CURRENT AFFAIRS   **5 July, 2022**

DIGITAL INDIA WEEK 2022

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS, TECHNOLOGY MISSIONS)

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Digital India Week 2022 in **Gandhinagar in Gujarat.**

ABOUT DIGITAL INDIA WEEK

- During the programme, PM launched multiple digital initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility of technology, streamlining service delivery to ensure ease of living, and giving a boost to startups.

- The theme for Digital India Week is **Catalyzing New India's Techade.**

- The initiatives that were launched are:

A. Digital India Bhashini: This will enable easy access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access, and help the creation of content in Indian languages.

B. **Digital India GENESIS:** It is a National Deep-tech Startup Platform, to discover, support, grow and make successful startups in Tier-II and Tier-III cities of India. A total outlay of 750 crore rupees has been envisaged for the scheme.

C. **Indiastack.global:** It is a global repository of key projects implemented under India Stack like Aadhaar, UPI (Unified Payments Interface), Digi Locker, Cowin Vaccination Platform, Government e Market Place, DIKSHA Platform and Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission.

D. **MyScheme:** It is a service discovery platform facilitating access to Government Schemes. It aims to offer a one-stop search and discovery portal where users can find schemes that they are eligible for.

E. **Meri Pehchaan- National Single Sign On for One Citizen Login:** National Single Sign-On is a user authentication service in which a single set of credentials provide access to multiple online applications or services.

F. **Chips to Startup Programme:** The C2S Programme aims to train a specialized workforce in the design of semiconductor chips at Bachelors, Masters, and Research level.

ABOUT DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

- Digital India was an initiative taken by the Government of India for providing high-speed internet networks to rural areas.

- Digital India Mission was launched by PM Narendra Modi on **1st July 2015** as a beneficiary to other government schemes including Make in India, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Startup India, BharatNet, and Standup India.

- Digital India Mission is focused on three areas:

1. Providing digital infrastructure as a source of utility to every citizen.

2. Governance and services on demand.

3. To look after the digital empowerment of every citizen.

- Digital India aims to provide the much-needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas. Each of these areas is a complex programme and cuts across multiple Ministries and Departments. The nine pillars of Digital India are given below:

1. **Broadband Highways**– This covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All – Rural, Broadband for All – Urban and National Information Infrastructure (NII).

2. **Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity-** This initiative focuses on network penetration and filling the gaps in connectivity in the country.

3. **Public Internet Access Programme-** The two sub components of Public Internet Access Programme are Common Services Centers (CSCs) and Post Offices as multi-service centers.

4. **e-Governance:** Reforming Government through Technology- Government Process Re-engineering using IT to simplify and make the government processes more efficient is critical for transformation to make the delivery of government services more effective across various government domains and therefore needs to be implemented by all Ministries/ Departments.

5. **e-Kranti** – Electronic Delivery of Services- To improve the delivery of public services and simplify the process of accessing them. In this regard, several e-governance initiatives have been undertaken by various State Governments and Central Ministries to usher in an era of e-Government. e-Governance in India has steadily evolved from the computerization of Government Departments to initiatives that encapsulate the finer points of Governance, such as citizen centricity, service orientation and transparency.

6. **Information for All-** This pillar aims to ensure transparency and availability of reliable data generated by the line ministries for use, reuse, and redistribution for the people of India.

7. **Electronics Manufacturing-** This pillar focuses on promoting electronics manufacturing in the country.

8. **IT for Jobs-** This pillar focuses on providing training to the youth in the skills required for availing employment opportunities in the IT/ITES sector.

9. **Early Harvest Programmes-** This pillar consists of a group of different short-term projects which have immediate effect on the Indian digital ecosystem like IT platform for mass messaging, crowd Sourcing of eGreetings, biometric attendance in the government offices, WI-FI in all universities etc.

ALL INDIA QUARTERLY ESTABLISHMENT BASED EMPLOYMENT SURVEY (AQEES)

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (EMPLOYMENT)

CONTEXT: The Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment released the results of the Quarterly Employment Survey for the second quarter of 2021 (July-September).

ABOUT AQEES

- **Objective:** To collect the employment data on a quarterly basis from all the establishments to estimate the demand side conditions of the labor market.

- AQEES has two parts:

i. **Quarterly Employment Survey (QES):** It covers establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organized segment in 9 sectors.

ii. **Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES):** It provides the employment estimates for the establishments recruiting 9 or less workers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF QES 2021

- It shows a 29% increase in employment in nine sectors during the peak Covid-19 months of April-June 2021 over a base of 2013-14 (Sixth Economic Census).

- An impressive growth of 152% has been recorded in the IT/BPO sector. Nearly 90% of the establishments have been estimated to work with less than 100 workers.

- There has been a decline in the share of female workers from 31% in the 6th EC (2013) to 29% in QES (2021) data.

PRELIMS FACTS

ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU (1897 – 1924)

- Alluri Sitarama Raju was an Indian revolutionary who waged an armed campaign against British colonial rule in India. He became a monk at the age of 18.

- Born in present-day Andhra Pradesh, he became involved in anti-British activities in response to the **1882 Madras Forest Act,** which effectively restricted the free movement of Adivasis (tribal communities) in their forest habitats and prevented them from practicing a traditional form of agriculture known as podu (shifting cultivation).

- Rising discontent towards the British led to the Rampa Rebellion/Manyam Rebellion of 1922, in which he played a major part as a leader.

- He was nicknamed **"Manyam Veerudu"** (Hero of the Jungle) by local villagers for his heroic exploits.

- In 1924, Raju was taken into police custody, tied to a tree, and shot by a public execution, effectively ending the armed rebellion.

- This year is being celebrated as the **125th birth anniversary** of Alluri Sitarama Raju. PM unveiled his statue in Andhra Pradesh to celebrate the occasion.

WINDFALL TAX

- When a company benefits from something that they are not responsible for, the financial gain that ensues is called windfall profits.

- Governments, typically, levy a one-time tax over and above the normal rates of tax on such profits and that is called windfall tax.

- Since energy companies are gaining profit not because of any improvement in their processes but because of the geopolitical situation, many governments are considering imposing such tax.

- This will boost the government's finances, and help fund efforts to protect vulnerable sections from rampant inflation.

MAHULI GROUP OF TEMPLES

- The National Monuments Authority (NMA) will submit a report on the comprehensive development of Mahuli group of temples to the Ministry of Culture.

- Mahuli group of temples, also called the **Dakshin Kashi,** comprises of five temples built around 11th and 12th CE.

- They are located near **Satara, Maharashtra** at the confluence of rivers **Krishna and Venna.**

- Temple Architecture: **Hemadpanthi style of architecture.**

- Developed by: **Hemadri Pandit-Hemadpantha** (Prime Minister) in the court of Seuna Yadavas of Devagiri.

SWACHH SAGAR, SURAKSHIT SAGAR CAMPAIGN

- This campaign has been launched by **Ministry of Earth Sciences** to celebrate **International Coastal Clean-up Day.**

- It is the first of its kind and longest running coastal clean-up campaign in the world with highest number of people participating in it.

- It will aim to clean around 1500 tonnes of waste material from Indian coasts, relieving not only tourists or locals but also aquatic life and marine animals endangered by littering on the shores.

  Globally, "**International Coastal Clean Up Day"** is celebrated on **third Saturday of September** every year.