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OPEN DATA KIT (ODK) PLATFORM



- It is a **digital platform** which allows the CAG to collect and manage data securely.
- It is used for designing, collecting, and managing data to enhance transparency in public spending and accountability in government schemes.

Features:

- It is integrated with CAG's own **operating system called OIOS**.
- It is **end-to-end encrypted** online portal.
- It is used to collect information for identifying problem areas warranting additional review.
- It also helps CAG in launching surveys in **multiple languages** at the same time
- **Benefits:**
 - Beneficiary Survey is one of the sources for information for audit planning as well as for collection of audit evidence.
 - ODK toolkit was deployed to ascertain patient satisfaction while gathering evidence in auditing the performance of the AIIMS at Mangalagiri in Guntur district and the AIIMS at Bibinagar in Hyderabad.

PROJECT VISTAAR



- It is a **digital platform** designed by integrating information about start-ups in the **agriculture and allied sectors**.
- The initiative aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the **agricultural extension system through digitalisation**.



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- This will help farmers and other stakeholders access the capabilities and offerings of these start-ups more easily.
- It contains details on over 12,000 start-ups in the agriculture and farming sectors.
- This database serves as a valuable resource for **connecting farmers with relevant technological solutions and services.**

Significance:

- The digitalisation of the agricultural extension system will substantially expand its outreach, enabling **every farmer to access high-quality advisory services** on crop production, marketing, value addition, and supply chain management.
- Additionally, the advisory services will provide comprehensive information on government schemes related to agriculture, allied sectors, and rural development, ensuring farmers can benefit from them effectively.
- By delivering timely, contextual, and accurate information, the process of digitalisation **will augment the current extension system**, ensuring better support for farmers in agriculture and allied fields.

LOGISTICS EASE ACROSS DIFFERENT STATES (LEADS) 2024



- It is the **6th edition** of the LEADS report.
- It was conceived on the lines of the **Logistics Performance Index of World Bank** in 2018 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- It evaluates **logistics performance** across **four key pillars**: Logistics Infrastructure, Logistics Services, Operating and Regulatory Environment, and the newly introduced **Sustainable Logistics.**
- It highlights initiatives undertaken by various States and UTs across the identified pillars also focusses on State/UT-specific opportunities to enable informed decision-making.

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Key highlights of LEADS 2024:

- **Coastal Group**
 - **Achievers:** Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu
 - **Fast Movers:** Andhra Pradesh, Goa
 - **Aspirers:** Kerala, West Bengal
 - **Landlocked Group**
 - **Achievers:** Haryana, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand
 - **Fast Movers:** Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan
 - **Aspirers:** Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
 - **North-Eastern Group**
 - **Achievers:** Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
 - **Fast Movers:** Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura
 - **Aspirers:** Manipur
 - **Union Territories**
 - **Achievers:** Chandigarh, Delhi
 - **Fast Movers:** Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Puducherry
 - **Aspirers:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh
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STATE BANK OF INDIA'S (SBI'S) TWO NEW DEPOSIT SCHEMES



The State Bank of India recently launched two new deposit schemes namely, Har Ghar Lakhpati and SBI Patrons, designed to provide customers with greater financial flexibility and enhanced value.

Har Ghar Lakhpati Scheme:

- It is a pre-calculated recurring deposit scheme designed to help customers to accumulate Rs 1 lakh or multiples thereof.



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- The new scheme simplifies the process of achieving financial goals, allowing customers to plan and save effectively.
- This product is also **available to minors**, encouraging early financial planning and savings habits.
- The **minimum tenure** of recurring deposits is **12 months (one year)**, and the **maximum is 120 months (10 years)**.

About SBI Patrons Scheme:

- This is a **specialized fixed deposit scheme** tailored for **senior citizens aged 80 years and above**.
 - It offers **enhanced interest rates**, recognizing the long-standing relationship many senior customers have with the bank.
 - SBI Patrons is **available to existing and new term deposit customers**.
 - SBI Patron's depositors would earn an **additional 10 basis points higher interest rate than what is offered to senior citizens**.
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WHAT IS BLUE BABY SYNDROME?



- Blue baby syndrome, also called **cyanosis**, is a **condition in babies** in which their **skin appears blue or purple tinged**.

What causes blue baby syndrome?

- The baby takes on a bluish hue **because of poorly oxygenated blood**.
- Normally, blood is pumped from the heart to the lungs, where it receives oxygen.
- The blood is circulated back through the heart and then throughout the body.
- When there's a problem with the heart, lungs, or blood, blood may not be oxygenated properly.
- This causes the skin to take on a blue color.



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- The lack of oxygenation can occur for several reasons.
 - It can occur due to several congenital (meaning present at birth) heart defects or environmental or genetic factors.
 - Acquired methemoglobinemia is more common than the congenital form. It can be caused by exposure to a variety of substances and by some health conditions.
 - The most common cause of blue baby syndrome is water contaminated with nitrates.

Symptoms:

- The most common symptom of blue baby syndrome is a blue discoloration of the skin around the mouth, hands, and feet.
- Other potential symptoms of blue baby syndrome include:
 - difficulty breathing
 - vomiting
 - diarrhea
 - lethargy
 - increased salivation
 - loss of consciousness
 - seizures
- In severe cases, blue baby syndrome can even cause death.

Treatment:

- Treatment will vary depending on what is causing the baby to turn blue.
 - If congenital heart disease is causing the discoloration, surgery may be required to correct the abnormalities.
 - Children with a more severe form of the condition may need a medication called methylene blue, which a doctor will give as an injection.
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CHINA IS BUILDING THE WORLD'S LARGEST DAM ON THE TSANGPO

Yarlung Tsangpo Project

- The Yarlung Tsangpo hydropower project is set to be the world's largest hydropower project, planned at the "Great Bend" of the river in Medog county, Tibet, where it makes a U-turn before entering Arunachal Pradesh.
- The project is part of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).
- **Location and Planning Stage**
 - According to experts, the project's location has been strategically chosen. Recent activities, including funding allocation, construction of smaller dams, and changes in upstream land use, suggest the project is in an advanced planning phase, with visible construction expected soon.
- **China's Goals for the Yarlung Tsangpo Project**
 - China aims to use the Yarlung Tsangpo project to reduce reliance on conventional energy sources and achieve net carbon neutrality by 2060.
 - The river's steep descent from the mountains provides an ideal flow rate for hydroelectricity generation, making it a prime location for such a mega project.

Specific concerns for India

- **Impact on Water Flow to India**
 - The proposed dam could significantly affect water flow from China to India, a lower riparian state, as most of the water in the Brahmaputra system originates in Tibet.
 - Any alteration in water flow could disrupt agriculture and water availability in India.
- **Interruption of Silt and Biodiversity**
 - Large dams often block the flow of silt, essential for agriculture, and cause changes in river flow, adversely affecting local biodiversity.

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- These disruptions could have long-term ecological and agricultural consequences for the region.
 - **Earthquake-Prone and Fragile Ecology**
 - The region is one of the most ecologically fragile and earthquake-prone areas in the world.
 - A large dam in this zone increases the risk of catastrophic events.
 - For instance, the 2004 Parechu Lake landslide in Tibet, which later burst in 2005, highlights the dangers of water accumulation in unstable regions, despite timely coordination to mitigate damage.
 - **Need for Coordination and Concerns Over Cooperation**
 - Effective coordination and real-time exchange of information between countries are crucial to prevent disasters.
 - However, China has shown reluctance to cooperate with lower riparian states like India.
 - Similar concerns have been observed in the Mekong river basin, where China's 12 large dams have negatively impacted downstream nations.
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TRANSGENDER PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THEIR NAME AND GENDER ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Five years after the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 was enacted, the Karnataka High Court intervened to allow a transgender woman to change her name and gender on her birth certificate.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

- The act allows transgender individuals to obtain a "certificate of identity" (Section 6) and revise it after **sex-reassignment surgery** (Section 7).
- The Act mandates that gender recorded on this certificate must appear on all official documents.

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- It also explicitly permits changing the first name and gender in the birth certificate and other identity documents based on this certificate.
 - **Rules and Procedures Under the 2020 Rules**
 - The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020** outline the procedure for obtaining the certificate and include a list of official documents eligible for revision, with the "Birth Certificate" as the first entry.
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DRAFT DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION RULES 2025

The Government of India released the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, under the Digital Data Protection Act, 2023, outlining provisions for data privacy, compliance, and processing mechanisms.

Major Provisions of the Draft Rules:

- **Parental consent for children's data:**
 - **Verification required:** Social media and online platforms must obtain verifiable parental consent before children create accounts.
 - **Identity validation:** Parents' age and identity must be validated through government-issued identity proof.
 - **Exception:** Health, mental health establishments, education institutions, and daycare centers are exempt from this requirement.
- **Role and responsibilities of data fiduciaries:**
 - **Definition of data fiduciaries:**
 - Entities collecting and processing personal data are categorised as "Data Fiduciaries."
 - Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDFs) are those processing high volumes or sensitive data, impacting national sovereignty, security, or public order.
 - **Data retention:** Data can only be retained for the duration of consent and must be deleted afterward.

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- **Security measures:** Fiduciaries must ensure encryption, access control, and monitoring for unauthorised access.
- **Consent management:**
 - **Consent managers:** Entities entrusted to manage consent records must comply with robust verification processes.
 - **Grievance redressal:** Data fiduciaries must establish mechanisms to address grievances and allow withdrawal of consent.
- **Data localisation:**
 - **Reintroduction:** Localisation mandates restrict transferring certain personal and traffic data outside India.
 - **Oversight:** A government-formed committee will determine the categories of data restricted from cross-border transfer.
- **Data breach reporting:**
 - **Intimation obligations:** In case of a breach, fiduciaries must inform affected users and the Data Protection Board promptly, detailing its nature, timing, and mitigation measures.
 - **Uniform treatment of breaches:** No differentiation between minor and major breaches; all require reporting.
- **Safeguards for government data processing:**
 - **Lawful processing:** Government agencies must process citizen data lawfully, with specific safeguards outlined to address concerns over exemptions for national security and public order.

Conclusion:

- The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, aim to strengthen India's data privacy framework while addressing challenges for businesses and individuals.
 - The reintroduction of data localisation and emphasis on consent management mark significant developments, but clarity on implementation and compliance mechanisms remains crucial.
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