

e-Sanjeevani Tele-Consultation Services

❖ Context

- Government will launch an **e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation facility** at one lakh centers tomorrow on the occasion of the **4th anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Now the **common citizens will also be able to take advice from the big doctors of the country**.
- Government is strengthening the primary healthcare network with **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre**.
- More than **one lakh 17 thousand Health and Wellness Centers** have been operationalized in the country so far.

❖ Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness

- In February 2018, the Government of India **announced the creation of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs)**.
- It was created by **transforming existing Sub Centers and Primary Health Centers** as the base pillar of Ayushman Bharat.
- These centers would deliver **Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC)**.
- It would bring **healthcare closer to the homes** of people covering both maternal and child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services.
- Primary healthcare plays a vital role in preventing many diseases conditions.
- Providing **CPHC decreases morbidity and mortality at a lower cost** and greatly reduces the requirement for secondary and tertiary care.

❖ About e-Sanjeevani Tele-Consultation Services

- eSanjeevani **developed by** the Mohali branch of the Center for **Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**.
- The **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** has launched two variants of **eSanjeevani** namely:
 - Doctor to doctor (eSanjeevani AB-HWC) in the hub and spoke model.
 - Patient to doctor (eSanjeevaniOPD).
- **eSanjeevani AB-HWC:**
 - It is being implemented **under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Center (AB-HWC)**.
 - It aims to implement **tele-consultation in all the 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centers** in conjunction with identified medical college hospitals in a 'Hub and Spoke' model.
 - States have identified and set up dedicated 'Hubs' in medical colleges and district hospitals to provide tele-consultation service.
- **eSanjeevani OPD:**
 - It was launched to **enable patient-to-doctor telemedicine** owing to the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020.
 - It enables **virtual meetings between the patients and doctors & specialists** from geographically dispersed locations, through video conferencing that occurs in real-time.

James Webb Telescope

❖ Context

- Recently, an instrument onboard the **James Webb Space Telescope** has reached its final operating temperature - **minus 266 degrees Celsius**.

❖ Reasons for Cooling

- Low temperature is necessary **because all four of Webb's instruments detect infrared light**.
- Infrared light wavelengths are slightly longer than those that human eyes can see.
- **Distant galaxies, stars hidden in cocoons of dust, and planets** outside our solar system all **emit infrared light**.
- Cooling down the four instruments detectors and the surrounding hardware **suppresses those infrared emissions**.
- **Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI)** detects longer infrared wavelengths than the other three instruments, which means it needs to be even colder.
- Webb's detectors need to be cold to **suppress something called dark current, or electric current** created by the vibration of atoms in the detectors themselves.

❖ About James Webb Telescope

- The telescope has been developed under an international partnership between **NASA**, the European Space Agency (**ESA**) and the Canadian Space Agency (**CSA**).
- It headed to an outpost 1.5 million kilometres (9,30,000 miles) from Earth.
- Successor of the **Hubble Telescope**.
- The telescope will study the **atmospheres of a wide diversity of exoplanets**.
- It will also **search for atmospheres similar to Earth's**, and for the signatures of key substances such as **methane, water, oxygen, carbon dioxide**, and **complex organic molecules**, in hopes of finding the building blocks of life.

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India-Egypt Wheat Trade

❖ Context

- Egypt has agreed to buy Indian wheat.

❖ Key Highlights

- It plans to import at least **3 MN tonnes (mt)** over the next few months.
- Egypt, the **largest importer of wheat** in the world, imported 6.1 million tonnes (mt) of wheat in 2021 when **India was not part of the list of accredited countries** which could export wheat to Egypt.
- **Ukraine and Russia supplied 80 per cent** of the wheat to Egypt last year.
- However, **India** would have to offer **wheat at discount** for the slightly **lower protein content** in its wheat and **higher freight rates**, if it had to really make inroads into the Egyptian market.
- Indian wheat has **11.5-12.15% protein content compared to France's 12.5%**.

❖ India's Advantage

- India is the **only country where the new wheat crop arrives between April and June**. Until July, wheat is not expected in any other country.
- It enjoys a **logistical advantage in South, South-East and West Asia**. Countries such as Oman and the United Arab Emirates in West Asia have also started buying Indian wheat.
- **Record high production of 111.32 mt this year** and carry over stock of 18.9 mt of from the last fiscal.
- Concerns have also been raised over **drought in US wheat-growing areas**, particularly where the Hard Red Winter variety is grown.

National Programme for Organic Production

❖ Context

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has recently suspended the accreditation of two certification bodies under the provision of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) due to irregularities in the certification procedures.

❖ About the Programme

- The APEDA, a **statutory body** under Ministry of Commerce & Industries established under **APEDA Act 1985**, is implementing NPOP.
- **"Organic Products"** for export **are to be certified** only if Produced, Processed and Packed as per the standards laid down in the document – "National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)."
- It involves the **accreditation of Certification Bodies, standards** for organic production, **promotion** of organic farming and **marketing** etc.
- **APEDA** functions as the **secretariat to the National Accreditation Board (NAB)** for implementation of accreditation of the Certification Bodies.
- The NPOP standards and accreditation system are recognized by the importing countries.

❖ Organic Production in India & Exports Area

- Among all the states, **Madhya Pradesh has covered the largest area under organic certification** followed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka.
- During 2016, Sikkim converted its entire cultivable land (more than 75000 ha) under organic certification.

❖ Production

- India produced **nearly 3.5 MN tonnes (2020-21)** of certified organic products.
- **Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer** followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Oil seeds are the single largest category** followed by Sugar crops, Cereals and Millets, Tea & Coffee.

❖ Exports

- India exported nearly **0.9 MN tonnes of value of \$ 1 BN (2020-21)**
- Organic products are exported to USA, European Union, Canada, Great Britain, Korea Republic, Israel, Switzerland, Ecuador, Vietnam, Australia etc.
- **Processed foods including soya meal (57%) lead** among the products followed by Oilseeds (9%), Cereals and millets (7%).

News in Between the Lines

Vaquita Porpoise

❖ Context

- According to the **Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)**, Vaquita porpoise is nearing extinction and immediate measures are needed to save the remaining population.

❖ Key Highlights

- Found in the **Gulf of California in Mexico**, the population of the species **declined 98 per cent in two decades**.
- Around 570 animals were recorded in 1999 and this fell to **10 animals in 2019**.

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- The population is **declining due to bycatch in gillnets** set to catch shrimp and fish, including **totoaba** which is a large, endangered fish that is threatened by illegal fishing for international markets.
- **CEC is a collaborative body** working for the environmental, economic and social linkages between **Canada, Mexico and the United States** to conserve, protect and enhance the North American environment.

❖ **About the Species**

- It is the **world's smallest cetacean (measures up to five feet in size)** and the most endangered marine mammal. It has the **smallest range of any whale, dolphin or porpoise**, and **only lives in a small 1,500 square-mile area** in Mexico's upper Gulf of California, near the town of San Felipe.
- It has a **rounded head and black patches** around its mouth and eyes.
- It has been listed under the IUCN Red List as '**critically endangered**'.

Time Poverty and Time Banking



❖ **Context**

- **Female labour force participation rate in 2020 declined** compared to 2019 in 58 of the 66 countries surveyed by the UN DESA.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- **Women perform 75 % of the world's unpaid care work** which is not accounted for in a nation's GDP. **Time poverty** is defined as "not having enough time" to pursue interests beyond unpaid domestic / care work.
- The **time banks** are time-sharing cooperative among women, with people helping each other meet their day-to-day needs and address challenges in their community. For each hour of a service exchanged, the service provider receives one, time credit and the beneficiary pays one, time credit.
- Though, the time is shared informally between inter and intra-families in societies worldwide, the **concept if is scaled up and formalised**, may give tangible results on women empowerment.

CAG Report on Ujjwala



❖ **Context**

- The Civil Sub Committee of the Public Accounts Committee has adopted a CAG report on the scheme highlighting loopholes and anomalies.

❖ **Key Loopholes/Anomalies Highlighted**

- Sustained use a big challenge: where there are **3.18 crore total beneficiaries** of the scheme, **only 3.21 crore refills consumed annually**, meaning nearly one refill per beneficiary due to :
 - **High transportation cost** for households as **refuelling stations** are located far away.
 - **Cost of even one subsidised cylinder**, which is about ₹ 1,000 was **not affordable** to poor households.
- Many **connections given in the name of men and minors** in the families.
- **Subsidy not provided under DBT or the transfer of the subsidy was delayed for months.**

Renewable Energy Capacity



❖ **Context**

- The Indian renewable energy sector has added its **highest-ever annual new capacity, ~14 GW**, in FY22.

❖ **Key Highlights**

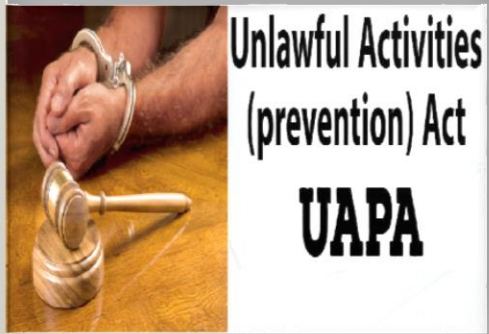
- **91% of the new addition was in Solar Power Segment.**

Power Segment	India's Target by the End of 2022	Current Position (as of 31st March 2022)
Solar	100	54
Wind	60	40
Biomass	10	11
Small hydro	5	~5 (4.8)
TOTAL	175 GW	~110 GW

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Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act



❖ Context

- Recently, the Centre has now **designated Kashmiri militant Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar as a terrorist under the UAPA Act.**

❖ Key Highlights

- He was among the three terrorists released by India in exchange for the hostages in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines Flight IC 814 in 1999.
- The designation of individuals as terrorists is in keeping with international norms and laws.
- The United Nations designates individuals as terrorists, and the United States Department of State has a list of Foreign Terrorist Organisations.
- This would help **clamp down on the financial resources and assets of terrorist individuals** even if they are not associated with an organisation, or if they dissolve a banned organisation and float another with a different name and form.
- The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019** (UAPA 2019), amended the UAPA, 1967 and that has made it possible for the Union Government to **designate individuals as terrorists without a due process of law.**

Bengal Monitor Lizard



❖ Context

- Recently, The Maharashtra forest authorities have **arrested four hunters for allegedly raping a bengal monitor lizard** in the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

❖ About Bengal Monitor Lizard

- It is mainly a **terrestrial animal**, and its length ranges from about 61 to 175 cm (24 to 69 in) from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.
- It is known as **bis-cobra in western India, Goyra in Rajasthan**, guishaap or goshaap in Bangladesh and West Bengal, goh in Punjab and Bihar, as ghorpad in Maharashtra and as Thalagoya in Sri Lanka.
- The Bengal monitor's belly **skin has traditionally been used in making the drum head** for the **kanjira** (known as Dimadi in Maharashtra), a South Indian percussion instrument.
- **Food:** Young monitors may be more arboreal, but adults mainly hunt on the ground, **preying mainly on arthropods**, but also taking **small terrestrial vertebrates, ground birds, eggs and fish.**
- **Distribution:** Distributed widely in the **Indian Subcontinent**, as well as **parts of Southeast Asia and West Asia.**
- **Habitat:** The species is mainly distributed through **lower elevations** below an altitude of 1500 meters, and is found both in **dry semiarid desert habitats to moist forest.**
 - They are often **found in agricultural areas.**
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List- Least Concern (LC).**
 - **WPA 1972- Schedule I.**
 - **CITES- Appendix I.**

Pohela Boishakh



❖ Context

- Recently, on 15th April, Bengali New Year was celebrated.

❖ Key Highlights

- Pohela Boishakh is the **first day of the Bengali calendar** which is also the **official calendar of Bangladesh.**
- This festival is **celebrated on 14 April in Bangladesh and 15 April in the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam (Barak Valley)** by Bengalis regardless of religious faith.
- Celebration of Pohela Boishakh **traces its roots back to Mughal rule in this region and also the proclamation of tax collection reforms of Akbar.**

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