

NEWS TODAY

National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) completes 5 years

It was launched under **Ministry of Textile** with the aim to position India as a global leader in **Technical Textiles**.

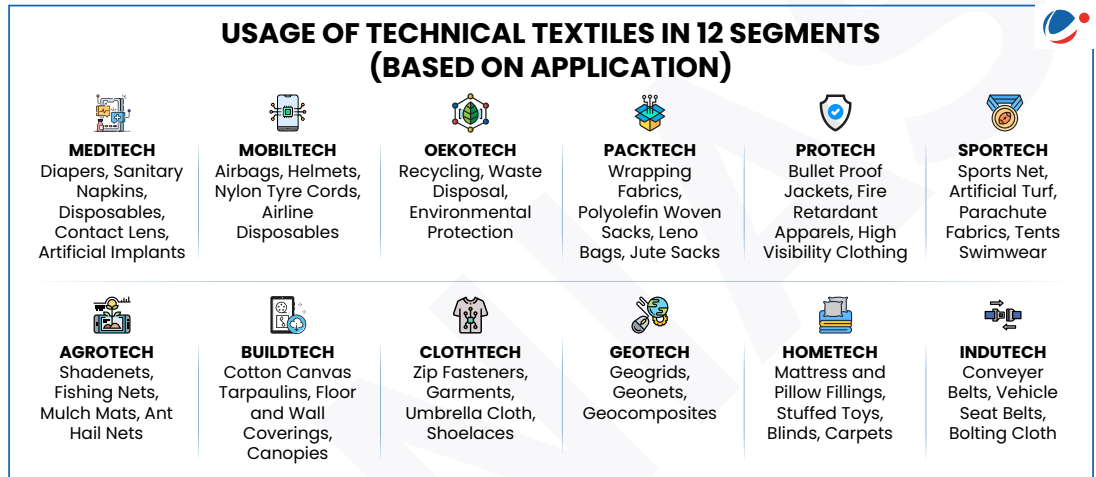
- ▶ NTTM comprises **four** components, namely, **Research, Innovation and Development; Promotion and Market Development; Export Promotion; Education, Training, Skill Development.**

About Technical Textiles

- ▶ They are **textiles materials** and **products** manufactured primarily for **technical performance** and **functional properties** rather than **aesthetic characteristics**.
- ▶ These products are broadly classified into **12 different categories** (See Infographic).

Key Benefits of the Mission

- ▶ **Boost Textile Sector:** India is the **6th largest exporter** of textiles globally, contributing nearly **2% to India's GDP**.
- ▶ **Developing Robust Infrastructure:** The use of **geo-textiles** in highways, etc., offer reduced maintenance cost and higher life cycle.
- ▶ **Export Promotion: Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC)** (now MATEXIL) promotes technical textiles exports.
- ▶ **Environmental Sustainability:** Development of **bio degradable technical textiles** materials, particularly for agro-textiles, geo-textiles and medical textiles.
- ▶ **Innovation:** Driving advancements in both **comfort and functionality**.
 - ⊕ E.g., **Mahina**, India's first bonded leak-proof period undergarment.



Other Important Initiatives under NTTM

- ▶ **Grant for Internship Support for Technical Textiles (GIST 2.0):** Bridges the gap between industry and academia.
- ▶ **Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) Scheme:** Funding to translate prototypes into technologies/products for commercialization.

United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation released report

The report is titled "**Levels & Trends in Child Mortality**" and India's efforts and progress in reducing Child Mortality has been lauded as "Exemplar" along with other four countries.

- ▶ Since 2000, India has achieved an **under-five mortality reduction of 70 per cent** and a **neonatal mortality reduction of 61 per cent**.

Reasons for India's performance given in the report

- ▶ **Ayushman Bharat:** Health insurance scheme which provides annual coverage of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year.
- ▶ **Comprehensive delivery care:** Every pregnant woman is entitled to **free delivery (including caesarean section)**, and infant care provides free transport, medications, diagnostics and dietary support in **public health institutions**.
- ▶ **Improving Access to Maternal Services: Strengthened infrastructure** via the establishment of maternity waiting homes, maternal and child health wings, and a **dedicated programme for birth defect screening**.
- ▶ **Training skilled birth attendants:** Prioritized the **training and deployment of skilled birth attendants**, such as midwives and community health workers.

Recommendations to further reduce child mortality globally

- ▶ **Prioritising Investments:** Investments must be targeted to the most vulnerable populations.
- ▶ **Data Optimization:** Targeting actions and interventions should be based on subnational data.
- ▶ **Others: Age specific Interventions, Availability of Data,** etc.

Initiatives taken by India

- ▶ **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan:** To provide fixed-day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women.
- ▶ **Janani Suraksha Yojana:** It integrates **cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care**.
- ▶ **Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA):** Improving breastfeeding practices.
- ▶ **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):** Provide vaccination to children against life threatening diseases.

Supreme Court expressed concern over the Erosion of Family Values in India

Family can be defined as a **social group** characterised by **common residence, economic co-operation and reproduction**.

- It is regarded as the **foundational institution** of Indian society and has traditionally acquired primacy in our **interpersonal-social relationship dynamics**.
- However, the emergence of **nuclear family, live-in relationships, family feuds**, etc., are indicative of the erosion to family values.





Key Reasons for the Erosion of Family Values

- Societal Progress: Urbanisation** (migration to urban areas for better living prospects), **globalisation** (flow of western ideas of individual freedom), **Industrialisation** (migration to industrial areas), etc., are contributing to the decline of joint family.
- Changing Cultural Attitudes:** Younger generations are increasingly seeking **privacy, independence**, and a more **balanced division** of household roles.
- Economic Factors: Rising living expenses, economic instability, high demands of modern life** coupled with differences in perspectives and views makes it difficult for different generation to live together.
- Degrading Moral Values:** With the rise of **individualistic and materialistic society**, the focus on virtues such as **honesty, integrity, and empathy**, which are key to cooperative living declines.

Conclusion

Ensuring **greater dialogues to resolve generational differences, flexibility** in assigning tasks based on individual strengths rather than adhering to **traditional gender norms, embracing technology** while **respecting privacy** can help uphold the family values.






Important Role Played by Family

 <p>Procreation and Rearing of Children: Including their Socialization and Development.</p>	 <p>Building Values: Like Collectivism, Partnership, sharing, etc</p>	 <p>Support and Security: Both emotional and economic to the elderly and sick.</p>	 <p>Others: Cultural (transmission of cultural ethos to future generation); Educational, etc.</p>
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Sagarmala Programme marks 10 years

Launched in **March 2015**, is the **flagship initiative** of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**.

- It aims to accelerate economic development in the country by harnessing the potential of India's **7,500 km long coastline** and **14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways**.
 - It also aims to reduce **logistics costs for both domestic and EXIM cargo**.
- National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC)** is the apex body for policy direction and oversight of the Programme.
- Programme is divided into **5 pillars and 24 categories** (see infographics)
- The government is advancing in the Sagarmala Programme with **Sagarmala 2.0**, focusing on **shipbuilding, repair, recycling, and port modernization**.

 <p>Port-led Industrialization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Cluster SIPC/SEZ Thermal Power Plants Port Led Industries 	 <p>Coastal Community Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill Development Fisheries Ropeway Technology Centers Community Development 	 <p>Coastal Shipping & IWT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Tourism Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax/ Passenger Jetty Cruise Tourism Coastal Infrastructure Island Development Inland waterways 	 <p>Port Modernization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New ports Port Modernization Major Ports Port Modernization Non-Major Ports Ship Repair 	 <p>Port Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Rail Pipeline Multimodal hubs
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Achievement of the Programme

- Projects: 272 projects have been completed**, which account for an investment of approximately **1.41 lakh crores**.
- Global Ports Ranking: 9 Indian ports** are among the **world's top 100**, with **Vizag** in the **top 20** container ports **globally**.
- Launched Sagarmala Startup Innovation Initiative (S2I2):** To **foster innovation and entrepreneurship** in India's maritime sector.
- Coastal Shipping Growth:** 118% growth in the last decade, lowering logistics costs and carbon emissions.
- Inland waterway:** 700% surge in cargo movement, easing congestion on roads and railways.

NASA's Parker Solar Probe made another attempt to get within 6 million km of the Sun

Launched in 2018, the probe had flown through the Sun's upper atmosphere (corona) and sampled particles and magnetic fields there, making it the first spacecraft to touch the sun.

About Parker Solar Probe (PSP)

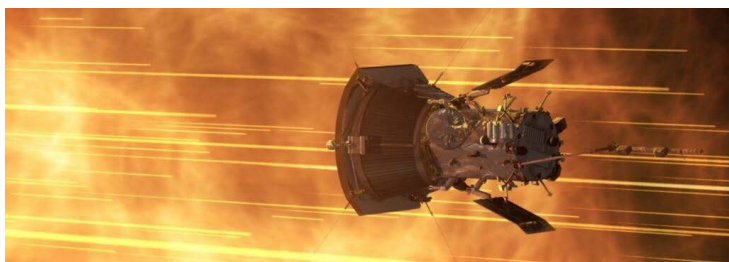
- **Objective:** Designed to swoop within about 6.5 million kilometers of the Sun's surface, to trace the flow of energy, study the heating of the solar corona, and explore what accelerates the solar wind.
- ⊕ **Solar Wind** is the stream of electrically charged particles like protons and electrons emanating from Sun's dark and cool regions called coronal holes and active regions.
- **Scientific Instruments on board:** Fields Experiment (FIELDS); Integrated Science Investigation of the Sun (IS[⊙] IS); Wide Field Imager for Solar Probe (WISPR); Solar Wind Electrons Alphas and Protons (SWEAP).

Significance of Solar Missions

- **Forecasting Space Weather:** Solar radiation and associated energy and magnetic fields can cause changes in the space weather impacting space technology and communications systems.
- **Understanding cosmic objects:** Sun being the closest star, its study can help in research about other stars.

Other Solar Probes/Observatories

- **ISRO:** Aditya-L1, first space based Indian mission to study Sun by ISRO.
- **Others:** Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S), China; Hinode (SOLAR-B), Japan; Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) in collaboration with NASA, European Space Agency, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, etc.



Parliamentary Standing Committee report on Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its report recommended various measures to strengthen the functioning of CBI.

Issues with CBI

- **Lack of autonomy and effectiveness:** Existing legal framework under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 gives more powers to states such as current requirement of state government consent creates operational challenges.
 - ⊕ Currently many states such as West Bengal, Karnataka etc. have **withdrawn general consent**.
- **Huge vacancies:** A total 724 posts are currently vacant, almost 16% of the CBI's sanctioned strength.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Information regarding cases registered, their investigation progress, and final outcomes are not publicly accessible.

Recommendations of committee

- **Separate/new law:** Granting CBI wider investigative powers without state consent for cases affecting national security and integrity may be enacted.
- **CBI should develop an independent recruitment framework:** By allowing direct recruitment for core ranks like Dy.S.Ps, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors.
 - ⊕ **Lateral entry for specialists** in cybercrime, forensics, etc.
- **Proactive disclosure of information:** With greater transparency in functioning of CBI by making case statistics and the **Annual Report publicly available** on its website.

About CBI

- **History:** Traces its origin to the **Special Police Establishment (SPE)** which was set up in 1941.
 - ⊕ SPE used to investigate cases of **bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Deptt. Of India during World War II**.
- **Genesis:** Established in 1963 on recommendation of **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-64)**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances.
- **Status:** Non-statutory and Non-constitutional body.

Also In News



Exercise Prachand Prahar

Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) conducted a tri-service integrated multi-domain exercise, Prachand Prahar, in Arunachal Pradesh.

- It validated integrated planning, command and control, and seamless execution of surveillance and firepower platforms across the three services.



Nag Missile System (NAMIS)

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract under Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) category for procurement of NAMIS.

About NAMIS

- Developed by **Defence Research & Development Laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
 - ⊕ **DRDO is the R&D wing** of the Ministry of Defence.
- It is one of the most sophisticated **anti-tank weapon systems** with fire-and-forget anti-tank missiles and sighting systems for enhanced firepower and lethality.



DX-EDGE

Recently, **DX-EDGE (Digital Excellence for Growth and Enterprise)** initiative was launched by CEO, NITI Ayog.

About DX-EDGE

- **Spearheaded By:** Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with the support of NITI Frontier Tech Hub (NITI FTH) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- **Aim:** Empowering India's **Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** to become **resilient, competitive, and digitally enabled** by leveraging digital technologies and sector-specific strategies.
- ⊕ Empowers **academic and technical** institutions to play a **pivotal role** in India's digital journey by transforming them into **Digital Transformation Facilitation Centres (DTFCs)**.



Xenotransplantation

Doctors in China have transplanted a pig's liver into a human being through Gene-modified pig-to-human liver xenotransplantation.

- Pig liver did not completely replace the patient's original liver.
- ⊕ The transplant (**termed 'auxiliary'**) can help serve as a **'bridge organ'** to support people who are waiting for a human donor.

About Xenotransplantation

- It is a procedure that involves the **transplantation, implantation or infusion** into a human recipient of either live cells, tissues, or organs from a nonhuman animal source.
- **Advantage:** **Alternative supply of organs, Reduce shortage of transplantable organs, etc.**



Green Grabbing

Asian Development Bank-funded Assam Solar Park is opposed by local communities for 'Green Grabbing' indigenous land.

About Green Grabbing

- It is the **appropriation of land and resources** in the name of **environmental goals** and has emerged as an issue of **rising concern**.
- Green grabs occur when land is repurposed for projects like **carbon offsetting, biodiversity reserves, afforestation, or clean energy production**.
- They often **displace local communities**, threaten livelihoods, undermine food security, and erode the local knowledge systems that protect agrobiodiversity.



GAIA

European Space Agency (ESA) shut down its **space observatory mission, GAIA**.

About Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics (GAIA)

- It is a mission to chart a **three-dimensional map** of our Galaxy, the Milky Way.
- GAIA was positioned in **Lagrange point 2 (L2)**, around 1.5 million kilometres **'behind'** the Earth, when viewed from the Sun.
- ⊕ **Lagrangian Points** are locations in space where **gravitational forces and the orbital motion** of a body **balance** each other.
- **Objective:** Designed for **astrometry** (the science of mapping the cosmos) through precise measurement of the location and movement of **stars and other celestial bodies**.



Commission for Senior Citizens

Kerala has become the first state in India to pass a **Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission Bill** creating a commission for senior citizens.

- People over age 60 in Kerala were **13.1 per cent** compared to the national average of **8.3 per cent** in 2015, according to **Kerala's planning board**.

About Commission for Senior Citizens

- **Objective:** To Provide for Protection, Welfare and Social Security of Senior Citizens and for inspiring confidence in them.
- **Composition:** Chairperson and not less than three members, all of whom will be senior citizens.



Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

Kasampatty Sacred Grove is declared as **Tamil Nadu (TN)'s second BHS** (Arittapatti in Madurai being the first in TN).

- It is located near the **Alagarmalai Reserve Forest** in Dindigul district.

About Biodiversity Heritage Site

- BHS are **unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems** having rich biodiversity comprising - **species richness, high endemism, presence of rare, endemic and threatened species, keystone species**, etc.
- Notified as per **Section 37 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- ⊕ It states that **State Government**, in consultation with the local bodies, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as BHS.

Personality in News



Shree Harichand Thakur

Shree Harichand Thakur Jayanti was observed.

About Harichand Thakur

- Born in **Namasudra** (untouchable community) in **Bengal** in Orakandi located in present-day Bangladesh.
- He **founded the Matua Sect** in Bengal.

Key Contributions

- **Upliftment of subaltern:** He accepted the path of religious reformation to promote compassion, justice.
- ⊕ Led the untouchability movement called the **Chandal movement**.
- **Harichand's doctrine:** It is based on three basic principles-truth, love, sanctity.
- **Social Reform:** Matua Sect believes that **male and female are equal**, discourage **early marriage**, allow **Widow remarriage**.
- **Education:** Built an **English medium high school** at Orakandi for the people of lower caste.

