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## DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**08.04.2021**

**FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS**

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
  - To have a bank of mains questions.
  - And interesting to read.
  - Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - **TH**  
INDIAN EXPRESS - **IE**  
BUSINESS LINE - **BL**  
ECONOMIC TIMES - **ET**  
TIMES OF INDIA - **TOI**

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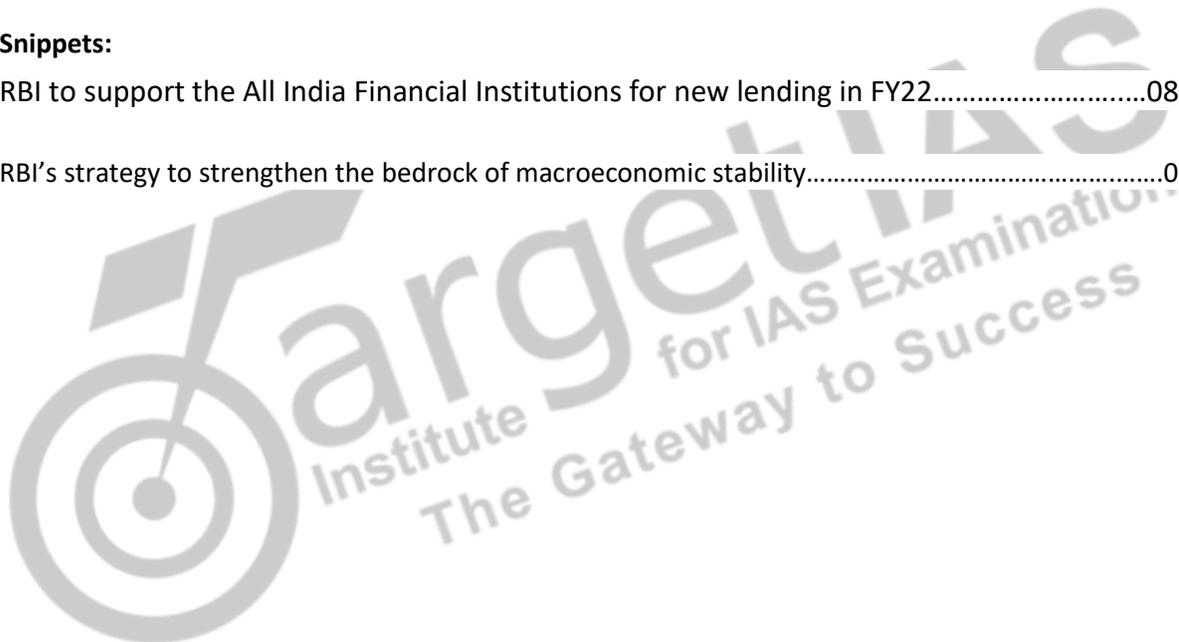
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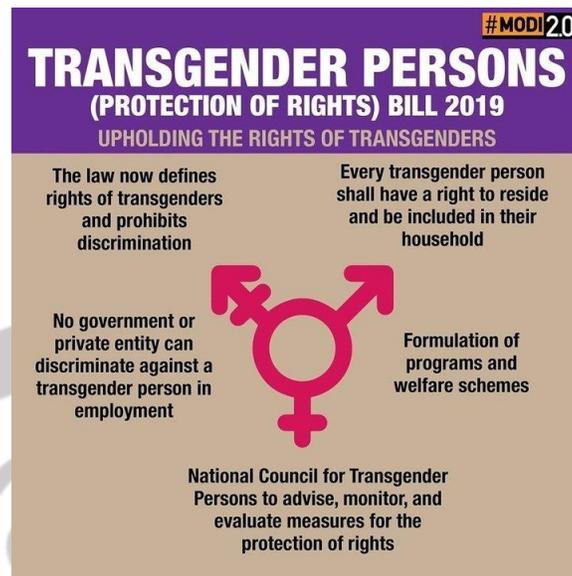
## ESSAY PAPER

### EDITORIAL

**Q- Highlight the steps taken at the regional and global level to pave a way forward for Trans persons?**

**INTRODUCTION** = The binary notion of gender, which denied equal protection of law to transgenders, was rejected and the required relief was provided by the top court in the 2014 NALSA vs. Union of India case. Which ruled that transgender persons have the right to decide their self-identified gender.

- The recently enacted **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**, which paved the way for issuing a certificate of transgender identity, is in spirit with international conventions, particularly –
  1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948,
  2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966,
  3. and The Yogyakarta Principles, 2006.

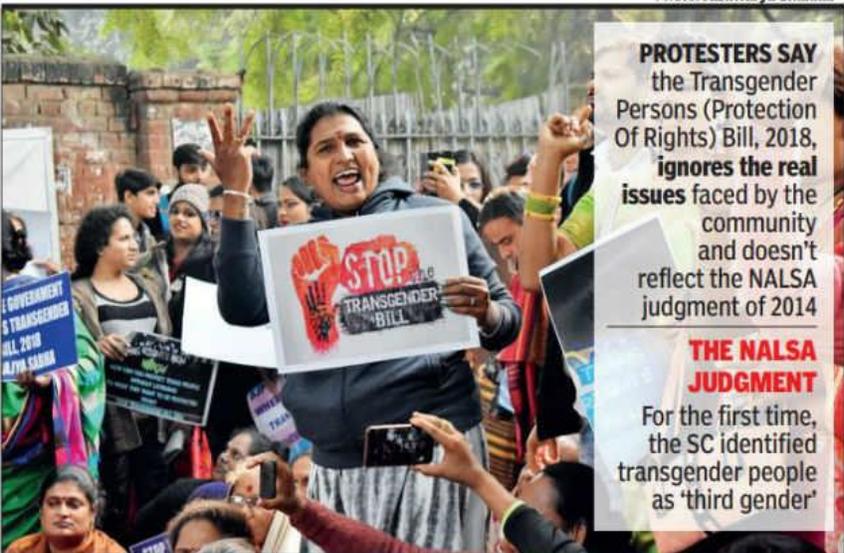


- a. The Act recognises that transgender persons have a legal right to self-perceived gender identity in accordance with the principle of the “Psychological Test” instead of the “Biological Test”.
- b. According to law, transgender persons cannot be discriminated against in any matter relating to employment by any establishment.
  - In another recent judgment, **the Kerala High Court allowed a petition moved by a transwoman seeking admission into the National Cadet Corps based on her self-claimed gender identity.** The court held that the provisions of the NCC Act cannot preclude the operation of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act. Thus, this new protective Central legislation has given a new lease of life to the whole community.
  - And in a recent historic way, **No less than 13 members of the transgender community have been selected recently as constables under the Chhattisgarh police.**
- a. Though each of the selected persons has their own painful stories of abuse, discrimination and abandonment, their induction into the police force is a vital message to people that they are as physically and mentally competent as others.
- b. This is more significant in the backdrop of the fact that there **was no reservation for the transgender community as a separate category.**
- c. This may, hence, help in changing the perception of people who think of them as a fearful entity with a stigma of identity, disability, criminality, or untouchability.

- **The Chhattisgarh government constituted the Third Gender Welfare Board** to take up various welfare measures in favour of trans people. Instructions were issued to all departments to include 'third gender' as an option (along with male and female) in official documents that require mentioning the gender or sex of a person.
- **District-level committees** were constituted to identify members of the transgender community so that welfare schemes could be implemented for their benefit. **Sensitisation workshops** were organised at State and district levels by the police department and police officers were apprised about the Central law and the Supreme Court's ruling on transgenders.
- Earlier, a few transgenders were inducted into the Tamil Nadu police too. The selected trans recruits are excited to start their new innings of life with novel challenges, but a lot more needs to be done to bring about changes in the perception of people towards this marginalised community. **The law must be implemented in letter and spirit to fulfil its objective. At the same time, society needs to erase its biases and accept transgender people as equal human beings with humility.**

**For Prelims – A glance at the associated problems of the Transgender Persons Act, 2019 -**

Photo: Aishwarya Shankar



**PROTESTERS SAY** the Transgender Persons (Protection Of Rights) Bill, 2018, **ignores the real issues** faced by the community and doesn't reflect the NALSA judgment of 2014

**THE NALSA JUDGMENT**  
For the first time, the SC identified transgender people as 'third gender'

**PROBLEMS WITH THE BILL**

- 1 Two-tier system within transgender community.** People without sex-reassignment surgery can only identify as transgender and not as male or female
- 2 Identification as transgender** depends on scrutiny and certification by district screening committee
- 3 Traditional hijra livelihoods** and family structures criminalised
- 4 Institutionalisation of transgender** persons who can't live with biological families
- 5 Light punishment** for violence against trans-people

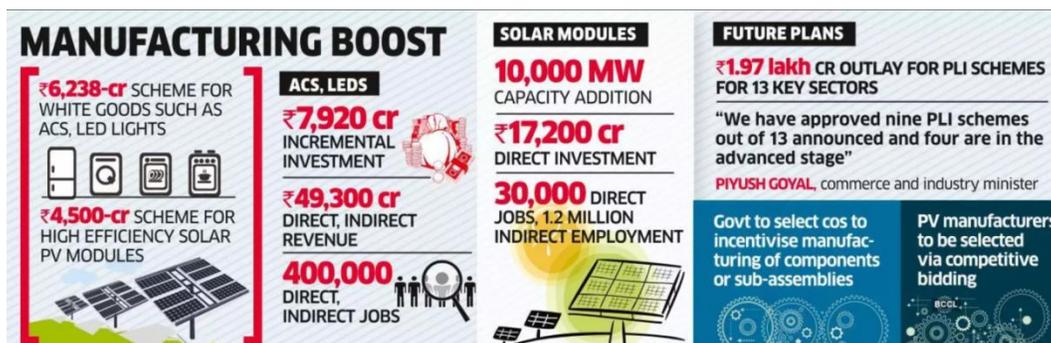
### GS 3

#### ❖ Economic Development

**Q-** Explain the term White Goods and what role Production Linked Incentive Scheme has to play there?

**BACKGROUND** = Large electrical goods used domestically such as refrigerators and washing machines, typically white in colour are called as "White Goods". Where the **Union Cabinet recently approved two production-linked incentive schemes for white goods (air-conditioners and LED lights) and high-efficiency solar photovoltaic modules.**

The Cabinet took another step towards the vision of “Atmanirbhar Bharat” (self-reliant India) with the approval for the ₹6,238-crore PLI scheme for air-conditioners and LEDs



**The prime objective of the PLI scheme is to –**

1. Make manufacturing in India globally competitive by removing sectoral disabilities,
2. Creating economies of scale and ensuring efficiencies.
3. It is designed to create complete component ecosystem in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains.

**What is it?**

Producers get incentives on incremental sales they generate over 5 years.

For instance, if a manufacturer generates Rs 1,000 crore additional sales after signing up for the scheme, it will get a percentage of this amount from the government.

#### **Effects on the Economy -**

1. The scheme would extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods made in India for five years. The statement said the scheme was estimated to lead to incremental investment of ₹7,920 crore over five years and lead to production worth ₹1.68 lakh crore, as well as lead to 4 lakh jobs.
2. The Cabinet also approved a proposal of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for a PLI scheme for high efficiency solar PV modules with an outlay of ₹4,500 crore.
3. “Solar capacity addition presently depends largely upon imported solar PV cells and modules as the domestic manufacturing industry has limited operational capacities of solar PV cells and modules. The **National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules** will reduce import dependence in a strategic sector like electricity.
4. The scheme was expected to lead to 10,000 MW of additional capacity of solar PV plants and investment of around ₹17,200 crore in solar PV manufacturing projects
5. The scheme would lead to direct employment of 30,000 people and indirect jobs to 1.2 lakh.

#### **❖ Economic Development**

**Q- What are Opium Alkaloids and why is the government planning to rope in Private participation in their production?**

**BACKGROUND = The Opium Alkaloids.** The six opium alkaloids which occur naturally in the largest amounts are morphine, narcotine, codeine, thebaine, papaverine and narceine. Out of which all except

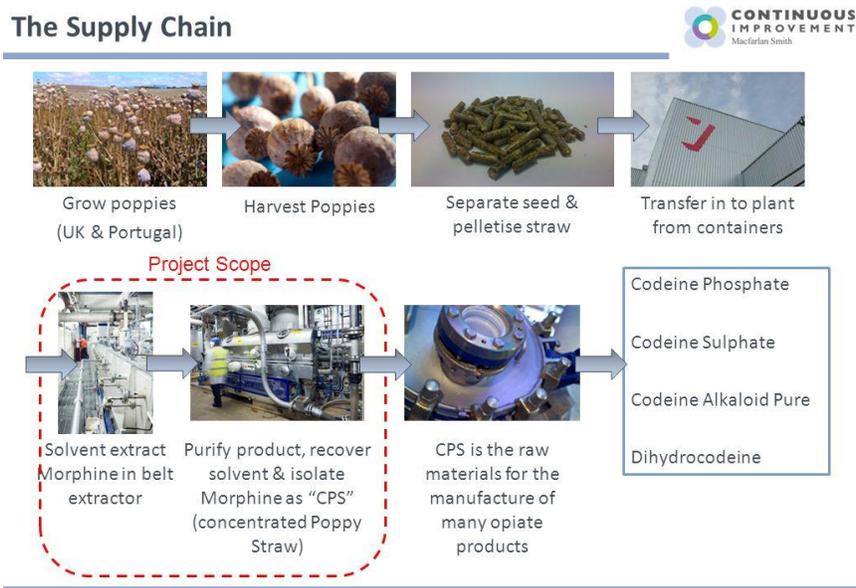
Narceine have been detected on **poppy seeds**; they are widely used by the food industry for decoration and flavor but can introduce **opium alkaloids** into the food chain.



- Recently, the Union government has decided to rope in the private sector to commence production of concentrated poppy straw from India's opium crop to boost the yield of alkaloids, used for medical purposes and exported to several countries.

Among the few countries permitted to cultivate the opium poppy crop for export and extraction of alkaloids, **India currently only extracts alkaloids from opium gum at facilities controlled by the Revenue Department in the Finance Ministry.** This entails farmers extracting gum by manually lancing the opium pods and selling the gum to government factories.

**The Ministry has now decided to switch to new technologies,** after trial cultivation reports submitted last year **by two private firms showed higher extraction of alkaloids using the concentrated poppy straw (CPS).**

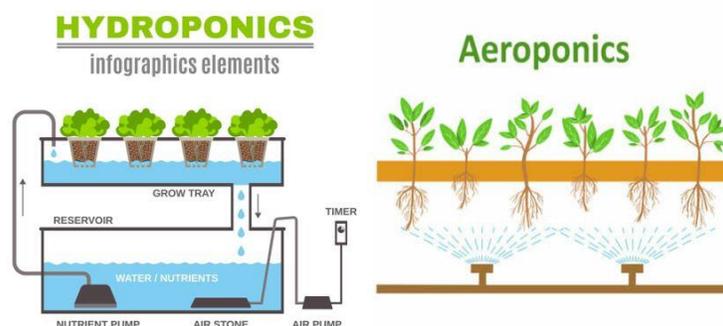


The outcome of the two trials conducted in the crop years of 2017-18 and 2018-19 were received in February 2020 and June 2020.

- The alkaloid extraction from the current opium crop using the CPS was found more than opium gum, **it is possible to have two or three crop cycles in one year** if we use CPS varieties of seeds that can be grown in indoor greenhouses too.
- India's opium crop acreage has been steadily declining over the years and using the **CPS extraction method is expected to help cut the occasional dependence on imports of products like codeine (extracted from opium) for medicinal uses.**

3. While roping in private players to partner with the government in producing CPS and extracting alkaloids from it is **likely to require amendments to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**, the Department has decided to appoint a consultant to help frame the bidding parameters and concession agreements for the same –
- The consultant will be required to help frame the modalities for this endeavour, with an appropriate model including public-private partnership (PPP), advise on the changes needed to the rules and laws to facilitate this, and recommend security measures to protect the crop and the final product.
  - The firms carrying out the trials faced legal hassles in terms of getting relevant licences from the State governments to manufacture bulk alkaloids on their premises, which will need to be ironed out. **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are the three traditional opium-growing States**, where poppy cultivation is allowed based on licences issued annually by the Central Bureau of Narcotics.
- As per the trials' findings, the imported seeds of certain CPS varieties worked effectively in Indian fields and their narcotic raw material yield was much higher from imported seeds instead of those used currently.

One of the firms purchased poppy straw of locally cultivated crop to analyse the yield from the same crop with the CPS method. They also **cultivated CPS with hydroponic and aeroponic methods under a greenhouse environment**. The other firm imported seeds from the U.K. and Australia, and carried out cultivation in association with an agriculture university.



### Snippets

#### ❖ Economic Development

**Q- What are the steps taken by RBI to support the All India Financial Institutions for new lending in FY22?**

- To help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and aid economic revival, the RBI said it would extend fresh support of ₹50,000 crore to the All India Financial Institutions for new lending in FY22.
- Accordingly, NABARD will be provided a special liquidity facility (SLF) of ₹25,000 crore for one year to support agriculture and allied activities, the rural non-farm sector and non-banking financial companies-micro finance institutions
- An SLF of ₹10,000 crore will be extended to the National Housing Bank for one year to support the housing sector.
- SIDBI will be provided ₹15,000 crore under this facility for up to one year for funding of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). **All three facilities will be available at the prevailing policy repo rate.**
- Signalling the importance of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to deal with bad loans, the RBI said it would constitute a committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of ARCs in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling such entities to meet the growing requirements of the financial sector.

- A six-month extension to September 30 for Priority Sector Lending (PSL) classification for lending by banks to NBFCs for 'on-lending' to sectors that contribute significantly to the economy in terms of export and employment — has been approved. This would provide an impetus to NBFCs providing credit at the bottom of the pyramid.

#### ❖ Economic Development

##### Q- Discuss RBI's strategy to strengthen the bedrock of macroeconomic stability?

**BACKGROUND** = The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward

- It also unanimously decided to leave the policy repo rate unchanged at 4%

**Status quo**  
Highlights from the RBI's latest monetary policy statement

- Repo, reverse repo & bank rates remain unchanged at 4%, 3.35%, 4.25%
- Accommodative stance to spur growth to continue
- Vows to keep inflation within target
- FY22 GDP growth projection retained at 10.5%
- Headline inflation testing the upper tolerance level

- Projection for CPI inflation revised to 5% in Q4 FY21; 5.2% for Q1 FY22, 5.2% for Q2 FY22; 4.4% for Q3 FY22; and 5.1% for Q4 FY22, with risks broadly balanced



**Surge in COVID-19 cases adds uncertainty to growth outlook**

- A key aspect of this strategy will be to strengthen the bedrock of macroeconomic stability that has anchored India's revival from the pandemic. This will help stakeholders in taking efficient spending decisions over longer horizons, thereby improving the investment climate
- The focus must now be on containing the spread of the virus as well as on economic revival by consolidating the gains achieved so far and sustaining the impulses of growth in the new financial year.
- Rural demand remains buoyant and record agriculture production in 2020-21 bodes well for its resilience. Urban demand has gained traction and should get a fillip with the ongoing vaccination drive.
- Add to this the fact that IHS Markit's Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey for March revealed that business sentiment had slid to a seven-month low.

Governor Shaktikanta Das has flagged the critical significance that this year's monsoon rains will have on food prices, which have been a recent source of upward pressure on price stability.



**A fast petrol vessel PS Zoroaster that helps in carrying out anti-piracy operations is being gifted by India to which of the following nation that has been a steady part of India's policy for the Indian Ocean region?**

- a. Sri Lanka
- b. Maldives
- c. Madagascar
- d. Seychelles



**Integrated Pest Management in Sugarcane resulted into which of the following performances of components and techniques that can be utilized in Integrated Pest Management programme?**

1. Chemical control is not successful in sugarcane fields because of technical and mechanical problems of insecticide applications and also insecticide contamination eventually reaching humans.
  2. Integration of biological control, particularly the egg parasite, *Trichogramma* species and modification of cultural practices has been found to keep the pest densities below economic injury levels.
- a. 1 alone      b. 2 alone  
c. Both      d. None

**Answer – C**

**NOTE:** Pesticides are regulated in India through the **Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971**, the experiences in administering this Act over the last five decades has exposed certain gaps. In this context, the union cabinet has recently approved the **Pesticides Management Bill, 2020**.

#### **Components of Integrated Pest Management**

Various components and techniques that can be utilized in Integrated Pest Management programmes are as follows:

1. Cultural control: Use of resistant varieties of crops is a promising technique in IPM. Moderately to low level of resistance is best integrated with chemical and biocontrol agents. Crop rotation and sanitation are also used to reduce the pest population to lower levels.
2. Mechanical control: Use of screens or barriers or handpicking in nursery stage of the crops and use of light traps to kill egg-laying adults can bring down the population for the other methods to be effective.
3. Biological control: Natural enemies are commonly utilized in IPM programmes. Emphasis is given to protection and augmentation of indigenous natural enemies and recolonisation of those that have been wiped out due to indiscriminate use of insecticides.
4. Chemical control: Minimal use of insecticides is recommended in IPM. Rule of the thumb is not to use insecticides unless absolutely necessary. Application methods that do not bring insecticides in contact with natural enemies are favoured in IPM programme
5. Regulatory methods: Plant and animal quarantines by the government and collective eradication and suppression in large areas help in providing long-lasting management. International efforts to suppress noxious pests like locusts have proved fruitful.

In most of the cases, chemical, biological and varietal resistances are combined to manage the population of pest species. Examples of Integrated Pest Management

**Integrated Pest Management in Paddy:** FAO developed an intercountry programme for IPM in South and Southeast Asia by integrating biological, chemical and cultural control methods.

**Integrated Pest Management in Sugarcane:** Chemical control is not successful in sugarcane fields because of technical and mechanical problems of insecticide applications and also insecticide contamination eventually reaching humans. Integration of biological control, particularly the egg parasite, *Trichogramma* species and modification of cultural practices has been found to keep the pest densities below economic injury levels.

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