

**ECONOMY**

**Reviewing Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes**

**Why in News?**

- The central government has disbursed incentive amount of Rs 4,415 crore under its flagship Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for as many as eight sectors.

**About PLI Scheme**

- PLI Scheme, commonly abbreviated as the Production Linked Incentive Scheme, is an initiative started by the Government of India.
- It is a form of performance-linked incentive to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- It is aimed at boosting the manufacturing sector and to reduce imports.
- These schemes have the potential of significantly boosting production, employment and economic growth over the next five years or so.
- In 2021, the Government had announced Rs 1.97 lakh crore (US\$ 28 b) worth of PLI schemes for 13 key sectors. These sectors include:
  - Auto components, Automobile, Aviation, Chemicals, Electronic systems, Food processing, Medical devices, Metals & mining, Pharmaceuticals, Renewable energy, Telecom, Textiles & apparel, White goods
- These schemes are in various stages of implementation by the implementing Ministries/ Departments.
- These PLI schemes are expected to have a cascading effect on the country's Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem.

**Performance of PLI Schemes**

- Boost in Exports:
  - After doubling the value of mobile handset exports in FY22 to Rs 45,000 crore over FY21, India is estimated to have exported Rs 90,000 crore worth of mobile handsets in FY23.
  - Similarly, in the pharma industry, India is now making 35 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), which we used to import from countries like China. As a result, India's imports have come down.
  - These schemes have witnessed exports surpassing Rs 3.2 lakh crore, with significant contributions from sectors such as electronics, pharma, food processing, and telecom.
- Slow Implementation:
  - Implementation of the PLI schemes has been slow so far.
  - In 2021-22, the government spent just Rs 10 crore in incentive payouts (for mobile handsets, white goods—ACs and LEDs—and food processing industries put together), reflecting marginal increase in production.
  - In 2022-23, as per DPIIT, this number rose to Rs 2,874 crore.
  - Effectively, the first two years of the seven-year exercise saw a mere 1.46 per cent of the total Rs 1.97 lakh crore incentive outlay being paid out.
  - Large-ticket industries are either yet to adopt the scheme or begin major activities under it.

**A WORK IN PROGRESS**

**BUDGET ALLOCATION UNDER THE PLI SCHEME REFLECTS SLOW PROGRESS IN MANY SECTORS**

Nodal body	Segments covered	FY22 Actual	FY23 BE	FY23 RE	FY24 BE
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity)	Mobile handsets, IT hardware, electronics	0	5,300	2,203	4,645
Dept of Commerce & Industry	White goods & LED	1	4	4	65
Dept of Communication	Telecom & Networking manufacturing	0	528	90	800
Dept of Heavy Industry	Auto, auto components & advanced chemical cell batteries	0	6	12	605
Dept of Civil Aviation	Drones & drone components	0	0	40	33
Ministry of Chemical & Fertilisers	Bulk drug, APIs, medical devices, pharma	0	1,629	1,663	1,200
Dept of Textile	Textile	0	15	8	5
Dept of Food Processing Industry	Food processing	9	1,022	801	1,530
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>8,504</b>	<b>4,821</b>	<b>8,883</b>

Figures in ₹ crore; **BE:** Budget Estimate; **RE:** Revised Estimate;  
**Source** Budget documents FY24

- Lower Number of Jobs Created:
  - The slow start has also meant lower number of jobs created.
  - Against the projected 6 million new jobs over seven years, only some 300,000 jobs (or 5 per cent of the total) have been created between 2020 and early-2023 through the various PLIs.

**News Summary**

- The central government has disbursed incentive amount of Rs 4,415 crore under its flagship Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for as many as eight sector still October this fiscal year.
  - About Rs 1,515 crore was disbursed in FY24 till October, while it was Rs 2,900 crore in 2022-23, when payments under the scheme commenced.
  - By end of this fiscal, the disbursal target is Rs 11,000 crore.
- The government said that employment generation, both direct and indirect, is over 6.78 lakh.
- As on date, 746 applications have been approved in 14 sectors with expected investment of over Rs 3 lakh crore.
- About 176 MSMEs are among the PLI beneficiaries in sectors such pharma, and telecom.

**SOCIAL ISSUES**

**The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023**

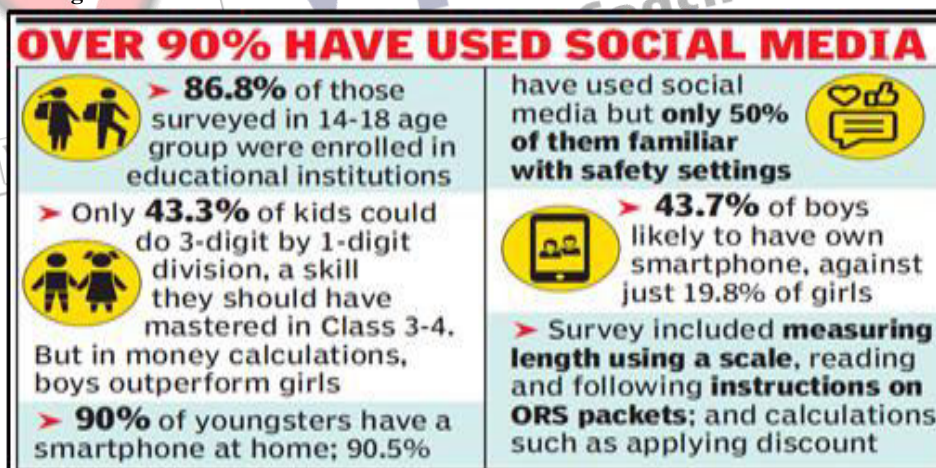
**Why in News?**

- According to the ASER 2023, nearly 43% of children in the 14-18 age group cannot read sentences in English, while among their rural counterparts, 25% struggle to read a Class 2 level text in their respective regional language.

**About the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023**

- ASERs (by NGO Pratham) have been surveying children aged 6 to 14 since 2005 to track trends in school enrollment, attendance and reading and arithmetic abilities.
  - ASER reports are usually referred to by the government while formulating policies.
- The ASER 2023 is based on a survey conducted in 28 districts across 26 states, reaching out to 34,745 youths in the 14-18 age group.
  - One rural district was surveyed in each major state with the exception of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where two such districts were surveyed.
- The youths were surveyed on 4 points –
  - Basic reading, math and English abilities;
  - Application of basic skills to everyday calculations;
  - Reading and understanding written instructions; and
  - Financial calculations that need to be done in real life.

**Findings of the ASER 2023**



- Trends on basic learning:
  - Overall (of those aged 14-18), a quarter (26.5%) could not read a Class 2-level textbook in their regional language, and a little less than half (42.7%) could not read sentences in English.
  - Of those who can read these sentences, over a quarter (26.5%) did not understand the meaning of what they were reading.
  - Basic mathematics remains the big challenge. More than half of the surveyed students (56.7%) could not solve a simple 3-digit by 1-digit division problem.
  - The ability to do division is seen as a proxy for the ability to do basic arithmetic operations.
- Arithmetic proficiency:
  - 45% of youths in the surveyed group have basic arithmetic proficiency.
  - The rest need to 'catch up' as low levels of foundational numeracy affect the ability of youth in tackling everyday calculations (say, for financial computations).

- Application of basic skills to everyday calculations:
  - 85% of surveyed youths can measure length using a scale when the starting point is 0 cm but this drops sharply to 39% when the starting point is moved.
  - This showed a decline as compared with 2017 when it was 86% and 40%. Males do better than females across all everyday calculations.
- Enrollment in different streams:
  - The survey shows that more than half (55.7%) of the young people in this age group were enrolled in the Arts/Humanities stream, followed by STEM (31.7%) and Commerce (9.4%).
  - More males report enrolling in the STEM stream (36.3%) than females (28.1%).
- Use of smartphones:
  - Around 89% of those surveyed had a smartphone in the household and 92% said they knew how to use it - signaling a shift that has gathered force in the pandemic years and after.
  - However, males were more than twice as likely to own their own smartphone than females, and therefore were likely spending far more time using the device for a wider variety of tasks.
- Use of social media:
  - Interestingly, the survey found that 90.5% of the youths in this age group reported having used social media in the reference week, with a slightly higher proportion of males (93.4%) than females (87.8%).
  - However, it observed that “of all youths who used social media, only about half are familiar with online safety settings that were included in the survey”.

#### **Significance of the ASER 2023**

- For nearly two decades, ASER reports have consistently pointed to deficiencies among children in elementary school with regard to foundational skills like reading and basic arithmetic.
- But this year’s focus on an older age group also points to a similar gap in learning outcomes at higher levels.
  - The report reveals that children continue to struggle with basic reading and arithmetic skills well into their teenage years, even after reaching Class 10 and higher secondary levels of education (Classes 11 and 12).
  - The findings point to a huge skill deficit among adolescents, many of them only a few years away from entering the job market.

### **PRELIM FACTS**

#### **1. Distress Alert Transmitter**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed an improvised Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) with advanced capabilities and features for the fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from fishing boats.

##### About Distress Alert Transmitter:

- The first version of DAT has been operational since 2010.
- The fishermen at sea send emergency messages from fishing boats.
- The messages are sent through a communication satellite and received at a central control station (INMCC: Indian Mission Control Centre) where the alert signals are decoded for the identity and location of the fishing boat.
- The extracted information is forwarded to Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCCs) under Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Using this information the MRCC coordinates to undertake Search and Rescue operations to save the fishermen in distress.

##### What is Second Generation DAT?

- Taking advantage of technological developments in satellite communication and satellite navigation ISRO has improvised DAT with advanced capabilities and features evolving to Second Generation DAT (DAT-SG).
- The DAT-SG has the facility to send back acknowledgement to the fishermen who activate the distress alert from sea. This gives an assurance to him of rescue coming to him.
- Apart from transmitting distress signals from the Sea, DAT-SG has the capability to receive messages from control centre.
- Using this, advance alert messages can be sent to the fishermen at sea whenever there are events of bad weather, cyclone tsunami or any other emergencies.
- Further, the information about Potential Fishing Zones (PFZs) are also transmitted to fishermen using DAT-SG on regular intervals.
- DAT-SG can be connected to mobile phones using Bluetooth interface and the messages can be read in native language using an App in the mobile.
- The central control centre (INMCC) has a web based network management system called “SAGARMITRA” which maintains a database of registered DAT-SGs and helps MRCCs to access the information about boat, coordinate the boat in distress in real time.
- This helps the Indian Coast Guard to undertake Search & Rescue operations at the time of distress, without any time delay.

## 2. Guruvayur Temple

- The Prime Minister, who is on a two-day visit to Kerala, offered prayers at Sreekrishna Temple, Guruvayur, recently.

About Guruvayur Temple:

- Guruvayoor Sree Krishna Swamy Temple, also known as the Dwarka of the South, is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and the young form of Lord Krishna.
- It is located in the small town of Guruvayur, in the Thrissur District of Kerala.
- The earliest temple records date back to the 17th century, but other literary texts and legends indicate that the temple may be around 5000 years old.
- Features:
  - Lord Krishna, or Guruvayoorappan, is the chief deity of this temple.
  - The temple is built in the traditional Kerala architectural style.
  - The central shrine is believed to have been rebuilt in 1638 C.E.
  - Structures like the Nalambalam (temple structure surrounding the sanctum sanctorum), Balikkal (sacrificial stone), and Deepastambam (pillar of lights) are situated on the temple premises.
  - The wall of the sanctum sanctorum is decked with ancient 17th-century murals.
  - Another famous sight here is the Dwajasthamba. It is a flagstaff, around 70 feet tall, fully covered with gold.
  - One of the most popular offerings at Guruvayoor temple is Thulabharam, where devotees are weighed against bananas, sugar, jaggery, and coconuts equivalent to their weight on a giant pair of scales.
  - The temple is also noted for being home to a large population of captive male Asian elephants.
- The Punnathur Kotta elephant sanctuary, where 56 elephants live, is very close to the temple.

## 3. Soligas and Yeravas

- The recently launched *Forgotten Trails: Foraging Wild Edibles*, authored by Malemleima Ningombi and Harisha RP, chronicled the foods that Soligas and Yeravas tribes forage from the forests.

About Soligas and Yeravas:

- Indigenous groups Soligas and Yeravas have been living in the Cauvery Basin and the surrounding hills of peninsular India for thousands of years.
- Soligas, one of the oldest indigenous communities in the country, are the original inhabitants of Karnataka and live mostly in the Chamarajanagar and Mandya districts.
- Honey is an important part of the diet for the Soliga people, who still forage large parts of their food from the biodiversity-rich Ghats.
- They reside in the peripheral forest areas near Biligiri Rangana Hills and Male Mahadeshwara.
- They are the first tribal community living inside the core area of a tiger reserve in India to get their forest rights officially recognised by a court of law.
- Soligas use Silver cockscomb as a nutritious leafy green vegetable, as it is high in nutrients such as beta-carotene and folic acids, and has vitamin E, calcium and iron.
- Also the scientific community has named a new genus (*Soliga ecarinata*) of wasp after this community.

Who are Yeravas?

- The Yeravas, on the other hand, came to the state from Wayanad district in Kerala and settled in Kodagu district of the state.
- Yeravas use more tubers than Soligas.
- Language: They speak their own language of Ravula.
- Mushrooms become part of the Yerava diet during monsoons
- Issues: The food that Soligas and Yeravas depend on for survival is now affected by changes in land use and shifting policies. Worse, traditional knowledge is steadily being lost as young people are migrating out.

## 4. Isopod

- An international team of marine biologists recently discovered a unique isopod, a form of crustacean, that has been formally identified as a new species of the genus Booralana.

About Isopod:

- Isopods are an order of invertebrates (animals without backbones) that belong to the greater crustacean group of animals, which includes crabs and shrimp.
- Scientists estimate that there are around 10,000 species of isopods (all belonging to the order "Isopoda").
- They also live in many different types of habitats, from mountains and deserts to the deep sea, and they are distributed worldwide.
- Features:
  - They are one of the most morphologically diverse of all the crustacean groups, coming in many different shapes and sizes and ranging from micrometers to a half-meter in length.
  - Isopods often do not look alike, but they do have common features. For example, all isopods have two pairs of antennae, compound eyes, and four sets of jaws.

- The body of all isopods consists of seven segments, each with its own pair of walking legs.
- Isopods have a short abdominal section composed of six segments, called “pleons,” and one or more of these segments is fused into a tail section.
- Each pleon has a set of biramous (branching in two) limbs called “pleopods” that are used for swimming and respiration.
- About half of the known species of isopods live in the ocean. Others live in coastal and shelf waters, moving around on the seafloor or living in plants.
- Most are free-living, but a number of marine species are parasitic on other animals.

**5. Jagannath Temple**

- Recently, the Chief Minister of Odisha unveiled a sprawling heritage corridor around the Jagannath Temple in Puri.

About Jagannath Temple:

- It is located in Puri, Odisha.
- It is one of the most famous and sacred Hindu temples in the world.
- It is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of the Hindu deity Vishnu.
- It is believed to have been built during the reign of King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva, of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, in the 12th century.
- This temple is called ‘Yamanika Tirtha’ where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of ‘Yama’, the god of death, has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- Architecture: The Jagannath Temple is a striking example of Kalinga architecture, a distinct style prevalent in the Odisha region.
- The temple’s main structure, the sanctum sanctorum, or the garbhagriha, houses the idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra.
- Ratha Yatra is a Hindu festival associated with Lord Jagannath held at Puri in Odisha.
- The festival commemorates Jagannath's annual visit to Gundicha Temple via Mausī Maa Temple (aunt's home) near Balagandi Chaka, Puri.
- The most famous Rath Yatra festival begins on the second day of the bright half of the lunar month of Ashadha (June–July) and lasts for nine days.
- During this time, the deities are taken out of the Jagannath Puri Temple and placed on three massive chariots.

**ANSWER WRITTING**

**Q. Explain how globalization has changed the Indian family system in the 21st century.**

Answer: Globalization has transformed the world into a global village. It has facilitated the increased interconnectedness and interdependence of cultures, societies and economies worldwide. Globalization has significantly impacted the Indian family system, leading to changes in family structure, roles, and values. These changes can be observed as below:

**Positive Impact of globalization on Indian family system:**

- Modernisation: With globalization, there has been an increase in job opportunities and migration.
  - This has led to a breakdown in the traditional joint family system, with more and more families becoming nuclear.
- Changing gender roles: Women are now more likely to work outside the home and contribute to the family income.
  - This has led to a shift in power dynamics within the family and a greater sense of independence for women.
- Westernisation: Globalization has brought with it the influence of western culture, which has impacted Indian family values and traditions.
  - For example, the concept of individualism and independence has gained greater acceptance in Indian society, leading to a greater emphasis on personal choice and freedom within the family.
- Exposure to diverse cultures: With the rise of globalization, Indian families have become more exposed to different cultures and ways of life.
  - This has led to a greater acceptance of diversity and tolerance within families.

**Negative Impact of globalization on Indian family system:**

- Isolation of Elderly: Elderly population suffers from isolation, powerlessness and depression due to rising nuclear families.
- Affects Child Development: detrimental impact on child development as grandparents are not there to take care and give them love and affection. Also, Parents are not able to take care of children because of extra workload.
- Increasing Divorce Rates: Influence of western values has also increased the incidences of divorces in India.
  - For example, the rate of divorce has increased 13 times over the last 10 years (Forbes report).
- Increased burden on Women: Women have two full-time jobs. Their domestic work continues separately from their official work. This leads to the burdening of women.

- For example, in India, women spend about 5 hours a day on unpaid domestic services while men only spend 1.5 hours (NSS report, 2019)

**Conclusion**

It is important to note that the impact of globalization on the Indian family system is not uniform across the country. Rural areas and conservative communities may experience slower changes compared to urban areas and more progressive sections of society.

Nevertheless, globalization has significantly transformed the Indian family system in the 21st century. These changes reflect the evolving socio-cultural landscape and the integration of global influences into the fabric of Indian families.

**MCQs**

1. Consider the following statements regarding the SIGHT program:
  1. It is a sub-scheme of the National green hydrogen scheme.
  2. It incentivizes production of Green Ammonia.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2**
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Which of the following types of funds are considered as Alternative Investment Funds?
  1. Venture Capital Funds
  2. Angel Funds
  3. Debt Funds
  4. Hedge Funds
  5. Social Venture Funds
 How many of the above options is/are correct?
  - (a) Only two
  - (b) Only three
  - (c) Only four
  - (d) All five**
3. In India, the term "Public Key Infrastructure" is used in the context of
  - (a) Digital security infrastructure**
  - (b) Food security infrastructure
  - (c) Health care and education infrastructure
  - (d) Telecommunication and transportation infrastructure
4. With reference to the Asian Buddhist Conference For Peace (ABCP), consider the following statements:
  1. It had held its General Conferences in Mongolia, Japan, India, Laos and other countries.
  2. It published a journal named 'Dharmaduta'.
  3. It has held its Annual Consultative Meeting in New Delhi in 2017.
 Which of the statements given above are correct?
  - (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3**
5. Consider the following:
  1. Linguistic and cultural differences
  2. Centralized policymaking
  3. Lack of industrial diversification
  4. Uneven agricultural land
 How many of the above are the primary reasons behind economic divide amongst Indian states?
  - (a) Only one
  - (b) Only two
  - (c) Only three**
  - (d) All four
6. With reference to 'consumers' rights/privileges under the provisions of law in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
  1. Consumers are empowered to take samples for food testing.
  2. When a consumer files a complaint in any consumer forum, no fee is required to be paid.
  3. In case of death of consumer, his/her legal heir can file a complaint in the consumer forum on his/her behalf.
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only**
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
7. Yellow rust disease mainly impacts which of the following?
  - (a) Sugarcane
  - (b) Human being
  - (c) Potato
  - (d) Wheat**
8. Consider the following:
  1. It requires a cold climate.
  2. The ideal growth temperature falls within the range of 18-30°C.
  3. It is grown in well-drained loam soils with a neutral pH.
  4. It can withstand light frost but are sensitive to extreme heat.
 Which one of the following crops requires the above climatic conditions?
  - (a) Barley
  - (b) Lentils**
  - (c) Wheat
  - (d) Chickpea
9. AI Governance Alliance (AIGA) is an initiative of
  - (a) World Economic Forum (WEF)**
  - (b) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
  - (c) World Trade Organisation (WTO)
  - (d) NITI Aayog
10. The famous Chittagong armoury raid of 1930 was commanded by which of the following revolutionary leader?
  - (a) Aurobindo Ghosh
  - (b) Jatin Das
  - (c) Sachindranath Sanyal
  - (d) Surya Sen**