



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

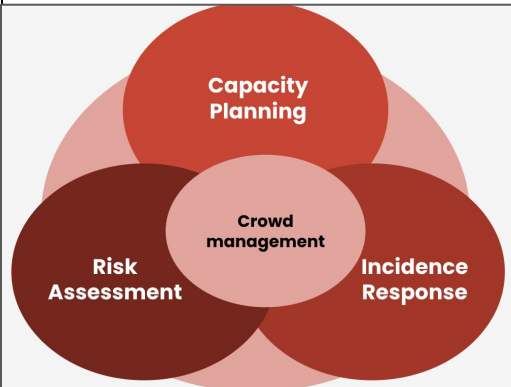
30th January 2025



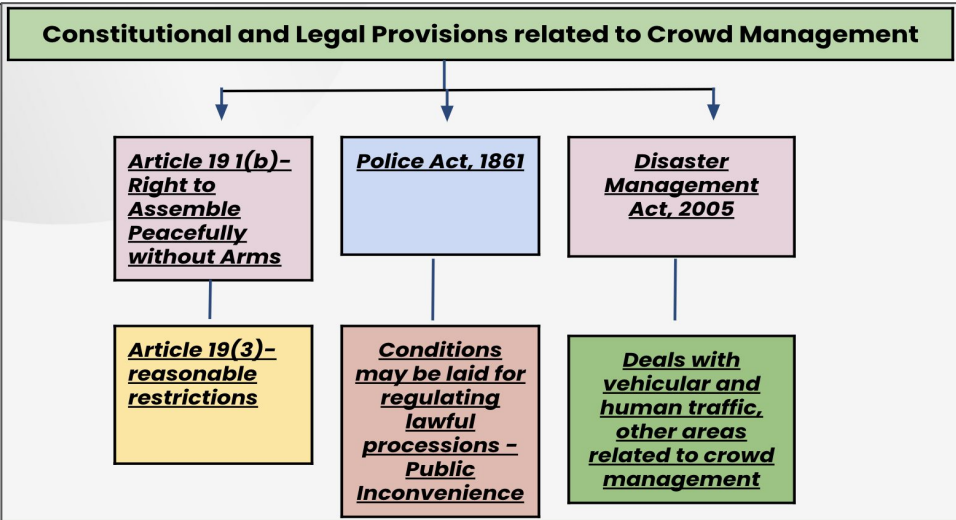
Stampede and Crowd Management

CONTEXT: A stampede caused by a crowd surge at the Maha Kumbh led to several deaths and injuries.

- An impulsive mass movement
 - “disruption of the orderly movement of crowd- leading to injuries and fatalities.
- Why do stampedes kill?**
- **Traumatic asphyxia** – partial or complete cessation of respiration due to external compression.
 - **Myocardial infarction (heart attack)**



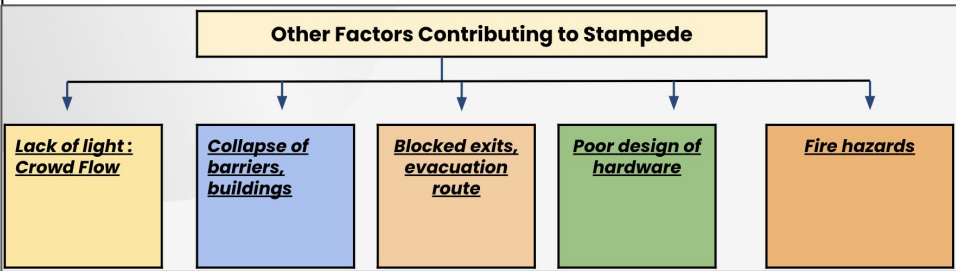
- How does human psychology lead to stampedes?**
- Always take place during mass gatherings
 - Triggered or made worse by panic:
 - Panic-producing situations-cooperative pattern of behavior is disturbed
 - Neil J Smelser - Trigger -“Craze”
 - Ex-Hathras



Major Stampedes and Deaths in India During Religious Festivals/ Celebrations since 1997

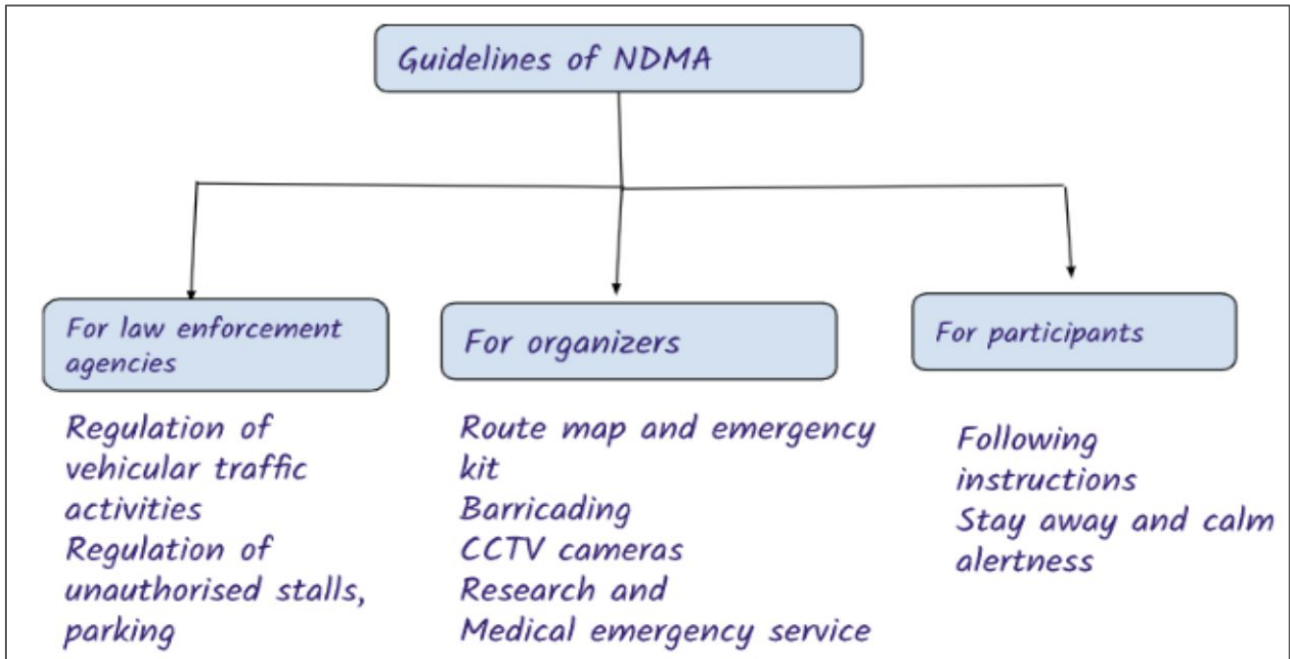
| Month & Year | State | Event | Deaths |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| July 2024 | Uttar Pradesh | Satsang | 120 |
| March 2023 | Madhya Pradesh | Ram Navami | 36 |
| January 2022 | Kashmir | Mata Vaishno Devi festival | 12 |
| July 2015 | Andhra Pradesh | Pushkaram festival | 27 |
| October 2014 | Bihar | Dussehra celebrations | 32 |
| October 2013 | Madhya Pradesh | Navratri festival | 115 |
| February 2013 | Uttar Pradesh | Makah Kumbh | 36 |
| November 2012 | Bihar | Chhat Puja | 20 |
| November 2011 | Uttarakhand | Religious ceremony | 20 |
| January 2011 | Kerala | Sabarimala Pilgrimage | 104 |
| March 2010 | Uttar Pradesh | Free cloths and food | 63 |
| September 2008 | Rajasthan | Rumour of bomb at temple | 250 |
| August 2008 | Himachal Pradesh | Rumour of rockslide at temple | 162 |
| January 2005 | Maharashtra | Annual festival at temple | 340 |
| August 2003 | Maharashtra | Maha Kumbh | 29 |
| September 2002 | Uttar Pradesh | Gathering | 19 |
| January 1999 | Kerala | Pilgrimage | 52 |
| February 1997 | Odisha | Religious congregation | 206 |

Source: Compilation based on various government and non- government sources.



CONTEXT: A stampede caused by a crowd surge at the Maha Kumbh led to several deaths and injuries.

NDMA Guidelines For Crowd Management



What should be done?

Crowd Management Strategies

Infrastructure Improvements

Emergency Response Systems

Public Awareness Campaigns

Technological Interventions

Mains Practice Question

Discuss the key factors contributing to stampedes and suggest measures for their prevention and management. (10 Marks 150 Words)



India's Dairy Sector

CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focussing on need for bridging the milk divide for a nutritionally secure India

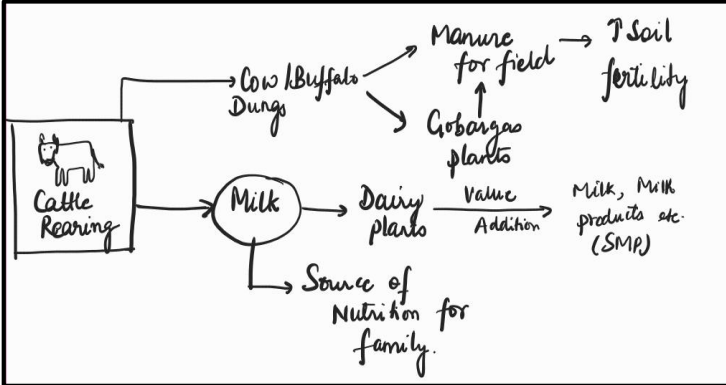
25% to world's total milk output is from India (Ranks 1st in the production of milk globally)
5% of the country's GDP comes from Dairy sector.

~8 crore families are provided livelihood by dairy industry
More than 70% participation in the Dairying sector is by women.

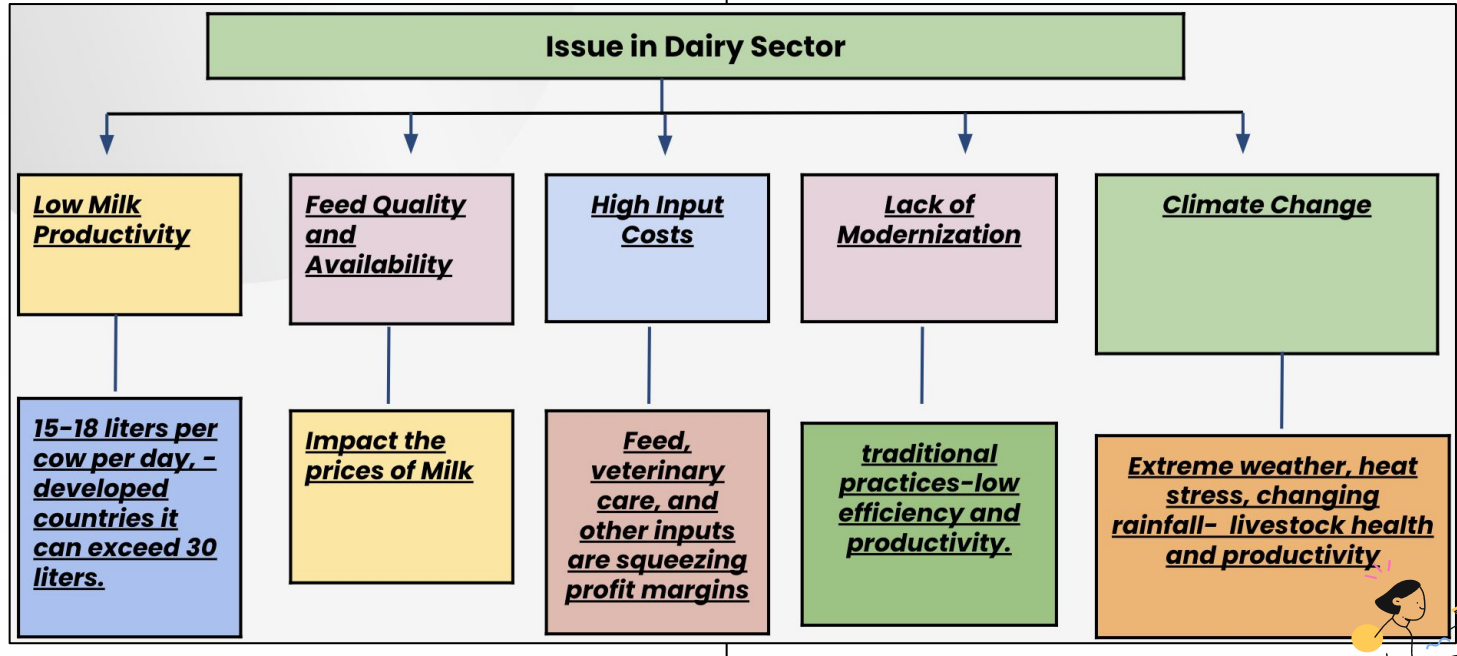
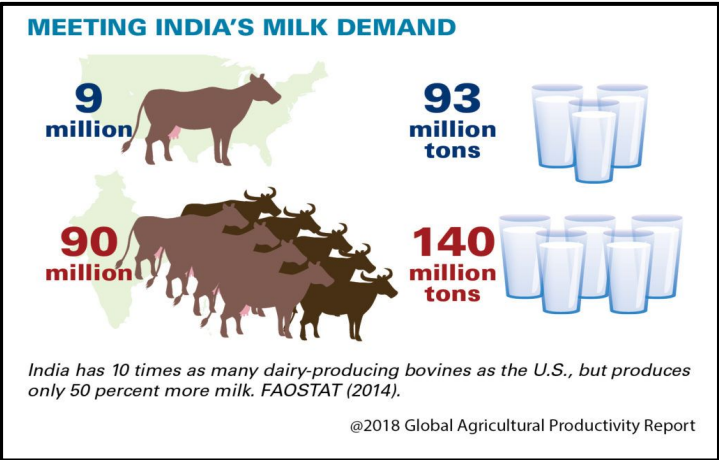
Economics of Animal Rearing

Snapshot

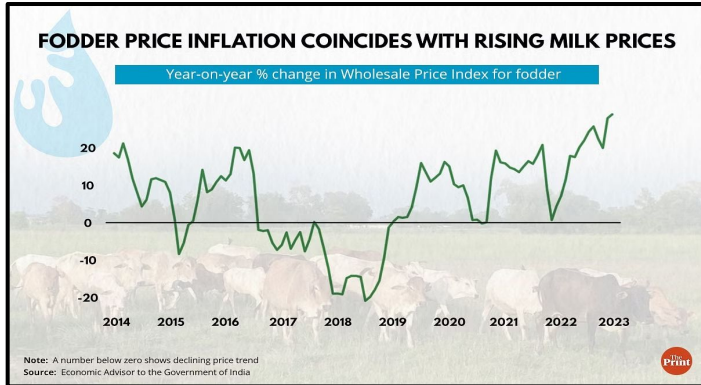
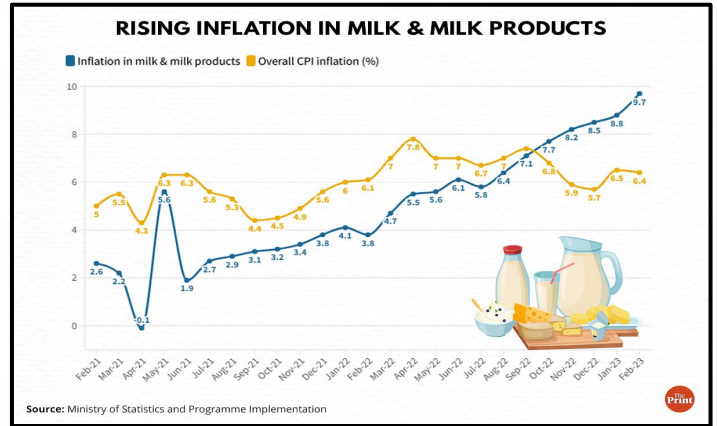
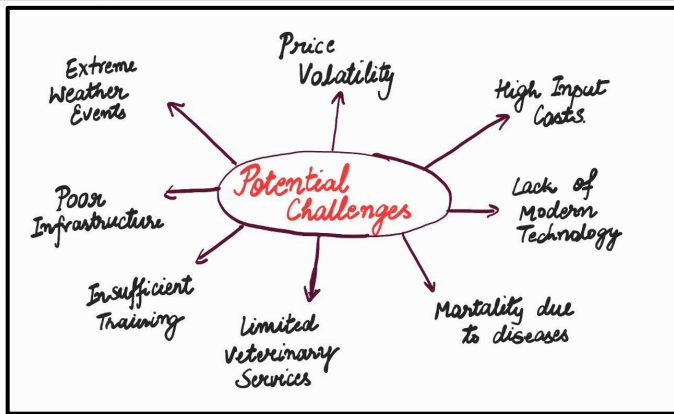
- Livestock plays an important role in Indian economy. About 25-30 million people in India depend upon livestock for their livelihood.
- The Sector provides employment to about 9% of the population in India and contributes 4% to India's GDP.
- Livestock contributes 15% in the income of small farm households as against an average of 12% for all rural households.
- Livestock sector provides employment to 65% of the rural population.



Issues in The Dairy Sector



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focussing on need for bridging the milk divide for a nutritionally secure India



WHAT IS IT?

- A highly contagious disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals
- Animals suffer fever and blisters in the mouth and on the feet, affecting their ability to eat and walk

Can humans get FMD?
Human infection is rare and does not cause serious illness; FMD is NOT transmitted to humans in meat
FMD is NOT the same disease as human hand, foot and mouth disease, which is common in children

CONTROL OPTIONS: VACCINE & CULLING

- Lumpy skin disease is a viral disease that affects cattle
- Is transmitted by blood-feeding insects like certain species of mosquitoes and flies, or ticks
- It causes fever, nodules on the skin and can also lead to death
- Control options include vaccination and culling of the infected animals

Lumpy Skin Disease in India

- First case reported from Gujarat on April 23. Disease has spread to at least 23 states
- 67,000+ cattle have succumbed since July
- In Maha, it has led to deaths of 25 cattle and buffaloes in 17 districts till Sept 7
- 1.5cr vaccine doses have been administered in India

20cr India's total cattle population

Government Initiatives

Scheme/Initiatives for Dairy Sector

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission** with the aim to develop and conserve indigenous breeds and enhancing their production and productivity-Central assistance.
- Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme** is being implemented with the objective of generation of self-employment opportunities in the dairy sector, covering activities such as enhancement of milk production, procurement, preservation, transportation, processing and marketing of milk-Central assistance.
- National Programme for Dairy Development** is being implemented with objective to create infrastructure for milk procurement, processing and marketing-Central assistance.
- E Pashu Haat Portal:** Under the scheme National Mission on Bovine Productivity, E-Pashudhan Haat portal was developed for connecting breeders and farmers regarding availability of quality bovine germplasm.



CONTEXT: A write up has appeared focussing on need for bridging the milk divide for a nutritionally secure India

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

Digital India
Power To Empower

Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Government of India

Major Technological Initiatives by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take Dairy Sector in India to New Levels

- ✔ **Launch of e-GOPALA App :**
Generation of wealth through Productive Livestock
- ✔ **Largest Semen Station** in Government Sector established at Purnia, Bihar to be inaugurated
- ✔ **Inauguration of In Vitro Fertilization Lab** at Patna Animal Sciences University
- ✔ **Artificial Insemination through Sex Sorted Semen** for production of female calves with 90% accuracy to be launched
- ✔ **Use of IVF Technology** at farmers' doorstep

Prelims PYQ

Consider the following crops of India:

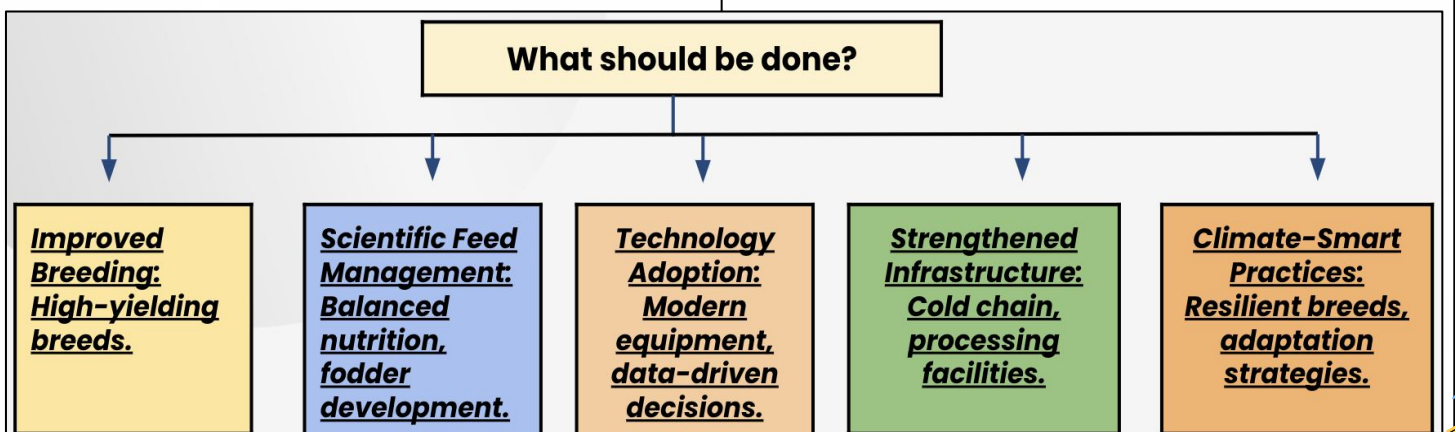
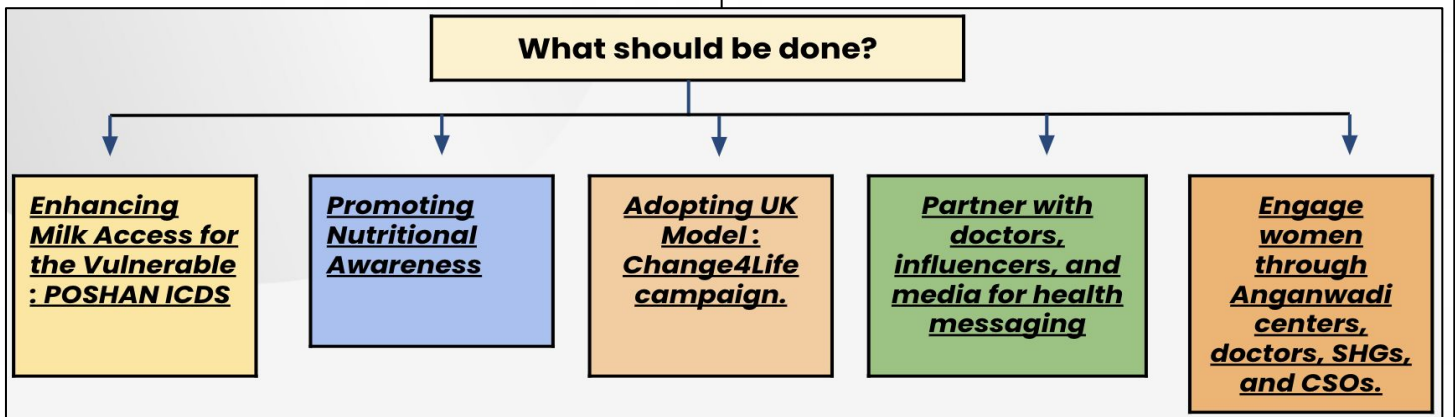
1. Cowpea
2. Green gram
3. Pigeon pea

Which of the above is/are used as pulse, fodder and green manure?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Mains Practice Question

The Indian dairy sector, faces a complex web of challenges ranging from low productivity and fragmented supply chains to the increasing impacts of climate change. Discuss these challenges and suggest a comprehensive strategy to ensure the sustainable growth and development of the dairy sector. **(10 Marks 150 words)**



100th launch lifts NAVIC Satellite

Syllabus: GS 3: Space Technology, Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology;
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 1

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation on Wednesday morning launched its historic 100th mission – GSLV-F15 lifting off with a navigation satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The launch vehicle with an indigenous cryogenic stage lifted off from the spaceport's second launch pad at 6.23 a.m. The rocket successfully placed the NVS-02 satellite in the intended orbit.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

The NVS-02 is the second satellite in the NVS series and part of India's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

The ISRO said NavIC is India's independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide accurate Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT) service to users in India and the region extending about 1,500 km beyond the Indian landmass, which is its primary service area.

NavIC provides two types of services: Standard Positioning Service (SPS) and Restricted Service (RS). The former provides a position accuracy of better than 20 metres and a timing accuracy of better than 40 nanoseconds over the primary service area.

IRNSS

Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

IRNSS (NavIC) is designed to provide accurate real-time positioning and timing services to users in India as well as region extending up to 1,500 km from its boundary

NAVIGATION CONSTELLATION CONSISTS OF SEVEN SATELLITES

3 in geostationary earth orbit (GEO) and
4 in geosynchronous orbit (GSO) inclined at 29 degrees to equator

Each sat has three rubidium atomic clocks, which provide accurate locational data

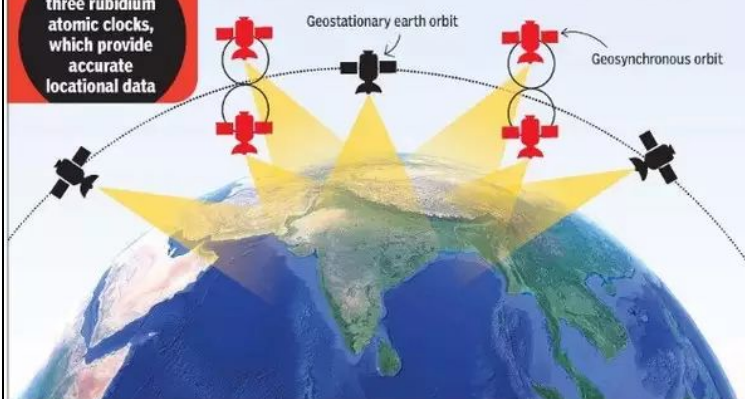
IT WILL PROVIDE TWO TYPES OF SERVICES

- Standard positioning service** | Meant for all users
- Restricted service** | Encrypted service provided only to authorised users (military and security agencies)

Applications of IRNSS are:

Terrestrial, aerial and marine navigation; disaster management; vehicle tracking and fleet management; precise timing mapping and geodetic data capture; terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers; visual and voice navigation for drivers

While American GPS has **24 satellites** in orbit, the number of sats visible to ground receiver is limited. In **IRNSS, four satellites** are always in geosynchronous orbits, hence always visible to a receiver in a region **1,500 km** around India



Prelims PYQ 2018

Q. With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

- IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
- IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq. Km beyond its borders.
- India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- None



Syllabus: GS 1,2: Mineral & Energy Resources Government Policies & Interventions; Newspaper : Indian Express Page No. 15

THE UNION Cabinet has approved the setting up of the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) on Wednesday with a budgetary outlay of Rs 16,300 crore over seven years, with an additional Rs 18,000 crore expected in investments from central public sector undertakings (PSUs).

With Rs 3,000 crore budgeted for the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) and Rs 4,000 crore for the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the NCMM targets 1,200 domestic critical mineral exploration projects till 2030-31. The Ministry of Mines also aims to auction over 100 critical mineral blocks by then.

A boost in exploration of critical minerals will provide potential investors with key data on reserves, which in turn will increase interest and participation in auctions. Till now, GSI has undertaken 368 exploration projects over the past three years, with 195 projects currently underway, and the mines ministry has auctioned off 24 critical mineral blocks.

EXPLAINED
E Why Centre is betting on NCMM

THE MISSION aims to strengthen India's critical minerals value chain by building a technological, regulatory, and financial ecosystem to ensure mineral availability from both domestic and foreign sources. It is set to boost access to raw materials used in strategic sectors, from clean energy and electronics to defence and agriculture.

Cabinet Decision

Cabinet approves **National Critical Mineral Mission**

Mission to establish an effective framework for India's self-reliance in the critical mineral sector

Outlay: **Rs.34,300 crore** over 7 years

- Mission will encompass all stages of the value chain
- Intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- Aims to create a fast track regulatory approval process for critical mineral mining projects.
- Offer financial incentives for critical mineral exploration and promote the recovery of these minerals from overburden and tailings.

Critical minerals are essential for economy

- **Energy Transition:** Green technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and electric vehicles are integral to the transition toward clean energy and a low-carbon economy.
- **Economic Development:** Industries such as high-tech electronics, telecommunications, transport etc heavily rely on these minerals.
- **National Security:** These minerals are vital for defence, aerospace, nuclear, and space applications, necessitating the use of high-quality and reliable materials.
- **Agriculture:** Fertilizer minerals like phosphorite, glauconite etc are important for agriculture sector.



Syllabus: GS2: Government Policies and Interventions;
Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 12

Nearly a year after the Centre launched the ₹75,000-crore PM Surya Ghar scheme, 8.5 lakh households have installed rooftop solar connections, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said at a public event on Wednesday. First announced following the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last January, the scheme was officially launched on February 15, 2024.

Last month, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy remarked about the “slow pace” of

installations. Only five lakh installations, of a total 20 lakh applications made on the Surya Ghar portal, had been completed as of October last year, the committee noted. The Secre-

- ❖ A central scheme promoting solar rooftop systems with substantial financial subsidies and installation support.
- ❖ **Objective:** To provide free electricity to 1 crore households, offering 300 units per month.
- ❖ **Implementation Agencies:**
 - ❖ **National Level:** Managed by the National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA).
 - ❖ **State Level:** Managed by State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) such as Distribution Utilities (DISCOMs) or state Power/Energy Departments.

Cabinet Approves

PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

Outlay of Rs. 75,021 crore

Rooftop solar panels to be installed

1 crore households to get 300 units of electricity every month


Financial assistance of

- Rs. 30,000 for 1kW system
- Rs. 60,000 for 2 kW systems
- Rs. 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher

Benefits:

- Collateral free low-interest loan at around **7% for households**
- Additional income for households through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs
- Reduction of **720 million tonnes of CO2** equivalent emissions over 25 years
- 17 lakh job** to be created in related services

Source: Govt of India



Syllabus: GS2: Fundamental Rights;
Newspaper : Indian Express, **Page No. 5**

KNOW YOUR Fs AND Ps



Sanjay Dutt after reaching home in December last year. (Fotocorp)

FURLOUGH

- A matter of right but not many are aware of this. Usually granted after one year in jail. Maximum 21 days a year
- Granted periodically but can be denied if there is sufficient reason that it will go against the interests of society
- Period of furlough is treated as remission of sentence
- No reasons have to be cited for granting furlough
- Purpose is to enable prisoner to retain family association and keep up ties with society and avoid ill-effects of continuous prison life

PAROLE

- Not a matter of right
- May be denied if the competent authority is satisfied on valid grounds that there is no sufficient cause for granting parole or it is against the interests of society
- Grant of parole does not disqualify a prisoner from the right to furlough. The grant of subsequent parole and furlough are subject to police report on the convict's conduct
- Period spent on parole is not counted as remission of sentence. Maximum 90 days a year
- Reasons for granting parole have to be specified by jail authorities

Prelims PYQ 2021

83. With reference to India, consider the following statements :

1. When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.
2. State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole Rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



Syllabus: GS2 & 3: Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary;

Newspaper : Indian Express, **Page No. 15**

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday revised the ethanol procurement price for public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) from ₹56.58 per litre to ₹57.97 per litre.

The new price is for the ongoing Ethanol Supply Year 2024-25, starting November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025, under the Centre's ethanol blended petrol programme.

Briefing reporters after the Union Cabinet meet-

3% CHM price rise will assure sufficient ethanol availability to meet higher blending target

ing, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that C Heavy Molasses (CHM), that have very little sugar content, will be used for ethanol production.

"The more we encourage CHM for ethanol production, it will be beneficial for both farmers and environment," he said.

Cabinet committees are extra-constitutional and not mentioned in the Constitution.

They are of two types: standing (permanent) and ad hoc (temporary, for special problems).

Set up by the Prime Minister as needed; their number, nomenclature, and composition vary.

They sort out issues, formulate proposals, and make decisions, which the Cabinet can review.

These committees reduce the Cabinet's workload, facilitate in-depth policy examination, and ensure effective coordination based on division of labour and delegation principles.

EIGHT CABINET COMMITTEES

- ▶ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Accommodation
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Security
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development

- Cabinet committee, takes decisions on the **economic matters of the government.**

- **Chairperson:** PM
- Members : Cabinet ministers

Functions-

- Directing and coordinating government activities in the economic sector
- To review the economic trends in the country
- To review activities related to rural development
- Industrial licensing for setting up joint sector undertakings
- To consider issues related to disinvestment; etc.



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the dairy sector in India:

1. India is the largest producer of milk in the world.
2. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
3. Operation Flood, launched in 1970, played a crucial role in making India self-sufficient in milk production.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q2. Regarding the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

1. IRNSS is designed to provide accurate position information services only to India.
2. The system consists of a constellation of seven satellites.
3. It is an independent navigation system developed by ISRO and is also known as NavIC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: b

Q3. Regarding Critical Minerals, consider the following statements:

1. Critical minerals are those that are essential for economic development and national security but have a high supply risk.
2. India is self-sufficient in the production of all critical minerals required for its renewable energy and defence sectors.

3. The Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) was established to ensure a secure supply of critical minerals for India.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b

Q4. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana?

1. The scheme provides a subsidy of up to 60% for rooftop solar systems up to 2 kW capacity.
2. Households can receive up to 300 units of free electricity per month under this scheme.
3. The scheme aims to install rooftop solar systems in one crore households by March 2027.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: d

Q5. With reference to Cabinet Committees in India, consider the following statements:

1. They are constituted under Article 77 of the Constitution of India.
2. The Prime Minister is the chairman of all Cabinet Committees.
3. Their composition and number may vary from time to time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: b





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