



1. Right to Repair Portal

IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT, YOU DON'T OWN IT.

REPAIR IS BETTER THAN RECYCLING
Making our things last longer is both more efficient and more cost-effective than mining them for raw materials.

REPAIR SAVES YOU MONEY
Fixing things is often free, and usually cheaper than replacing them. Doing the repair yourself saves you money.

REPAIR TEACHES ENGINEERING
The best way to find out how something works is to take it apart.

REPAIR SAVES THE PLANET
Earth has limited resources. Eventually we will run out. The best way to be efficient is to reuse what we already have.

Topic: e- Governance/Economy

In News: Right to repair portal has been launched recently.

More on the Topic

- On the 'right to repair' portal, **manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers so that they can either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers.**
- Initially, mobile phones, electronic, consumer durables, automobile and farming equipment will be covered.

Significance:

- It was proposed that allowing right to repair would **allow the growth of repair shops.**
- **Monopoly on repair parts and processes violates the customer's "right to choose".** It also hampers the local shops' growth.
- It would also ensure sustainability of the products and **promote employment generation.**
- It would also **prevent customers from discarding gadgets that were deemed difficult or expensive to repair with the original manufacturers.**
- The launch of right to repair portal will now reduce **the dependency of consumers on manufacturers in case their product fails to operate.**
- After its launch, India joined the clutch of countries like the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK).

About Right to Repair:

- The **right to repair** refers to proposed government legislation that **would allow consumers the ability to repair and modify their own consumer products (e.g. electronic, automotive devices or farm vehicles such as tractors).**
- Otherwise the manufacturer of such products requires the consumer to use only their **offered services by restricting access to tools and components, or software barriers put in place to hinder independent repair or modification.**
- These obstacles often lead to higher consumer costs or drive consumers to replace devices instead of repairing them.
- While the global community is **concerned over the growing volume of the waste stream** (especially electronic components)

Source: Indian Express

2. Central Pollution Control Board Report on Rivers

DATA DIVE

STATE OF RIVER POLLUTION

30% sites have polluted water

Of the 222 sites monitored by the Central Water Commission for water quality between 2012-13 and 2016-17, water quality at 67 locations was beyond the permissible limits. Out of the 67 sites, 14 sites fell in category I (severely polluted) and 12 sites fell under category II. This excludes Ganga and Brahmaputra, the two most important and polluted river basin systems.

What is Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

The amount of dissolved oxygen that must be present in water in order for microorganisms to decompose the organic matter in the water. It is a used as a measure of the degree of pollution. The BOD value is most commonly expressed in milligrams of oxygen consumed per litre (mg/L). If the BOD level is higher than 3mg/L, it is unfit for drinking

THE OTHER STORIES

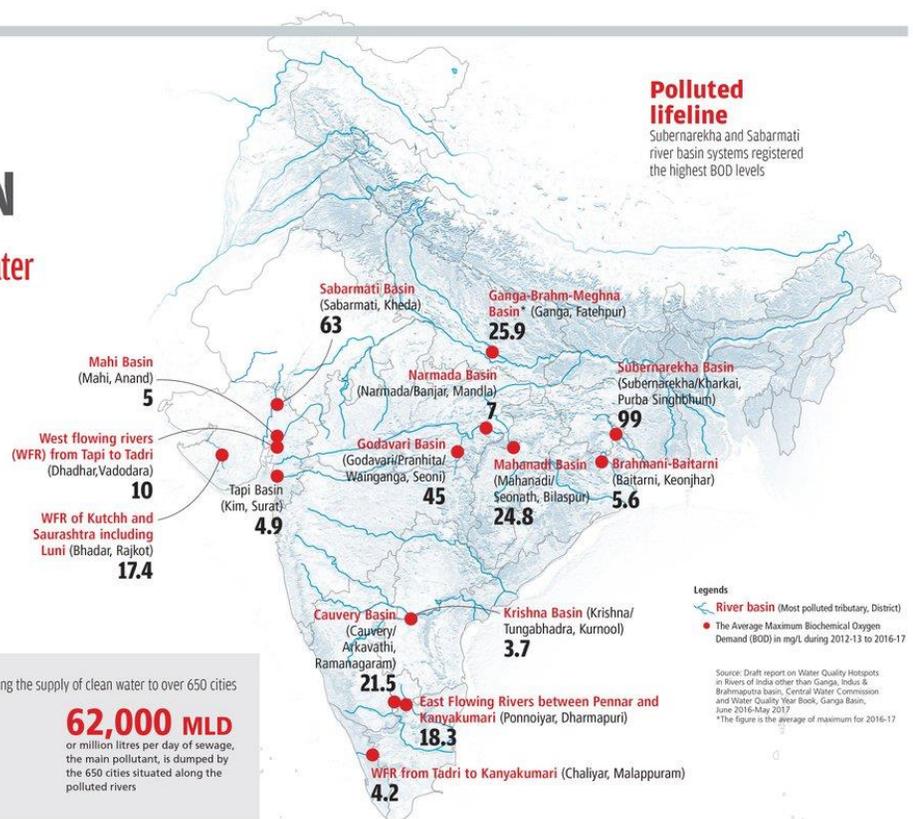
Rivers in distress | River pollution is threatening the supply of clean water to over 650 cities

275 rivers
are polluted out of the monitored 445 rivers.
It was 121 in 2009

302
the number of polluted river stretches. It was 150 in 2009

62,000 MLD
or million litres per day of sewage, the main pollutant, is dumped by the 650 cities situated along the polluted rivers

Source: SOE in Figures 2016



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: A report by the Central Pollution Control Board released recently shows little to no improvement in the river water quality over the last two years.



More on the Topic:

- Key Findings of the Report:
- The number of **Polluted River Stretches (PRS) in 323 rivers has fallen** from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022.
- While **improvement in water quality has been observed in 180 out of 351 stretches, the most polluted stretches continue to remain the same.**
- **Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh had maximum number of Priority I stretches**-each at six, **Maharashtra had the overall highest number of polluted stretches at 55.**

Categories of River Pollution:

- The CPCB monitors water quality at 4,484 locations in 28 states and seven UTs including rivers, lakes, creeks, drains, and canals.
- It classifies rivers based on Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) - into five categories, namely Priority I to V.
- BOD levels **above 3 mg/L are called polluted locations.** Two or more polluted locations identified on a river in a sequence are considered a "polluted river stretch".
- Moreover, **stretches with BOD above 30 mg/L are considered Priority I and need the most urgent remediation.**

Biochemical Oxygen Demand

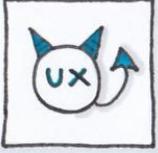
- **Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen (DO) needed (i.e. demanded) by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in a given water sample at a certain temperature over a specific time period.**
- The BOD value is most commonly expressed in milligrams of oxygen consumed per litre of sample during 5 days of incubation at 20 °C and is often used as a surrogate of the degree of organic pollution of water.

Administrative Jurisdiction over Water:

- As per the Indian Constitution, **'Water' is a state subject.**
- **Water quality management is performed under provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**
- However, the union government carries out various programmes such as National Water Monitoring Programme and Atal Mission on Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation in collaboration with state governments, and provides funds with technical support.

Source: HINDU

3. Dark Patterns



DARK PATTERNS

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 WWW.SKETCHINGFORUX.COM

UX Knowledge Base Sketch #29

PATTERNS ARE TRICKS

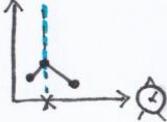
THAT MAKE THE USERS DO THINGS THEY DID NOT MEANTO.

FINE LINE BETWEEN INFLUENCING USERS' BEHAVIOR AND TRICKING THEM!

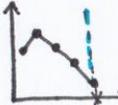
DARK PATTERNS CAN WORK IF SOMEONE IS LOOKING FOR SHORT-TERM RESULTS.

vs.

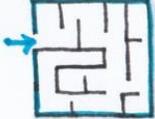
USING DARK PATTERNS HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT IN THE LONG-TERM



ONLY INITIAL SUCCESS, NOT SUSTAINABLE



THE MOST COMMON TYPES

<p>FORCED CONTINUITY</p> <p>FREE TRIAL → CHANGES TO A PAYING SCHEME WITHOUT WARNING</p>		<p>ROACH MOTEL</p> <p>THE START IS EASY (SIGN UP/SUBSCRIPTION), QUITTING IS HARD</p>		<p>GROWTH HACKING</p> <p>YOU BECOME WITHOUT KNOWING</p>
<p>DELIBERATE MISDIRECTION</p> <p>FOCUSING THE USERS' ATTENTION ON THE MORE EXPENSIVE OPTION, HIDING THE CHEAPER WAY</p>		<p>OBSCURED PRICING</p> <p>MAKING IT HARD TO COMPARE THE PRICES</p>		<p>SNEAK INTO CART</p> <p>A RANDOM ITEM APPEARS IN CART WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION</p>
<p>BAIT & SWITCH</p> <p>USE A CONVENTION, PATTERN IN A WAY TO MAKE THE USER FALSELY ASSUME SOMETHING</p>		<p>DISGUISED ADS</p> <p>AN AD LOOKING LIKE ANOTHER TYPE OF CONTENT / NAVIGATION</p>		<p>ROADBLOCK</p> <p>A POP-UP INTERRUPTING INTENDED NAVIGATION</p>
<p>HIDDEN COSTS</p> <p>AT THE CHECKOUT, A NEW, UNEXPECTED COST APPEARS</p>		<p>PRIVACY ZUCKERING</p> <p>SHARING MORE PRIVATE INFO THAN YOU WANT</p>		<p>MISINFORMATION</p> <p>E.G. CONFUSING LANGUAGE</p>

Topic: Science and Technology

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Go, change the world



In News: Some Internet-based firms have been tricking users into agreeing to certain conditions or clicking a few links. Such acceptances and clicks are flooding inboxes of the users with promotional emails they never wanted, making it hard to unsubscribe or request deletion.

More on the Topic:

- Such patterns are unethical user interface designs that deliberately make your Internet experience harder or even exploit you. In turn, they benefit the company or platform employing the designs.
- By using dark patterns, digital platforms take away a user's right to full information about the services they are using, and reduce their control over their browsing experience.

How do companies use dark patterns?

- Social media companies and Big Tech firms such as Apple, Amazon, Skype, Facebook, LinkedIn, Microsoft, and Google use dark or deceptive patterns **to downgrade the user experience to their advantage.**
- **Example:** Amazon came under fire in the EU for its confusing, **multi-step cancellation process for the Amazon Prime subscription.**
- After communicating with consumer regulators, Amazon this year made its cancellation process easier for online customers in European countries.
- Google-owned YouTube **nudges users to sign up for YouTube Premium with pop-ups**, obscuring the final seconds of a video with thumbnails of other videos — a way of disrupting what should have been an otherwise smooth user experience.

Concerns Associated with Dark Patterns:

- Dark patterns **endanger the experience of Internet users and make them more vulnerable to financial and data exploitation** by Big Tech firms.
- Dark patterns confuse users, introduce online obstacles, make simple tasks time-consuming, have users sign up for unwanted services/products, and **force them to pay more money or share more personal information than they intended.**
- Internet users who are able to identify and recognise dark patterns in their daily lives can choose more user-friendly platforms that will respect their right to choice and privacy.

Source: Hindu



4. Draft National Retail Trade Policy

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has sought views of 16 departments and ministries on its draft national retail trade policy.

More on the Topic:

- It is aimed at overall development of all formats of the sector.
- The policy would focus on formulating strategies to provide a globally competitive and sustainable environment for overall development of retail trade through targeted efforts.



Objectives of the Policy:

- The objectives of the policy include **ensuring easy and quick access to affordable credit, facilitating modernisation and digitization** of retail trade by promoting modern technology and superior infrastructural support;
- Development of **physical infrastructure across the distribution chain**; promotion of **skill development**
- To improve **labour productivity, and providing an effective consultative and grievance redressal mechanism** for the sector.

About India's Retail Industry:

- India is the **world's fifth-largest global destination in the retail space.**
- According to a report of CII-Kearney on retail, **a cohesive national retail policy can help generate 30 lakh more jobs by 2024.**
- The retail industry is likely to see **10 per cent annual growth to reach about USD 2 trillion by 2032.**

Source: Business Standard

5. e-HRMS 2.0 Portal



Topic: e- Governance

In News: Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has launched revamped e-HRMS 2.0 portal for central government employees.

More on the Topic:

- The revamped e-HRMS 2.0 Portal will provide the services like transfers (rotation or mutual), deputation, private foreign visits, vigilance status, deputation opportunities, service books and other basic HR services like leave, tours, reimbursements among others, in digital mode to the employees.
- The revamped portal is the **first digital system in the government of India to provide end-to-end HR services.**
- Presently, no other government service cadre system in India is as advanced in its reach and applications as the revamped e-HRMS 2.0,.

Significance:

- With the aid of e-HRMS **DoP&T will be moving towards total digitisation of HR services.**
- e-HRMS 2.0 will **save several thousand man-hours and tons of printing paper.**
- This will also go a long way in **improving employee satisfaction, promoting ease of doing or processing of HR work** and enhancing productivity and transparency in administrative functioning



RV Educational Institutions®
RV Training Academy
(Sardar Vallabh Bhai Academy)

- The new and revamped probity portal and capturing of real-time information using such a platform will send a clear signal that 'non-performance' and 'inefficiency' of the government employees will not be tolerated and that the right attitude towards public service with 'integrity' and 'probity' is expected from every government servant.

Source: Live-Mint

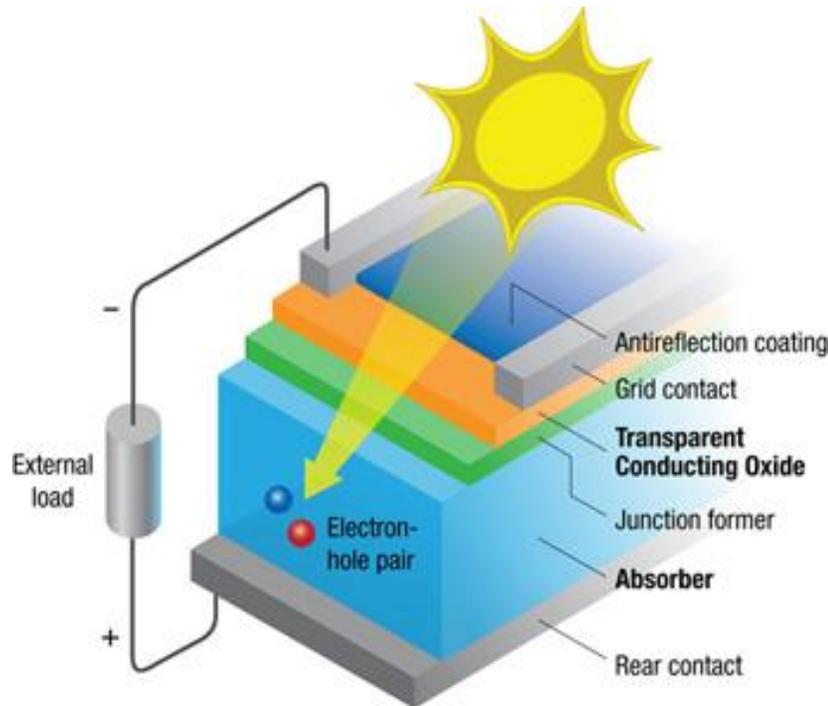
6. Organic Solar Cells

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Topic: Science and Technology

In News: IIT Kanpur scientists have developed organic solar cell gadgets.

More on the Topic:

- Solar cells can **convert a steel roof into an energy-producing device more efficiently than currently.**
- An organic solar cells consisting of a combination of an organic polymer and PCBM (an organic semiconductor) developed on steel substrates **can potentially convert a steel roof into an energy-producing device with greater efficiency than those currently available in the market.**
- The potential of third-generation solar cell technologies lies in their **integration with flexible and conformal surfaces.**
- However, this integration requires developing new top transparent conducting electrodes as alternatives to **indium tin oxide, an optoelectronic material currently in use** and poses limitations because of its brittleness and as its optoelectronic efficiency varies with temperature.
- The new technology demonstrated **the integration of multi-layered electrodes of configuration $\text{MoO}_3/\text{Au}/\text{MoO}_3$ with the organic solar cells.**
- These electrodes **offer higher optical transmission as compared to only metallic electrodes.**

- The devices with multilayer electrodes showed a clear improvement in the photovoltaic performance by 1.5 times, as compared with those obtained with single-layer top metal electrodes of gold.

Source: Hindu

7. Losar Festival

Topic: Culture



In News: Ladakh has celebrated Losar Festival on December 24, to mark the Ladakhi New Year.

More on the Topic:

- It marks the beginning of the Tibetan new year in the traditional schedule of Tibetan Buddhism and is an important festival of Ladak.
- It dates back to the pre-Buddhist era in Tibet when Tibetans used to follow the Bon religion.
- The Losar festivities continue for nine more days from the new year with the offering of prayers in the name of God and Goddess, dances and songs in honour of Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.

Source: Hindu
