

National Technical Textiles Mission

❖ Context

- Recently, the **Ministry of Textiles** has cleared **20 strategic projects** in the areas of specialty fibers and geotextiles under the flagship programme **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Amongst the 20 Research projects, 16 projects of **Specialty fibres** were cleared including **5 projects in Healthcare**, **4 projects in Industrial and Protective**, **3 projects in Energy Storage**, **3 projects in Textile waste recycling**, & **1 in Agriculture**, **4 projects in Geotextiles** (Infrastructure) were cleared.
- It will be a **step in the direction of Atmanirbhar Bharat**, especially in the Healthcare, Industrial and Protective, Energy Storage, Textile Waste Recycling, Agriculture and Infrastructure.

❖ About National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM)

- It's flagship scheme of the Ministry of Textiles to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles.
- The scheme has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for creation at a total outlay of Rs.1480 Crore; with a four-year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24.
- It has 4 components:
 - **Research Innovation & Development** – Rs. 1000 crores
 - A sub-component of the research will focus on development of biodegradable technical textiles materials, particularly for agro-textiles, geo-textiles and medical textiles.
 - **Promotion and development** of the market for technical textiles– Rs.50 crore
 - **Education, Training and Skilling**– Rs. 400 crore, and
 - **Export Promotion** – Rs.10 crores and balance Rs.20 crores for administrative expenses.
 - Aim-**10% average growth every year** till the Mission ends.

❖ About Technical Textile

- Technical textiles are **engineered products** with definite functionality.
- These products have **applications across various industries** including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.
- Technical Textiles products are **divided into 12 following broad categories**
 - Agrotech, Buildtech, Clothtech, Geotech, Hometech, Indutech, Mobiltech, Meditech, Protech, Sportstech, Oekotech, Packtech depending upon their application areas.

❖ Technical Textile in India

- Technical textiles in India are **currently growing at 8% per annum**.
- **Annual average growth** of the segment is **12%**.
- The current world market is \$250 billion and **India's share in it is \$19 billion**.
- The biggest players are the US, Western Europe, China and Japan (20-40% share)

Learning Poverty

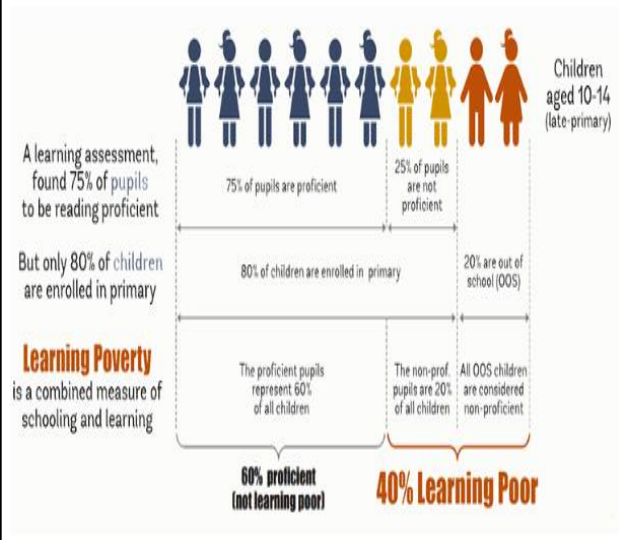
❖ Context

- World Bank's Global Education Director recently stated that there is no justification to keep schools closed due to the pandemic
- It is estimated that **India's learning poverty would increase from 55% to 70%** on account of it

❖ Key Highlights

❖ What is Learning Poverty

- It is a new measure **jointly developed by World Bank and UNESCO's Institute of Statistics**
- It is defined as **being unable to read & understand a short, age appropriate text by age 10**. Share of such children is known as **Learning Poverty Level (Headcount Ratio)**
- Reasons for particularly focussing on reading among all foundational skills are
 - Easily understood measure
 - Reading is the student's gateway to learning in every other area
 - Reading proficiency serve as proxy for foundational literacy in other subjects (in the same way as absence of child stunting is marker of healthy early childhood development)



Face to Face Centres

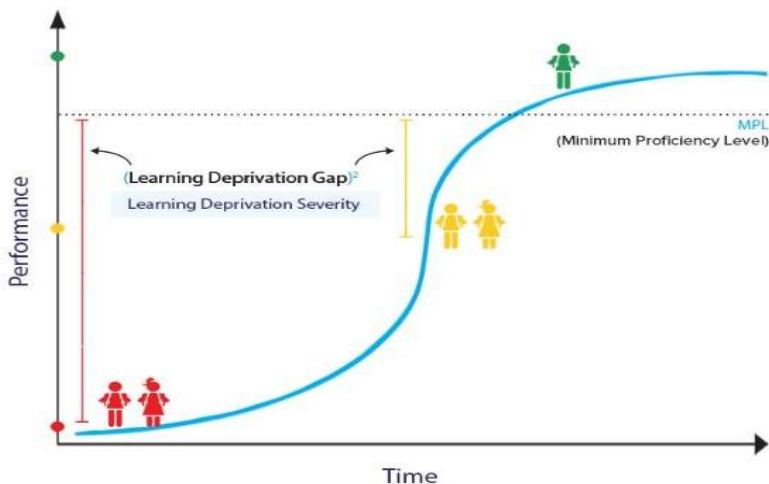
- The indicator brings into focus 'more schooling' & 'better learning' by combining
 - Share of primary-aged children out of school (school deprived)
 - Share of pupils below a minimum proficiency level (MPL) (learning deprived)
- All out of school children are assumed to be below MPL

❖ Learning Poverty Gap

- It captures average learning shortfall (distance from MPL) among children

❖ Learning Poverty Severity

- It captures inequality of learning among the children as some children may be near the threshold but some may be far away and thus would need different policies/efforts for the same

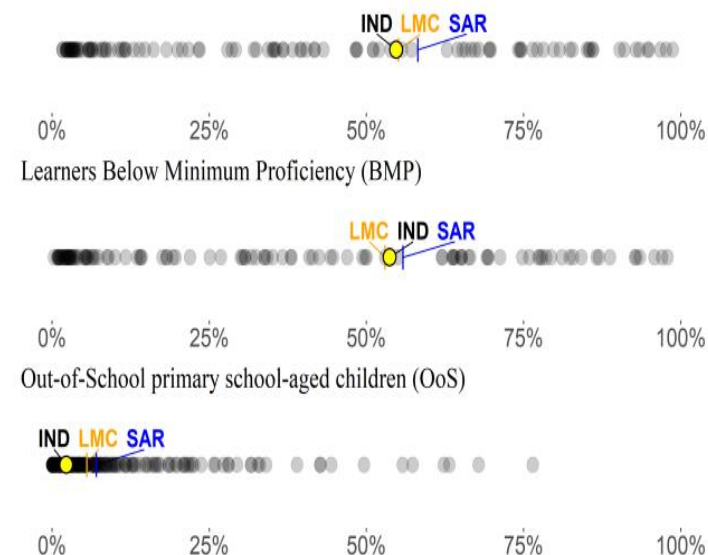


❖ India's related findings : (As of 2017)

Out of primary school children	Children below MPL (5th grade students)	Learning poverty
2%	54%	55%

- Gender Gap: Higher for boys (56.3) than girls (53.7)** (like in most countries) because of
 - Share of out of school children higher for boys (2.9%) than girls (1.6%)
 - Boys less likely to achieve MPL at the end of primary school (55%) than girls (58%)

Learning Poverty (LP)



National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

❖ Context

- The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years beyond 31.3.2022.

❖ Key Highlights

❖ About NCSK

- Though being established as a statutory body in 1993, as per NCSK Act 1993, it ceased to be so from 29.04.2004, when the act ceased to have effect
- It is currently a non-statutory body whose tenure is extended from time to time through government resolutions

❖ Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers & their Rehabilitation Act 2013 (MS Act)

- Makes it a cognizable & non-bailable offence to:
 - Employ people as manual scavengers to clean insanitary latrines.
 - Employ people to clean sewers and septic tanks without protective gear.
 - Construct insanitary latrines.
 - Not demolish or convert insanitary latrines within a certain period of this Act coming into force.
- Every local authority (municipality or panchayat), cantonment board or railway authority is responsible for surveying its area to identify manual scavengers. The number of Manual Scavengers identified under the survey as on 31.12.2021 is 58098.

- Also they are mandated to use appropriate technological applications for cleaning of sewers, septic tanks etc.
- It also prevent manual scavenging by mandating local authorities to demolish insanitary latrines in time bound manner
- It mandates to constitute
 - Vigilance Committee for each district headed by DM and sub-district headed by SDM
 - State Monitoring committee headed by CM
 - Central Monitoring committee headed by Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment
- Under the Act, the State Government has the power to constitute the State Commission of Safai Karamcharis to perform the function similar to National Commission
- Mandate of the NCSK under the Act**
 - Gives recommendations to the Government for the welfare of safai karamcharis
 - Study and evaluate existing welfare programmes
 - Investigate cases suo-moto or of specific grievances

Face to Face Centres



News in Between the Lines

SAMARTH



❖ Context

- Central government reviews the status of Biomass utilization in Thermal Power Plants in the country

❖ Key Highlights

- **Sustainable Agrarian Mission on use of Agro Residue in Thermal Power Plants (SAMARTH)** was launched by the Ministry of Power
- It is also known as **National Mission on Use of Biomass in coal based Thermal Power Plants**
- Objective of the mission is to
 - Reduce stubble burning by farmers
 - Reduce carbon footprint of Thermal Power Plants
 - Generating additional income for farmers
- Under the policy, **all thermal plants in the country** are mandated to use **5%-10% biomass pellets** along with the coal (**cofiring**) for power production
- Thus, agro residue/biomass, earlier considered a waste product, will produce **zero carbon electricity** for citizens
- **NTPC** is emerging as the leader in the initiative with **58,000 MT** biomass pellets

I4F



❖ Context

- India and Israel deliberated on widening the scope of **India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)** at its 8th Governing Body meeting

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **Israel Innovation Authority** since **2018** to promote, facilitate and support **joint industrial R&D projects** between companies from India and Israel to address the challenges in the agreed 'Focus Sectors'
- A **\$40 MN** fund with **equal contribution from both sides over five years** had been set up
- It would lead to the **co-development and commercialization** of innovative technologies benefiting both countries
- It is proposed to widen the scope of the fund under I4F 2.0
- **Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA)** has been appointed to implement the I4F program in India. It is the **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** between **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, **DST**, and a **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.

Saaṛthi Mobile App

❖ Context

- Recently, **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched a new mobile app named "**Saaṛthi**" on investor education.

❖ Key Highlights

- Saaṛthi" (R is denoted as the Indian Rupee (INR) symbol) mobile app is to **create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.**
- It will also **explain the KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds (MF), recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, and so on.**



- It will be **available in Hindi and English language** (would be available in regional languages soon)

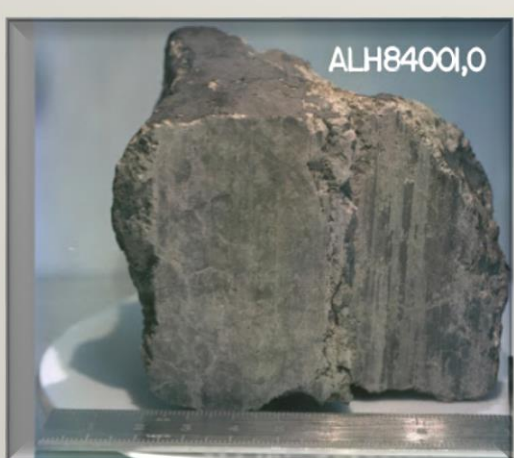
❖ About SEBI

- It is the **regulator of the securities and commodity market** in India owned by the Government of India.
- It was **established in 1988 and given statutory status through the SEBI Act, 1992.**
- SEBI is responsible to the **needs of three groups:**
 - Issuers of securities
 - Investors
 - Market intermediaries
- **Functions:**
 - **Quasi-legislative** – drafts regulations
 - **Quasi-judicial** – passes rulings and orders
 - **Quasi-executive** – conducts investigation and enforcement action

Powers

- To **approve by-laws of Securities exchanges.**
- To **require the Securities exchange to amend their by-laws.**
- **Inspect the books of accounts and call for periodical returns** from recognised Securities exchanges.
- Inspect the books of **accounts of financial intermediaries.**
- **Compel certain companies** to list their shares in one or more Securities exchanges.
- **Registration of Brokers and sub-brokers**

ALH 84001 Meteorite



❖ Context

- A new study published in the **journal Science**, offers an explanation for the existence of organic compounds on the surface of Meteorite called (ALH) 84001.

❖ Key Highlights

- It **landed on Earth from Mars in 1984**, and can possibly unravel the existence of life on Mars (RedPlanet).
- It was **discovered in Allan Hills of Antarctica** by a Meteorite hunting expedition group.

❖ Features

- The rock was shaped like a **rounded brick.**
- The outer layer was covered with **black glass like material.**

❖ New Study

- The organic compounds were a result of the **interaction between water and rocks** that occurs on Mars.
- This reaction between water and rocks form various organic compounds from which life could have evolved

❖ Meteorite

- Any fairly small natural **object from interplanetary space**—i.e., a meteoroid—that survives its passage through Earth's atmosphere and lands on the surface.

Kala Utsav 2021



❖ Context

- Recently, Kala Utsav 2021 was **launched online on January 1, 2022 through a digital platform.**
- A total of **35 teams have participated in Kala Utsav 2021**, from different states, union territories, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti schools

❖ Key Highlights

- It is an **initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE)** and it was **initiated under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**, which has now been merged with other schemes under '**Samagra Shiksha – an integrated scheme for school education**'.

Face to Face Centres



Nusantara



- It aims to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at the secondary stage in the country.
- In the context of education of Arts (Music, Theater, Dance, Visual Arts and Crafts), the initiative is guided by the recommendations of the **National Curriculum Framework 2005 (NCF-2005)**.

❖ Context

- Recently, **Indonesia has passed a law to shift its capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan.**

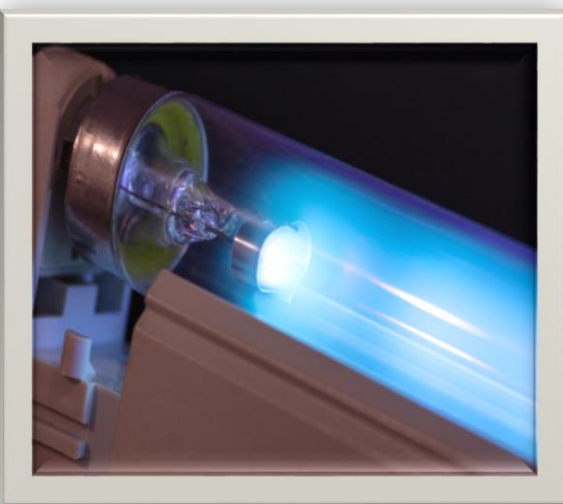
❖ Key Highlights

- The move was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, **citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java island.**
- Jakarta is among the world's fastest sinking city.
- New capital will be called **Nusantara**, meaning "archipelago" in Javanese.

❖ About Indonesia

- Indonesia is a **transcontinental country** located between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- It is the **World's largest Island Country** with more than 17,000 islands.
- It is the **fourth most populous nation** of the world
- It shares **land boundaries** with the following nations
 - Papua New Guinea East Timor Malaysia.
- It shares **maritime boundaries** with
 - Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Palau, Australia, India, Thailand

UV-C Technology



❖ Context

- Recently, The Union Minister has said that **UV-C disinfection technology** is being installed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in railway coaches, AC buses, closed spaces etc.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is **developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).**
- The technology is **meant for the mitigation of airborne transmission of Covid-19** and it will also remain relevant in the post-COVID era
- **UV-C deactivates viruses, bacteria, fungus and other bioaerosols** etc with appropriate dosages **using 254 nm UV light.**
- The disinfection system **can be used in auditoriums, large conference rooms, classrooms, malls** etc. which provides a relatively safer environment for indoor activities in the current pandemic.
- It can also be used in **buildings, transport vehicles**, etc.
- Moreover, this technology can also be used by the Election Commission of India during **indoor meetings with limited capacity** for the upcoming Assembly polls in 5 States in the wake of a ban on physical rallies and roadshows for a specified period of time.