

DAILY PT POINTERS

29th September, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Economy (Page 1)

Architect of India's Green Revolution departs



- M.S. Swaminathan : The legendary agricultural scientist and a key architect of the country's Green Revolution
 - The country was dependent on foodgrains imported from the U.S. then. He worked for the success of the Green Revolution.
 - Dr. Swaminathan, who was a recipient of the Padma Shri in 1967, was chosen for the Ramon Magsaysay award for community leadership in 1971.
 - He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in January 1972.
 - The first World Agriculture Prize, instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture, was given to him in October 2018.

Green Revolution

- A programme that paved the way for a quantum jump in productivity and production of wheat and rice through adoption of chemical-biological technology.
- They were grown with chemical fertilizers and pesticides to maximize yields, and farmers were assured a guaranteed price.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Science and Technology (Page 9)

Should generative Artificial Intelligence be regulated?



- **Generative AI** is a cutting-edge technological advancement that utilises machine learning and artificial intelligence to create new forms of media, such as text, audio, video, and animation.
- Overall, generative AI has the potential to enable efficiency and productivity across multiple industries and applications at scale.
 - However, if not designed and developed responsibly with appropriate safeguards, Generative AI can create harm and adversely impact society through misuse, perpetuating biases, exclusion, and discrimination.
- Therefore, we must responsibly develop AI technology, enforce ethical guidelines, conduct regular audits for fairness, identify and address biases, and protect privacy and security.
- It is the responsibility of global leaders to guarantee the secure and safe deployment of Generative AI.

EU's Artificial Intelligence Act takes a risk-based approach to regulate Artificial Intelligence technologies, categorising them into unacceptable, high-risk, and limited risk accompanied by corresponding compliance requirements

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Science and Technology (Page 10)

Inside the digital world of cookies

Are there privacy concerns? Can inadequate security of cookies pose a risk to users? Which privacy regulations have had an impact on how they are used on websites? How does India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act affect the use of cookies? What potential downside can their excessive use have?



Cookies

- They are usually pieces of information or code that a website transfers to or accesses from person's computer or device to store, and sometimes track information.
- The digital world of cookies plays a significant role in any online experience.
 - In the digital realm, cookies help in personalisation and user convenience.

Concerns

- Cookies can track online behaviour, leading to privacy concerns about digital privacy. Inadequate security of cookies can create opportunities for cybercriminals to steal personal information.
- **Regulation**
 - Cookies usage and regulation are evolving in the digital landscape.
 - India's newly enacted Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 now necessitates websites to acquire explicit consent from users prior to collecting or processing their personal data via cookies

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu :IR (Page 10)

What is the 'Five Eyes' intelligence alliance? | Explained

What is the Fire Eyes network described once as a 'supernational' intelligence organisation? Why was the alliance formed? What role has it played in the ongoing diplomatic rift between India and Canada?

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SUMEDA

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- The **Five Eyes intelligence alliance**, consists of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- It is both surveillance-based and tracks signals intelligence (SIGINT).
- It is involved in ocean and maritime surveillance, scientific and defence intelligence analysis, medical intelligence, geospatial intelligence, counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and the continuous sharing of intelligence products via a secret collective database known as 'Stone Ghost'

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Health/S&T

Nipah virus outbreak: What are monoclonal antibodies?

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances



What is a monoclonal antibody?

- Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances.
 - An antibody attaches itself to an antigen – a foreign substance, usually a disease-causing molecule – and helps the immune system eliminate it from the body.
- Monoclonal antibodies are specifically designed to target certain antigens.
- **Do you know ?**
m102.4 is a “potent, fully human” monoclonal antibody that neutralises Hendra and Nipah viruses, both outside and inside of living organisms.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express :Health / S&T (Page 6)

From 6 to 543: What is behind surge in reported measles cases in Capital?

In 2019, a total of 25 cases were reported with zero fatality. In 2020, 15 cases were reported with two deaths. In 2021, six cases were reported with one death.



- Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus.
- It spreads easily when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes.
- It can cause severe disease, complications, and even death.
- It can affect anyone but is most common in children.
- It infects the respiratory tract and then spreads throughout the body.
- There is no specific treatment for measles
- WHO, the Measles & Rubella Partnership (formerly the Measles & Rubella Initiative), and other international partners successfully prevented 56 million deaths between 2000–2021

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express : Economy (Page 23)

Centre says ready to bring 28% online gaming GST from Oct 1; all states yet to pass laws

All states are yet to pass the required legislative amendments or ordinances in their respective Assemblies for the proposed change in GST provisions for online gaming, casinos and horse racing.



- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said it is fully prepared to implement the clarificatory laws related to uniform **GST of 28 per cent on online money gaming, casinos and horse racing** from October 1
 - In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council had approved amendments in law to include online gaming, casinos and horse racing as taxable actionable claims, and clarified that such supplies would attract **28% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on full bet value.**

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : Polity and Governance

PM to launch a unique week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks called 'Sankalp Saptaah' on 30th September



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a unique week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks in the country called '**Sankalp Saptaah**' at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 30th September, 2023 at around 10 AM.
 - 'Sankalp Saptaah' is linked to the effective implementation **of Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**.
 - The nationwide programme was launched by the Prime Minister on January 7, 2023.
 - It aims to improve governance at the block level in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens.
 - It is being implemented in 500 Aspirational Blocks across 329 districts in the country.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : Polity and Governance

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches CRILLO 4 GOOD modules to advance gender equality and empower young people



- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship launched '**CRILLO 4 GOOD**'
 - It is a series of 8 cricket-based animation films to promote gender parity, equip girls with life skills and encourage their participation in sports.
 - The programme was launched in association with the International Cricket Council, UNICEF, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : Polity and Governance

Uttar Pradesh Achieves 100% ODF Plus Coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission
Grameen

95, 767 Villages Declare Themselves ODF+ With Solid/Liquid Waste Management Systems

Over 80,000 Villages Achieve ODF Plus Status in Last 9 Months



- Uttar Pradesh has achieved yet another major milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II with all 95, 767 villages in the State i.e., **100% villages** achieving ODF Plus status under Phase II of the Mission.
 - An **ODF Plus village** is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems.
- **Do you know ?”** :Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation administers the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G).
 - [SBM(G)] Phase-II which is being implemented during the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with the focus to sustain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and to cover all villages with Solid and Liquid Waste Management
 - It is based on the model of convergence between different funding sources viz. SBM(G) budgetary grants, 15th Finance Commission grants to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs), MGNREGS, etc

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB : IR / Intellectual Property rights

India retains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023

NITI Aayog to host India's Launch of the Global Innovation Index 2023

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Global Innovation Index 2023

- It is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries.
- Switzerland is the most innovative economy in 2023 followed by Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore
- India retains 40th rank out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization**.
 - India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.