

Farmer Producer Organisations



❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** has proposed the formation and promotion of fodder-centric **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** has been designated as the implementing agency.
- It has been assigned to form 100 FPOs during 2022-23.

❖ Background

- There is a fodder deficit situation in the country.
- The **Wholesale Price Index-based fodder inflation** soared to a nine-year high of **25.5 per cent** in August 2022.
- Rural families whose livelihood is dependent on livestock are facing hardships.

❖ About FPOs

- FPO is an organisation, registered either under Part IXA of Companies Act or under Co-operative Societies Act of the concerned States, with **producers as shareholders**.

- They are formed for the purpose of **leveraging collectives through economies of scale in production and marketing** of agricultural and allied sectors.
- Formation and promotion of FPO is based on **Produce Cluster Area** which is defined as a geographical area wherein agricultural and allied produce of similar nature is grown/ cultivated.
- Under the **Central Sector Scheme "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)"**, launched in 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare promotes the formation of FPOs through **Implementing Agencies** like SFAC, NABARD, NAFED, NCDC, NERAMAC etc.
- Implementing Agencies (IAs) engage **Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs)** to aggregate, register & provide professional handholding support to each FPO for a period of 5 years.

International Settlement of Trade in Rupees



❖ Context

- India is in talks with many countries to initiate trading in the Indian Rupee, on the lines of an arrangement being worked out with Russia.

❖ Key Highlights

- India is in talks with **Sri Lanka, the Maldives and multiple south east Asian, African and Latin American** countries.
- The countries in these geographies have shown interest in opening **Special Rupee Vostro or SRV accounts**.
- A Vostro account is an account held by a bank that allows the customers to deposit money on behalf of another bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India had announced guidelines on overseas trade in Indian Rupee in July 2022.
- The first country to open a special Rupee Vostro account is Russia.

❖ About the Arrangement

- Banks (Authorised dealers) in India will open Vostro accounts of correspondent bank/s of the partner country for trading, after approval of RBI.
- Indian importers can pay for their imports in rupee into these accounts.
- These earnings (from Indian imports) can then be used to pay Indian exporters in Indian Rupee.

❖ Concerns with this Arrangement

- **The key to the success of this arrangement with any country is the exchange rate which is determined.**
- Any rupee trade arrangement between India and a country, which has a **trade deficit** with India, may not be feasible in the long-run.
- The other concern is how **accumulated rupee** amounts in these accounts can be **repatriated without attracting penalties** in case the banks are from countries facing international sanctions such as Russia.

❖ Past Arrangement

- A similar arrangement between India and USSR had been in place from 1953 to 1992.
- The purpose of this arrangement was not to circumvent any sanction but to conserve foreign exchange and promote exports.
- Initially, the exchange rate was initially valued based on the gold standard.
- Subsequently with the global gold reserves becoming inadequate to support such a system, a 1978 protocol set it at Rs 10. This was further revised to Rs 31.78.
- The balance of trade was skewed with imports from Russia far exceeding exports. The rupee balances in USSR accounts kept increasing.
- The arrangement was finally terminated in 1992, and it took a long time to liquidate the rupee balance.

❖ What's different this time with Russia?

- According to the RBI circular, **the exchange rate between the currencies of the two trading partners 'may be market determined.'**
- Though India has trade deficit with Russia but Russia is an exception as the country is under sanctions and it **can use the Indian rupee to invest here to fulfil their offset obligations** under defence contracts.
- **India's trade deficits** have been high with China, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Indonesia.
- **India trade surpluses** have been with the US, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, United Kingdom and Vietnam.

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Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

❖ Context

- Recently, The **Karnataka High Court** has asked the **Law Commission** to rethink the **age of consent** under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, or **POCSO, Act 2012**.

❖ Key Highlights

- **HC Observed :**
 - The aspect of **consent by a girl of 16 years**, but who is below 18 years, would have to be considered.
 - This has to be if it is indeed an offence under the Indian Penal Code and/or the POCSO Act.

❖ POCSO Act

- **About :**
 - The Act has been enacted to **protect children from offences of sexual assault**, sexual harassment and pornography.
 - It provide for **establishment of Special Courts** for trial of such offences and related matters and incidents.
 - The Act was **amended in 2019**.
- **Salient Features of the Act :**
 - **It is a gender - neutral law :** By defining a child as 'any person' below the age of 18 years, the POCSO Act sets a gender-neutral tone for the legal framework available to child sexual abuse victim
 - **Not reporting abuse is an offence :** It penalises those who have failed to report the offence with either imprisonment or a fine or both.
 - **No time limit for reporting abuse :** Victim can report an offence at any time, even a number of years after the abuse has been committed.
 - **Maintaining confidentiality of the victim's identity.**

- It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment & pornography, People who traffic children for sexual purposes are also punishable.
- It provides for **special courts** that conduct the trial in-camera and without revealing the identity of the child, in a manner that is as child-friendly as possible.
- It also casts the police in the role of **child protectors** during the investigative process.
- **Terms of the POCSO Act :** The age of consent for sex in India is 18 under the POCSO Act.
 - Consent given by a girl aged below 18 is not regarded as valid and sexual intercourse with her amounts to rape.

❖ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- It monitors the implementation of POCSO Act.
- It's a **statutory body**.
- Established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The Commission works under the aegis of **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Gol.**
- **Composition :** A chairperson and six members of which at least two should be women.
 - All of them are appointed by the **Central Government for three years**.
 - The maximum age to serve in commission is **65 years for Chairman & 60 years for members**.

Accreditation for Mineral Exploration

❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Mines** said that 13 private exploration agencies have been accredited to undertake prospecting operations of minerals.



❖ Key Highlights

- In **August 2021**, the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, was amended to **empower the central government to notify** entities, including private entities, to undertake prospecting operations.
- The Ministry of Mines has adopted the scheme for accreditation of private exploration agencies developed by the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training of the Quality Council of India (QCI-NABET).
- The **QCI-NABET will grant accreditation to private exploration agencies to undertake prospecting operations** of minerals.

❖ About NABET

- It is a **constituent board of Quality Council of India**.
- It has established a mechanism for the accredited certification of **educational organisations, vocational training organisations** and for accreditation of **skill certification bodies**.

❖ About QCI

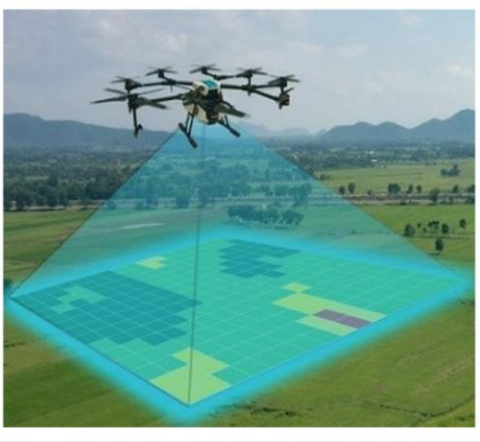
- It was established as a national body for accreditation on recommendations of the **Expert Mission of the EU** through a Cabinet decision in **1996**.
- It was set up through a **PPP model** as an independent autonomous organisation with the support of the Government of India and the Indian Industry.
- The industry is represented by the **three premier industry associations**, (i) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), (ii) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) & (iii) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- It is **registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860**.
- The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (now DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was designated as the **nodal point** for all matters in relation to QCI.

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News in Between the Lines

SVAMITVA Scheme



❖ Context

- Recently, The **Report of Expert Committee on SVAMITVA Scheme** was released during the **National Conference on SVAMITVA Scheme**.
- It provides the guiding principles that States may adopt in order to realize the objectives of the **SVAMITVA Scheme** holistically.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- **Implemented by** - Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- It was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2021 after successful completion of pilot phase of scheme (2020-2021) in 9 states.
- **Aims :**
 - To provide rural people with the **right to document their residential properties** so that they can use their property for economic purposes.
 - It is a **scheme for mapping the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using drone technology and Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS)**.
- **Benefits :**
 - The outcome from the scheme would include **updating the 'record-of-rights' in the revenue/property registers and issuance of property cards to the property owners**.
 - This would **facilitate monetization of rural residential assets** for credit and other financial services.
 - Further, this would also have the way for **clear determination of property tax**, which would accrue to the GPs leading to better civic amenities.

New Crab Species



❖ Context

- Recently, Researchers have discovered a **new species of estuarine crab at the mangroves of Parangipettai** near the **Vellar River estuary in Cuddalore district (Tamil Nadu)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The species has been named **Pseudohelice annamalai** in recognition of Annamalai University's 100 years of service in education and research.
- This is the **first ever record of this genus, Pseudohelice**.
 - So far, **only two species** - Pseudohelice subquadrata and Pseudohelice latreilli - have been confirmed within this genus.
- **Characterstics** : Pseudohelice annamalai is distinguished by **dark purple to dark grey colouring**, with irregular light brown, yellowish brown, or white patches on the posterior carapace with light brown chelipeds.
 - The new species is small and has a **maximum width of up to 20 mm**.
- **Distribution** : The species discovered is distributed around the Indian subcontinent and the eastern Indian Ocean.

GarudaVII Air Exercise






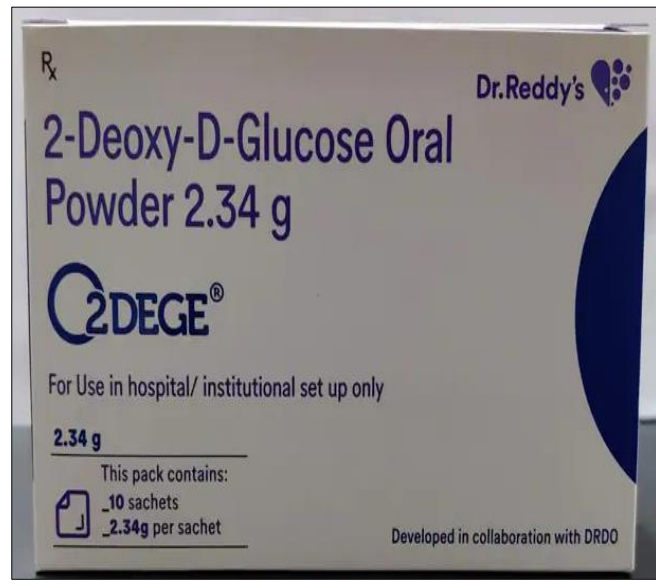
❖ Context

- Recently, **Air Force Chiefs of India and France** joined the ongoing **Air Exercise Garuda VII at Jodhpur**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Ex Garuda VII is also the **first occasion for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the recently inducted Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand to participate** in any international exercise.
- Exercise includes four **Rafale fighters and one A-330 multi role tanker transport aircraft** from the French side.
- Apart from the LCA and LCH, the IAF contingent consists of **Su-30 MKI, Rafale and Jaguar fighter aircrafts, as well as Mi-17 helicopters**.
- The bilateral air exercise has been ongoing **since 2003**.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Air Exercise Garuda provides the unique opportunity for both Air Forces to learn & imbibe each other's best practices during operations. ▪ It highlight the growing interoperability between the two Air Forces.
<p>Neelakurinji</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Neelakurinji largely bloomed on the Kallippara hills in Idukki, Kerala from the first week of October. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Name - Strobilanthes kunthiana. • This monumental event is the blooming of the Neelakurinji flower, which appears once every 12 years. • It blooms in 40 or so varieties, a majority of them being blue in colour. • Distribution- It is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. • Dimension- One can view the shorter variation (about 2 ft.) at higher spots and longer variations (about 5 to 10 ft.) are seen at lower spots. • The Paliyan tribal people living in Tamil Nadu used it as a reference to calculate their age. This plant flowers during September–October. • Kurinjimala Sanctuary protects the kurinji in approximately 32 km² core habitat in Idukki district of Kerala.
<p>Gujarat's Disturbed Areas Act</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Gujarat government had extended the Disturbed Areas Act to certain parts of Morbi town despite not having witnessed any major communal violence. ❖ About the Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provisions of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, is popularly known as the 'Disturbed Areas Act'. • Under the Act, a district Collector can notify a particular area of a city or town as a "disturbed area". This notification is generally done based on the history of communal riots in the area. • Following this notification, the transfer of immovable property in the disturbed area can take place only after the Collector expressly signs off on an application made by the buyer and the seller of the property.
<p>2DG drug</p>  <p>Daily Current Affairs Daily Pre PARE Daily MCQ Quiz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A medication created by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) may be able to repair the heart damage brought on by a protein, Nsp6, in the SARS-CoV-2 virus. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A study done on fruit flies and mice has made the revelation. • The oral medication 2DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose) was created by Dr Reddy's Laboratories in conjunction with DRDO. • The SARS-CoV-2 virus needs the breakdown of glucose, or glycolysis, in order to produce energy. • The Nsp6 protein commandeered the fruit fly's heart cells to activate the glycolysis process. • Heart cells typically use fatty acids as an energy source, but during heart failure, as these cells attempt to repair the damaged tissue, they switch to sugar metabolism. • The medication stops the growth of the virus and hinders glycolysis. 

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