

01 – 03 – 2022

News: Operation Ganga

- Recently, Operation Ganga was launched by Government of India.

Operation Ganga

- Operation Ganga is launched by Government of India to **evacuate Indians from war – torn Ukraine.**
- There were **around 20,000 Indians** including students stuck in Ukraine.
- The Indian **evacuation flights are operating from neighbouring countries like Romania and Hungary.**
- The government is also facilitating evacuation of stranded Indians from its borders crossing Romania, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

News: Wheat Exports

- The Russia-Ukraine conflict may give India an opportunity to ship more wheat in the global markets.

Wheat

- Wheat is a **Rabi crop** requires a temperature **10 to 15° C in sowing time** and **21 to 26° C in harvesting time**.
- **Well drained fertile loamy and clayey soil** is favourable to cultivate wheat.
- **75-100 cm** of rainfall is good.
- Area under Wheat cultivation is the second highest after Rice.
- **Uttar Pradesh** stands first in the cultivation of wheat followed by **Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan**.
- **India is the second largest producer of wheat** (around 13.5% of world share) in the world after **China**.
- Russia is the **world's largest exporter of wheat**, accounting for more than 18% of international exports.
- In 2019, **Russia and Ukraine together exported more than a quarter (25.4 %) of the world's wheat**.
- The **top five countries that exported the highest dollar-value worth of wheat include Russia > United States > Canada > France > Ukraine**.

- India accounts for even less than 1% in world wheat export. However, its share has increased from 0.14% in 2016 to 0.54% in 2020.
- Egypt is the world's biggest importer of wheat.
- Turkey is also a big spender on Russian and Ukrainian wheat with 74% of its imports coming from those two countries in 2019.
- Wheat is the second most important cereal crop after rice and the main food crop in North and North West India.
- Temperate grasslands of the mid-latitudes produce the greatest quantity of wheat per capita amongst the world's wheat-growing nations.
- The temperate grasslands are ideal for extensive wheat cultivation.
- They are, naturally the greatest wheat exporters.
- Three-quarters of the world's wheat is winter wheat, i.e. wheat sown in winter or late autumn, and is then harvested in the summer.

News: Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will distribute 4,800 daily living aids and assistive devices among 895 senior citizen beneficiaries under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY).

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)

- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (launched in 2017) is a **Central Sector Scheme providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to the BPL category** hold a valid BPL card issued by the concerned authority.
- The scheme is being implemented **in cities selected by government of India.**
- The expenditure for implementation of the scheme is being met from the **Senior Citizens Welfare Fund.**
- This Scheme is being **implemented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)**, a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Features of the scheme

- Free of cost distribution of the devices, commensurate with the extent of disability/infirmity that is manifested among the eligible senior citizens.
- In case of multiple disabilities/infirmities manifested in the same person, the assistive devices will be given in respect of each disability/impairment.
- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) will undertake one-year free maintenance of the aids & assisted living devices.
- Beneficiaries in each district will be identified by the State Governments / UT Administrations through a Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner or District Collector.
- As far as possible, 30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.
- The State Government/UT Administration/District Level Committee can also utilize the data of BPL beneficiaries receiving Old Age Pension under the NSAP or any other Scheme of the State/UT for identification of senior citizens belonging to the BPL category.
- The devices will be distributed in Camp mode.
- As per the Census figures of 2011, the population of senior citizens in India is 10.38 crore.
- More than 70% of the population of senior citizens lives in rural areas of the country.

- A sizeable percentage (5.2%) of senior citizens suffers from some sort of disabilities related to old age.
- Projections indicate that the elderly population will increase to around 173 million by 2026. This scheme -is intended to benefit all these senior citizens.
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