



National Medical Devices Policy, 2023

Context

The Union government has recently approved the **National Medical Devices Policy, 2023**.

Key Highlights:

The market size of the medical devices sector in India is estimated to be nearly **90 thousand crore rupees in 2020** and its share in the global medical device market is estimated to be **1.5 percent**.

The policy is expected to help the Medical Devices Sector, grow from the present **11 billion US dollars to 50 billion US dollars** in the next five years

Some salient features of the policy:

- The policy aims to make **research and business** easier and balance patient safety with innovation.
- It will create a **Single Window Clearance System** for licensing medical devices by bringing together stakeholders such as AERB, MeitY, and DAHD.
- Medical device parks** and clusters will be established near economic zones with good logistics connectivity.
- This will help with better convergence and backward integration with the medical device industry.
- The policy **promotes R&D in India** and aims to set up **Centres of Excellence and support for start-ups**.
- Private investments, funding from Venture Capitalists, and **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** are encouraged.
- The **policy complements** existing schemes like Make in India, Ayushman Bharat, Heal-in-India, and the Start-up mission.

- The policy aims to have a steady supply of skilled professionals across the medical device value chain.
- To achieve this, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** will be leveraged for skilling, reskilling, and upskilling.
- Dedicated courses for medical devices will be supported in existing institutions.
- Partnerships with **foreign academic** and industry organizations will be developed to keep up with global advancements.
- An **Export Promotion Council** for the sector will be created to deal with market access issues. Best global practices will be studied and adapted in India.

Policy for the Medical Devices Sector

- Cabinet approves the Policy for the Medical Devices Sector.
- Six Strategies planned to tap the potential of the Sector, with the Implementation Action Plan.
- Medical Devices Sector is expected to grow from present \$11 Bn to \$50 Bn in next five years.
- The policy is expected to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, quality and innovation.

Triple Tests For Surrogacy

Context

The Karnataka High Court has created "triple tests" to assist a couple facing legal obstacles in having a surrogate child under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021.



Key Highlights:

- The Act only permits altruistic surrogacy and **prohibits commercial surrogacy**.
- The three tests include-
 - a **genetic test** for the husband to ensure that the child is not born with any disorders,
 - a **physical test** for the couple to assess their ability to care for the child,
 - and an **economic test** to ensure that they can provide for the child's future.
- Altruistic surrogacy** is a type of surrogacy arrangement where a woman agrees to carry and give birth to a child for **another person or couple**, without any financial or material compensation.
- In altruistic surrogacy, the surrogate mother usually has a personal relationship or connection with the intended parents, such as a family member or friend.

Surrogacy and IVF:

- Surrogacy and **IVF (In Vitro Fertilization)** are two different medical procedures used in **infertility treatments**.
- IVF involves **extracting eggs** from a woman's ovaries and fertilizing them with sperm in a laboratory.
- The resulting embryos are then transferred back to **the woman's uterus** for implantation and pregnancy.
- Surrogacy, on the other hand, involves using a **surrogate mother** to carry and deliver the baby for an individual or couple who cannot have a child on their own.

GIFT OF LIFE

- The Surrogacy Act allows only married infertile couples and certain categories of women to avail of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) and surrogacy
- Sale of gametes and any payment to the surrogate mother, other than insurance coverage and medical expenses, has been prohibited
- Clinics and banks offering ART procedures have to be registered
- A couple is deemed 'eligible' if they have been married for five years, the wife is between 25 and 50 years and the husband is between 26 and 55 years
- The couple must not have any living child (biological, adopted or surrogate)
- A child with mental or physical disabilities, or one suffering from a life-threatening disorder or illness, has been exempted from the above criterion

- The surrogate may carry the **intended parent's embryo** created through IVF or through **artificial insemination** using the intended father's or donor's sperm.
- While IVF is a method for **treating infertility** by helping individuals or couples to conceive and carry a child to term, surrogacy is a method of **having a child when** the intended parents cannot carry the pregnancy themselves.

Face to Face Centres



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



❖ Context

- Recently, India appealed to the members of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Interbank Consortium (SCO IBC)** to increase interaction and cooperation among themselves.

❖ Key Highlights

- **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)** assumed one-year presidency of the SCO IBC from October 26, 2022.
- The SCO IBC is a multilateral financial organization established by the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- On 16 September, 2022 India took over the rotating presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- ❖ **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**
 - It is a Eurasian **political, economic and military organization**.
 - It was preceded by the **Shanghai Five mechanism (1996)** formed by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
 - It was rechristened as the SCO in 2001.
 - The SCO entered into force on **19 September 2003**.
 - SCO covers **40 percent of the global population**.
 - The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese**.
 - **Aims :**
 - Security-related concerns.
 - Resolving border issues.
 - Military cooperation.
 - Intelligence sharing.
 - Countering terrorism.
 - Countering American influence in Central Asia.

• Members :

- China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Both India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO in 2017.
- **Four Observer States-** Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia.
- **Dialogue Partners-** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

• The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) :

- In 2004, at the SCO Summit held in Tashkent, **Uzbekistan**, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) was established.
- Through RATS, SCO members share crucial intelligence, know-how, legal expertise as well as allow for extradition of terrorists.



Red-Eared Slider Turtle

❖ Context

- Recently, the **Mexican Giant Turtle**, also known as the **Red Eared Slider** was found in West Bengal's Howrah district.



❖ Key Highlights:

- Its appearance in the Bengal region has puzzled the experts.
- The first Red Eared Slider was spotted in Bengal in 2015 in a Rajarhat reservoir. Another was seen in Rabindra Sarovar five years later in 2020.
- This is the **third time the Red-Eared Slider has appeared in West Bengal**.
- The turtle was first observed in India in Kerala's Kolthode canal, where the Kerala Forest Research Institute rescued and monitored it.

❖ About Red-Eared Slider Turtle:

- Its scientific name is '**Trachemys scripta elegans**'.
- It is native to Mexico, South America, and the Mississippi River.
- With its vibrant colours and captivating golden hue, the Red Eared Slider makes for a popular pet in South America.

- It is known for its bright red circular or oblong spots near its ears.
- It is the **most destructive among the seven turtle species** found in the world.
- They inhabit ponds, small water bodies, & freshwater lakes and can adapt to any environment quickly.
- Fish and other aquatic animals struggle to survive in areas inhabited by these turtles.
- A carrier of the Salmonella bacteria, this species poses a threat to both aquatic animals and humans.
 - Salmonella infection can lead to diarrhoea, abdominal pain, vomiting, and fever. Long-term effects can cause metabolic cell damage in the human body, with potentially disastrous consequences.
- **Protection Status :**
 - IUCN Red List: Least Concern

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News in Between the Lines

Konark Sun Temple



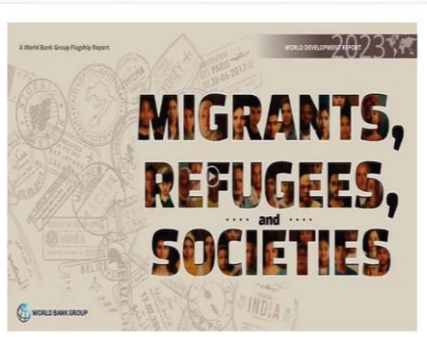
❖ Context

- Recently, a petition has been filed in the Orissa High Court challenging the minimum eligibility criteria of matriculation adopted by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** for issuing licences to photographers to operate inside Sun Temple at Konark.

❖ About Sun Temple:

- It was **built in the 13th century**.
- It was **built by King Narasimhadeva I**, the great ruler of the **Ganga dynasty**.
- The sun temple was conceived as a gigantic chariot of the Sun God, with 12 pairs (24 wheels) of exquisitely ornamented wheels pulled by seven horses.
- The wheels of the temple are sundials, which can be used to calculate time accurately to a minute.
- The temple was **included in UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1984.
- It is a perfect **blend of Kalinga architecture, heritage, exotic beach and salient natural beauty**.
- It is **protected under the National Framework of India by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act (1958)** and its Rules (1959).
- This temple was **also known as 'BLACK PAGODA'** due to its dark color
- This was used as a navigational landmark by ancient sailors to Odisha.
- The **Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the "White Pagoda"**.

World Development Report



❖ Context

- The latest **World Development Report** by the World Bank states that it is more viable for Indians to move abroad.

❖ Key Highlights of the Report about India:

- According to the report, **Indian workers see a 120% rise in their incomes outside India**, while internal migration within India will only add about 40% to personal incomes.
- A **low-skilled Indian worker** is likely to see a whopping **500 percent rise** in income in the United States.
- The **United Arab Emirates** is the next favourite destination for low-skilled workers, who can earn 300 percent more than in India.
- The report discussed the migration trade-offs using a **"Match-Motive Framework"**.
 - Migration leads to large wage increases for most people whose skills and attributes are a strong match with the needs of the destination society.
- India is the biggest beneficiary of remittances in the world, having crossed the **\$100 billion-mark in 2022**.
- **About the Report :**
 - It is an **annual** report published since **1978** by the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or World Bank**.
 - Each WDR provides in-depth analysis of a specific aspect of economic development.

City Beauty Competition



❖ Context

- The 'City Beauty Competition' portal, launched by the **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** recently, has been made live.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The objective of the competition is to **encourage and recognize** the transformational efforts made by cities and wards across the country to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.
- Under the competition, wards and public spaces in cities would be judged against five broad pillars like- **Accessibility, Amenities, Activities, Aesthetics and Ecology**.
- The competition would felicitate the most beautiful wards and public spaces in the cities.
- The City Beauty Competition provides a unique opportunity for the wards and cities to showcase their interventions toward creating beautiful public spaces.

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Quasars



❖ Context

➤ A recent study has revealed that the merger of galaxies **ignites quasars**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Quasars are extremely luminous, distant astronomical objects that emit massive amounts of energy and light.
- They are considered **active galactic nuclei** that exist at the centers of galaxies, powered by supermassive black holes.
- Quasars emit a wide range of electromagnetic radiation, including radio waves, infrared radiation, visible light, ultraviolet radiation, X-rays, and gamma rays.
- They were first identified in **the 1960s and have been** studied extensively by astronomers to understand the **evolution and structure of the universe**.
- The radiant energy of quasars is enormous; the most powerful quasars have luminosities thousands of times greater than that of a galaxy such as **the Milky Way**.

91 FM Transmitters



❖ Context

➤ Prime Minister recently inaugurated 91 FM transmitters to boost radio connectivity in the country.

❖ Key Highlights:

- These transmitters have been installed in **84 districts across 18 States** and two Union Territories.
- A special focus of the expansion has been on enhancing coverage in Aspirational Districts and in border areas.
- With this expansion, an additional two crore people and an area of about **35 thousand sq km** area will now have access to All India Radio's FM service.

Asteroid 3200 Phaethon



❖ Context

➤ **3200 Phaethon**, an asteroid that is the source of the annual Geminid meteor shower, has been found to have a tail made of sodium gas rather than dust as previously thought.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Asteroids are mostly **rocky leftovers** from the early formation of our solar system and do not usually form tails when they approach the Sun.
- Contrarily, **comets are made up of ice and rock**, and they do form tails as the Sun vaporizes their ice, blasting off material from their surfaces and leaves a trail along their orbits.
- However, this weird **asteroid 3200 Phaethon acts just like a comet**. It brightens and forms a tail when it comes near the Sun.
- So far, scientists have blamed this behaviour due to the escape of dust from the asteroid 3200 Phaethon while coming closer to the Sun.
- But the **latest study using two NASA solar observatories** has revealed that **Phaethon's tail is not made of dust but is primarily composed of sodium gas**.
- The close encounter of the asteroid Phaethon with the **Sun led to the vaporization of the sodium** within the asteroid and drive comet-like activity.

Ajeya Warrior 2023



MCQ Quiz

[Daily Current Affairs](#)
[Daily Pre PARE Daily](#)

❖ Context

➤ Military troops of India and the United Kingdom (UK) kick-started the seventh edition of 'Ajeya Warrior 2023', a two-week joint military exercise at the UK's Salisbury Plains, as part of efforts to consolidate the overall military ties.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Ajeya Warrior is a biennial training event with the UK which is conducted alternatively in both countries.



- The last edition was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand in October 2021.
- During the exercise, both armies will engage in various activities testing their operational acumen in various simulated situations and refining tactical drills which would help in developing interoperability between the two armies.

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