



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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Date – 24 August 2022

Anganwadi Scheme

Anganwadi Scheme

Why in news?

The Anganwadi scheme, created to assist children under the age of six, has not yet reached its full potential.

The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS):

- One of the Government of India's major programmes, the initiative was introduced on October 2, 1975.
- It stands for one of the biggest and most distinctive early childhood care and development programmes in the entire globe.
- It is the most important representation of the nation's dedication to its children and nursing moms.
- The programme is a solution to the conflict between stopping the cycle of hunger, illness, diminished learning capacity, and mortality on the one hand and providing non-formal pre-school education on the other.
- The Scheme's beneficiaries include pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children between the ages of 0 and 6.
- The government's Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), which serves approximately 30 million children in the age range of 3-6 in 1.3 million centres nationwide, includes the Anganwadi system.

What role do parents play in the Anganwadi system?

- Parents are frequently referred to in ICDS reports as beneficiaries, passive recipients of rations, immunisation clinics, and more recently, schooling.
- Parents, on the other hand, do not see themselves or their kids in this way.
- For them, education is a method to achieve their goals and a route to social mobility so that their offspring can benefit from the possibilities they didn't get.
- Primary enrollment rates above 90% are a direct result of parents believing that education provides prospects for a better life.
- needs for their kids' math, writing, and English language abilities.
- It's simple to accomplish this.
- introducing young children to the English language in a comfortable, age-appropriate manner
- The greatest method to become fluent in any other language is to realise that it is the language that is spoken at home.
- A fantastic technique to encourage fine motor skills and future writing is to give them a pencil to scribble with for a few minutes each day, obviously without making them write letters and numbers constantly.
- By showing the wonder of math through enjoyable tasks like estimating, comparison, sorting, and seriation, math might be made simple.
- This lessens their aversion to arithmetic and the paralysis by analysis that prevents them from succeeding in STEM fields.

Way Forward

- Anganwadi centres might adhere to regular daily schedules that divide time between teacher-led and self-directed activities aimed at fostering the development of cognitive, literacy, and numeracy abilities.
- They can also have frequent Shiksha Choupals (parent-teacher gatherings) to show the parent community what learning is taking place in the Anganwadi and to increase their confidence in this organisation.
- In the next five years, it will be critical to launch a widespread awareness campaign about age-appropriate ECCE that includes parents as stakeholders.
- To activate Anganwadi 2.0 in the ECCE ecosystem, it is vital to embrace the power of "abhibhavaak-bhagidari" (parent participation).

Puneet Bhatia

'SEEING THE UNSEEN: THE VALUE OF WATER'

August 23 to September 01 in the year 2022, is the week where the water experts, enthusiasts and environmentalists will gather in Stockholm, Sweden. The reason being the WORLD WATER WEEK CONFERENCE which invites all stakeholders to participate and deliberate on the status of the water and its related issues. The theme is '**Seeing the unseen: The value of water**'.

DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference has been organised by the Stockholm International water Institute(SIWI) since 1991 to bring all stakeholders at common place and discuss the ways to deal with water issues. It brings out the participation of NGOs, water activists, research scientists, business enthusiasts and various international organisations.

WATER AND ITS UNSEEN VALUE

The Earth is possibly the only known planet which hosts a significant amount of the water. Surface has **71%** area occupied by the water leaving **29%** space for the continental landmass. The water distribution is highly uneven in the world and thus makes it more significant.

WATER AND LIFE

Of overall water on the surface hardly **2.5%** is drinkable freshwater in different forms and thus involves use by the living. It is possibly the mutual relation of the solar radiation and the water which makes life on the surface possible. In fact, of the living body it forms a significant proportion like for example the human body is made up of almost 60-70% water which can be tagged as '**water body**'. Water by means of hydrological cycle re-circulates and maintains its balance over the globe.

WATER AND CULTURE

Water is the most important determinant of the civilisation of humans. Even in ancient times, the preference of humans to settle was in the periphery of the lake, well and river which gives circular, semi-circular patterns of settlements. It is no wonder that the most ancient and enriching civilisations flourished on the banks of the rivers. The best example is **Indus valley civilisation** at the banks of the Indus, **Egyptian** at the Nile and **Mesopotamian** at the Euphrates-Tigris. Even in technology bombarded civilisation of modern times the preference for sea facing apartments and lake view houses shows the affinity of man towards water.

Many festivals of the world are water related and depend on the nature of water. As **Songkran** in

Thailand, Thingyan in Myanmar are a few examples. The water sports are also common and promote tourism as in **Kerala's snake boat race**.

WATER AND ECONOMY

Water dependent economy is the major thrust behind the current civilisation. Almost all major industries are dependent on the availability of water, for example the steel industry in Jamshedpur. Also the water as a means of transportation actually drives our economic growth. In the world, almost **80%** of world trade by volume is by marine routes and additionally supported by the inland navigational channels. Also booming water exporting industry, meat and processing, fishing and canning and tourism are major parts of the water economy.

WATER AND POLITICS

Water is a **major driver** of politics in the world and with incremental development of mankind the importance of water as a political tool will, no doubt, increase. The world can trace many political disputes originating from the water as it negatively impacts the federal character in India. Almost 10 water dispute tribunals are formed till date and many more demands are in the pipelines. Even internationally, there are numerous examples of countries fighting for water but rare examples of cooperation like **the Sankosh river treaty** between India- Bhutan.

WATER AND ECOSYSTEM

Water is the most important abiotic component of an ecosystem. It activates all major ecosystems phenomena and makes them enriching the earth. Water is an important biological resource which when utilised to the fullest potential can bring degrading ecosystem balance backtrack.

Thus water is **"life"** and everyone of us has to take his own part to make it more equitably and sustainably available to everyone (flora and fauna). Governments are taking their part seriously now with few exceptions and conferences like this are real breeding ground for water changes. The need is also to promote individual responsibility as problems like water scarcity can only be solved by it.

Akshay gurubhaiye

Tomato Flu/Fever

Tomato Flu

- Tomato flu/fever is a rare contagious disease of viral nature in humans.
- It is caused by Coxsackievirus A 16. It belongs to the Enterovirus family.
- It has been called tomato virus because the symptoms include small grape-like blisters that can actually grow as big as a tomato and are red like a tomato.
- Its symptoms are similar to dengue fever and Chikungunya virus.
- The flu is said to affect children below five years of age and infected children have skin irritation and severe dehydration issues.

Tomato Flu in India

Tomato flu is an unexplainable viral disease spreading in some states of India. It is a clinical variant of the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD), which was first reported in Kollam district in Kerala on May-6-2022, has now spread to three other states – Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Odisha.

Symptoms of Tomato Flu

The symptoms of tomato flu are similar to chikungunya or dengue infection. The chief identified symptoms of this infectious disease are the following:

- Large, red-colored, and spherical blisters on multiple body parts.
- Body pain
- Tiredness and fatigue
- Rashes and irritation
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dehydration
- High-grade fever
- Swollen and painful joints
- Frequent coughing
- Patches and discoloration on various body areas: – hands, buttocks, and knees
- Runny nose and sneezing
- Abdominal pain and cramps

Cause of Tomato Flu

Presently, the exact cause of the infection is still undisclosed. Many researchers are still investigating the causative organism responsible for tomato flu. And it is a

transmissible disease, the healthcare providers advise taking precautionary measures to avoid infection.

Is tomato flu a contagious infection?

Yes, Tomato flu is a contagious disease that spreads through direct contact. It is common among children due to lack of hygiene maintenance. The infectious virus remains in a child's body for many weeks after the infection subsides, making them favorable carriers. Adults can also transmit the virus while handling children without showing any signs and symptoms of the disease.

Treatment of Tomato Flu

- Tomato flu is a self-limiting infectious disease as the signs and symptoms resolve after a few days. It is a rare disease and has recently emerged, so no disease-specific medications are available.
- But still treatment of tomato flu is similar to diseases like chikungunya and dengue— isolation, rest, plenty of fluids, and hot water sponge for the relief of irritation and rashes.
- The doctors provide symptomatic care according to the infected child's needs and prescribe antipyretic and pain-relievers to subside symptoms.

Prevention of Tomato Flu

As we all know, prevention is the best treatment in a sudden unknown disease outbreak. That's why following are some preventive measures we should keep in mind:

- Avoid close & immediate contact with the infected person.
- Aware the children about the signs, symptoms and its side effects.
- Encourage children about hygiene maintenance and stopping thumb or finger sucking habits.
- Encourage the children to use a handkerchief in case of a runny nose or coughing.
- Fluid (water, milk or juice) intake should be increased to counter dehydration.
- Balanced & nutrition-rich diet to boost immunity.
- Isolate the infected patient.
- Good & sufficient rest and sleep to promote healing.
- Use warm water to clean skin or for bathing

Anoop Singh

India's Refugee Crisis

Current Affairs

India's Refugee Crisis

By the beginning of 2010, the nation had taken in close to 450,000 refugees from both within and beyond the area. The refugee flood started with the partition of India in 1947.

India did not ratify either the 1967 Protocol on the Reputation of Refugees or the 1951 Refugee Conference. India has no laws governing refugees, therefore there is no standard way to treat refugees there.

However, the greater issue of human rights and humanitarian law, as well as other areas of international law, like State responsibility and peacekeeping, have grown to be inextricably interwoven with refugee law.

What is India's current legal framework for handling refugees?

- All foreigners, including those who enter the country illegally, seek asylum, or overstay their visas, are treated equally in India.
- The Central government is authorised to find, arrest, and deport unauthorised foreign people under Section 3 of the Foreigners Act of 1946.
- Article 258(1) of the Indian Constitution allows for the removal of an illegal foreigner by force, according to Section 5 of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920.
- All foreign nationals (except Indian citizens living abroad) entering India on a long-term visa (more than 180 days) are required by law to register with a registration officer within 14 days of their arrival. This is in accordance with the Registration of Foreigners Act of 1939.
- 1955's Citizenship Act included provisions for citizenship renunciation, termination, and deprivation.
- Additionally, the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) aims to offer citizenship solely to immigrants who were persecuted in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who are Hindu, Christian, Jain, Parsi, Sikh, or Buddhist.
- India published a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that all relevant authorities must adhere to when interacting with foreign nationals who make refugee claims.
- Additionally, the life, liberty, and dignity of every human being are respected by the Indian Constitution.

- In National Human Rights Commission v. State of Arunachal Pradesh (1996), the Supreme Court ruled that while all rights are available to residents, everyone has the right to equality and the right to life. This includes foreign nationals.

How are refugees faring in India?

- Since gaining its independence, India has taken in many different refugee groups from its neighbours, including: Pakistani Partition refugees in 1947.
- Tibetan migrants who came in 1959.
- Early 1960s: Chakma and Hajong from modern-day Bangladesh.
- In 1965 and 1971, further Bangladeshi refugees.
- Tamils from Sri Lanka who fled during the 1980s.
- The most recent refugees from Myanmar were Rohingya in 2022.

Why does India not sign the 1951 Convention on Refugees?

- Problem with the Refugee Definition: The 1951 agreement defines refugees as those who have been denied their economic rights, but not their civil or political rights.
- It is obvious that the developed world would bear a heavy burden if the violation of economic rights were to be considered a refugee.
- India believes that the 1951 treaty is mostly eurocentric and pays little attention to the South Asian nations. It will also have an impact on India's domestic laws and safety.

What difficulties do refugees in India face?

- Fear and Uncertainty: In society, refugees are not given much weight. They experience poor treatment from the locals and grow fearful and uneasy as a result.
- Because they do not share the same soil as the locals, they are frequently physically and emotionally abused by them.
- Lack of Basic Amenities: They struggle to obtain needs of life including food, housing, and job.
- They are compelled to work for meagre pay with no special rights or status.
- Lack of a Clear Plan for Their Protection: India's Ad Hoc Administrative Policy on Refugees has Produced a Confusion of Environment.
- Insecurity and exclusivity are caused by ignorance and misinformation within the refugee groups.

- **Time-consuming Identification Process:** The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees issues a refugee card after determining the person's refugee status, however this procedure is laborious and can take up to 20 months to complete.
- If someone is apprehended by the police during that time, they will be imprisoned, arrested, and deported without even having access to the UNHCR.
- **Mislabeled as Immigrants:** Over the past few decades, a large number of residents of nearby nations have entered India illegally, not as a result of government persecution but rather to benefit from the country's better economic conditions.

What should be the next step?

- **Equitable and Effective Registration Procedure:** Procedures for determining status should be made more equitable and effective while strengthening or maintaining standards in registration and identification.
- **Enhancing Basic Facilities:** It is important to provide access to necessities and services.
- These include expanding educational opportunities, supporting special needs programmes, and sustaining healthcare infrastructure.
- Making local residents aware of the need to provide housing for refugees and increase their ability to rely on themselves by giving them a temporary source of income.
- **Providing for the Safety of Women and Children:** In accordance with the Fundamental Duty contained in our Constitution, we must protect women and children who are refugees from violence and harassment on the part of locals or authorities.
- Every citizen is required by Article 51A (e) to disavow actions that are disrespectful to women's dignity.
- **Support in Emotions:** A person becomes a refugee due to events that are out of their control.
- He or she runs away because of political, socioeconomic, and human rights violations that make them fearful of being persecuted. In this case, in addition to financial support, we should strive to offer inclusivity and emotional support.

Vivek Raj

DRDO tested indigenous missile VL- SRSAM

Current Affairs

GS Paper 3

Prelims: About VL- SRSAM, DRDO

Mains: capabilities of VL- SRSAM

Why is it in the news?

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy on Tuesday successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at **Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.**



About VL- SRSAM

- **VL-SRSAM** stands for Vertical Launch – **Short Range Surface to Air Missile**.
- It is a quick reaction **surface-to-air missile** developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

(A **surface-to-air missile** (SAM), also known as a ground-to-air missile (GTAM) or surface-to-air guided weapon (SAGW), is a missile designed to be launched from the ground to destroy aircraft or other missiles.)

- It has been designed and developed jointly by three facilities of the Defence Research and Development Organisation for the deployment of Indian Naval warships.
- It has **been designed in a way to neutralise various aerial threats** at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.

(Sea skimming is a technique many anti-ship missiles and some fighter or strike aircraft use to avoid radar and infrared detection.)



Design of VL-SRSAM

The design of VL-SRSAM is based on the Astra **missile, which is a Beyond Visual Range Air to Air missile**

- (Astra (“weapon”) is India’s first air-to-air all-weather beyond-visual-range active radar homing air-to-air missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.)
- (A Beyond-Visual-Range missile (BVR) is an air-to-air missile that is capable of engaging at ranges of 20 nautical miles or beyond.)

VL-SRSAM is designed in such a way that it will be able to strike high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40 to 50 km and at an altitude of around 15 km.

What are the features of VL-SRSAM?

- **Cruciform wings:** they are four small wings arranged like a cross on four sides and give the projective a stable aerodynamic posture.
- **Thrust Vectoring:** thrust vectoring is an ability to change the direction of the thrust from its engine to control the angular velocity and the attitude

of the missile, an official said. (**Thrust** is the force that moves an aircraft through the air.)

- It is a **canisters system**, which means it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- the canister controls the environment inside, thus making its transport and storage easier and improving the shelf life of weapons.

Significance

This favourable result will further intensify the defence capability of Indian Naval Ships against aerial threats.

Defence Mechanism:

Chaffs(originally called Window):

- It is a radar countermeasure in which aircraft or other targets spread a cloud of small, thin pieces of aluminium, metallized glass fibre or plastic, which either appears as a cluster of primary targets on radar screens or swamps the screen with multiple returns, in order to confuse and distract, developed in the 2nd world war
- Missiles to counter Anti-Ship missiles:
- These systems have to have a swift detection mechanism and quick response to warships.

What is DRDO?

- DRDO is the R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence, under the government of India with a perception to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems, while equipping our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment in accordance with requirements laid down by the three Services.
- The tag line of DRDO says "**Balasya Mulam Vigyanam**" which says the source of strength is science-drives the nation in peace and war. DRDO has a firm determination to make the nation strong and self-reliant in terms of science and technology, especially in the field of military technologies.
- DRDO was formed in 1958 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian

Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO). DRDO was then a small organisation with 10 establishments or laboratories. Over the years, it has grown multi-directionally in terms of the variety of subject disciplines, number of laboratories, achievements and stature.

- Today the headquarter of DRDO is in New Delhi, with a network of more than 50 laboratories which are deeply engaged in developing defence technologies covering various disciplines, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, combat vehicles, engineering systems, instrumentation, missiles, advanced computing and simulation, special materials, naval systems, life sciences, training, information systems and agriculture.

PLUTUS

Jupiter's new image

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Gs paper 3

Prelims: about Jupiter, James Webb telescope

Mains: technological development in telescope and space study,

Why it is in news?

NASA has clicked new images of Jupiter, with the help of The JAMES Webb space telescope, the most powerful telescope till now.

Things to know about Jupiter



- Jupiter is the 5th planet in our solar system, it is, by far, the largest planet in the solar system – more than twice as big as all the other planets combined.

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are also known as Jovian or Gas Giant Planets. These are covered with a thick atmosphere, mostly consisting of helium and hydrogen.

- Jupiter's iconic Great Red Spot is a giant storm bigger than Earth that has raged for hundreds of years.
- Jupiter completes its single day in 10 hours called a Jovian day, however, takes about 12 Earth years to complete one orbit of the Sun called a Jovian year.

Jupiter has a maximum number of moons i.e natural satellite, more than 75 moons.

- Jupiter's four largest moons are called the Galilean satellites named after Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, who first observed them in 1610. These large moons, named Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto, are each distinctive world.
- the Voyager mission, in 1979, discovered Jupiter's faint ring system. the most recent spacecraft arrived at Jupiter in 2016, there are nine spacecraft that have visited Jupiter till now. 7 of them flew by and 2 of them orbited the gas giant. Juno,

The new image of Jupiter



- Till now the image of Jupiter has always been the same, a yellowish-orange giant sphere. But, the latest images of Jupiter captured by NASA's newest James Webb telescope show the planet in a very different avatar.

- A greenish blue view of Jupiter can be seen in the latest infrared images of the planet reported by NASA.
- Earlier images of Jupiter's stormy Great Red Spot, Ring, Aurora, and Aurora at the North and South Poles were not clearly visible in any photo taken to date.
- The famous Great Red Spot of Jupiter, a storm so big that it could swallow Earth, appeared bright white in the image since it was reflecting a lot of sunlight, the space agency stated.
- Apart from this, all the parts of this planet are visible in a single line in a wide field picture. Its dim rings, its two satellites i.e. the moons Amalthea and Adrastea, and the bright stars are visible in the Milky Way behind them. The format of the picture was infrared. The infrared images were artificially tinted blue, white, green, yellow, and orange.

What is the James Webb telescope.?

- The James Webb Space Telescope is a large infrared telescope. It is designed in a way that it can study every phase in the history of the universe. This includes the formation of the solar system, the Big Bang, and other theories that support life on other planets.
- It has the capability to look at the past such as the first galaxies formed in the early universe through its longer wavelengths. These wavelengths will help the telescope peer inside dust clouds from where the planets and stars are formed. NASA developed the James Webb Telescope worth \$10 billion with the assistance of the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.
- The telescope was launched to space on December 25, 2021, in Ariane 5 ECA rocket from French Guiana in South America. and is currently observing from Lagrange point 2, approximately 1.5 million km beyond Earth's orbit around the Sun. The telescope released its first image on July 11, 2022.

What are the main objectives of the James Webb Space Telescope?

- It is to find the first galaxies formed after Big Bang.
- It is to calculate and determine how galaxies evolved from their earlier formation
- It is also to observe the formation of stars from the first stages

- And To measure the physical and chemical properties of planetary systems

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is America's civil space program and the global leader in space exploration.

Established under the National Aeronautics and Space Act 1958

Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA

the main objectives of NASA

- To expand human knowledge of space
- To lead the world in space-related technological innovation
- To develop vehicles that can carry both equipment and living organisms into space
- To coordinate with international space agencies to achieve the greatest possible scientific advancements.

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