



Community Support
to TB Patients-
Nikshay Mitra

Nikshay Mitra

❖ Context

- The health ministry is working on an initiative—called Nikshay Mitra.

❖ Key Highlights

- It will allow **individuals to adopt Tuberculosis patients** and look after their nutritional and medical needs.
- The idea is to **destigmatize the TB diseases** through community support.



- The ministry has created a **digital platform** on a public-private-partnership on which anyone in India can register themselves.
- So far 5,900 individuals have notified themselves as Nikshay Mitra.

- They can choose the duration of support ranging from **one year to three years**.
- They can also choose the state, district, block, health facilities. The district TB officer will facilitate the process of becoming Nikshay Mitra.

❖ About Tuberculosis

- It is caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
- Though the bacteria usually attack the **lungs**, it can attack any part of the body such as the **kidney, spine & brain**.
- It spreads from person to person through the **air** when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings.

❖ Latent TB Infection

- **Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick.** As a result, two TB-related conditions exist: latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease.
- People with LTBI have **inactive TB germs** in their bodies. Thus, they are not sick, do not have symptoms and **cannot spread the germs to others**.

❖ Treatment

- TB disease can be treated by taking several **drugs for 6 to 12 months**.
- It is very important that people who have TB disease finish the medicine, and take the drugs exactly as prescribed.
- If they stop taking the drugs too soon, they can become sick again; if they do not take the drugs correctly, the germs that are still alive may become resistant to those drugs.
- TB that is **resistant to drugs** is harder and more expensive to treat.

❖ DOT Therapy

- In some situations, staff of the local health department meet regularly with patients to watch them take their medications. This is called directly observed therapy (DOT).
- DOT helps the patient complete treatment in the least amount of time.

❖ TB Prevalence in India

- At **2.5 million patients, India has the world's highest TB burden**. The government aims to **eliminate the disease by 2025**.
- Although a preventable and treatable disease, stigma remains a big challenge in India.
- Last year, India witnessed a **19% increase** from the previous year in TB patients' notification, possibly due to COVID, patients stopped visiting health centres.
- According to a health ministry TB prevalence survey (2019-2021), the worst-hit states are **Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh**.

TiHAN

❖ Context

- A state-of-the-art **Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation** was inaugurated at IITH campus.



❖ Key Highlights

- Funded by the **Union Ministry of Science & Technology** at a budget of Rs.130 crore.
- The facility aims to **develop unmanned ground and aerial vehicles**. In India, there is presently no such **testbed facility** for assessing autonomous vehicle performance.



- The testing facility also includes an airstrip, soft landing area, hangar for keeping drones, a Ground control station (GCS), Telemetry Station for Performance Evaluation.

- IIT Hyderabad has been awarded the Technology Innovation Hub in the technological vertical of 'Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, ROVs. etc.) under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**.

❖ Benefits of the Facility

- The standard operating procedures for unmanned vehicles, will significantly aid in **formulating the regulations and operating policies** for different applications in the Indian scenario. It will allow testing the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and faster technology development and global market penetration.

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DESH

❖ Context

- India plans to fundamentally reorient its **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** into industrial hubs that will focus on **boosting manufacturing for the domestic market** rather than only selling abroad.

Export Promotion

Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act to be replaced with new legislation to enable States to become partners in the Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs.

The new legislation will enable the states to become partners and will cover all large existing and new industrial enclaves to optimally utilise available infrastructure and enhance competitiveness of exports,

❖ Key Highlights

- They will be renamed **Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH)**.
- A **draft bill** is set to be introduced in the monsoon session of parliament. Possibly, the DESH Act will replace the current SEZ Act of 2005.
- As of 31 March, **268 SEZs are operational** in the country.
- They will be freed from many of the rules that burden SEZs.

❖ Key Changes

- They **no** longer are required to be net **foreign exchange positive**.
- They will be allowed to **sell in the domestic market** much more easily.
- The **duties only to be paid on the imported inputs and raw materials** instead of the final product.
- As selling goods in the domestic market from development hubs will be much more lucrative now, the Bill proposes an **equalisation levy** for clearance in the domestic market.
- The draft Bill **does not limit how long units can store goods**, which is one year currently.
- There is **no mandatory payment requirement in foreign exchange**.

❖ No Direct Tax Incentive

- Units operating within the new hubs will no longer benefit from direct tax incentives, which will be scrapped.
- This will make the hubs compliant with World Trade Organisation rules.
- In 2019, WTO ruled that India's SEZ policy violated WTO rules as it gave direct tax benefits to net-foreign exchange positive entities (earned more forex than they spent) for five years.

❖ Involvement of states

- Now states would be able to participate in the whole process.
- **State Boards** would be set up to oversee the functioning of the development hubs.
- These would approve the import or procurement of goods in the concerned development hub and monitor the utilisation of goods or services or warehousing or trading in the development hub.

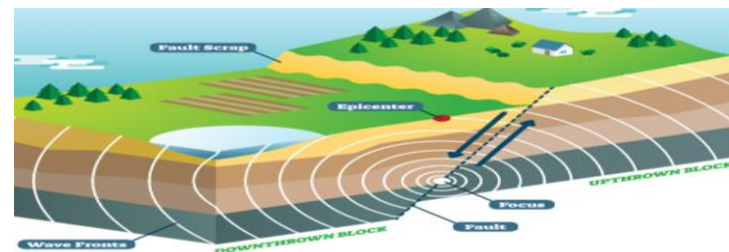
❖ No Change

- All **customs duty exemptions** allowed in the earlier law will also be available under the new act.

Earthquakes

❖ Context

- Recently a powerful **earthquake of magnitude 5.9** on the Richter scale struck a remote town in Afghanistan, killing over a thousand and injuring many more.



❖ Earthquakes

• About:

- An earthquake is the **shaking of the surface of the Earth**.
- It results from the sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves.
- Earthquake is the **form of energy** of wave motion transmitted through the surface layer of the earth.

- **Cause:** According to the **theory of plate tectonics**, the Earth's crust and upper mantle are made of large rigid plates that can move relative to one another.

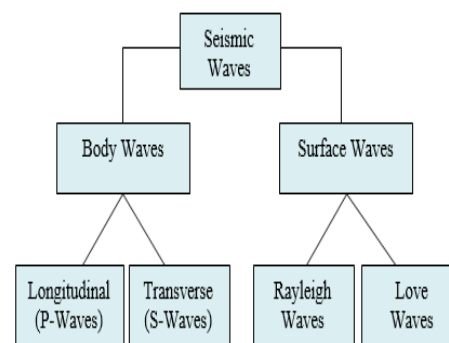
- **Slips on faults** near the plate boundaries can result in earthquakes.

- **Focus and Epicenter:** The point inside the Earth where the **earthquake rupture starts** is called the focus or hypocentre.

- The point **directly above it** on the surface of the Earth is the epicenter.

• Seismic Waves:

- Seismic waves are the waves of energy **caused by the sudden breaking of rock within the earth**.



- They are the energy that **travels through the earth** and is recorded on seismographs.

- The **two main types** of waves are body waves and surface waves.

- **Body Waves:** These waves **travel into the body of the earth**.

- These waves are somewhat like **sound waves**.

- These are **faster than surface waves**.

- **P-waves:** Move faster and are first to arrive at the surface.

- Travel through **gaseous, liquid, and solid materials**.

- High frequency and are the **least destructive**.

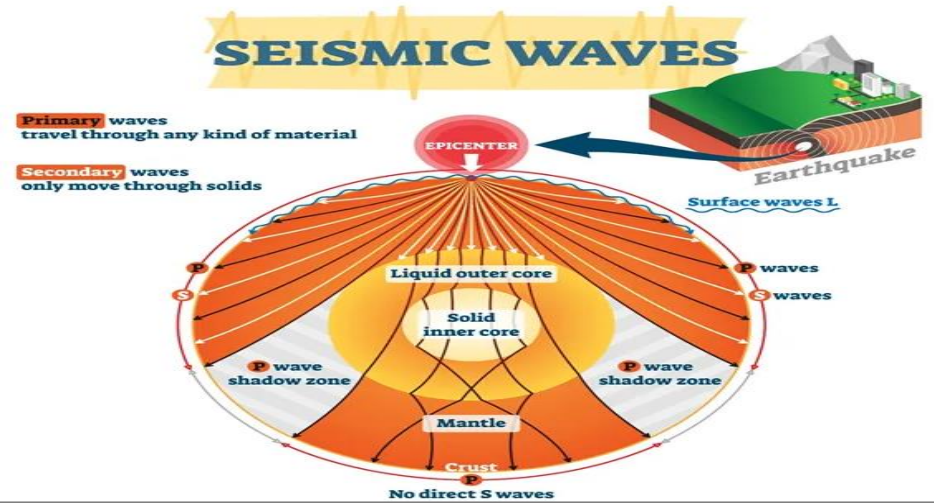
- **S-waves:** Arrive at the surface with some lag.

- Travel only through **solid materials**.

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Surface Waves:

- When the body waves interact with surface rocks, a **new set of waves is generated called surface waves.**
- These waves **move along the earth's surface.**
- Surface waves are also **transverse waves** in which particle movement is perpendicular to the wave propagation.
- They are similar to waves on the **water surface.**
- They are **last to report on seismographs.**
- These waves are **more destructive.**



National Investigation Agency (NIA)

Context

- Recently, The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** has taken over the probe into the June 28, 2022 killing of a tailor in Rajasthan's Udaipur over a social media post.



National Investigation Agency
Government of India

राष्ट्रीय अन्वेषण अभिकरण
भारत सरकार

- About:** The NIA was **constituted in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack** in November 2008.
 - It **addresses terrorism, counterfeit currency, human trafficking, narcotics, and other crimes.**
 - The NIA serves as India's **Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.**
- Statutory Body:** It was constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008.
- Mandate:** It is a central agency mandated to investigate-
 - All the offenses affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India,
 - All the offenses affecting Friendly relations with foreign states
 - The offenses under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organizations.
- Power:** The agency has the power to search, seize, arrest and prosecute those involved in such offenses.
- Headquartered:** Delhi.
- NIA's Jurisdiction:** The law under which the agency operates extends to the **whole of India.**
 - It also applies to-
 - Indian citizens outside the country.
 - persons in the service of the government** wherever they are posted.
 - Persons on ships and aircraft** registered in India wherever they may be.

- Persons **who commit a scheduled offense** beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.
- Scheduled Offenses:** The list includes:
 - The Explosive Substances Act.
 - Atomic Energy Act.
 - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
 - Anti-Hijacking Act.
 - Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act.
 - Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act etc.
- Process for Taking Over a Case:**
 - State governments can refer** the cases pertaining to the scheduled offenses to the Central government for NIA investigation.
 - Even when the **Central government** is of the opinion that a scheduled offense has been committed which is required to be investigated under the Act, it may, **suo motu**, direct the agency to take up/over the probe.
 - Where the **Central government** finds that a scheduled offense has been committed at any place outside India to which this Act extends, it **can also direct the NIA to register the case and take up investigation.**

News in Between the Lines

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

Context

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has announced that the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) will be a part of **Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme**, providing direct government benefits to all apprentices.

Key Highlights

- Earlier companies used to pay apprentices the entire amount and then seek reimbursement from the government.

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NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROMOTION SCHEME (NAPS)

The main objective of the scheme is to promote apprenticeship training and to increase the engagement of apprentices across the industries.



- Now, the **government will directly transfer its contribution**, to bank accounts of apprentices **through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, **25% of the stipend payable up to Rs. 1500/- per month.**

❖ About NAPS

- It was launched on August 19, **2016.**
- Its aim was to promote apprenticeship training in the country and to provide financial support to establishments undertaking apprenticeship.
- As on date, **more than 12 lakh apprentices** have been engaged with various industries.

Chenkurinji



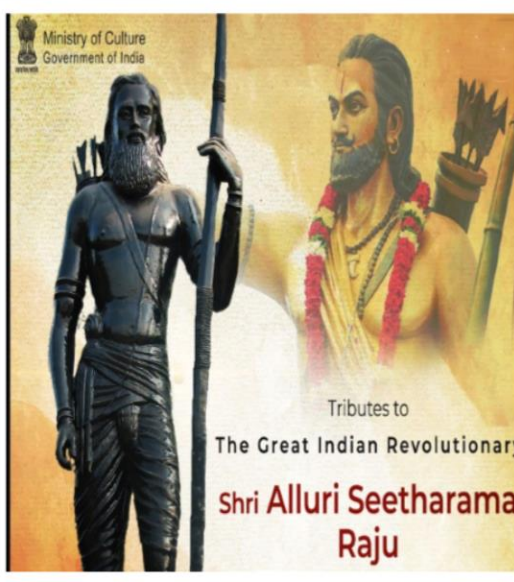
❖ Context

- Chenkurinji tree was once **abundant in the hills on the southern parts of Aryankavu Pass** but its presence has been fast receding from the area over the years.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Scientific Name-** Gluta travancorica.
- It is **endemic to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve.**
- The **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary** derives its name from Gluta travancorica.
- Chenkurinji is very **susceptible to climate change.**
- The majority of the trees in the Sanctuary are **old with poor flowering and fruiting rates.**
- Though the flowering usually happens in January, of late, the species has reported a tendency to extend the process due to climate change.
 - It's an **adaptation strategy to increase the chances of germination** and maintain a minimum viable population.
- The forest department has launched a '**Save Chenkurinji**' campaign.
- **Medicinal Properties:** It is used to lower blood pressure and treat arthritis.

Alluri Sitharama Raju



❖ Context

- Recently, the prime minister of India unveiled a **30-foot-tall bronze statue of Alluri Sitharama Raju at Bhimavaram** in Andhra Pradesh.

❖ Alluri Sitharama Raju

- **About:**
 - Raju is believed to have been **born in present-day Andhra Pradesh in 1897 or 1898.**
 - He is said to have become a **sanyasi at the age of 18.**
 - He **gained a mystical aura** among the hill and tribal peoples with his austerity, knowledge of astrology and medicine, and his ability to tame wild animals.
 - He was **inspired by the Non-Cooperation Movement**, and persuaded people to wear khadi and give up drinking.
- **Rampa Rebellion:** Colonial rule **threatened the tribals' traditional podu (shifting) cultivation**, as the government sought to secure forest lands.
 - The **Forest Act of 1882** banned the collection of minor forest produce such as roots and leaves, and tribal people were forced into labor for the colonial government.
 - **Strong anti-government sentiment**, shared by the muttadars who were aggrieved by the curtailment of their powers by the British, exploded into **armed resistance in August 1922.**
 - **Several hundred tribals led by Raju** attacked the Chintapalle, Krishnadevipeta and Rajavommangi police stations in the Godavari agency.
 - The Rampa or Manyam Rebellion continued in the form of a **guerrilla war until May 1924**, when Raju, the charismatic 'Manyam Veerudu' or Hero of Jungle, was finally captured and executed.

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