



SCALE App

Context

- Minister of Education and Skill Development unveiled the **SCALE** (Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees) app recently.

Key Highlights

- This app offers a one-stop service for the skilling, learning, assessment, and employment needs of the leather industry.
- Over 44 lakh people already employed, the leather sector plays a significant role in creating widespread employment in the nation.



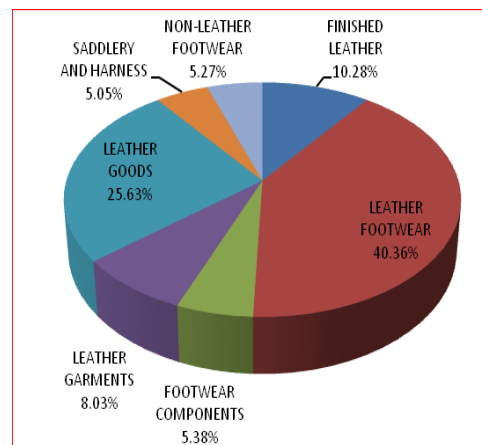
To transform the way skill development programmes are created and delivered to trainees in the leather sector, the Leather Skill Sector Council has developed the android app SCALE.

- People interested in leather crafts of all ages can access online live streaming classes from the cutting-edge studio at Leather SSC's office.
- A total of 2.39 million new jobs are predicted to be produced in the Leather Sector between 2017 and 2022.

- This includes 0.88 million full-time workers in the leather industry, 0.77 million employees of small businesses, and 0.74 million self-employed or daily wage workers like cobblers.
- The Indian leather sector has one of the youngest and most productive workforces, with 55% of the workforce under the age of 35.

Note

- India is the world's second-largest producer of footweares.
- India is the world's second-largest producer and consumer of shoes.

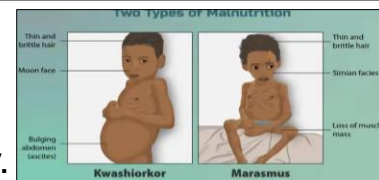


- Around 13% of the world's leather hides and skins are produced in India, where the leather sector also manages a sizable annual production of about 3 billion square feet of leather. 9% of the footwear produced worldwide is produced in this nation.

Address Under-Nutrition in the Country

Context

- Vitamin Angels India is partnering with **UNICEF** India to address under-nutrition in the country.



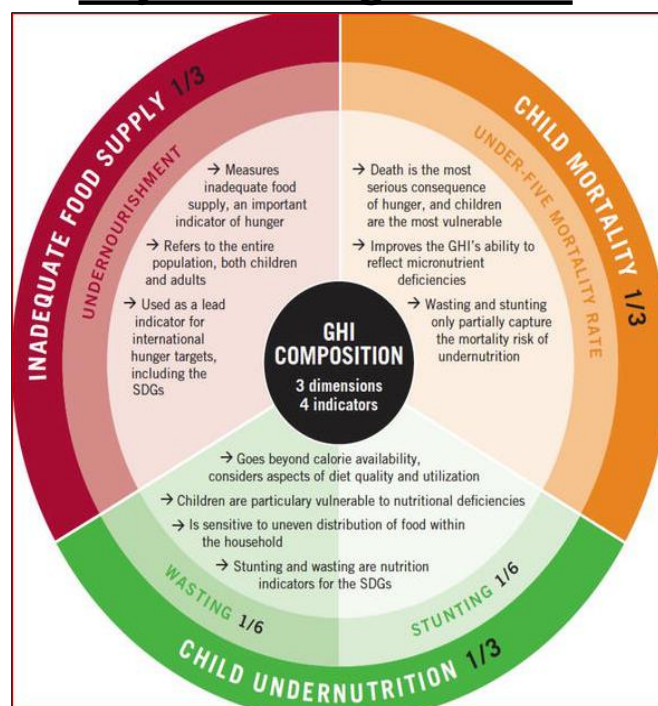
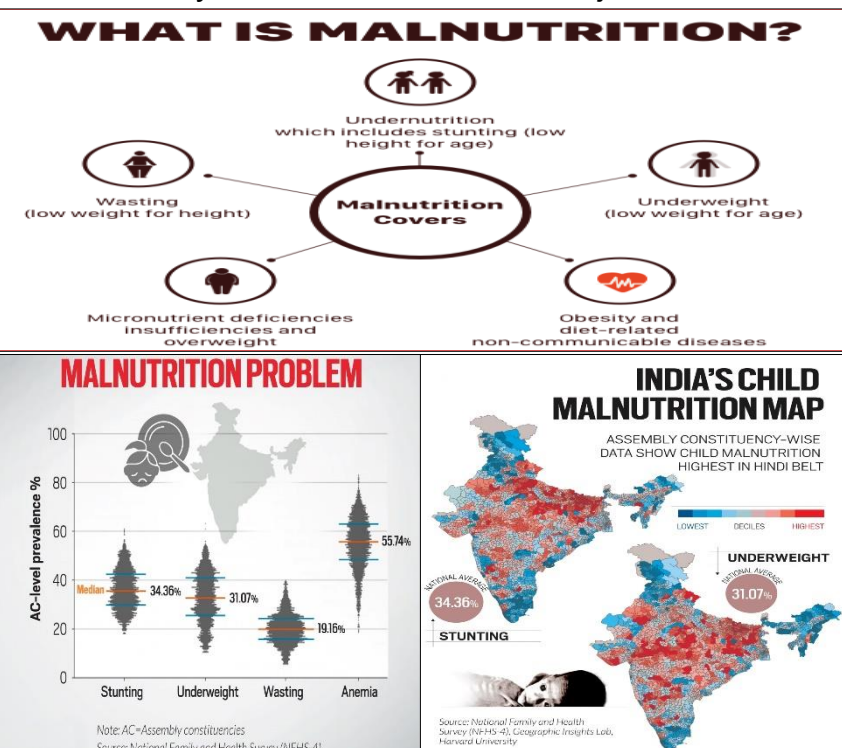
Key Highlights

- In line with the government's **POSHAN Maah campaign**, the partnerships aim to spread nutrition-related awareness.
- But on a more expanded level, the partnership also includes the Poshan Innovation Platform initiative to be launched in January 2023 with the same objective.

- The initiative calls for innovative ideas on the maternal, infant, and young child nutrition interventions from across the country, particularly from educational institutions, civil society networks, and businesses, said a note on the initiative.
- The aim** is to improve the nutritional status of mothers and children under five-years. The platform aims to facilitate the development of ideas, with expert mentors and seed funding from the private sector.

Major Challenges Ahead

- While the fifth National Family Health Survey (2019-2021) has indicated a slight improvement in under-nutrition indicators, several other associated factors like anemia and Vitamin A deficiency in children continue to be major challenges, particularly affecting those from socio-economically marginalised groups who lack access to micronutrient-rich diets.



Face to Face Centres



Non-NATO Ally





❖ Context

- The US President has terminated the designation of Afghanistan as a **major non-NATO ally**, more than a year after the Taliban captured power in Kabul.

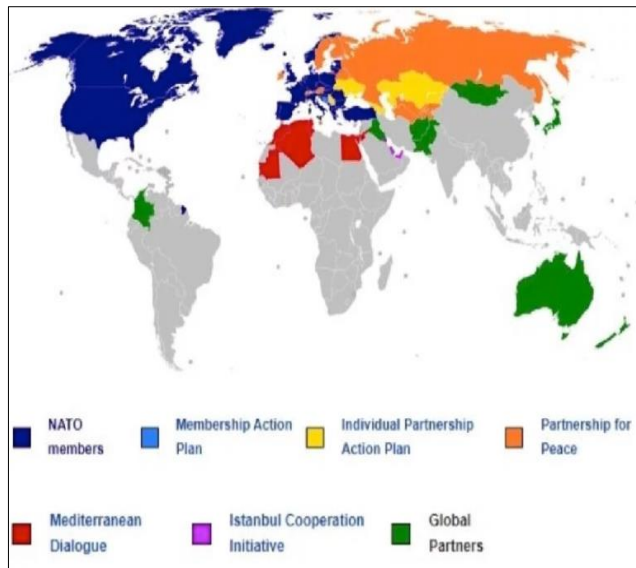
❖ Key Highlights

- In 2012, the United States named Afghanistan a **major non-NATO (MNNA)** ally, which cleared the way for the two countries to maintain a defence and economic relationship.
- The designation gave several facilities and concessions to Afghanistan in terms of defence and security-related assistance and equipment.

	NATO has 2 official languages (English and French)
	Number of member nations: 29
	Article 5 lays out the principle of collective defense
	Year founded: 1949
	Number of members without an army: 1 (Iceland)

- The MNNA status was first created in **1987**. With Afghanistan's status rescinded, the US will have 18 major non-NATO allies, according to the State Department.

- Early this month i.e in September 2022, Indian-American Congressm tabled a resolution in the House of Representatives to designate India as a major non-NATO ally.

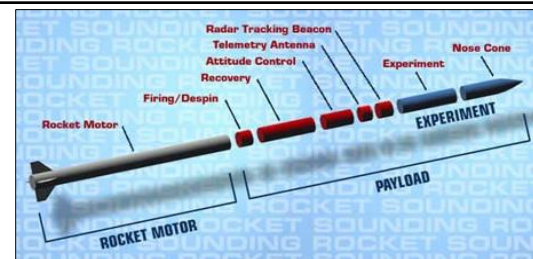


- A major non-NATO ally is **eligible for loans of material**, supplies, or equipment for cooperative research, development, testing, or evaluation purposes.
- They are also eligible as a location for **US-owned War Reserve Stockpiles** to be placed on its territory outside of US military facilities.
- These countries enter into agreements with the United States for the cooperative furnishing of training **on a bilateral or multilateral basis**, if the financial arrangements are reciprocal and provide for reimbursement of all US direct costs.

RH-200

❖ Context

- In a few weeks' time, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** hopes to achieve a remarkable feat - the 200th successful launch of the Rohini RH-200 sounding rocket in a row.



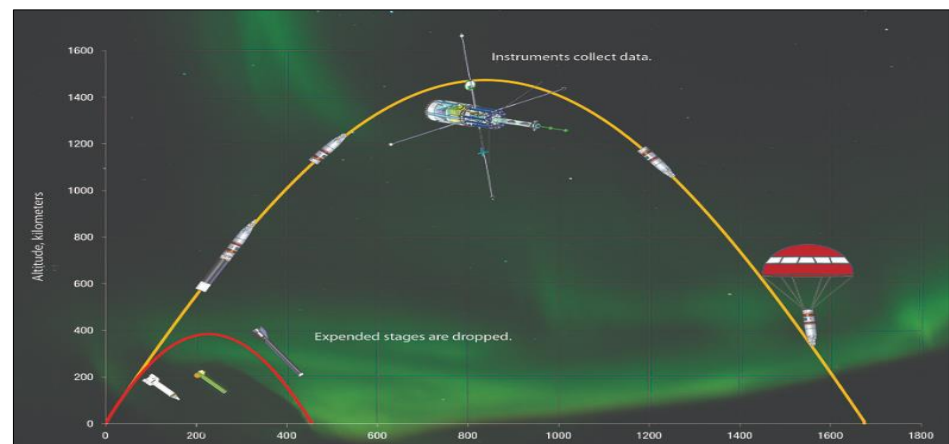
❖ Characteristics

- Rohini (RH-200) is a **two-stage rocket** capable of climbing to a height of **70 km** bearing scientific payloads.
- The first and second stages of RH-200 are powered by **solid motors**.
- The **'200'** in the name denotes the **diameter of the rocket in mm**. Other operational Rohini variants are **RH-300 Mk-II** and **RH-560 Mk-III**.
- The **1st sounding rocket** to be launched from Thumba was the **American Nike-Apache** - on November 21, 1963.
- After that, two-stage rockets imported from Russia (M-100) and France (Centaure) were flown.
- The ISRO launched its own version-**Rohini RH-75** - in **1967**.
- For years, the RH-200 rocket had used a **polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-based** propellant.
- The first RH-200 to use a new propellant based on **hydroxyl-terminated Polybutadiene (HTPB)** was

Vehicle	RH-200	RH-300-Mk-II	RH-560-MK-II
Payload (in kg)	10	60	100
Altitude (in km)	80	160	470
Purpose	Meteorology	Aeronomy	Aeronomy
Launch Pad	Thumba Balasore	SDSC-SHAR	SDSC-SHAR

❖ What is a Sounding Rocket?

- Sounding rockets undertake **suborbital flights** used to **take measurements**.
- It is **simple, cost-effective and time efficient** as the experiments for the payload can be developed in about six months.
- The rockets are divided into two parts: **the payload and a solid-fueled rocket motor**.
- After the launch, as the rocket motor uses its fuel, it separates from the payload and falls back to Earth.
- Meanwhile, the **payload continues into space and begins conducting the experiment**.
- In most cases, after the payload has re-entered the atmosphere, it is brought gently down to Earth by way of a parachute and is then retrieved.



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Paris Club

❖ Context

➤ Pakistan is seeking the rescheduling of \$10 billion worth of debt owed to the Paris Club.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Paris Club is an **informal group of official creditors** whose role is to find coordinated & sustainable solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries.
- As an informal group, it has **no official statutes** and **no formal inception date**, although its **first meeting** with a debtor nation was in **1956, with Argentina**.
- It has **22 permanent members**, including most of the western European and Scandinavian nations, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan.
- **India** has been one of the **Ad-hoc participants** in the clubs monthly "**Tours d'Horizon**" discussions.
- It has **six key functioning principles** - Case by case, Consensus, Conditionality, Solidarity, Comparability of treatment and Information Sharing.

- The **outcome of the negotiation** is a document called **Agreed Minutes**. These are recommendations to the club members to conclude bilateral agreements with the debtor country.
- In addition, there are **observers** who attend but cannot participate in the negotiation meetings. Some of the noted observers are - **IMF, WB, OECD, UNCTAD, European Commission, African Bank of Development, Asian Development Bank, EBRD**.



News in Between the Lines

OPELIP



❖ Context

➤ **Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP)** is providing an incentive of **Rs. 20,000** to **prevent child marriages** among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

❖ Key Highlights

- OPELIP is a special programme designed to improve living conditions and reduce poverty among the PVTGs.
- The money is given to the couples marrying after the **age of 18 years**.
- Tribals constitute 22.85% of the State's population. Of the 62 tribal groups residing in Odisha, 13 are recognised as the PVTGs.
- These 13 PVTGs are **Bonda, Dongria Kondh, Didayi, Lanjia Soura, Kutia Kondh, Chukitia Bhuja, Paudi Bhuyan, Soura, Juanga, Lodha, Hill Kharia, Mankidia and Birhor**.

First Avalanche Monitoring Radar



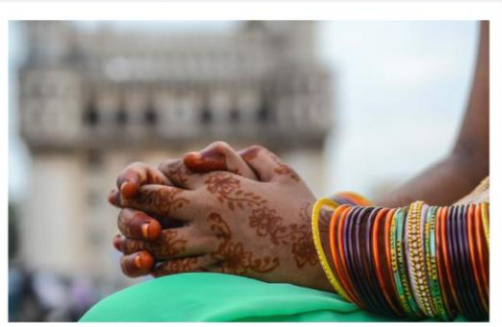
❖ Context

➤ An avalanche monitoring radar, the first of its kind in India, has been installed in **North Sikkim**, at an altitude of 15,000 feet, by the Army and Defence Geoinformatics and Research Establishment (DGRE).

❖ Key Highlights

- It can detect avalanches **within three seconds of its trigger** and will assist in saving lives of troops and reducing damage to property. DGRE, a lab under the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), is involved in forecasting and mitigation of avalanche hazards faced by the Army in the Himalayan region.

ALIVA Programme



❖ Context

➤ **Nayagarh**, an Odisha district, has adopted a unique initiative to eradicate child marriage.

❖ Key Highlights

- Nayagarh, with a population of 9,62,789, has a **skewed sex ratio at 855**.
- Under the programme, **information on all adolescent girls are recorded in registers** with regards to birth registration date, name of her father, address, education status, Aadhaar Card Number, contact details and family details.
- It has been decided that the records are to be **maintained for a period of 10 years - 2020 to 2030**. The register has been **useful for law enforcement agencies**, as parents lie about the age of their girls.

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Operation Megha Chakra



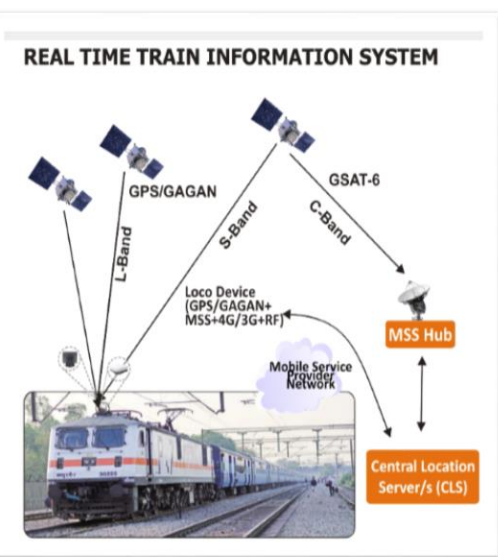
❖ Context

➤ The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** conducted a pan-India drive against the circulation and sharing of **child sexual abuse material** online.

❖ Key Highlights

- The operation was carried out following the inputs received from the Interpol's Singapore special unit based on the information received from the authorities in New Zealand.
- Last November, the agency had launched a similar exercise code-named "**Operation Carbon**".

Real Time Train Information Service



❖ Context

➤ More trains will soon have Real Time Train Information Service (RTIS).

❖ Key Highlights

- At present, RTIS devices have been installed for 2,700 locomotives in 21 electric loco sheds.
- At present, GPS feed from around 6,500 locomotives (RTIS and REMMLOT) is being directly fed into the Control Office Application (COA).
- This has enabled automatic charting of trains and real time information flow to passengers through COA and NTES integration.
- RTIS, which was developed in collaboration with ISRO, is being installed on locomotives for automatic acquisition of train movement timing at the stations, including that of arrival and departure or run-through.
- The timings get automatically plotted on the control chart of those trains in the COA system.
- RTIS also gives mid-section updates with a periodicity of 30 seconds.
- The Train Control can now track the location and speed of RTIS enabled locomotives /train more closely, without any manual intervention.

G-4 meeting of Foreign Ministers



❖ Context

➤ External Affairs Minister of India hosted the G-4 meeting of Foreign Ministers recently.

❖ Key Highlights

- The G4 is a grouping of **Brazil, Germany, India and Japan** which are aspiring to become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- All the four countries have been figured among the elected non-permanent members of the council since the UN's establishment.
- The G4 nations traditionally meet on the sidelines of the annual high-level UN General Assembly session.

Bathukamma Festival



❖ Context

➤ The nine-day Bathukamma festival began recently.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Bathukamma** is a flower festival celebrated predominantly in Telangana and some parts of Andhra Pradesh.
- Bathukamma is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri.
- In Telugu, 'Bathukamma' means 'Mother Goddess come Alive'.



Mahalaya



❖ Context

➤ The festival of Mahalaya is being observed in different parts of the country.

❖ Key Highlights

- Mahalaya marks the end of Pitru Paksha Shradh and the beginning of Durga Puja festivities. Mahalaya is considered to be the day Goddess Durga defeated the demon Mahishasura.
- On this day, Bengalis traditionally wake up in the morning to listen to Mahishasura Mardini, an audio montage of Chandipath recitation from the scriptural verses of Sri Chandi. Then they proceed to make food & water offerings to their ancestors.

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