

EU's Digital Market Act

❖ Context

- The EU has finalised the details of a new legislation aimed to make the digital sector more fairer and competitive.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Act focuses on companies termed as 'gatekeepers'.
- The companies including Apple, Facebook, Google etc., are referred to as gatekeepers as they often control distribution, whether it is for apps or ads on platforms, or even communication.
- They also have a dual role as developers of operating systems and device manufacturers.
- **Emerging gatekeeper** would be one whose competitive position is proven but not yet sustainable.

❖ Conditions for Applications

- The platform must control one or more **core platform services** in at least three EU states.
- These services include **marketplaces and app stores, search engines, social networking, cloud services, advertising services, voice assistants, and web browsers.**
- Company's annual turnover \geq Euro 7.5 BN or
- Company's market valuation \geq Euro 75 BN or
- Monthly end users \geq 45 MN or
- Business user in Europe \geq 10,000.

❖ Prohibitions and Provisions

- Users will have **right to choose and install their apps.**
- Users will not be forced to use default softwares and web browsers.

- Companies ensure **interoperability** between the basic functionalities of messaging services.
- Gatekeepers must allow the installation and effective use of **third party software applications or software application stores**, even while they can take **proportionate measures** for security.
- App developers to get fair access to **supplementary functionalities** of smartphones, ex - **Near Field communications.**
- Gatekeepers will have to inform EU of their mergers and acquisitions.
- Forbid Gatekeepers from ranking their own products or services higher than others.
- Forbid **reusing private data collected during a service for purpose of another service.**

❖ Penalties for non-compliance

- Fined upto **10%** of the company's annual sales for first breach of law rising to 20% for repeated infringements.
- In worst case scenario, they can be banned from any further acquisitions.

❖ Situation in India and Elsewhere

- In India too, app developers have raised the issue of control, in-app payments, and third party app stores.
- In **South Korea, a law has been passed** banning specifically Apple and Google from forcing developers to use their own in-app payment system.

(National Rural Health Mission) NRHM / (National Health Mission) NHM Scheme

❖ Context

- Recently, SC upheld the order of the Uttarakhand High Court that under the NRHM/NHM Scheme, **Ayurvedic Doctors will be entitled to parity** in salary with Allopathic Medical Officers and Dental Medical Officers.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **respondents were appointed, as Medical Officer, Ayush**, on a contractual basis, between 2010 and 2013 under the NHM.
- They were **appointed in Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).**
- The Uttarakhand State Government also appointed Allopathic, Dental, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Medical Officers under the NRHM on contractual basis.
- There was a **considerable disparity in the salary of the Allopathic and Dental Doctors** and that of the Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Doctors.

❖ About NHM:

- **Launched in 2013.**
- Subsumed the **National Rural Health Mission (Launched in 2005)** and the **National Urban Health Mission (Launched in 2013).**
- The main programmatic components include:
 - Health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas.
 - Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A).
 - Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.
- **Aims:**
 - The **Achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services** that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

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❖ About National Rural Health Mission

- Launched on 12th April 2005.
- Aim:
 - To provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups.
- Objectives:
 - Reduction in infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate
 - Ensuring population stabilization
 - Prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
 - Upgrading AYUSH (Ayurvedic Yoga Unani Siddha and Homeopathy) for promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

• Objectives:

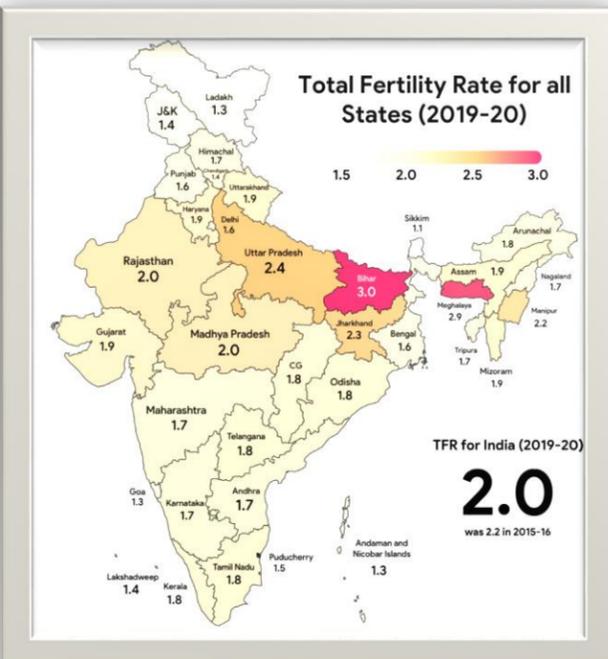
- Ensures accessible quality, community-driven health services for communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Organizes awareness campaigns, and plans, implements and monitors initiatives related to health, nutrition, sanitation, solar energy, supply chain management, registering births of children born in the last 6 months, healthcare during pregnancy, etc.
- Aims to reduce MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella) to 1 per 1000 live births.
- Reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 25 per 1000 live births.
- Reduce Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1.
- Prevent and reduce anaemia in women aged between 15 and 49 years.
- Prevent and reduce mortality and morbidity from communicable, non-communicable; injuries and emerging diseases.
- Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure.
- Reduce annual incidence and mortality from tuberculosis by half.
- Control the prevalence of leprosy to less than 1 for every 10000 of the rural population and incidence to zero in all districts.
- Control annual malaria incidence to less than 1 for every 1000 of the rural Indian population.
- Reduce microfilaria to less than 1% of what is currently prevalent in all districts.

• Major Initiative:

- Ayushman Bharat. Pradhan Mantri.
- Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK).
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).
- ASHA.

News in Between the Lines

Replacement Total Fertility Rate (TFR)



❖ Context

- According to the **Sample Registration System (SRS) 2019**, released by the Registrar General of India this month, the **13 states and two UTs** have attained the replacement total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.1 and below.

❖ Key Highlights

- As per SRS, **India's national TFR has come down to 2.1** in 2019 after being stable at 2.2 for 2017 and 2018.
- As per SRS 2019, **urban India had a TFR of 1.7** while **rural India had a TFR of 2.3**.
- **Replacement Level TFR in States:**
 - Andhra Pradesh (1.5), Delhi (1.5), J&K (1.5), Punjab (1.5), TN (1.5), West Bengal (1.5), Himachal Pradesh (1.6), Kerala (1.6), Maharashtra (1.6), Telangana (1.6), Karnataka (1.7), Odisha (1.8) Uttarakhnad (1.9), Gujarat (2.1) and Haryana (2.1).
 - **Bihar has reported the highest TFR (3.1).**
- According to a **UN World population policy, 2021**, India is at replacement level TFR (2.1) where a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.
- The **infant mortality rate (IMR)** also registered a **2-point decline to 30** in 2019 from 32 in 2018 at the national level, as per SRS 2019.

❖ About TFR

- Replacement TFR (2.1 births per woman) is an **indicator where a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next**, without migration.

Bucharest Nine (B9)

❖ Context

- The envoys to India of **nine Eastern European countries jointly wrote an article on March 25** to “acquaint the Indian public with the basic facts on the ground about the unjustified Russian aggression in Ukraine”.

❖ Bucharest Nine

- The “Bucharest Nine” is a **group of nine NATO countries** in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War.
- It is often **abbreviated as the B9**, was founded on November 4, 2015, and **takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania**.
- The group was created on the initiative of Klaus Iohannis, who has been



- President of Romania since 2014, and Andrzej Duda, who became President of Poland in August 2015.
- The B9 are, apart from **Romania and Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.**
 - All nine countries were once closely associated with the now dissolved Soviet Union, but later chose the path of democracy.
 - All members of the **B9 are part of the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).**
 - The Bucharest Format (B9) **offers a platform for deepening the dialogue and consultation among the participant allied states**, in order to articulate their specific contribution to the ongoing processes across the North-Atlantic Alliance.

Earth Hour



❖ Context

- Earth Hour, **celebrated every year on March 26**, is the largest global grassroots movement for the environment.

❖ Key Highlights

- This year being the **16th edition**, with **residents switched off their electrical appliances and non-essential lighting fixtures for one hour starting at 8.30 p.m. (local time)** to show their concern for the environment.
- The Earth Hour has grown rapidly to become the world's most significant grassroots environmental movement.
- It has inspired the world to save electricity.
- Earth Day (April 22) celebrates our natural environment by inspiring people to plant trees, recycle regularly and keep the planet tidy.

❖ About Earth Hour

- Earth Hour is an annual event **organized by the World Wildlife Fund since 2007.**
- It was famously **started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007.**
- Every year, it brings together millions of people, businesses, and leaders worldwide to shine a spotlight on the urgent need to address nature loss and climate change.

Bharat Bhagya Vidhata



❖ Context

- The **ten-day mega Red Fort Festival -Bharat Bhagya Vidhata** kick started at the iconic 17th- century monument Red Fort in Delhi.
- Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the festival.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Red Fort mega festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata is **being organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Ministry of Culture.**
- The festival **aims to commemorate the heritage of the country and culture of every part of India.**
- The festival Bharat Bhagya Vidhata will **help everyone to appreciate the diversity of India.** More than 70 master craftsmen have displayed their craftsmanship at the venue.

National Dolphin Day

❖ Context

- Recently, the Environment Minister informed that **October 5th has been designated as National Dolphin Day** to be celebrated every year.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Environment Ministry has been taking up several activities for the protection and conservation of dolphins and its habitats.
- **Significance of the Day:**
 - It will **create awareness for conservation of Dolphins.**

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National Dolphin Day

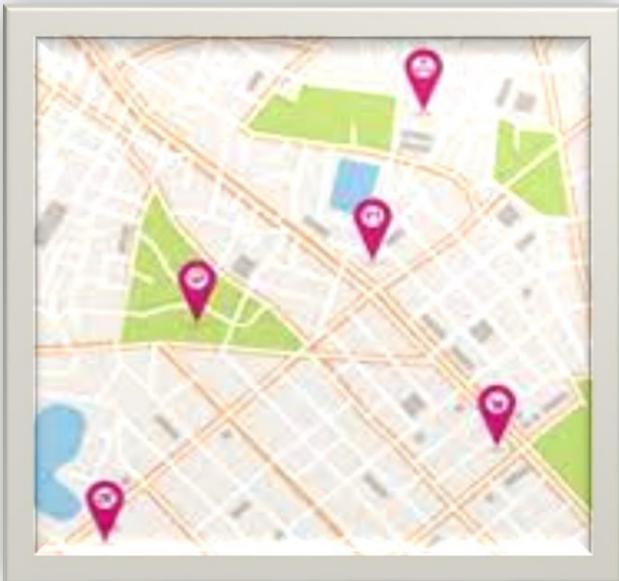


- Dolphins act as **ideal ecological indicators** of a healthy aquatic ecosystem and **conservation of the Dolphins will benefit the survival of the species and people** dependent on the aquatic system for their livelihood.

❖ About Gangetic Dolphin

- It is **one of five species of river dolphin found around the world.**
- It is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in **Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems.**
- An adult dolphin could weigh between **70 kg and 90 kg.**
- The breeding season of the Gangetic dolphin extends from January to June.
- Ganges River Dolphin as the **National Aquatic Animal of India.**
- Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN Red List- **Endangered.**
 - WPA Act 1972- **Schedule 1.**
 - CITES- **Appendix I.**
 - CMS- **Appendix 2.**

Geotagging of Payment Touchpoints



❖ Context

- The Reserve Bank of India has released the framework for geotagging of payment system touchpoints to help monitor and ensure the availability of payment infrastructure.

❖ Key Highlights

- RBI is focused on deepening digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of the country.
- Geotagging of payment system touchpoints will enable **proper monitoring of payment acceptance infrastructure of availability**, like Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes. Such monitoring would support **policy intervention to optimise distribution of payment infrastructure.**
- As per the framework, **banks and non-bank payment system operators (PSOs) will capture and maintain geographical coordinates** for all payment touchpoints. They will **maintain a registry with accurate location** of all payment touchpoints across the country, including merchant related information and payment acceptance infrastructure details.
- Geotagging information would be submitted to the RBI** for PoS terminals, including mobile PoS, soft PoS, tablet PoS, desktop PoS, self-service kiosk PoS, Android-based PoS terminals, non-Android-based PoS terminals with GPRS SIM Card-embedded, non-Android-based PoS terminals with PSTN Line Connectivity and paper-based and soft QR codes such as Bharat QR, UPI QR.

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary



❖ Context

- Once known as a safe nesting ground on India's east coast, a **nearly 30-km coastline in the Godavari estuary** has recorded a **sharp fall in the arrival of Olive Ridley turtles** during breeding season.

❖ Key Highlights

- According to official data, 1,061 turtles arrived at the Godavari estuary in the 2018-19 breeding season (January-April), in which a record number of 89,172 hatchlings were returned to the sea.
- But the number of turtles arriving started falling from the following season to the lowest ever turnout of 471 turtles in 2020-21.



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- The **mechanised boats and their speed** are the **prime factors** responsible for the **death** of the turtles along the coast,
- Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is **situated near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, India.**
- The sanctuary is a **part of the Godavari estuary** and has extensive mangrove and dry deciduous tropical forest.
- It is the **third largest stretch of mangrove forests in India** with 24 mangrove tree species and more than 120 bird species.
- It is home to the **critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture.**

White Label ATMs



❖ Context

- India1 Payments (formerly BTI Payments Private Ltd) has received a perpetual licence to set-up, own and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India from the RBI.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) authorises non-bank ATM operators **under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**
- White label ATMs, or WLAs, are the ATMs **set up and operated by a non-bank.**
- As a customer, one can use these machines just as a regular ATM.
- **WLAs offer debit card services such as cash withdrawal and enquiry.**
- The WLATM business model was premised on the fact that customers will swipe on ATMs and deployers could pocket the **interchange fee.**
- The interchange is the payout by a card-issuing bank when you swipe at other banks' ATMs (and this includes white-label units).

Other types of ATM in India

Onsite ATM	Inside the bank compound
Offsite ATM	Locate elsewhere except inside bank
Yellow label	Mainly installed to provide e-commerce facility
Brown label	Not owned by bank, taken on lease to provide service to customer
Orange label	Used in share transaction
Pink label	Meant only for women
Green label	For transactions related to agriculture

One MLA one Pension



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❖ Context

- Punjab CM has directed to implement one MLA one pension scheme.

❖ Key Highlights

- An MLA in Punjab gets a pension of **Rs. 75,000 per month for one term.**
- Thereafter, an **additional 66% of the pension amount** is given for each subsequent term.
- From now on, Punjab's former MLAs will now get pension for only one term.
- **Article 106 of the Constitution** provides Parliament by law to determine salaries and allowances to an MP.
- Accordingly, Parliament has enacted **The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act 1954.**
- Under Article **195 of the Constitution, State legislatures have similar powers.**
- Punjab MLAs are granted pension in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Punjab Legislature Members (Pension and Medical Facilities Regulation) Act, 1977, and Punjab Legislature Members (Pension and Medical Facilities Regulation) Rules, 1984.

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