

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC****National Mission on Natural Language Translation**

The Ministry of Electronics and IT will soon place before the Union Cabinet a proposal for Natural Language.

**National Mission on Natural Language Translation**

- It aims to make science and technology accessible to all by facilitating access to teaching and researching material bilingually — in English and in one's native Indian language.
- It is one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
- To overcome the language barrier, the government planned to set up an ecosystem which involved the Central and State agencies and start-ups.
- To achieve this, the government plans to leverage a combination of machine translation and human translation.
- The govt. is looking at speech-to-speech machine translation as well as text-to-text machine translation for this additional to human translation.
- Implementation: The IT ministry is the lead agency for implementation of the mission along with the Ministry of HRD and Department of Science and Technology.

**Two pronged strategy**

- Translation activities can also help generate employment for educated unemployed.
- The mission would help not just students but also teachers, authors, publishers, translation software developers and general readers.

**About PM-STIAC**

- The PM-STIAC is an overarching body that identifies challenges in certain areas of science and technology.
- It then creates a road map to deal with these challenges and presents the recommendations to the Prime Minister.
- Besides natural language translation, other missions identified by the body includes Quantum Frontier, AI, National Bio-diversity mission, electric vehicles, BioScience for Human Health and deep ocean exploration.

**National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**

The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan met State Food Secretaries and State government officials along with officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) in New Delhi. Shri Paswan discussed various issues pertaining to efficient implementation of national food security act.

**National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:**

- As passed by the Parliament, Government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 on 10th September, 2013.
- The objective is to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

**Key features:**

- The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population.
- The eligible persons will be entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
- The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
- The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Besides meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth, such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.

- Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards.
- In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.
- The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.
- Separate provisions have also been made in the Act for ensuring transparency and accountability.

Ways to increase the efficiency:

- Use of Information Technology right from the time of purchase of food grains till its distribution will help in increasing the overall efficiency of the entire process, while maintaining transparency and curbing corruption.
- It is imperative that there is a seamless flow of information online between the FCI and States and therefore they need to be integrated so that exact information about how much food grain has been procured from which mandi, which warehouse it is stored in and for how long and when it has been released for distribution can be available.
- There should also be information about the quality of food grains at the time of purchase, storage conditions in the warehouse, when it is given to PDS shops and when the shops have distributed it to the beneficiaries.
- Move towards One Nation One Ration Card (RC) which will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice. This will provide freedom to the beneficiaries as they will not be tied to any one PDS shop and reduce their dependence on shop owners and curtail instances of corruption.
- Expand the coverage of Integrated Management of PDS (IMPDS) to all the states.

Why ensure food security: The basic concept of food security globally is to ensure that all people, at all times, should get access to the basic food for their active and healthy life and is characterized by availability, access, utilization and stability of food. Though the Indian Constitution does not have any explicit provision regarding right to food, the fundamental right to life enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution may be interpreted to include right to live with human dignity, which may include the right to food and other basic necessities.

**INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**

Museums for Tribal Freedom Fighters

The Govt. has decided to build six museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters in Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. The particulars of museums sanctioned, location of museum and tribal freedom fighters / heroes associated with the museum are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Location of Museum	Tribal Freedom Fighters / Heroes
1	Gujarat	Garudeshwar, Rajpipla	Prominent freedom fighters from across the country
2	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh
3	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Birsa Munda
4	Andhra Pradesh	Lammasingi	Shri Alluri Seetha Ram Raju
5	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	TantyaBheel, Bheema Nayak, KhajayaNayak, etc.
6	Kerala	Kozhikode	Thalakkal Chandu
7	Manipur	Makhal Village, Senapati	Rani Gaidinliu
8	Telangana	Hyderabad	Ramji Gond

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**

'One Nation One Ration Card' Scheme

The union govt. is working on a plan to launch a "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme for beneficiaries to access to any PDS shop across the country. The scheme is aimed at providing freedom to beneficiaries, as they will not be tied to one PDS shop. It aims to reduce their dependence on shop

owners and curtail corruption. The biggest beneficiaries will be migrant workers who move to other states to seek better job opportunities.

#### Plan of action

- PoS machines are available at all PDS shops in various states, like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and a few other others, but 100 per cent availability is required to provide the benefit across the country.
- The availability of PoS (Point of Sale) machines needs to be ensured at all PDS shops to implement the scheme.

#### Implementation

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution will implement the scheme.
- It will be subsumed under the Integrated Management of PDS (IMPDS), under which beneficiaries can avail their share of food grain from any district.
- Such a scheme is operational in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura.

#### Importance of the scheme

- The work done by the PDS fair price shops is a lifeline for 81 crore beneficiaries across the country.
- There is 612 lakh tonnes of food grains stored in warehouses of FCI, CWC, SWCs and private godowns for distribution annually.
- Around 78 per cent of Fair Price Shops in India have so far been automated by installing electronic PoS devices.

### **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**

#### G20 Summit 2019

World leaders from 19 countries – and the European Union – are meeting in Osaka, Japan for latest edition of G20 summit.

#### What is the G20?

- The G20 is an annual meeting of leaders from the countries with the largest and fastest-growing economies. Its members account for 85% of the world's GDP, and two-thirds of its population.
- The G20 Summit is formally known as the “Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy”.

Establishment: After the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998, it was acknowledged that the participation of major emerging market countries is needed on discussions on the international financial system, and G7 finance ministers agreed to establish the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in 1999.

#### Presidency:

- The group has no permanent staff of its own, so every year in December, a G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.
- That country is then responsible for organising the next summit, as well as smaller meetings for the coming year.
- They can also choose to invite non-member countries along as guests. The first G20 meeting took place in Berlin in 1999, after a financial crisis in East Asia affected many countries around the world.

#### Who attends these meetings?

- At first, the G20 was mostly attended by finance ministers and central bank governors.
- That changed after the global financial crisis in 2008. With banks collapsing, unemployment rising and wages stagnating, the organisation turned into an emergency council for presidents and prime ministers.
- Full membership of the G20: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

#### Its relevance in changing times:

- As globalization progresses and various issues become more intricately intertwined, the recent G20 summits have focused not only on macroeconomy and trade, but also on a wide

range of global issues which have an immense impact on the global economy, such as development, climate change and energy, health, counter-terrorism, as well as migration and refugees.

- The G20 has sought to realize an inclusive and sustainable world through its contributions towards resolving these global issues.

#### **Sister-city agreement between Kobe and Ahmedabad**

In a bid to cultivate, promote and enhance opportunities on business, academic and cultural fronts between Kobe in Japan and Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India, a sister-city agreement has been inked between the two cities.

#### **Significance:**

- This agreement will formalize the relationship between the two cities, both of which are unique in their own ways. While Kobe is the Creative Design City of Asia, Ahmedabad is India's first World Heritage City.
- After the agreement, a plan will be laid out on creating more opportunities for cooperation between the two cities on the academic, cultural as well as business fronts.

#### **Facts:**

- Kobe is located in the Hyogo Prefecture in Japan.
- PM Narendra Modi and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe have also inked a sister-state agreement for Gujarat and Hyogo Prefecture.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**

#### **New Space India Limited (NSIL)**

New Space India Limited (NSIL) has been incorporated as a wholly owned GoI Undertaking/Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). Antrix Ltd is another PSU under the Department of Space that acts as an commercial arm of the ISRO

#### **New Space India Limited (NSIL)**

- It functions under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS).
- It aims to commercially exploit the research and development work of ISRO Centres and constituent units of DOS.
- The NSIL would enable Indian Industries to scale up high-technology manufacturing and production base for meeting the growing needs of Indian space programme/
- It would further spur the growth of Indian Industries in the space sector.

#### **Functions of NSIL**

- Small Satellite technology transfer to industry, wherein NSIL will obtain license from DOS/ISRO and sub-license it to industries;
- Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector;
- Production of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) through Indian Industry;
- Production and marketing of Space based products and services, including launch and application;
- Transfer of technology developed by ISRO Centres and constituent units of DOS;
- Marketing spin-off technologies and products/services, both in India and abroad

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.**

## DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

**Qns: Why ensure food security? Discuss about India's Food Security Act and suggest measures to overcome the challenges in it.**

Ans: The basic concept of food security globally is to ensure that all people, at all times, should get access to the basic food for their active and healthy life and is characterized by availability, access, utilization and stability of food. Though the Indian Constitution does not have any explicit provision regarding right to food, the fundamental right to life enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution may be interpreted to include right to live with human dignity, which may include the right to food and other basic necessities.

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- The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.
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Challenges ahead:

- Food grains under the act will be distributed through the already existing PDS (Public Distribution System). But, these PDSs have many loopholes such as leakages of food grains, corruption etc.
- The exact number of poor is not calculated correctly. Different departments are giving different numbers.
- The cost of this bill, Rs.1.24 lakh crore will be a burden for the government, and may lead to fiscal deficit.
- As most of the food grains will be procured by Govt, exports will reduced, which is a big threat to the economy.
- Small farmers may shift to other crops, as they may get the subsidized food grains. This may reduce the production of food grains.

Ways to increase the efficiency:

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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIR BASED MCOS**

1. Which of the following ministries is responsible for the implementation of the National Mission on Natural Language Translation?
  - (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
  - (b) Ministry of Electronics and IT**
  - (c) Ministry of Communications
  - (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. Which of the following statements is/are the features of the National Food Security Act, 2013?
  1. Maternity Benefit to Women
  2. Curb Children Malnourishment
  3. Subsidized Food Grains to targeted peopleSelect the correct answer using codes given below:
  - (a) 1 and 2
  - (b) 1 and 3
  - (c) 2 and 3
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3**
3. Which of the following combinations of the Tribal Leaders and the tribal Museum is/are incorrect?
  1. Rani Gaidinliu: Manipur
  2. Bheema Nayak: Madhya Pradesh
  3. Birsha Munda: Jharkhand
  4. Thalkal Chandu: Tamil NaduSelect the correct answer using codes given below:
  - (a) 3 and 4
  - (b) 4 only**
  - (c) 1 and 3
  - (d) 2 and 4
4. Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding the G 20?
  - (a) Now the G20 summits are attended by the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the member countries only.
  - (b) Its 2019 Summit is held in Japan.
  - (c) Its main aim is to eliminate poverty from the world**
  - (d) Its meetings are held annually.
5. Which of the following Indian City has signed a Sister-City Agreement with the Japanese city of Kobe?
  - (a) Surat
  - (b) Ahmadabad**
  - (c) Prayagraj
  - (d) Kochi
6. Consider the following statements w.r.t the New Space India Limited (NSIL).
  1. It is a wholly owned central govt PSU.
  2. It has to manufacture the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector;Which of the statements is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2**
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2