

WHAT IS GHAR (GO HOME AND RE-UNITE) PORTAL?

GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite Portal have been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).



About GHAR Portal:

- It is a portal to **digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children** according to the protocols under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and Rules thereof.
- It has been **developed and launched by the** National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- The following are the **salient features** of the portal:
 - Digital **tracking and monitoring of children** who are **in the Juvenile Justice system** and have to be **repatriated to another Country/State/District**.
 - **Digital transfer of cases** of children to the concerned Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee of the State. It will help in the speedy repatriation of children.
 - Where there is a requirement of a translator/interpreter/expert, request will be made to the concerned State Government.
 - Child Welfare Committees and District Child Protection Officers can ensure proper restoration and rehabilitation of children by **digitally monitoring the progress of the case**.
 - A checklist format will be provided in the forms so that the **children who are being hard to repatriate** or children who are **not getting their entitled compensation** or other monetary benefits **can be identified**.
 - **List of Government implemented schemes will be provided**, so that at the time of restoration, the Child Welfare Committees can link the child with the schemes to strengthen the family and ensure that the child remains with his/her family.

INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED (IREDA)

IREDA in partnership with its knowledge partner Boston Consulting Group (BCG) recently convened a Strategic Meeting focusing on key aspects of business expansion and



initiatives aimed at cost reduction in fund utilization.

About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

- It is a **Mini Ratna (Category-I) non-banking financial institution** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- It is a **Public Limited Government Company** established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFC) in 1987.
- IREDA has been notified as a **“Public Financial Institution”** under Section 4 ‘A’ of the **Companies Act, 1956**, and registered as NBFC with the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**).
- IREDA is **primarily engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy** and energy efficiency/conservation.
- IREDA is the **single largest "Green Financier" in the country**. It caters to all technologies in the renewable energy sector and predominantly provides financing for the sector.
- **Motto: ENERGY FOR EVER**
- **Objectives:**
 - To give **financial support to specific projects and schemes for generating electricity and/ or energy through new and renewable sources** and conserving energy through energy efficiency.
 - To **maintain its position as a leading organization** to provide efficient and effective financing in renewable energy and energy efficiency/ conservation projects.
 - To **increase IREDA’s share in the renewable energy sector** by way of innovative financing.

- Improvement in the efficiency of services provided to customers through continual improvement of systems, processes, and resources.
 - To strive to be a competitive institution through customer satisfaction.
 - **Funding:** IREDA generates its revenue through the **interest and principal repayments from the projects it finances**, as well as by **raising funds from the market** and through borrowings.
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WHAT IS WHEAT BLAST?

Researchers who have modeled for the first time how wheat blast will spread in the future found the fungal disease could reduce global wheat production by 13% until 2050.



- Wheat blast, caused by the plant fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*, is a fast-acting, severe disease of wheat that causes bleaching of the heads.
- *Magnaporthe oryzae* can infect many grasses, including barley, lolium, rice, and wheat, but specific isolates of this pathogen generally infect limited species; that is, wheat isolates infect preferably wheat plants but can use several more cereal and grass species as alternate hosts.
- It spreads through infected seeds, crop residues, and spores that can travel long distances in the air.
- It thrives in warm and humid conditions, making regions with such climates particularly susceptible.
- The pathogen is also resistant to fungicides.
- The seriousness of the disease is indicated by the fact that crops are burned to avoid this disease.

Effects:

- It causes progressive bleaching of the heads, lower yields, and poor seed quality.

- **Stems and leaves are discoloured**, with dark brown, eye-shaped lesions on leaves.
 - Sometimes **dark grey spores** can be seen.
 - It can **shriveled and deform the grain** in less than a week from the first symptoms.
 - **History of the Outbreak:**
 - **First found in Brazil in 1985**, it spread quickly through South America, infecting around three million hectares of wheat within a decade.
 - **In 2016, it made it across to Bangladesh**, and **in 2020**, it was **confirmed in Africa**, in crops in Zambia.
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EXERCISE VAYU SHAKTI-24

The Indian Air Force will be conducting Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on 17 February 2024 at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range, near Jaisalmer.



- The Indian Air Force is slated to carry out three large scale war games on February 17, namely, **Vayu Shakti**, **Gagan Shakti** and **Tarang Shakti**.
- It will be a riveting demonstration of the **offensive and defensive capabilities** of the IAF, spanning across day and night.
- The exercise will also showcase **joint operations with the Indian Army**.
- **Exercise Vayu Shakti**
 - The IAF will first undertake the major "Vayu Shakti" firepower demonstration, which is held once **every three years**, with 135 fighters, aircraft, helicopters and drones at the Pokhran field firing ranges.
- **Gagan Shakti'**
 - The second mega exercise will be 'Gagan Shakti'.
 - In this, almost the entire air fleet race would be activated from north to south, and from west to east to test integrated war fighting strategies and tactics with the other two forces and other stakeholders.

- All the potent weapon systems like the Rafale fighter aircraft and the S-400 air defense systems would be participating in the ‘Gagan Shakti’ exercise.
 - The exercise, which is held **once in five years**, is also going to be the biggest ever of the series with active participation from other two services.
 - **Tarang Shakti**
 - The third major exercise, **Tarang Shakti**, would be the first ever **multinational exercise** to be held in the country.
 - This will see aircraft from friendly air forces like the US, Germany, France, Australia and neighbouring and other friendly countries taking part in it.
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WHAT IS NANO DAP?

Recently, the Finance Minister of India, presenting the interim budget announced the expansion of the application of Nano DAP on various crops in all agro climatic zones.



- It is a **unique liquid fertilizer** product that contains nanoparticles of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP).
- It is a **source of nitrogen and phosphorus** – 2 key primary nutrient essential for the growth of crops.
- It is containing 8% Nitrogen and 16% Phosphorus by volume.
- Unlike conventional DAP, which comes in granular form, IFFCO’s **Nano DAP is in liquid form.**
- It has an advantage in terms of surface area to volume, as its particle size is less than 100 Nanometre (nm).

Advantages of NANO DAP

- **Higher Crop Yield:** Due to small size and more surface area to volume ratio; seed treatment and foliar application of Nano DAP at critical growth stages enhances nutrient availability to crops. Hence, Crop yield increases due to

increase in leaf chlorophyll, photosynthesis, root biomass, number of effective tillers and branches.

- **Quality Food:** Nutritional quality of harvested food produce was found to be better in terms of protein and nutrient content.
- **Reduction in Chemical Fertilizer Usage:** Enhanced use efficiency of one bottle (500 ml) of Nano DAP can potentially replace the phosphorus requirement met by conventional DAP by 50%.
- **Environment Friendly:** Production of Nano DAP is energy and resource friendly. Precision and targeted application of this to crops therefore leads to agriculture sustainability and safety of the environment by reducing soil, air and water pollution.
- It is more pocket-friendly than its conventional counterpart. A 500 ml bottle of Nano DAP, equivalent to a 50-kg bag of conventional DAP
- It is set to significantly **reduce this import burden.**

What is DAP?

- DAP, or **di-ammonium phosphate**, is the second most commonly used fertiliser in India after urea.
- It is **high in phosphorus (P)** that stimulates root establishment and development — without which plants cannot grow to their normal size, or will take too long to mature.

LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA



The 22nd Law Commission of India led by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi has recommended that the offence of criminal defamation should be retained in the new criminal laws.

About Law Commission of India:

- It is a **non-statutory body** and is constituted by a notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice.

- It is constituted with a **definite terms of reference** to carry out research in the field of law and the Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference.
 - It functions to the Ministry of Law and Justice as an **advisory body**.
 - **History of Law Commission of India**
 - The first **pre-independence** law commission was established in 1834 by the British Government in India.
 - It was established by **the Charter Act of 1833** and was chaired by **Lord Macaulay**.
 - The **first Law Commission** of independent India was established in **1955** under the chairmanship of the former Attorney General for India **C. Setalvad**.
 - This Commission was created for a period of three years and this practice has persisted ever since then, resulting in the reconstitution of Law Commissions every three years via executive orders.
 - The **executive orders** that constitute the Law Commissions also **specify their scope and purpose**, and thus these fluctuate periodically.
 - Since then, twenty one more Law Commissions have been constituted, each with a three-year term and with certain terms of reference.
 - The Law Commission has taken up various subjects on references made by Department of Legal Affairs, Supreme Court and High Courts.
 - The **Twenty Second Law Commission** has been notified with effect from 21st February, **2020 for a term of 3 years**.
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THE CRIME OF PIRACY, AND HOW MARITIME FORCES RESPOND TO IT

Why in news?

- The Indian Navy foiled a piracy attempt on an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel, FV Omaril, off the east coast of Somalia on February 2.

Maritime crime of piracy

- **About**

- As per the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) from 1982, maritime piracy is when people on a private boat or ship commit crimes like kidnapping, violence, or robbery for personal gain.
- In other words, the term ‘piracy’ is used to describe a range of crimes from petty theft from ships at sea or anchorage to armed robbery and hijacking of a ship for ransom.

Increase in the incidents of piracy

- **About**

- In recent years, waters off the west coast of Africa, Gulf of Aden, Horn of Africa, Bangladesh, and the Strait of Malacca have seen attacks by pirates.
- Over the past few weeks, there has been a sudden increase in piracy incidents in the Northern Indian Ocean region and the Western Arabian Sea.

- **Reasons**

- These sea areas are poorly policed. The coastal countries have weak maritime forces, or none at all.
- These areas normally have concentrations of shipping traffic.
 - They might be places where ships have to slow down because of the geography (choke points) or places where ships wait before going into ports.
- These areas are mostly international waters that fall within the maritime jurisdiction of several countries.
- This leads to legal complexities and difficulties in coordination.

Role of Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy has been among the most proactive forces deployed in the troubled area off the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden.
- Its **anti-piracy patrol that started in 2008 continues to this day.**
 - Since 2008, Indian Navy has deployed units in Gulf of Aden and East Coast of Africa towards antipiracy patrols.

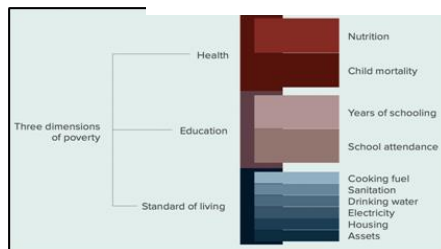
MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY - MEANING, NUMBERS

Multidimensional Poverty

- A person who is poor can suffer multiple disadvantages at the same time – for example they may have poor health or malnutrition, a lack of clean water or electricity, poor quality of work or little schooling.
- Focusing on one factor alone, such as income, is not enough to capture the true reality of poverty.
- Multidimensional Poverty is a **measure of poverty that captures deprivations in education and access to basic infrastructure in addition to income or consumption at the \$2.15 international poverty line** (as per World Bank).

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index:

- **About**
 - The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a key international resource that measures **acute multidimensional poverty** across more than 100 developing countries.
 - The MPI is published by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the UNDP's Human Development Report Office.
 - The Index tracks deprivation across the following 3 dimensions and 10 indicators:



- The MPI ranges from **0 to 1**, and higher values imply higher poverty.
 - According to the MPI method, if a person is deprived in a third or more of 10 (weighted) indicators, they are identified as “MPI poor”.
- **India and Global MPI 2023**
 - According to the 2023 Global MPI, India lifted 415 million people out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-21.
- India is one of 25 countries that have successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.