

MISSION SHAKTI

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken a number of initiatives to empower women through the schemes and programmes implemented in the country.



About:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated 'Mission Shakti', an Integrated Women Empowerment Programme, as Umbrella Scheme for the Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period.

- It aims at strengthening interventions for safety, security and empowerment of women in a mission mode through institutional and convergence mechanism for greater efficiency, effectiveness and financial prudence.
- The Umbrella Scheme of Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes namely:
 - "Sambal" for safety and security of women and "Samarthya" for empowerment of women.
 - Under 'Samarthya' sub- scheme, a new component i.e. **Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)** has been included with the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/ UT and District levels for creating an environment in which women are able to realize their full potential.
 - The support under the HEW provides for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counseling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country.

PROMOTE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, DO NOT CURB WORKERS' RIGHTS:

ILO DECLARATION

In News:

- The 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was organised in Singapore.
- The APRM discussed issues affecting employment and the world of work in Asia, the Pacific and Arab States.
- The meeting concluded with participants agreeing to bolster efforts to achieve social justice and decent work for all.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- The ILO, headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland, is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations (UN).
 - It was established in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles.
 - It is responsible for setting labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
 - It is the only tripartite U.N. agency which brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States.

Strategic objectives

- The ILO has four strategic objectives
 - Promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work
 - Create greater opportunities for women and men to decent employment and income
 - Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all, and
 - Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue

Other information about ILO

- It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDP), a coalition of UN organization aimed at helping meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Members - The ILO has 187 member states (186 Countries + The Cook Islands)
- **Key Reports Published by ILO**
 - World Employment and Social Outlook;
 - Global Wage Report

The Eight fundamental Conventions of ILO

- The Forced Labour Convention, 1930,
- The Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957,
- The Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948,
- The Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949,
- The Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951,
- The Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958,
- The Minimum Age Convention, 1973, and
- The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

India and ILO

- In June 2021, India completed its term as chair of the Governing Body of the ILO.
 - Governing Body is the apex executive body of the ILO which decides policies, programmes, budget and elects the Director-General.
 - India had assumed the chairmanship after a gap of 35 years. It held the position for the period October 2020- June 2021.
- **India has not ratified the two conventions** (out of 8). These are:
 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 and
 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).
- **Reasons for India not ratifying these two conventions:**
 - The statutory rules in India, for the government employees, prohibits certain rights such as right to strike, to openly criticize government policies etc.
 - After ratification, India would be forced to grant these rights to the civil servants. Hence, India has not ratified these two conventions.

News Summary

- The 17th APRM of ILO concluded with Singapore Declaration”, which was adopted in Singapore by the participating delegates.

[DIGITAL INDIA BILL TO REPLACE IT ACT, 2000: GOVT PLANS CLASSIFICATION OF ONLINE INTERMEDIARIES, SEPARATE NORMS](#)

In News:

- The Central government is considering regulating a wide gamut of online platforms including social media sites, e-commerce entities, fact-checking portals and artificial intelligence (AI)-based platforms under a fresh legislation, which is expected to replace the **Information Technology Act, 2000**.

Background:

- The Central government will release the draft **Digital India Bill** for public consultation by the end of this month.
- The **Digital India Act will subsume the Information Technology Act 2020**, which according to experts and government officials need a revamp owing to changing internet scenarios.
- The proposed bill, alongside the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022** whose draft was released recently, will contribute to the evolving framework which is light on regulation, safeguards consumer rights and catalyses innovation.

Key aspects of Digital India Bill:

- The government is considering a departure from the long-held understanding of ‘intermediaries’ on the Internet – sites that typically act as a platform for users to access services on the Internet.
 - **Present Scenario –**
 - Under the Information Technology Act, 2000, there is no classification of intermediaries.
 - **Proposal –**
 - The new law will prescribe different kinds of intermediaries because their regulation has to be different.
 - Intermediaries will be bucketed as social media platforms, e-commerce platforms, AI platforms, fact-checking platforms etc.
- **New Regulator for Internet –**
 - The new Bill is also expected to prescribe a new regulator for the online space along the lines of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) or the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

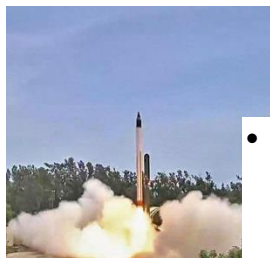
- The new law is also expected to introduce penal consequences for violations, and prescribe governing provisions for emerging technologies like the **metaverse** and **blockchain**.
- Once finalised, the Bill will impact Big Tech companies like Google, Amazon, Meta, Amazon and Apple, among others.

About Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022:

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been deliberating on various aspects of digital personal data and its protection, and has formulated a draft Bill, titled ‘The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022’.
- The purpose of the draft Bill is to provide for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognizes both the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process personal data for lawful purposes.
- The Bill frames out the rights and duties of the citizen (**Digital Nagrik**) on one hand and the obligations to use collected data lawfully of the Data Fiduciary on the other hand.

AIR-BREATHING SCRAMJET ENGINE

The Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) successfully conducted the hot test of scramjet engine.



About:

- In an air-breathing scramjet engine, air from the atmosphere is rammed into the engine’s combustion chamber at a supersonic speed of more than Mach two.

Process:

- In the chamber, the air mixes with the fuel to ignite a supersonic combustion but the cruiser’s flight will be at a hypersonic speed of Mach six to seven.
- So it is called **supersonic combustion ramjet or Scramjet**.
- Air from the atmosphere was then rammed into the scramjet engine’s combustion chamber at a supersonic speed.

- The air mixed with the atomised fuel, the fuel was ignited and the scramjet engine revved into action.

Benefits:

- Mastering the air-breathing scramjet technology will lead to the development of hypersonic missiles, faster civilian air transportation and facilities for putting satellites into orbit at a low cost.
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NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat recently chaired 10th meeting of Empowered Task Force of National Mission for Clean Ganga.



About:

- NMCG was established in 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a registered society.
- NMCG under National Ganga Council is supported by the State level Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- It is an initiative taken by the Government of India to address the pollution of the river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.
- **Aims and objectives:**
 - To accomplish the mandate of National Ganga Council
 - Prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach.
 - To maintain minimum ecological flows in the river Ganga with the aim of ensuring water quality and environmentally sustainable development.
- **Vision:**
 - Restoring the wholesomeness of the river defined in terms of ensuring:
 - Aviral Dhara - that is continuous flow of water
 - Nirmal Dhara - that is unpolluted flow of water

- Geologic and ecological integrity
 - **Structure:**
 - It has a two-tier management structure, comprising of Governing Council and Executive Committee
 - The work of coordinating, supervising and deliberating on funding Namami Ganga projects is carried out by an executive committee of the NMCG that meets every month.
 - In 2020, the World Bank has approved a five-year loan (for the second phase) to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) or Namami Gange Project worth Rs.3,000 crore to help stem pollution in the Ganga river basin.
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HEAT-RESISTANT VARIETY OF WHEAT

The wheat varieties DBW187 and DBW222 have been found superior over HD-3086 as far as heat tolerance is concerned.



About:

- During the crop season 2021-22, the varieties namely DBW187 and DBW222 have shown heat tolerance with yield gain of 3.6% and 5.4%, respectively as compared to HD-3086.
 - The Government aims to promote the **use of heat-resistant varieties amongst the farmers** through public and private partnership and providing seed directly to the farmers.
 - To promote the use of these varieties, the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barely Research (IIWBR), Karnal under ICAR has signed 250 Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) for DBW 187 and 191 MoAs for DBW 222 with private companies for seed production.
 - The ICAR-IIWBR Karnal has initiated a specific research project entitled “**Breeding high yielding wheat genotypes for stress conditions of warmer regions of India**” on heat tolerant varieties.
 - Besides, ICAR-IIWBR Karnal is also collaborating with **International Maize and Wheat**
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1,000 KHELO INDIA CENTRES BY AUG 15: ANURAG THAKUR IN LOK SABHA

In News:

- Replying to a discussion in the Lok Sabha, Union sports minister said that the Sports ministry plans to open 1,000 Khelo India centres across states by August 15, 2023.

Khelo India

- The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country.
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by the High-Powered Committee will be provided annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.
- 12 verticals under the programme:



News Summary

- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said that 1,000 Khelo India centres will be opened all over the country by August 15 next year.
- The minister was speaking in Lok Sabha during the ongoing

Winter Session of the Parliament.

Key highlights: Steps taken by the government in promoting sports

Many Indian martial arts will go international

- The minister said Mallakhamb, Thang Ta, Yogasana, Gatka and Kalaripayattu will soon go international.
- **Mallakhamb** –
 - As an ancient Indian sport, mallakhamb is a form of ancient martial arts intended as a training aid for wrestlers and ancient warriors.
 - Mallakhamb means wrestling on a pole (a type of Indian gymnastics on a vertical pole).

- Wrestlers and warriors used to use the pole as a training apparatus to perfect martial arts moves which they could later use on opponents in the ring or the battlefield.
- **Thang Ta**
 - It is a Manipuri martial art which is dedicated to fighting skill and worship.
 - It integrates various external weapons - the sword, spear, dagger, etc. - with the internal practice of physical control through soft movements coordinated with the rhythms of breathing.
- **Yogasana**
 - Yogasana is a sport that focuses on the physical aspect of yoga, where players have to perform yogic postures and are judged on their difficulty, balance, control, flexibility and endurance.
 - The difference between yoga and yogasana is that yogasana only lays emphasis on the physical side of the discipline while yoga also gives importance to the mental and spiritual aspects.
 - Yogasana was formally recognised as a sport in 2020, with the National Yoga Sports Federation being the official governing body for the sport in India.
 - With an emphasis on promoting indigenous sports, yogasana was included in the **Khelo India Youth Games 2021**, along with kalaripayattu, gatka and mallakhamb.
- **Gatka**
 - Gatka is a traditional martial art form of Punjab and is associated with the Sikh gurus.
 - Gatka is a style of stick fighting between two or more practitioners, with wooden sticks (called Soti) intended to simulate swords.
 - It was one of basic technique of self-defence for Sikh warriors.
- **Kalaripayattu**
 - Kalaripayattu is the martial art form of Kerala.
 - It has different techniques like **meipayattu** (physical body exercise), **vadipayattu** (fight using sticks), **valpayattu** (fight using swords) and **verumkaiprayoga** (bare hand exercise).

Appointment of coaches

- Regarding the appointment of coaches, the Sports Minister announced that this year, 398 coaches have been appointed across 21 sports disciplines.

Budget of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- The budget of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has increased to 3,062 crore for the year 2022-23.

Other initiatives taken to promote sports

- The minister highlighted some of the initiatives taken by the Centre, such as ‘Meet the Champions’ initiative.
 - This initiative is aimed at making children aware about sports and nutrition with the help of the country’s best sportspersons.
 - It is a unique school visit campaign that was kicked off by Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra in December 2021.
 - During the school visit, the champion athlete shares their experiences, life lessons, and tips on how to eat right and also give an overall inspirational boost to school children.
 - The minister also talked about the Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games.
 - So far, four editions of Youth Games and two editions of University Games have taken place.
 - In these, 27,000 players have been able to showcase their talent to the country.
 - In the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games, 12 national records were broken, out of which 11 were broken by girls.
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