

NEWS TODAY

SCHEME ON ENHANCEMENT OF COMPETITIVENESS IN THE INDIAN CAPITAL GOODS SECTOR- PHASE II

- The scheme has been notified by **Ministry of Heavy Industries**, for providing assistance to **Common Technology Development and Services Infrastructure**.

- Objective of Phase II:** To expand and enlarge the impact created by the Phase I pilot scheme, thereby providing greater impetus through **creation of a strong and globally competitive capital goods sector**.

- Phase I of the scheme was **notified in 2014 to encourage technology development** and infrastructure creation.

- Six components under Phase II**

- Identification of Technologies through **Technology Innovation Portals**.
- Setting up of **New Advanced Centres of Excellence** and augmentation of Existing Centres of Excellence.
- Promotion of **skilling in Capital Goods Sector**.
- Setting up of Common Engineering Facility Centres (CEFCs)** and augmentation of existing CEFCs.
- Augmentation of Existing **Testing and Certification Centres**.
- Setting up of **Industry Accelerators** for Technology Development

- Capital Goods industry is the "mother" of all manufacturing industries** and is of strategic importance to national security and economic independence.

- India's capital goods sector **contributes at least 12% to the manufacturing sector**.
- Provides **approximately 1.4 mn direct and 7 mn indirect jobs**.



Capital Goods

- Capital Goods refer to **products that are used in the production of other products but are not incorporated into the new product**.
- These include **machine tools, industrial machinery, process plant equipment** etc.

INDIA'S BAD BANK GETS REGULATORY NOD

- The **proposed 'bad bank'** has received necessary permissions including from Reserve Bank of India and will commence operations with 15 cases worth about Rs. 50,000 crore to be transferred to it by March 31 in phase one.

- Bad bank was **first announced by the Finance Minister in the 2021 Union Budget**.

- Bad Bank is a corporate structure that **isolates risky assets held by banks in a separate entity**. It will buy NPAs from a bank at a price that is determined by the Bad bank itself.

- Under the **new structure approved by the regulator**, bad bank will consist:

National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (NARCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will acquire and aggregate the non-performing asset (NPA)/ bad loan accounts. Public sector banks (PSBs) have taken a majority stake. NARCL will pay 15% of agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85% would be government guaranteed security receipts.
India Debt Resolution Co. Ltd (IDRCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will handle the debt resolution process Private sector banks have taken majority stake

- Benefits of bad banks**

- Help lenders get rid of bad assets** by transferring them to the bad bank and clean up their books.
- Release capital for the banks** and enable them to restart lending.
- Better value realization** of NPAs.

AUSTRALIA PLEDGES \$704MN TO SAVE GREAT BARRIER REEF

- The move is to **prevent the vast network of corals** from being removed from UNESCO's World Heritage list.
 - Great Barrier Reef has **suffered three mass bleaching events during heatwaves in 2016, 2017 and 2020**, leaving many affected corals struggling to survive.
 - Bleaching occurs when **healthy corals become stressed by spikes in ocean temperatures**, causing them to expel algae living in their tissues, which drains them of their vibrant colours.
- Great Barrier Reef is the **largest coral reef system in the world**. It is located **off the North East coast of Australia**, in Coral Sea.
 - The reef, which is large enough to be visible from space, is made up of **nearly 3,000 individual reefs**.
 - It was declared a **World Heritage Area in 1981** because of its 'outstanding universal value'.
- Threats to corals**
 - Anthropogenic activities**- coastal development, destructive fishing methods and pollution from domestic and industrial sewage.
 - Over-exploitation of shells and corals** for trade and industrial use.
 - Coral diseases such as **black band and white band**, increased sedimentation.
 - Rise in sea surface temperature.

○ Coral reefs are large **underwater structures composed of the skeletons of colonial marine invertebrates called coral**.

➤ The three main types of coral reefs are **fringing, barrier, and atoll**.

STATES MUST DECIDE ON SCHEDULED CASTES (SCS)/SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs) QUOTA IN PROMOTIONS: SUPREME COURT

- SC has turned down Union government's plea to **do away with requirement of collecting quantifiable data by Centre and states to determine representation** of people belonging to SCs and STs while implementing reservation in promotion.
 - SC further said, Data should be collected for **each cadre individually, not for the entire services** or the total state-wise population of the two socially backward categories.
 - Article 16 (4A)** empowers State to make **provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to SC/ST employees** if it feels they are not adequately represented in services.
- SC in Nagaraj case 2006 had laid down **three conditions for promotion of SCs and STs in public employment**.

The Story So Far



- **Collect quantifiable data** showing **backwardness and inadequacy of representation** in public employment.
- **Maintain overall administrative efficiency** in compliance with Article 335.
- **Reservation provision does not lead to excessiveness**- to breach the ceiling-limit of 50% or obliterate the creamy layer or extend the reservation indefinitely.
- In **Jarnail Singh v L.N. Gupta (2018)** case, SC held that states **need not be required to collect quantifiable data on the backwardness of the SCs and STs**.



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES (NTD) DAY: A CALL FOR EQUITABLE HEALTH FOR ALL

- Theme of NTD day 2022 is '**Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases**' with a call to focus more on strengthening **interventions in order to promote equitable health services for all**.
 - 74th World Health Assembly in 2021 declared **every year January 30** as World NTD Day.
 - First World NTD Day was celebrated informally in 2020.
- NTDs refers to **20 medically diverse, communicable diseases** that are most **common among marginalised communities** in the developing regions of **Africa, Asia and the Americas**. They are prevalent in tropical areas.
 - They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as **viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms**.
- Impacts of NTDs**
 - More than one billion people** suffer from at least one NTD.
 - Approximately **200,000 deaths and 19 million disability adjusted life years (DALYs)** lost annually.
 - Disability, **stigmatization, social exclusion** and discrimination.
- Steps taken to eliminate NTDs:**
 - Kigali Declaration** on Neglected tropical diseases.
 - Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis** provides free morbidity management and disability prevention services.
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** provide an effective framework for successful elimination of NTDs.
- India has successfully eliminated certain infectious diseases such as **guinea worm, trachoma, and yaws**.



CLIMATE AND FOOD PRICE RISE: EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS TRIGGERING UNPRECEDENTED FOOD INFLATION

Recent trends of food inflation:

- > FAO's **Food Price Index** showed that food prices were at a decade-high.
- > December 2021 was the **ninth straight month of double-digit percentage increases** in the India's Wholesale price index (WPI).

Analysts have attributed these trends to **extreme weather events**.

- > In the past six decades, there have been **three major episodes of significantly high food prices globally**: 1970s, 2007-08 and 2010-14.
- > All these were triggered by **weather shocks** followed by factors like **increase in oil prices, trade policy interventions etc.**

How Climate change impacts food production:

- > Results in **simultaneous failure of major crops** such as wheat, maize and soybeans.
- > **Rising heat and rainfall is increasingly degrading land**, making soil less productive that impacts crop yields.
- > Rising Sea level led to **increasing saltwater intrusions and permanently flooding crop land**.




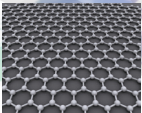

Steps taken by India





- > **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture**, under **National Action Plan on Climate Change**.
- > **National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture** project.

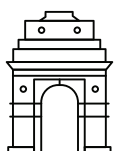
Suggestions

- > Adequate **funding for research and development** to develop more resilient crops.
- > **Ecological restoration and natural resource regeneration** in degraded regions.

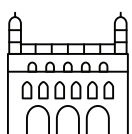
ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Suspension of MLAs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC quashed Maharashtra Legislative Assembly's (LA) resolution which suspended 12 MLAs for a period of one year. • Rule 53 of Maharashtra LA empowers the Speaker to suspend a member for a day or in case of repeated misconduct, for the entire session. • Thus, SC ruled that such suspension could be limited only to the ongoing session and said that assembly has no power to suspend a member beyond 60 days.
 <p>Beating Retreat ceremony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beating Retreat ceremony marks the end of four-day-long Republic Day celebrations and is held on January 29 every year to showcase India's military might, rich diversity and cultural heritage. • As part of the ceremony, Defence forces who come to the capital for Republic Day celebrations are sent back to their barracks by the President. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Origin can be traced back to the late 17th century. > It marks a military tradition, when the troops ceased fighting and withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat.
 <p>Cage Aquaculture (CA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar on "Cage aquaculture" was organised highlighting the importance of reservoirs and cage aquaculture for the development of the fisheries sector. • CA involves the growing of fishes in existing water resources while being enclosed in a net cage which allows free flow of water. • CA is promoted under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > PMMSY aims at enhancing fish production, doubling of incomes of fishermen, reducing post-harvest losses and generating employment opportunities in fisheries sector and allied activities.
 <p>Graphene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's first graphene innovation center India Innovation Graphene Centre is to be established in Thrissur, Kerala. • Graphene is the thinnest and strongest material in the world and has good chemical stability, high electrical conductivity and a large surface area while being transparent and lightweight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It is two-dimensional form of crystalline carbon • Applications: Anti-corrosion coatings and paints, efficient and precise sensors, faster and efficient electronics, flexible displays, efficient solar panels, faster DNA sequencing, drug delivery, and more.
 <p>Neo Cov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new kind of coronavirus, NeoCov, is found among bats in South Africa. • NeoCov virus shares 85% similarity to Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in genome sequence which enter cells via DPP4 receptors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > MERS-CoV is a viral disease that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012. • NeoCov is not SARS-CoV-2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > NeoCoV is a bat coronavirus that was first identified in 2011. > It was identified in a species of bats known as Neoromicia.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NeoCov can use ACE2 receptors of bats but they can't use human ACE2 receptor unless a new mutation occurs.
 Artificial Snow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first time in the history of the Winter Olympics, athletes will compete on 100% artificial snow in Beijing. • Artificial snow is small particles of ice that are used to increase the amount of snow available for winter sports such as skiing or snowboarding. ➤ It is produced by a machine that uses a high-pressure pump to spray a mist of water into the cold air. The water droplets subsequently crystallize to form fake snow.
 TDCIPP (chlorinated tris)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDCIPP is a chemical flame retardant widely used in automobile seat foam. ➤ It is a member of a family of chemicals known as chlorinated alkyl phosphates. • They have carcinogenic, neurotoxic, and endocrine-disrupting properties. • A recent study has found that it is unlikely that TDCIPP inside a car can be dusted or wiped away.
 Tiwa Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 200 Gorkha, Tiwa militants lay down arms in Assam. • Tiwa tribe also known by Lalung is an ethnic group living mainly in Assam and Meghalaya and also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland. ➤ They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam. ➤ They speak a Tibeto-Burman language of the Bodo-Garo group. • Tiwa tribes who live in the hilly areas practice the "slash and burn" method of farming whereas the tribes living on the plains have been influenced by wet rice cultivation methods.
 Personalities in news	<p>Pandit Jasraj (28 Jan 1930- 17 August 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation was launched on the occasion of his 92nd birth anniversary. • He belonged to the Mewati Gharana, a school of music known for traditional performances of khayals (genre in Hindustani Classical music). • Contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Created a jugalbandi called Jsrangi. ➤ Rare ragas including Abiri Todi and Patdeepaki. ➤ Popularised semi-classical musical styles like Haveli Sangeet. • Honours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Padma Vibhushan. ➤ A minor planet 2006 VP32 (located between Mars and Jupiter), has been named as 'Panditjasraj'.



DELHI



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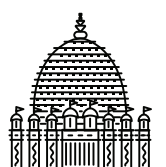
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI