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MK Yadav Sir

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ECONOMIC TIMES

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FUTURES AND OPTION CONTRACT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

DETAILS SOUGHT BY AFTERNOON

Sebi Seeks F&O Trade Info from Desi Hedge Funds

Checklist

Category-3 AIFs can take leveraged bets besides hedging

Like other pooled vehicles, these funds have offshore investors

Unlike PEs and VC funds, these funds largely invest in listed stocks

A PPM contains all necessary information about an AIF

It is issued to investors on basis of which capital commitments are raised



Sebi may check whether F&O exposures of a fund match strategy outlined in their private placement memorandum (PPM)

Also wants details on when deals were cut, reasons for transactions

Sugata.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Indian capital market regulator has asked local hedge funds to declare their futures and option (F&O) trades and the underlying stocks on which such equity derivative positions were built.

These pooled vehicles, known as category-3 alternative investment funds (AIFs), have been also told to disclose when the deals were cut and spell out the rationale for the transactions.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) communicated this in an email to several funds on Thursday, a fund industry person told ET. The AIFs were told to share the information by Friday afternoon.

"We do not know why Sebi sought the information. However, under the current circumstances, we do not rule out the possibility of the regulator checking whether some of the funds overstepped their limits in taking short positions in stocks of Adani companies," said a person belonging to a fund.

Since the AIFs have been asked to share their 'private placement memorandum' (PPM) along with the data, Sebi may examine whether the F&O exposures of a fund match with derivative strategy outlined in the PPM.

Leverage Limit ▸▸ 6

Context: The Indian capital market regulator has asked local hedge funds to declare their **futures and option (F&O) trades** and the underlying stocks on which such equity derivative positions were built.

- These pooled vehicles, known as **category-3 alternative investment funds (AIFs),** have been also told to disclose when the deals were cut and spell out the rationale for the transactions.

Futures and Option Contract

- **Futures Contract**: A "Futures Contract" is a **agreement between buyer and seller to buy or sell an asset at a certain time** in the future at a certain price.
  - The contract has to be **honored by both parties on the due date.**
  - This is **used by traders or speculators** who are engaged in arbitrage.
    - Arbitrage means that the **trader shall buy the stock at a low price** today as he wants to sell it on a future date at a high price.
  - They are subjected to **high risk.**
  - It can reap **unlimited profit or loss**.
  - The buyer has an **obligation to execute the contract.**
  - The contract can be **executed on the agreed date.**
  - **No advance payments** are made.
- **Option Contract**: An option is a contract that gives the buyer the **Right but not the obligation** to buy a commodity at a specified price at a specified future date.
  - They are subjected to **limited risk.**
  - It can reap either **unlimited profit or loss**
  - The buyer has **no obligation.**
  - The contract **can be executed anytime** before the expiry of the agreed date.
  - Advance is **paid in the form of premiums.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

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STRI INDEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

SERVICES TRADE RESTRICTIVENESS

India rises on OECD index, still ranks 4th from bottom

ASIT RANJAN MISHRA
New Delhi, 16 February

India's rank in services trade restrictiveness index (STRI) improved a notch to 47 from 48 among 50 countries surveyed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as the sanctions-hit Russia slipped below India.

The OECD STRI index covers the 38 OECD members, as well as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Vietnam. Apart from Russia, Indonesia and Thailand are the only two countries below India's rank.

"The 2022 STRI of India is above the OECD average and high compared to all countries in the STRI sample. Market access to certain key services sectors remains prohibited for foreigners or subjected to stringent conditions. Recent reforms include the privatisation of Air India in January 2022 and the elimination of pricing guidelines for transfers of shares between residents and non-residents," OECD said in its report.

The report said India had been progressively introducing reforms over the past years, contributing to a slight liberalisation of services trade in some sectors, most notably between 2018 and 2021.

"Engineering services, computer services, road freight transport and sound recording are the sectors with the lowest score (least restricted) relative to the average STRI across all countries. Accounting services, legal services, architecture services and rail freight transport are the sectors with the highest score (most-restrictive) relative to the average STRI across all countries," it said.

OECD said open and well-regulated services markets are essential to facilitate economic recovery, strengthen resilience to future shocks, and promote a more sustainable trading system in India.

"To ensure that the benefits of open markets and a rules-based international trading system are preserved, policy makers should focus on minimising barriers that increase trade costs for services providers, weaken the gains from digital transformation and undermine competitiveness," it said. The 2022 STRI reflects restrictions that apply on key strategic services sectors such as rail freight transport, legal services and accounting, OECD said.

"These sectors are either reserved for public monopolies or they are completely closed for foreign direct investment and foreign services providers," it said.

OECD said limitations on foreign ownership also exist in other relevant sectors such as distribution, commercial banking and insurance.

STATUS CHECK



Services Trade Restrictiveness Index 2022

#	Country
1	Japan
2	UK
3	Netherlands
4	Czech Republic
5	Chile
46	Israel
47	India
48	Russia
49	Thailand
50	Indonesia

Source: OECD

Context: India´s rank in **services trade restrictiveness index (STRI)** improved a notch to 47 from 48 among 50 countries surveyed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as the sanctions hit Russia slipped below India.

- The **OECD STRI index** covers the 38 OECD members, as well as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Highlights of the report

- Apart from Russia, Indonesia and Thailand are the **only two countries below India´s rank.**
- The 2022 STRI of India is above the OECD average and high compared to all countries in the STRI sample.
- Recent reforms include the **privatisation of Air India** in January 2022 and the elimination of pricing guidelines for transfers of shares between residents and nonresidents.
- India had been progressively **introducing reforms over the past years,** contributing to a slight liberalisation of services trade in some sectors, most notably between 2018 and 2021.
- **Open and well regulated services markets** are essential to facilitate economic recovery, strengthen resilience to future shocks, and promote a more sustainable trading system in India.

Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)

- **About**: Launched in 2014, the **OECD's Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)** provides information on regulations affecting trade in services in 22 sectors across all member countries.
  - The **regulatory database** and indices are updated annually in December.
- **Digital STRI:** There is also a Digital STRI that **identifies, catalogues, and quantifies** cross-cutting barriers that affect services traded digitally.
- **Scoring**: The STRI indices take **values between zero and one,** one being the most restrictive.

LIVE MINT

Page 1

UNICORN STARTUP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Ather likely to join unicorn club with $250 mn fund raise

Debjyoti Roy
Debjyoti.Roy@livemint.com
NEW DELHI



Ather co-founder and chief executive Tarun Mehta MINT

Ather Energy Pvt. Ltd, an electric two-wheeler maker, seeks to raise funding from current and new investors at a unicorn valuation, three people aware of the developments said.

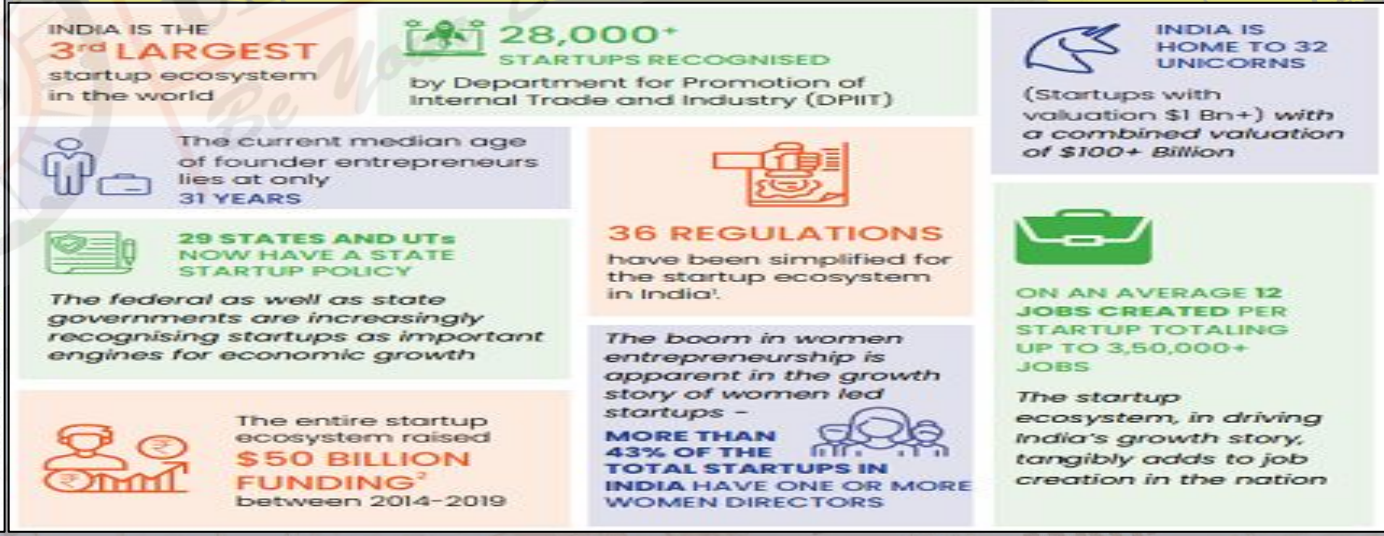
Bengaluru-based Ather Energy plans to raise approximately $250 million in a primary infusion, with a significant secondary component, one of the three people said, requesting anonymity. The company aims to secure a post-money valuation of $1.3 billion, the person said. National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF), one of the existing investors in the company, is likely to participate in the round. "NIIF may invest to the tune of $50 million. Besides, the company is also in talks with a US-based fund among other investors to lead the round," a second person said, also requesting anonymity. The company, which also counts Hero MotoCorp among its investors, earlier hired investment bank Avendus Capital to scout for investments. While a spokesperson for Avendus declined to comment, email queries sent to Ather Energy and NIIF remained unanswered till press time. In an interview last month, co-founder and chief executive Tarun Mehta said that the company raised a total of $170-$180 million to date. He added that the latest funding round in October valued the company at around $800 million. Highlighting Ather's growth, Mehta said that the company is already clocked revenue of over ₹2,000 crore, or about $300 million, in January and is likely to hit the $1 billion revenue figure by the end of this year.

Ather Energy is pursuing an aggressive expansion plan by opening distribution centres across India. In December, Ather's Mehta said it plans to boost production capacity to 20,000 units a month by March.

Context: Ather Energy Pvt. Ltd, an electric two-wheeler maker, seeks to raise funding from current and new investors at a **unicorn valuation.**

Unicorn Startup

- **About**: Unicorns are **privately held, venture-capital** backed startups that have reached a **value of $1 billion.**
  - The valuation of unicorns is **not expressly linked to their current financial performance**, but largely based on their growth potential as perceived by investors and venture capitalists who have taken part in various funding rounds.
- **Origin**: American venture capitalist **Aileen Lee** is credited with coining the term in 2013.
  - It was used to emphasise the rarity of the emergence of such startups.
- **India's unicorn record:** According to Invest India, the government's **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency,** "The year 2021, 2020, and 2019 saw the birth of the maximum number of Indian unicorns with 44, 11, and 7 unicorns coming each year, respectively."
  - It adds that between 2015 and 2021, the country's startup ecosystem has seen a **nine-time increase in the number of investors**, and a seven-time increase in the total funding of startups.



TIMES OF INDIA

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MSCI INDEX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

MSCI defers rejig for 2 Adani stocks

2 Of 4 Cos' Weightage In Indices Won't Reduce From Feb 28 | Next Review In May

Partha Sinha & Reeba Zachariah | TNN

Mumbai: MSCI, one of the major global index providers, on Thursday said it was deferring changes it had announced for two Adani Group companies — Adani Total Gas and Adani Transmission — since these are under 'price limit mechanisms'. On February 9, MSCI had said it was reducing weightage of four Adani Group companies — other two being flagship Adani Enterprises and ACC — effective February 28.

The decision by MSCI is expected to temporarily defer any additional selling in Adani Total Gas and Adani Transmission that could have come on February 28 due to the index provider's decision announced last week. A lower weightage had meant that fund managers who had benchmarked their portfolios to these MSCI indices had to compulsorily reduce the share of these stocks in their funds.

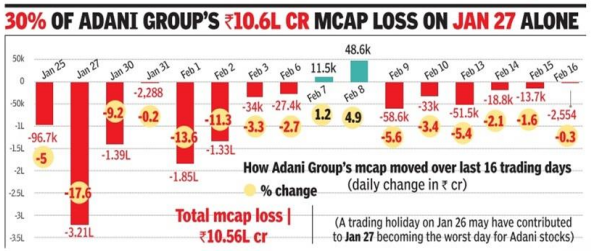
Currently, Adani Total Gas, Adani Transmission and Adani Enterprises are under the additional surveillance measure (ASM) of exchanges. ASM is an automatic, data-driven risk-mitigating measure that usually leads to higher margins and limits price fluctuation for stocks that are under it.

MSCI also indicated that since fund managers who have benchmarked their funds to some of its indices may face issues in replicating Adani Group's stocks in their portfolios due to ongoing uncertainties, it will apply special treatment to these scrips. MSCI will not make any changes like additions, deletions, constraint factor changes in some of its indices like Factor, ESG, Thematic and Capped indices for eight Adani Group securities, a release from the index provider said.

These eight stocks are: ACC, Adani Enterprises, Adani Green Energy, Adani Ports & SEZ, Adani Power, Adani Total Gas, Adani Transmission and Ambuja Cements.

MSCI will have a relook at its stand relating to these stocks in its May 2023 review, which is part of its bi-annual process. Every year, MSCI reviews its indices in May and November. MSCI will continue to monitor "information that may impact the eligibility" of Adani Group's stocks for its Global Investable Market Indexes or estimates of their free float. "MSCI welcomes feedback from all market participants and investors and will communicate further as necessary or appropriate," it said.

On February 8, MSCI had said that it will update foreign inclusion factors (FIFs) of some Adani companies as part of its index review after it got feedback from its users that some of the stocks that it considered to be 'free float', may not be true. In index parlance, 'free float' usually means stocks held by non-promoter investors.



Context: MSCI, one of the m**ajor global index providers,** said it was deferring changes it had announced for two Adani Group companies - Adani Total Gas and Adani Transmission - since these are under 'price limit mechanisms'.

MSCI Index

- **About**: The MSCI World is a **stock market index** of 1,643 world' stocks.
  - It is maintained by MSCI Inc., formerly **Morgan Stanley Capital International,** and is used as a common benchmark for 'world' or 'global' stock funds.
  - The index includes a **collection of stocks of all the developed markets** in the world, as defined by MSCI.
  - The index **includes securities from 23 countries** but excludes stocks from emerging and frontier economies making it less worldwide than the name suggests.
  - MSCI also **produces a Frontier Markets index,** including another 31 markets.
- **MSCI Index India**: As per the official definition, the MSCI Index India is used to **evaluate the performance of large and mid-cap segments** of the Indian market.
  - **MSCI Global Investable Indexes (GIMI) Methodology** is used for MSCI Index India.
  - Around 85 percent of the Indian equity universe is covered by the MSCI Index India.
- **MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI):** Performance of **large and mid-cap segments of 23 developed and 27 emerging markets** is measured using MSCI ACWI.
  - There are around 3000 constituents in the MSCI All Country World Index.

MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI)

MSCI World			MSCI Emerging Markets		
America	Europe & Middle East	Pazific	America	Europe, Middle East & Africa	Asia
Canada	Austria	Australia	Brazil	Czech Republic	China
USA	Belgium	Hong Kong	Chile	Egypt	India
	Denmark	Japan	Columbia	Greece	Indonesia
	Finland	New Zealand	Mexico	Hungary	Malaysia
	France	Singapore	Peru	Kuwait	Philippines
	Germany			Poland	South Korea
	Ireland			Qatar	Taiwan
	Israel			South Africa	Thailand
	Italy			Saudi Arabia	
	Netherlands			Turkey	
	Norway			U.A.E.	
	Portugal				
	Spain				
	Sweden				
	Switzerland				
	United Kingdom				

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 4

ORGAN DONATION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Govt ends age-65 cap for receiving organ from dead donor, eases rules

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16

THE UNION Health Ministry has done away with the age cap of 65 years for receiving an organ from a dead donor, and guidelines are being revised to allow the elderly to register on waiting lists.

Officials said Thursday that while preference will still be given to younger recipients, those above the age of 65 will not be completely barred from the process.

"Although there was no age cap for living donor transplants (where family members donate organs like kidneys and livers), people over the age of 65 years

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED **Key for this age group**

Data indicates why the move is significant: a study shows over 40% of those in need of kidney transplants worldwide are over the age of 65.

Context: The Union Health Ministry has done away with the **age cap of 65 years for receiving an organ from a dead donor,** and guidelines are being revised to allow the elderly to register on waiting lists.

- India conducts the **third highest number of transplants** in the world.

Key Points

- While preference will still be given to younger recipients, those a**bove the age of 65 will not be completely barred** from the process.
- Although there was **no age cap for living donor transplants** (where family members donate organs like kidneys and livers), people over the age of 65 years couldn't register to receive organs from deceased donors as per guidelines of NOTTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation).
    - This requirement has been done away with.
- In the present scenario, the age of 65 is not considered very old and the elderly should get an organ transplant opportunity.
- To increase access to organ transplant, the Health Ministry has also **done away with the domicile requirement and fee for registration.**
- People in need of transplant **can go to any hospital in any state** and register to receive an organ from a deceased donor.
- As per the allocation criteria of organ, an organ harvested in one state is first shared with other hospitals in the same state, then in the region, and if there is still no match, it is shared nationally.
- Along with the change in criteria, states have also been asked **not to charge recipients for registration** on waiting list for organs.

Organ donation in India

- **Law**: Organ donation in India is regulated by the **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (amended in 2011).**
- **Key Provisions:** The law allows both deceased and living donors to donate their organs.
    - The act **recognises brain death** identified as a form of the death process and defines criteria for brain death.
    - It provides **regulatory and advisory bodies** for monitoring transplantation activity.
    - It also provides for **maintenance of a registry of donors and recipients** of human organs and tissues.
    - It also regulates the transplantation of human organs for **therapeutic purposes** and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs.
- **Nodal Authority:** The **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)** functions as the apex body for activities of relating to procurement, allotment and distribution of organs in the country.
    - It is a National level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

PIB FEB 17

JAL JAN ABHIYAN
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt. Policies & Interventions)

PM addresses launch of 'Jal-Jan Abhiyan' via video message

Context: The Prime Minister addressed the **'Jal-Jan Abhiyan'** of Brahma Kumaris via video message.

Jal Jan Abhiyan

- **About**: The Jal Jan Abhiyan will be implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Brahma Kumaris organization.**
- **Objective**: Water conservation campaign.
- **Activities**: During the campaign, the volunteers from the organization will **conduct public awareness campaign** on preserving water.
  - The campaign is to **run for eight months.**
  - They will focus on **building new water bodies** and also on preserving more than 5,000 water bodies.
  - The target of the campaign is **to reach at least ten crore people** and organize 10,000 programs.
  - During the campaign, the participants will take a **water pledge on using water wisely,** and consume it judiciously.
- **Raja Yogis:** The **Brahma Kumaris organization** is deploying its Raja Yogis to conduct the campaign.
  - Raja Yogis are well-versed **yoga practitioners.**
  - They will **inspire people to prevent water wastage** and pull them into the concept of a sustainable world.

Brahma Kumaris

- **About**: The Brahma Kumaris, originally called Om Mandali, are **a spiritual movement** that originated in Hyderabad, Sindh, during the 1930s.
  - The Brahma Kumaris movement was **founded by Lekhraj Kripalani.** Today he is called the **OM BABA.**
  - The organisation is known for the **prominent role that women play in the movement.**
- **Headquarters**: Mount Abu, **Rajasthan**.
  - The organization is spread across different parts of the world.
- **Teachings**: It teaches a type of meditation that emphasizes **identity as souls rather than bodies.**
  - They think that **all souls are good by nature** and that God is the source of all goodness.
  - The organisation teaches to transcend labels associated with the body, such as race, nationality, religion, and gender, and it aspires to establish a global culture based on what it calls **"soul-consciousness".**
- **Achievements**: In 1980, the organization registered with the UN Department of Public Relations.
  - In 1983, it received "**Consultative Status" from UNESCO.**

DTE FEB 17

LEAD POISONING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Element of mystery: Lead poisoning is a huge public health concern for India; here's why

Lack of screening systems; inability to determine source of exposure and lax implementation of safety norms compound the problem



- **Impact**: Lead poisoning can cause **severe mental and physical impairment.** Young children are most vulnerable.
  - Exposure to high levels of lead may cause anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.
  - Lead is more harmful to children because their brains and nervous systems are still developing.
- **Treatment**: Lead poisoning can be treated, but **any damage caused cannot be reversed.**

Context: Half the children in **India report high blood lead levels,** reveals a 2020 report by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Pure Earth, a US-based environmental health non-profit.

Key Points

- **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh** account for 40 percent of the population with high blood lead levels.
- India **lacks systems to screen populations** for possible exposure.
- India has some **48 national referral centres for lead projects** where blood lead levels can be tested, but screening is usually done on a voluntary basis or at health camps by non-profits.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has passed a notification as **"Regulation on Lead contents in Household and Decorative Paints Rules, 2016".**
  - The Government has prohibited manufacture, trade, import as well as export of household and decorative paints containing lead or lead compounds in excess of 90 Parts Per Million (PPM).

Lead

- **About**: Lead is a highly toxic metal and a very strong poison.
  - Lead poisoning is a serious and sometimes fatal condition. It occurs when lead builds up in the body.
- **Common Sources of Lead Exposure:**
  - Lead in water from the **use of leaded pipes;**
  - Lead from active industry, such as mining and the unsound recycling of used **lead-acid batteries (ULABs);**
  - Lead-based **paint and pigments;**
  - Leaded **gasoline** (which has declined considerably in recent decades, but was a major historical source);
  - Lead solder in **food cans**; and
  - Lead in **spices, cosmetics, ayurvedic medicines, toys** and other consumer products.
  - Children are also exposed to lead in-**utero through exposure of their mothers,** with adverse impacts on neurobehavioural development.

THE HINDU Page 14

LEPROSY DISEASE
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

India accounts for 52% of world's new leprosy patients, says Mandaviya

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

With a renewed focus on tackling leprosy, the Union Health Ministry has devised a strategic road map for achieving zero cases of the infection by 2030.

Despite India being declared "Leprosy Eliminated" in 2005, the country still accounts for over half (52%) of the world's new leprosy patients, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a written message of the National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023-2027. Leprosy is a chronic bacterial infection, which affects skin, nerves, lungs and eyes.

Health officials have noted that earlier gains made in the leprosy programme were reversed during COVID-19 as a sudden decline in case detection numbers was noted. Early detection of the infection in the affected person can save them from physical disability.

With the COVID pandemic in 2020, case detection dropped by 43% in 2020-21 and by 34% in 2021-22 in comparison to the pre-COVID year 2019-20. "Annual case detection rate has halved from 8.13 cases per lakh population to 4.56 cases in 2020-21. In 2021-22, it has settled at 5.52 cases per lakh," the plan document notes.

COVID-19 had its severe impact on leprosy case detection services

Grade 2 disabilities

The Ministry noted that decline in detection has led to increase in patients with grade 2 disabilities. COVID-19 in India had its severe impact on leprosy case detection services, and resulted in hidden cases and a probable increase in grade 2 disabilities, which may delay attainment of the goal of zero leprosy, it has stated. In 2021-22, a total of 75,394 new cases were detected in India. A total of 1,863 grade 2 disabilities detected amongst the new leprosy cases during 2021-22, indicating a G2D rate of 1.36 per million population and 2.47% G2D among new cases. In 2022-23, for data available till August 2022, this rate has gone a notch up to 1.71 per million population.

"The agenda of eliminating leprosy at a sub-national level is still unfinished, there are a few States/Union Territories which have yet to achieve the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem," said Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Managing Director, National Health Mission.

Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu have either one or more districts (total 82 districts) which are yet to achieve leprosy elimination target and contributes to more than 90% cases in the country.

Context: Despite India being declared "**Leprosy Eliminated**" in 2005, the country still accounts for over half (52%) of world's new leprosy patients.

Leprosy

- **About**: Leprosy/ Hansen's Disease is one of the **Neglected Tropical Diseases.**
  - It is an infectious disease caused by a **bacillus, Mycobacterium leprae,** which multiplies slowly.
- **Incubation Period**: On average, the disease incubation period is **5 years** but symptoms may occur within 1 year. It can also take as long as 20 years or even more to occur.
- **Affects**: Leprosy mainly affects the **skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes.**
- **Transmission**: The bacillus is likely **transmitted via droplets,** from the nose and mouth, during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.
- **Treatment**: Leprosy is **curable with multidrug therapy (MDT).** Untreated, it can cause progressive and permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs, and eyes.
- **Prevalence**: It is most prevalent in **India (69% of cases),** Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and East Africa, Mozambique to Ethiopia, Brazil and Nepal.
- **Vaccine**: The **BCG vaccine** has some preventative effect against leprosy.
- **National Program**: **National Leprosy Eradication Programme** is a centrally sponsored scheme. Its vision is "Leprosy-free India".
  - Under this, action is taken for early case detection, complete treatment of detected cases and to contain the onset of disease in close contacts. It also includes **leprosy awareness campaigns.**
  - Under the programme, **Reconstructive Surgeries** are conducted and welfare allowance is paid to each patient undergoing Reconstructive Surgeries.

PIB FEB 17

KAVACH-2023

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Cyber Security)

AICTE and BPRD Jointly Launch KAVACH-2023, a National Level Hackathon to tackle cyber threats and provide effective solutions

Context: Advancing India's cyber-preparedness, **KAVACH-2023**, a national level hackathon was launched to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing the cyber security and cybercrime challenges of the 21st century.

- It is jointly launched by **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).**

Key Points

- KAVACH-2023 is a unique kind of **national hackathon** jointly conducted by MoE's Innovation Cell, AICTE, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D, MHA) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C, MHA) to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing the cyber security and cybercrime challenges of the 21st century faced by our Law Enforcement Agencies and common citizens.
- It will be a **36-hours long event**, during which youth from educational institutions across the country and registered start-ups will participate to find robust, secure and effective technological solutions for cyber security by using their technical expertise & innovative skills.
- It will a**dvance the blockage of cyber security crimes** with a robust system monitoring and safety provisions, he added.
- KAVACH-2023 will be **conducted in two phases.**
- In the first phase, the problem statements, grouped into various buckets such as **Fake News/social media, Dark web, Women safety, Phishing Detection, Video analytics/CCTV, Obscene Content Detection, Spam Alert, and Malware Analysis/Digital Forensics** shall be posed to the public.
- Willing participants are expected to **develop digital solutions** for the statements using robust technologies like Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality, etc. and submit their concepts on the portal of Kavach-2023.
- **Total prize money worth Rs. 20 Lakh** will be awarded to the winning teams.

DTE

FEB 17

DOOMSDAY GLACIER

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)



Context: Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica, often known as the 'Doomsday Glacier', is in peril as warm ocean water has entered its weak points, according to a new research.

- Doomsday means **warning or threat,** something that can cause destruction
- The study is a result of the collective effort by the **International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration** funded by the United States and Britain.

Key Points

- The glacier is experiencing one of the worst situations owing to melting brought on by **rising temperatures.**
- Thwaites Glacier might **contribute to a rise in sea level of more than half a metre** and further destabilise the nearby glaciers, which can add another three metres to the surge.
- Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km), it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre.
- **Icefin** is a **small robotic oceanographer** that allows researchers to study ice and water around and beneath ice shelves.
- Glaciers, which hold **70 per cent of the Earth's freshwater,** currently encompass around **10 percent of the planet's land area.**
- The amount of ice lost by glaciers between 1994 and 2017 was around 30 trillion tonnes and they are now melting at a pace of 1.2 trillion tonnes each year.
- The glaciers in the **Alps, Iceland and Alaska** are some of those that are melting at the quickest rates.

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