

National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC)

❖ Context

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal will chair the meeting of the **National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC)** in New Delhi today.

❖ Key Highlights

- The committee will **review the Sagarmala programme**.
- It will also **review the development of a port linked Road and Rail connectivity project, development of Floating jetties and Inland waterways** besides other agenda items.
- **Holistic development of coastal communities** through a new initiative 'Sagartat Samridhi Yojana' will also be taken up for discussion in the meeting.

❖ NSAC

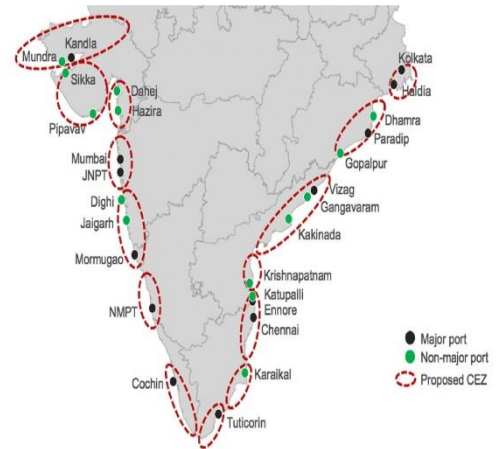
- It was **formed in 2015**.
- **Chaired by the Union Minister of Shipping**.
- It **provides policy directions and guidance** for port-led development- Sagarmala projects and reviews its implementation.

❖ Sagartat Samridhi Yojana

- PM launched the Sagarmala – Sagartat Samridhi Yojana during the release of "Maritime India Vision 2030" in **March 2021**.
- MoPSW formulated this detailed project to **address challenges in coastal areas of the nation**.
- **Key areas in which this initiative falls.**
 - Coastal Infrastructure Development.
 - Coastal Tourism.
 - Coastal Industrial Development.
 - Coastal Community Development.

❖ Sagarmala Programme

- **About:**
 - The Sagarmala is a **series of projects to leverage the country's coastline and inland waterways** to drive industrial development.
 - **Initiated in 2015**.
 - Launched under the Ministry of Shipping.
- **Aim:**
 - To **harness the 7500 km long coastline** of the country to **unleash its economic potential**.
 - To **boost infrastructure for transporting goods** to and from ports quickly, efficiently, and cost-effectively.
- **Components of the Program:**
 - Port modernization.
 - Port connectivity.
 - Port-led industrialization.
 - Coastal community development.
 - Coastal shipping and Inland water transport
- **Implementation:**
 - The projects are mainly **implemented on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**.
 - **Sagarmala Development Company Limited** was formed in 2016 which will provide equity support to the project.



Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

❖ Context

- Recently, **The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** in partnership with the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** commenced the **International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2022**.

❖ ICDRI 2022

- It is an **annual international conference** and platform to continue **building an engaged global community for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure**.
- The conference is **organized by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- The ICDRI 2022 has **brought together more than 20 member countries, international organizations, and institutions** on a single platform.
- The PM of India stressed the need for developing infrastructure that are climate disaster resilient.

❖ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- **About:**
 - It is an **international coalition of countries, United Nations (UN) agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions**, that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure.
 - It was **launched by the Indian Prime Minister** at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.
- **Objective:**
 - To **promote research and knowledge sharing** in the fields of infrastructure risk management, standards,

- Financing, and recovery mechanisms.
- **CDRI Secretariat** - New Delhi, India.
- **Members**- 29 members, consisting of 22 national governments and 7 organizations have joined CDRI.



ECOWAS

❖ Context

- The leaders of the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** recently agreed to spend **\$294 billion** over the **next 10 years** to fight against climate change.

❖ Regional Climate Strategy

- The commitment was part of a Regional Climate Strategy (RCS) to set **regional mitigation and adaptation targets for 2030**, with a review planned for 2050.
- The RCS calls for the cooperation of regional institutions, the 15 member states of ECOWAS, their partners and civil society actors.
- The purpose of the RCS is to engage its member states to **facilitate the implementation of their climate commitments** under the Paris Agreement.

❖ Climate change & Africa

- Africa carries the **heaviest burden of associated climate change effects**, despite **contributing less than 5%** of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.
- In west Africa, the **increase in temperature** is the main climatic hazard, which is **1.5 times higher than at the global level**.
- Nine of the 30 most vulnerable countries in the world are in the region.

❖ About ECOWAS

- Established on May 28 1975 via the **treaty of Lagos**, ECOWAS is a 15-member political and economic union with a mandate of promoting economic integration in all fields of activity of the constituting countries.
- 15 members are - **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.**
- Considered one of the pillars of the African Economic Community, ECOWAS was set up to foster the ideal of collective self-sufficiency for its member states.
- As a trading union, it is also meant to create a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation.



News in Between the Lines

Unemployment Insurance Fund



❖ Context

- RBI has recently released the **Report on Currency and Finance**.

❖ Labour Reforms:

- Labour reform with **flexibility to hire and fire workers** can allow firms to adjust their workforce according to economic cycles, thereby enabling them to use their resources more efficiently. This, however, could come only at the cost of lower welfare/social security of the workers.
- One option here could be to build an **unemployment insurance fund** at the firm level **during periods of economic boom**, which could be utilised to financially support workers up to a limited period after retrenchment.
- Further, many of the social-security measures apply to firms having a certain minimum number of workers, which creates incentives for firms to not scale up.
- To address this issue, a policy option could be **universal access to social security** irrespective of firm size, with **each firm required to earmark a certain percentage of their profit** for the social security schemes for the workers.

❖ COVID Impact On Labour Market

- The Indian labour market witnessed a **sharp deterioration** during the first wave of the pandemic, with unemployment rate touching a record high and the labour force participation rate plummeting.

Face to Face Centres

- **Of the total casual labourers** working during January-March 2020, **only 35.3 % remained** in the same category during the first lockdown period of April-June 2020; **nearly 50 %** were pushed to **unemployment** and about **10 % moved out of the labour force** during this period.
- **Reverse migration** from urban to rural areas during the first wave period also resulted in a sharp increase in demand for MGNREGS in rural areas.

Combi Microinsurance



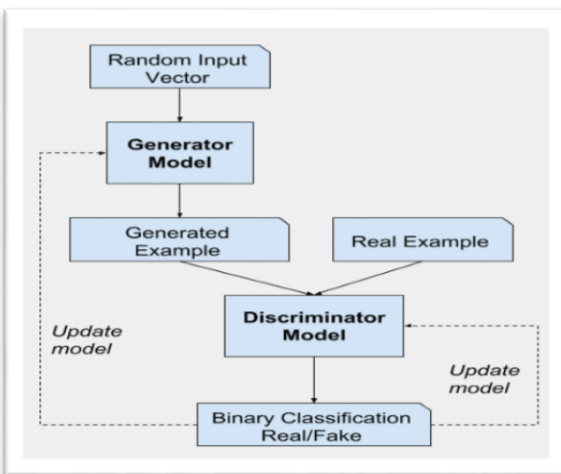
❖ Context

- A panel on **Micro Insurance (MI)** - constituted by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** - has suggested introduction of a Combi MI product.

❖ Key Highlights

- The need of the hour is **better penetration of insurance amongst the vulnerable sections of society**.
- Insurers may develop combi MI products by following a **modular approach** using **various permutations and combinations**, leaving the choice to the proposer and giving flexibility to the insurer. Such products offer coverage to different groups and individuals as per their specific protection needs.
- To ensure uniformity and efficiency in the administration of the Combi product, a common technological platform with the involvement of the Life Insurance Council and the General Insurance Council may also be developed.
- The **provision** for offering Combi products, by permitting a tie-up between a life insurer and a general insurer - which subsumes a health insurer - **already exists in the current framework**, but has not been given the nomenclature 'Combo'. However, this option has been on the back burner, possibly because of the **complexity involved in servicing such a product** especially for distributors of MI products. **Combining the MI product with various government schemes** will increase the outreach of the product and also make it easier to **convince the target groups** about the benefits.

Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)



❖ Context

- **GANs** are frequently used to create **convincing deep-fake media** as with the recent fake videos of Ukrainian president.

❖ Key Highlights

- GANs are an approach to **generative modelling** using **deep learning methods**, such as **convolutional neural networks**.
- Generative modelling is an **unsupervised learning task** in machine learning that involves **automatically discovering and learning the regularities** or patterns in input data in such a way that the model can be used to **generate or output new examples** that plausibly could have been drawn from the original dataset. GANs consist of a **generator network** and a **discriminator network**, which work in tandem through **rounds of tuning** until they have produced a convincing fake according to the characteristics of the data they are aiming to simulate. Using Cycle-GANs, researchers recently created fake maps of Tacoma, a city in the US state of Washington. To the naked eye, the fake map of Tacoma looked authentic.

Dairy Trading Centre of Excellence (DTCE)



❖ Context

- The Netherlands Agriculture minister informed that the Dutch government is keen on sharing its expertise in the dairy sector with India and will soon set up a **DTCE** in southern Uttar Pradesh which already has a genetic centre.

❖ Key Highlights

- The DTCE will help dairy farmers adopt Dutch technology and improve the quality and quantity of milk.
- The DTCE will also have a small-scale cheese plant like the one Dutch dairy farms have put up next to their farm gates in Holland and sell these products.
- The Dutch government has also proposed India in the fields of horticulture, floriculture, food processing, and potato by setting up at least seven CoE.

Face to Face Centres



Sex Ratio at Birth

GENDER RATIO IN NORTH

State/UT	SRB
Ladakh	1,104
J&K	967
Uttarakhand	954
Rajasthan	952
Chandigarh	943
Himachal	936
Punjab	925
Haryana	916

❖ Key Problems In Indian Dairy Sector

- Low Milk yield per animal in India (1777 kg a year) as compared to the Netherlands (8900 kg a year).
- 2-3 people manage a farm of about 150 cows in Netherlands as compared to 10-20 cows in India. Non availability of right genetic material. Only a few are 100 % dairy farmers and they feel the cost of importing genetic material is high.

❖ Context

- Recently, The Registrar General of India's Civil Registration System Report-2020 was published.

❖ Key Highlights of the Report

- **Sex Ratio at Birth:** The sex ratio at birth refers to the number of boys born alive per 100 girls born alive. **The Highest Sex Ratio At Birth:** Ladakh (1,104) > Arunachal Pradesh (1,011) > A&N Islands (984) > Tripura (974) > Kerala (969).
- **The Lowest Sex Ratio At Birth:** Manipur (880) < Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898) < Gujarat (909) < Haryana (916) < Madhya Pradesh (921).
- The report said that the requisite information from Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi on sex ratio was "not available".

Shigella Sonnei Bacteria



❖ Context

- Recently, shigella sonnei bacteria has been found to cause food poisoning in people in Kasaragod district of Kerala.

❖ Shigella Sonnei

- **About:** Shigella is a bacterium that belongs to the enterobacter family - a group of bacteria that reside in the intestine, not all of which cause diseases in humans. As per reports, an estimated annual mortality of 35,000-40,000 is noted globally in both under-five and older-than-5Y age groups.
- **Symptoms:** It mainly affects the intestine and results in diarrhea, sometimes bloody, stomach pain, and fever.
- **Transmission:** It is a food & water-borne infection, and can happen when someone consumes contaminated food, unwashed fruit or vegetables. The disease is easily spread by direct | indirect contact with the excrement of the patient. Swimming | taking a bath in contaminated water can infect a person.

Sealed Cover Jurisprudence



❖ Context

- Recently, The Supreme Court said it will look into the issue of "sealed cover jurisprudence" which is adopted by government and prosecuting agencies by handing over "confidential" documents to the court in a sealed cover.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a practice used by the Supreme Court and sometimes lower courts, of asking for or accepting information from government agencies in sealed envelopes that can only be accessed by judges. No specific law defines the doctrine of sealed cover. The Supreme Court derives its power to use it from Rule 7 of order XIII of the Supreme Court Rules and Section 123 of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. Rule 7 of order XIII of the Supreme Court Rules:
 - If the Chief Justice or court directs certain information to be kept under sealed cover or considers it of confidential nature, no party would be allowed access to the contents of such information, except if the Chief Justice himself orders that the opposite party be allowed to access it.
 - It also mentions that information can be kept confidential if its publication is not considered to be in the interest of the public.
- **Section 123 of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872:** Under this section, Official unpublished documents relating to state affairs are protected and a public officer cannot be compelled to disclose such documents. Other instances where information may be sought in secrecy or confidence is when its publication impedes an ongoing investigation, such as details which are part of the police's case diary; or breaches the privacy of an individual.

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