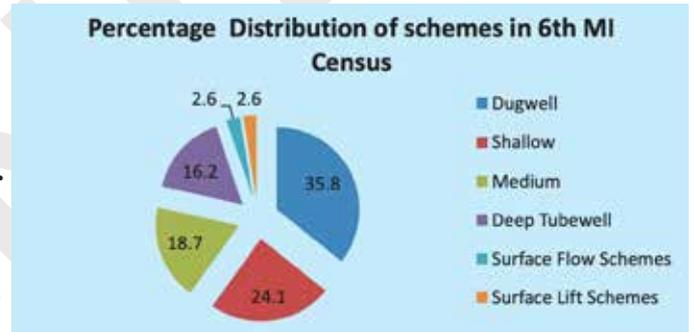


NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI RELEASES THE 6TH CENSUS REPORT ON MINOR IRRIGATION (MI) SCHEMES

- Census has been **conducted under the centrally sponsored scheme "Irrigation Census"** of Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- MI schemes are defined as **those structures either in groundwater or in surfacewater category having Culturable Command Area** (area which can be irrigated from a scheme and is fit for cultivation) **up to 2,000 hectares**.
 - **MI schemes can be categorized broadly into following types:** Dugwell, Shallow tubewell, Medium Tubewell, Deep tubewell, Surface flow schemes, and Surface lift schemes.
 - **Advantage of MI projects:** Short gestation period, require smaller investment and benefits reach the farmers immediately.
- **Key Highlights**
 - **23.14 million MI schemes have been reported**, out of which **94.8% are Ground Water schemes**.
 - **UP possesses largest number of MI schemes** followed by Maharashtra, MP and Tamil Nadu.
 - **Increase of about 1.42 million in MI schemes** during 6th census as compared to 5th Census.
 - **96.6% of MI schemes** continue to remain **under private ownership**.
 - **18.1%** of all individually owned schemes **are owned by women**.
- **Initiatives taken for MI**
 - Centrally sponsored Plan Scheme **Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics (RMIS)**.
 - MI sector as a whole is **implemented by State Governments** and states have state-specific schemes.



BUSINESS 20 (B20) SUMMIT HELD IN NEW DELHI

- Theme of summit is **R.A.I.S.E – Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses**. B20 summit **brought together policymakers, business leaders and experts from across the world** to deliberate and discuss B20 India Communiqué.
- B20 was **established in 2010** as the **official G20 dialogue forum with global business community**.
- **Key Recommendations/Policy actions**

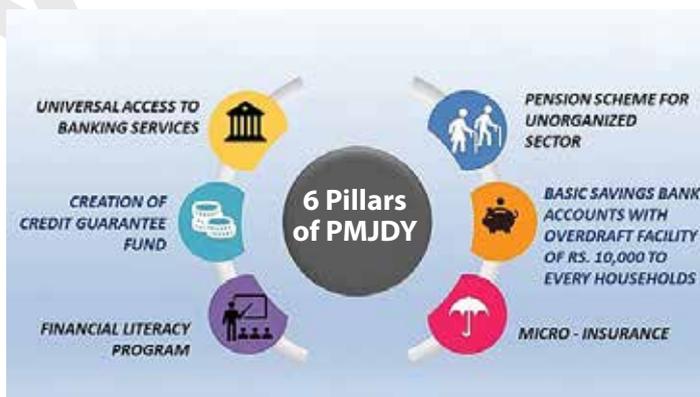
| Areas | Recommendations/ Policy Actions |
|---|---|
| Global Economic Recovery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Global SDG Acceleration Fund (GSAF) for financing Global Public Goods and bridging SDG financing gap. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GSAF is proposed as a global multi-donor fund where G20 countries and next ten largest countries by GDP would allocate and contribute a fixed capital. |
| Inclusive GVCs for Resilient Global Trade and Investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate FDI flows towards green, sustainable, and circular business model. • Identify niche opportunities with competitive advantages for less represented segments. |
| Financial Inclusion for Economic Empowerment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide incubation/mentorship assistance to small businesses to enable them access to right resources. |
| Digital Transformation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set unified standards and metrics for digital literacy. |
| Technology, Innovation and R&D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Virtual Digital Lab and Library as a platform for cross-border collaboration. • Establish 'Council for Earth Observation' to leverage space technology with focus on water conservation etc. |
| Future of Work, skilling and mobility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Universal Labour Information Management System that provide centralised data on employment trends, job vacancies etc. |
| Energy, Climate Change and Resource Efficiency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop harmonised international carbon markets. |

SOLAR ORBITER SPACECRAFT SHEDS LIGHT ON THE SOLAR WIND'S ORIGIN

- Solar Orbiter is a mission between ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA.
- Spacecraft has detected numerous relatively small jets of charged particles (called picoflare jets) that could be a major source to sustain solar wind.
 - Picoflare jets are expelled intermittently from structures on corona (outermost layer of sun's atmosphere) called coronal holes where sun's magnetic field stretches into space rather than back into it.
- Solar wind continuously flows outward from Sun and consists mainly of protons and electrons in a state known as plasma.
 - Different regions on Sun produce solar wind of different speeds and densities.
 - Activity on Sun's surface—such as solar flares or coronal mass ejections (CMEs)—can greatly enhance total energy carried by solar wind, as well as its speed.
- While Earth's magnetosphere deflects most solar activity carried by solar wind, some charged particles seep through and cause magnetic disturbances, classified as either geomagnetic storms or substorms.
 - These storms can be benign, as when displayed in auroral light shows.
 - However, they can also hit operations of space-dependent services like GPS, radio, and satellite communications, damage satellite electronics, expose astronauts to increased levels of radiation etc.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY) - NATIONAL MISSION FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION COMPLETES NINE YEARS

- PMJDY was launched in 2014 under Ministry of Finance to ensure access to financial services, namely, Basic Savings Bank Account (BSBD), remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.
 - Under the scheme, a BSBD account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account.
- Features included in PMJDY from 2018
 - Focus shifted from Every Household to Every Unbanked Adult.
 - Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs for PMJDY accounts.
 - Overdraft (OD) limit doubled and Increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to 65 years.
- Achievements under PMJDY
 - Number of PMJDY accounts has tripled between 2015-2023.
 - 55.6% Jan Dhan account holders are women and 66.7% Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas.
 - Average Deposit per PMJDY account has increased over 3.8 times between 2015- 2023.
 - 6.26 crore PMJDY account holders received Direct Benefit Transfer from Government under various schemes.
 - Number of UPI financial transactions have increased from 92 crore in FY 2017-18 to 8,371 crore in FY 2022-23.



APPLE BACKS CALIFORNIA RIGHT-TO-REPAIR BILL IN MAJOR POLICY SHIFT

- Bill would require manufacturers such as Apple to allow customers to fix their broken or damaged devices. Apple has historically opposed right-to-repair efforts.
- Right to repair refers to the concept of allowing end users, consumers as well as businesses, to repair devices they own or service without any manufacturer or technical restrictions.
 - It has been recognised in many countries including UK and European Union.
- Significance of right-to-repair
 - Address issue of 'planned obsolescence' i.e. devices are designed specifically to last a limited amount of time and to be replaced.
 - Contribute to a circular economy by reducing e-waste and focusing on sustainable consumption as enshrined by LiFE movement
 - Give consumers a chance to repair their products at an optimal cost.
 - Harmonize trade between original equipment manufacturers and third-party buyers and sellers.
 - Boost business for small repair shops, which are an important part of local economies.
- In India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MCA) has developed a right-to-repair portal to provide easy access to necessary information on repair and maintenance of products to consumers.
 - It covers four key sectors: farming equipment, mobiles and electronics, consumer durables and automobile equipment.



GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING INCLUSION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs) IN PRIORITY SECTOR TO HELP FUNDING ACCESS

- As per RBI guidelines, it is **mandatory for banks to extend 40 percent of their adjusted net bank credit to priority sector.**
 - Priority Sector means those **sectors which Government of India and RBI consider as important for the development of basic needs of the country.**
 - At present, **seven sectors** i.e. agriculture, MSME, export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, and renewable energy are considered for Priority-Sector Lending (PSL).
- **Need for EV Finance**
 - Banks and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) are **not lending due to the emergence of EV technology and adoption.**
 - **Low-cost and increased financing** will be critical **to drive EV sales in the country.**
- **Potential of PSL to Scale EV Finance**
 - Inclusion can **directly incentivise banks to enhance lending** to EVs.
 - **Allowing NBFCs to leverage their greater on-ground presence** to provide loans to EVs while benefiting from banks.
 - **Increase investor confidence** by providing an additional market signal that complements central and state governments' existing planning and policies.
 - **Institutionalising the importance of EVs** in India's financial industry.
- **Other government steps for EV finance: FAME II, Production-Linked Incentive** scheme for advanced chemistry cell battery etc.

ALSO IN NEWS



Goldilocks Scenario

- A Goldilocks scenario in an economy refers to an **ideal situation where there is a steady growth.**
 - Economic growth is **neither too high (hot) to trigger inflation and nor too low (cold)** for a slowdown.
- **Key feature under Goldilocks scenario**
 - **Low rate of unemployment**
 - **Steady GDP growth rate**
 - **Relatively low retail inflation and interest rates**
- Goldilocks phase is usually **temporary in nature** and sets in typically after an adverse shock to the economy, during the recovery and growth period.



Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)

- BITs are **reciprocal agreements** between two countries **to promote and protect foreign private investments** in each other's territories.
- BITs **establish minimum guarantees regarding the treatment of foreign investments**, such as
 - **National treatment** (treating foreign investors at par with domestic companies).
 - **Fair and equitable treatment** (in accordance with international law).
- **Till 2015, India had signed BITs with several countries based on the Indian Model BIT of 1993.**
- **India revised its Model BIT text in 2015** and since then has signed four agreements of which two are in force.



Military Exercises

- **AUSINDEX-23** is a **biennial maritime exercise** between **Indian Navy** and Royal Australian Navy.
- **BRIGHT STAR-23** is a **biennial multilateral tri-service exercise** held in Egypt. For the first time, **Indian Air Force** is participating in it.
 - Other participating countries include **US, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar.**



IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) or Tiger program

- ITHCP has launched a Call for **Concept Notes for Phase IV of Program.**
 - Phase IV will **expand its focus to include other Pantherine species**, in particular leopards and clouded leopards.
- ITHCP, launched in 2014, is a **strategic funding mechanism** supported by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
 - It is contributing to **Global Tiger Recovery Programme**, a global effort to double tiger numbers in wild by 2022.
- Additionally, MoEFCC cleared the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'s **in-principle approval to declare Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (in Rajasthan) as a tiger reserve.**

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>Mitigating Human-Animal Conflict</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several native species of trees are being planted in Assam to secure a major elephant habitat and mitigate conflicts between humans and tuskers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Species include Amla (Phyllanthus emblica), Bel (Aegle marmelos), Gamhari (Gmelina arborea), Jamun (Syzygium cumini), Bhumura (Terminalia bellirica), Arjun (Terminalia arjuna) etc. ➤ Most of these plants are important for the elephants' diet. Restoring degraded areas with tree species preferred by the elephants would help secure its habitat and facilitate elephant movement. |
|  <p>Patient safety provisions in India</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient safety is defined as the freedom of a patient from unnecessary harm or potential harm associated with the provision of healthcare. Patient safety provisions in India include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First idea of patient safety is enshrined in Hippocratic Oath. ➤ Consumer Protection Act, 2019 deals with medical negligence and deficiency of services. ➤ Legal rights of patients are set out in Clinical Establishment Act, 2010. ➤ National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and Drugs Controller General of India have mechanisms to see that patients are not overcharged in terms of medication and devices. |
|  <p>National Space Day</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister declared August 23 as National Space Day to commemorate India's achievement of Chandrayaan-3 (Soft landing on moon's southern hemisphere). The place where 'Vikram' lander touchdown on lunar surface is to be referred as "Shiv Shakti Point". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The place where Chandrayaan-2 lander crash-landed on Moon's surface in 2019 now named "Tiranga". Meanwhile, Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) payload, onboard Vikram Lander, has noticed a variation from 70 degree Celsius to minus 10 degree Celsius temperature on lunar surface. |
|  <p>G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting concluded</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outcome document named "Kashi Culture Pathway" was released by G20 Culture ministers meeting which reaffirmed the role of culture as an enabler and driver for sustainable development. 'G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth' Report was launched during the meeting which highlights four priority principles i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property. ➤ Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future. ➤ Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy. ➤ Leveraging Digital Technologies for Protection and Promotion of Culture. |
|  <p>Seethakali folk art</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seethakali is a centuries-old folk art form that is believed to have originated at Perinad in Kollam district Kerala. It is performed as part of the harvest festival Onam. It is based on certain episodes taken from the epic Ramayana and portrays characters such as Rama, Seetha, Ravana and Hanuman. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It's a blend of songs, storytelling and fast movements. ➤ Props and instruments used during performances are all made of natural materials like bamboo and palm leaves. |
|  <p>Places in News</p> | <p>Zimbabwe (Capital: Harare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current President was re-elected in the recently concluded election. Political boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Landlocked country in south-central Africa. ➤ Bordered by Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, and South Africa. Geographical Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Highest Point: Mt.Nyangani ➤ Lake Kariba, located on border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, is the world's largest man-made lake by volume. ➤ Major rivers: Zambezi, Pungwe, Buzi, Save, Limpopo etc.  |

Errata: In **News Today Dated 18th August, 2023**, under subheading 'Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (or ALS)' of 'Also in News', it was incorrectly mentioned that "ALS is a 'rare disease' in India, as per the definitions stated in the National Policy for Rare Diseases". Correct information is 'ALS currently is not a rare disease as per National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021'.