



15 February 2025

## National and International News

SAMVAD	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered his speech at the SAMVAD program held in Thailand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAMVAD stands for <b>Support, Advocacy, and Mental Health Interventions for Children in Vulnerable Circumstances and Distress.</b></li> <li>• This initiative is supported by the <b>Ministry of Women and Child Development.</b></li> <li>• <b>The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)</b> leads its implementation. NIMHANS, a premier institution for mental health and neuroscience education, functions independently under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</li> <li>• It aims to foster care and integration of child protection and mental health in the Panchayati Raj systems in aspirational districts across the country to facilitate awareness generation and improve service delivery at the grassroot level.</li> <li>• <b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is a national initiative and integrated resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care of children in difficult circumstances.</li> <li>○ It encompasses a specialized training curriculum on childhood trauma, interventions for children in conflict with the law, forensics in child and adolescent psychiatry and mental health.</li> <li>○ Education and mental health support to children with special needs, protection and care in the context of adoption.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
PM Gati Shakti Scheme	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 87th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) reviewed five projects—comprising one Metro, one RRTS, two Road projects, and one Airport—assessing their alignment with the PM GatiShakti principles.</li> <li>• These principles focus on integrated multimodal infrastructure, last-mile connectivity to economic and social hubs, and intermodal coordination.</li> <li>• The projects aim to enhance logistical efficiency, shorten travel times, and generate substantial socio-economic advantages across various regions.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Aim:</b> To ensure integrated <b>planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years</b>, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.</li> <li>● Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at <b>increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.</b></li> <li>● It also aims to have <b>11 industrial corridors and two new defense corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh.</b></li> <li>● Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.</li> <li>● It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.</li> <li>● <b>Integrated Approach:</b> It intends to bring together 16 infrastructure related Ministries.</li> <li>● <b>Gati Shakti Digital Platform:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It involves the creation of a common umbrella platform through which infrastructure projects can be planned and implemented in an efficacious manner by way of coordination between various ministries/departments on a real-time basis.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>PARAS-2 Spectrograph</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recently, scientists at Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) discovered a new dense sub Saturn exoplanet TOI-6038A b by using PARAS-2 Spectrograph at Mt Abu Telescope.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The PRL Advanced Radial-velocity All-sky Search-2 (PARAS-2) is an <b>advanced fiber-fed spectrograph integrated with the PRL 2.5m telescope, representing a significant upgrade from its predecessor.</b></li> <li>● It is a high-resolution spectrograph designed to operate within the 380-690 nm wavelength range.</li> <li>● The primary goal of PARAS-2 is <b>to discover and study super-Earth-like planets.</b></li> <li>● It was developed with the aim of achieving sub-m/s precision in radial velocity (RV), essential for detecting and analyzing super-Earths or large planets orbiting G and K dwarf stars.</li> <li>● PARAS-2 is the highest-resolution spectrograph in Asia, operating under a highly stable temperature and pressure environment.</li> </ul>



<p><b>NAMASTE Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, PPE kits and Ayushman health cards were distributed in Jammu to Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (Safai Mitras) under the NAMASTE scheme.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAMASTE stands for <b>National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem</b>.</li> <li>It has been launched with an objective to ensure <b>safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India as well as providing sustainable livelihood to these workers</b>.</li> <li><b>Ministries involved:</b> It is launched as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).</li> <li><b>Implementing agency</b> - National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC) would be implementing agency for NAMASTE.</li> <li><b>Coverage:</b> Five hundred cities (converging with AMRUT cities) will be taken up under this phase of NAMASTE. It will be implemented for the period 2022-26.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reports &amp; Indices: Corruption Perceptions Index</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to a Transparency International report <b>India ranked 96 out of 180 countries</b> in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The index has been <b>published annually by the non-governmental organisation Transparency International since 1995</b>.</li> <li>It is an index which ranks countries "by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys."</li> <li>It generally defines corruption as an "abuse of entrusted power for private gain".</li> <li>It uses a <b>scale of zero to 100, where "zero" is highly corrupt and "100" is very clean</b>.</li> <li>It measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be, according to experts and business people.</li> <li>The index, which lists countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, <b>ranked Denmark at the top, followed by Finland, and Singapore</b>.</li> </ul>



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