

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

❖ Context

- Recently, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry said that **FDI inflows in India stood at US \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015** and have **continuously increased since then**, and India registered its highest ever annual FDI inflow of US\$ 84.84 billion (provisional figures) in the financial year 2021-22.

Key Highlights

- The reforms taken by Government have resulted in increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the country.
- **Top Five Source Nations**
 - Singapore (27.01%), USA (17.94%), Mauritius (15.98%), Netherland (7.86%) and Switzerland (7.31%) emerge as top 5 countries for FDI equity inflows into India FY 2021-22.
- **Top 5 sectors receiving highest FDI Equity Inflow during FY 2021-22 are**
 - Computer Software & Hardware (24.60%), Services Sector (12.13%), Automobile Industry (11.89%), Trading 7.72% and Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (5.52%).
- **Top 5 States receiving highest FDI Equity Inflow during FY 2021-22 are**
 - Karnataka (37.55%), Maharashtra (26.26%), Delhi (13.93%), Tamil Nadu (5.10%) and Haryana (4.76%)
- As per the **UNCTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2022**, in its analysis of the global trends in FDI inflows, India has improved one position to **7th rank among the top 20 host economies for 2021**.

FDI

• About

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is when a **company takes controlling ownership** in a business entity in another country.
- With FDI, foreign companies are **directly involved with day-to-day operations** in the other country.
- This means they aren't just **bringing** money with them, but also **knowledge, skills and technology**.

• Routes through which India gets FDI

○ Automatic Route

- The non-resident or Indian company does not require prior nod of the RBI or government of India for FDI.

○ Govt Route

- The government's approval is mandatory.
- The company will have to file an application.
- The application is then forwarded to the respective ministry, which will approve/reject the application.
- **DPIIT** will issue the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for processing of applications under the existing FDI policy.

○ Industries where FDI is strictly prohibited

- Atomic Energy Generation, Any Gambling or Betting businesses Lotteries (online, private, government, etc), Investment in Chit Funds Nidhi Company, Agricultural or Plantation Activities, Cigars, Cigarette.

Legacy Landfill sites

❖ Context

- According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's **SBM-U dashboard**, five states account for more than half of the 1,080 "legacy landfill sites" for which authorities are yet to propose remediation plans.

Key highlights

- The dashboard showed that **1,854 sites across the country**, spread over **47,456.66 acres** and with **18.67 crore tonnes of waste**, were yet to be remediated.
- Of 1,080 sites for which remediation was yet to be proposed, 591 were in five states: **Karnataka (136), Rajasthan (128), Andhra Pradesh (115), Madhya Pradesh (111), and Telangana (101)**.

Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0

- The mission was launched last year.
- It has the targets of **creating "garbage-free cities"** and **100% remediation of all legacy landfills** by the end of the mission's five-year cycle (2026).

- It can either be done "**in situ**", which is at the site of the contamination itself, or "**ex situ**," which is a location away from the site.
- **Ex situ bioremediation may be necessary** if the climate is too cold to sustain microbe activity, or if the soil is too dense for nutrients to distribute evenly.
- Ex situ bioremediation may **require excavating and cleaning the soil above ground**, which may add significant costs to the process.



- Under the mission, **municipalities** are required to submit action plans for bioremediation of legacy landfills.
- Depending on the composition, the waste is divided into
 - **Refused derived fuel (RDF)** for waste-to-energy plants.
 - **Construction and demolition (C&D) waste** for recycling by C&D plants.
 - **Bio-soil** that can be used to fill gaps in road construction.
- After clearing the dump sites, municipalities are required to firm up **plans for alternative use of the land**.

Bioremediation

- Bioremediation is a branch of biotechnology that employs the **use of living organisms**, like microbes and bacteria, in the **removal of contaminants, pollutants, and toxins** from soil, water, and other environments.

TOP 5: STATES WHERE NO ACTION PLAN PROPOSED



State	Total no. of dumpsites	*No. of sites	** Total waste
Karnataka	194	136	1,80,08,229
Rajasthan	152	128	1,19,09,240
Andhra Pradesh	123	115	75,28,688
Madhya Pradesh	175	111	51,79,192
Telangana	111	101	34,20,772

*where remediation not proposed yet **yet to be remediated (Ton)

1,854 Legacy dumpsites across India, where waste has remained accumulated for over 3 months

News in Between the Lines

Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA)



❖ Context

- Recently, The government has approved the **Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA)** as a self-regulatory body for publishers of news and current affairs across the country

❖ Key Highlights

➤ About

- The organisation — with 47 digital news publishers on board — will look at grievances related to digital media news content on their platforms.

➤ Members

- The organisation will be **headed by former HC Judge Mool Chand Garg** and have part-time member of Prasar Bharati Ashok Kumar Tandon and journalist Manoj Kumar Mishra as members.

➤ Side Note

- With this, the Ministry has approved nine self-regulatory bodies since May 2021 under rule 12 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- They include **DIGIPUB News India Foundation, Confederation of Online Media (India), and NBF- Professional News Broadcasting Standards Authority**, among others.
- Self-regulatory bodies will “oversee and ensure adherence by the publisher to the code of ethics; address grievances which have not been resolved by publishers within 15 days; hear appeals filed by the complainant against the decision of publishers etc.

❖ Context



One District One Product (ODOP)



One District One Product

➤ Recently, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry said that One District One Product (ODOP) initiative operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative.

❖ Key Highlights

➤ The ODOP initiative has been identified for the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in Holistic Development through One District One Product (ODOP) category in April, 2022.

➤ ODOP products are showcased in various **International forums such as World Economic Forum, DAVOS in May 2022**, at International Yoga day (IYD) in New York, US in June 2022 etc.

➤ Andhra Pradesh has a total of 26 districts and about 13 of them have been covered in the DEH initiative.

❖ One District One Product Scheme (ODOP)

➤ About

- It was **launched in January 2018**, by the Uttar Pradesh Government, and due to its success, was later adopted by the Central Government.
- It was launched by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**.
- It is operationally merged with the '**Districts as Export Hub**' initiative.
- It is seen as a **transformational step** forward towards realizing the goal of **AtmaNirbhar Bharat**.

➤ Implementation

- It is being **implemented by DGFT, Department of Commerce**, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) as a major stakeholder.

➤ Product and Market

- The ODOP product could be a **perishable Agri produce, cereal-based product**, or a **food product** widely produced in a district and their allied sectors.
- The ODOP products will be available at **NAFED Bazaars, E-commerce platforms, and prominent retail stores** across India.

➤ Objectives

- Transforming Districts into Export Hubs.
- Promoting Industry and Export .
- Generating Employment.

Geo-Ladakh



❖ Context

➤ Recently Union minister informed that Government of UT – Ladakh has approached the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), a unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for developing "Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal 'Geo-Ladakh' for UT-Ladakh.

❖ Key Highlights

➤ An **MoU** was also signed between **IIRS (ISRO) and UT-Ladakh Administration** on January 1, 2022 towards carrying out the project.

➤ The project encompasses **spatial database generation** (water resources, vegetation and energy potential) using **remote sensing, geospatial techniques** and the development of a Geo-portal for hosting this database.

➤ The project also aims towards training of UT-Ladakh officials on Geospatial techniques and applications.

➤ Portal provides **geospatial data visualization and analytics** for UT-Ladakh, consisting of Spatial viewer, Carbon Neutrality, Geospatial utility mapping and Geo-Tourism.



Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC System)



➤ Significance

- It could be used for generating the spatial database on time series snow cover, fresh water availability, sites for renewable energy potential (solar and wind).
- It can show the availability of alpine pastures/grazing lands for natural resource management and change assessment at periodic interval.

❖ Context

- Recently, The Centre informed that the usage of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC system) has increased in India.

❖ Key Highlights

- NavIC, or Navigation with Indian Constellation, is an independent stand-alone navigation satellite system developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- NavIC was originally **approved in 2006** at a cost of \$174 million.
- It was expected to be completed by late 2011, but only became operational in 2018.
- NavIC consists of eight satellites and covers the whole of India's landmass and up to 1,500 km (930 miles) from its boundaries.
- Currently, NavIC's use is limited. It is being used in **public vehicle tracking in India**, for providing emergency warning alerts to fishermen venturing into the deep sea where there is no terrestrial network connectivity, and for tracking and providing information related to natural disasters.
- Enabling it in smartphones is the next step India is pushing for.
- **NavIC vis-a-vis GPS**
 - GPS caters to users across the globe and **its satellites circle the earth twice a day**, while NavIC is currently for use in India and adjacent areas.
- **Side Note**
 - Like GPS, there are three more navigation systems that have global coverage – Galileo from the European Union, Russia-owned GLONASS and China's Beidou.
 - QZSS, operated by Japan, is another regional navigation system covering Asia-Oceania region, with a focus on Japan.

Navigating the Storm Report



❖ Context

- The **World Bank** has released the India Development Report titled 'Navigating the storm'.

❖ Key highlights

- It lifts the **GDP growth** forecast to **6.9% for FY23**.
- The report forecasts that the economy will grow at a slightly lower rate of **6.6 per cent in fiscal FY24**.
- It cites the **economy's relative resilience** to external headwinds.
- The strong macroeconomic fundamentals have placed it in good stead compared to other emerging market economies.
- India's economy is relatively insulated from global spillovers compared to other emerging markets, partly because the **country has a large domestic market** and is **relatively less exposed to international trade flows**.
- **Rapid monetary policy tightening in advanced economies** has already resulted in large portfolio outflows and depreciation of the Indian Rupee.
- **High global commodity prices** have led to a widening of the current account deficit.



Calling Name Presentation Feature



- The **current-account deficit** is adequately financed by improving foreign direct investment inflows and a solid cushion of foreign exchange reserves.

❖ Context

- The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** floated a consultation paper seeking comments about the potential introduction of a Calling Name Presentation Feature (CNAP).

❖ Key highlights

- The feature would provide an **individual with information about the calling party**.
- The idea is to ensure that telephone subscribers are able to make an **informed choice about incoming calls**.
- Further, it can curb harassment by unknown **spam callers & protect against fraudulent calls**.
- Additionally, there have been rising concerns about **robocalls**.
- Robocalls are calls made automatically using IT-enabled systems with pre-recorded voice calls.
- However, some experts have expressed concerns over how the feature would balance the **caller's right to remain anonymous** which is an essential component of the **right to privacy**.

Pre-bunking



❖ Context

- Google's Jigsaw subsidiary is launching a **new anti-misinformation project** in India.

❖ Key highlights

- The initiative will use "**prebunking**" **videos** which will be circulated on the company's YouTube platform and other social media sites.
- The videos are **designed to counter false claims** before they become widespread.
- The approach is built on years of research into an idea known as **inoculation theory**.
- The theory suggests that **exposing people to how misinformation works**, using harmless, fictional examples, can boost their defences to false claims.
- The characteristics seen in many common false claims include **emotionally charged language, personal attacks or false comparisons between two unrelated items**.
- According to research, people who watched the videos were significantly better at distinguishing false information from accurate information.

❖ Advantages of the technique

- While **journalistic fact checks** can be effective in debunking a particular piece of misinformation, they're time and labour intensive.
- By focusing on characteristics of misinformation in general instead of specific claims, pre-bunking videos can help a person spot false claims on a wider variety of topics.
- Another method, **content moderation** by social media companies, is criticised for failing to do more and being inconsistent.

