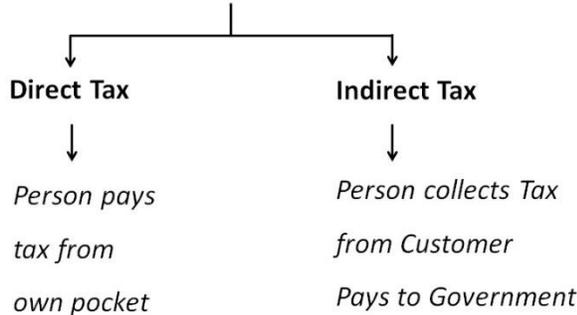


1. Direct Taxes

Topic: Economy

Tax



Example

Income Tax

Example

~~Vat, Service Tax, Excise, Customs etc.~~ **GST**

In News: Finance Ministry has indicated that the Direct tax collection has increased by 35.46 per cent to Rs 6.48 lakh crore in the current fiscal up to September.

More on the Topic:

- As the name suggests these taxes are directly paid by the assessee to the government. These are not paid on behalf of the taxpayers but are imposed directly by the regulator. Furthermore, this liability is non-transferable to another taxpayer.

Types of Direct Taxes:

- **Corporate tax:**
- Such tax is levied on domestic companies that are different from the shareholders. This tax is also payable by foreign corporations whose income arises or is deemed to arise in India. Income earned as interest, royalties, dividends, technical services fees, or gains through the sale of assets based in India is taxable. Corporate tax includes Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT), Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) etc.
- **Wealth tax:**
- This liability arises from the ownership of properties and is paid every year based on the market value of the property. Property owners must pay this tax irrespective of whether the property earns them any income or not.
- **Capital gains tax:**
- This type of direct tax in India is payable on income earned from the sale of investments or assets. Capital assets include investments in homes, art, businesses, shares, bonds, and farms.

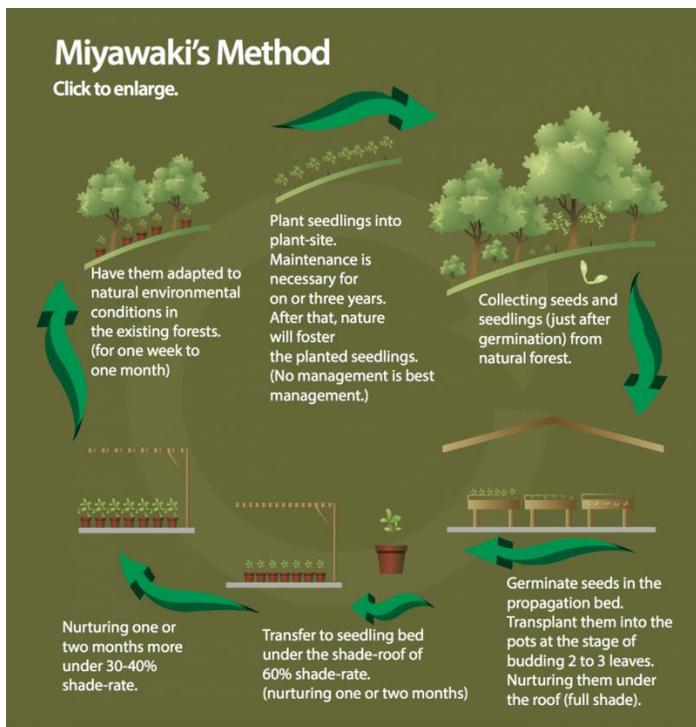
Benefits of Direct Income Taxes:

- **Equity:** Direct taxes are levied on the total income of the taxpayers. Therefore, taxpayers with higher income pay more tax while taxpayers earning less pay lower to no taxes.
- **Progressive:** The primary objective of any government is to achieve equal distribution of wealth. Direct taxes in India play an important role in attaining this equality. These taxes are designed with progressiveness; they are beneficial in reducing income inequalities.
- **Productive:** These types of taxes are productive and elastic. The revenue earned through such taxes automatically increases or decreases depending on the changes in the national wealth of the country.
- **Economic:** Since taxpayers pay this tax annually, the administrative costs borne by governing authorities for the levy and collection of tax are reduced.

Source: Indian Express

2. Miyawaki Forest

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Prime Minister has inaugurated Smuriti Van at Gujarat which was developed in a year through Miyawaki method.

More on the Topic:

- Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, that helps build dense, native forests.

- The approach is supposed to ensure that plant growth is 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser than usual.
- It involves planting dozens of native species in the same area, and becomes maintenance-free after the first three years.
- It helps to create a forest in just 20 to 30 years while through conventional methods it takes anywhere between 200 to 300 years.

The Process of Miyawaki Forestation:

- The native trees of the region are **identified and divided into four layers — shrub, sub-tree, tree, and canopy.**
- The quality of soil is analysed and **biomass which would help enhance the perforation capacity, water retention capacity, and nutrients in it, is mixed with it.**
- A mound is built with the soil and the seeds are planted at a very high density — three to five sapling per square meter.
- The ground is covered with a thick layer of mulch.

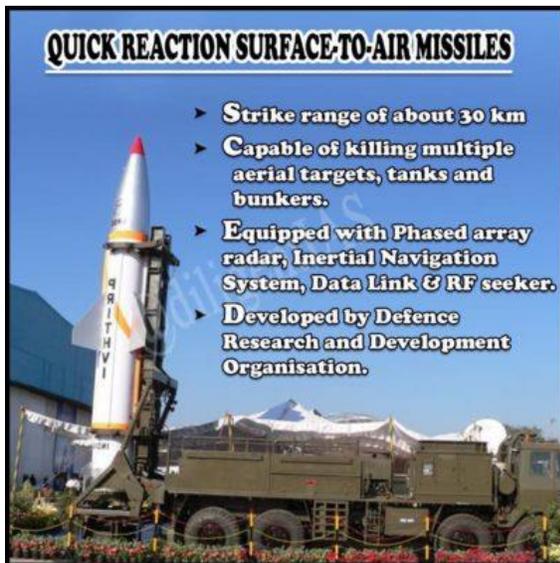
Significance:

- Help lower temperatures.
- Reduce air and noise pollution.
- Attracts local birds and insects.
- Create carbon sinks up to 30 times or more Carbon-dioxide absorption as compared to conventional forests.

Source: Hindu

3. Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: Flight tests of the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system were performed from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, Odisha coast.

More on the Topic:

- Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) is a missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited for the Indian Army, meant for protecting moving armoured columns from aerial attacks.
- **It is a short range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system**, primarily designed and developed by DRDO to provide a protective shield to moving armoured columns of the Army from enemy aerial attacks.
- QRSAM is a canister-based system, which means that it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- In the canister, the inside environment is controlled, thus along with making its transport and storage easier, the shelf life of weapons also improves significantly.
- The QRSAM weapon system can operate on the move with search and track capability and fire on short halt.

Source: Hindu

4. The Gender Snapshot 2022

Topic: Social Justice



In News: The new report, launched by UN Women and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), highlights that, at the current pace of progress, SDG 5 achieving gender equality will not be met by 2030.

More on the Topic:

- Global challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, violent conflict, climate change, and the backlash against women's sexual and reproductive health and rights are further exacerbating gender disparities.
- At the current rate of progress, the report estimates that **it will take up to 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws**, 140 years for women to

be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace, and at least 40 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments.

- The report also points to a worrisome reversal on the reduction of poverty, and rising prices are likely to exacerbate this trend.

Way Ahead Suggested:

- Cooperation, partnerships and investments in the gender equality agenda, including through increased global and national funding, are essential to correct the course and place gender equality back on track.

Source: Indian Express

5. Urban Employment Scheme

Topic: Government Schemes

Urban Employment Schemes In Indian States

State	Scheme	Year of Launch	Workdays guaranteed
Kerala	Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme	2010	100 per household
Himachal Pradesh	Mukhyamantri Shahri Ajeevika Guarantee Yojana	2020	120 per household
Odisha	Urban Wage Employment Initiative (now Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan)	2020	
Jharkhand	Mukhyamantri Shramik Yojana	2020	100 per worker

In News: Rajasthan Chief Minister has launched the government’s flagship scheme for urban employment named the Indira Gandhi Shehari Rojgar Yojana.

More on the Topic:

- Under the scheme, employment will be provided in segments of environment and water conservation, cleanliness and sanitation, stopping defacement of property, service-related works, convergence work and heritage conservation.
- People from age groups of 18 to 60 are eligible for the scheme. Payments will be made in bank accounts of beneficiary within 15 days.

Why Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme is the need of the hour:

- Parliamentary committee has recommended the institution of an urban employment scheme at the national level.
- Unemployment rates are typically higher in urban areas.
- As per Periodic Labour Force Survey 2019-20, higher unemployment rate (7%) in urban areas as compared to rural areas (4%).
- Urban poor are worst affected by India's persistently high inflation
- Prevalence of low-wage, poor quality, informal work
- Growing distress among the urban poor

Source: Business Standard

6. Red-eared slider turtle

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The presence of invasive and non-native south red-eared slider turtles would lead to the extinction of native species of their own kind.

More on the Topic:

- **The red-eared slider is native to south-eastern USA and Mexico**, but have found their way across the globe including India through trade of exotic animals.
- It is not mentioned in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- The species has a wide set of diet and eats almost all vegetation, unlike native species.
- "The red-eared slider is also aggressive, it drives away the native species."

India's Turtle Diversity:

- India is home to 29 freshwater turtles and tortoise species of the 356 turtle species recognised worldwide and around 80 per cent of them are threatened.
- In India, keeping indigenous turtles as pets is prohibited under the wildlife protection act. But the foreign breeds are not restricted and are kept as pets in many families across India.

Source: Down to Earth



7. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

Topic: Governance

In News: The Union government has decided to establish a branch of Delhi-based National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in each state for effective outbreak surveillance and improved response time.

More on the Topic:

- The state branches will coordinate with NCDC headquarter in New Delhi with real time sharing of data and information aided by cutting edge technology.
- NCDC branches would also be crucial in ensuring timely availability of updated guidelines so that accurate scientifically backed information can be disseminated easily.
- The current branches will also be repurposed and together they will perform integrated disease surveillance activities, focusing on anti-microbial resistance, multi-sectoral and entomological investigations (pertaining to insects) etc.
- The move not just improve surveillance efforts but also boost response time and measures including diagnostic capacities.
- Disease surveillance plays a crucial part in disease prevention, control and management. Towards this end the regional branches of NCDC will play a pivotal part.

About NCDC:

- NCDC is nodal agency under MoHF for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.
- Its mandate broadly covers three areas viz. services (including Outbreak investigations, referral services etc), trained health manpower development and research.

Source: Business Standard
