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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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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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ESSAY PAPER

EDITORIAL

Q- What is the Significance of the NYAY Scheme and why is its revival a welcome step?

INTRODUCTION = The Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) has become more relevant since it was first proposed two years back. **The Congress's flagship 2019 scheme that proposed a monthly transfer of ₹6,000 to households living below the poverty line**, resurface prominently in the Congress-led United Democratic Front's manifesto for the Kerala Assembly election.

	<p style="text-align: center;">What is the scheme called?</p> <p>It is called the Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) as announced by Congress president Rahul Gandhi.</p>
<p>IS IT A UNIVERSAL SCHEME?</p>	
<p>NYAY is not a universal scheme and only targeted at 20 per cent of the poorest families of India. About five crore families have been targeted.</p>	
	<p>HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS SCHEME?</p> <p>At an average family size of five, 25 crore people can benefit from this scheme.</p>

Unconditional cash transfers to the poor is a resoundingly good idea. Of course, cash transfers lead to important short-term effects –

1. Better nutrition,
2. Less food insecurity,
3. Higher consumption, and so on.
4. But their benefits extend beyond this. Research shows that by freeing people from being held hostage to hunger and insecurity and anxiety about basic needs, even a modest cash transfer can radically transform people's futures, **unlocking stymied entrepreneurship, investment, and eventually a sustainable exit from poverty.** It is hard to dream and plan on an empty stomach, and cash transfers help ease that problem.

They are, thus, a powerful instrument for sustainable poverty reduction.

Relevance in the current scenario –

The COVID-19 pandemic and the hardships endured by rural-urban migrants during the countrywide lockdown, followed by the crippling economic slowdown, **have only made the case for it stronger.** Had a NYAY-like scheme been in place –

1. Migrant workers who found themselves thrown out of work by the lockdown might have had the wherewithal to remain where they were, rather than being forced to make perilous journeys home.
2. Businesses that faced labour shortages might have found it easier to restart activity once restrictions eased,
3. And cash in the hands of potential consumers could have helped in recovering from the dramatic economic slump that the pandemic set off.

Behavioural Tool -

This is not mere speculation. A **non-profit behavioural science research and design firm, ideas42, has been testing several 'nudges' to help people make the most of their government cash benefits, in**

partnership with the World Bank and governments in Africa. Much of this work predated the pandemic, and it was being seen that the behavioural methods that were designed, consisting of a simple tool to help people –

1. Articulate long-term goals and figure out how much money to set aside to achieve these goals (often things like purchasing livestock or inputs for a small business),
2. Helped people save more,
3. Make some productive investments,
4. And pay off high-interest debt.

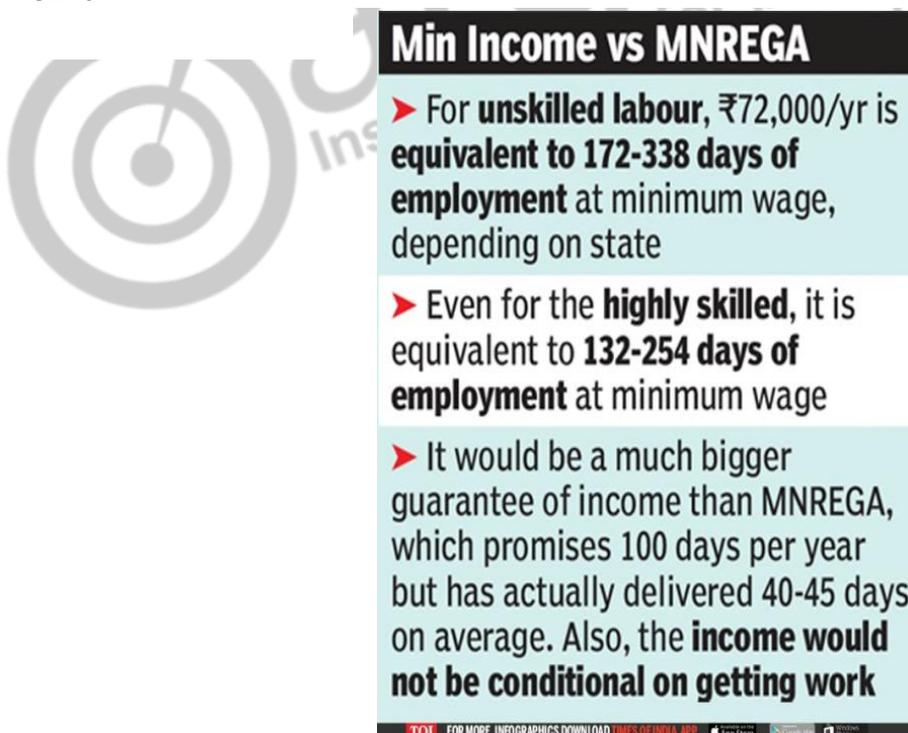
Similar Case Studies -

After the pandemic hit, ideas42 was able to **interview beneficiaries of cash transfer schemes in Kenya's rural areas** — both those who had received only cash and those who had also received the behavioural 'planning tools'. Several months into the pandemic, everyone reported a loss of income and said the cash they had received helped them cope. However, those who received the "nudge" tools fared better because they had saved more, were more likely to have made productive investments, and were more optimistic about their future. Even during a pandemic, cash transfers helped people feel in control, and adding behavioural tools increased the cash's impact on people's well-being.

WAY FORWARD

A state-level implementation of a programme like NYAY facilitates the necessary tinkering and ironing out of logistical challenges. It also allows for strategically incorporating 'nudges' and other proven interventions that can help magnify the impact of cash transfers. Such interventions can help ensure that people receiving cash are not only able to meet their immediate needs, but are also able to set some money aside for contingencies, such as a pandemic or natural disasters. Whether or not NYAY sees the light of day in Kerala depends on the outcome of the election. But the Congress is right to stick with a concept that has become more significant now.

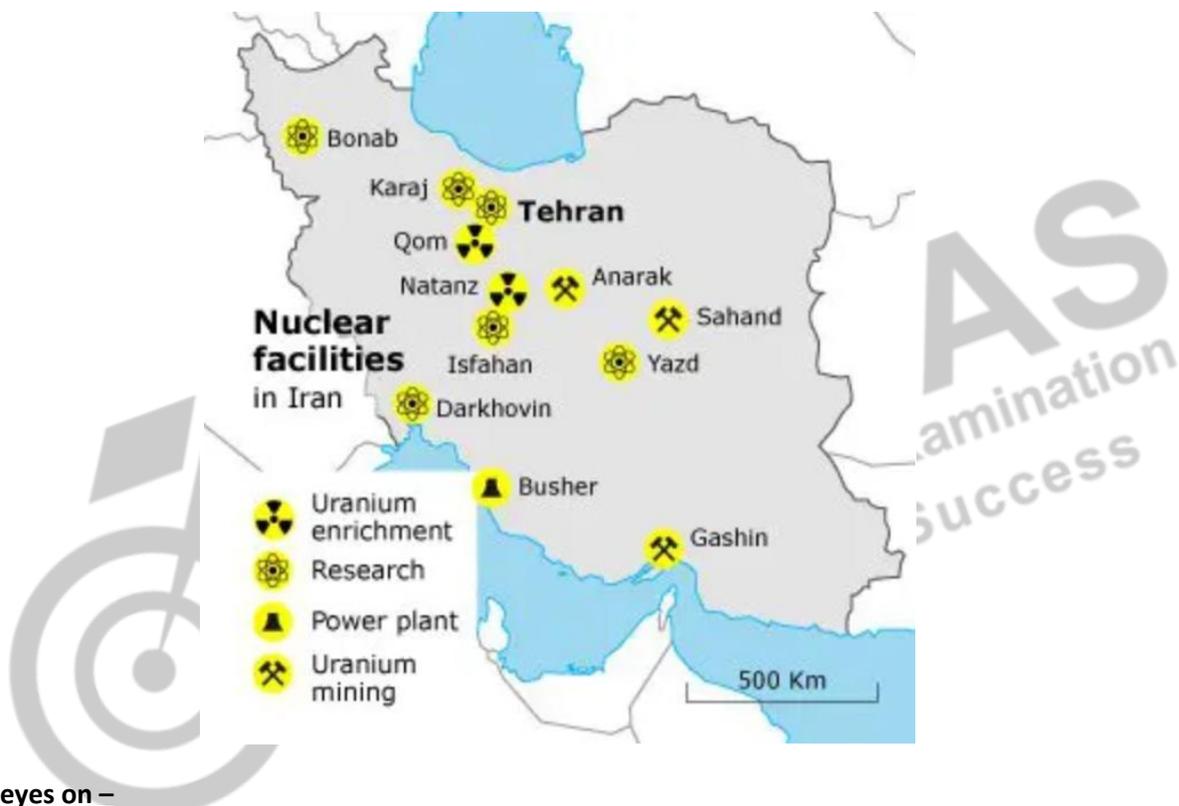
For Prelims -



GS 2❖ **International Relations****Q- Who are the suspects in the 'Natanz Black Out' and what are its consequences?**

BACKGROUND = Iran's underground Natanz nuclear facility lost power on Sunday just hours after starting up new advanced centrifuges capable of enriching uranium faster, the latest incident to strike the site amid negotiations over the tattered atomic accord with world powers. Iran described a blackout at its Natanz atomic facility an act of "nuclear terrorism," raising regional tensions.

Natanz was built largely underground to withstand enemy airstrikes. It became a flashpoint for Western fears about Iran's nuclear plan in 2002, when satellite photos showed Iran building its underground centrifuges facility at the site.

**All eyes on –**

Multiple Israeli media outlets reported that an Israeli cyberattack caused the blackout in Natanz. Public broadcaster Kan said the **Mossad was behind the attack.** (Mossad, short for HaMossad leModi'in uleTafkidim Meyuhadim, is the national intelligence agency of Israel. It is one of the main entities in the Israeli Intelligence Community, along with Aman and Shin Bet. Mossad is responsible for intelligence collection, covert operations, and counter-terrorism.)

Consequence –

1. If Israel caused the blackout, it further heightens tensions between the two nations, already engaged in a shadow conflict across the wider West Asia.
 - a. To thwart the goals of this terrorist movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to seriously improve nuclear technology on the one hand
 - b. And to lift oppressive sanctions on the other hand

These developments also complicate efforts by the U.S., Israel's main security partner, to re-enter the atomic accord aimed at limiting Tehran's nuclear programme.

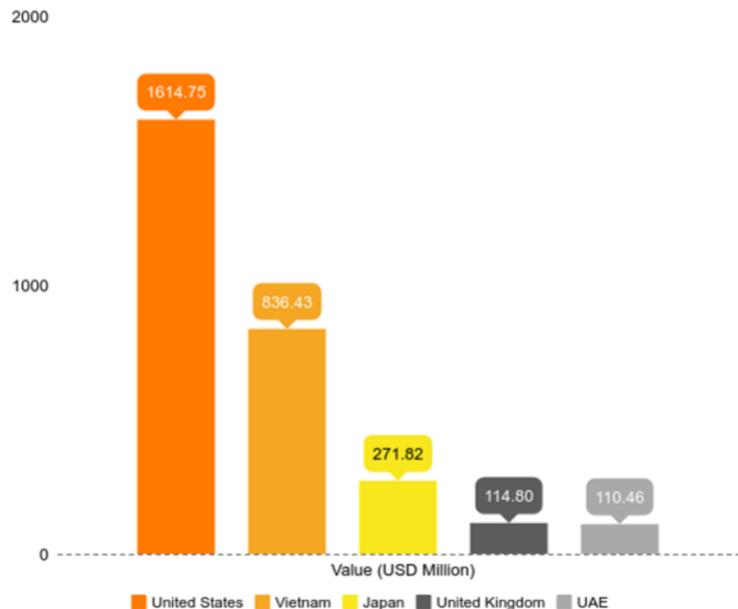
GS 3**❖ Economic Development****Q- Explain the need for centre to certify shrimp farms and its Plan of Action?**

BACKGROUND = The Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) has developed a certification scheme for aquaculture products called Shaphari, a Sanskrit word that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.

Scenario of India's Shrimp Exports -

- India exported frozen shrimp worth almost \$5 billion in 2019-20 to the U.S. and China — its biggest buyers.
- Frozen shrimp is India's largest exported seafood item. It constituted 50.58% in quantity and 73.2% in terms of total U.S. dollar earnings from the sector during 2019-20. Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are the major shrimp producing States, and around 95% of the cultured shrimp produce is exported

Top Destination Countries of Indian Shrimp



- **But a combination of factors had hurt export volumes in recent months**, including container shortages and incidents of seafood consignments being rejected because of food safety concerns. Such as due to the presence of antibiotic residue and this is a matter of concern for exporters.
1. We already have a National **Residue Control Programme for food safety issues in farm produce and pre-harvest testing system in place.**
 2. But **this certification was proposed as a market-based tool for hatcheries to adopt good aquaculture practices and help produce quality antibiotic-free shrimp products** to assure global consumers.
 3. Those who successfully clear multiple audits of their operations shall be granted a certificate for a period of two years

The Shaphari scheme is based on the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's technical guidelines on aquaculture certification and will have two components — certifying hatcheries for the quality of their seeds and, separately, approving shrimp farms that adopt the requisite good practices. "The entire certification process will be online to minimise human errors and ensure higher credibility and transparency," also the guidelines for certification of farms are under preparation in consultation with stakeholders.

For Prelims

India is the second largest fish producer in the world with a total production of 13.7 million metric tonnes in 2018-19 providing meaningful employment to 14 million people across the value chain in harvesting, processing packaging, and distribution. During 2019-20, India exported 12.89 lakh MT of seafood worth US\$6.68 Billion. The commodity basket of Indian fishery export is highly diversified and bulk of the exports is traded in the frozen form.

Frozen shrimp is the largest exported item, both in terms of quantity and value during the last decade. India exported 6.52 lakh MT of frozen shrimp worth US\$4889.12 million during 2019-20. Frozen shrimp constitute 0.58% in quantity and 73.21% in terms of total USD earnings. Largest market for Indian frozen shrimp is USA followed by South East Asia, European Union, China, Japan and Middle East countries. Farmed *L.vannamei* shrimp is the single largest contributor for the seafood export basked by contributing 5.12 lakh MT.

Over the past few years, frequent recalls of import rejections by importing countries have increased consumer awareness on health hazards antibiotics residue and pharmacologically active substances present in the seafood, resulted in great deal of public concern particularly in the developed countries where food safety concerns are dealt at the Governmental level.

Regulations on Antibiotic use in Aquaculture: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), Government of India has notified MRLs of antibiotics and heavy metals in the marine products exported (Notification SO 792 (E) dated Aug 17, 2001). As per the MOCI notification five antibiotics viz chloramphenicol, furazolidone, neomycin, nalidixic acid and sulphamethaxazole are banned and no residues should be left in the animal body.

There are nine substances included of Regulation 2377/90/EEC that may not be used in food producing species because no safe level of residue can be determined: chloramphenicol, chloroform, chlorpromazine, colchicine, dapsone, dimetridazole, metronidazole, nitrofurans (including furazolidone) and ronidazole. The presence of such substance residues (including metabolites) is prima facie evidence of the use of prohibited substances in a food animal species.

Importance of Certification: Certification of hatcheries for production of antibiotic free seed has emerged as one of the main interventions to free Indian aquaculture from the use of antibiotics. This is also seen as a tool to improve consumer confidence.

Quality Certifications issued by international bodies are expensive and beyond the reach of small and marginal producers. In this circumstance, MPEDA formulated a scheme for Certification of Hatcheries for production of antibiotic free seeds in consultation with Farmer representatives, Hatchery representatives, Fisheries research institutions, EIA and CAA.

Part from National Residue Control Programme (NRCP) and Pre Harvest Test (PHT) initiatives implemented by MPEDA, development of Certification of Aquaculture which is named as 'SHAPHARI' meaning superior quality of fishery product suitable for human consumption is another milestone initiative to address the above issue on food security.

Stake holder meetings were conducted in association with Society of Aquaculture Professionals (SAP) in shrimp farming areas in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh during 2018-19 to find a lasting solution to issues related to food security aspects in aquaculture production. One of the decisions of the stakeholder consultations was to start a certification scheme for export oriented aquaculture production systems that include both hatcheries and farms. Farmers were also concerned on the quality of seeds supplied by the hatcheries.



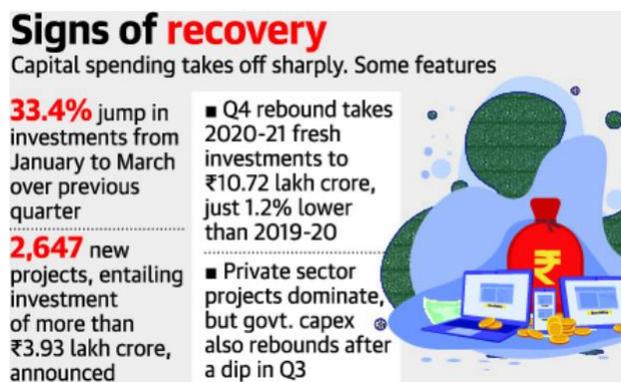
❖ Economic Development

Q- Analyse the bounce back of Investment Trends in quarter 4 of the financial year 2020-21?

BACKGROUND = In the last quarter of 2020-21, both private sector and government-backed capital spending took off sharply for the first time in the pandemic-hit year, even as the project execution ratio,

which denotes actual ground-level action, hit a five-year high.

- The Q4 surge drove up the overall fresh investments in 2020-21 to ₹10.72 lakh crore, just 1.2% below the 2019-20 levels, although investments had plummeted sharply that year from ₹16.87 lakh crore in 2018-19.



The Centre's investment stimulus since March 2020 and the RBI's liberal monetary policy have helped hasten recovery in projects investment activities -

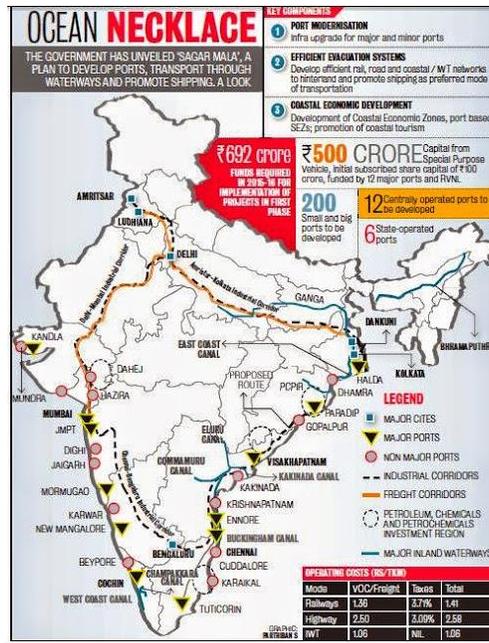
- The government's push for **capital expansion finally translated into new projects** getting off the ground rising 21.8% during the quarter, after an 11.3% dip in the Centre and States' investment announcements in the third quarter. Over 1,700 new government projects were announced in Q4, with the Centre accounting for projects worth ₹76,185 crore and State agencies pushing projects worth ₹91,067 crore.
- **Manufacturing Sector** - Private sector investments grew by a sharp 43.5% over Q3 to ₹2.26 lakh crore in Q4, with manufacturing investments rising by a healthy 40.6% on top of the 88.4% quarter-on-quarter growth in Q3.
 1. Infrastructure projects, that had been rising since Q2 of the lockdown-affected year, continued to rise.
 2. While the construction sector, where project execution activities came to a complete standstill following the nationwide lockdown last year, grew for the first time in the year.
 3. Food processing, cement and automobile sectors recorded a decline in investments in Q4, but drugs & pharma as well as industrial alcohols continued to grow healthily in the wake of the pandemic.
 4. **Mining was the only major sector where investments dried up in the quarter.**
 5. **Performance of states** - Odisha received the highest investments in the quarter of ₹62,352 crore, driven largely by the ₹50,000 crore integrated steel plant announced by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel. Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh followed with projects worth ₹40,902 crore, and ₹39,610.92 crore, respectively.
- An indicator of the pace of projects execution at ground level, the project implementation ratio improved from 36.69% in March 2020 to 37.64% in March 2021. This is the highest project execution ratio recorded since March 2016

Snippet

❖ **Economic Development**

Q- Explain how Sagarmala Project is contributing to the development of tourism in Odisha?

- The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways seeks to develop 65 lighthouses on public-private-partnership mode, Odisha's five lighthouses present a huge potential for tourism. The Ministry wants to develop them as hubs of tourism under the Sagarmala project.



- One of the five lighthouses situated along the Odisha coast was the 180-year-old functional tower which continues to guide ships. The 'False Point' island lighthouse is situated off the Kendrapara coast while the other four are situated in the mainland.



False Point lighthouse off Kendrapara coast. File photo

- The **British-era False Point lighthouse**, a 129-ft massive minaret-like structure of red-white bands with a huge embossed star, is visible from quite a distance from the Bay of Bengal. Its location close to massive mangrove vegetation infested with crocodiles makes it an adventurous tourist place on the eastern coast.
- Barely 40 km away, the **Paradip lighthouse** is another imposing structure. It also holds tourism potential because of its proximity to the port town and Cuttack and Bhubaneswar cities (100 km). It was commissioned in the 1980s.
- Another century-old one is **Gopalpur in Ganjam district**. The 150-year-old tower used to assist ships sailing between Rangoon and the coromandal coast ports and is already a tourist place. The Chilika Lake and the Gopalpur beach will be added attractions if it is developed as a place of tourist interest. The **Chandrabhaga lighthouse**, 10 km from the world famous Konark temple, offers a breathtaking view of the sea and its height enables tourists get a panoramic view of the town.



Recently in news, Helmet Top and Black Top are located in which from the following list of places?

- a. South Bank of Pangong Tso
- b. Tibetan Himalayas
- c. Deccan Plateau
- d. Indo-Nepal Border



Given the Inflation trends in India, this is the first time consumption for one of the following has contracted since 1998-99 due to the coronavirus induced lockdown?

- a. Fuel
- b. Electricity
- c. Mobile Data
- d. Essential Commodity Goods

Answer: B

Criteria for devolution: –Income distance 45%; Population (2011)-15%; Area-15%; • Forest and Ecology-10%; Demographic performance-12.5%; Tax Effort-2.5%. (Income distance is the distance of the • state’s income from the state with the highest income. The income of a state has been computed as average per capita GDP during the three-year period between 2015-16 and 2017-18. States with lower per capita income would be given a higher share to maintain equity among states

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