

ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT SCHEME

The “One Station One Product” initiative by the Indian Railways, which provides uniquely designed sale outlets for locals to sell indigenous products, is now operational at 1,037 stations nationwide.



About One Station One Product scheme:

- It is an initiative by the Indian Railways, under the **Ministry of Railways**.
- It was launched with a vision to **promote ‘Vocal for Local’**.
- It provides uniquely designed sale outlets for locals to **sell indigenous products nationwide**.
- This scheme is designed by the **National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad**.
- It aims to build each railway station as a promotional hub and showcasing local and indigenous manufacturing products.
- Under the scheme, the allotment is done to all eligible applicants on a rotational basis.
- The pilot of the scheme was started on March 25, 2022.
- This scheme is providing welfare of local artisans, potters, weavers, tribals etc.
- The eligible applicant will be allotted a temporary stall or kiosk for a period of 15 days on deposition of Rs 1,000 with Railways.
- Sale outlets are provided at stations nationwide, allotted through a tendering process.
- The zonal railways will identify the stations, eligible products and the vendors.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Recently, India signed a \$400 million policy-based loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to create high-quality urban infrastructure, improve service delivery, and promote efficient governance systems.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- It is a multilateral development bank established on 19th December 1966.

- **Mission:** To foster economic growth and cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- **Functions:**
 - It assists members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
 - It also provides **financing to certain private sector projects** as well as public-private partnerships.
 - It regularly facilitates policy dialogues and provides advisory services.
- **Members:** It encompasses **68 members**—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- It is run by a board of governors, which represents the member countries of the ADB.
- It is modelled closely on the World Bank and **has a similar weighted voting** system where votes are distributed in proportion to members' capital subscriptions.
- As of 2022, ADB's five **largest shareholders are Japan and the United States** (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).
- **Source of Funding:** It relies on member contributions, retained earnings from lending, and the repayment of loans for the funding of the organization.
- **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines.

WHAT IS KANGRI?

As winter tightens its icy grip on the Kashmir valley, the traditional fire pot known as “Kangri” is seeing a surge in demand.



About Kangri:

- The Kangri, also known as **Kanger or Kangid**, is **earthenware filled with glowing embers and encased in pretty handmade wicker baskets**.
- It is a **portable and moving heater** that **Kashmiris keep in their pheran**, a long woollen cloak reaching down to the knees **worn by people during the frosty winters**.

- A **pot can hold** about 250 grams of **charcoal**, and the **fire, lasts for hours**, under a pheran.
- It **keeps people warm during the harsh winter months**, when temperatures can drop below minus 20 degrees.

How is it made?

- It is known for its **outer shell made of willow wicker reeds that grow abundantly in the wetlands of north Kashmir's Ganderbal district**.
- These **reeds can reach eight feet in height** and are **harvested during autumn**, just before demand for the fire pots swells.
- These then **go through a multi-layered process of scraping and peeling** to get rid of the bark, **soaking, boiling, and drying** before they are ready to be woven around a **bowl-shaped clay pot**.
- The earthenware is **decorated with colourful threads, mirrorwork, and sequins** and is about six inches (150 mm) in diameter.

MODEL PRISON ACT, 2023

Why in the News?

- The Union Home Secretary had sent a letter to all states and Union territories in May, 2023 which consisted of the 'Model Prisons Act, 2023'.
- The letter was uploaded recently on the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' website.

About Prisons Act, 1894 and the Need for a new Law:

- The present 'Prisons Act, 1894' is a pre-independence era Act and is almost 130 years old.
- The Act **mainly focuses on keeping the criminals in custody and enforcement of discipline and order in prisons**.
- There is **no provision for reform and rehabilitation of prisoners in the Act**.
- In the last few decades, an altogether new perspective has evolved about prisons and prison inmates, globally.

Salient Features of the new Model Prisons Act:

- Provision for security assessment and segregation of prisoners, individual sentence planning.
- Grievance redressal, prison development board, attitudinal change towards prisoners.
- Provision of **separate accommodation for women prisoners, transgender, etc.**
- Provision for use of technology in prison administration with a view to bring transparency in prison administration.
- Provision for **video conferencing with courts**, scientific and technological interventions in prisons, etc.
- Provision of punishment for prisoners and jail staff for use of prohibited items like mobile phones etc. in jails.
- Provision regarding establishment and management of high security jail, open jail (open and semi open), etc.
- Provision for protecting the society from the criminal activities of hardened criminals and habitual offenders, etc.
- Provision for **legal aid to prisoners**, provision of parole, furlough and premature release etc. to incentivize good conduct.
- Focus on vocational training and skill development of prisoners and their reintegration into the society.

DIGITAL INDIA BILL: CENTRE CONSIDERS SEEKING ACCESS TO ANONYMISED DATA OF BIG TECH FIRMS

Why in News?

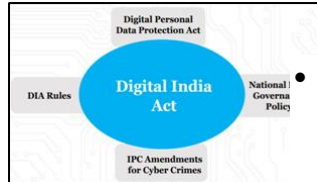
- Under the upcoming Digital India Bill, the Centre (MeitY) is considering issuing a directive to big tech companies like Facebook, Google and Amazon to share anonymised personal data in their possession with a government-backed database.

Need for the Digital India Bill:

- **The Bill will replace** the two decade old Information Technology Act 2000 (IT Act).

- **The IT Act** was crafted during a time when the internet was in its infancy, and has struggled to keep pace with the rapid changes in technology and user behaviour.
- Since its inception, **India's internet user base has exploded from a mere 5.5 million to a staggering 850 million.**
- **The nature of internet usage has also evolved**, with the emergence of various intermediaries and the proliferation of new forms of user harm, such as **cyberstalking, trolling and doxing.**
- **The Bill recognises these changes** and aims to provide a comprehensive legal framework to address them.
- **It is designed to address the challenges** and opportunities presented by the dramatic growth of the internet and emerging technologies.
- **The primary motivation** behind the Bill is to bring India's regulatory landscape in sync with the digital revolution of the 21st century.

Key Provisions of the Digital India Bill:



- The Bill is a key part of a **comprehensive legal framework** which encompasses various legislative measures such as
 - The recently-notified Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023
 - The draft Indian Telecommunication Bill 2022, and
 - A policy addressing the governance of non-personal data.
- **The Bill places a strong emphasis on online safety and trust**, with a commitment to safeguarding citizen's rights in the digital realm while remaining adaptable to shifting market dynamics and international legal principles.
- **It recognises the growing importance of new age technologies** such as artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain and provides guidelines for their responsible utilisation.
- **It upholds the concept of an open internet**, striking a balance between accessibility and necessary regulations to maintain order and protect users.
- **It mandates stringent Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements** for wearable devices, accompanied by criminal law sanctions.

- It contemplates a review of the “safe harbour” principle, which presently shields online platforms from liability related to user generated content, indicating a potential shift in online accountability standards.
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TRISHAKTI PRAHAR

Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.



About Trishakti Prahar:

- It is a **joint military exercise involving the Indian Army, the Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force.**
 - **Objectives:**
 - It aims to **enhance mutual coordination and operational efficiency.**
 - It seeks to **create new strategies and assess operational capabilities in the context of modern warfare.**
 - During the exercise, **all three wings of the Indian Army actively engage in live practice sessions**, simulating real war scenarios with complete coordination.
 - The exercise **includes long-range attacks by reconnaissance aircraft**, emphasizing precision and high-volume attacks **to effectively neutralize hypothetical adversaries.**
 - It involves a diverse array of military assets, including various types of **howitzers, helicopters**, and weaponry. This encompasses the deployment of **the Army's T-90s and Arjun main battle tanks.**
 - A **major highlight** of the exercise is the **demonstration of the operational capability and readiness of the Pune-based South western Command of the Indian Air Force.** This segment **showcases the Air Force's preparedness for integrated air-land operations**, combined arms operations, and its fast mobility and **deep strike offensive capabilities.**
 - **Fighter aircraft, Apache attack helicopters, Chinook heavy lift helicopters**, and various **Navy aircraft** contribute to the multifaceted nature of the exercise.
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- It serves as a **platform to evaluate the effectiveness of modern warfare technologies** such as unmanned aerial vehicles, precision-guided missiles, loiter munitions, counter-drone systems, communication systems, and automatic spectrum monitoring systems **in a simulated operational environment.**

FOUR OUT OF FIVE ORGAN RECIPIENTS IN COUNTRY ARE MEN: NOTTO DATA

Why in news?

- Four out of five organ recipients in India between 1995 and 2021 were men, according to data collated by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).
- These numbers indicate the prevailing gender disparity among those seeking healthcare.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)

- NOTTO is a national level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It functions as apex centre for all India activities of coordination and networking for:
 - procurement and distribution of organs and tissues; and
 - registry of Organs and Tissues Donation and Transplantation in country.
- **Institution**
 - NOTTO besides laying down policy guidelines and protocols for various functions, it coordinates all the activities associated with organ donation at national level.
- **Organ transplant rules**
 - In February 2023 the govt modified national organ transplantation guidelines.
 - The new guidelines have done away with the 65-year age limit for registration of patients seeking organs from a deceased donor.
 - There was no age cap for living donor transplants, where family members donate organs like kidneys and livers.
 - However, people over the age of 65 years couldn't register to receive organs from deceased donors as per guidelines of NOTTO.

- It has asked states to remove the domicile criterion for registering those seeking organs from deceased donor for transplant procedures.
- Now the needy person can go to any state of the country and register for getting organ and also get the transplant done.
- The patient will be allotted a unique ID by NOTTO on registering.
- This will get carried forward even if the patient changes multiple hospitals in different States.
- Noting that some states have been charging fees ranging between Rs 5,000 to 10,000 for registering such patients, this guideline has asked them not to charge money.

Organ transplantation in India – Statistics

- According to the NOTTO data, there has been an overall increase in the number of transplants in the country, with a record high of 16,041 such procedures in 2022.
- India has an **organ donation rate of about 0.52 per million populations.**
- In comparison, the organ donation rate in Spain, the highest in the world, is 49.6 per million populations.

MOUNT ETNA ERUPTS

Why in news?

- The Mount Etna volcano began erupting again on the island of Sicily, sending ash miles into the sky.
- The eruptive column is estimated to be more than 14,700 feet above sea level.

What is a volcano?

- **About**
 - Volcanoes are openings, or vents where lava, tephra (small rocks), and steam erupt onto the Earth's surface.
 - Volcanoes can be on land and in the ocean.
 - They are, in part, a result of their own eruptions but also the general formation of our planet, as tectonic plates move.

- **Eruption**

- Essentially, it is a case of magma, or molten rock, below the surface of the Earth, bubbling up, rising and overflowing,.
- The magma finds its way to vents in the volcano and gets spewed across the land and into the atmosphere.
- When magma erupts from a volcano, it is called lava.

Can scientists predict volcanic eruptions?

- Scientists are capable of predicting volcanic eruptions hours, or sometimes several days, in advance.
 - This is not the case with earthquakes, which are much harder to predict.
- Scientists use seismographic data from earthquakes and other tremors, because those can be a precursor to volcanic eruptions.
- They monitor the ground for signs of deformation, which may be caused by the movement of magma.
- They also take readings of volcanic gas emissions, and changes in gravity and magnetic fields.

Mount Etna

- **About**

- Mount Etna is an active strato volcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy.
- It is Europe's most active volcano and one of the largest in the world. Its recorded volcanic activity dates back to 1500 B.C.
- Since then, it has erupted more than 200 times.
- Etna has displayed a variety of eruption styles, including violent explosions and voluminous lava flows.