



28 Mar 2025

National and International News

<p>National Education Policy (NEP) 2020</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education,, stated in a report that the Union government should increase its support to State governments for implementing the National Education Policy. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century in India, which replaces the previous National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986. The Ministry of Education formed a committee under Dr. K Kasturirangan, which outlined this new policy. The National Education Policy 2020 proposes various reforms in school and higher education, including technical education, that are suited to 21st-century needs. 5 foundational pillars of NEP 2020: Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability. Targets under NEP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universalization of education from Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to Secondary Education by 2030, aligning with SDG 4. Attaining Foundational Learning & Numeracy Skills through National Mission by 2025. 100% GER in Pre-School to Secondary Level by 2030. 50% GER in Higher Education by 2035. Bring back 2 Crore children to the mainstream through the open schooling system. Teachers to be prepared for assessment reforms by 2023 Inclusive & Equitable Education System by 2030.
<p>Minimum Support Price (MSP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agriculture Minister has stated that the Union government will assist States in procuring pulses at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum support price (MSP) is a “minimum price” for any crop that the Government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of “support”. It is also the price that Government agencies pay whenever they procure the particular crop from the farmers. It is a way of protecting the farmers in India from the uncertainties of the markets as well as those of the natural



	<p>kind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present, the Central Government sets MSP for 23 crops. • These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 cereals (bajra, wheat, maize, paddy barley, ragi and jowar); ○ 5 pulses (tur, chana, masur, urad and moong); ○ 7 oilseeds (safflower, mustard, niger seed, soyabean, groundnut, sesame and sunflower); ○ 4 commercial crops (raw jute, cotton, copra and sugarcane). • The Government announces the MSP at the start of each cropping season (Rabi and Kharif). • The MSP is decided after the Government exhaustively studies the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
<p>Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar are now open and can be submitted until July 31. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) is an initiative aimed at celebrating the remarkable energy, determination, ability, zeal, and enthusiasm of children in India. • It is given under two categories. • Bal Shakti Puraskar: This award is given by the Government of India every year to recognize exceptional achievements of children in various fields namely innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture, sports and bravery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligibility criteria: A child who is an Indian Citizen and residing in India and is between 5-18 years of age. • Bal Kalyan Puraskar: This is given as recognition to Individuals and Institutions, who have made an outstanding contribution towards service for children in the field of child development, child protection and child welfare. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eligibility criteria: An individual who is an Indian Citizen residing in India and should have attained the age of 18 years or above (as of 31st August of the respective year). S/he should have worked for the cause of children for not less than 7 years. • The awards will be conferred by the Honorable President of India at New Delhi during a special ceremony/function held in January every year.
<p>Sagarmala Programme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, 839 projects worth ₹5.79 lakh crores identified under Sagarmala, with 272 projects completed, investing ₹1.41 lakh



crore.

Key Points:

- The Sagarmala Programme, launched in March 2015, is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, aimed at revolutionizing India's maritime sector.
- It aims to **streamline logistics, reduce costs, and enhance international trade competitiveness by shifting from traditional, infrastructure-heavy transport to efficient coastal and waterway networks.**
- The program focuses on port modernization, industrial growth, job creation, and sustainable coastal development, ensuring minimal infrastructure investment while maximizing economic impact.
- The Sagarmala Programme is a key pillar of the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV)**, driving India's ambition to become a global leader in maritime affairs.
 - **Building on Maritime India Vision 2030, MAKV sets ambitious targets, including 4 million GRT of shipbuilding capacity and 10 billion metric tons of port handling annually, aiming to position India among the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047.**
- **The Sagarmala Programme consists of 5 pillars and 24 categories:**
 - **Port Modernization & New Port Development**
 - Focuses on upgrading existing ports and constructing new ones to enhance capacity, efficiency, and modernization in operations.
 - **Port Connectivity Enhancement**
 - Aims to improve connectivity between ports and the hinterland, optimizing cargo transportation through multi-modal logistics like inland waterways and coastal shipping.
 - **Port-Led Industrialization**
 - Promotes the creation of industrial clusters near ports to boost economic growth and reduce logistics costs.
 - **Coastal Community Development**
 - Supports the sustainable development of coastal communities by providing skill development and livelihood opportunities in fisheries, tourism, and other sectors.
 - **Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways Transport**
 - Encourages the use of coastal and inland waterways for cargo transportation, offering an eco-friendly alternative to road and rail networks.

Do you know?

- The Government of India is advancing the Sagarmala Programme with **Sagarmala 2.0**, focusing on shipbuilding, repair,



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	<p>recycling, and port modernization to enhance India's maritime competitiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sagarmala Startup Innovation Initiative (S2I2) is a transformative program designed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in India's maritime sector.
MGNREGA	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Centre has increased MGNREGS wages by 2-7% for the fiscal year 2026. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MGNREGA is the abbreviation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005. It is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 that guarantees the "right to work" to rural citizens of India. Under this, the government assures a minimum of 100 days of unskilled manual work to an adult member of an eligible rural household. The main objective of the MGNREGA is to provide employment to rural citizens and improve their economic conditions. Eligibility Criteria: For receiving the benefits of the MGNREGA Scheme, the following eligibility criteria are to be met by the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen of India 18 years of age at the time of application Rural Household Willing to do unskilled work Guaranteed Employment: The MGNREGA program guarantees 100 days of unskilled employment to all willing rural citizens, at the government-set minimum wage.
SAHYOG Portal	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAHYOG must comply with the safeguards and procedures outlined in Section 69A of the IT Act. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online platform developed for automating the issuance of content removal notices to intermediaries under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. Ministry involved: Managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure swift and coordinated action against unlawful digital content. Enhance monitoring and compliance with cyber laws. Create a secure digital environment for Indian citizens. Key functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brings together government agencies and digital intermediaries on a single platform. Facilitates issuance, tracking, and monitoring of content

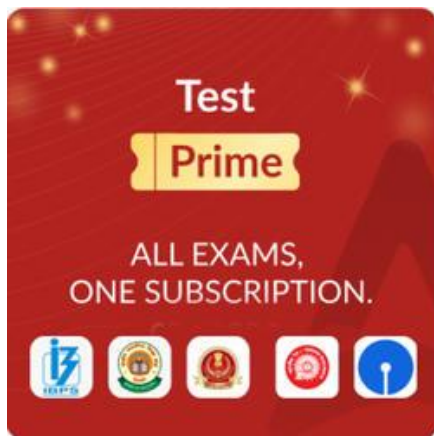


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	<p>removal notices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances transparency and accountability in digital content regulation. <p>About Section 69A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowers the government to block access to online information in the interest of sovereignty, security, and public order, or to prevent incitement to an offence. Requires written orders and procedural safeguards before action is taken. Upheld by the Supreme Court in Shreya Singhal vs Union of India (2015), which recognized its safeguards against misuse.
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