DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYSIS

08 SEPTEMBER 2023

1 – About DIKSHA e-education platform:

GS II

Government Policies and Interventions

• Context:

• The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's National e-Governance Division (NeGD) plans to include Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into its current Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform.

• Key information:

• Each student should be able to have a customised learning experience across the curriculum based on their particular needs and talents thanks to the PAL's software-based approach.

About DIKSHA Platform:

- The National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers is called DIKSHA.
- Through a mobile application and an internet site, DIKSHA offers e-content for schools.
- It has embedded assistive technology for students who have visual or aural impairments.
- However, DIKSHA is a storehouse for static content.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks used by national and state boards are available digitally through DIKSHA.
- In addition, DIKSHA hosts 2.43 lakh contributions from 11,624 academics in the form of instructional films, explainers, and test preparation materials.
- These contributions are currently dispersed around the platform.

• The integration's importance:

- The NCERT wants to incorporate the PAL into DIKSHA.
- For instance, if a Class 9 student is studying the Pythagoras theorem and makes a calculation error, the AI learning system flags the error and loops the student back to a simple video explaining how to make the calculation.

• States that already employ PAL include:

- Three privately held edtech businesses have signed agreements with Andhra Pradesh to provide training for instructors on how to use IT applications in the classroom, analytics for remedial learning, and assistance with conceptual comprehension for students.
- 200 Assam schools from Classes 6 to 10 adopted the PAL.
- Nearly 200 pupils attended each school, which received 10 tablets from Embibe.
- The introduction of PAL for students in Classes 6 through 10 on Madhya Pradesh's premier State education portal, the CM-RISE, is also being considered.
- Source → The Hindu

2 – Details of Notice to Airmen (NOTAM):

GS III

Science and Technology related issues

- Context:
- India just published a new Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for a specific range.
- Key information:
- Although the NOTAM itself makes no indication of the kind of missile that would be launched, experts contend that the reported range, which spans 1990 km, suggests the potential of an Agni-1P missile test.
- About Agni-IP:
- a medium-range ground-based ballistic missile called the Agni-1P.
- It has the capacity to transport a nuclear bomb.

• About NOTAM:

- A NOTAM is a notice that includes information that is crucial for staff members involved in aircraft operations.
- It was first used in 1947 and was based on the "Notice to Mariners" that warned ship captains of dangers when navigating the high seas.
- Basically, NOTAMs give information about potential risks or modifications to flight operations that could have an impact on safety.

• The data may consist of the following:

- temporary restrictions on air travel,
- modifications to air traffic control protocols,
- closures of the runway, etc.
- Pilots, air traffic controllers, and other aviation professionals can use NOTAMs, which are normally issued on a short-term basis, to stay updated on changes to flight operations.
- Airport managers and other organisations who need to be informed of potential risks or flight disruptions in order to make appropriate plans utilise them as well.
- Overall, the NOTAM system is a crucial instrument for safeguarding the security and effectiveness of flight operations since it gives pilots and other aviation experts vital information about potential risks and alterations to flight operations.

• Source → The Hindu

3 – About the factors leading to increase in child marriages:



• Context:

• According to a recent study published in the journal International Social Work, extreme weather increases the likelihood of child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) by amplifying aspects of systemic oppression like gender inequality and poverty.

• Key information:

• Droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events were linked to an uptick in child, young, and forced marriages in low- and middle-income nations, according to a study of 20 studies published between 2010 and 2022.

Countries included:

• The studies came from sub-Saharan Africa, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Indonesia, Malawi, Nepal, Tanzania, and Vietnam.

• Results of the research:

- In circumstances of harsh weather, gender-based violence (GBV) and inequality deteriorate.
- This negatively affects the ability of women and girls to withstand extreme weather conditions and natural disasters.
- Without comprehensive attempts to account for gender and other socioeconomic inequities, development projects run the risk of reproducing or ignoring gender disadvantages.
- The researchers discovered that in situations involving extreme weather, CEFM was utilised as an adaptive coping mechanism to lessen economic vulnerabilities.
- For instance, after Cyclone Aila in Bangladesh in 2009, daughters were wed young to lessen their financial and food burden on the home.
- Young brides are needed in Kenya to help with the country's growing labour needs, such as carrying heavy loads over long distances to locate food and water.
- In Malawi, females who lived in drought-affected areas had a higher likelihood of being married young than those who did not.

• Dowry/bride price function:

- A significant contributing component in the association between CEFM and harsh weather was bride price and dowry.
- Girls in sub-Saharan Africa or Vietnam, where it is customary for the groom's family to pay the bride's family a bride price, had a higher likelihood of developing CEFM during droughts and sudden increases in rainfall.
- Girls were less likely to get married during a drought year in areas where dowry is popular (the bride's family pays the groom's), such as India, because the bride's family could not afford to pay the dowry.

• Other root causes of CEFM include:

- To save their daughters from sexual assault and prevent family dishonour, parents turned to CEFM.
- During times of crisis, sexual assault rates frequently rise, especially in temporary shelters or evacuation camps.

Link between CEFM and education:

- Gender inequality is the main cause of child marriage.
- In order to empower women and girls and provide them the ability to make their own decisions, money management and education are crucial.
- For girls in Malawi and India, there was an inverse relationship between educational attainment and CEFM.

• As parental education rose, CEFM incidence fell in Vietnam and India.

• Information about child marriage:

- 12 million females get married before they reach maturity each year.
- Years of work had caused the practise to wane, but it now faces a significant risk of returning.
- According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, modern slavery in Africa has become more severe due to climate change as well as other environmental issues.
- Over 3.1 million Africans are forced into marriage, and over 3.8 million are subjected to forced labour.
- Child marriage is a serious risk for girls who are in the early or late stages of puberty.
- Making sure that their schooling is uninterrupted and that they eat well can both help stop the cycle.

• Agreements and conventions:

- Child marriage is covered by a number of international conventions and agreements:
- The right to be shielded against child marriage is covered under Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- The Consent to Marriage, Minimum Marital Age, and Registration of Marriages Convention
- Afro-American Child Welfare and Rights Charter
- The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.
- Source \rightarrow The Hindu

4 – Details of Campbell Bay National Park:

GS III

Environmental Conservation

Context:

• Many locations in the Nicobar Islands are inaccessible to visitors, although Campbell Bay National Park is one exception.

• About the national park:

- The Great Nicobar Island is home to Campbell Bay National Park.
- In 1992, Campbell Bay National Park was established as a national park.
- An integral feature of the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve is Campbell Bay National Park.
- The vast Andaman and Nicobar Islands' national park is its largest.
- Sumatra Island in Indonesia is 190 miles away from Campbell Bay National Park, whereas Port Blair in India is 533 km away.
- The national park and Galathea National Park are only separated by a 12-kilometer-wide forested buffer zone.
- The clean, unspoiled beauty of nature is one of Campbell Bay National Park's distinguishing qualities.
- The park is made up of a wide variety of habitats, including marine ecosystems, mangrove swamps, and evergreen rainforests.
- Some endangered and endemic species, including the Nicobar megapode, Nicobar pigeon, and Nicobar long-tailed macaque, can be found in the park.

• Source → The Hindu

5 – About the Gujarat Declaration:

International Issues:

Context:

• The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced the "Gujarat Declaration" as the result of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in 2023.

Key information:

- The declaration reiterated international commitments to traditional, alternative, and integrative medicine, biodiversity, and indigenous knowledge.
- It affirms that India, as the country that is home to the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, plays a significant part in moving the summit's action agenda and other pertinent issues ahead.
- The Gujarat Declaration will act as a catalyst for utilising traditional medicine's potential from a scientific perspective.
- The power of conventional medicine will be unlocked through an emphasis on its integration into national health systems.

- In support of the objective of universal health coverage (UHC) and all health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Gujarat Declaration calls for stepping up efforts to further deploy evidence-based TCIM (Traditional Complementary Integrative Medicine) therapies and practises.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush co-hosted this first-ever global meeting on traditional medicine in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Source → The Hindu

