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Daily PIB Summary

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1.VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI: BALANCING DEVELOPMENT WITH CULTURAL HERITAGE

Key Highlights

I. Focus on integrating **development with heritage conservation**.
II. Promotion of:
    A. Cultural heritage preservation.
    B. Tourism.
    C. Urban rejuvenation.
    D. Traditional crafts and artisans.
    E. Digital documentation of heritage.
III. Supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat @ 2047** through sustainable and inclusive development.

WHAT IS 'VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI'?

Objective

- Achieve rapid economic growth while preserving India's civilizational and cultural legacy.
- Ensure heritage conservation becomes an integral part of infrastructure and urban development.
- Promote cultural tourism and local livelihoods.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Heritage Conservation

- Restoration and conservation of monuments and archaeological sites.
- Scientific conservation of cultural assets.

Pilgrimage and Spiritual Tourism

- Development of major pilgrimage centres.
- Improved connectivity and visitor amenities.

Digital Preservation

- Digitization of manuscripts, museum collections, and historical records.
- Use of modern technologies for heritage documentation.

Promotion of Traditional Arts

- Support for artisans, handicrafts, handlooms, and indigenous cultural traditions.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

PRASHAD Scheme

- Develops pilgrimage destinations with improved infrastructure and amenities.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- Develops theme-based tourist circuits across the country.

National Mission on Cultural Mapping

- Maps India's cultural resources, artists, and heritage assets.

Adopt a Heritage Programme

- Encourages partnerships for developing tourist amenities at heritage sites.

SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural Preservation

- Protects India's rich historical and civilizational heritage.

Tourism Growth

- Boosts domestic and international tourism.

Employment Generation

- Creates livelihoods through tourism, handicrafts, and cultural industries.

Inclusive Development

- Ensures heritage conservation complements infrastructure development.

Soft Power

- Enhances India's global cultural influence and civilizational outreach.

CHALLENGES

- Urbanization pressures on heritage sites.
- Climate change impacts on monuments.
- Funding and maintenance constraints.
- Balancing conservation with tourism.
- Encroachments and environmental degradation.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen heritage impact assessments in development projects.
- Promote community participation in conservation.
- Expand digital documentation using advanced technologies.
- Encourage sustainable tourism practices.
- Enhance public-private partnerships for heritage conservation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Theme:** Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi.
- **Focus:** Development with heritage conservation.
- **Priority Areas:** Cultural preservation, tourism, infrastructure, and sustainable development.
- **Vision:** Inclusive growth while safeguarding India's civilizational heritage.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

I. **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**
   A. Established in **1861** by **Alexander Cunningham**.
   B. Functions under the **Ministry of Culture**.
   C. Responsible for the conservation and protection of monuments and archaeological sites of national importance.

II. **PRASHAD Scheme**
   A. Launched in **2014–15**.
   B. Focuses on integrated development of pilgrimage and heritage destinations.

III. **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**
   A. Launched in **2014–15**.
   B. Develops **theme-based tourism circuits** with a focus on sustainable and responsible tourism.

IV. **World Heritage Convention**
   A. Adopted by **UNESCO** in **1972**.
   B. Provides the framework for identifying and conserving cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) functions under the Ministry of Culture.
2. The PRASHAD Scheme aims at the integrated development of pilgrimage and heritage destinations.
3. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

2.SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT RECORDS SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN SCHOLARSHIP COVERAGE FOR SC STUDENTS

Key Highlights

I. Expanded scholarship coverage for **Scheduled Caste (SC)** students.
II. Focus on:
   A. Improving access to higher education.
   B. Reducing financial barriers.
   C. Promoting educational equity.
   D. Supporting skill development and employability.

III. Scholarships are implemented through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for greater transparency and timely disbursal.

MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR SC STUDENTS

Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for SC Students

Objective

- Financial assistance to SC students pursuing studies beyond Class X.

Benefits

- Tuition fees.
- Maintenance allowance.
- Compulsory non-refundable fees.
- Other admissible educational expenses.

Top Class Education Scheme for SC Students

Objective

- Support meritorious SC students studying in premier educational institutions.

Coverage

- Tuition fees.
- Living expenses.
- Books and stationery.
- Computer and related accessories (as per scheme norms).

National Fellowship for SC Students

Objective

- Financial assistance for **M.Phil.** (where applicable) and **Ph.D.** studies.
- Promotes advanced research among SC scholars.

Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs

Objective

I. Provide quality coaching for:
   A. Competitive examinations.
   B. Professional entrance examinations.
   C. Employment-oriented courses.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

I. Scholarships are transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.
II. Ensures:
   A. Transparency.
   B. Timely disbursement.
   C. Reduced leakages.

National Scholarship Portal (NSP)

I. A unified digital platform for:
   A. Online application.
   B. Verification.
   C. Scholarship disbursement.
   D. Monitoring.

SIGNIFICANCE

Educational Inclusion

- Enhances access to quality education for SC students.

Reduction in Dropout Rates

- Financial assistance enables students to continue higher education.

Social Justice

- Promotes equity and equal opportunities.

Human Capital Development

- Improves employability and skill development.

Inclusive Growth

- Contributes to socio-economic empowerment of marginalized communities.

CHALLENGES

- Low awareness of scholarship schemes in some regions.
- Delays in verification by institutions.
- Digital accessibility issues.
- Need for better monitoring of outcomes.
- Regional disparities in scholarship uptake.

WAY FORWARD

- Increase awareness through outreach campaigns.
- Strengthen digital infrastructure for scholarship delivery.
- Improve institutional verification processes.
- Enhance monitoring and evaluation of scholarship outcomes.
- Expand mentoring and academic support for beneficiaries.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Target Group:** Scheduled Caste (SC) students.
- **Objective:** Improve access to education and reduce financial barriers.
- **Major Schemes:** Post Matric Scholarship, Top Class Education Scheme, National Fellowship, Free Coaching Scheme.
- **Implementation:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through the National Scholarship Portal.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

I. **Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for SC Students**
   A. Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
   B. Covers studies **beyond Class X**.

II. **Top Class Education Scheme for SC Students**

   A. Supports meritorious SC students admitted to **identified premier institutions**.
   B. Covers tuition fees, living expenses, books, and other approved educational costs.

III. **National Scholarship Portal (NSP)**
   A. A **one-stop digital platform** for application, processing, verification, and disbursement of scholarships offered by Central and State Governments.

IV. **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**
   A. Transfers government benefits directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts linked to verified identities, improving transparency and reducing leakages.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students is available for studies beyond Class X.
2. The National Scholarship Portal serves as a unified platform for scholarship application, verification, and disbursement.
3. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is used to transfer scholarship amounts directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

3.ADVANCING ELECTROLYTE ENGINEERING FOR DURABLE AND AFFORDABLE AQUEOUS BATTERIES

Key Highlights

I. Researchers have engineered improved **electrolytes** for aqueous batteries.
II. The innovation aims to:
   A. Increase battery lifespan.
   B. Improve energy efficiency.
   C. Enhance operational stability.
   D. Reduce overall cost.
III. The development could accelerate the deployment of **grid-scale energy storage systems** for renewable energy integration.

WHAT ARE AQUEOUS BATTERIES?

Definition

- **Aqueous batteries** are electrochemical energy storage

devices that use a **water-based electrolyte** instead of organic solvents.

Components

- **Anode** – Negative electrode.
- **Cathode** – Positive electrode.
- **Aqueous electrolyte** – Water-based ionic solution that enables ion transport between electrodes.
- **Separator** – Prevents direct contact between electrodes while allowing ion movement.

WHAT IS ELECTROLYTE ENGINEERING?

Definition

- Electrolyte engineering involves **designing and optimizing the composition and properties of the electrolyte** to improve battery performance.

Objectives

- Improve ionic conductivity.
- Expand the electrochemical stability window.
- Reduce unwanted side reactions.
- Prevent corrosion and electrode degradation.
- Enhance long-term cycling stability.

ADVANTAGES OF AQUEOUS BATTERIES

Enhanced Safety

- Water-based electrolytes are **non-flammable**, reducing fire risks compared to conventional lithium-ion batteries.

Lower Cost

- Use relatively inexpensive and readily available materials.

Environmental Friendliness

- Lower toxicity and easier disposal compared to batteries using organic electrolytes.

Long Cycle Life

- Improved electrolyte design enhances durability and operational life.

Grid-Scale Applications

- Well-suited for stationary energy storage supporting renewable energy systems.

CHALLENGES

- Lower energy density than lithium-ion batteries.
- Limited electrochemical stability of water.
- Electrode corrosion and side reactions.
- Performance degradation over repeated charge-discharge cycles.

SIGNIFICANCE

Renewable Energy Integration

- Facilitates storage of intermittent solar and wind energy.

Energy Security

- Supports reliable electricity supply through large-scale storage.

Sustainability

- Promotes environmentally friendly battery technologies.

Affordable Energy Storage

- Reduces the cost of stationary energy storage systems.

Climate Goals

- Supports decarbonization of the power sector.

WAY FORWARD

- Continue research on advanced electrolyte formulations.
- Develop high-energy-density aqueous battery chemistries.
- Scale up manufacturing for commercial deployment.
- Promote collaboration between research institutions and industry.
- Integrate aqueous batteries into smart grids and renewable energy systems.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Innovation:** Advanced electrolyte engineering.
- **Technology:** Aqueous batteries.
- **Major Benefits:** Improved safety, durability, affordability, and sustainability.
- **Applications:** Grid-scale energy storage, renewable energy integration, and stationary power systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

I. **Electrolyte**
   A. A medium containing **mobile ions** that conducts electricity by enabling ion movement between the battery's electrodes during charging and discharging.

II. **Lithium-ion Batteries**
   A. Widely used in electric vehicles and portable electronics.
   B. Offer **high energy density** but generally use **flammable organic electrolytes**, posing safety concerns under certain conditions.

III. **Grid-Scale Energy Storage**
   A. Stores electricity on a large scale to balance supply and demand.
   B. Helps integrate renewable energy sources such as **solar** and **wind** into the power grid.

IV. **Electrochemical Stability Window**
   A. The range of voltages over which an electrolyte remains chemically stable without undergoing decomposition.

B. A wider stability window generally enables higher battery performance.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Aqueous batteries use a water-based electrolyte instead of an organic solvent.
2. Electrolyte engineering aims to improve ionic conductivity and reduce unwanted side reactions in batteries.
3. Compared to conventional lithium-ion batteries, aqueous batteries are generally considered safer because their electrolytes are non-flammable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

4.TATA MOTORS JOINS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SCHEME TO OFFER DISCOUNTS FOR REPLACEMENT OF OLD TRUCKS AND BUSES IN DELHI-NCR

Key Highlights

I. Tata Motors has joined the replacement incentive programme for old commercial vehicles.
II. Applicable to:
    A. Old trucks.
    B. Old buses.
III. Focus Area:
    A. Delhi-NCR.
IV. Objectives:
    A. Reduce vehicular emissions.
    B. Promote fleet modernization.
    C. Improve road safety.
    D. Encourage environmentally friendly transport.

ABOUT THE VEHICLE SCRAPPING POLICY

Vehicle Scrapping Policy

Launched

- **2021**

Nodal Ministry

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Objectives

- Remove old and polluting vehicles from roads.
- Improve fuel efficiency.
- Enhance road safety.
- Reduce air pollution.
- Promote a circular economy through vehicle recycling.

Key Features

- **Fitness testing** for older vehicles.
- **Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs)** for scientific dismantling and recycling.
- Incentives for purchasing new vehicles after scrapping eligible old vehicles.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INITIATIVE

Air Pollution Control

- Accelerates replacement of highly polluting commercial vehicles in Delhi-NCR.

Cleaner Transport

- Encourages adoption of modern vehicles complying with the latest emission norms.

Road Safety

- Newer vehicles incorporate improved safety technologies and better performance.

Economic Benefits

- Reduces maintenance and operating costs for fleet owners.
- Supports growth of the automobile manufacturing and recycling industries.

Circular Economy

- Promotes recovery and recycling of steel, aluminium, plastics, and other materials from end-of-life vehicles.

CHALLENGES

- High upfront cost of purchasing new commercial vehicles.
- Limited awareness among vehicle owners about scrappage incentives.
- Need for more Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities.
- Financing constraints for small transport operators.

WAY FORWARD

- Expand scrappage infrastructure across the country.
- Increase awareness about scrappage incentives.
- Improve access to affordable financing for fleet replacement.
- Encourage greater participation by automobile manufacturers.
- Strengthen enforcement of emission and fitness standards.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Company:** Tata Motors.
- **Region:** Delhi-NCR.
- **Target Vehicles:** Old trucks and buses.
- **Objective:** Reduce pollution, modernize commercial fleets, and promote cleaner transportation.
- **Supporting Policy:** Vehicle Scrapping Policy, 2021.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

I. **Vehicle Scrapping Policy (2021)**
   A. Aims to phase out **unfit and polluting vehicles** through mandatory fitness testing and scientific scrapping.
   B. Encourages replacement with safer and cleaner vehicles.

II. **Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF)**
   A. Authorized facility for the environmentally sound dismantling and recycling of end-of-life vehicles.
   B. Ensures proper recovery and disposal of vehicle components and materials.

III. **Bharat Stage (BS) Emission Standards**
   A. Emission standards notified by the Government to regulate air pollutants from motor vehicles.
   B. **BS-VI** norms are the current nationwide emission standards and are significantly stricter than **BS-IV**, helping reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxide emissions.

IV. **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**
   A. A statutory body responsible for coordinating measures to improve air quality in the **National Capital Region (NCR)** and adjoining areas.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Vehicle Scrapping Policy aims to phase out old and polluting vehicles through fitness testing and scientific scrapping.
2. Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) are authorized centres for dismantling and recycling end-of-life vehicles.
3. Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norms are stricter than Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

5.INDIA EMERGES AS A GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LEADER BACKED BY A STRONG POLICY ECOSYSTEM

Key Highlights

I. India is among the **fastest-growing renewable energy markets** globally.
II. Growth supported by:
    A. Stable policy framework.
    B. Competitive bidding mechanisms.
    C. Ease of investment.
    D. Domestic manufacturing initiatives.
    E. Green energy transition.
III. Renewable energy is central to achieving **energy security**, **net-zero goals**, and **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**.

INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY ECOSYSTEM

National Solar Mission

Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission

- Launched in **2010** under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- Promotes large-scale deployment of solar energy.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- Launched in **2024**.
- Promotes rooftop solar installations for households through financial assistance.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- Approved in **2023**.
- Aims to make India a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of green hydrogen.

PM-KUSUM Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)

I. Promotes:
    A. Solar pumps.

B. Decentralized renewable energy.
C. Solarization of agricultural feeders.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

I. Supports domestic manufacturing of:
   A. High-efficiency solar PV modules.
   B. Renewable energy equipment.

INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS

National Targets

- Achieve **500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity by 2030**.
- Meet **50% of electricity requirements from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030**.
- Achieve **Net Zero emissions by 2070**.

International Commitments

- Commitments announced under the **Paris Agreement**.
- Active leadership in the **International Solar Alliance**.

SIGNIFICANCE

Energy Security

- Reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Climate Change Mitigation

- Helps lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic Growth

- Attracts investment and generates employment.

Technological Leadership

- Promotes domestic manufacturing and innovation.

Global Leadership

- Enhances India's role in international clean energy cooperation.

CHALLENGES

- Grid integration of renewable energy.
- Energy storage requirements.
- Land acquisition issues.
- Transmission infrastructure gaps.
- Dependence on imports for some critical components.

WAY FORWARD

- Expand battery and pumped hydro energy storage.
- Strengthen Green Energy Corridors.
- Promote domestic manufacturing under Make in India.
- Increase investments in research and development.
- Accelerate deployment of offshore wind and green hydrogen.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sector:** Renewable Energy.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **Key Missions:** National Solar Mission, PM Surya Ghar, National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM-KUSUM.
- **Major Target:** 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity by 2030.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

I. **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
   A. Launched jointly by **India** and **France** during **COP21** in Paris.
   B. Headquarters: Gurugram.
   C. Aims to promote solar energy deployment and cooperation among solar resource-rich countries.

II. **National Green Hydrogen Mission**
   A. Seeks to position India as a **global hub for green hydrogen production, utilization, and export**.
   B. Supports decarbonization of sectors such as steel, fertilizers, refining, and heavy transport.

III. **PM-KUSUM**
   A. Encourages farmers to adopt **solar-powered irrigation pumps** and enables decentralized renewable energy generation, reducing dependence on diesel and conventional electricity.

IV. **Green Energy Corridor**
   A. A transmission infrastructure initiative designed to facilitate the integration of renewable energy into the national grid by strengthening transmission networks.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was jointly launched by India and France during COP21 in Paris.
2. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production and exports.
3. PM-KUSUM promotes solar-powered irrigation and decentralized renewable energy generation in the agricultural sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)