



GS-1

National Translation Mission:

Why in News?

The National Translation Mission (NTM) is a scheme launched in 2008 which is being implemented through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore to establish translation as an industry in general and to facilitate higher education by making knowledge texts accessible to students and academics in Indian languages.

Progress made by the Mission:

- Under the scheme, the books of knowledge texts mostly text books of various subjects prescribed in Universities and Colleges are being translated in all Languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- National Translation Mission has so far published 40 Knowledge Text translations in 16 languages (Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Hindi, Kannada, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu).
- NTM has published 6 bilingual dictionaries (English to Indian languages) in collaboration with Pearson Education, India.
- The Mission has trained about 1400 budding translators through 3-week intensive courses (21 days) on 'Introduction to translation' and 'Research Methodology in Translation'

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School Based Assessment (SBA) at elementary level:

Context:

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic national surveys to assess learning achievement of children in Classes – III, V, VIII and X.

About NAS:

- The National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2017 was held on 13th November for assessing the competencies developed by the children at the grade levels III, V and VIII from across 701 districts covering all the 36 States and UTs and covered 22 lakh students from 1.10 lakh schools.



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- NAS (2017) was administered with districts as the unit of reporting in different subject areas such as languages, mathematics, EVS/Science and Social Sciences in the Government and Government aided schools.
- The competency based test was based on the Learning Outcomes which were incorporated in the Central Rules for RTE Act by the Government of India.
- District report cards for NAS have been shared with the States and UTs to help identify gaps and devise strategies for further improvement.

Initiatives to improve the quality of education:

1. In order to focus on ensuring competencies, the Central rules to the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** have been amended to include reference on class-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes, which have, accordingly, been finalized and shared with all States and UTs.
2. Under **Samagra Shiksha**, funds are given to all States and UTs for strengthening of infrastructure and provision of other facilities in schools to ensure that all schools meet the prescribed norm.
3. Regulations for a four year **B.Ed integrated course**, to bring about qualitative improvement in teacher education.
4. It has been decided to participate in the **Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA)** to be conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2021, which is a competency based assessment.
5. Approval has been given for conducting a Census based audit called **Shagunotsav** of all government and government aided schools in all States and UTs.
6. MHRD has designed a 70 indicators based matrix called **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** to grade the States/UTs.
7. In 2019-20, approval has been given for an **Integrated Teacher Training Programme** to train 42 lakh teachers, and other functionaries to make classrooms learner-friendly and improving children's competencies including critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, as well as social-personal qualities such as cooperation, team work etc.
8. In 2019-20 approval has been given for a competency based **School Based Assessment (SBA)** at the elementary level.

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship



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Context:

Commemorating World Youth Skills Day on July 15, 2019 and celebrating 4th Anniversary of the Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has announced launch of "**Kaushal Yuva Samwaad**" (A Youth Dialogue).

What does it aims for?

- Kaushal Yuva Samwaad is aimed at creating an open dialogue with the youth across all skill training centres to hear their views, ideas, opportunities and recommendations which could help the Ministry in scaling the existing programs and improve overall efficiency of its projects.
- As per the mandate, each training centre must invite a minimum of 20 candidates to participate in the dialogue.
- Post the dialogue, the recommendations from the Kaushal Yuva Samwaad are to be submitted to the Ministry.

About NSDM:

- The National Skill Development Mission (Skill India Mission), launched on July 15, 2015 under the esteemed guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has been steadily making progress.
- Nearly One Crore youth are being presently imparted skills training annually under various programs of the Government through Skill India Mission.
- The mission also envisages convergence, coordination and harmonization of the fragmented skilling efforts of various Ministries in Government of India and other key stakeholders like State Government, Industry, Training ecosystem etc..

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Nhai Signs MoU with NIIF for funding highway projects

Details:

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) today signed an MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) .



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The MoU is related to co-operation in formation of SPVs to execute the fund arrangement for large size road projects particularly green field projects to be executed by NHAI in future.

What is NIIF:

- NIIF is a fund promoted by Government of India to give boost to the infrastructure sector in the country.
- **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** is [India's](#) first [sovereign wealth fund](#) that was set up by the [Government of India](#) in February 2015.
- The objective behind creating this fund was to maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure investment in commercially viable projects, both Greenfield and Brownfield.
- It was proposed to be established as an Alternative Investment Fund to provide long tenor capital for infrastructure projects with an inflow of Rs. 20,000 crore from the Government of India.
- NIIF was approved in August 2015 by the Department of Economic Affairs. First meeting of its governing council was held in December 2015 further to which it was registered with [SEBI](#) as Category II Alternative Investment Fund.
- As of September 2018, the NIIF manages funds of over US\$ 3.4 billion.

Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme

Context:

The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 is a National Mission document providing the vision and the roadmap for the faster adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country.



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As part of the NEMMP 2020, Department of Heavy Industry formulated a Scheme viz. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme in the year 2015 to promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.

About the Scheme:

- The Phase-I of this Scheme was initially launched for a period of 2 years, commencing from 1st April 2015, which was subsequently extended from time to time and the last extension was allowed up to 31st March 2019.
- The 1st Phase of FAME India Scheme was implemented through four focus areas namely
 - (i) Demand Creation,
 - (ii) Technology Platform,
 - (iii) Pilot Project and
 - (iv) Charging Infrastructure.
- Market creation through demand incentives was aimed at incentivizing all vehicle segments i.e. 2-Wheelers, 3-Wheelers Auto, Passenger 4-Wheeler vehicles, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.

Evaluation of the Scheme:

The evaluation of Phase-I of FAME Scheme was done by an independent consultant. The main findings of the validation of outcome report as submitted by consultant are given below:

- During the last 2 years, the agenda of clean mobility has been placed front and center in all discussions. The relatively increased awareness, is in itself a notable achievement.
- Overall outcomes of key parameters of Fuel saving and CO₂ reduction are significantly below the target for FAME;
- Industry players have been cautious about developing capabilities – players have chosen to operate adjacent to their core capabilities
- Subsidy structure needs to be revised based on the powertrain technology (to incentivize cleaner technologies) and to establish parity across technologies



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- Overall phased implementation plan has taken off but at the very slow pace, demonstrated limited progress in the first phase.

Future of scheme:

- Based on the experience gained during Phase 1 of FAME Scheme and suggestions of various stakeholders including industry associations, the Department of Heavy Industry notified Phase-II of the Scheme.

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill – 2019

Why in News?

Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan introduced "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019" today in the Lok Sabha.

Purpose:

-]This Bill is for the regulation of use and application of DNA technology for the purpose of establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.
- The primary intended purpose of "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019" is for expanding the application of DNA-based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country.
- The utility of DNA based technologies for solving crimes, and to identify missing persons, is well recognized across the world.
- By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, the Bill seeks to ensure that with the proposed expanded use of this technology in this country, there is also the assurance that the DNA test results are reliable, and furthermore that the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.

Benefits of the Bill:



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- The proposed legislation will empower the criminal justice delivery system by enabling the application of DNA evidence, which is considered the gold standard in crime investigations.
- Establishment of the National and Regional DNA Data Banks, as envisaged in the Bill, will assist in forensic investigations.
- The proposed Bill will give fillip to the development of uniform code of practices in all laboratories involved in DNA testing throughout the country .
- This will aid in scientific up gradation and streamlining of the DNA testing activities in the country with appropriate inputs from the DNA Regulatory Board which would be set up for the purpose.
- It is expected that the expanded use of this scientifically driven technology would empower the existing justice delivery system.

Nanoclean AC Filters:

Why in News?

Nanoclean AC Filters can turn your AC into an air purifier. Made of a specially-designed non-woven structure, the device has been developed in tandem with Prof Ashwini K Agrawal, HOD, Department of Textile Technology and Prof Manjeet Jassal, from the same department.

About the filters:

- These are easy-to-use, nearly invisible nasal filters, which are clipped onto your nostrils to prevent particulate matter from entering while breathing.
- Affordable, at ₹10 a piece, this one-time-use anti-pollution filter can hold up to a day.
- Nasofilter is a patented technology, and the company exports its products to 30 countries, such as Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and more. Currently, their manufacturing unit is based in Ahmedabad.

How do we use it?

- It is a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) product and can easily be placed in both a split as well as window AC.
- One only has to place it on the frame of the existing AC Filter. The product is unwashable.



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How pure does the air get with this device?

- It can purify a room up to 90% in just 35-40 minutes (less than an hour).
- It removes PM2.5 and other micro-particle pollutants from the air.

Does it have any negative impact on either cooling or electricity consumption?

- No, the Nanoclean AC Filter, when fitted, occupies less than 45-50% of the space of the inbuilt cooling filter, hence cooling is taken care of.
- And with the use of Nanotechnology, these filters allow ACs to become purifiers at no recurrent electricity cost.

What is it made of?

- A proprietary (specially designed) non-woven structure which is able to retain pollutants (PM2.5), made up of pure PP (polypropylene) which can be recycled into other products (making it an environmentally friendly technology)