

### MARITIME STOCKTAKING

#### Context

- As India celebrates the Navy Day on December 4, the article highlights the need to focus on maritime security and building a strong navy to meet India's global aspirations.
- The Indian Navy Day is being celebrated to commemorate the Indian Navy's counter-attack in Operation Trident during the Indo-Pakistan war in 1971.

#### Indian Naval feats in the past

- The navy of 10th century South Indian Emperor **Rajendra Chola** vanquished the Sumatra-based Sri Vijaya to establish Chola power across present-day Malaysia and Indonesia.
- The **Zamorins of Kozhikode** waged a 90-year-long naval campaign led by the captains of the Kunjali Marakkar clan to eject the Portuguese from Malabar.
- The 17th century **Maratha** Konkan fleet actively attacked the British, Dutch and Portuguese, scoring many victories.
- In 1736, Bombay's Lovji Nusserwanji Wadia started Wadia master shipbuilders constructing merchantmen and warships for the British.
- In 1941, Seth Walchand Hirachand resurrected Indian shipbuilding by founding Scindia Shipyard Ltd. in Visakhapatnam and built first modern, Indian-built merchant vessel, **MV Jalusha** in 1948.
  - It was later nationalized in 1961 and renamed as Hindustan Shipyard Limited and brought under the Ministry of Shipping.
  - In 2010, Ministry of Defence took it under its control.

#### Capacity building of Indian navy after independence

- **INS Nilgiri**: Mazagon Docks delivered India's first warship in 1972. According to the Defence Ministry website, the Indian Navy's present force level is of about 150 ships and submarines.
- **INS Arihant**: The Indian Navy has developed the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine INS Arihant in 2016.

- **INS Vikrant:** India launched its largest indigenously built warship, which is an aircraft carrier capable of operating the Russian MiG-29K.
- **INS Visakhapatnam:** It is a stealth guided-missile destroyer ship inducted in the Indian Navy in 2021.
- **INS Surat and Udaygiri:** Indian Navy in 2022 launched two frontline warships, **INS Surat** - a Project 15B Destroyer, and **INS Udaygiri** - a Project 17A Frigate.
  - The **Project 15B** class of ships are the next-generation stealth-guided missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.
  - Under the **P17A programme**, various novel concepts and technologies have been adopted for the first time in indigenous warship design and construction in this project.
- **Marine Commandos (MARCOS):** This special force unit of the Indian Navy, trained to conduct amphibious warfare, counter-terrorism, etc. were the first to respond to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

## Major operations of Indian Navy

- **Operation Trident:** It was a counter-attack by the Indian Navy on the Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pakistan war in 1971.
  - In this operation, India used anti-ship missiles (such as INS Veer) for the first time during this operation and destroyed the Pakistani destroyer ship PNS Khaibar.
- **Op Python:** It was launched after Op Trident in which Karachi port was attacked during Indo-Pak war 1971.
- **Op Cactus:** It was conducted to pacify the situation in Maldives and Sri Lanka in 1988. INS Godavari and INS Betwa were involved in the operation at the Sri Lankan coast.
- **Op Talwar:** It was planned during Kargil war in 1999 when Indian Navy prepared a blockade for the Pakistani boats near the Karachi port to stop the supply of oil and fuel.
  - Indian Navy also threatened to cut the trade routes of the Pakistan and started patrolling in the Arabian Sea.

## Need for India to strengthen maritime security

- **For national security and territorial integrity:** India is predominantly peninsular in nature with a coastline of 7,517 km and 1,197 islands which are important from aspect of national security.
  - Preventing sea-based threats such as piracy, illegal immigration, weapon smuggling, terrorist attacks etc. are critical to India’s territorial integrity.
- **Securing Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs):** India’s exports and imports take place mostly across the shipping lanes of the Indian Ocean. Therefore, securing SLOCs is critical for smooth and constant trade.
- **Hostile neighbourhood:** China’s aggressive posturing and growing military presence in the Indian Ocean as depicted by the military base at **Djibouti**, the satellite and missile tracking ship, Yuan Wang 5 in Hambantota Port, Sri Lanka etc., stresses upon the security imperative of Indian navy.
- **Regional Uncertainty:** The conflicts in countries such as in Somalia, Yemen, Iran, and other countries which lie in Indian Ocean region (IOR) makes maritime security more significant.

## Conclusion

- The need is to cut down on defence imports and boost domestic manufacturing has gained further urgency due to ongoing Russian war in Ukraine and the large-scale dependency of Indian military on Russian arms and equipment.
- Given India’s political leadership’s regional and global aspirations, the indigenization can make significant contribution to outshine India as a regional “net security provider”.

## RABI CROPS

According to the Union Ministry of Agriculture, area under rabi crops increases 6% higher from the year-ago period.



### About:

- Farmers have sown rabi crops in over 70 per cent of the 633.80 lakh hectares (lh) of the normal area so far, some 6 per cent

higher from the year-ago period.

- Higher acreage and potentially conducive weather throughout the season may help the country to have another year of bumper harvest.
- **The total rabi acreage is 450.61 lh as of December 2 against 423.52 lh in the corresponding period a year ago.**
- Wheat, the key winter-grown cereal, has been planted on 211.62 lh against 200.85 lh, up 5.4 per cent.
- The absolute increase in area under wheat from the year-ago level has narrowed down for the first time after rising almost every week since the beginning of the sowing season.
- Many parts of north-west India, the key producing region of wheat, mustard and chana (gram), may see a warmer winter season **primarily due to likely subdued activity of western disturbances.**
- The area under winter paddy has increased to 10.62 lh from 9.53 lh while coarse cereals acreage is up at 32.63 lh from 29.02 lh.

## PM DAKSH PROGRAM

According to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment about 5 lakh people got benefits under PM Daksh Program.



### About:

- **PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) in 2020-21.**
- It is a National Action Plan for skilling marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.

### Objective:

- The main objective of the PM-DAKSH Yojana is to increase the skill levels of the target youth by providing them short term and long term skills, followed by assistance in wage/self-employment.



# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



## Target Group:

- It aims to improve all-round competency of 2.7 lakh persons, over the next 5 years, beginning with nearly 0.5 lakh youth in the first year i.e. 2021-22, from the following sections of the target group:
- **Artisans-** who may be able to improve their revenue generation capacities within their practicing vocations;
- **Women-** who may be able to enter into self-employment and financially empower themselves without neglecting their domestic activities; and
- **Youth-** who may acquire long-term training and specialization in employable vocations and gain a better standing in the job market.

## Eligibility:

- **Candidates of age group 18-45 years** belonging to any of the following categories can apply for the training programme under PM-DAKSH:
  - Persons belonging to Scheduled Castes.
  - Other Backward Classes (OBCs) having annual family income below Rs. 3 lakh.
  - Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) having annual family income below Rs. 1 lakh.
  - De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribe (DNT).
  - Safai Karamcharis (including waste pickers) and their dependants.

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## GOVT TO EXTEND PM GATI SHAKTI PROJECT TO COVER SOCIAL SECTOR

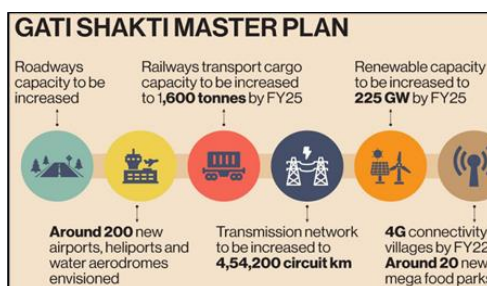
### In News:

- The Commerce and Industry Ministry's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has begun working with five social sector departments, to improve the efficiency of social sector infrastructure with the help of **PM Gati Shakti initiative**.
- The social sector departments include the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Department of Rural Development among others.

## PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity:

- **About:**

- It is a master plan for multi-modal connectivity (launched in October 2021), to give more speed (Gati) and power (Shakti) to infrastructure projects by connecting 16 Ministries, including Railways and Roadways, on one digital platform.
- While the Government has not specified the size of the programme in financial terms, it will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore **National Infrastructure Pipeline** (launched in 2019).



- **Six pillars of PM GatiShakti:**

- **Comprehensiveness:** It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various ministries and departments with one centralised portal.

- **For example**, it will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, UDAN etc.
- It will also cover economic zones like textile clusters, electronic parks, etc.
- **Prioritisation:** It will enable different departments to prioritise their projects through cross-sectoral interactions.
- **Optimisation:** It will assist different ministries in planning for projects after the identification of critical gaps. **For example**, for the transportation of goods the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.
- **Synchronisation:** It will help in synchronising the activities (different layers of governance) of each department in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.
- **Analytical:** It will provide the entire data at one place with **GIS-based spatial planning**, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.
  - For this, spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics) will be leveraged.
- **Dynamic:** All ministries and departments will now be able to visualise, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects.
- **Significance:**

- Integrated planning and coordinated implementation.
- Institutionalising holistic planning for stakeholders.
- Integrated and seamless connectivity.
- **Better feedback and review mechanism:** The GIS platform will give on-ground progress of the projects.
- Easy planning and execution of projects.
- Improves Ease of Living as well as Ease of Doing Business.
- **Boosting the Indian economy:** Reducing logistics costs → strengthening supply chains → boost the global competitiveness of local products → help India become an attractive investment destination.

#### News Summary:

- Gati Shakti - National Master Plan, launched last year to reduce logistic costs, is a technology-based tool for effective and integrated infrastructure development in the country.
- Under the PM Gati Shakti plan, all logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects worth more than 500 crore are channelled through the Network Planning Group (NPG).
- Over 250 critical infrastructure projects of different ministries, including rail, road and ports, have been examined and recommended by the NPG since last October 2021.
- Over 1,994 layers of data, including that of land, ports, forests and highways, are available on the portal.
- According to the DPIIT, the PM Gati Shakti program is working well for infrastructure development projects and has just begun collaborating with social sector departments to see how the initiative may be used to enhance the functioning of these sectors.
- **For example**, apart from building schools and hospitals, the projects could also include transporting children from villages to a larger school, planning **anganwadi locations using the data layers** through PM Gati Shakti.
- **The five departments** are health, ministry of women and child development, department of rural development and panchayat raj, education, and ministry of housing and urban affairs.
- Furthermore, it is proposed that the scope be broadened to include the culture ministry in order to strengthen the infrastructure surrounding monuments.

## SWARGADEO SAULUNG SUKAPHA

On the occasion of Assam Day, or “Asom Diwas”, celebrated every year on December 2, tributes poured in for Swargadeo Chaolung Sukapha.



### About:

- The Assam day is also known as "Sukapha Diwas" in honour of the founder of the Ahom kingdom.
- He was a 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries.
- It was in Charaideo that Sukapha established his first small principality, sowing the seeds of further expansion of the Ahom kingdom.

### Why is Sukapha important?

- Sukapha’s significance lies in his successful efforts towards assimilation of different communities and tribes.
- He is widely referred to as the architect of “Bor Asom” or “greater Assam”.
- Sukapha developed very amiable relationships with the tribal communities living in Assam — especially the Sutias, the Morans and the Kacharis.
- Intermarriage also increased assimilation processes.

### Ahoms:

- The founders of the Ahom kingdom had their own language and followed their own religion. Over the centuries, the Ahoms accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.
- Today, the Ahom community is estimated to number between 4 million and 5 million.

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## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (IDPWD)

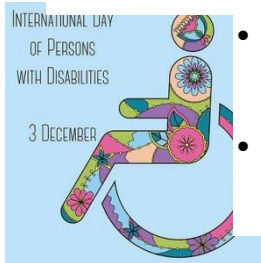
International Day of Persons with Disabilities is being observed on December 3, 2022.



## About:

- International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD) is a United Nations sanctioned day celebrated internationally on 3 December each year.
- The annual observance of the **International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.**
- Its objective is to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development and to increase awareness.

## Definition of disability in India:



- Until the 2011 census, the questionnaire to identify people with disabilities, included questions on seven kinds of disabilities.
- This list of disabilities was **expanded to 21 when the Rights of People with Disabilities Act, 2016 was introduced.**

## National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022:

- It is being organized by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- The Ministry confers these Awards for outstanding achievements and work done towards the **empowerment of Persons with Disabilities every year.**
- The National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022, are being given under **various categories including Sarvshresth Divyangjan, Shresth Divyangjan and Shresth Divyang Bal/Balika.**