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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MK Yadav Sir

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DTE Dec 27

GLOBAL SPACE FLIGHTS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci and Tech)

From the Moon's south pole to an ice-covered ocean world, several exciting space missions are slated for launch in 2024

Context: In 2023, space exploration achieves remarkable milestones with India successfully executing a lunar landing, NASA delving into asteroid studies, and SpaceX rapidly advancing its innovations.

Global Space Flights in 2023

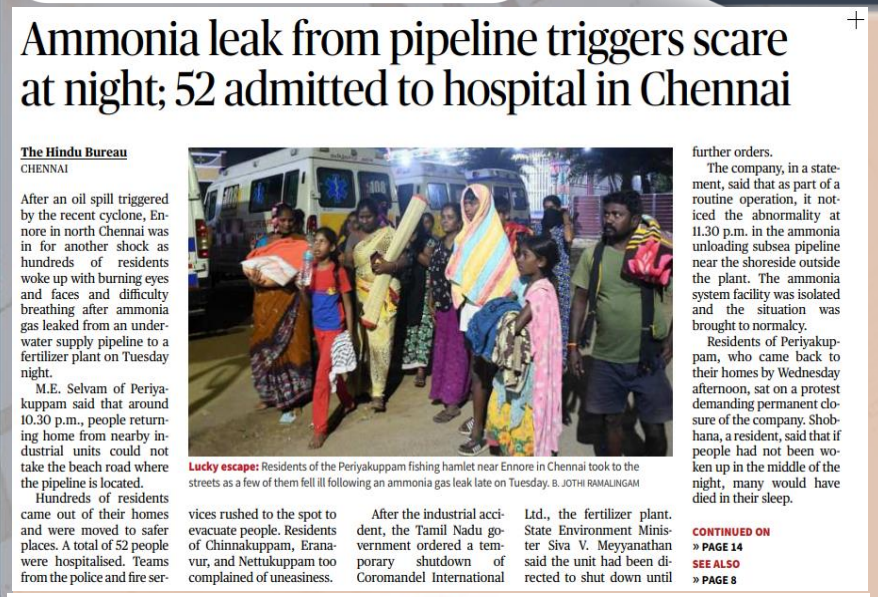
- **Europa Clipper:** NASA's Europa Clipper, which will explore one of Jupiter's largest moons, Europa.
  - Europa is slightly smaller than Earth's Moon, with a surface made of ice.
- **VIPER to search for water on the Moon:** VIPEr is a robot the size of a golf cart that NASA will use to explore the Moon's south pole in late 2024.
- **JAXA's Martian Moon exploration mission**: To study the Mars moon, Phobos and Deimos.
- **Chandrayaan-3**: India became the 4th country in the world to soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon.
  - 1st spacecraft to land near the South Pole of the Moon.
- **Aditya L1**: It is India's 1st mission to study the Sun and space weather.
  - It will travel around 1.5 million kilometres away from the planet to the 1st Lagrange point, or L1, between the Sun and the Earth.

THE HINDU

Page 1

EXPOSURE OF AMMONIA

Syllabus GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)



Ammonia leak from pipeline triggers scare at night; 52 admitted to hospital in Chennai

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

After an oil spill triggered by the recent cyclone, Ennore in north Chennai was in for another shock as hundreds of residents woke up with burning eyes and faces and difficulty breathing after ammonia gas leaked from an underwater supply pipeline to a fertilizer plant on Tuesday night.

M.E. Selvam of Periyakuppam said that around 10.30 p.m., people returning home from nearby industrial units could not take the beach road where the pipeline is located.

Hundreds of residents came out of their homes and were moved to safer places. A total of 52 people were hospitalised. Teams from the police and fire services rushed to the spot to evacuate people. Residents of Chinnakuppam, Eranavur, and Nettukuppam too complained of uneasiness.

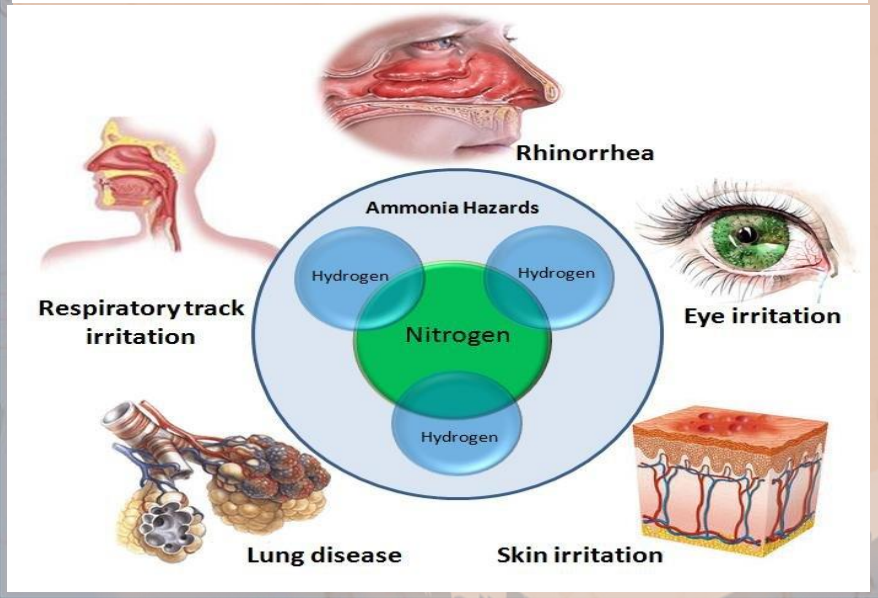
Lucky escape: Residents of the Periyakuppam fishing hamlet near Ennore in Chennai took to the streets as a few of them fell ill following an ammonia gas leak late on Tuesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

After the industrial accident, the Tamil Nadu government ordered a temporary shutdown of Coromandel International Ltd., the fertilizer plant. State Environment Minister Siva V. Meyyanathan said the unit had been directed to shut down until further orders.

The company, in a statement, said that as part of a routine operation, it noticed the abnormality at 11.30 p.m. in the ammonia unloading subsea pipeline near the shoreside outside the plant. The ammonia system facility was isolated and the situation was brought to normalcy.

Residents of Periyakuppam, who came back to their homes by Wednesday afternoon, sat on a protest demanding permanent closure of the company. Shobhana, a resident, said that if people had not been woken up in the middle of the night, many would have died in their sleep.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14
SEE ALSO » PAGE 8



Context: Ammonia gas leaked from an underwater supply pipeline to an industrial unit, near Periyakuppam in Ennore, Tamil Nadu.

Ammonia

- **About**: Ammonia is an inorganic chemical compound of nitrogen and hydrogen with the formula NH 3
- **Found**: Environment in the air, soil, and water, and in plants and animals, including humans.
- **Affect to Human**: High levels of ammonia can irritate and burn the skin, mouth, throat, lungs, and eyes.
  - Very high levels of **ammonia can damage the lungs or cause death.** Workers may be harmed from exposure to ammonia.

Uses of Ammonia

- Ammonia is either **stored in a liquid state under high pressure or as a gas under low temperatures** for industrial purposes.
- Ammonia plays a **crucial role in the production of fertilizers** and stands as one of the most extensively manufactured synthetic chemicals globally.
- Over **80% of the produced ammonia is utilized in the manufacturing** of fertilizers, highlighting its predominant role in this industry.
- The r**emaining portion of ammonia not dedicated to fertilizer production** is primarily utilized in the synthesis of formaldehyde.

PIB Dec 27

SAMARTH TRANING PROGRAMS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

6 SAMARTH Curated Programs launched by Karmayogi Bharat and NITI Aayog on iGOT Platform for State Government officials

Context: NITI Aayog has launched 6 SAMARTH Curated Training Programs on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform for State Government officials.

SAMARTH Training Programs

- **SAMARTH Blocks**: Tailored for citizen-facing officials and local administrators, SAMARTH Blocks, **having 14 courses,** focuses on building foundational skills crucial for effective local governance.
- **SAMARTH Zila**: Aimed at district-level officials, SAMARTH Zila, comprising 14 courses, is designed **to equip learners with the knowledge and tools** required to address district-level challenges and drive effective service delivery.
- **SAMARTH Rajya**: Targeting state-level officials, the 14 courses of SAMARTH Rajya seek to **equip learners with advanced skills required for steering governance** at the state level.
- **SAMARTH Rajya Sachiva**: Tailored for senior officials and state secretaries, this program consisting of 14 courses, focuses on empowering learners with the expertise needed to navigate complex policy landscapes and drive transformative change.
- **SAMARTH Policy**: The 5 courses of this Policy delve into the intricacies of policy formulation, policy writing, insights, data analysis, and evaluation.
- **SAMARTH Procurement:** Catering to officials involved in procurement processes, having 9 courses, provides specialized training in procurement guidelines, rules, strategies, and considerations.

iGOT Karmayogi Platform

- **About:** It is a comprehensive online learning platform.
- **Objective:** To guide government officials in their capacity-building journey.
- **Six Functional Hubs**: online learning, competency management, career management, discussions, events, and networking.

PM JANAM SCHEME
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Scheme)

Experts Explain: How the PM JANMAN scheme can help Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

Context: The Union Cabinet recently approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), aimed at providing PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities.

Who are PVTGs

- **Dhebar Commission**: In 1960-61, the Dhebar Commission pinpointed disparities among Scheduled Tribes, prompting the establishment of the "Primitive Tribal Groups" (PTG) category.
- **Evolution**: In 2006, the PTG category underwent a name change, becoming Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- **Group Expansion**: Initially encompassing 52 groups, the PVTG category was later expanded to include 75 groups.
- **Distribution**: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

PM-JANMAM Scheme

- **Launch**: On Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, in the state of Jharkhand.
- **Objective**: To provide essential amenities such as road and telecom connectivity, electricity, secure housing, clean drinking water, sanitation, as well as improved access to education, health, nutrition, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **Coordinating Role**: Implementation of the scheme will involve the collaboration of nine ministries, with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs playing a pivotal role in overseeing the process.
- **Beneficiary**: The government has identified 75 tribal communities and primitive tribes, collectively numbering in the lakhs and residing in over 22 thousand villages across the country.
- **Focus**: The initiative will concentrate on 11 critical interventions tailored for the PVTGs.

ALL INDIA RADIO

Dec 27

UAPA 1967

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Governance)

Centre declares Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) as unlawful association under UAPA

Context: The Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) MLJK-MA has been declared as an 'Unlawful Association' under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)

- **Passed**: In 1967.
- **Aims**: To effective prevention of unlawful activities and associations in India.
  - The Act grants complete **authority to the central government**.
  - If the Centre perceives an **activity as illegal,** it can proclaim it as such through an Official Gazette.
- **Applicability**: Under the act, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
- **Punishment**: The act has the death penalty and life imprisonment as the highest punishments.
- **Duration of punishment**: Under section 43D, police are empowered to detain the accused in police custody for 30 days and in judicial custody for a period of 180 days without the charge sheet.
- **Application**: Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
- **Meaning of Unlawful Activity**: It pertains to any action by an individual or group with the intent to undermine India's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Judicial pronouncements on UAPA

- **Arup Bhuyan vs State Of Assam (2011):** Mere membership of a banned organisation will not incriminate a person. It can be done if a person resorts to violence or incites people to violence or does an act intended to create disorder.
- **Union of India v. K A Najeeb (2021):** Notwithstanding restrictions on bail under the UAPA, constitutional courts can still allow bail if they perceive that the accused's fundamental rights have been violated.

THE HINDU

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JAPAN'S SLIM
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Will SLIM revolutionise lunar landings?

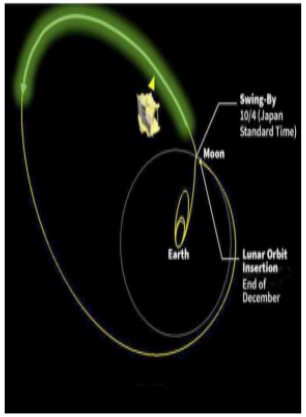
What factors contribute to SLIM's significantly lower weight compared to other lunar exploration missions, and how does this impact its mission objectives? How will SLIM affect what India and Japan are planning for their joint Lunar Polar Exploration mission?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

At 1.21 pm IST on December 25, Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft entered into orbit around the moon after a months-long journey, and ahead of its planned moon-landing attempt on January 19. If the attempt succeeds, Japan will become only the fifth country to soft-land a robotic craft on the natural satellite, months after India succeeded with its Chandrayaan-3 mission in August. Perhaps more importantly, SLIM's success or failure will also affect the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 mission.



A diagram illustrating SLIM's path from the earth to the moon, spanning four months. JAXA

What is SLIM?

SLIM is a spacecraft built and launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on September 7, 2023, from the Tanegashima spaceport. It weighed only 590 kg at launch, which is almost one-seventh of Chandrayaan-3, which weighed 3,900 kg at launch. Of course, the latter mission also carried a larger suite of instruments.

SLIM was launched together with XRISM, a next-generation X-ray space telescope, onboard an H-2A rocket. JAXA had planned to launch SLIM and XRISM together, so delays in readying XRISM pushed SLIM's launch date from 2021 to 2023.

On December 25, SLIM entered into an elliptical orbit around the moon over three minutes or so. Its apogee (farthest point) in this orbit is 4,000 km and perigee (closest point) is 600 km above the lunar surface.

Notably, JAXA launched SLIM only two weeks after the surface component of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission succeeded and Russia's Luna 25 spacecraft failed. SLIM will also mark the second Japanese attempt this year to soft-land on the moon: the HAKUTO-R M1 lander, built by Japanese company ispace, crashed in late April after its engines shut down too soon during the landing.

How did SLIM get to the moon?

SLIM is lighter because it carried much less fuel. Of Chandrayaan-3's 3.9 tonnes, the propulsion module alone weighed 2.1 tonnes. This is why the mission was launched on July 14 and could reach the moon less than a month later, by following a route called the Hohmann transfer orbit.

On the other hand, SLIM took four months because it followed a longer but more fuel-thrifty route based on weak-stability boundary theory.

Once it was launched into an orbit around the earth, SLIM swung around the planet multiple times, building up its kinetic energy with each swing. Once it was travelling fast enough, it shot up towards the moon's orbit. Chandrayaan-3 followed a qualitatively similar path until this point.

Once it got close to the moon, Chandrayaan-3 applied its brakes - which consume fuel in space - so that it could slow down enough to be captured by the moon's weaker gravity. But once SLIM got near the moon, instead of slowing down and being captured by the moon's gravity, it allowed itself to be deflected in the moon's direction even as it shot past lunar orbit, deeper into space (see image above). This deflection is the result of the combined forces exerted by the earth and the moon. Physicists worked it out in the late 1980s for another JAXA mission, called 'Hiten'.

What will SLIM do on the moon?

SLIM was subsequently on a larger, more loopy path that was designed to bring it back near the moon in December after it had slowed down further. This event happened on Christmas Day, followed by orbital capture the next day.

By sacrificing some time, SLIM could be more fuel-efficient.

All this said SLIM's standout feature is its reputation as the "moon sniper" - a title derived from what it will do on the moon on January 19: it will try to land within 100 metres of its chosen landing site. This is an unusually tight limit given the history of moon-landing missions. For example, the 'Vikram' lander of Chandrayaan-3 was designed to descend in an elliptical area that was 4 km long downrange and 2.5 km wide cross-range, and it eventually landed at a spot 350 metres away from a predetermined one.

(Downrange means in the direction of the craft's motion and cross-range means to either side. In effect, these distances specify how much the craft's path can deviate in these two directions.)

NASA's hulking 'Curiosity' rover was tasked with landing at the centre of a 20 km x 7 km ellipse in Gale Crater on Mars on August 6, 2012, and it landed 2.4 km away. The most precise moon-landing in history was China's Chang'e 3 spacecraft: it landed 89 metres away from its chosen spot in the Mare Imbrium plain on the moon on December 14, 2013. However, it was still allowed to land anywhere inside an ellipse of 6 km x 6 km.

SLIM, in effect, will set the record on January 19 for attempting to soft-land with the smallest ever area tolerance on the moon. The chosen site is near the Shioli Crater at 13.3° S and 25.2° E, just as the 'Vikram' lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission used data from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter to help guide its descent, SLIM will use data from JAXA's SELENE orbiter, which ended in 2009.

Its lower mass - only 120 kg excluding fuel - will help in this endeavour by rendering it more manoeuvrable while its small size will be a test of its economical design.

Just before it lands, SLIM will deploy two small rovers called Lunar Excursion Vehicle (LEV) 1 and 2. LEV-1, LEV-2, and SLIM will together study the lunar surface near the landing point, collect temperature and radiation readings, and attempt to study the moon's mantle.

How will SLIM affect Chandrayaan-4?

Scientists are interested in the moon's South Pole region at large because parts of some of the craters here are always in shadow, allowing the temperature there to drop very low as well as sparing them the effects of sunlight and diurnal temperature variations. We already know these parts contain water-ice, and a lunar surface mission could potentially explore these sites and attempt to extract water.

When the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully executed its Chandrayaan-3 mission by soft-landing a robotic craft on the moon's surface, on August 23, it also concluded the second phase of its lunar exploration programme. The first mission of its third phase is the Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission, a.k.a. Chandrayaan 4.

LUPEX will be an Indian-Japan joint enterprise (however, while JAXA has approved LUPEX, India is yet to) with an earliest launch date in 2026. It will explore an area closer to the moon's south pole than Chandrayaan-3 did - and this makes all the difference.

The terrain near either of the moon's poles is rocky, pocked with several craters, and full of steep slopes. Axiomatically, if there is a suitable landing spot for a (relatively) large landing module or rover, its downrange and cross-range limits will be lower than they were for Chandrayaan-3. The craft will have to land as close to the site as possible, if not at the site itself.

The technologies JAXA will test with SLIM, but especially a feature-matching algorithm and navigation systems, will be crucial for this aspect of LUPEX. For now, JAXA is expected to provide the launch vehicle and the lunar rover while India will provide the lander module. The landing site is yet to be fixed; to compare, the 'Vikram' lander landed 600 km from the South Pole.

THE GIST

- Japan's SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) spacecraft entered lunar orbit on December 25, aiming for a moon landing on January 19, potentially making Japan the fifth country to soft-land a craft on the moon.
- Weighing 590 kg at launch, SLIM is significantly lighter than India's Chandrayaan 3 (3,900 kg), emphasising fuel efficiency and carrying fewer instruments.
- SLIM's journey to the moon utilised a fuel-thrifty route based on weak-stability boundary theory, taking four months compared to Chandrayaan 3's shorter Hohmann transfer orbit which took less than a month.
- Set to land near the Shioli Crater, SLIM aims for an unprecedented precision landing within 100 meters, aided by data from JAXA's SELENE orbiter and deploying small rovers for surface analysis.
- SLIM's success or failure will inform Japan's collaboration with India on the LUPEX mission, which will explore the moon's South Pole region and require precise landing technologies.

Context: Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft recently entered into orbit around the moon after a months-long journey, marking a significant milestone ahead of its planned moon-landing attempt on January 19.

Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)

- **About**: SLIM, a spacecraft, was developed and launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on September 7, 2023, from the Tanegashima spaceport.
- **Weight Disparity**: At the time of launch, SLIM had a remarkably low weight of 590 kg, in stark contrast to the significantly heavier Chandrayaan 3, which weighed 3,900 kg.
- **Mission Accompaniment**: SLIM was launched alongside XRISM, a cutting-edge X-ray space telescope, using an H-2A rocket.
- **Lunar Orbit Entry**: On December 25, SLIM successfully entered an elliptical orbit around the moon, achieving this milestone in approximately three minutes.
  - The orbit's apogee (farthest point) is at 4,000 km, while the perigee (closest point) is 600 km above the lunar surface.
- Japan will become only the **fifth country to soft-land a robotic craft** on the natural satellite, months after India succeeded with its Chandrayaan 3 mission in August if it succeeds.
- **LUPEX**: Indian-Japan joint enterprise with an earliest launch date in 2026. It will explore an area closer to the moon's south pole than Chandrayaan 3 did – and this makes all the difference.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Page 2

SATAT SCHEME
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Scheme)

Mandatory use of biogas by fertiliser units likely

Proposed scheme similar to existing one for oil companies

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, December 27



OUTLAY AT ₹1.78 TRN

- The proposal by the biogas association is to ensure the guaranteed purchase of fermented organic manure by fertiliser marketing companies
- The association has suggested an outlay of ₹1.78 trillion for the scheme over several years
- It expects 30-40 plants to be commissioned by the end of the current fiscal

THE INDIAN BIOGAS Association (IBS) has suggested that the government formulate a scheme similar to Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT), being implemented in the oil and gas sector, for fertilisers to ensure the guaranteed purchase of fermented organic manure (FOM) by fertiliser marketing companies. This, it said, would help in strengthening the financial viability of biogas plants.

"Government officials have agreed to our proposal in principle. But they noted that given the Budget constraints, such a scheme can be implemented only in a phased manner," said Gaurav Kedia, chairman of the Indian Biogas Association. "We are told that the government is considering this.. it might roll out a scheme in the next fiscal itself."

The association has suggested an outlay of ₹1.78 trillion for the scheme over several years.

"Similar to the existing programme like SATAT that guarantees gas offtake by oil marketing companies (OMCs), this scheme will also propose to secure FOM offtake, thereby stabilising revenue streams and strengthening the financial viability of biogas projects," Kedia said. The SATAT scheme is designed to extract economic value from biomass waste in the form of compressed biogas (CBG) and bio-manure.

The scheme will provide investors with increased clarity and confidence in the overall biogas plant business model which so far has failed to gain the expected traction.

The idea is to bring PM PRANAM, Bhartiya Prakratik Kheti, and the support through small and marginal farmers under one umbrella, Kedia said.

Biogas plants convert organic waste including animal waste, crop residue, municipal waste etc into clean biogas through anaerobic digestion to produce clean energy. In the process, FOM is produced as a waste which can be utilised in agriculture.

"A single window clearance system will give a lot of push to the sector," Kedia said.

The IBS expects 30-40 CBG plants to be commissioned by the end of the current financial year and another 100 by December 2024. "In the next 20-30 years, we should be able to reach 60 million metric tonne of CBG potential per annum," Kedia said. This is, provided the increased impetus to the sector by the government.

The government has intended to set up 5,000 CBG plants for the production of 15 million metric tonne of CBG per annum by 2023-24 under the SATAT scheme. However, the country has only been able to set up some 48 CBG plants so far.

As per the official data, the active number of letter of intent (LoI) presently is 2,176 against the total number of 4,100 LoIs issued when the scheme was announced.

Additionally, to be able to realise the target of 5,000 CBG plants at least by 2030 will require an investment of ₹1.75 trillion, 3-4% of which will be attributed to foreign direct investment, according to industry estimates.

The government has been working towards the promotion of compressed biogas as an alternative source of energy to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels for quite some time now. It has also created the Global Biofuel Alliance in its latest G20 summit and has now mandated a 5% blending of CBG with compressed natural gas and piped natural gas by FY29.

"Next year they will announce the entire framework for the Global Biofuel Alliance and are already consulting different organisations for this," said Kedia. "There might be a little more emphasis on the liquid side to start with."

Context: The Indian Biogas Association (IBS) has suggested that the government formulate a scheme similar to Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) being implemented in the oil and gas sector.

Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) Scheme

- **Launched**: In October 2018
- **Objectives**: To establish Compressed Biogas production facilities, aiming to provide an eco-friendly fuel option for automotive use.
- **Implementation Strategy**: The government has adopted a strategy of inviting expressions of interest from potential investors interested in contributing to the establishment of Compressed Biogas production facilities.
- **Partnerships**: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, as well as various oil-related public sector units. Key partners include Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation.
- **Environmental Impact**: This Scheme plays a crucial role in supporting India's commitment to reducing carbon emissions, aligning with international agreements such as the Paris Agreement.
- **Designed for**: To extract economic value from bio-mass waste in the form of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) and bio-manure.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

PM-KISAN SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Scheme)

PM-Kisan beneficiaries dwindling, Govt adds 34 lakh in special drive

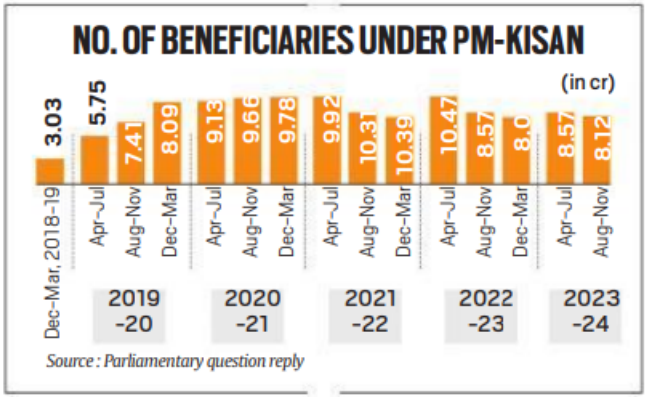
HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

WITH THE NUMBER of PM-Kisan beneficiaries dropping by over 20 per cent to 8.12 crore now from a peak of 10.47 crore in April-July 2022, the government has added back 34 lakh farmers under the "saturation drive" since the launch of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on November 15.

The yatra, launched on November 15 — six months ahead of the elections to the Lok Sabha — will run till January 26, and is intended to ensure that all intended beneficiaries are covered under various flagship schemes of the government.

In the latest round of PM-Kisan payments on November 15, as many as 8.12 crore farmers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Context: WITH THE NUMBER of PM-Kisan beneficiaries dropping by over 20 per cent to 8.12 crore now from a peak of 10.47 crore in April-July 2022.

PM-KISAN Scheme

- **About**: This Scheme is a Central Sector Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme.
- **Launch**: February 2019 (made effective from December 2018) to give income support to farmers.
- **Funding**: 100% funding of rupee 6000 in 3 installments.
- **Implemented by**: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.
- **Purpose**: The scheme is meant to provide income support to all landholding farmer's families across the country and enable them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs.
- **Beneficiaries**: Farmer families rest with the State / UT Governments.

PM-KISAN Mobile App

- **About**: Created through a partnership between the National Informatics Centre and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has been introduced.
- **Application Status**: Farmers using the app can conveniently check the status of their applications, providing transparency and real-time updates.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Dec 27

DRUG MENACE IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Social Issue)

PM Modi concerned over drug menace, urges religious leaders to help tackle it

Context: Prime Minister of India expressed concern over the growing drug menace among the youth and urged religious leaders and influencers to take the issue seriously.

Drug Menace in India

- **Major Substances**: Alcohol, cannabis, opium, and heroin dominate the list of abused drugs in India.
- **Youth Vulnerability**: Approximately 13% of drug and substance abusers in India fall under the age group of 20 and below.
- **Critical Period**: Adolescence stands out as a critical-risk period for the initiation of substance use.
- **Juvenile Justice Act**: Children affected by substance abuse are categorized as children in need of care and protection under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015.
- **Affected States**: Punjab, Assam, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Bihar, Delhi, and others are prominently affected by the issue.
- **Root Causes of Drug Abuse**: Poverty, peer pressure, illiteracy, low self-esteem, genetic predisposition, etc.

Initiatives to Control Drug Menace

- **NDPS Act, 1985**: The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, outlines provisions for identification, treatment, rehabilitation, and more.
- **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**: Launched in 272 vulnerable districts, this initiative focuses on community outreach to combat substance abuse.
- **SIMS Portal:** The Seizure Information Management System (SIMS) portal is dedicated to handling cases involving significant drug seizures.
- **NAPDDR 2018-2025:** The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025 adopts a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue effectively.
- **UN Conventions**: The UN conventions, including the Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), shape global efforts in controlling narcotic and psychotropic substances.

PIB

Dec 27

INDIA-ITALY TIE UP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Cabinet approves the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy

Context: The Union Cabinet recently granted ex-post facto approval for the signing and ratification of the Migration and Mobility Agreement between the Governments of India and Italy proposed by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Key Provisions of Agreement

- Indian students wishing **to gather initial professional experience, after completing academic/vocational training in Italy** may be granted temporary residence in Italy for up to 12 months.
- The I**talian side has detailed provisions related to Professional Training**, Extracurricular Internships and Curricular Internships which allow Indian students/trainees to gain experience in Italian skill/training standards.
- For workers, the Italian side has reserved a quota of 5000, 6000 and 7000 non seasonal Indian workers for 2023, 2024 and 2025 under the current Flows Decree.

Italy

- **About**: It occupying a peninsula that juts deep into the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Situated**: South-Central Europe
- **Highest Points**: Monte Rosa
- **Italy shares Land Borders**: France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia and the enclaved microstates of Vatican City and San Marino.



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