

08 – 05 – 2022 to 12 – 05 – 2022

News: PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme

- The Ministry of Textiles has organized a National Conference on PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme.

Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Scheme (MITRA)

- Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Scheme (MITRA) is announced at the Union Budget 2021 aimed to **create 7 textile parks in over 1000 acres of land with state-of-the art infrastructure, common utilities and Research and Development labs over the next 3 years.**
- The mega textile parks will have **integrated facilities and quick turnaround time for minimizing transportation losses**, eyeing big-ticket investments in the sector.
- The scheme will be implemented by **Ministry of Textiles.**
- PM MITRA park will be **developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle** which will be owned by the **Central and State Government and in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.**

- Under the scheme, the centre will provide development capital support for the development of common infrastructure of Rs 500 crore for each greenfield MITRA park and up to Rs 200 crore for each brownfield park.

Significance of MITRA Scheme

- It will enable the textile industry to become globally competitive, attract large investments, and boost employment generation and exports.
- Each MITRA park is expected to directly generate 1 lakh jobs and indirectly generate a further 2 lakh jobs.
- The parks are crucial to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- From April 2000 to September 2020, India's textile sector received Rs 20,468.62 crore of FDI, which is just 0.69% of the total FDI inflows during the period.
- It will create world class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable create global champions in exports.
- MITRA will lead to increased investments and enhanced employment opportunities with the support from the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.
- MITRA will give the domestic manufacturers a level-playing field in the international textiles market through emphasis on state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Eligibility for Incentives

- An additional Rs 300 crore will be provided as Competitiveness Incentive Support for the early establishment of textiles manufacturing units in each of these parks.
- Investors who set up “anchor plants” that employ at least 100 people will be eligible for incentives of up to Rs 10 crore every year for up to three years.

News: Sagarmala Project

- Recently, the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) chaired the meeting of the National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi.

Sagarmala Project

- Sagarmala Project is a government of India initiative to develop a string of ports around India's coast.
- Objective of this scheme to promote “Port-led development along India's 7500km long coastline”.
- Union Ministry of Shipping has been selected as the nodal agency of this initiative.

- State governments would set up State Sagarmala committees, headed by CM or minister in charge of ports.

News: Venus Mission by India

- Indian Venus Mission (Shukrayan) is expected to launch by December 2024.

Venus Mission by India (Shukrayan)

- Shukrayan is the planned Venus mission by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to be launched by December 2024.
- The aim of the mission is to study Venus' atmosphere, which is toxic and corrosive in nature as clouds of sulfuric acid cover the planet.

Key Objectives of the Mission

- Investigation of surface process and shallow subsurface stratigraphy.
- Until now, no prior observation of the sub-surface of Venus has been done.
- Stratigraphy is a branch of geology in which rock layers and layering are studied.
- Study of the structure, composition and dynamics of the atmosphere.
- Investigation of Solar wind interaction with Venusian ionosphere.

Significance of the Mission

- It will help **to learn how Earth-like planets evolve** and what conditions exist on Earth-sized exoplanets (Planets that orbit a star other than our sun).
- It will help in **modelling Earth's climate and serves as a cautionary tale on how dramatically a planet's climate can change.**

Challenges for the Mission

- Venus offers different challenges compared to Mars, given the **thick atmosphere and surface activity, which make it a complex planet.**
- In order to have a deeper understanding, the **instruments need to go deep through the atmosphere.**
- One of the instruments the space agency is planning to use on the spacecraft is a high resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) that would examine Venus' surface, despite the clouds around the planet, which lowers visibility.
- It refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images. Because of the precision, the radar can penetrate clouds and darkness, which means that it can collect data day and night in any weather.

News: International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- Recently, the Prime Minister addressed the inaugural session of the fourth edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure via video message.
- ICDRI is the annual international conference of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in partnership with member countries, organizations and institutions to strengthen the global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.

International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- The International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) was **launched on 23rd September 2019 at the UN General Assembly.**
- It intends to **bring the Head of States to generate commitments for combating the effects of climate change and resulting disasters** and will provide the high-level.
- Objective of ICDRI is to **promote research and knowledge sharing in the fields of infrastructure risk management, standards, financing, and recovery mechanisms.**

Members

- Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Germany, Italy, **India**, Japan, Mauritius, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and United States.
- The CDRI is the second major coalition launched by India outside of the UN, the first being the **International Solar Alliance**. Both of them are seen as India's attempts to obtain a global leadership role in climate change matters.
- **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States**, launched at CoP 26 to UNFCCC, is under the aegis of CDRI.

News: Monkey pox

- Recently, Health authorities in the United Kingdom have confirmed a case of monkeypox, a rare viral infection similar to smallpox, in an individual who recently travelled to that country from Nigeria.

Monkey Pox

- Monkeypox is a **viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa** and is occasionally exported to other regions.

- Monkeypox virus infection has been detected in squirrels, Gambian poached rats, dormice, and some species of monkeys.
- Monkeypox is caused by monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.
- Monkey Pox infection was first discovered in 1958 following two outbreaks of a pox-like disease in colonies of monkeys kept for research — which led to the name ‘monkeypox’.
- Monkeypox typically presents clinically with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes.
- It causes the lymph nodes to swell (lymphadenopathy), which smallpox does not.
- Monkeypox virus is mostly transmitted to people from wild animals such as rodents and primates, but human-to-human transmission also occurs.
- The first human case was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) during a period of intensified effort to eliminate smallpox.
- Monkeypox virus is transmitted from one person to another by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.
- The incubation period (time from infection to symptoms) for monkeypox is usually 7-14 days but can range from 5-21 days.

- Typically, **up to a tenth of people ill with monkeypox may die**, with most deaths occurring in younger age groups.
- The clinical presentation of monkeypox resembles that of smallpox, a related orthopoxvirus infection which was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980.
- **Vaccinia vaccine used during the smallpox eradication programme was also protective against monkeypox.**
- A new third generation vaccinia vaccine has now been approved for prevention of smallpox and monkeypox. Antiviral agents are also being developed.

News: MPLADS Scheme

- Recently, the Ministry of Finance has revised the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) rules, where the interest that the fund accrues will be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.
- So far, the interest accrued on the fund used to be added to the MPLADS account and could be used for the development projects.

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

- Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a scheme formulated by Government of India on 23 December 1993 that **enables the members of parliaments (MP) to recommend developmental work in their constituencies** with an emphasis on creating durable community assets based on locally felt needs.
- MPLADS is a **Central Sector Scheme** implemented by **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- Elected Members of Rajya Sabha representing the whole of the State as they do may select works for **implementation in one or more district(s)** as they may choose.

- **Nominated Members** of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may also select works for **implementation in one or more districts, anywhere in the country.**
- The MPLADS is a Plan Scheme **fully funded by the Government of India.** The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is **Rs. 5 crores.** But this amount is **not disbursed directly to MP but to the District Authority of the chosen district.**
- This **annual entitlement is released conditionally in two installments of Rs. 2.5 crore each.**
- The figures has been **revised to 2 crore rupees annually.**
- Funds are **non-lapsable in nature** i.e. in case of non-release of fund in a particular year it is carried forward to the next year.
- MPs need to recommend work worth at least **15% and 7.5% of their funds to create assets in areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) respectively.**
- MPs can also recommend work of up to **Rs. 25 lakhs per year** outside their constituency or state of election to promote national unity, harmony and fraternity.
- MPs can recommend work of up to **25 lakh for Natural Calamity in the state and up to Rs. 1 crore in the country in case of Calamity of Severe Nature.**

- Funds for MPLADS can be converged with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for creating more durable assets and with National Program for Development of Sports (Khelo India).
- Funds can be utilized for **procurement of LED lights under Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) Scheme.**
- It mandates **100% compulsory auditing of all works completed by trusts** which receive funds under the scheme.