

August - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Queenie Hallegua, the last of the foreign Jewish women in Kochi, passed away recently.
- ❖ The Central Water Commission has launched the 'FloodWatch India' App 2.0 to give timely warning to the common people about the danger of floods in the rivers.
- ❖ NLC India Ltd has revalidated its Corporate Plan 2030 and Vision 2047 and has planned a three-fold increase in its total power generation capacity by 2030.
 - It intends to achieve the renewable energy portfolio mix of 50% of the total planned capacity, from the present RE capacity of 1.43 GW to 10.11 GW by 2030.
- ❖ IRCTC and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have collaborated to launch the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative to enhance the travel experience for passengers on Indian Railways and Nammo Bharat Trains.
 - It will allow passengers to book Nammo Bharat tickets through both platform with flexible cancellation and payment.

NATIONAL

PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana guidelines

PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

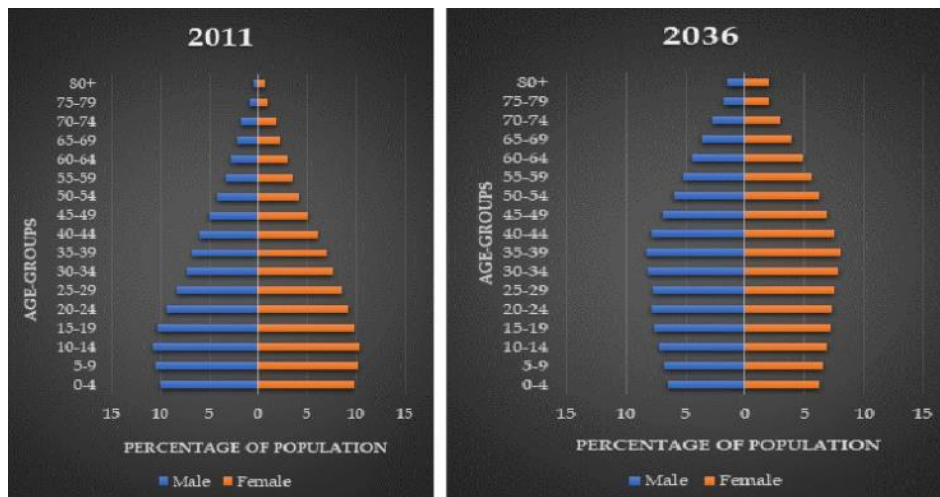
Benefits

- ❖ Households will be able to save electricity bills
- ❖ Households can earn additional income through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs
- ❖ Will result in addition of 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop solar in the residential sector
- ❖ Reduction of 720 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions over the 25-year lifetime of rooftop systems
- ❖ Scheme will create around 17 lakh direct jobs in manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, O&M and other services
- ❖ Total outlay of ₹ 75,021 crore
- ❖ Scheme provides a central financial assistance of
 - ₹ 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system
 - ₹ 60,000 for 2 kW systems
 - ₹ 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher
- ❖ Households will apply for subsidy through national portal and can select suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar
- ❖ Households can access collateral-free low-interest loan products of around 7% at present for installation
- ❖ Model Solar Village to be developed in each district to act as role model for adoption of rooftop solar in rural areas

- ❖ The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued the operational guidelines for implementing the model solar village under the 'PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana'.
- ❖ Under the scheme component 'Model Solar Village,' emphasis has been made on creating one model solar village per district across India.

- ❖ A total financial outlay of ₹800 crore has been allocated for this component.
- ❖ It is providing ₹1 crore per selected model solar village.
- ❖ In order to be considered a village under the competition mode, a village must be a revenue village with a population size above 5,000 (or 2,000 for special category States).
- ❖ The winning village in each district, with the highest RE capacity, will receive a central financial assistance grant of ₹1 crore.
- ❖ The Government of India has approved the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on February 29, 2024.
- ❖ It aims to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity.
- ❖ The scheme has an outlay of ₹75,021 crore and is to be implemented till FY27.

Women and Men in India 2023

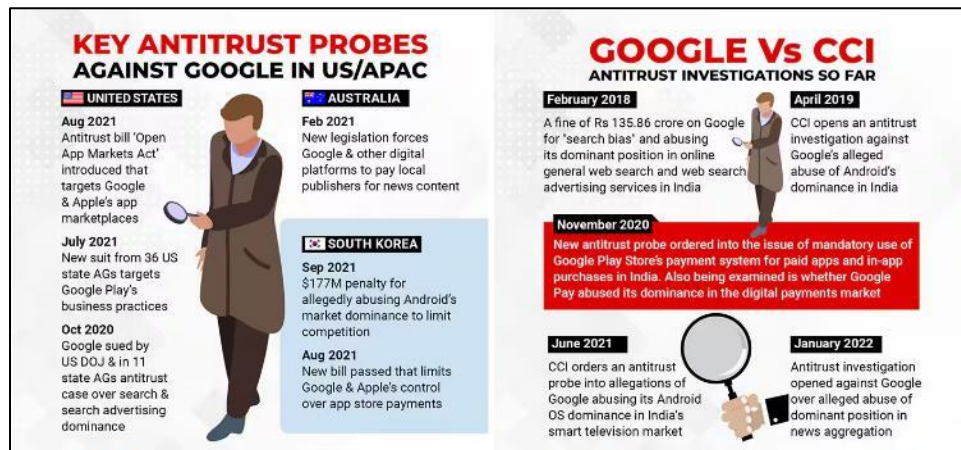


- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 25th issue of its publication titled 'Women and Men in India 2023'.
- ❖ By 2036, population of India is expected to reach 152.2 Crore, with a slightly improved female percentage of 48.8% as compared to 48.5 percent in 2011.
- ❖ The proportion of individuals under 15 years is projected to decrease from 2011 to 2036.
- ❖ The sex ratio which is projected to increase from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036, highlighting a positive trend in gender equality.
- ❖ Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) in the age group of 20-24 and 25-29 has been reduced from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6 respectively.

- ❖ The ASFR for the age 35-39 for the above period has been increased from 32.7 to 35.6.
- ❖ Adolescent Fertility Rate was 33.9 for illiterate population whereas 11.0 for the literate in 2020.
- ❖ The Under 5 Mortality Rate data shows that it has decreased from 43 in 2015 to 32 in 2020.
- ❖ Female IMR had always been higher than that of male but in 2020, both were equal at the level of 28 infants per 1000 live births.

INTERNATIONAL

US Antitrust Ruling Against Google



The infographic is divided into two main sections. The left section, 'KEY ANTITRUST PROBES AGAINST GOOGLE IN US/APAC', lists events in the United States, Australia, and South Korea. The right section, 'GOOGLE Vs CCI ANTITRUST INVESTIGATIONS SO FAR', lists events in India from February 2018 to January 2022. A central illustration shows a man in a suit holding a magnifying glass over a smartphone.

Country	Date	Event
United States	Aug 2021	Antitrust bill 'Open App Markets Act' introduced that targets Google & Apple's app marketplaces
United States	July 2021	New suit from 36 US state AGs targets Google Play's business practices
United States	Oct 2020	Google sued by US DOJ & in 11 state AGs antitrust case over search & search advertising dominance
Australia	Feb 2021	New legislation forces Google & other digital platforms to pay local publishers for news content
South Korea	Sep 2021	\$177M penalty for allegedly abusing Android's market dominance to limit competition
South Korea	Aug 2021	New bill passed that limits Google & Apple's control over app store payments
India	February 2018	A fine of Rs 135.86 crore on Google for 'search bias' and abusing its dominant position in online general web search and web search advertising services in India
India	April 2019	CCI opens an antitrust investigation against Google's alleged abuse of Android's dominance in India
India	November 2020	New antitrust probe ordered into the issue of mandatory use of Google Play Store's payment system for paid apps and in-app purchases in India. Also being examined is whether Google Pay abused its dominance in the digital payments market
India	June 2021	CCI orders an antitrust probe into allegations of Google abusing its Android OS dominance in India's smart television market
India	January 2022	Antitrust investigation opened against Google over alleged abuse of dominant position in news aggregation

- ❖ Google's payments to make its search engine the default option on smartphone web browsers violate the US antitrust law.
- ❖ Google pays for this privilege and has shelled out more than \$26 billion for it in 2021.
- ❖ The court ruled that Google had monopoly power in the markets for general search services and general search text ads.
- ❖ It has also slammed Google for failing to preserve employees' chat messages that could have served as trial evidence.
- ❖ In India too, Google has faced allegations of anti-competitive practices.

ECONOMY

FPI investment in India 2023-24

- ❖ The total number of registered FPIs in India reached 11,219.



- ❖ This marks a slight increase from the previous year, where the number stood at 11,081.
- ❖ The United States accounts for the highest share of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) investing in India during the fiscal year 2023-24.
- ❖ Out of the total registered FPIs, the United States led with 3,457 investors.
- ❖ It is followed by Luxembourg with 1,393 and Canada with 804.
- ❖ FPI in India during 2023-24 was the highest since 1992-93.

FDI	FPI
1. It is long-term investment	1. It is generally short-term investment
2. Investment in physical assets	2. Investment in financial assets
3. Aim is to increase enterprise capacity or productivity or change management control	3. Aim is to increase capital availability
4. Leads to technology transfer, access to markets and management inputs	4. FPI results in only capital inflows
5. FDI flows into the primary market	5. FPI flows into the secondary market
6. Entry and exit is relatively difficult	6. Entry and exist is relatively easy
7. FDI is eligible for profits of the company	7. FPI is eligible for capital gain
8. Does not tend be speculative	8. Tends to be speculative
9. Direct impact on employment of labour and wages	9. No direct impact on employment of labour and wages
	10. Fleeting interest in mgt.

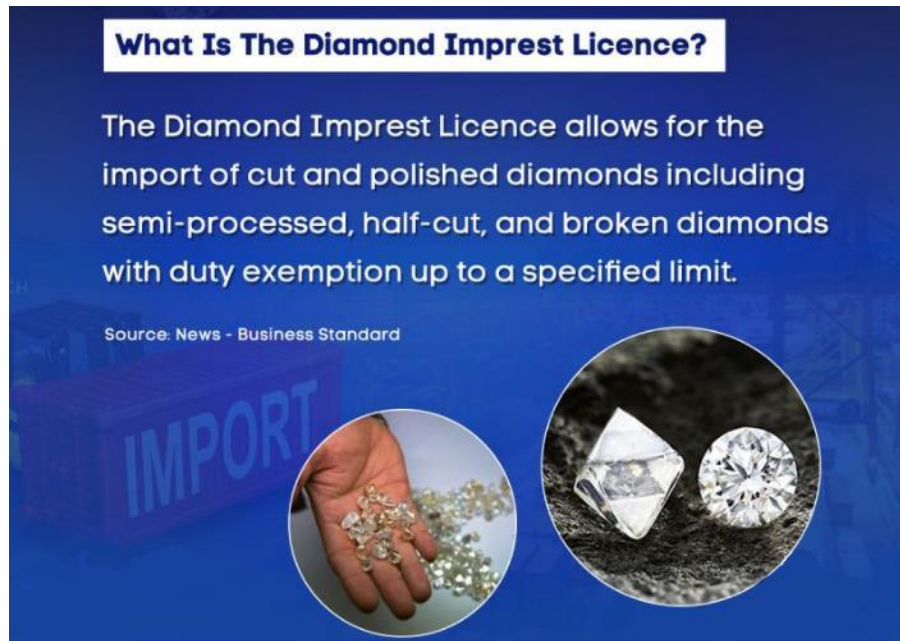
Michael Debabrata Patra committee

On August 12, The RBI formed a 10 members committee led by Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra to align its statistics with global standards, with a report due by November 2024.

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra.
- ❖ Purpose of the committees are

- To benchmark the statistics regularly disseminated by it against global standards/best practices;
- Study the quality of other regular data, where such benchmarks do not exist (e.g., sectors of national priority); and
- Provide guidance on the scope for any further data refinement.

Diamond Imprest License



- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced the introduction of the Diamond Imprest Licence for Gems and Jewellery Sector.
- ❖ It allows import duty exemption on cut and polished diamonds up to a specified limit.
- ❖ The gems and jewellery exporters were demanding for this licence.
- ❖ The licence allows eligible exporters to import cut and polished diamonds, including semi-processed, half-cut, and broken diamonds.
- ❖ Exporters can import diamonds up to 5 per cent of their average turnover from the past three years, with a requirement to add 10 per cent value.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Plastic-Eating Fungi

- ❖ Scientists in Germany have identified plastic-eating fungi.

- ❖ Of the 18 selected fungal strains, four efficiently utilise the plastics, especially the polyurethane which is used to make construction foam.
- ❖ Polyethylene, used in plastic bags and packaging, was much slower to degrade.
- ❖ Plastic is made from fossil carbon and if the mushrooms break it down, it's no different to us burning oil or gas and releasing CO₂ into the atmosphere.
- ❖ Some 390 million tonnes of plastic were produced worldwide in 2021, up from 1.7 million tonnes in 1950.
- ❖ But, less than 10% of plastic wastes only recycled worldwide.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Father of Agni missiles

**Renowned DRDO scientist
Ram Narain Agarwal, Father of
Agni Missiles, passes away**



- ❖ Ram Narain Agarwal, regarded as the 'father of Agni missiles' in India, died recently at Hyderabad.

- ❖ He had served as the Agni programme director and also as the director of ASL (Advanced Systems Laboratory) in Hyderabad.
- ❖ He led India's Agni missile programme from its inception in 1983 until his retirement in 2005.
- ❖ The Centre conferred him with Padma Shri in the year 1990 and Padma Bhushan in 2000.
- ❖ The Agni missile is the most ambitious of the five missiles sought to be developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme launched by the Union government in 1983.
- ❖ The others were Prithvi, Akash, Nag, and Trishul.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ancient Solar Calendar - Turkey

- ❖ Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest, 12,000 years old calendar.
- ❖ The ancient carving of the sun, moon, and various constellations sits on a pillar in Göbekli Tepe in southern Turkey.
- ❖ Researchers believe that ancient people used this so-called lunisolar calendar to mark the changing of the seasons.
- ❖ Apparently, it even recorded a falling comet.
- ❖ The Göbekli Tepe site is home to the world's oldest known manmade structures.
- ❖ They predate Stonehenge of England by over 6,000 years.

