

Equalisation Levy

❖ Context

- "Equalisation levy is not a unilateral measure... we are not an exception as many countries have done so," FM said in a post-Budget conference in Bengaluru.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Equalisation Levy (EL)** is a direct tax withheld at the time of payment.
- Introduced in 2016, it is leviable on **consideration received by a non-resident** for specified services (the **income accruing to foreign e-commerce companies**).
- **Specified Service** means **online advertising or provision of digital space** for online advertisement or any other service for the purpose of online advertising.
- Equalisation Levy is imposed under the Finance Act 2016.
- The EL will be levied if the **aggregate amount** of consideration for such specified services received in a previous year **exceeds Rs. 1 lakh**.
- **Equalisation Levy is charged at the rate of 6%** on the amount of consideration received/receivable by the non-resident.
- **The person making the payment is liable for the deposit of EL to the Government treasury.**

❖ EL 2.0:

- EL 2.0 is applicable, **wef 01 April 2020**, on the **online sale of goods or online provision of services or a combination of both** by the non-resident e-commerce operator.
- EL 2.0 is applicable where non-resident e-commerce operators supply to:
 - person resident in India.
 - Person using an Indian IP address.
 - Non-resident in specific cases.
- The **threshold limit attracting equalisation 2.0 is Rs 2 Crores**.
- The EL 2.0 shall be levied only **if the aggregate amount** of consideration for such specified services received in a **previous year exceeds Rs. 2 crores**.
- EL 2.0 is charged **at the rate of 2%** on the amount of consideration received/receivable by the non-resident.
- **The non-resident e-commerce operator is liable for deposit the EL amount** to the Government treasury & comply with the statutory requirements viz. the filing of EL return, etc.

Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule

❖ Context

- Recently, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has recently received flak for his remarks on the social reformist couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule.



❖ About Jyotirao Phule:

- **Born** in 1827 in Maharashtra.
- He was a **social reformer, thinker and social activist**.
- He belonged to a caste society which was socially excluded.
- The **title of Mahatma** was bestowed on Phule by fellow reformer from Bombay, **Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar**.
- **Contributions:**
 - His work is related mainly to **eradication of untouchability and caste system**, emancipation and empowerment of women, and reform of Hindu family life.
 - He founded **Satyashodak Samaj in 1873**.
 - Satyashodak Samaj was devoted to **secure social justice and human rights of low-caste people**.
 - The first **school for women in Pune** was opened by social reformer, Jyotirao Phule.
 - Later, the Phule started **schools for children from the then untouchable castes** such as Mahar and Mang.
 - In 1863, he **opened a home for pregnant Brahmin widows** to give birth in a safe and secure place.
 - He **opened an orphanage** home to avoid infanticide.
- **Publications:**
 - **Gulamgiri (Slavery)**, Shetkarayacha Aasud (Cultivator's Whipcord), Tiritiya Ratna (1855); Powada: Chatrapati Shivajiraje Bhosle Yancha (1869).

❖ About Savitribai Phule:

- **Born** in 1831 in Maharashtra.
- She was an **Indian social reformer, educationalist, and poet**.
- She is also regarded as the **first female teacher** of India.
- She was also **against the Sati tradition**.
- Savitribai Phule is hailed as India's one of the **first modern feminists**.
- Savitribai Phule **took on the work of Satya Shodhak Samaj** after the demise of Jyotirao Phule.
- With Jyotirao Phule, she had **opened 18 schools for girls**.
- She **opened Mahila Sewa Mandal** in 1852 to raise awareness about women's rights.
- **Publications:**
 - **Kavya Phule in 1854**.
 - Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892.
 - A poem entitled "Go, Get Education" in which she encouraged those who are oppressed to free themselves by obtaining an education.

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Artificial Intelligence in Judiciary

❖ Context

- Recently, the Law Minister said that while implementing **phase two of the eCourts projects**, under operation since 2015, a need was felt to adopt **new, cutting edge technologies of Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to increase the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

❖ Key Highlights

- The recent **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** shows that **3,89,41,148 cases are pending at the District and Taluka levels** and **58,43,113 are still unresolved at the high courts.**
- It has the **capacity to reduce the pendency** and incrementally increase the processes.

❖ Mechanism of AI in Justice Systems:

- The use of AI in the justice system depends on first **identifying various legal processes.**
- It **perceives a particular process** and gets information about the process under examination.
- Over time, the **machine can learn from experience**, and as we provide more data, the programme learns and makes predictions about the document, thereby making the underlying **system more intelligent every time.**

❖ Similar Initiative of SC in this Direction:

- **SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency).**
 - **Launched** by the Supreme Court of India.
 - **Designed to** first understand judicial processes that require automation,
 - It then **assists the Court in improving efficiency** and reducing pendency by encapsulating judicial processes that have the capability of being automated through AI.
- **SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software).**
 - This AI system **can assist in the translation of judgments** into regional languages. It translates judicial documents from **English to nine vernacular languages** - Marathi, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Malayalam and Bengali - and vice versa.

❖ About eCourt Projects:

- The eCourts Project was conceptualized on the basis of the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary – 2005”.
- The eCourts Mission Mode Project, is a Pan-India Project.
- **Nodal Ministry:**
 - It is being monitored and funded by the **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice** for the District Courts across the country.
- **Aims:**
 - To provide **efficient & time-bound citizen centric services delivery** as detailed in eCourt Project Litigant’s Charter.
 - To develop, **install & implement decision support systems** in courts.
 - To automate the processes to provide **transparency in accessibility** of information to its stakeholders.
 - To **enhance judicial productivity**, both qualitatively & quantitatively, to make the justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost effective, predictable, reliable and transparent.

❖ About AI (Artificial Intelligence):

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a **wide-ranging branch of computer science** concerned with **building smart machines** capable of performing tasks that typically **require human intelligence.**
- It includes technologies like **machine learning**, pattern recognition, big data, neural networks, self algorithms etc.
- **Examples:**
 - Siri, Alexa and other smart assistants.
 - Self-driving cars.

News in Between the Lines

Donate -a- Pension Scheme

❖ Context

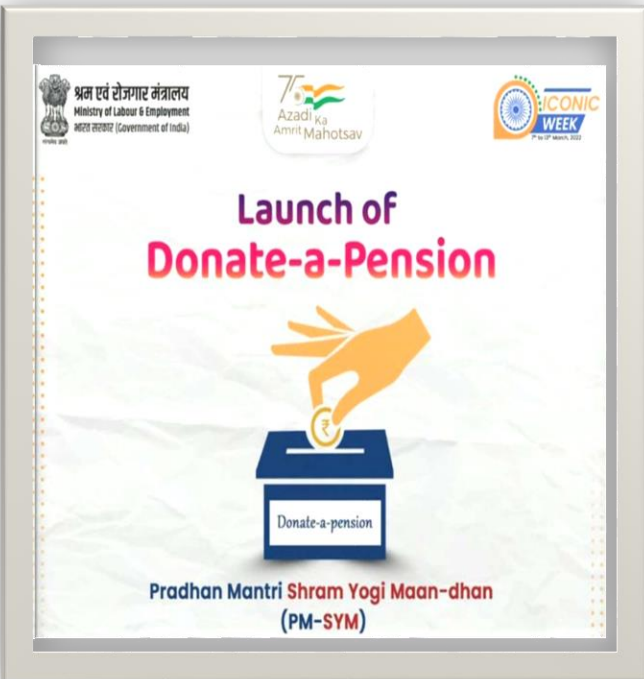
- Recently, the **Union Labor and Employment Ministry** on Monday launched the “donate a pension” scheme.

❖ Key Highlights

- In this Scheme **any citizen can pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganized worker** under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.
- The donor can pay the contribution for a **minimum of one year**, with the amount ranging from **₹660 to ₹2,400 a year**, depending on the age of the beneficiary. The premium amount can be paid through **maandhan.in** or by **visiting a Common Service Center** anywhere in the country.

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❖ Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme:

- It is a **pension scheme for the unorganized sector**.
- It was announced in the Interim Budget 2019 by Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Eligibility:**
 - It allows unorganized sector workers between the age of **18 and 40**, who earn up to **₹15,000 a month**, to enroll by paying a **premium amount between ₹55 and ₹200**, depending on the age, that would be **matched by the government**.
 - They **should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**.
 - Further, he/she **should not be an income tax payer**.
- On reaching the age of 60, the beneficiaries would get a **₹3,000 monthly pension**.
- If the **subscriber dies** during the receipt of a pension, **his or her spouse will be entitled to receive 50 percent of the pension** as a family pension.
- If a **beneficiary dies before attaining the age of 60 years**, his or her **spouse will be entitled to continue the scheme** subsequently by payment of regular contribution or may even exit the scheme.

International Women's Day (IWD)



❖ Context

- Every year, March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day across the world.

❖ Key Highlights

- Its aim is to **promote women's rights and honor their achievements** across the political, economic, social and cultural spheres.
- This day was **adopted by the United Nations in the year 1977**.
- **Significance:**
 - Celebrate women's achievements.
 - Raise awareness about women's equality.
 - Lobby for accelerated gender.
 - Parity fund raise for female-focused charities.
 - This day is a reminder of the grit and determination of women all across the world.
- The theme for International Women's Day 2022 is, **"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow."**

SLINEX



❖ Context

- The **Ninth Edition of India - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise)** is scheduled at **Visakhapatnam from 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The exercise is being **conducted in two phases**; the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on 07-08 Mar 22 followed by the Sea Phase on 09-10 Mar 22 in the Bay of Bengal.
- **Aim:**
 - To **enhance interoperability and improve mutual understanding** between the navies of the two neighboring countries in the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region.
- Sri Lanka Navy is being represented by **SLNS Sayurala**, an advanced offshore patrol vessel and the Indian Navy by **INS Kirch**, a guided missile corvette. Exercises during sea phase will include:
 - surface and anti-air
 - aviation operations including cross-deck flying,
 - weapon firing exercises,
 - advanced tactical manoeuvres.
 - seamanship evolutions,
 - special forces operations at sea.



❖ **Mitra Shakti**

- The 8th edition of **India-Sri Lanka bilateral Joint Exercise**, Mitra Shakti was conducted at Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka in October 2021.
- It's 7th edition was held at Foreign Training Node in Pune in 2019,
- **Aim:**
 - To **promote close relations between armies of both the countries** and enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations.

Green Payment Channel



❖ **Context**

- The government has created a fast-track channel for insurance claims under Ayushman Bharat, aiming to reduce delays currently plaguing its flagship **Health Insurance Scheme**.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- Green Channel Payment (GCP), **introduced by the National Health Authority (NHA)**, aims to **expedite claim adjustments** for **empaneled hospitals** treating Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) beneficiaries.
- Under GCP, a **partial payment of 50% of the claim amount will be released automatically** to hospitals through the system at the time of claim submission, while the balance will be released following the usual claim adjustment process.
- The **AB PM-JAY scheme** is operational in all states and union territories except West Bengal, Odisha, and Delhi.

Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav



❖ **Context**

- **Ministry of Women And Child Development** in partnership with The **Ministry of Education and UNICEF** Launches Campaign 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' to bring back **4,00,000 out of School Adolescent Girls** to the Formal Education.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of girls between **11-14 years of age** in school.
- Over 400 districts across all states will be funded under **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme** for outreach and awareness generation at grassroots level to sensitise communities and families to enrol adolescent girls in schools, over and above the funding from Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- The campaign to enrol them in schools will be **driven by anganwadi workers in collaboration with district education officers**, supported by tracking systems used by the **WCD and Education Ministries**.
- The anganwadi workers will be given additional **financial incentives ranging from ₹500 to ₹1,000** to counsel adolescent girl dropouts in their anganwadis and ensure that they are enrolled in schools.

❖ **Saksham Anganwadi Scheme**

- Under the scheme, these 4,00,000 girls in the 11-14 age group will no longer receive anganwadi support, as the **focus shifts to 14 to 18-year-olds**.
- In 2018-19, there were 11.88 lakh girls aged 11-14 years who were part of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) in anganwadis, but this had dropped to 5.03 lakh by 2021.

Mir and UnionPay

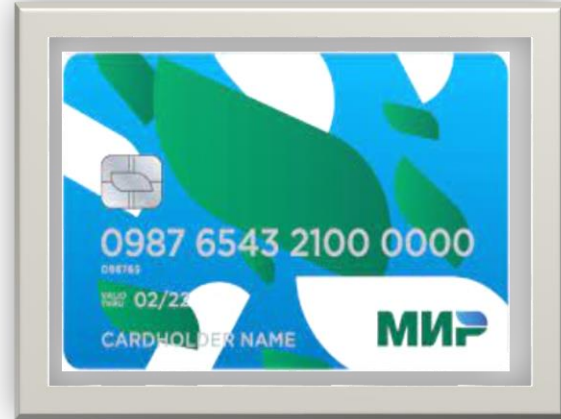
❖ **Context**

- Visa, Mastercard and American Express having suspended their services in Russia.



❖ **Key Highlights**

- The suspension means that any cards issued by banks globally on these networks will not work in Russia at point-of-sale terminals or ATMs. Further, cards issued by Russian banks on these networks will also stop working outside the country.
- Globally, barring China, **Visa and Mastercard control nearly 90%** of credit and debit card payments.
- **Russia had launched** its own payment system, **Mir, in 2015**, in the aftermath of similar US sanctions in 2014.
- Many Russian banks are also planning to use **China's UnionPay**, system enabled in 180 countries.



White goods



❖ **Context**

- The government has reopened the application window for its PLI scheme for ACs and LED lights.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The scheme was launched by **Ministry of Commerce** in April 2021 in pursuance of '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' for incentivising manufacture of components and sub-assemblies of Air Conditioners (ACs) and LED Lights.

White goods	large household items such as cookers, washing machines, dryers, fridges, often made with enamel-coated materials that are white in colour.
Brown goods	relatively light electronic appliances such as computers, radios, audio equipment, and televisions.
Yellow goods	construction, earth-moving and quarrying equipment, including trucks and tractors.

National Safety Awards



❖ **Context**

- **Ministry of Labour & Employment** presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA) and National Safety Awards (Mines) [NSA (Mines)].

❖ **Key Highlights**

Awards	since	Purpose	Operating Agency
Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)	1965	outstanding suggestions given by a worker or group of workers and implemented by the management resulting in improvement in quality, productivity and working conditions	Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai.
National Safety Awards (NSA)	1965	recognition of outstanding safety performance of industrial establishments, construction sites, ports.	Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai.
National Safety Awards (Mines)	1983	To promote a competitive spirit amongst mine operators for the betterment of safety standards in mines.	Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Dhanbad.

- **Occupational safety, health and welfare of persons employed in all mines - coal, metalliferous and oil - all over the country is the concern of the Central Government.**
- Provisions for occupational safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the **Mines Act, 1952.**

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