INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA)

- It is the **global trade association of airlines** (for both freight and passenger carriers) that **regulates** the **aviation industry** by **developing standards, procedures, and practices.**
- It was **founded in Havana, Cuba**, on 19 April **1945**. It is the **successor to the International Air Traffic Association,** founded in the Hague in 1919.
- It was **created with the goal** of **promoting cooperation among airlines,** as well as facilitating the **development of regulations and procedures** that ensure the **safety, efficiency, and sustainability of air transport.**
- Although the formal regulation of international civil aviation is the responsibility of bodies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), IATA acts primarily as an industry association that **develops operational standards and best practices** widely **adopted by airlines and logistics operators.**
- In practice, its activity focuses on **three main areas:**
    - **Standardization of processes and documentation** used in international air transport.
    - **Development of technical regulations for the transport of goods,** especially in sensitive areas such as **dangerous goods or perishable products.**
    - **Financial cooperation and settlement systems** that enable airlines to operate global transportation networks.
- **Members**:
    - At its founding, IATA had 57 members from 31 nations, mostly in Europe and North America.
    - **Presently,** it has **airline members in 126 countries** and territories, comprising around **82 percent of total air traffic.**
- **Head Office: Montreal, Canada.**

SMILE SCHEME

- The **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise scheme** (SMILE) scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme launched on 12th February 2022.**
- It includes **two sub-schemes:**
  - Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons'
  - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.
- **Features of the SMILE Scheme**
  - **Scholarships**: It **provides Scholarships** for Transgender Students **studying in IX and tillpost-graduation** to enable them to complete their education.
  - **Skill Development and Livelihood:** It has provisions for **Skill Development and Livelihood** under the PM-DAKSH scheme.
  - **Composite Medical Health:** Through Composite Medical Health it provides a comprehensive package in convergence with PM-JAY supporting Gender-Reaffirmation surgeries through selected hospitals.
  - **Garima Greh:** It provides **shelter homes provide safe**, dignified accommodation to **transgender persons** who face homelessness as a result of family rejection or social stigma.
  - **Transgender Protection Cells:** These **cells in each state** will monitor cases of offences and to ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of offences.
  - **National Portal & Helpline:** It will **provide necessary information and solutions** to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging when needed.

DOPING IN SPORTS - CHALLENGES, GOVERNMENT MEASURES

- Doping refers to the use of prohibited substances or methods by athletes to enhance performance unfairly.
- It violates the principles of fair play and sporting integrity. The global framework governing anti-doping is led by the **World Anti-Doping Agency** (WADA).
- Prohibited substances include anabolic steroids, stimulants, hormones, and masking agents. Prohibited methods include blood doping and gene doping.
- These substances artificially improve strength, endurance, or recovery, giving athletes an unfair advantage.
- Doping is detected through urine and blood tests conducted both during competitions and outside competitions.
- **Anti-Doping Rule Violations** (ADRVs) include not only testing positive but also refusal to test, tampering with samples, and trafficking banned substances.
- The consequences of doping include suspension, disqualification, loss of medals, and reputational damage. In serious cases, criminal penalties may also be imposed depending on national laws.
- Doping also has serious health risks. It can lead to hormonal imbalance, cardiovascular problems, liver damage, and psychological disorders.
- Therefore, anti-doping is not only about fairness but also about athlete welfare.

Steps Taken by the Government to Control Doping

- India has taken multiple institutional, legal, and administrative steps to tackle doping in sports.
- The **National Anti-Doping Agency** (NADA) is the primary body responsible for implementing anti-doping rules in India.
    - It conducts testing, manages results, and ensures compliance with WADA standards.

- India has adopted the **National Anti-Doping Act, 2022**.
    - This law provides statutory backing to anti-doping efforts and aligns India's framework with international obligations.
    - It strengthens investigation, adjudication, and enforcement mechanisms.
- Testing infrastructure has been expanded. More in-competition and out-of-competition tests are conducted to detect violations early. There is also a focus on expanding testing at state and district levels.
- Educational initiatives have been launched to create awareness among athletes, coaches, and support staff. These programmes aim to prevent inadvertent doping due to lack of knowledge.
- The government is also **considering the criminalisation of doping**.
- This includes action against coaches, suppliers, and networks involved in distributing banned substances. Such measures aim to create a strong deterrent effect.
- Coordination between stakeholders has improved. The Ministry of Sports, NADA, and sports federations are working together to strengthen monitoring and enforcement.

Observations made by AIU

- The AIU noted that **India's anti-doping programme is not proportionate to the scale of the doping problem**. It emphasised the need for reforms, including better intelligence gathering and more widespread testing.
- Suggestions include **criminalising doping and targeting the supply chains** of banned substances.
- **Significance**
    - The downgrade places India in "**Category A",** which requires stricter compliance with global anti-doping norms. This includes mandatory testing protocols for athletes participating in international events.
    - The issue is particularly significant as it could impact India's credibility and preparedness to host global sporting events like the Olympics.

ODISHA LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

The Odisha government has partnered with the National Centre for Coastal Research under the Ministry of Earth Sciences to launch a **Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)** for integrated coastal and marine management.

Sustainable ocean planning in India began in **2019** through a **partnership with Norway**. The initial phase focused on the Union Territories of Puducherry and Lakshadweep. Building on this, Odisha has now become the **first state** to implement Marine Spatial Planning in the second phase.

National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR): Role and Functions

- The National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), established in 1998 in Chennai under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, is a key institution for scientific research and monitoring of coastal and marine environments.
- Originally known as Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management Project Directorate (ICMAM-PD), it supports sustainable coastal management, hazard mitigation, and ecosystem protection.
- **Key Functions**
    - **Shoreline Management**: Tracks coastal erosion and changes using satellite and field data, generating maps for all Indian states and Union Territories.
    - **Pollution and Water Quality Monitoring**: Assesses coastal water health across multiple hotspots, studying pollutants such as microplastics and heavy metals.
    - **Hazard Mitigation:** Develops tools like coastal flood warning systems and shoreline assessment systems to manage risks from tsunamis and storm surges.
    - **Ecosystem Research**: Conducts studies on coastal habitats to support sustainable resource management.
    - **Capacity Building**: Promotes awareness and training through internships, lab visits, and educational initiatives in ocean and environmental sciences.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP): A Framework for Sustainable Ocean Management

- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a **strategic tool** for integrated and sustainable management of ocean resources, aimed at promoting the blue economy and enhancing climate resilience.
- It enables the planned use of marine spaces for activities such as energy generation, ports and industries, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, and environmental conservation.
- Under MSP, experts **map coastal and marine areas** to allocate specific zones for different human activities, balancing ecological protection with economic and social objectives.
- In India, MSP is part of the **Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative** launched in 2019, aligning with the government's focus on the blue economy as a key growth driver.

Marine Spatial Planning in Odisha: Context and Significance

- Odisha has a **coastline of over 550 km**, characterised by lagoons, mangroves, and estuaries.
- These ecosystems support biodiversity, livelihoods, and economic activities, making coastal management crucial for the state.
- **Scientific Mapping and Data-Driven Planning**
    - Under the MoU with the National Centre for Coastal Research, detailed studies will be conducted on:
        - **Water characteristics**: salinity, temperature, and other parameters
        - **Benthic mapping**: mapping vegetation beneath the sea
    - Identification of zones suitable for:
        - Tourism
        - Fisheries and aquaculture
        - Seagrass and seaweed cultivation
        - Other economic activities
    - This data will help the government formulate evidence-based policies.

JAPAN

- **Location:** It is an **island nation in East Asia,** situated in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean.
- **Maritime borders:** It is bordered by the **Pacific Ocean** (East), **Sea of Okhotsk** (North), Sea of Japan (West East) and **East China Sea** (Southwest).
- **Capital City:** Tokyo
- **Geographical Features of Japan:**
  - **Climate:** It ranges from **subarctic** in the north to **humid subtropical** in the south.
  - **Main Islands (north to south):** Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu.
  - **Terrain:** Over 80% mountainous, with rugged terrain.
  - **Volcanic activity:** It is **located on the Pacific Ring of Fire** – a major zone of earthquakes and active volcanoes.
  - **Highest peak:** Mount Fuji (3,776 m), which is a strato volcano.
  - **Major mountain ranges:** Japanese Alps.
  - **Major rivers:** Shinano River (longest), Tone River, Kiso River.
  - **Natural Resources:** Coal, iron ore, zinc, lead, copper, sulfur, gold, and silver.

VISHWA SUTRA INITIATIVE

- It has been developed by the **Office of the Development Commissioner** (Handlooms) in collaboration with the **National Institute of Fashion Technology.**
- **Aim:** It aims to **present Indian handlooms** in a contemporary **global design framework.**
- Under this initiative, **30 distinct handloom weaves** from across the country have been brought together, each representing a different state.

- These weaves have been creatively reinterpreted with design inspirations **drawn from 30 countries,** reflecting diverse cultures and modern fashion sensibilities.
- It also reflects the depth and continuity of India's handloom traditions—techniques preserved and refined across generations
    - **Example: Odisha Ikat** with Greek forms, **Kanchipuram** with Norwegian lines**, Muga** with Egyptian elements, **Patola** with Spanish influences, and **Banarasi** with UAE-inspired ensembles.
- **Significance:**
    - **Vocal for Local to Global:** It reflects the Government of India's commitment to transforming traditional industries into globally competitive sectors.
    - **5F framework**: It supports Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME

- It is a component of the **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA).**
- It is implemented on the **request of the State/UT Government** for the procurement of various **perishable agricultural commodities** such as Tomato, Onion and Potato etc. for which **Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not fixed.**

Objective: To intervene the market to **protect the growers of their commodities** from **making distress sale** in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall **below economic levels and cost of production.**

Pattern of Assistance: The amount of loss is shared on **50:50 basis between the Central government** and the State government (on **75:25** basis in case of **North-Eastern States**)

Implementation: By Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

- MIS will be implemented only when:
  - There is a **minimum reduction of 10%** in the **prevailing market price** as compared to the previous normal year.
  - The **procurement/coverage limit of production** quantity of crops **is 25 percent.**

JUTE

- The Jute crop is the second most **important fibre crop** in India after cotton.
- It is a crop of **humid tropical climates.**
- **Required Climatic Conditions:**
  - **Climate:** Relative humidity between 40-90%.
  - **Soil:** It can grow in **wide range of soil but fertile loamy alluvial** soil is better suitable.
  - **Temperature:** Between 17° C and 41°C
  - **Rain:** It requires well distributed **rainfall over 1200 mm** which is ideal for cultivation and growth of jute.
  - Generally sown in **February and harvested in October**; the crop matures in 8–10 months.
- **Jute Distribution in India:**
  - Over 99% of India's jute is produced in five states including **West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.**
  - **West Bengal** (81% share), Bihar, Assam, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (delta regions are important contributors)
- **Uses:** It is used **in multiple ways** like for making ropes, gunny bags, rugs, carpets, tarpaulins and many other products.
