Current Affairs:06.07.2021

UDISE+ 2019-20 Report

Recently, the Union **Education Minister** released the Report on United Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20 for School Education in India.

What are the key findings of the Report (2019-20)?

Total Student Strength Pre-primary to Higher secondary	• Total Student Strength in this category has crosses 26.45 crore • This is higher by 42.3 lakh compared to 2018-19.
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	GER at all levels of school education has improved in 2019 20 compared to 2018-19 • Upper Primary level- 89.7% (earlier 87.7%) • Elementary Level- 97.8% (earlier 96.1%) • Secondary Level – 77.9% (earlier 76.9%) • Higher Secondary Level- 51.4% (earlier 50.1%) Earlier = 2018-19 data
Teacher Strength	• In 2019-20, 96.87 lakh teachers have been engaged in school education. • This is higher by about 2.57 lakh compared to 2018-19.
Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR)	PTR has improved at all levels of school education. • PTR for primary is 26.5 (earlier 2012-13) • PTR for upper primary is 18.5 (earlier 2012-13) • PTR for secondary is 18.5 (earlier 2012-13) • PTR for higher secondary is 26.1 (earlier 39.2) Earlier = 2012-13 data
Enrolment of girls	• In 2019-20, **enrolment of girls** from primary to higher secondary is more than 12.08 crore. This is an increase by 14.08 lakh compared to 2018-19. GER of girls in 2019-20 at • Upper Primary level is 90.5% (from 88.5%), • Elementary Level in 98.7% (from 96.7%) • Secondary Level 77.8% (from 76.9%) • Higher Secondary Level is 52.4% (from 50.8%) (from 2018-19).
Inclusivity	• Enrolment of Divyang students has increased by 6.52% over 2018-19. • Between 2012-13 and 2019-20, the Gender Parity

	Index (GPI) at both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels have improved
Infrastructural Facilities	- More than 80% (schools in India in 2019-20 had **functional electricity** (73% in 2018-19) - Number of schools having **functional computers** increased to 5.2 lakh in 2019-20 from 4.7 lakh in 2018-19. - Number of schools having **internet facility** increased to 3.36 lakh in 2019-20 from 2.9 lakh in 2018-19. - More than 90% schools in India had **handwash facility** in 2019-20 (only 36.3% in 2012-13) - More than 84% schools in India had a **library/reading room/ reading corner** in 2019-20, an improvement of nearly 4% compared to the previous year

Fly Ash

- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for sale of fly ash, in its endeavour to achieve 100% utilization of fly ash, from the designated plants of the Middle East and other regions.

What is Fly Ash?

- Fly Ash is a byproduct from burning of coal in the thermal power generation.
- It is called fly ash because it is transported from the combustion chamber by exhaust gases.
- **Composition:** silicon dioxide (SiO_2), aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3), ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3) and calcium oxide (CaO).
- **Uses:** In concrete and cement products, road base, metal recovery, and mineral filler among others.
- **Harmful Effects**:
  - Toxic air pollutants which can trigger heart disease, cancer, respiratory diseases and stroke.
  - When combined with water they cause leaching of heavy metals in ground water.
  - Affects the root development system of trees.

What is Fly Ash Utilisation Policy?

- To promote the use of Fly Ash bricks in building construction, NTPC has set up Fly Ash brick manufacturing Plants at its Coal based Thermal Power Plants.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) has focused on new construction technologies such as using fly ash bricks that are innovative, and environmentally friendly.
- Maharashtra was the first state to adopt the Fly Ash utilization policy.
- A web portal for monitoring of fly ash generation and utilization and a mobile based application titled "**ASHTRACK**" has been launched by the Government.
- GST rates on fly ash and its products have been reduced to 5%.

Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

What is PMI?

- It is a **survey-based** measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.
- The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.

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        o PMI **above 50 represents an expansion** when compared to the previous month;
        o PMI **under 50 represents a contraction,** and
        o A reading **at 50 indicates no change.**
- f PMI of the previous month is higher than the PMI of the current month (as is the case mentioned above), it represents that the **economy is contracting.**
- The PMI is usually **released at the start of every month.** It is, therefore, considered a **good leading indicator** of economic activity.
- Also, since the official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth comes much later, PMI helps to make informed decisions at an earlier stage.
- PMI provides information about current and future business conditions to company decision-makers, analysts, and investors.

New IT rules:

The Centre has told the Delhi High Court that social media giant Twitter Inc has failed to comply with India's **new IT Rules (Came into force on 26th May),** which is law of the land and is mandatorily required to be complied with.

Implications:

- Any non-compliance amounts to breach of provisions of IT Rules, leading to Twitter losing its **immunity as an "intermediary".**
- **A loss of its intermediary status, which provides its immunity from liabilities over any third-party data hosted by it,** makes it liable for criminal action in case of complaints.

What the rules say?

Twitter Inc is admittedly **an 'intermediary' within the meaning of Section 2(1)(w) of IT Act, 2000, and an SSMI (Significant Social Media Intermediary) under the IT Rules 2021.**

- SSMIs are required to appoint **a chief compliance officer,** a nodal officer, and a grievance officer — all whom are required to be residents of India, according to the IT rules.

Background:

On February 25, the Centre framed **the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021,** in the exercise of powers under **section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000** and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011, which will come into effect from May 26.

Overview of the new rules:

1. It mandates **a grievance redressal system** for over the top (OTT) and digital portals in the country. This is necessary for the users of social media to raise their grievance against the misuse of social media.
2. **Significant social media firms** have to appoint **a chief compliance officer** and have **a nodal contact person** who can be in touch with law enforcement agencies 24/7.
3. **A grievance officer:** Social media platforms will also have to name **a grievance officer** who shall register the grievance within 24 hours and dispose of it in 15 days.
4. **Removal of content:** If there are complaints against the dignity of users, particularly women – about exposed private parts of individuals or nudity or sexual act or impersonation etc – social media platforms will be required to remove that within 24 hours after a complaint is made.
5. **A monthly report:** They also will have to publish a monthly report about the number of complaints received and the status of redressal.
6. There will be **three levels of regulation for news publishers —** self-regulation, a self-regulatory body, headed by a retired judge or an eminent person, and oversight from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, including codes of practices and a grievance committee.