



PLUTUS IAS

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Current Affairs

[2nd January 2021]

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1. **Leopard Survey**
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Topic-1: Leopard Survey

Context:

- According to a recent analysis, **Status of leopards in India, 2018**, report mentions lesser than actual number of leopards in India.



Conservation Status:

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES: Appendix I
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

Status of Leopards in India, 2018:

- According to the report, India's leopard population in 2018 was estimated at 12,852, with the most number of them being found in Madhya Pradesh at 3,421, followed by Karnataka at 1,783 and Maharashtra at 1,690.
- As for **region-wise distribution**, the highest number of 8,071 leopards were found in central India.
- Eastern Ghats, which include the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- In the Western Ghats region, comprising Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala, there are 3,387 leopards. Meanwhile there are 1,253 leopards in Shivalik and Gangetic Plains which includes Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar. In the North East hills, 141 leopards were found.

Topic-2: Programs of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Context:

- Recently, the Year End Review for 2020 has been launched by the ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This review enlists the initiatives taken by the ministry during 2020.

Initiative of the Ministry during 2020:

- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
- National Portal for Transgender Persons
- Nasha Mukta Bharat Campaign
- Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission under Venture Capital fund for SCs (ASIIM)
- 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline KIRAN
- Mobile Application “Swachhata Abhiyan”

Accessible Educational Materials:

- A historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center-ISLRTC (a National Institute of DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)** and **NCERT (a National Institute of Ministry of Education)** to make education materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication viz Indian Sign Language.

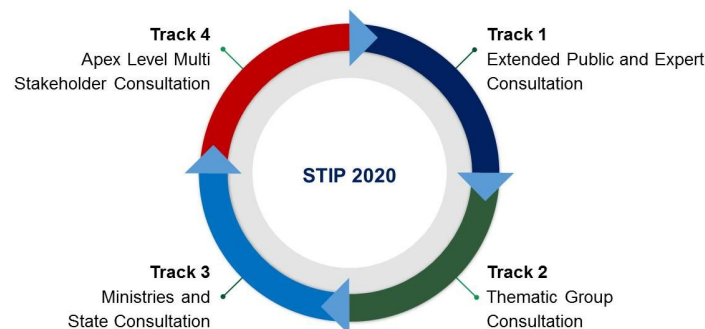
Topic-3: 5th National Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy

Context:

- The draft of the **5th National Science Technology and Innovation Policy** has been finalized and is now available for public consultation.

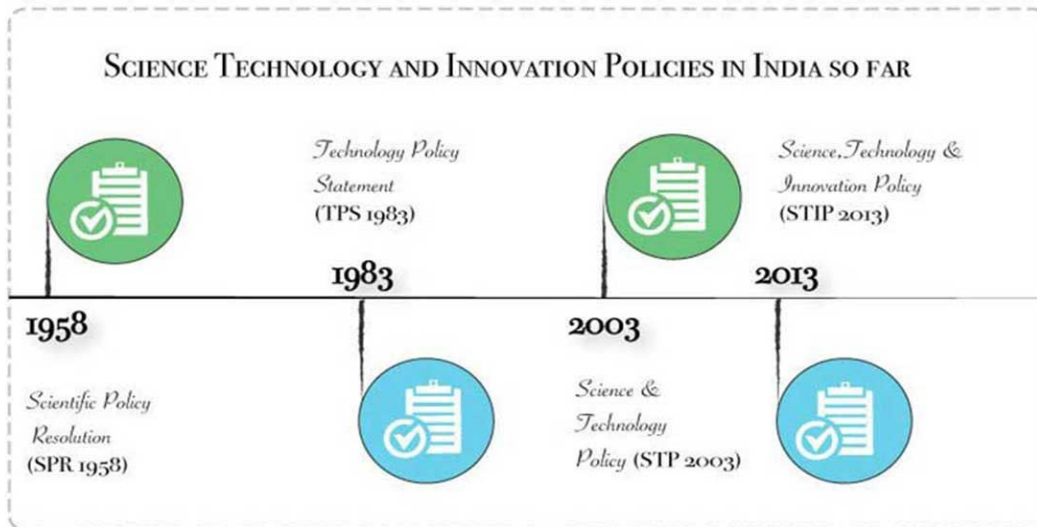
Objectives:

- The objective of the policy is to identify and address strengths and weaknesses of the Indian STI ecosystem to catalyse socio-economic development of the country and also make the Indian STI ecosystem globally competitive.
- It aims to foster, develop, and nurture a robust system for evidence and stakeholder-driven STI planning, information, evaluation, and policy research in India.
- The policy drafted through a **4 track process of consultations** during the last 6 months aims to bring about profound changes through short, medium and long-term mission mode projects by building a nurtured ecosystem that promotes research and innovation on the part of both individuals and organizations.



Core Principles:

- The new policy, STIP, revolves around the core principles of being **decentralized, evidence-informed, bottom-up, experts-driven, and inclusive.**
- Also, it aims to bring in the concept of dynamic policy with a robust policy governance mechanism incorporating features such as implementation strategy, periodic review, policy evaluation, feedback, and adaptation, and most importantly, a timely exit strategy for various policy instruments.
- As India and the world reorient in the present context of the COVID-19 crisis, a new **Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP)** was initiated at this crucial juncture during mid-2020.
- For India to march ahead on a **sustainable development pathway to include economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability** for achieving an “**Atmanirbhar Bharat**”, a greater emphasis may be needed on promoting traditional knowledge systems, developing indigenous technologies and encouraging grassroots innovations.
- **The emergence of disruptive and impactful technologies** poses new challenges and simultaneously greater opportunities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic **provided a compelling opportunity for R&D institutions, academia and industry** to work in unison for sharing of purpose, synergy, collaboration and cooperation.



How STIP was envisaged?

- The process so far involved **nearly 300 rounds of consultations** with **more than 40,000 stakeholders** well distributed in terms of region, age, gender, education, economic status, etc.
- The STIP Secretariat was coordinated, supported, and guided by the **Office of PSA, NITI Aayog, and DST.**
- The formulation process, by design, envisioned as a very inclusive and participative model with intense interconnectedness among different tracks of activities.
- The draft is placed for public consultation on DST's website.

Topic-4: Anaemia Mukht Bharat

Context:

- The Union government's health programme Anemia Mukht Bharat was launched with a sensitisation workshop on the iron-deficiency condition that affects more than 40% of the people across all states.
- The programme aims to reduce the prevalence of anemia by the end of 2022.



What is Anaemia mukht Bharat?

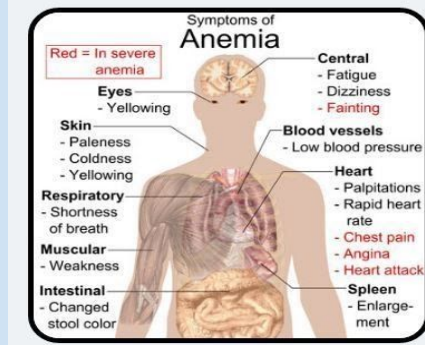
- Anaemia Mukht Bharat is one such nutrition awareness programme to bring about behaviour change in people towards healthy living. It also aims to reduce the prevalence of anaemia by three percentage points per year among children, adolescents and women of reproductive age from 15 to 49 years by 2022.

Need of the programme:

- There is overwhelming evidence that morbidity and mortality risks associated with anaemia call for an urgent and effective strategy to address this public health problem.
- According to the National Family Health Survey anemia prevalence across all ages is extremely high in India; varying from 30 percent to 69 percent.

What is Anemia?

Anemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet the body's physiological requirements, which vary by age, sex, altitude, smoking habits, and during pregnancy.



Topic-5: Industrial Corridor between Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru

Context:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved to construct Industrial Corridor nodes in Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru at an estimated cost of ₹7,725 cr.

Objective

- The objective of the Industrial Corridor Programme is the creation of greenfield industrial cities with sustainable growth.
- ICT enabled utilities to facilitate the manufacturing investments into the country by providing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to industries.

What is an Industrial Corridor ?

- An industrial corridor is a package of infrastructure spending allocated to a specific geographical area, with the intent to stimulate industrial development.
- An industrial corridor aims to create an area with a cluster of manufacturing or another industry.
- Such corridors are often created in areas that have pre existing infrastructure, such as ports, highways and railroads.
- These modalities are arranged such that an "arterial" modality, such as a highway or railroad, receives "feeder" roads or railways.
- Concerns when creating corridors include correctly assessing demand and viability, transport options for goods and workers, land values, and economic incentives for companies.

Topic-6: Digital India Award

Context:

- President Ram Nath Kovind has virtually conferred the Digital India Award 2020 to digital warriors who helped in reducing digital divide, and improvised services with technological advancement.



About the award:

- The National Informatics Centre under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, has been conducting the biennial Digital India Awards to promote innovation in eGovernance and digital transformation of government service delivery mechanism.
- This is the sixth edition of the Digital India Awards whose purpose is to encourage “digital transformation of government service delivery”.

Haryana

- Haryana has bested other states and union territories to grab the first position for its e-governance efforts at the Digital India Awards 2020 organised by the IT Ministry.
- The state won the ‘platinum award’ in the category for ‘Excellence in Digital Governance’.
- This award went to the state or UT showing “exemplary initiative” in setting up online government services for sectors like health, labour, finance, social justice and environment.

Topic-7: Light House Project unveiled

Context:

- The foundation of six Light House Projects has been laid by The Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) initiative.



About Global Housing Technology Challenge-India:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India has launched a Global Housing Technology Challenge - India (GHTC- India).
- Its aim is to identify and mainstream a basket of innovative technologies from across the world that are sustainable and disaster-resilient.
- These technologies would be cost effective and ensure a higher quality of construction of houses, meeting diverse conditions and desired functional needs.
- The GHTC-India platform provides an eco-system for the adoption of innovative technologies in the housing construction sector in a holistic manner.
- The proposed Lighthouse projects will be built using these innovative technologies and further support will be provided to all the domestic technologies to foster an environment of research and development.
- GHTC-India aims to provide the scale and successes of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- It aims to meet the target of constructing 2 crore Houses by 2022.
- It was launched in the year 2019.
- It will help in accomplishing Housing for All by 2022.

About the Project:

- Under this project around 1000 houses will be constructed at six places across the country using the new technologies.
- Those locations are namely **Indore; Rajkot; Chennai; Ranchi; Agartala and; Lucknow.**
- These projects will showcase the use of the six distinct innovative technologies for field level application, learning and replication.
- LHPs will demonstrate and deliver ready to live mass housing at an expedited speed as compared to conventional brick and mortar construction and will be more economical, sustainable, of high quality and durability.
- These projects will serve as Live laboratories for all stakeholders including R & D resulting into the successful **transfer of technologies** from the lab to the field.

Topic-8: Person in News



Buta Singh

Born: 21 March 1934 in Mustafapur, Jalandhar(Punjab)

Died: 2 January 2021(New Delhi). He died at the age of 86.

Who was He?

- He was an Indian politician and a senior leader of the Indian National Congress.
- He was the Union Home Minister of India(1986–1989), Governor of Bihar(2004–2006) and was chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled caste(2007–2010).