

**SOCIAL ISSUE**

❖ **Rise in Drug Abuse**

➤ **CONTEXT: Recent surveys by the state Ministry for Excise highlights the rise in the drug overtake cases in Kerala.**

- In 2022, there was a substantial increase in the number of drug-related offences in Kerala highlighting that drugs have become a major issue for the state.
- Kerala has seen a 300% increase in drug cases over the past six years, with arrests up 90%.
- The number of cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 2022 was 26,629, a significant increase from 5,924 cases in 2016 and 9,245 cases in 2019.
- Nearly 97% of the respondents admitted to using some form of drug with Cannabis (ganja) being the most consumed drug (82%), followed by tobacco (75.6%).
- Recreational drugs like MDMA and methamphetamine have found a market in Kerala, with seizures of the latter spiking in 2022.
- The report has also highlighted that cannabis is finding its way into the state from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar.

➤ **Need to curb drug abuse**

- About: India's location between the world's two main illicit opium-producing regions, the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle, has left its borders open to drug trafficking. It emanates from two fronts, the NW and NE, which pose a danger to national security and border violations, respectively.
- Substance abuse and addiction: Harmful use of drugs or alcohol leads to physical or psychological dependence which impairs the individual's ability to perform daily activities and makes it difficult for them to quit on their own.
- Overdose and health consequences: Substance abuse can result in serious health problems, including overdoses that can be fatal.
- Psychological and social impacts on the individual and their family: Substance abuse can cause emotional distress, depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems for the individual and their family.
- Increased crime and criminal activity: Drugs are often linked to criminal behavior, such as theft, violence, and drug trafficking which pose a threat to public safety and increase the burden on law enforcement.
- Strain on healthcare systems and resources: Substance abuse can put a strain on healthcare systems and resources, as it often requires extensive medical treatment and rehabilitation.
- Lost productivity and economic costs: Substance abuse can lead to decreased productivity at work, absenteeism, and even job loss. It also has broader economic costs, such as increased healthcare costs and decreased economic growth.
- Social stigma and discrimination: Substance abuse is often stigmatized, and individuals struggling with addiction may face discrimination and social isolation.
- Difficulty in access to treatment and recovery resources: Many individuals struggling with substance abuse face barriers to accessing effective treatment and recovery resources, such as lack of affordable options, long waitlists.
- Difficulty in effectively addressing and preventing drug abuse through education and public policy: Addressing and preventing substance abuse faces challenges in implementing effective education and public policy initiatives, such as limited funding, lack of political will, and conflicting views on the best approach.

➤ **Major challenges in controlling the drug menace**

- High demand: The demand for drugs in India is high and is driven by a growing population of young people and an increase in disposable income.
- Lack of effective law enforcement: Despite efforts by the government to curb drug trafficking, the porous borders and widespread corruption in India make it difficult to effectively enforce anti-drug laws.
- Inadequate rehabilitation facilities: There is a shortage of rehabilitation facilities and resources for those struggling with drug addiction, making it difficult for them to access the help they need.
- Stigma and discrimination: Substance abuse and addiction are often associated with social stigma and discrimination, which can prevent people from seeking help and make it difficult for them to receive the care they need.
- Difficulty in prevention and education: Drug abuse prevention and education campaigns are often underfunded and not effectively implemented, making it difficult to reach those who are most at risk.
- Lack of comprehensive approach: The lack of a comprehensive approach to addressing the drug problem in India, including both treatment and prevention, makes it difficult to effectively address the issue.

➤ **What can be done to curb the issue of drugs?**

- Improving access to treatment and rehabilitation: Providing access to quality addiction treatment and rehabilitation resources can help individuals overcome their drug dependence.
- Strengthening law enforcement: Strengthening law enforcement efforts to curb drug trafficking and distribution can reduce the availability of drugs in the country.

- Educating the public: Educating the public about the dangers of drug abuse through campaigns, public speaking, and school programs can raise awareness and discourage drug use.
  - Addressing root causes: Addressing the root causes of drug abuse, such as poverty, lack of education, and mental health issues, can help prevent people from turning to drugs in the first place.
  - Involving community leaders: Involving community leaders and organizations in the fight against drug abuse can help mobilize local resources and increase public support for drug-control efforts.
  - Encouraging alternative activities: Encouraging individuals to participate in alternative activities, such as sports, music, and community service, can provide positive outlets and reduce the risk of drug abuse.
  - Implementing effective public policy: Developing and implementing effective public policy that addresses the issue of drug abuse can help prevent drug use and support those who are struggling with addiction.
  - Researching new treatments and prevention methods: Investing in research and development to find new treatments and prevention methods can help reduce the harm caused by drug abuse.
- **Government steps to curb Drug abuse in India**
- National Drug Demand Reduction Policy: It aims to prevent and reduce drug abuse through multiple strategies including demand reduction, supply reduction, and harm reduction.
  - Rehabilitation: The government has set up multiple rehabilitation centers and de-addiction clinics to provide treatment and support to individuals struggling with drug addiction.
  - Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act(1985): It is the main legal framework in India to curb drug abuse and trafficking, and imposes stringent penalties on those involved in drug-related crimes.
  - Information dissemination: The government has implemented various public awareness and educational campaigns to spread knowledge about the dangers of drug abuse and to prevent drug use, particularly among young people.
  - Co-ordination: The government also works with other countries in the region to curb cross-border drug trafficking and to dismantle illegal drug production and distribution networks.
  - Support: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment runs a scheme to provide financial and technical assistance to NGOs and other organizations working on drug demand reduction and rehabilitation.
  - Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN): It is the main enforcement agency responsible for implementing the NDPS Act and for conducting raids and arrests in connection with drug-related crimes.

**PRELIMS**

**1. India Energy Week 2023**

➤ **CONTEXT: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the India Energy Week (IEW) 2023 in Bengaluru**

- The event is to focus on energy security and India's energy transition goals. This includes net-zero emission target achievement by 2070. The major attraction of the event is the launch of E20 fuel in more than 84 outlets in 11 states and UTs.

➤ **Focus Area**

- PM Modi will launch solar and conventional energy hybrid cooking systems. It was designed and created by Indian Oil. It is called the Indoor Solar Cooking System.
- Launch of 20% ethanol blend petrol, E20
- Launch of "UNBOTTLED" initiative by PM Modi, Initiative to phase out single-use plastics
- Indian companies like GAIL, Adnani, HPCL, IOCL, BPCL, ONGC, and Total gas will demonstrate new products and services
- The exhibition saw a Participation of more than 650 business associates from 50 countries
- GoI plans on achieving 20% ethanol blend biofuels
- Discussions about the oil companies setting up 2G ethanol plants and 3G ethanol plants
- Green Mobility Rally Focusing on green energy sources; Create public awareness on green fuels

**2. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**

➤ **CONTEXT: Minister of State for Jal Shakti gave Information of Physical and financial progress made under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) during last three years**

➤ **About**

- It was launched in 2015 and is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, providing central grants to the State Governments for specific activities (90:10 for NE states & 75:25 for rest).
- The major objective of PMKSY is:
  - to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level
  - expand cultivable area under assured irrigation
  - improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water
  - enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water-saving technologies
- In 2020, the Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a mobile application for Geo-Tagging of the components of projects under PMKSY.

- Components of PMKSY:
  - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP):
  - ✓ It aims for financial support to irrigation projects.
  - ✓ The inclusion criteria have been relaxed for projects under tribal and drought-prone areas.
  - Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP):
  - ✓ It aims for the enhancement of physical access on the farm and the expansion of cultivable areas under assured irrigation.
  - ✓ Surface minor irrigation and repair-renovation-restoration of water bodies components are targeted to provide irrigation.
  - ✓ For rejuvenation of water bodies, enhancement of central assistance from 25% to 60% in the general area.
  - ✓ The Ground Water component of HKKP was approved provisionally for 2021-22.
  - ✓ It consists of four sub-components:
    - Command Area Development (CAD),
    - Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI),
    - Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, and
    - Ground Water Development.

AIBP and HKKP are implemented by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

Watershed Development:

It is implemented by the Department of Land Resources.

It focuses on the development of rainfed areas towards soil and water conservation, regeneration of groundwater, arresting runoff and promoting extension activities related to water harvesting and management.

There is a specific provision for the development of spring sheds.

Per Drop More Crop(PDMC):

It is implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund(MIF) is with NABARD under PMKSY.

### 3. NISAR

➤ **CONTEXT: Jointly developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), an Earth-observation satellite, called NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), got a send-off ceremony at the American space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California recently.**

- The SUV-size satellite will be shipped to India in a special cargo container flight late february for a possible launch in 2024 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

#### ➤ **What is NISAR?**

- NISAR has been built by space agencies of the US and India under a partnership agreement signed in 2014. The 2,800 kilograms satellite consists of both L-band and S-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) instruments, which makes it a dual-frequency imaging radar satellite.

- While NASA has provided the L-band radar, GPS, a high-capacity solid-state recorder to store data, and a payload data subsystem, ISRO has provided the S-band radar, the GSLV launch system and spacecraft.

- Another important component of the satellite is its large 39-foot stationary antenna reflector. Made of a gold-plated wire mesh, the reflector will be used to focus "the radar signals emitted and received by the upward-facing feed on the instrument structure.

#### ➤ **What is the mission?**

- Once launched into space, NISAR will observe subtle changes in Earth's surfaces, helping researchers better understand the causes and consequences of such phenomena. It will spot warning signs of natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and landslides. The satellite will also measure groundwater levels, track flow rates of glaciers and ice sheets, and monitor the planet's forest and agricultural regions, which can improve our understanding of carbon exchange.

- By using synthetic aperture radar (SAR), NISAR will produce high-resolution images. SAR is capable of penetrating clouds and can collect data day and night regardless of the weather conditions.

- According to NASA, "the instrument's imaging swath (the width of the strip of data collected along the length of the orbit track) is greater than 150 miles (240 kilometres), which allows it to image the entire Earth in 12 days.

- NISAR is expected to be launched in January 2024 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre into a near-polar orbit. The satellite will operate for a minimum of three years. NASA requires the L-band radar for its global science operations for at least three years. Meanwhile, ISRO will utilise the S-band radar for a minimum of five years.

### 4. National Industrial Corridor Programme

➤ **CONTEXT: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of South India's 1st Industrial Corridor Project to be implemented at Tumakuru which is spread over 8500 Acre of land under the Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor**

#### ➤ **About**

- The Government of India is developing various Industrial Corridor Projects as part of the National Industrial Corridor Programme. Each industrial in the Industrial Corridors is envisaged to be implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the form of a company set up under the Companies Act, 2013 as a joint venture between the central and the state governments.
- **Aims**
- Development of futuristic and greenfield industrial cities in India which can compete with the best manufacturing and investment destinations in the world.
- Creation of employment opportunities and economic growth leading to overall socio-economic development.
- Provide multi-modal connectivity with complete 'plug and play' infrastructure till the plot level along with building resilient and sustainable future-ready cities.
- Expansion of industrial output and provide better living and social facilities for the new and growing workforce.
- Enhance India's competitiveness in manufacturing through the creation of world-class infrastructure and reduced logistics costs.
- Implementing Agency: The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited (NICDC) is the implementing agency.
- ✓ It acts as a knowledge partner to NICDIT in respect of all the Industrial Corridor projects for undertaking various project development activities.
- Monitoring and Review Mechanism:
- ✓ The National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).
  - In 2016, the government approved the expansion of the scope of existing DMIC-Project Implementation Trust Fund (PITF) and re-designated it as NICDIT.
  - NICDIT comes under the administrative control of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ An Apex Monitoring Authority under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister periodically reviews the activities of NICDIT and progress of the projects.
- 11 Industrial Corridors Projects are being taken up for development with 32 Projects to be developed in four phases as part of the National Master Plan for providing multimodal connectivity to economic zones up to 2024-25.
- ✓ Four Phases:
  - Phase 1: Projects approved.
  - Phase 2: Projects in advance stage of planning and implementation to be initiated by 2021.
  - Phase 3: Projects under development and implementation likely to be initiated by 2023.
  - Phase 4: Projects under conceptualization and implementation likely to be initiated by 2024.
- 11 Industrial Corridors Projects are under different stages of conceptualization/development/implementation.
- ✓ Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC): It is the first industrial corridor which is being implemented in the country wherein substantial progress has been made.

#### 5. **Zoo for dolphins, rhinos**

➤ **CONTEXT: The Rajasthan state Forest Department has proposed to construct a zoo inside Keoladeo National Park, a World Heritage Site popularly known as Bharatpur bird sanctuary, to display a range of wetland species, including rhinos, water buffaloes, crocs, dolphins and exotic species.**

- According to Wetland ex-situ Conservation Establishment (WESCE), the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBBDP), is "to rejuvenate the bio-diversity of Keoladeo National Park, thereby boosting its outstanding universal values."
- The Rs 15-crore WESCE plan for Bharatpur is part of the ambitious RFBBDP for which Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the overseas development arm of the French government, has agreed to fund up to Rs 1,200 crore over eight years.
- According to the DPR, several facilities are planned inside Keoladeo national park. These include:
  - a breeding and re-introduction centre for locally extinct species, such as otters, fishing cats, blackbucks, hog deer.
  - With collateral provision as exhibits for tourists; an aquarium for indigenous species like Gangetic Dolphin, crocodiles.
  - enclosures for the display of large wetland species like Indian Rhino, Water Buffalo, Barasingha (swamp deer);
  - an aviary, a reptile house and a veterinary care facility; and an integrated administrative block, tourist facilities, and residential quarters for Park manager, field staff and families.

#### **ANSWER WRITTING**

**Q. Union Budget 2023 has listed "Green Growth" as one of the important priorities. Discuss the main component elements of Budget's green growth push.**

Green growth refers to fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. "Green Growth" is listed as one of the seven priorities of this year's budget, citing that India is moving toward net zero carbon emissions by 2070 to usher in green industrial and economic transition.

➤ **Main component elements of Budgets green growth push:**

- **Green Hydrogen Mission:** This will facilitate the transition of the economy to low carbon intensity, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports, and make the country assume technology and market leadership in this sunrise sector.
- **PM-PRANAM initiative:** A new “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth” will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- **GOBARdhan scheme:** 500 new ‘waste to wealth’ plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme will be established for promoting a circular economy.
  - It focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste on farms into compost, biogas, and bio-CNG.
  - These will include 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants, including 75 plants in urban areas, and 300 community or cluster-based plants.
- **Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres:** To facilitate over the next three years one crore farmers to adopt natural farming 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.
- **MISHTI initiative:** Building on India’s success in afforestation, the ‘Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes’ (MISHTI) initiative has been launched.
  - It will focus on mangrove plantations along the coastline and salt pan lands through convergence between MGNREGS, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Fund and other sources.
- **Amrit Dharohar:** Wetlands are vital ecosystems which sustain biological diversity. The government will promote their unique conservation values through the Amrit Dharohar scheme.
  - This will be implemented over the next three years to encourage the optimal use of wetlands and enhance biodiversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
- **Coastal Shipping:** Coastal shipping will be promoted as the energy-efficient and lower-cost mode of transport, both for passengers and freight, through PPP mode with viability gap funding.
- **Vehicle replacement:** Replacing old polluting vehicles is important for greening our economy. In furtherance of the vehicle scrapping policy mentioned in Budget 2021-22, funds were allocated to scrap old vehicles of the Central Government. States will also be supported in replacing old vehicles and ambulances.
- **Renewable energy evacuation:** Re-evacuation facilitates generated power to be swiftly evacuated to the power grid for distribution, an interstate transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13-Gigawatt renewable energy from Ladakh will be constructed.
- **Green Credit Programme:** To encourage behavioural change, a Green Credit Programme will be notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
  - This will incentivise environmentally sustainable and responsive actions by companies, individuals, and local bodies.

Therefore, the above-mentioned initiatives are aligned with India’s **Panchamrita targets** as announced at COP26. They will help reduce carbon intensity, non-fossil energy capacity, a greater push towards renewable energy, and achieve net zero by 2070.

**MCQs**

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is/are correct?
  1. PMKSY was launched during 2015-16.
  2. The basic aim of PMSKSY is to enhance physical access to water on the farm.
  3. One of the main objectives of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only                      b) 1 and 2 only                      c) 2 and 3 only                      **d) 1, 2 and 3**
2. Consider the following statements
  1. India is the world’s third-largest energy consumer.
  2. Karnataka is the highest renewable energy manufacturer in India with 50,000 Megawatts produced by renewable energy.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

a) 1 only                      b) 2 only                      c) Both 1 and 2                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements about National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP):
  1. National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) is the implementing agency.
  2. It aims to develop new industrial cities as ‘Smart Cities’ and converge next-generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.
  3. Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor is the first Industrial Corridor, co funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 and 3 only                      c) 1 and 3 only                      **d) 1,2 and 3**

4. Rajasthan recently decided to establish a zoo to display a range of wetland species, including rhinos, water buffaloes, crocodiles, dolphins and exotic species. With reference to this news consider the following statements
1. It will help to rejuvenate the bio-diversity of Keoladeo National Park.
  2. The project will implement with the financial assistance from Australian Government.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are not correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) **2 only**
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. With reference to the NISAR, consider the following statements
1. NISAR is an SUV-sized satellite that is being jointly developed by the space agencies of the US and India.
  2. It will spot warning signs of natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and landslides
- Select the correct statement/s using the codes given below
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) **Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. With reference to recently launched YUVA sangam portal consider the following statements
1. The Yuva Sangam will focus on conducting exposure tours of the youth comprising of students & off-campus youngsters from North Eastern States to other states and vice vers.
  2. Youth between the ages of 18 and 25 will take part in this programme.
  3. This portal is launched by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
- a) **1 only**
  - b) 2 and 3 only
  - c) 2 only
  - d) 1 and 3 only
7. With reference to Museum Grant scheme consider the following
1. This scheme was launched in 2013.
  2. The Ministry of Culture provides financial assistance under the Scheme to the State Governments and Societies, Autonomous bodies, Local Bodies and Trusts registered under the Societies Act 1860, for setting up new Museums.
  3. The scheme aims to develop at least 1 Central / State Government Museum located in the State Capital each year.
- Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
  - b) 2 and 3 only
  - c) 1 and 3 only
  - d) **1,2 and 3**
8. Recently a data from Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) tabled in Lok Sabha revealed that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is currently functioning with less than 50% of its sanctioned strength, with reference to this consider the following
1. Constitution provide for the Schedule Tribe (ST) panel to have one Chairperson, one Vice-Chairperson, and three Members (two among V-C and Members must be from ST community).
  2. Minister for Tribal Affairs is the ex-officio chairman of the commission
- Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?
- a) **1 only**
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Venus flytrap, a carnivorous plant often seen in news is native to which of the following continent?
- a) **North America**
  - b) South America
  - c) Africa
  - d) Australia
10. 'Just Energy Transition Partnership' has been launched by/in which of the following group/country/event?
- a) G7
  - b) G20
  - c) India Energy Week 2023, India
  - d) Cop 26, Glasgow