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National and International News

<p>Places in news: Deendayal Port</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a bid to attract private shipbuilders worldwide, the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Gujarat plans to lease 2,000 acres of land in Kutch district to establish a shipbuilding cluster. This cluster aims to have the capacity to construct 50 very large crude carriers (VLCCs) or vessels of similar size, each with a deadweight tonnage (DWT) capacity of 320,000 tons, annually. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deendayal Port (previously called Kandla port) is situated in the Kandla Creek and is 90 kms from the mouth of the Gulf Of Kachchh in Gujarat. It is a protected natural harbor. It is recognized as one of major ports in India. It was constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving western India, after the partition of India from Pakistan left the port of Karachi in Pakistan. Deendayal Port is a hub for major imports like petroleum, chemicals and iron and also exports grains, salt and textiles. It remains India's biggest state-owned cargo handler by volume, but it has steadily lost market share to privately owned Mundra Port (India's largest private port) 60km to the southwest.
<p>PM-AJAY Scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) was chaired by Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, who also serves as the Chairperson of the CAC. The meeting primarily focused on assessing the progress of the scheme and devising strategies to promote the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SC) communities across India. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM- AJAY) is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It is a merged scheme of three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP), and Babu Jagjivan Ram



	<p>Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The main objective of the scheme is to increase the income of the target population by way of various income generating schemes, skill development and infrastructure development. ○ To reduce the poverty among the target population and bring them above the poverty lines. ● Eligibility Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Scheduled Castes persons living below the poverty lines are eligible for getting benefits under this scheme. ○ In case of Infrastructure Development, the villages having 50% or more SC population are eligible for grants under the Scheme. ● It is being implemented since 2021-22 as three components, which are as under:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of SC dominated villages into an 'Adarsh Gram' component ○ Grants-in-aid for District/State-level Projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs' component ○ Construction of Hostels in Higher Educational Institutions Component.
<p>Jal Jeevan Mission</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched several water supply projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Kathua, J&K. These initiatives are set to provide tap water to thousands of residents across 10 villages. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. It is based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission. ● Nodal Ministry: Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti Mantralaya. ● Funding Pattern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50:50 between Centre and States ○ 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States. ○ In case of UTs, 100% funding is provided by the Central government.
<p>Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <p>The Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, hosted the inaugural session of the first-ever BIMSTEC Youth Summit today in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, aiming to strengthen youth collaboration and promote the</p>



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<p>Cooperation (BIMSTEC)</p>	<p>exchange of youth-led initiatives among BIMSTEC Member Countries</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIMSTEC It is an economic bloc that came into being in June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. • BIMSTEC was initially formed with four member states- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on June 6, 1997. • Nepal became an observer state in 1998 and became a full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004. • Members - Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. • Permanent Secretariat - Dhaka, Bangladesh • Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Its aim is to counter the onslaught of globalisation by accelerating regional growth through mutual cooperation by utilising regional resources and geographical advantages. • Importance of BIMSTEC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Around 22% of the world's population live in the seven countries around the Bay of Bengal, with a combined GDP close to \$2.7 trillion. ○ All seven countries have sustained average annual rates of growth between 3.4% and 7.5% from 2012 to 2016. ○ A fourth of the world's traded goods cross the bay every year.
<p>Swavalambini Programme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, the union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the Swavalambini programme. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with NITI Aayog. • It targets female students in select Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. • The aim is to empower these students by equipping them with the necessary entrepreneurial mindset, resources, and mentorship for their entrepreneurial journey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MSDE, through the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), has introduced a structured, stage-wise entrepreneurial process. ○ This process includes stages of awareness, development, mentorship, and funding support. • The initiative aims to offer structured training through the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP),



	<p>introducing 600 female students to entrepreneurship as a viable career option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For 300 selected students, the Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) provides 40 hours of intensive training, covering key business aspects such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and skilling Access to finance Market linkages Compliance and legal support Business services Networking opportunities The programme will be followed by six months of mentorship and support to help participants turn their ideas into sustainable business ventures.
<p>Lymphatic Filariasis</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, launched the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign for the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease. Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes. This impairs the lymphatic system and can lead to the abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability and social stigma. Cause: It is caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea. There are 3 types of these thread-like filarial worms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wuchereria bancrofti, which is responsible for 90% of the cases. Brugia malayi, which causes most of the remainder of the cases. Brugia timori, which also causes the disease. Transmission: Mosquitoes are infected with microfilariae by ingesting blood when biting an infected host. Microfilariae mature into infective larvae within the mosquito. When infected mosquitoes bite people, mature parasite larvae are deposited on the skin, from where they can enter the body. Symptoms: About two in every three people who have lymphatic filariasis don't have severe symptoms. But filariasis usually leads to a weakened immune system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflammation: An overactivated immune system. Lymphedema: Fluid buildup in your lymphatic system. Hydrocele: Swelling and fluid buildup in the scrotum. Edema: Swelling and fluid buildup in your arms, legs, breasts and female genitals (vulva). Treatment:



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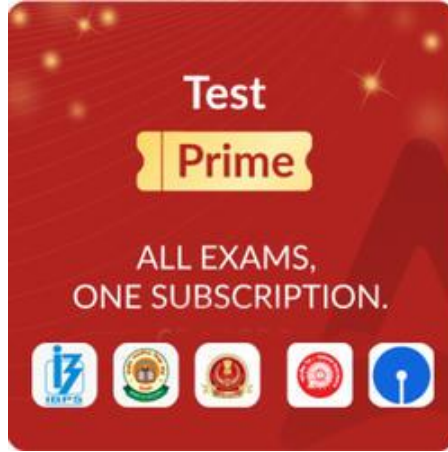
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- Elimination of lymphatic filariasis is possible by stopping the spread of the infection through preventive chemotherapy.



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