

NEWS TODAY

Committee on Estimates presented “PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme and Revival Efforts for Sick Textile Units/ PSUs” Report

- Indian textile industry is a key contributor to country’s economy with **current contribution of around 1% of GDP.**
 - ⊕ It contributes to **over 15% of country’s total exports** and **employs over 45 million people.**
 - ⊕ India is **3rd largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel** in world.
 - ⊕ India targets **\$250 billion textile production** and **\$100 billion exports by 2030.**
- **Current challenges of Textile Industry**
 - ⊕ **Competition from cheaper imports** from countries like Bangladesh, China, and Turkey.
 - ⊕ **Highly fragmented industry.** For instance, fabrics woven in Tamilnadu are processed in Gujarat, ending up in Bengaluru for garmenting.
 - ⊕ **High input costs** (power and capital), **poor access** to credit, and **declining exports.**
 - ⊕ **Other:** Sickness, Lack of modernization by textile mill owner; technical obsolescence; unskilled labourers; poor productivity etc.
- **Recommendations:**
 - ⊕ Framing comprehensive **National Textile Policy** to enhance global competitiveness of Indian textile industry.
 - ⊕ Prepare a **time-bound action plan** involving all stakeholders for resolving issues related to sick textile units.
 - ⊕ **Revival efforts for non-operational sick textile undertakings** should involve **private investment**, potentially through establishment of **PM MITRA PARKS.**
 - ⊕ **Vertical integration of powerloom sector** beyond ambit of PM MITRA Parks to convert textile industry from fragmented to integrated.

Initiatives taken to boost textile sector

- **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)** for technology upgradation and modernization.
- **Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH)** to address skilled manpower requirement across textile sector.

Financial assistance for rubber sector raised by 23% for FY24-25 and FY25-26: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)

- It was provided under ‘**Sustainable & Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector**’ Scheme (implemented by Rubber Board under MoCI), which **enhances natural rubber production** through
 - ⊕ **Expanding planted area, accelerating rubber plantation** in non-traditional regions including North-East, **intensifying research** to evolve technologies for rubber cultivation etc.
 - ⊕ Financial assistance will help in **covering increased production cost**, and **reduce import dependency.**
- Under scheme, MoCI will also provide assistance during 2024-25 and 2025-26 to
 - ⊕ **Form 250 Rubber Producers Societies** to empower planters.
 - ⊕ Establish **three nodal centres of National Institute of Rubber training** in Agartala, Guwahati and Nagaland to promote Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by imparting training in product manufacture and quality control.
 - ⊕ Set-up **18 Group Processing Centres in North East** to ensure quality and standardization of rubber sheets.
 - ⊕ **Develop rubber clones** suitable for different agro-climatic regions to meet rising demand.
- India is **third largest producer** and **fourth largest consumer** of natural rubber, mainly grown in **Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya.**
 - ⊕ **Global Distribution:** Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Philippines.
 - ⊕ Natural rubber is **produced from plants** and is **classified as a polymer.**
 - ⊕ **Hevea brasiliensis** (Rubber Tree) is native to **Amazon region of South America.**

Conditions required for Rubber Tree Plantation

- **Laterite soil**, mostly in **slope and undulated land.**
- **Tropical climate** with **annual rainfall of 2000 – 4500 mm.**
- Temperature should be ranged from **25 to 34°C** with **80 % relative humidity.**

Initiatives taken to promote Rubber

- **Rubber Board** (statutory body) under Rubber Act 1947.
- **Indian Natural Rubber Organisation for Assisted Development (INROAD)** project across North-East.
- **National Rubber Policy, 2019.**

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Behavioural Change Communication Strategy Released

➤ The objective of strategy is to change the behaviour of people to achieve the goal of JJM.

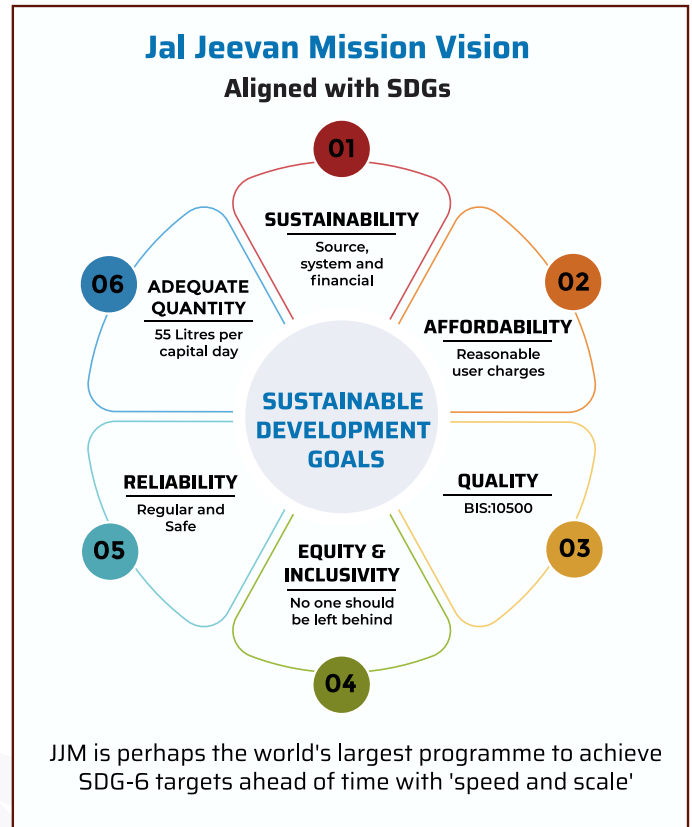
- ⊖ Strategy is based on four pillars-
 - ◆ Media Engagement and Digital Strategy
 - ◆ Advocacy and Communications
 - ◆ Community Mobilization
 - ◆ Social and Behaviour Change Communications

➤ **About JJM (launched in 2019)**

- ⊖ **Objective:** Provide **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household** i.e., Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (HGNSJ) by 2024.
- ⊖ **Scheme Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- ⊖ **Ministry:** Ministry of Jal Shakti
- ⊖ Implemented through **decentralized, demand-driven, community-managed** approach.
 - ◆ For instance, **Paani Samitis/Village Water and Sanitation Committee** have been established at gram panchayat level.
 - ◆ Initiatives like **Aao Nadi Ko Jaane: Youth Mobilisation** (Rajasthan) have been also taken.
- ⊖ **Fund-sharing pattern:**
 - ◆ 100% for UTs without a legislature;
 - ◆ 90:10 for northeastern states and UTs with a legislature; and
 - ◆ 50:50 for all other states.

➤ **Key Achievements:**

- ⊖ **Coverage** increased from **17% (2019) to 74.23%** (2024, out of total 19.14 crore rural households).
- ⊖ 6 states and 3 UTs assured 100% tap water connectivity such as Goa, Punjab etc.
- ⊖ 9 fold increase in tap water coverage in **112 Aspirational Distrits** (comparison to 2019).



Soil Health Card Scheme (SHCS) completes 9 Years

➤ Launched in 2014-2015, to assist State Governments to issue **Soil Health Cards (SHC's)**.

- ⊖ Promotes **Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)**.
 - ◆ In INM, judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures & bio-fertilizers is done for improving soil health and its productivity.
- ⊖ **Flagship program** of the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.
- ⊖ Merged with **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Cafeteria Scheme** as Soil Health & Fertility component in 2022-23.

➤ **About SHC:**

- ⊖ Provides **soil nutrient status** of his/her holding to **each farmer** and advises him /her on the dosage of fertilizers.
- ⊖ It also suggests the soil amendments needed that should be applied to maintain soil health in the long run.
- ⊖ SHC contains the status of soil **with respect to 12 parameters**- Micro-nutrients, Macro-nutrients, Secondary-nutrients and Physical parameters.
- ⊖ A farm will get the soil card once in every 3 years.
- ⊖ It helps in **reducing the** cost of production.

➤ **Implementation Strategy:**

- ⊖ Implemented through the Department of Agriculture of all the State and Union Territory Governments.
- ⊖ Integrated with a **Geographic Information System (GIS) system**.
- ⊖ **Village Level Soil Testing Labs (VLSTLs)** have been set up.

About RKVY (2007-2008)

- **Objective:** To ensure more inclusive and integrated development of agriculture and allied sectors.
- **Scheme Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- RKVY has been re-structured as RKVY Cafeteria Scheme from 2022-23.
 - ⊖ It Merged **some schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** which includes Rainfed Area Development, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana etc.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) notified Regulatory guidelines for sampling of drugs, cosmetics & medical devices

- CDSCO has issued new guidelines to **ensure quality and efficacy of drugs and cosmetics by adopting uniform drug sampling methodology for drugs inspectors** under drug regulatory authorities of state and central government.
 - ⊕ **Section 22 & 23 of Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940** prescribes detail procedure for samples to be taken by Drugs Inspectors for routine drugs quality surveillance.
- **Key highlights**
 - ⊕ **Establish a centralized database** of outlets selling 'not of standard quality' or spurious drugs.
 - ⊕ **Each drugs inspector** with consultation of controlling authority shall **prepare a sampling plan on monthly basis & annual basis for finalizing sampling locations** to cover entire jurisdiction/ area under their office.
- **Need for sampling of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices**
 - ⊕ **Persistent concerns around quality of medicines** manufactured in country. Report of deaths in Gambia and Uzbekistan due to Indian cough syrup.
 - ⊕ Currently, there is **no defined methodology** for sample selection or location of sampling.
 - ⊕ Sampling was **done randomly with individual knowledge of drug inspectors**.
 - ⊕ **Coverage Gap** i.e. existing sampling practices mainly **target drugs from big brands in urban or suburban locations**, neglecting rural and remote areas.

Drug regulation in India

- It is based on **Drugs and Cosmetics Act (DC Act), 1940** and **Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945**.
- **DC Act 1940** created **CDSCO** under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to prescribe standards for ensuring **safety, efficacy and quality of drugs, cosmetics**, diagnostics and devices in India.
 - ⊕ **Drug controller general of India (head of CDSCO)** approves licences for specified categories of drugs like blood and blood products, Vaccine etc.

States/UTs to act as per the definition of "forest" as laid down in the TN Godavarman Thirumulpad (1996) Judgment: Supreme Court (SC)

- SC passed an interim order while hearing writ petitions challenging the **Forest Conservation (Amendment) (FCA) Act 2023**.
 - ⊕ This Act amended the **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980**.
 - ◆ FCA Act, 1980 put several restrictions on the de-reservation of forests or use of forest land for non-forest purposes.
- **Key Highlights of Direction:**
 - ⊕ Follow the dictionary meaning of 'forest' as given in **TN Godavarman Thirumulpad (1996) Judgment**.
 - ◆ **FCA Act 2023** placed **non-recorded forests** out of the purview of the FCA Act, 1980, leaving large areas of forests unprotected.
 - » It covered land declared/notified as a forest under the **Indian Forest Act, 1927** or other laws.
 - » **Land recorded** in Government records (records held by Revenue Department/Forest Department of the State/UT Governments etc.) as forest, as on or after 1980.
 - » Also it exempted certain types of land from the purview of the Act such as Forest land up to 10 hectares.
 - ⊕ Establishment of **"zoos or safaris"** by any government or authority should not be consented to without the final approval of the **apex court**.
 - ◆ FCA Act 2023 excluded **zoos or safaris** from the definition of non-forest purposes, along with eco-tourism facilities, silvicultural operations etc.

T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs Union of India Case (1996)

- Till 1996, concerned authorities used to apply the provisions of the Act only to the forests notified under the **Indian Forest Act of 1927**.
- As per Judgement **"forest" covered** include:
 - ⊕ All areas recorded as "forest" in any government (Union and State) record.
 - ⊕ All areas that conformed to the **"dictionary"** meaning of forest.
 - ⊕ Areas identified as "forests" by an **expert committee of SC**.

Also in News



Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)

- In a case, Bombay HC observed that police has Misutilized its power under Section 41A of the CrPC.
- **About Section 41A**
 - ⊕ **Empowers a police officer** conducting a probe to issue notices to people connected to the case, directing them to appear before him.
 - ⊕ If the person concerned complies with the notice, they **shall not be arrested** unless there are specific reasons, which have to be **recorded in writing by the police officer**.
 - ⊕ It aimed to **avoid unnecessary arrest** or its threat looming large on the accused which required it to be vitalised.



Rip currents

- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and ISRO to monitor and issue operational forecast alerts of rip currents.
- **About Rip Currents**
 - ⊕ A **strong flow of water running from a beach back to open ocean**, sea, or lake.
 - ⊕ They can be **as narrow as 10 or 20 feet in width** though they may be **up to ten times wider**.
 - ⊕ **Prevalent along East, Gulf, and West coasts of U.S.**, as well as along shores of Great Lakes.
 - ⊕ They **do not pull people under water** rather they pull people away from shore.



MILAN 2024

➤ MILAN 2024 is a **multilateral naval exercise**, hosted by India.



PM-USHA Scheme

➤ Uttar Pradesh has secured ₹740 crore under the **Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)** Scheme, the highest amount in the country.

About PM-USHA Scheme

- ⊕ In light of the **National Education Policy 2020**, the **Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** scheme has been revamped as PM-USHA.
- ⊕ **Scheme Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Education**.
- ⊕ **Key Objective:** Improve the **overall quality of existing state higher educational institutions (HEI)**.
 - ◆ It ensures Institutions conformity to prescribed norms and standards and adoption of accreditation as a quality assurance framework.



Nickel

➤ Recent collapse in global price of nickel is due to Chinese investment in Indonesian mines.

About Nickel

- ⊕ **Lustrous, silvery-white metal.**
- ⊕ **Fifth most common element of earth's crust.**
- ⊕ **Melting point of 1,453°C.**
- ⊕ Pure nickel is obtained by **reduction of its oxides** or by **Mond process**.

➤ **Properties:** Relatively **low thermal & electrical conductivities**; **High resistance to corrosion & oxidation**; **Excellent strength** at high temperatures etc.

➤ **Applications:** **Stainless steel production**, alloys, electroplating, etc.

➤ **Distribution of Nickel:** **India** (Odisha, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Karnataka), **Global** (Australia, Indonesia, Brazil etc.)



Mission Aspides

➤ **European Union** launches 'Mission Aspides' to protect **Red Sea vessels** from **Iran-backed Houthi attacks**.

- ⊕ It aims to **preserve freedom of navigation**, provide **maritime situational awareness**, accompany ships and protect them from possible multimodal attacks at sea.
- ⊕ Its **area of operation** will include **Bab Al Mandeb** and **Strait of Hormuz**, as well as international waters in **Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman** and **Arabian Gulf**.



UNESCAP

➤ **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** released report titled 'Asia and the Pacific **SDG Progress Report 2024**'.

- ⊕ Report highlighted that **Asia-Pacific region** is **32 years** behind the **2030 target** of achieving Sustainable development goals.

About UNESCAP

- ⊕ Established as **Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE)** in **1947** and became **ESCAP** in **1974**.
 - ◆ It is one of the five **regional commissions** of the **UN**.
- ⊕ **Objective: Promotes cooperation** among members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges.
- ⊕ **Members: 53** member States (Including India) and **9 associate members**
- ⊕ **HQ- Bangkok** (Thailand)



Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss)

➤ The **Neem Summit** has been organized by collaboration with **ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute**.

About Neem Tree

- ⊕ **Native** to Indian sub-continent.
- ⊕ **Climate:** Grow in **arid, semi-arid, wet tropical** and **sub-tropical** climates and is tolerant to high temperature up to **49 °C**.
- ⊕ **Type:** **Evergreen tree** (deciduous in drier areas).
- ⊕ **Benefits:**
 - ◆ Has medicinal properties.
 - ◆ Act as very efficient, natural air filters trapping dust particles, absorbing gaseous pollutants.
 - ◆ **Other-** Pesticides, mosquito repellents, fertilizers (neem coated urea), etc.

Places in News



Papua New Guinea (Capital: Port Moresby)

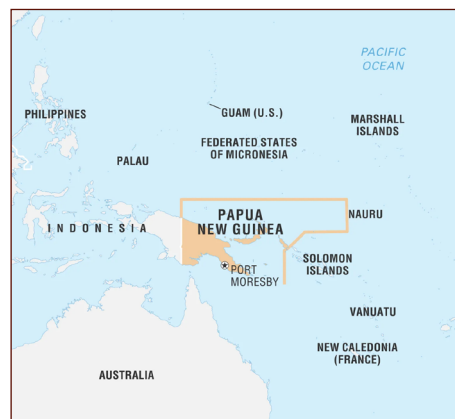
➤ Tribal violence in Papua New Guinea has caused the death of various people.

Political Boundaries

- ⊕ **Island country** in **south-western Pacific Ocean**.
- ⊕ Encompassing eastern half of **New Guinea** (world's second largest island); **Bismarck Archipelago**; **Bougainville** and **Buka** (part of Solomon Islands chain) and other small islands.
- ⊕ **Stretches from just south of Equator to Torres Strait**.

Geographical Features

- ⊕ **Situated along a fault line**, making **earthquakes and resultant tsunamis** relatively **common occurrences**.
- ⊕ **Main rivers:** Sepik, Ramu, Fly, and Purari.
- ⊕ **Highest peak:** Mount Wilhelm.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR