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MK Yadav Sir

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BUSINESS STANDARD

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DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

First climate DFI runs into FinMin roadblock

Ministry ready to offer provisions to ease global climate funding

SHREYA JAI
New Delhi, 23 May



- Last year PFC, REC proposed to be India's first climate-development financial institution (DFI)
- Move would have made them (PFC & REC) dedicated agencies to fund climate and energy transition
- FinMin has, however, declined the request, arguing that the DFI for infrastructure already exists under the NBFID Act, 2021
- FinMin has offered to provide DFI-level provisions to PFC and REC
- PFC and REC are now proposing to the power ministry to be the dedicated agencies for climate and energy transition funding

The plan to have the country's first climate-development financial institution (DFI) has hit a regulatory hurdle with the Union Ministry of Finance turning down the proposal of power sector lenders PFC Ltd and REC Ltd to be designated as such.

The finance ministry, however, has told the two non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) various dispensations under the existing DFI regime can be made available to them for routing global climate funding.

Last year, in September, the Union power ministry had pitched the proposals of PFC (earlier Power Finance Corporation) and REC (earlier Rural Electrification Corporation) to get DFI status, this paper had reported.

This would have made PFC and REC the country's first such institutions to steer global climate funding and net zero investment in the country.

However, sources in the government and the two NBFCs said the proposal had been declined by the finance ministry on the grounds that there was a DFI in the country for funding infrastructure projects in the country.

"The ministry is of the view that a DFI tag is not necessary for what PFC and REC have proposed to achieve through it. Also, infrastructure lending already has a DFI and energy transition will effectively form a part of it," said a senior official.

Under the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) Act, 2021, DFI status helps a financial institution (FI) to access foreign funding, grants, and loans easily and in amounts higher than what a public financial institution (PFI), such as PFC and REC, can do.

Executives of PFC and REC said while the DFI tag would not be given, the finance ministry had assured them the various provisions and benefits of the NBFID could be given to them on a case-to-case basis.

"It has also been proposed that the two NBFCs should establish a subsidiary in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City, to avail of several benefits that India's first international financial services centre offers," said a source privy to the discussion.

"There is a view that borrowing and lending in foreign currencies will form a major chunk of the green ambitions of PFC and REC. Hence a presence in GIFT City takes care of this need," said an executive. PFC and REC have initiated the process of forming a subsidiary in GIFT City. In a recent post-results press conference, Vivek Kumar Dewangan, chairman and managing director, REC, said: "To facilitate dollar lending to new green energy sectors, especially those looking to export, REC is setting up a subsidiary in GIFT City."

Additionally, the two companies are now eyeing becoming "nodal agencies" for climate and energy-transition funding in the country. Senior executives said no regulatory or legal steps would be required for it and the Union power ministry could designate them to be so.

Conventional power generation accounts for 47 per cent of PFC's loan portfolio and that has declined steadily over the years. Its exposure to green energy has increased but remains at 10 per cent of its portfolio. Senior executives at PFC said the company wanted to place itself as the "net zero agency" of the country. It also recently amended its Memorandum of Association (MoA) so that it can lend to several non-power sectors as well.

In the case of REC, Dewangan recently said it was looking to decarbonise its lending portfolio with more exposure to green energy sectors.

REC is looking to increase the share of green-energy sectors in its loan portfolio to 30 per cent by 2030 from 6.8 per cent as of now. This would include the existing green-energy projects and newer sectors such as green hydrogen and green ammonia, Dewangan said.

According to industry estimates, India would require $10 trillion to meet its net zero target. Several multilateral, development and sovereign financing agencies have been pointing out the lack of a nodal agency in India for steering climate loans and aid.

Context: The plan to have the country's first **climate-development financial institution (DFI)** has hit a regulatory hurdle with the Union Ministry of Finance turning down the proposal of power sector lenders PFC Ltd and REC Ltd to be designated as such.

- Under the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) Act, 2021,** DFI status helps a financial institution (FI) to access foreign funding, grants, and loans easily and in amounts higher than what a public financial institution (PFI), such as PFC and REC, can do.

Development Financial Institutions

- **About**: Specialized institutions set up primarily to **provide development/ Project finance** especially in developing countries.
- **Role of DFIs**: The DFIs provide **finance to all those entities which are not adequately served** by the banks and capital markets like households, SMEs, and private corporations.
- **Difference from Commercial Banks**: DFIs are not just plain lenders like commercial banks but they **act as companions in the development of significant sectors** of the economy.
- **Source of capital**: National or international development funds.
- **Regulations**: At present RBI regulates and supervises only nine select DFIs, viz., IDBI, IFCI Ltd. TFCI Ltd., IDFC Ltd., IIBI Ltd., EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI.
- **Classified into four categories:**
  - **National Development Banks -** Ex: IDBI, SIDBI, ICICI, IFCI, IRBI, IDFC
  - **Sector specific financial institutions -** Ex: TFCI, EXIM Bank, NABARD, HDFC, NHB
  - **Investment Institutions** - Ex: LIC, GIC and UTI
  - **State level institutions** - Ex: State Finance Corporations and SIDCs.
- **Types of Finances:**
  - Medium (1-5 years)
  - Long term (>5 years)

ECONOMIC TIMES

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MAJOR PORTS OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

Policy in Works to Allow Ports Extend Lease Beyond 30 Years

Port players fear lack of clarity may hit investments in capacity augmentation

Twesh.Mishra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre is readying a policy that will allow extension of port terminal contracts beyond their 30-year lease period under certain conditions.

"The policy will govern major ports and allow them to offer a lease extension for existing terminal operators, subject to certain conditions," a senior shipping ministry official told ET. The country's major ports are governed by the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways.

At present, there are no rules that allow an extension of these agreements which were signed in the late 90s and early 2000s. This has become a sore point for port terminal operators who want some assurance that they will be able to hold on to their assets for a longer period.



"As investors in the Indian port sector, companies strongly advocate for a consistent and stable policy regime when it comes to port concessions," said representatives from a private port terminal operator whose lease is set to expire in a decade.

Port players say that further investments in capacity augmentation can be stalled if there is no clarity in the contract extension regime. "Since large investment is involved, the private sector wants visibility over a longer period to know whether the amount spent can be recovered," officials from another private sector port player said.

"Existing terminal operators want right of first refusal, along with bid preference," a shipping ministry official said, noting that concerns about errant players that may rig the bids to push out serious port operators also need to be addressed.

"The policy is going to be finalised soon," the official cited earlier said.

The Centre has been pushing the 100% landlord port model for major ports to encourage private sector participation. Under this, the day-to-day port operations executed through terminals are leased out to private players.

Context: The Centre is readying a policy that will allow **extension of port terminal contracts** beyond their 30-year lease period under certain conditions.

Key Points

- At present, there are **no rules that allow an extension** of these agreements which were signed in the late 90s and early 2000s.
- This has become a sore point for port terminal operators who want some assurance that they will be able to hold on to their assets for a longer period.
- The Centre has been pushing the **100% landlord port model** for major ports to encourage private sector participation.
- Under this, the day-to-day port operations executed through terminals are leased out to private players.

Government Initiatives for Port Sector

- Drawing from the government's Blue Economy policy, the **Union Budget 2021 makes allocations for expansion of shipping and inland waterways** infrastructure along with ₹2,000 crores for PPP model in all major ports.
- **Make in India** – In line with this initiative, Ministry of Shipping amended the guidelines of Right of First Refusal (ROFR) licensing conditions. Chartering of vessels priority is given to the vessels built in India, flagged in the country and owned by the Indians.
- **National Logistics Portal (Marine)** will be developed to help exporters, importers and service providers.
- **SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes – Ports)** is a dispute redressal portal developed by Ministry of Shipping for the private players.
- **Major Port Authorities Bill 2020** has been passed by the Parliament that aims to repeal Major Ports Trust Act, 1963. It will establish a Board of Major Port Authority for each major port.

Major Ports of India

- Major ports are **included in the Union list** of the Indian Constitution and are administered under the **Indian Ports Act of 1908 and the Major Port Trust Act of 1963.**
- Each major port is overseen by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Government of India.
- Port development, management, and operations are among their tasks.
- Major ports are **owned and operated by the Central Government,** while minor ports are owned and operated by state governments.
- All Indian ports are **located in nine coastal states:** Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

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INDIA'S CBG SECTOR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)



India's compressed biogas sector needs a big push, says ETAC report

India should target a 10 per cent blend of CBG in natural gas by 2030, notes Energy Transition Advisory Committee

NEXT NEWS >

By Rahul Jain
Published: Tuesday 23 May 2023

SATAT Initiative

- **About**: 'SATAT' (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme on Compressed Biogas (CBG) was l**aunched in 2018.**
- **Key Features**: Under the SATAT scheme, entrepreneurs shall set up CBG plants, produce & supply CBG to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for sale as automotive & industrial fuels.
  - To **produce compressed biogas (CBG) from Waste and Biomass** sources like agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and sewage treatment plant waste and make CBG available in the market for use as a green fuel.
  - The Bio-Gas is purified to remove **hydrogen sulphide (H2S), carbon dioxide (CO2), and water vapor** and compressed as Compressed Biogas (CBG), which has methane (CH4) content of more than 90%.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Petroleum And Natural Gas.

Context: A recent report by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG)** emphasised the need for India's energy transition and highlighted various pathways to achieve a low-carbon future.

- The document titled **The Green Shift: The Low Carbon Transition of India's Oil and Gas Sector** was released by the Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC), established by MoP&NG.
- India should **target a 10 per cent blend of CBG** in natural gas by 2030, according to the ETAC report.
- **India's natural gas production and consumption** is in a significant deficit which is met through imports.

Key Points

- Currently, most **CBG production** occurs in European and North American markets.
- In countries like Denmark and Sweden, bio-methane constitutes over 10 per cent of their total gas sales.
- **Only 46 CBG plants have been commissioned in India** as of March 2023, out of the planned 5,000 plants expected to be operational by the end of 2023 under the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme.**
- The Union government has set **a goal to increase the proportion of gas in the energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030** from the current 6.5 per cent in order to establish India as a gas-based economy.
- The government announced in the budget that **a 5 per cent CBG mandate** will be implemented for all organisations involved in natural gas marketing.
- In 2015, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways authorised the use of CBG as **a viable alternative to CNG for motor vehicles.**
- One of the **primary challenges in establishing CBG plants** is the lack of a reliable and consistent supply of feedstock, which renders the projects financially unviable.
- The report suggested that the Ministry of Agriculture should take responsibility for biomass management, supported by state-level policies.
- Currently, biomass aggregation and storage equipment are eligible for a subsidy of up to 50 per cent under the **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme.**

TIMES OF INDIA

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FORTIFIED RICE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

439 districts distributing fortified rice under TPDS

A total of 439 districts in the country have started distributing fortified rice under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the food ministry said on Tuesday. It said all the districts barring the wheat consuming ones in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan will be covered well before the March 2024 deadline.

The ministry said FCI has available stock of 253 lakh tonnes of fortified rice and there is enough installed capacity to achieve the target. Fortification of rice is a cost-effective strategy to increase vitamin and mineral content in diets. The government said several countriesincluding the US,have either or allowed rice fortification.

government will have 85-90 lakh tonne surplus for market interventions. "We can sell the wheat in the open market as and when there is any requirement," said an official.

Context: A total of 439 districts in the country have started distributing **fortified rice** under the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).**

- FCI has available stock of 253 lakh tonnes of fortified rice and there is enough installed capacity to achieve the target.
- In June, 1997, the Government of India launched the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)** aimed at reducing poverty by delivering minimum requirements of food grains at heavily subsidised prices to the population living below the poverty line.

Fortified rice under TPDS

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had launched a centrally sponsored **pilot scheme on "Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS)"**for a period of three years beginning 2019-20 with a total budget outlay of Rs.174.64 crore.
- The Scheme is **funded by the Government of India** in the ratio of 90:10 in respect of North Eastern, hilly and island states and 75:25 in respect of the rest.
- India is considering **compulsory fortification of rice** from 2024 as a significant percentage of the population continues to suffer from malnutrition and anemia.
- **FSSAI the regulatory/licensing authority for food fortification**, has drafted Standards for FRK, Pre-mix and provided the direction to all the stakeholders for operationalization of draft standards with immediate effect.

Fortification of Rice

- According to the Food Ministry, fortification of rice is a **cost-effective and complementary strategy** to increase vitamin and mineral content in diets.
- According to FSSAI norms, 1 kg fortified rice will contain iron (28 mg-42.5 mg), folic acid (75-125 microgram) and Vitamin B-12 (0.75-1.25 microgram).
- In addition, **rice may also be fortified with micronutrients**, singly or in combination, with zinc, Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3 and Vitamin B6.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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PRACTICE OF FORUM SHOPPING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

FORUM HUNTING

When lawyers or litigants look for a 'favourable' judge or court, a practice the Supreme Court has criticised

KHADIJA KHAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

CHIEF JUSTICE of India D Y Chandrachud told a litigant that he would "not permit forum shopping" after the litigant mentioned his case before him on May 19 — even though he had mentioned the same case before Justice K M Joseph a day earlier.

The practice

Litigants or lawyers are said to be "forum shopping" when they attempt to deliberately move their case to a particular judge or court that they might believe could be favourable to them.

Merriam-Webster defines forum shopping as the "practice of choosing the court in which to bring an action from among those courts that could properly exercise jurisdiction based on a determination of which court is likely to provide the most favourable outcome".

As part of litigation strategy, lawyers sometimes weigh their options on the right forum to approach. They could, for example, directly go to the Supreme Court with a PIL instead of the concerned High Court to attract more eyeballs.

The criticism

Courts have repeatedly frowned upon obvious efforts to circumvent the process or avoid a particular judge, saying it causes injustice to the other party, overburdens some courts, and interferes with the judicial process.

Most common law countries use the "forum non-conveniens" principle — which gives the court discretionary powers to refuse to exercise its jurisdiction over a matter that is more conveniently heard by another court or forum — to prevent forum shopping.

SC, HCs' view

■ In *Chetak Construction Ltd. vs. Om Prakash* (1988), the Supreme Court said: "A litigant cannot be permitted choice of the forum and every attempt at forum shopping must be crushed with a heavy hand."

■ On March 22, 2022, an SC Bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Krishna Murari termed forum shopping as a "disreputable practise by the courts" that "has no sanction and paramountcy in law".

The court observed that one of the respondents had filed three complaints, two in Delhi and one in Kolkata, and their timeline indicated a "malafide intention" to harass the petitioners and "pressurise them into shelling out the investment". (*Vijay Kumar Ghai v. State of W.B.*)

■ The 2022 ruling reiterated that forum shopping has been condemned by courts, and referred to the SC's 2017 ruling in *Union of India & Ors. vs. Cipla Ltd.*, which laid down a "functional test" for forum shopping. "What has to be seen is whether there is any functional similarity in the proceedings between one court and another or whether there is some sort of subterfuge on the part of a litigant. ...This...will determine whether a litigant is indulging in forum shopping or not," the court said.

■ On March 28, 2023, the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh High Court in *Dr. Khair-Un-Nisa and Ors vs. UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ors* imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on the petitioners for indulging in forum shopping by filing multiple petitions before different wings of the court, albeit having the same cause of action. The court also referred to "Bench hunting", which refers to petitioners managing to get their cases heard by a particular judge or court to ensure a favourable order.

Relying on the 2017 SC ruling in *Kamini Jaiswal v. Union of India*, the court said that "unscrupulous elements" were always looking for a court or forum of their choice, but were not permitted to do so by law.

Context: SC termed **forum shopping** as a "disreputable practise by the courts".

- The remark came as the litigant mentioned his case before the CJI, seeking a hearing, although he had mentioned the same case a day before Justice KM Joseph.

Practice of forum shopping

- When **litigants or lawyers attempt to deliberately move their case to a particular judge or Court** where they think the judgment could be more favourable, they are said to be "forum shopping."
- Websters's dictionary defines forum shopping as the **"practice of choosing the court** in which to bring an action from among those courts that could properly exercise jurisdiction based on a determination of which court is likely to provide the most favorable outcome."
- Lawyers think about which is the **right forum to approach** as part of their litigation strategy.
    - For example, one could directly approach the Supreme Court via a public interest litigation case instead of the concerned High Court because the issue could get more eyeballs.
    - However, an obvious effort to circumvent the process or avoid a particular judge is frowned upon.
- **Judges have cited the injustice** caused to the other party in the case and overburdening some courts over others and interfering with judicial process.
- Similarly, **"Bench hunting"** refers to petitioners managing to get their cases heard by a particular judge or court to ensure a favourable order.

SC's View

- The Supreme Court in its 1988 ruling in **'Chetak Construction Ltd. vs. Om Prakash'** said, "A litigant cannot be permitted choice of the forum," and that every attempt at forum shopping "must be crushed with a heavy hand."
- In 2022, an SC Bench in the case of **'Vijay Kumar Ghai vs. State of W.B.'** termed forum shopping as a "disreputable practise by the courts" that "has no sanction and paramountcy in law".

PIB MAY 24

NATIONAL E-VIDHAN APPLICATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is going to organize Two-day National Workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

Context: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is set to organize a two-day National Workshop on the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).**

- The focus of this workshop is to **encourage all State/UT Legislatures to move towards NeVA platform** and bring in transparency, accountability and responsiveness in their conduct of House business, through the use of technology.

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

- **About**: It is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the **Digital India Programme.**
- **Nodal Ministry**: **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)** for its implementation in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures.
- **Funding**: Provided by the MoPA.
  - **Funding pattern**: Through Central Sponsored **Scheme: 60:40 for states; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.**
- **Technical support**: By the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY).**
- **Key features:**
  - **Concept of Paperless Assembly or e-Assembly**: involve electronic means to facilitate the work of Assembly.
  - **Digitisation**: It enables automation of the entire law-making process, tracking of decisions and documents, and sharing of information.
  - **Data on Cloud:** Through the **cloud technology (Meghraj)**, data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time.
- **State's Role:**
  - **Nodal officer:** The State Government will appoint a **secretary-level officer** to be designated as the nodal officer/representative for its implementation.
    - **Nagaland** became the first state to implement NeVA.
  - **Funding**: State Government will bear the **funds required for the running of e-Vidhan MMP after 3 years**.
  - **Ensure capacity building:** for the effective implementation of the **e-Vidhan MMP module.**
  - **Maintenance and replacement**: The State Government/Legislature will undertake **maintenance and replacement** of ICT equipment after 3 years.

LIVE MINT

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DIGITAL INDIA ACT 2023

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

Centre to release first draft of Digital India Act in early June

The new Act is planned as a future-ready legislation to replace the existing IT Act

Prasid Banerjee & Shouvik Das
NEW DELHI

The first draft of the upcoming Digital India Act will be published and opened for industry consultations by the first week of June, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar told industry executives at an industry consultation held in Mumbai. Four industry professionals who attended the event told *Mint* that the discussion did not yield much new information over what was already discussed at the first DIA consultation held in Bengaluru in March.

One executive, who handles policy affairs for a Big Tech firm, said that the minister spoke about principles of accountability and openness, and emphasized the need to keep the law future-proof. They also said that the DIA might overlap with the Digital Competiton Law that is in the works right now, and the minister also "confirmed" that it will have rules for fair compensation of content monetization platforms.

The latter could be good news for news publishers, who have been pushing for laws that compel firms like Google and Meta to pay for distributing the content produced by publications, through search engines and social media platforms. The executive, however, was of the opinion that India's rules will not allow collective bargaining as Australia does with its News Media Bargaining Code.

> While a first draft may come in June, the government seems to be aiming for a more concrete version of the law by December

Addressing industry experts, lawyers, policymakers and startup bodies at Digital India Dialogues, a gathering hosted in Mumbai on Tuesday, Chandrasekhar said, "We are not going to regulate AI (artificial intelligence) but we will create guardrails. There will be no separate legislation, but a part of DIA will address threats related to high-risk AI."

"The #DigitalIndiaAct is a future-ready legislation that aims to replace the existing IT Act and provide a strong legal framework for protecting the rights of Digital Nagriks while ensuring an enabling environment for innovation and growth," Chandrasekhar said in a tweet after the consultation. The minister added that the DIA will be an "important pillar" for global standard cyber law framework, and that this was the first time "consultations are taking place around principles of the Act". While a first draft may come in June, the government seems to be aiming for a more concrete version of the law by December.

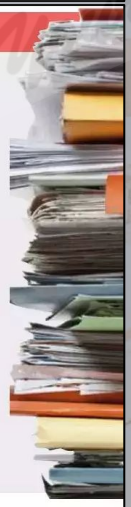
prasid.b@htlive.com

Digital India Act

GOVT OFFICIAL SAYS...

- **Pre-draft consultations to be held in the first week of May**
- **Govt to invite lawyers, public policy consultants and other experts to submit their views**
- **To give stakeholders 45 days time to upload their written submissions**

- **IT ministry** may invite govt and legal experts to vet the final draft
- **New act** to introduce a framework related to data storage, online gaming, cyberbullying, doxing, and other cybercrimes



Context: The first draft of the upcoming **Digital India Act (DIA)** will be published and opened for industry consultations by the first week of June.

- The new Act is planned as a future-ready legislation to **replace the existing IT Act**
- While a first draft may come in June, the government seems to be aiming for a more concrete version of the law by December.

Digital India Act, 2023

- **About**: The act is a new legislation that aims to overhaul the decades-old **Information Technology Act, 2000.**
- **Objectives**: The Act **covers a range of topics** such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybercrime, data protection, deep fakes, competition issues among internet platforms, and online safety.
    - The Act also aims to **address "new complex forms of user harms"** that have emerged in the years since the IT Act enactment, such as catfishing, doxxing, trolling, and phishing.
- **Key features:**
    - **Creating new regulations** around newer technology, including 5G, IoT devices, cloud computing, metaverse, blockchain, and cryptocurrency.
    - **Reclassifying online intermediaries** to separate categories instead of one general intermediary label, each one with its own set of regulations.
    - **Removing "safe harbour" immunity** for online intermediaries for purposeful misinformation or other content violations from third parties.
    - **Creating digital standards and laws** regarding artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technology.
    - **Criminalizing cyberbullying,** identity theft, and unauthorized sharing of personal information without consent.

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LIMA 23

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

Indian delegation, led by Additional Secretary (Defence Production), attends Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition 2023 in Malaysia

Context: An Indian delegation attended the 16th **Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 23),** being held at Langkawi, Malaysia between May 22-25, 2023.

Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition

- **About**: Established in 1991 and held biennially in Langkawi, Malaysia, LIMA is **one of the largest maritime & aerospace exhibitions** in the Asia-Pacific.
  - The event is **supported by the Malaysian government** and industry associations.
- **Objectives**: It is focused mainly on the **defence industry,** but also supports civilian industries.
- **LIMA 23:** This year's edition involves over 600 exhibitors from more than 30 countries, including India.
  - Aerobatic teams from various air forces such as the **Black Eagles, August 1st, Jupiter Aerobatic Team, Russian Knights and the Al Fursan** are expected to take part in the aerobatic display.



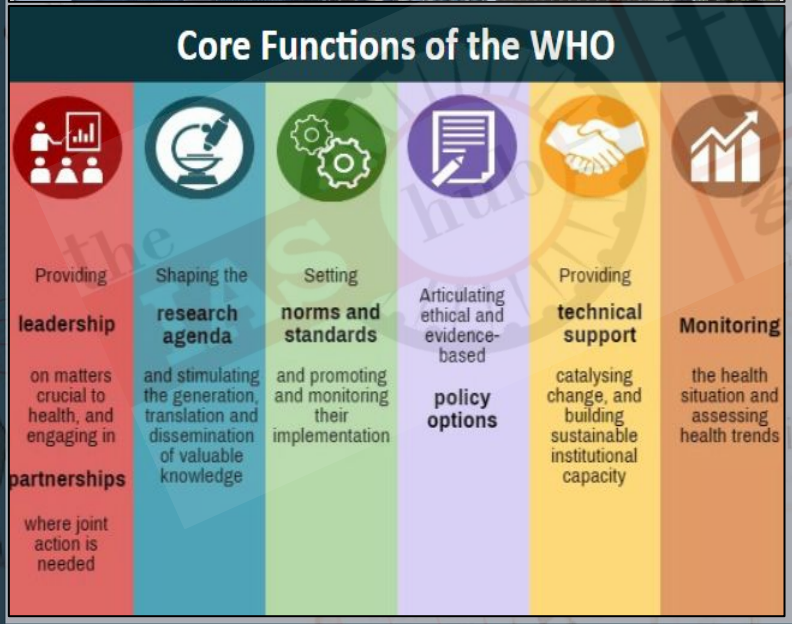
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WHO FUNDING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)





Context: The budget for the **World Health Organization** was agreed upon by its member states at $6.83 billion (approximately Rs 56,567 crore) for the next two years (2024-2025) at the ongoing 76th **World Health Assembly (WHA).**

- The **U.S. has historically been the single largest contributo**r to WHO.21 hours ago
- India makes up 0.48 percent (approx.) of total contributions, and China 0.21 percent (approx.).

World Health Assembly (WHA)

- **About**: It is the forum through which the **World Health Organization (WHO)** is governed by its 194 member states.
  - It is the **world's highest health policy-setting body** and is composed of health ministers from member states.
  - The members of the WHA generally meet every year in May in **Geneva** at the Palace of Nations, the location of WHO Headquarters.
- **Members**: The WHA has, currently, 194 member states (**all UN members without Liechtenstein, plus the Cook Islands and Niue**).
  - Also WHA includes two associate members, **Puerto Rico and Tokelau**.

4 kinds of contributions that make up funding for the WHO

- **Assessed contributions**: These are the **dues countries pay i**n order to be a member of the Organization.
  - The amount each Member State **must pay is calculated relative** to the country's wealth and population.
- **Voluntary contributions It** comes from Member States (in addition to their assessed contribution) or from other partners. They can range from flexible to highly earmarked.
- **Core voluntary contributions:** It allows **less well-funded activities** to benefit from a better flow of resources and ease implementation bottlenecks that arise when immediate financing is lacking.
- **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contributions** It was started in 2011 to **improve and strengthen the sharing of influenza viruses** with human pandemic potential, and to increase the access of developing countries to vaccines and other pandemic related supplies.

THE HINDU

Page 1

Update NPR to enumerate self during next Census

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

If citizens want to exercise the right to fill the Census form on their own rather than through government enumerators, they will have to first update their National Population Register (NPR) details online.

The NPR, first put together in 2010 and updated in 2015, already has the details of 119 crore people.

Census 2021, which has been postponed indefinitely, will be the first digital Census giving citizens an opportunity to "self-enumerate" as and when it is conducted.

The government has not announced when the next census will be held, with a January 2 notification ruling out the exercise at least till September.

The Census is conducted in two phases.

NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Population & Associated Issues)

Context: Census 2021, which has been postponed indefinitely, will be the first digital Census giving citizens an opportunity to **"self-enumerate"** as and when it is conducted.

Key Points

- According to a collection of reports released by Home Minister Amit Shah on May 21 at the inauguration of a new Census building in Delhi, **"self-enumeration for Census** will be provided to only those households that have updated the NPR online".
- The government has not announced when the next Census will be held, with a January 2, 2023 notification ruling out the exercise at least till September.
- If citizens want to exercise the **right to fill the Census** form on their own rather than through government enumerators, they will have to first update their **National Population Register (NPR)** details online.
- The NPR, first put together in 2010 and updated in 2015, already has the details of 119 crore people.

National Population Register (NPR)

- The NPR is a **list of usual residents** of the country.
- It is **compulsory for every usual resident** of India to register in the NPR. This includes both Indian citizens and foreign citizens.
    - A **usual resident** is defined for the purposes of NPR as:
        - Persons residing in a local area for the past **six months or more.**
        - Persons intending to reside in that area for the **next six months or more.**
- The objective of the NPR is to **create a database of every usual resident in the country.**
- It is being prepared at the local (village/sub-town), sub-district, district, state and national level under provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.**
- The data for the **National Population Register** was first collected in 2010 by the Government of India and would be repeated every 10 years.
- The idea is to create a **comprehensive identity database** of every usual resident in the country. The database would contain demographic as well as biometric particulars.
- The government has clarified that **no documents will be required for NPR** as self-declaration will be treated as enough for data entry in the population registrar.

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