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Amrit Sarovar Mission

- The Union Government has asked the Ministry of Railways and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to utilize the soil/silt excavated from ponds/tanks in all districts across the country for their infrastructure projects under the Amrit Sarovar Mission.
- Amrit Sarovar Mission was launched on 24 April 2022 with the aim of water conservation.

Target:

- The objective of the mission is to develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies in each district of the country as part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Altogether this would lead to the creation of 50,000 reservoirs of about one acre or more in size.
- The mission encourages the mobilization of civil and non-governmental resources to meet these efforts.

Involved Ministries:

The mission has been launched with a holistic government approach with 6 Ministries/Departments, namely:

- Department of Rural Development
- Department of Land Resources
- Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- Department of Water Resources
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change.

Technical Partner:

- Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) has been appointed as the technical partner for the mission.

Refocus with different plans:

- This mission works by re-focusing the states' own plans through states and districts through MGNREGA, XV Finance Commission grants, PMKSY sub-schemes like watershed development components, Har Khet Ko Pani, among others.

Target:

- Mission Amrit Sarovar to be completed by 15th August 2023.
- About 50,000 Amrit Sarovars are to be built in the country.
- Each of these Amrit Sarovar will be in an area of 1 acre with a water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic meters.
- People's participation in the mission is central.
- Local freedom fighters, their family members, martyr's family members, Padma awardees and citizens of the local area where the Amrit Sarovar is to be constructed will be involved in all phases.
- National flag hoisting will be organized at every Amrit Sarovar site on every 15th August.

Achievements:

- So far 12,241 sites have been finalized by the states/districts for the construction of Amrit Sarovars, out of which work has started on 4,856 Amrit Sarovars.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav:

- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate 75 years of Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.
- The festival is dedicated to the people of India, who have played a vital role in not only taking India in its evolutionary journey, but also in enabling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to energize India 2.0 by a self-reliant India.
- The official journey of the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav began on 12 March 2021, marking the beginning of a 75-week countdown to the 75th anniversary of our independence that will end after a year on 15 August 2023.

Yojna IAS

Paschim Seti Power Project

- China was involved in the West Seti Hydroelectric Project for almost six years (2012 to 2018). The project will be taken over by India in 2018 after nearly four years of being outside China.
- Earlier the Indian Prime Minister visited Lumbini, where he celebrated the 2566th Buddha Jayanti celebrations. Nepal has also invited India to invest in the Western Seti Hydroelectric Project.

Paschim Seti Power Project:

- It is a proposed 750 MW hydroelectric project to be built on the Seti River in far-western Nepal. Which has been the only blueprint for the last six decades.
- Recently the government has revamped the West Seti and Seti River (SR-6) project, a joint storage project with a capacity to generate 1,200 MW of electricity.
- Its storage or reservoir will be filled during the monsoon season and water will be drawn from it to generate electricity every day during the peak hours of the dry season.
- Its success is expected to restore India's image in Nepal and give it importance in future ideas for hydroelectric projects, at a time when competition is tough. Therefore, Paschim Seti has the potential to become a defining model for Nepal-India power relations in the future.

India-Nepal Energy Relations:

- Nepal is rich in power sources with about 6,000 rivers and an estimated capacity of 83,000 MW.
- Mahakali Treaty was signed in the year 1996 for 6,480 MW generation, but India is still not able to come out with the detailed project report.
- The Upper Karnali project, for which the multinational GMR has signed a contract, has not made any progress over the years.
- India has succeeded in implementing the 900 MW Arun-3 project at Sankhuwa Sabha in eastern Nepal, the foundation stone of which was laid in 2018 and which is scheduled to be completed by the year 2023. It has helped build trust in India.
- During the visit of Indian Prime Minister to Nepal in 2014, he had said that India should start executing its projects on time.
- There is a provision in the Constitution of Nepal under which any treaty or agreement with any other country on natural resources will require the ratification of Parliament by at least two-thirds majority. This would also mean that any hydro projects would require government works before they could be signed and given for execution.
- Nepal has a severe power shortage as it generates only about 900 MW against an installed capacity of about 2,000 MW. Though it is currently exporting 364 MW of electricity to India, it has been importing from India in the last few years.

India-Nepal Diplomatic Relations:

- The standoff between Nepal and India led to economic sanctions imposed in 2015 but equations changed after Oli took over as the new PM Deuba, who recently visited India, where he established fraternal relations with India.
- Nepal is an important neighbor of India and holds special importance in its foreign policy due to its geographical, historical, cultural and economic ties spanning centuries.
- India and Nepal share a similar relationship in terms of Hinduism and Buddhism, with Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha, located in present-day Nepal.
- The two countries not only share an open border and free movement of people, but they also have close ties through marriage and family ties, popularly known as the Roti-Beti relationship.
- The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 is the basis of the special relationship that exists between India and Nepal.
- Rivers originating in Nepal feed India's perennial river systems with ecological and hydroelectric potential.
- However, the border issue emerged in November 2019 when Nepal released a new political map, which claimed Uttarakhand's Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh as part of Nepal's territory. The area of Susta (West Champaran district, Bihar) can also be displayed in the new map.

Child marriage

- Child marriage is still widespread in India. It is being argued that the increase in the minimum age of marriage for women has been done for substantial benefit at the individual and social level. The impact of this effort on the problem of eradication of child marriage needs to be assessed in future.
- The data of National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5: 2019-2021) reflects the reality of the present situation.

National Family Health Survey-5 Data

Rural and urban gap

- According to NFHS-5 statistics, approximately 25% of women aged 18 to 29 are married before the legal age of 18.
- The prevalence of child marriage is higher in rural areas (28%) than in urban areas (17%).

State of affairs

- The highest prevalence of child marriage is in West Bengal (42%), followed by Bihar and Tripura (40% each). However, these high prevalence states have shown the greatest reduction in child marriages.
- Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala on the other hand have a prevalence rate between 6% and 7%.

Education and community wise statistics

- The highest prevalence of child marriage in India is in tribal and Dalit communities (39%). Its prevalence among the disadvantaged social groups is 17%, while the remaining prevalence is among the Other Backward Classes.
- 27% of illiterate women who married before the age of 18 are underweight (body mass index less than 18.5). Also, more than two-thirds (about 64%) of illiterate women suffer from iron-deficiency anaemia.

Structural factors of child marriage

- Social and economic conditions are mainly responsible for child marriage. The association between child marriage and adverse health outcomes is driven by structural factors such as social norms, such as poverty and female education.
- One of the major reasons for child marriage is poverty and heavy dowry burden on late marriages. Also, these factors interfere with the educational opportunities of a girl child, which makes child marriage more convenient.
- It is also the belief of the society that women should get married soon from the point of view of security.
- Child marriage is also encouraged due to financial burden and fear of tarnishing family prestige.

Efforts to stop child marriage

- Most of the states have adopted the policy of 'Conditional Cash Transfers' (CCTs) for the last two decades to prevent child marriage. Through this, the government tried to implement a 'uniform policy on all', which is not a practical method. In fact, the policy of cash transfer has not proved effective for adolescent girls.
- The Karnataka government has amended the 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2017' to make 'child marriage' a cognizable offense and set a minimum of rigorous imprisonment for those promoting child marriage.
- In this direction, the government has also made efforts like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana.
- The government had started 'Mahila Samakhya Programme' in the year 1988. Its objective was to promote women's education and their empowerment in the socio-economically backward rural areas of the country. The program was based on 'Community Engagement' of women.
- The minimum age of marriage for women has been increased from 18 to 21 years. Public health dividends can be obtained from marriage at age 21.

Solution

- Ensuring minimum 12 years of education for women.
- Secondary education should be expanded and adolescent girls should be sent to school regularly.
- Governments to expand residential schools, girls' hostels and public transport network to underprivileged areas of the country.
- With this the girl child will not be compelled to leave education in the middle.
- Improving the education of women and providing them with modern skills.
- This will increase employment potential and improve health and nutrition.
- Education is important for individual liberty and social well-being and it contributes to human development.
- Need to focus on schemes that reduce the financial burden of marriage.
- However, the eligibility criteria for these schemes must be related to attainment of education other than age.
- Will and insights like Janani Suraksha Yojana and elimination of open defecation need to be adopted in the case of child marriage as well.

Way Forward:

- 'Group study' should be promoted by forming women's clubs in secondary and higher secondary schools, so that awareness against child marriage can be increased through ideological exchange.
- Programs and lectures should be organized by the teachers in the schools on the topic 'Gender Equality', so that 'Progressive Attitude' can be developed in the children towards women.
- Children's Village Assemblies established in about 2.5 lakh gram panchayats of the country can prove to be a better platform against child marriage across the country.
- Employees of various departments, who regularly interact with the rural people, should be appointed as 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers'.
- Rights to register births and marriages should be decentralized and these rights should be given to Gram Panchayats, so that their rights can be ensured practically to girls.

Yojna IAS

IN-SPACe HQ in Gujarat inaugurated by PM Modi...

INSPACe is an independent nodal agency under the Department of Space to allow and regulate the non-government private entities and ensure the greater private participation in the space sector so that India can boost its participation in the space industry from 2% of the share currently globally. to attract the youth of India, a post was written to alert them "Watch This Space". It will provide the opportunities to the best minds from all over the nation to work in various govt and private sectors. INSPACe: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the headquarters of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) on June 10, 2022, in Bopal, Ahmedabad in presence of Home Minister Amit Shah.

INSPACe Composition

- IN-SPACe Chairman- Pawan Goenka.
- It comprises technical experts for space activities along with safety expert, academic experts and legal and strategic experts from other departments.
- Members from PMO and MEA of Government of India are also included.

INSPACe Objective

- The organization will take care of the needs and demands of private players, including educational and research institutions.
- It will also explore ways to accommodate these requirements in consultation with ISRO.
- Providing space based services as per the definition of space activities.
- Sharing of space infrastructure and premises under the control of ISRO
- The private entities will now be able utilize the existing ISRO infrastructure to carry out their space-related activities.
- Space activities including building of launch vehicles and satellites
- Establishment of new space infrastructure and facilities by private entities
- Establishment of a suitable mechanism for promotion, hand holding, sharing of technology and expertise to encourage participation of NGPEs in space activities.

Web 5.0

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey heads his bitcoin business unit The Block, Web 5.0 is being developed with the aim of creating additional decentralized webs that help you control your data and identity.

Web 1.0, Web 2.0, and Web 3.0?

- Web 1.0: The first generation of the global digital communications network, referred to as the “read-only” Internet made of static web pages that only allowed for passive engagement.
- Web 2.0 was the “read and write” Internet. Enable users to communicate with servers and other users leading to the creation of the social web. This is the world wide web that we use today.
- Web 3.0 is the next generation of the Internet – a “read-write-execute” web – with decentralization as its bedrock.
- Web 3.0 speaks about a digital world, and it is built by leveraging blockchain technology, where people are able to interact with each other without the need of an intermediary. Web 3.0 will be driven by Artificial Intelligence and machine learning where machines will be able to interpret information like humans.

USES OF WEB 5.0

- The Block Head (TBH), Web 5.0 Being developed by Dorsey’s Bitcoin business unit is aimed at “building an extra decentralized web that puts you in control of your data and identity”.
- “The web democratized the exchange of information, but it’s missing a key layer: identity. We struggle to secure personal data with hundreds of accounts and passwords we can’t remember. On the web today, identity and personal data have become the property of third parties.”
- Web 5.0 is Web 2.0 plus Web 3.0 that will allow users to ‘own their identity’ on the Internet and ‘control their data’.
- Significance: It’s about changing the “control of identity” of an individual and talks about giving users control over their own data, it cites an example that it’s totally up to the user whether to save his data anonymously encrypted on the decentralized blockchain or to sell that data to vendors for monetizing and advertising.

Challenges Related to Web 5.0

- There are hardly any implications for this technology in the near future as it’s just being an idea at a very early stage, and nobody knows how it would be turned out.
- How the sovereign government would allow this decentralized platform which is free from any government intervention, could lead to contention between the government and promoters of Web 5.0.
- There is still unclarity, that how the system will operate, who would control it, and what are safety scenarios for vulnerable people like women, children, etc.

SWADEEP KUMAR