

PIB Gist March part 2

1. The Government of India recently announced the sites for setting up of **7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks** for the Textile industry. The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
2. Under Namami Gange Program, the development of river front on **Narayani River** in the district of Gopalganj, Bihar has been undertaken and two Ghats have been constructed at a total cost of Rs. 6.62 crore
The Narayani River, also known as Gandaki River, is one of the major rivers in Nepal. It is a left bank tributary of the Ganges in India
3. **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML)** has launched an ambitious project to digitize the research material in its possession.
4. The Central Government has launched the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)** for prevention and control of Rabies.
 - Provision of rabies vaccine & rabies immunoglobulin through national free drug initiatives
 - Training on appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance and intersectoral coordination
 - strengthening surveillance of animal bites and rabies deaths reporting creating awareness about rabies prevention
5. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the **Aravalli Green Wall Project**, a major initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states at a function organised to celebrate the International Day of Forests at Tikli Village in Haryana.
6. Government has launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "**New India Literacy Programme**" (NILP) for implementation during five years from the FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27.
 - The programme aims to cover 5 crore learners during five years under Foundational Literacy and Numeracy component.
 - The centrally sponsored 'New India Literacy Programme' (NILP) for the implementation during five years (from 2022-23 to 2026-27) started on April 1, 2022.
 - The programme aims to cover 5 crore learners during five years under Foundational Literacy and Numeracy component.
 - The programme has five objectives: foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, vocational skills development, basic education and continuing education.
 - The programme had financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore out of which Rs.700.00 crore is Central share and Rs.337.90 crore is State share.
 - The scheme aims to cover a target of 5.00 crore non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
 - The beneficiaries under the scheme are identified through door to door survey on Mobile App by the surveyors in the States/UTs
7. **World Water Day** is observed on **March 22, every year**, to highlight the importance of water and inspire efforts to conserve it. Theme- "accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis".
8. **World Forestry Day** or International Day of Forests is observed every year on 21 March. **Theme-** Forests and Health
9. National Zoological Park, New Delhi (Delhi Zoo) celebrated World Sparrow Day on **March 20** . Theme- I Love Sparrows

10. **World Consumer Rights Day** is observed annually on **15 March**. Theme- “Empowering consumers through clean energy transitions”.
11. **Deepak Mohanty** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the **Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA)**. The Centre has also appointed Mamta Shankar, IES (1993), Senior Economic Advisor in the Department of Food and Public Distribution to the post of Whole-Time Member (economics) in PFRDA. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) was established in 2003
12. India’s biggest youth summit- ‘**National Youth Conclave**’ is being organized by the Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA, Department of Youth Affairs and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
13. The (FLNAT) under Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme) was held recently across 10 States and UTs in the country to assess the basic Reading, Writing and Numeracy skills of the neo-literates. New India Literacy Programme
14. India recently welcomed a new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, saying it endorses the country's call for equity and climate justice.

Major Findings

- The report recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies; the value of diverse forms of knowledge; and the close linkages between climate change adaptation, mitigation, ecosystem health, human well-being and sustainable development, and reflects the increasing diversity of actors involved in climate action.
 - The report reinforces the scientific view that CO₂ is the primary GHG and needs to be drastically reduced.
 - The report mentions that for every 1000 GtCO₂ emitted by human activity, global surface temperature rises by 0.45°C (best estimate, with a likely range from 0.27 to 0.63°C).
 - The remaining carbon budgets from the beginning of 2020 are 500 GtCO₂ for a 50% likelihood of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and 1150 GtCO₂ for a 67% likelihood of limiting warming to below 2°C. Reaching net zero CO₂ or GHG emissions primarily requires deep and rapid reductions in gross emissions of CO₂, as well as substantial reductions of non-CO₂ GHG emissions.
 - The Report notes that Climate change has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people that are unequally distributed across systems, regions and sectors
 - The Report also notes that without urgent, effective, and equitable mitigation and adaptation actions, climate change increasingly threatens ecosystems, biodiversity, and the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.
 - Accelerated mitigation and implementation of adaptation actions in the near-term would reduce projected losses and damages for humans and ecosystems.
 - The Synthesis Report echoes Prime Minister’s vision for “LiFE”, or Lifestyle for Environment, which is a global mass movement for promoting environmental friendly lifestyle to protect and preserve the environment.
15. The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the **Women and Men in India 2022** report recently.

Major Findings

- The report noted that the sex ratio at birth increased by three points to 907 in 2018-20 from 904 in 2017-19.
- The Women and Men in India 2022 report revealed that women are severely lagging behind men in labor force participation rates.
- The report showed that the Labor Force Participation Rate for those above 15 years of age has been increasing since 2017-2018.

- The low participation rates for women could be due to social factors, educational qualifications, and gender discrimination in terms of wages and opportunities at the workplace.
 - The Women and Men in India 2022 report also features India's age and sex structure.
 - The population growth, which has been on a downward trend since 1971, is projected to fall further to 0.58% in 2036.
 - The report notes that the population pyramid will undergo a shift, with the base of the pyramid narrowing down while the middle is broadened.
 - The age-specific fertility rate has improved, with the number of live births in the 20-24 years and 25-29 years age group between 2016 and 2020 reducing from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6, respectively.
16. Ministry of Tourism organised a roundtable interaction with heads of mission in New Delhi as a run up to first Global Tourism Investor's Summit
17. The **Civil-20 India 2023** Inception Conference kicked off its first plenary session in Nagpur, Maharashtra, with the theme of "Balancing Development with Environment".
18. An international conference on "**Shared Buddhist Heritage**" will be held with focus on India's civilizational connect with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) nations 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
19. The Ministry of Defence signed three contracts – two with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and one with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) – at a total cost nearly Rs 5,400 crore.
- About the project
- The Automated Air Defence Control & Reporting System 'Project Akashteer' will empower the Air Defence units of the Indian Army with an indigenous, state-of-the-art capability, to effectively operate in an integrated manner.
 - Akashteer will enable monitoring of low level airspace over the battle areas of Indian Army and effectively control the Ground Based Air Defence Weapon Systems
20. The Defence Ministry recently signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited BEL Hyderabad for the procurement of two Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems 'Project Himshakti' at an overall cost of approximately three thousand crore rupees.
21. Indian Navy is participating in SEA DRAGON 23 exercise in waters off Guam, USA which has been scheduled from 15- 30 March 23. Exercise Sea Dragon 23
- The Sea Dragon is an annual, multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise conducted by the United States Navy.
 - Participating Countries: India, USA, Japan, Canada and South Korea
22. The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise recently at Jodhpur Military Station, India.
23. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) meant for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
 - It has been designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
 - The missile incorporates many novel technologies including Dual-band IIR Seeker, miniaturised Reaction Control System and integrated avionics.
 - The propulsion is provided by a dual thrust solid motor
24. The third edition of the multilateral exercise **La Perouse** is scheduled to be conducted in the Indian Ocean Region from 13 to 14 March 2023.

25. Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude.
26. Indian Navy's major Operational level exercise **TROPEX** for the year 2023, conducted across the expanse of IOR over a duration of four months from Nov 22 - Mar 23, culminated recently in the Arabian Sea.
27. INS Trikand is participating in the **International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23)** being held in the Gulf region.
28. The maiden **Joint Military Exercise FRINJEX-23** between Indian Army and French Army will be conducted at Pangode Military Station, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

MCQ for Practice

Q1. Which of the following statements is incorrect about VSHORADS?

- (a) VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) meant for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
- (b) It has been designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- (c) The missile incorporates many novel technologies including Dual-band IIR Seeker, miniaturised Reaction Control System and integrated avionics.
- (d) The propulsion is provided by a dual thrust solid motor
- (e) None

Ans. (e)

Q2. FRINJEX is a

- (a) Military exercise
- (b) Naval exercise
- (c) Air exercise
- (d) Disaster management exercise
- (e) None

Ans (a)

Q3. The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the Women and Men in India 2022. Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The report showed that the Labor Force Participation Rate for those above 15 years of age has been decreasing since 2017-2018.
- (b) The report noted that the sex ratio at birth decreased by three points to 907 in 2018-20 from 910 in 2017-19.
- (c) The low participation rates for women could be due to social factors, educational qualifications, and gender discrimination in terms of wages and opportunities at the workplace.
- (d) The population growth, which has been on a downward trend since 1991, is projected to fall further to 0.58% in 2036.
- (e) None

Ans.(c)