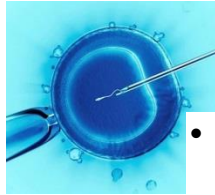


WHAT IS IN VITRO FERTILIZATION (IVF)?

In a first, Goa has become the first Indian state to offer free in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment.



About In Vitro Fertilization (IVF):

- It is a medical procedure used to assist individuals or couples who are facing fertility challenges in achieving pregnancy.
- IVF is the most common and effective type of assisted reproductive technology (ART).

Process:

- IVF is a complex process that involves retrieving eggs from ovaries and manually combining them with sperm in a lab for fertilization.
- Several days after fertilization, the fertilized egg (now called an embryo) is placed inside a uterus.
- Pregnancy occurs when this embryo implants itself into the uterine wall.
- The procedure can be done using a couple's own eggs and sperm. Or IVF may involve eggs, sperm or embryos from a known or anonymous donor.
- The success rate of IVF depends on a number of factors including reproductive history, maternal age, the cause of infertility, and lifestyle factors.

IVF can be used to treat infertility in the following patients:

- Blocked or damaged fallopian tubes;
- Male factor infertility including decreased sperm count or sperm motility;
- Women with ovulation disorders, premature ovarian failure, uterine fibroids;
- Women who have had their fallopian tubes removed;
- Individuals with a genetic disorder;
- Unexplained infertility;

SAMUDRA APP

Recently, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) launched a new mobile application called SAMUDRA for seafarers and the fishing community.



About SAMUDRA App:

- Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories (SAMUDRA) application offers comprehensive **information on all ocean related services**.
- It is a cutting-edge tool helping users to navigate the marine domain with confidence on their **safety, and profitable fishing operations**.
- It embodies the institute vision and mission in serving the nation with ocean data, information, and advisory services.
- It will **catalyse sustainable ocean activities**, thus enabling a way forward for the Blue Economy,
- It empowers users **with real-time updates and critical alerts on oceanic disasters** such as tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, and swell surge alerts, for the individuals and communities to stay informed and take necessary precautions towards the protection of lives and property.
- It will be especially beneficial to the fishing community as **it disseminates Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ)** advisories which will guide them to the probable fish aggregation locations.
- It is **currently serving in English**, soon eight coastal languages are proposed to be included soon.

What is INCOIS?

- It was established as an **autonomous body** in 1999 under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- **Mandate:** To provide the best **possible ocean information and advisory services** to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvements through systematic and focused research.

PM VISHWAKARMA YOJANA

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the PM Vishwakarma scheme.



About PM Vishwakarma Yojana:

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with a financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore.
- **Time period:** Five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).

Aim:

- To **strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills** by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.
- The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.
- Under this scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through **PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche)** with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.
- Under the scheme, there will be two types of skilling programmes -- **Basic and Advanced** and a **stipend of Rs 500 per day** will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training.

A NEW SC HANDBOOK ON GENDER STEREOTYPES

Why in news?

- The Supreme Court has launched a handbook that contains a glossary of gender unjust terms and suggests alternative words and phrases which may be used.

- The 30-page **Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes** aims to free the judiciary and the legal community from the mechanical application of gender stereotypical language in judgments, orders, and court pleadings.

What is the handbook?

- The SC handbook is a 30-page booklet that aims to assist judges and the legal community in identifying, understanding and combating stereotypes about women.
- The handbook identifies common stereotypical words and phrases used about women, many of them routinely found in judgements.
 - E.g., in the 2017 SC ruling awarding the death penalty for the convicts in the Delhi gang-rape case, the verdict repeatedly uses the word “ravished” to say raped.
 - The handbook quotes other judgements where judges unwittingly use stereotypical characterisations of women.
- This handbook flags some of the stereotype promoting language and suggests alternative language (preferred).
 - E.g., instead of using words like "seductress", "whore" or "woman of loose morals", the word "woman" has to be used.
 - The handbook also prohibits use of words like "hooker" and "prostitute" and said the term "sex worker" be used instead.
 - The word "eve-teasing" will now be termed as "street sexual harassment" and "housewife" will now become "homemaker" for judicial discourses.

Stereotype promoting language (INCORRECT)	Alternative language (PREFERRED)
Adulteress	Woman who has engaged in sexual relations outside marriage
Affair	Relationship outside of marriage
Bastard	Non-marital child or, a child whose parents were not married
Biological sex / biological male / biological female	Sex assigned at birth
Born a girl / boy	Assigned female / male at birth
Career woman	Woman
Carnal intercourse	Sexual intercourse
Chaste woman	Woman
Child prostitute	Child who has been trafficked
Concubine / keep	Woman with whom a man has had romantic or sexual relations outside of marriage
Dutiful wife / Faithful wife / Good wife / Obedient wife	Wife
Easy virtue (e.g., a woman of easy virtue)	Woman
Effeminate (when used pejoratively)	Accurately describe the characteristic using a gender neutral term (e.g., confident or responsible)
Eve teasing	Street sexual harassment
Faggot	Accurately describe the individual's sexual orientation (e.g., homosexual or bisexual)

- **An attempt to break the false assumptions**
 - The handbook deals with the so-called inherent characteristics of women.
 - One of the identified stereotypes is the idea that women are overly emotional, illogical, and cannot take decisions.
- The reality is that a person’s gender does not determine or influence their capacity for rational

thought.

- It also refers to assumptions made about a woman's character based on her expressive choices, such as the clothes she wears, and her sexual history.
- Such assumptions may impact the judicial assessment of her actions and statements in a case involving sexual violence.
- For instance, they diminish the importance of consent in sexual relationships.

Have there been similar efforts in other countries?

- There have been projects in other countries, pushed by both academia and practitioners, which hold up a mirror for the court's practices.
- For example, the Women's Court of Canada, a collective of female lawyers, academics and activists write "shadow judgements" on equality law.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL (NCLAT)?

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) recently granted three weeks' time to the RBI to file its response to a plea by Adisri Commercial, the erstwhile promoter company of two insolvent Srei firms.



About National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

- It was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June 2016.
- The NCLAT was established to provide an efficient and specialized forum for addressing matters related to company law, insolvency, and competition law.

Objectives:

- Hear appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

- **Hear appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.**
- **To hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).**
- **It is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against the orders of the National Financial Reporting Authority.**
- **HQ: New Delhi.**

Composition:

- **It is composed of a chairperson and judicial and technical members.**
- **These members are appointed by the Central Government based on their expertise and experience in relevant fields such as law, finance, accountancy, management, and administration.**
- **Disposing of cases:**
 - **On the receipt of an appeal from an aggrieved person, the Appellate Tribunal would pass such orders, after giving an opportunity of being heard, as it considers fit, confirming, changing or setting aside the order that is appealed against.**
 - **The Appellate Tribunal is required to dispose of the appeal within a period of six months from the date of the receipt of the appeal.**

ABOUT NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NTCA):

- **National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body, constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- **It was established in 2005 following the recommendation of the Tiger Task Force.**

Objectives:

- **To provide statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.**
- **To Foster accountability of Centre-State in management of Tiger Reserves.**
- **To address livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.**

Functions:

- To approve the tiger conservation plan prepared by the state government.
 - To ensure that the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area/tiger reserve with another are not diverted for ecologically unsustainable uses.
 - To facilitate and support the tiger reserve management in the state for biodiversity conservation.
 - NTCA conducts **Tiger Census** across India, every four years.
 - **Chairman:** Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
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PONG DAM

Several villages within the Beas River catchment area in Punjab have been submerged following the release of a substantial amount of water from the Pong Dam.



About Pong Dam:

- The Pong Dam, also known as the Beas Dam, is an **earth-fill embankment dam on the Beas River** in the state of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The purpose of the dam is **water storage for irrigation** and **hydroelectric power generation**.
- **The construction of the dam began** in the year 1961 and **was completed in 1974** and at that time was known as the tallest of its type in the country.
- The raised water level thus invariably **created an artificial lake called the Maharana Pratap Sagar**, after the great ruler of Mewar. The lake **became a renowned bird sanctuary for birds** of numerous species including Bar-headed Goose and the Red-necked Grebe.

Features:

- The Pong Dam is a **133 m tall and 1,951 m long earth-fill embankment dam** with a **gravel shell**.
- The dam is **13.72 m wide at its crest**, which sits at an **elevation of about 435.86 m above sea level**.
- The **base of the Pong Dam is about 610 m wide** and has a total volume of 35,500,000 metre cube.

Key Facts about Beas River:

- The Beas River is a **river in north India**.
- **Origin:** The River rises **4,361 metres** above sea-level on the southern face of **Rohtang Pass** in **Kullu, Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Course:** It flows for some **470 kilometres** to the **Sutlej River** in the Indian state of **Punjab**.
- The river was **also known as Arjikuja of the Vedas**, or **Vipasa** to the ancient Indians, and the **Hyphasis** to the Ancient Greeks.
- **Tributaries:**
 - **The main tributaries** are **Bain, Banganga, Luni, Uhlal, Awa, Banner, Chakki, Gaj, Harla, Mamuni, Parvati, Patlikuhlal, Sainj, Suketi** and **Tirthan**.
 - The tributaries that branch out in the **Northern part** are **snow fed** and hence, **perennial**.
 - The tributaries down the **South** are **seasonal** and get their water from the rains.

WHAT IS THE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF) SCHEME?

The Minister of State in the Defence Ministry recently said the Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme has so far supported 41 MSMEs and 20 startups.



About Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme:

- TDF Scheme has been established to **promote self-reliance in defense technology** as a part of the '**Make in India**' initiative.
- It is a **programme of MoD (Ministry of Defence)** executed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** meeting the requirements of **Tri-Services, Defence Production and DRDO**.
- The scheme **encourages participation of public/private industries especially MSMEs** to create an ecosystem for **enhancing cutting edge technology capability for defence application**.
- It supports **indigenous development of components, products, systems and technologies** by **MSMEs and start-ups**.

Eligibility:

- MSMEs and Startups registered in India.
 - **Public limited company, private limited company, partnership firms, limited liability partnership, one-person company, sole proprietorship registered as per applicable Indian laws.**
 - The industry has **to be owned and controlled by an Indian citizen.**
 - Industries with **foreign investments of 49% or less.**
 - **Funding Support:**
 - The funding will be **through provision of grants to the Industry.**
 - The **project cost of up to INR 10 Cr will be considered for funding, subject to a maximum of 90% of the total project cost.**
 - **Industry may work in collaboration with academia** or research institutions.
 - The work **involvement of academia cannot exceed 40%** of the total project cost.
 - The **funding will be linked to mutually agreed milestones.**
 - **Funds will be released either in advance against a bank guarantee** of the same amount as collateral, **or reimbursement based on the completion of milestones.**
 - Subsequent installments will be released on successful completion of milestones.
 - **Project Duration: Maximum development period will be two years.**
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