

1. NITI Aayog Like Bodies in States

Topic: Governance



In News: NITI Aayog, the think-tank at the Central level will handhold each state to set up similar bodies, replacing their planning boards for faster and inclusive economic growth, in tandem with the vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

More on the Topic:

- The move is in recognition of the fact that except for sectors like defence, railways and highways, **the national gross domestic product (GDP) growth is an aggregation of states' rates of growth.**
- **Health, education and skilling are primarily with the state government.**
- State governments' role is **critical to improving ease of doing business, land reforms, infrastructure development, credit flows and urbanisation**, all of which are vital for sustained economic growth.

Implementation Plan for State Institution for Transformation (SIT):

- Lateral entry of professionals will be encouraged in SITs to undertake high-quality analytical work and policy recommendations.
- Besides reorienting state planning boards as SITs, a blueprint will be made on how it will guide states in policy formulation, take up monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programmes, and suggest better technology or models for delivery of schemes.

About NITI AYog:

- The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015.
- NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.
- While designing strategic and long term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.

About Composition of NITI Aayog?

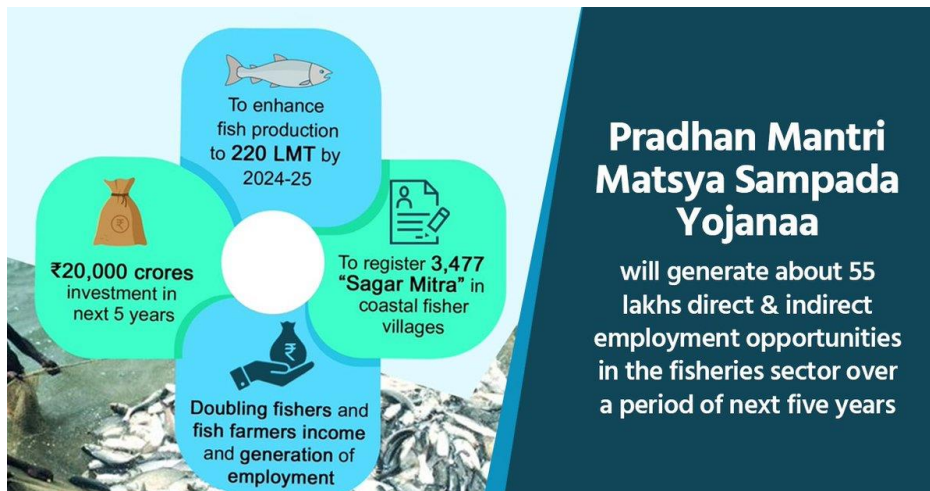
- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister
- **Vice-Chairperson:** To be appointed by Prime-Minister
- **Governing Council:** Chief Ministers of all states and Lt. Governors of Union Territories.

- **Regional Council:** To address specific regional issues, Comprising Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors Chaired by Prime Minister or his nominee.
- **Adhoc Membership:** 2 member in ex-officio capacity from leading Research institutions on rotational basis.
- **Ex-Officio membership:** Maximum four from Union council of ministers to be nominated by Prime minister.
- **Chief Executive Officer:** Appointed by Prime-minister for a fixed tenure, in rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- **Special Invitees:** Experts, Specialists with domain knowledge nominated by Prime-minister.

Source: Indian Express

2. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) completed its successful second year.

More on the Topic:

- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. (PMMSY) is designed **to address critical gaps** in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernisation and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers" welfare.
- PMMSY scheme primarily focuses on **adopting 'Cluster or Area based approaches'** and creation of Fisheries clusters through backward and forward linkages.
- Special focus will be given for **employment generation activities** such as seaweed and ornamental fish cultivation.
- It emphasizes on interventions for quality brood, seed and feed, special focus on species diversification, critical infrastructure, marketing networks etc.

Implementation:

- It is implemented **as an umbrella scheme with two separate components** namely:
- **Central Sector Scheme:** The project cost will be borne by the Central government.
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** All the sub-components/activities will be implemented by the States/UTs and the cost will be shared between the Centre and State.

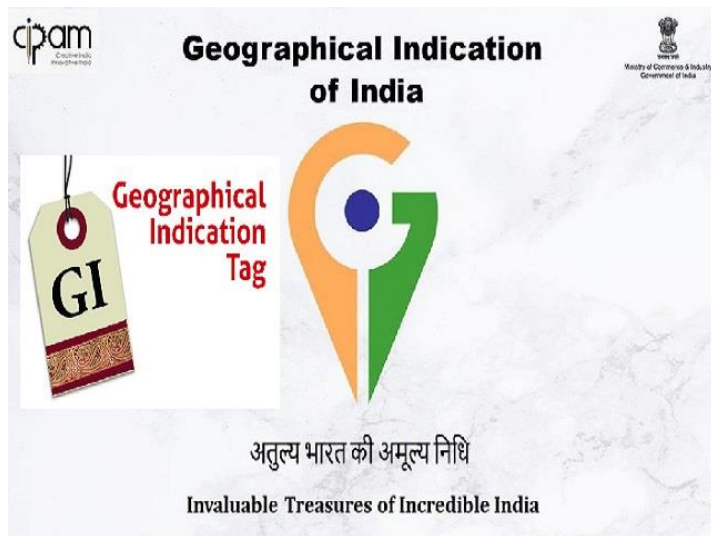
Achievements of the Scheme:

- Fisheries sector showed **impressive growth of 14.3% from 2019-20 to 2021-22.**
- Fish production **reached an all-time high of 141.64 lakh tons** during 2019-20 to 161.87 lakh tons during 2021-22.
- Fisheries sector saws all-time high exports of 13.64 lakh tonnes valuing Rs 57,587 crore dominated by exports of shrimps.
- Currently, exports to 123 countries are taking place including China, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Tunisia, the United States, Hong Kong, Kuwait, etc.
- PMMSY has supported 31.47 lakh farmers under insurance coverage from 22 states and 7 UTs.

Source: Hindu

3. India Qatar GI Meet

Topic: Economy



In News: In its endeavor to promote the export of agricultural products inherent to India, the Centre organized a Virtual Networking Meet for Agri and Food GI products in association with Qatar.

More on the Topic:



- Besides being the leading producer of several agriculture commodities such as rice, fruits and vegetables, tea. **India also has a distinct advantage of having registered geographical indication for several agricultural products.**
- At present, there are more than 400 registered Geographical Indications in India of which around 150 are agricultural and food products GI.
- More than 100 registered GI products fall under the category of APEDA scheduled products (fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, animal products and cereals).

About GI Tag:

- A geographical indication (GI) **is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin** (e.g., a town, region, or country).
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003.
- GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

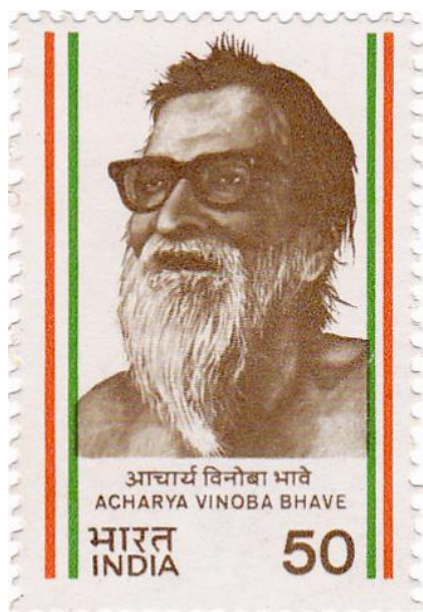
Significance of GI Tag:

- Once a product gets this tag, **any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name.**
- GI registration of a product provides it legal protection and prevention against unauthorised use by others.
- GI tag helps in promoting the exports of the product.
- It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.

Source: Hindu

4.Acharya Vinoba Bhave

Topic: Important Personalities in News



In News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remembered Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his birth anniversary.

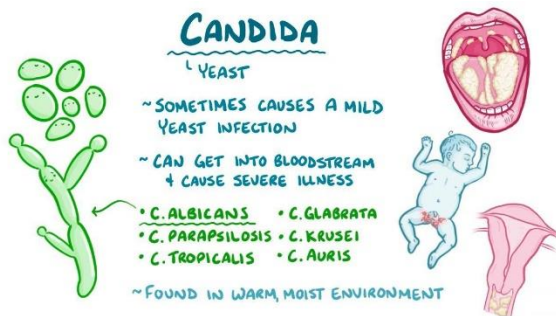
More on the Topic:

- He was an Indian advocate of nonviolence and human rights. Often called Acharya (Sanskrit for teacher), he is best known for the Bhoodan Movement.
- He is considered a National Teacher of India and the spiritual successor of Mahatma Gandhi. He was an eminent philosopher.
- He wrote **Ishavasyavritti and Sthitaprajna Darshan in jail.**
- Gandhi chose him as the first participant in the individual satyagraha campaign in 1940.
- In 1958, Vinoba was the first recipient of the international Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership.
- He was also conferred with the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1983.

Source: Indian Express

5.Candidiasis

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: A team of researchers from Bengaluru-based Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) has identified a gene that probably holds the key to preventing the fungal infection Candidiasis.

More on the Topic:

- Named CSA6, the gene has been identified in *Candida albicans*, a fungus notorious for causing high morbidity and mortality rates under certain immuno-compromised conditions such as AIDS or during cancer treatment.
- **The fungus is a typical member of the human gut flora** and typically resides in mucosal linings of the gastrointestinal and urogenital tract of healthy individuals without causing any harm.
- However, it can turn into a pathogen under immuno-compromised conditions, causing superficial and life-threatening systemic infection.
- Factors that increase the risk of candidiasis include **HIV/AIDS, mononucleosis, cancer treatments, steroids, stress, antibiotic usage, diabetes, and nutrient deficiency.**
- Candidiasis is **treated with antifungal medications.**

Source: Down to Earth

6. The financial intermediary fund (FIF)

Topic: Economy



In News: A new fund for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response hosted by the World Bank will invite investment proposals soon.

More on the Topic:

- It is built to financially boost efforts in low- and middle-income countries to prevent, control and prepare for pandemics such as COVID-19.
- It will also “address critical gaps through investments and technical support at the national, regional and global levels”.
- FIF will help in strengthening PPR capacity in areas such as zoonotic disease surveillance, laboratories, emergency communication, critical health workforce capacities etc.
- The FIF was developed with broad support from members of the G20 and beyond.

Source: Down to Earth

7. Vembanad Lake

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Vembanad lake, the second largest wetland system in India after the Sunderbans in West Bengal, is shrinking.

More on the Topic:



- Its unique biodiversity is under threat of ecological decay despite it being declared as a Ramsar site 20 years ago.
- According to ecological experts and various studies conducted over the years, the lake is facing serious environmental degradation due to recurring floods, increased pollution, reduction in water spread area and increased weed growth.
- The lake lays right by the Arabian Sea, with a narrow reef separating it from the sea.
- The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake.
- In 2019, Willingdon Island, a seaport located in the city of Kochi, was carved out of Vembanad Lake.
- The Nehru Trophy Boat Race (Vallam Kali) is a Snake Boat Race hosted in the lake every year in the month of August.

Source: Business Standard
