

NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

Recently Government of India announced a New India Literacy Programme for the year 2022-23 to 2026-27



About New India Literacy Programme:

- **Objectives:** It aims to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above.
- **Components:** (i) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (ii) Critical Life Skills, (iii) Vocational Skills Development, (iv) Basic Education and (v) Continuing Education.
- **Coverage:** The programme aims to cover a target of 5.00 crore learners during the five years under Foundational Literacy and Numeracy component.

Funding:

- The Central and State shares are in the ratio of 60:40 for all States.
- North Eastern Region (NER) and Himalayan States where the sharing pattern between the Centre and the State is in the ratio of 90:10.
- For UTs with legislature the ratio is 60:40, except in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir where the ratio is 90:10
- For all other UTs without legislature the Central share is 100%.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL

8th edition of India International Science Festival will be held in Bhopal



About India International Science Festival:

- It was first held in Delhi in 2015.
- Over all six editions of IISF have been organized since then in northern, southern and the eastern regions of the country.



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- It is an initiative of **Ministry of Science and Technology** and **Ministry of Earth Science** of Government of India in association with **Vijnana Bharati**
 - **Aim:** To show the ways how **science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)** provide us with the solutions to improve our lives.
 - It is a science movement with Swadeshi spirit lead by eminent scientists of the country.
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WEIGHING IN ON THE EFFICACY OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENT (FEMALE LEADERSHIP = GOOD GOVERNANCE = GENDER EQUALITY)

Context

- The article put emphasis upon the necessity to get rid of inherent biases and perceptions about the effectiveness of women in leadership roles and the need for increased female representation in policy making.
- The government data presented in the Lok Sabha recently found women representation in Parliament and most States legislatures below 15% and 19 State Assemblies have less than 10% women lawmakers.

Attributes of women leadership

- **Women's political empowerment** is premised on three fundamental and non-negotiable principles:
 - The equality between women and men (gender equality).
 - Women's right to full development of their potential.
 - Women's right to self-representation and self-determination.

Global picture – Female leadership during crisis

- The three countries namely **Germany, Taiwan and New Zealand** have women heads in their governments and that seem to have managed the Covid-19 pandemic much better than their neighbours.
- Also, the States in the USA having **female governors** witnessed fewer COVID-19 related deaths, as female governors acted more decisively by issuing earlier stay-at-home orders than their male counterparts.

- This means **women leaders are more effective** than their male counterparts in times of crises and there is the need of getting rid of inherent biases and perceptions about female effectiveness in leadership roles.

Scenario in India

- When it comes to the most important political right – **right to vote**, the women in India, unlike mature democracies of west, were allowed to vote from 1950 onwards on an equal footing with men. The US took several decades of struggle before women were allowed to vote in 1920.
- Indira Gandhi, Jayalalitha, Mayawati, Sushma Swaraj and Mamata Banerjee etc., are few **charismatic female leaders** India has produced. However, overall scenario in India is depressing.
- **For example:**
 - Female members make up only about 10% of the total ministerial strength in the Central government.
 - The situation in West Bengal (led by a female CM) is no different.
 - The 2019 election sent the largest number of women to the Lok Sabha, which is just over 14% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
- This gave India the **dismal rank of 143 out of 192** countries as per data reported by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Tiny **Rwanda comes out on top** with a staggering 60% of seats in its lower house occupied by women.

Gram Panchayats in India depicting the significance of female leadership

- Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo studied the **impact of reservations for women** in local governments and analyzed the effectiveness of female leadership.
- “The Panchayats”, added by **73rd Amendment** of the Indian Constitution mandated that all States had to reserve **one-third of all positions** of pradhan (head) for **women**.
 - Today, over a million women across India are elected members of around 2.6 lakh gram panchayats in the country.
- The study demonstrates that the **female leaders perform significantly better** than men in implementing policies that promote the interests of women.

PRADHAN MANTRI ADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA

Recently Ministry Of Tribal Affairs has revamped the existing Scheme of ‘Special Central Assistance to Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsha Gram Yojana.



About Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana:

- **Aim:** Transforming villages with significant tribal population into **model village** (Adarsh Gram) covering about population of 4.22 crore (About 40% of the total Tribal Population)

Objective

- To achieve integrated **socio-economic development** of selected villages through convergence approach.
- Improving the infrastructure in vital sectors like **health, education, connectivity and livelihood.**
- It includes maximizing the coverage of **individual / family benefit** schemes of the Central / State Governments.
- The scheme envisions to mitigate gaps prominently in **8 sectors** of development viz. Road connectivity , Telecom connectivity , School, Anganwadi Centres, Health Sub-Centre, Drinking water facility.

Revised Guidelines of the scheme

- The Scheme was revised to capture the Gaps in critical socio-economic ‘**Monitorable Indicators**’ as part of various sectors/domains namely; water and sanitation, education, health and nutrition, agricultural best practices etc.

New Approach for implementation

- The identification of needs or Gaps with regard to the ‘**Monitorable Indicators**’ are based on a **Need Assessment exercise.**
- The ‘**Village Development Plan**’ (VDP) is based on the data collected as part of the Need Assessment exercise.
- PMAGY provides the platform for convergent implementation of other Schemes with the aim to achieve saturation in the various domains.

AMID CHINA CYBER-ATTACKS, GOVT. ISSUES SOP FOR STAFF

In News:

- Facing repeated cyber-attack attempts from China, the government has decided to tighten its vigil.
- Employees across ministries and public sector units (PSUs) being asked to follow a standard operating protocol or face disciplinary action.
 - This SoP has various steps including basic hygiene such as switching off computers, signing out of emails and updating passwords.

Malware

- Malware, or malicious software, is any program or file that is intentionally harmful to a computer, network or server.
- It basically is a program designed to gain access to computer systems, normally for the benefit of some third party, without the user's permission.

Types:

• **Viruses**

- A Virus is a malicious executable code attached to another executable file. The virus spreads when an infected file is passed from system to system.
- Viruses can be harmless or they can modify or delete data. Once a program virus is active, it will infect other programs on the computer.

• **Worms**

- Worms replicate themselves on the system, attaching themselves to different files and looking for pathways between computers, such as computer network that shares common file storage areas.
- Worms usually slow down networks. A virus needs a host program to run but worms can run by themselves.

• **Spyware**

- Its purpose is to steal private information from a computer system for a third party. Spyware collects information and sends it to the hacker.
 - **Trojan horse**
 - A Trojan horse is malware that carries out malicious operations under the appearance of a desired operation such as playing an online game.
 - A Trojan horse varies from a virus because the Trojan binds itself to non-executable files, such as image files, audio files.
 - **Logic Bombs**
 - A logic bomb is a malicious program that uses a trigger to activate the malicious code.
 - The logic bomb remains non-functioning until that trigger event happens.
 - Once triggered, a logic bomb implements a malicious code that causes harm to a computer.
 - **Ransomware**
 - Ransomware grasps a computer system or the data it contains until the victim makes a payment.
 - Ransomware encrypts data in the computer with a key which is unknown to the user. The user has to pay a ransom (price) to the criminals to retrieve data.
 - **Backdoors**
 - A backdoor bypasses the usual authentication used to access a system.
 - The purpose of the backdoor is to grant the cyber criminals future access to the system even if the organization fixes the original vulnerability used to attack the system.
 - **Rootkits**
 - A rootkit modifies the OS to make a backdoor. Attackers then use the backdoor to access the computer distantly.
 - **Keyloggers**
 - Keylogger records everything the user types on his/her computer system to obtain passwords and other sensitive information and send them to the source of the keylogging program.
- Background:**
- On November 23, 2022, a breach was detected in AIIMS' internal systems. Not much later, the hospital's digital patient management system was crippled.

- The attack derailed everyday work, appointments and registration, billing, patient care information and lab reports.
- It corrupted files and data on main and backup servers of the mega-hospital.
- This led the hospital to shut down most digital patient care systems and move to manual means.
- Different media reports claimed that hackers asked for a ransom in order to return access to that data.

RAJYA SABHA PASSES 'FUTURISTIC' ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL

In News:

- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022**. The Lok Sabha had passed the amendment in August, 2022.
- With this, India has cleared the decks for mandate use of non-fossil sources, including green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass and ethanol for energy and feedstock and establish carbon markets in the country.

Background:

- The **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** provides a framework for regulating energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation.
- Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same task.
- The Act has set up the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** to recommend regulations and standards for energy consumption.
- These apply to appliances, vehicles, industrial and commercial establishments and buildings.

Need for an Amendment to the Act:

- During the Conference of Parties (COP-26) summit in 2021 in Glasgow, UK, India made the following commitments which may be relevant for energy efficiency efforts:
 - Reducing total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030, and
 - Reducing the carbon intensity of the economy by 45% by 2030 over 2005 levels.
- Carbon intensity is defined as the volume of carbon emissions per unit of GDP.

- In addition, India aims to have **500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity and meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.**
- Against this backdrop, the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha in August 2022.

About Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022:

- The Bill seeks to amend the 2001 Act to –
 - Facilitate the achievement of COP-26 goals, and
 - Introduce concepts such as mandated use of non-fossil sources and carbon credit trading to ensure faster decarbonisation of the Indian economy.
- Key Features of the Bill –
 - **Carbon Credit trading –**
 - The Bill empowers the central government to specify a carbon credit trading scheme.
 - Carbon credit implies a tradeable permit to produce a specified amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse emissions.
 - The central government or any authorised agency may issue carbon credit certificates to entities registered and compliant with the scheme.
 - **Obligation to use non-fossil sources of energy –**
 - The Act empowers the central government to specify energy consumption standards.
 - The Bill adds that the government may require designated consumers to meet a minimum share of energy consumption from non-fossil sources.
 - Designated consumers include – Industries, Transport sector and Commercial buildings.
 - **Energy conservation code for buildings –**
 - The Act empowers the central government to specify Energy Conservation Code for buildings.
 - The code prescribes energy consumption standards in terms of area.
 - The Bill amends this to provide for an ‘Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code’.
 - This new code will provide norms for energy efficiency and conservation, use of renewable energy, and other requirements for green buildings.
 - **Standards for vehicles and vessels –**

- Under the Act, the energy consumption standards may be specified for equipment and appliances which consume, generate, transmit, or supply energy.
 - The Bill expands the scope to include vehicles (as defined under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988), and vessels (includes ships and boats).
 - **Composition of the governing council of BEE –**
 - The Bill proposes to increase the number of members of the BEE from 20-26 to 31-37.
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ARAB-BUILT LUNAR SPACECRAFT

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket recently carried into space the first ever Arab-built lunar spacecraft.



About Arab-Built Lunar Spacecraft:

- It was launched from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- The Rashid Rover named after the late Sheikh Rashid Al Saeed, the former ruler of Dubai.

Development:

- The Rashid Rover was built by Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and is being delivered by the HAKUTO-R lander, engineered by Japanese lunar exploration company ispace.

Landing:

- The mission is taking a low energy route to the moon and is due to arrive around April 2023.
- If the landing is successful, HAKUTO-R will also become the first commercial spacecraft ever to make a controlled landing on the moon.
- Scheduled to touch down in the Atlas crater the northeast part of the moon, the rover has been designed to withstand the lunar night, when temperatures can reach as low as -183°C, or -297.4°F.

Study:

- It will analyze the plasma on the lunar surface and conduct experiments to understand more about lunar dust.

- Razor-sharp lunar dust particles can stick to and erode spacesuits and equipment, causing operational problems for astronauts.
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INDIA, CHINA TROOPS CLASHED NEAR LAC IN ARUNACHAL: ARMY

In News:

- Indian and Chinese army troops clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang Sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9.
- The clash in the LAC's eastern sector, that includes Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, comes when tensions in the northern sector of Ladakh are yet to be fully resolved.

Background: Sino – India Border Dispute

- The territorial dispute along the China-India border falls across three different areas:
 - **The eastern sector**, about 90,000 square kilometers, corresponds roughly to the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and is under Indian control.
 - **The western sector**, sometimes called Aksai Chin or part of Ladakh, involves about 33,000 square kilometers and several districts in Xinjiang.
 - It is under Chinese control.
 - **The central or middle sector**, west of Nepal, is the smallest contested area, around 2,000 square kilometers, and control is divided.
- In 1993, after years of territorial standoffs and negotiations, China and India finally signed an agreement which attempted to mark out a long stretch of border between the two countries.
- That border is known as the line of actual control (LAC), but its precise location can be blurry, and there is still dispute between China and India
 - So far, this LAC has served as the de facto border between these two countries.
 - However, in at least 13 places, the two sides disagree over where the LAC lies.

Border Dispute in Eastern Sector: McMahon Line

- The disputed boundary in the Eastern Sector of the India-China border is over the McMahon Line.



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- Representatives of China, India and Tibet in 1913-14 met in Shimla to settle the boundary between Tibet and India, and Tibet and China.
- During the Shimla conference, Sir Henry McMahon, the then foreign secretary of British India, drew up the 550 miles (890 km) McMahon Line as the border between British India and Tibet.
- The McMahon line moved British control substantially northwards. This agreement ceded Tawang and other Tibetan areas to the imperial British Empire.
- Though the Chinese representatives at the meeting initialled the agreement, they subsequently refused to accept it.
- Subsequently, the Chinese government stated that it does not recognize the "illegal" McMahon Line.
- China accuses India of occupying areas in Arunachal, which it calls part of Southern Tibet.

Steps taken by India to counter China in this region

- **India strengthening its vulnerabilities**
 - It is working towards mitigating the threat to the vulnerable Chicken's Neck area.
 - Chicken's Neck area or the Siliguri Corridor is the narrow strip of land that connect the North-east with rest of India.

DEC 9 FACE-OFF BIGGEST SINCE GALWA

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| <p>> This is the first major clash between India and China since the Galwan Valley incident in eastern Ladakh on June 15, 2020, which claimed 20 Indian lives</p> <p>> Army said the face-off between the troops took place at Yangtse in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on the morning of December 9</p> | <p>> Close to 300-400 soldiers from PLA intruded across the Line of Actual Control (LAC)</p> <p>> Indian soldiers "contested in a firm and resolute manner"</p> <p>> Both the sides sustained fractured limbs and other injuries, said Army</p> <p>> Indian command later held a flag meeting to discuss the issue</p> |
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- India has also maximised the use of for ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance).
- **New aviation brigade in the eastern sector**
 - India raised a new aviation brigade in the eastern sector this year.
 - It was raised in March at Missamari in Assam, close to Tezpur.
 - The brigade is mandated with the task of increasing surveillance along the LAC in the eastern sector.