lake is situated in the Himalayas at an elevation of about 4,350 meters (14,270 feet). It extends from India to Tibet (China) and falls in the eastern Ladakh region.

Border Area:

The lake serves as a natural boundary between India and China. The Line of Actual Contr ol (LAC) which separates the two countries, passes through the eastern part of the lake.

Shape and Size:

Pangong Tso is a long, narrow lake stretching approximately 134 kilometers (83 miles) in length. It is one of the largest high-altitude lakes in India.

Three-Tiered Morphology:

The lake consists of three distinct segments or basins known as the Inner, Outer and Neutral Zones. These zones are characterized by different depths and salinity levels.

Transboundary Lake:

Pangong Tso is a transboundary lake, meaning it is shared by India and China. The lake's western part lies within Indian territory while its eastern part falls under Chinese control.

Migratory Birds and Wildlife:

The lake serves as a breeding ground for migratory birds, making it a paradise for birdwatchers. The catchment area surrounding the lake is home to various wildlife species including marmots and Kiangs (wild asses).