

1. Supreme Court verdict on Maharashtra Political Crisis

<p>Dr. Kashinath vs. Speaker, Goa Assembly (1993)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Speaker cannot review his own decision over defection to disqualify a candidate, due to lack of provision in the 10th Schedule.
<p>Ravi S Naik v. Union of India (1994)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC rules that "Voluntary giving up membership" has a wider meaning, and that inference of giving up membership of his conduct.
<p>G. Vishwanath VS. Speaker, Tamil Nadu Assembly (1996)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC rules that a member expelled from a party would be 'unattached' in House, and that his joining a party after that would be considered defection

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Supreme Court has delivered its verdict on the political crisis that rocked Maharashtra last year when a split in the Shiv Sena led to the formation of a new government.

More on the Topic

Governor's Role:

- The court held that the then Governor acted wrongly when he asked the Chief Minister to prove his majority in a floor test within 24 hours, without giving him a reasonable opportunity to do so.
- The court also said that the Governor should not have invited the rebel group to form the government when disqualification proceedings against them were pending before the Speaker.
- **Neither the Constitution nor the laws enacted by Parliament provide for a mechanism by which disputes amongst members of a particular political party.**
- The Court emphasised that **the discretion vested in the Governor to call for a floor test is not unfettered, and must be exercised with circumspection**, in accordance with the limits placed on it by law.
- The Court emphasised that the Governor **should not use their discretionary power to destabilise or displace democratically elected governments.**

Speakers Role:



- Court held that the Speaker's decision to appoint the whip of the Shiv Sena party was illegal.
- The Speaker did not attempt to identify which was the whip authorised by the political party. Speaker must recognise only the whip appointed by the political party.
- The Sc has reminded that **it is the legislative party which appoints the whip** will mean severance of the connective role with the political party.
- It means group of MLAs can disconnect from the political party. Whip appointed political party is crucial for tenth schedule.
- The court also **criticized the Speaker for acting in haste and not giving enough opportunity to the rebel MLAs to explain their conduct before disqualifying them.**
- The court also directed the Speaker to conduct a floor test within a week to prove the majority of the current government.

About Anti Defection Law:

- It sets the **provisions for the disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.**
- The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution by the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985.
- Owing to the implementation of the Tenth Schedule, there has been a substantive decrease in the defection cases.
- The provisions of the Tenth Schedule have stood the test of time and several judicial scrutinies.

The challenges associated with 10th Schedule:

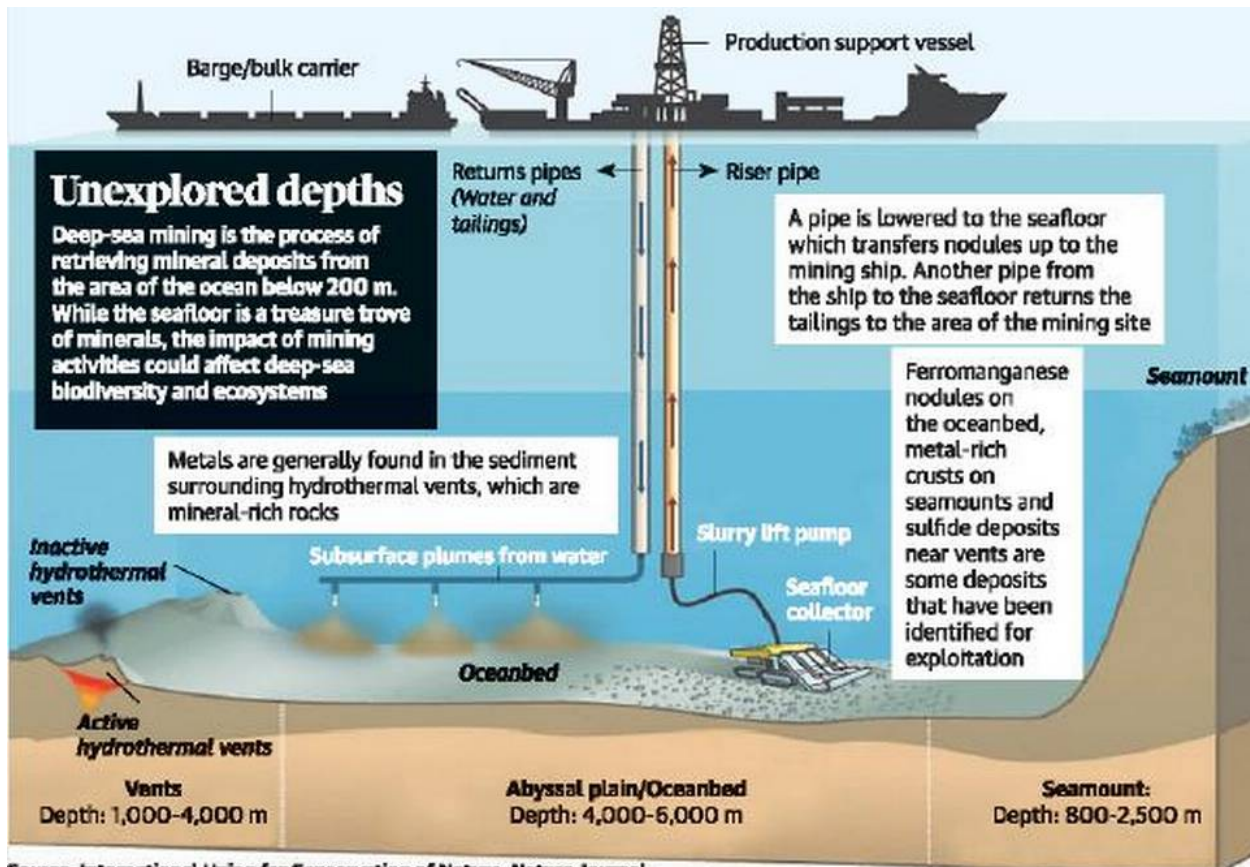
- Loop holes are present in the law.
- One of the major loop hole is that the defecting MLAs have found a way around the restrictions in the Tenth Schedule.
- **Instead of formally “crossing the floor” or voting against their party in a confidence motion, they resign from the party.**
- **This brings down the party’s strength in the House, and the government is toppled.**
- A few months later, when by-elections are held, the same MLAs then stand for election on the ticket of the opposition party and are returned to the assembly.
- Issues with Judicial Interventions:
- As the text of the Tenth Schedule does not leave much room to the judiciary, in their recent judgments, the courts have failed to stop defection practices.
- There could be more actions from the courts to prevent defections.
- **The partisan role of Governors and Speakers:** In most of the constitutional crisis over the last few years, governors/speakers have acted like partisan representatives of the political party that appointed them, and have flouted constitutional conventions with impunity.
- **Horse Trading:** It has been widely reported that huge sums of money are offered to MLAs to desert their parties and bring down the government.

Way Ahead:

- **Strengthen the institutional mechanisms** for their appointment and removal, such as parliamentary scrutiny, consultation with state governments, fixed tenure, etc.
- To ensure impartiality of speaker, when **elected must resign from the party** to which they belong.
- **Governors role in 10th schedule must be decided clearly** with more clarity though legislation or an amendment.
- There is a need **to set time limit to decide petition for disqualification.**
- All petitions for disqualification of members under paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule should be decided, **by adopting a summary procedure, within a period of three months.**

Source: Indian Express

2. Deep Ocean Mission



Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature. Nature Journal

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: India has identified 11 potential sites for exploration of hydrogen sulphide and a dedicated multi-purpose vessel was being acquired to carry out detailed surveys as part of the Deep Ocean Mission.

More on the Topic:

- Deep Ocean mission is an Indian initiative to undertake the deep ocean exploration focused on India's exclusive economic zones and continental shelf. The program will consist of various crewed and uncrewed submersibles exploring the sea bed.
- The initial search under the mission would be for hydro-thermal vents that form unique ecosystems comprising chemical synthesising bacteria that use hydrogen sulfide as their energy source.
- The Samudrayaan project (consists of manned submersible vehicle 'MATSYA 6000') was also launched in 2021 to fulfill the objective of DOM.

The objectives of the mission are as follows:

- To develop technologies for **mining of deep sea resources like Polymetallic nodules** from the Central Indian Ocean at a water depth of 5500 m.
- **Design, and develop one working prototype** and one final manned Submersible rated for 6000metre water depth along with technologies for **underwater vehicle and underwater robotics**
- To provide the **future projections or predictions** on the trends in sea level along the Indian coast, cyclone intensity and frequency, storm surges, wind waves, biogeochemistry and ecosystem that affect the fisheries.
- To install **deep ocean observations** (below 2 km depth) over the Indian Ocean.
- **Inventorization, archival of specimens** and development of DNA bank of deep-sea fauna of Northern Indian Ocean through systematic sampling using Remotely Operated Vehicle.
- Development of technology for **isolation of deep-sea piezotolerant and piezophilic microbes, symbionts** and screening for novel biomolecules using culture-based and meta genomic approaches.
- Exploration of formation of **life friendly molecules and organismal components** in deep sea.
- To explore and identify **potential sites of multi-metal hydrothermal sulphides mineralization** along the Indian Ocean mid-oceanic ridges.
- To acquire **new all-weather multidisciplinary research vessel** for Indian Ocean operations.
- **Detailed engineering design** document for high capacity offshore OTEC powered desalination plant
- Performance assessment of **critical components such as deep-sea cold-water conduit and mooring system** by demonstration of scaled down components in deep sea.
- **Integrating the ongoing advanced basic and applied research** in marine biology, marine ecology and related marine engineering through the establishment of an advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology.

- Translate research in marine biology and engineering into industrial application and product development through establishment of on-site business incubator facilities.

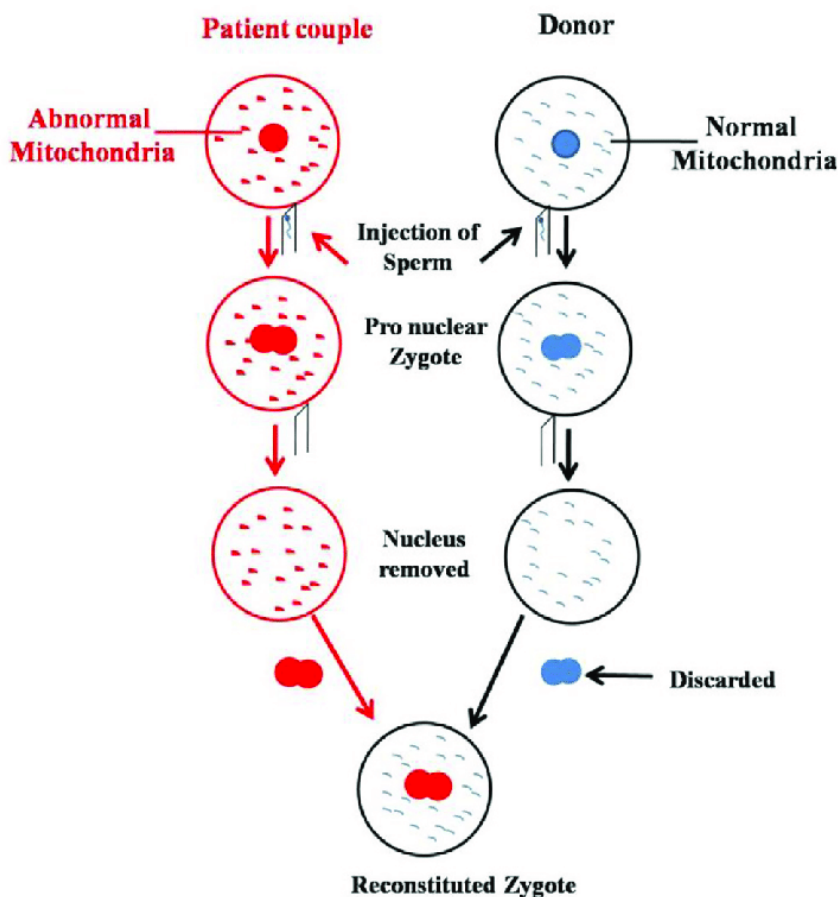
What will be mined from the deep ocean?

- One of the main aims of the mission is **to explore and extract polymetallic nodules.**
- These are small potato-like rounded accretions composed of minerals such as **manganese, nickel, cobalt, copper and iron hydroxide.**
- They lie scattered on the Indian Ocean floor at depths of about 6,000 m and the size can vary from a few millimetres to centimetres.
- These metals can be extracted and used in electronic devices, smartphones, batteries and even for solar panels.

Source: DTE

3. Mitochondrial Donation Treatment

Topic: Science and Technology





In News: Britain's fertility regulator said the first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people have been born, in an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases.

More on the Topic:

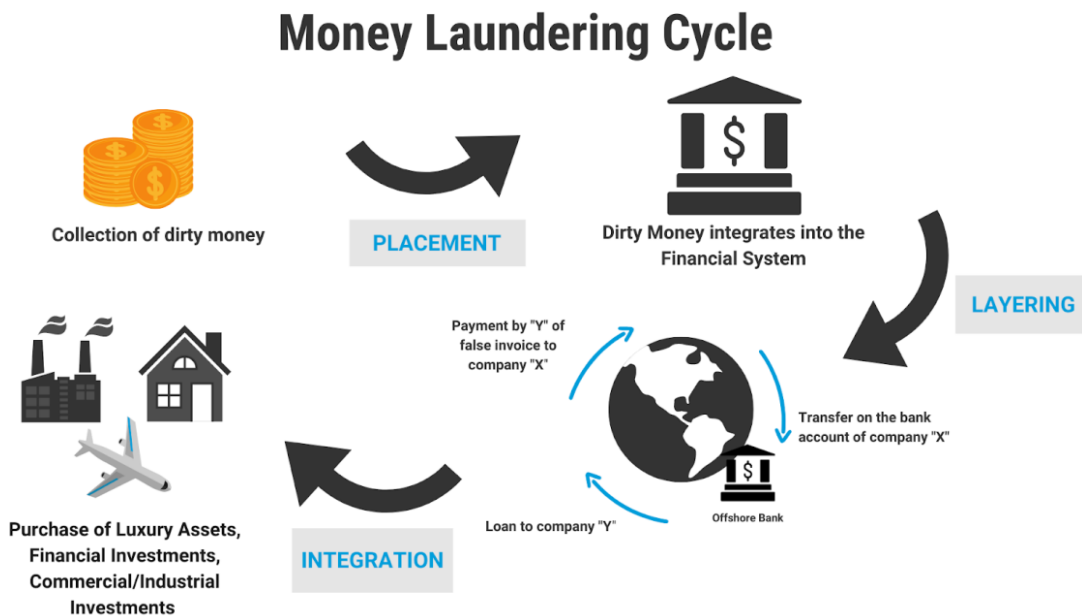
- Mitochondria are basically **the powerhouses of the cells**, they generate the energy, and thus are also responsible for cell function in the human body.
- Certain defects might occur **impacting on the way the mitochondria produces energy for the cells** (Specially in the 'energy-hungry' tissues of the brain, nerves, muscles, kidneys, heart, liver), and thereby impacting cell function.
- The diseases that arise out of such **mitochondrial mutations are called mitochondrial diseases**.
- When the mitochondria are impaired and do not produce sufficient energy, that **affects how the organs function, leading to a broad assortment of symptoms which get more and more debilitating as a child grows, and have no cure, but can be treated**.
- In the case mentioned above the mother had a mitochondrial disease she was intent on not passing on to her baby, and clearly did not want to have a donor egg, for the baby would also carry the genetic material of the donor.

The scientific process:

- Mitochondrial diseases are only passed on by the mother.
- Through **an advanced In Vitro Fertilisation technique** developed and refined by the Clinic treated above mentioned case, **the baby's biological father's sperm was used to fertilise the eggs from the biological mother, who has a mitochondrial disease, and a third, female donor with clear mitochondria, separately**.
- The **nuclear genetic material from the donor's egg is removed and replaced with the genetic material from the biological parents'**.
- The final product – the egg - which has the genetic material (DNA) from the parents, and the mitochondria from the female donor, is implanted in the uterus, and carried to full term to yield a baby who will be free from the mother's mitochondrial disease.
- This process is termed Mitochondrial Donation Treatment (MDT).

Source: Hindu

4. Prevention of Money-laundering Act



Topic: Economy

In News: New activities has been added as money-laundering under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002.

More on the Topic:

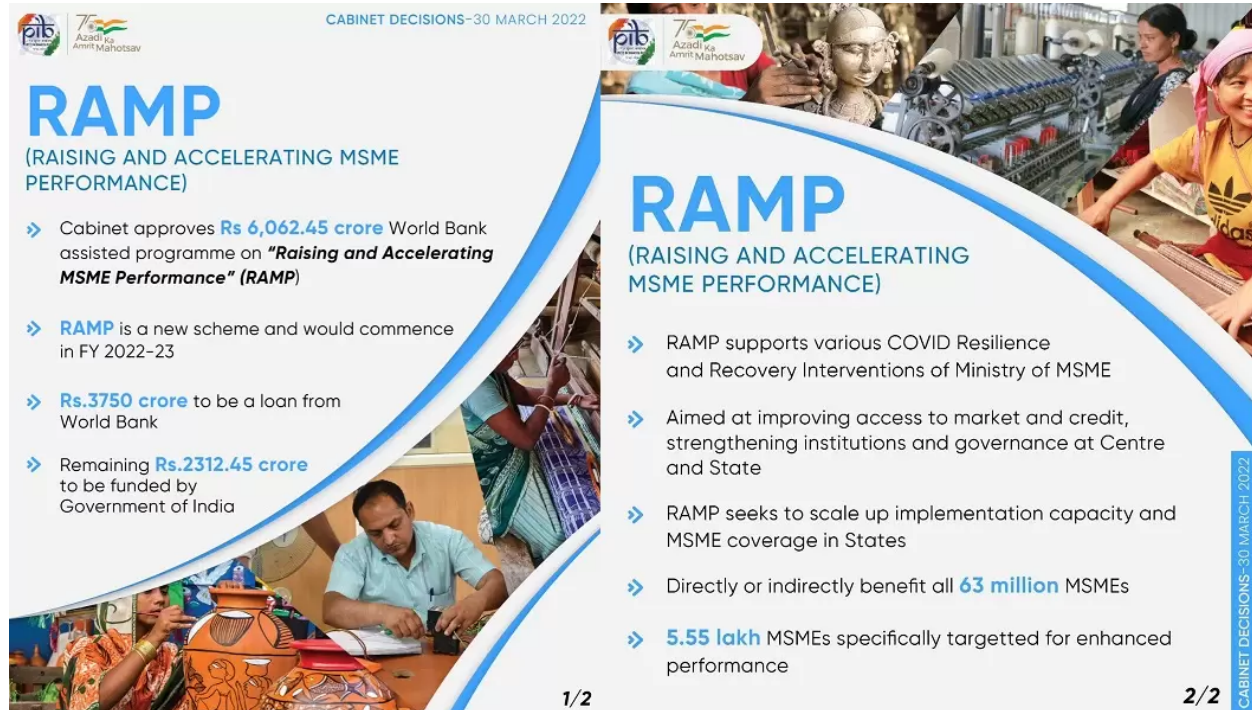
- Under New activities included are:
- **Acting as a formation agent of companies and limited liability partnerships.**
- **Acting as a director or secretary of a company.**
- **Individuals who provide the company with an office or correspondence address.**
- **Partner of a firm or similar position in relation to other companies and limited liability partnerships, etc.**

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:

- It is a criminal law enacted **to prevent money laundering** and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in, money-laundering and related matters.
- The provisions of this act are applicable to all financial institutions, banks (Including RBI), mutual funds, insurance companies, and their financial intermediaries.
- It has **blanket powers assigned to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under PMLA** for seizing, investing, searching and attaching assets.
- Introduced due to **India's commitment at the Vienna Convention to combat money laundering.**

Source: FE

5. RAMP Scheme



RAMP
(RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE)

- Cabinet approves **Rs 6,062.45 crore** World Bank assisted programme on "**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**" (**RAMP**)
- **RAMP** is a new scheme and would commence in FY 2022-23
- **Rs.3750 crore** to be a loan from World Bank
- Remaining **Rs.2312.45 crore** to be funded by Government of India

RAMP
(RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE)

- RAMP supports various COVID Resilience and Recovery Interventions of Ministry of MSME
- Aimed at improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at Centre and State
- RAMP seeks to scale up implementation capacity and MSME coverage in States
- Directly or indirectly benefit all **63 million** MSMEs
- **5.55 lakh** MSMEs specifically targeted for enhanced performance

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Topic: Government Schemes

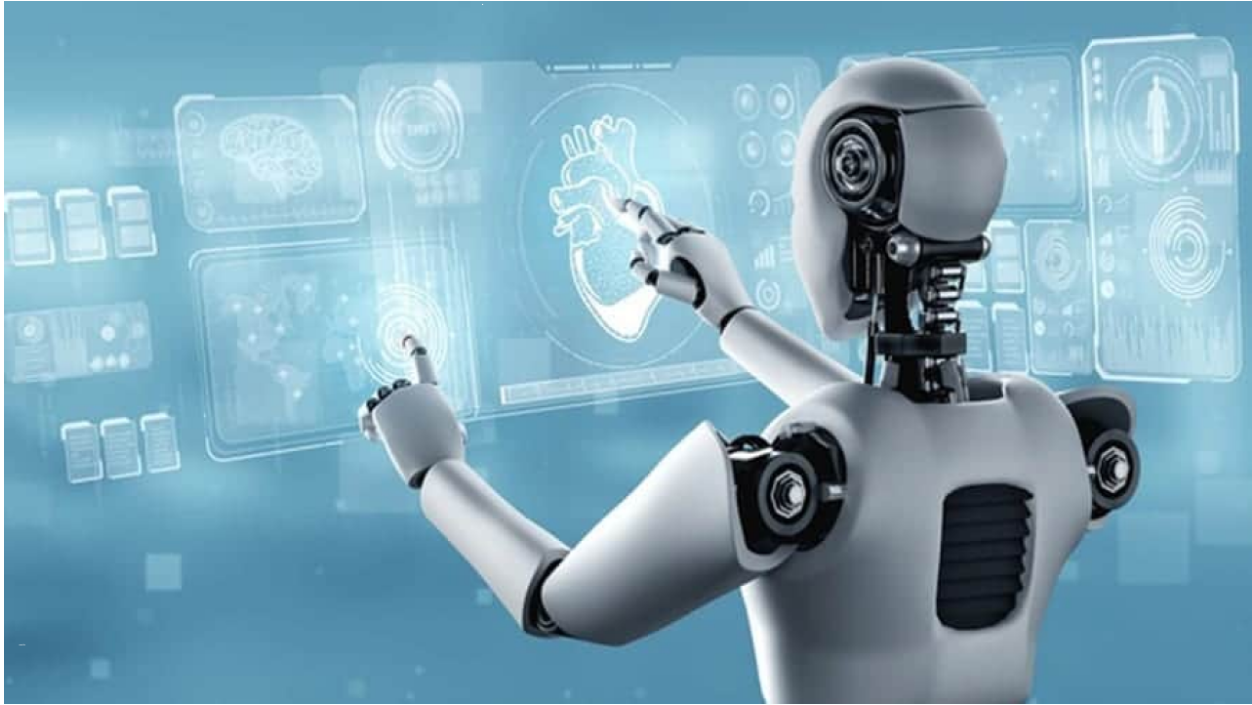
In News: Union Cabinet has approved the "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP) scheme which would commence in FY 2022-23..

More on the Topic:

- It is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting various CoronaVirus Disease 2019 (Covid) Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- The National MSME Council has been set up to oversee inter-Central Ministerial/Departmental coordination.
- It is aimed at:
 - Improving access to market and credit
 - Strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State
 - Improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships
 - Addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSME

Source: PIB

6. Telangana State Robotics Framework



Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: In a first-of-its-kind policy in the country, the Telangana Government has introduced a Robotics Framework, which provides a roadmap to promote a robotic ecosystem in the State.

More on the Topic:

- The Government will set up a **Telangana Robotics Innovation Centre (TRIC)** to implement the framework, which will focus on the key pillars of infrastructure access, business enablement, fostering research and innovation, development of a skilled workforce, and responsible deployment.
- The framework seeks to rope in entrepreneurs, innovators and investors to help the State become a leader in the field of robotics.

Source: Hindu



7. SAKSHAM

Topic: e- governance

SAKSHAM India

In News: MoHFW has launched SAKSHAM: 'Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management', a learning management information system.

More on the Topic:

- The platform has been developed by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) in New Delhi.
- SAKSHAM is a unified platform that shall provide online training and medical education to health professionals.
- **Health professionals from all over the country, be it centers located in rural areas or metropolitan cities, can be trained using the SAKSHAM platform.**
- Presently, SAKSHAM learning management information system hosts more than 200 health-related courses online.

Source: Hindu
