Digital Economy Report 2024

➢ **Released by UN Trade and Development**
➢ **Key Highlights:**
  • **Sustainable Digitalization:** The report stresses the need for sustainable strategies in digitalization to achieve an environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future**.**
  • **Internet User Growth:** Internet users have increased from **1 billion in 2005 to 5.4 billion in 2023.**
➢ **Environmental Impact of Digitalization:**
  • **GHG Emissions:** The ICT sector accounted for 1.5–3.2% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.
  • **E-Waste:** Online shopping has led to a 30% rise in digital-related waste from 2010 to 2022, reaching 10.5 million tonnes globally.
  • **Water Usage:** Data centers require significant electricity and water for cooling. In 2022, they consumed 460 terawatt hours, expected to double by 2026.
  • **Critical Minerals**: Demand for minerals like graphite, lithium, and cobalt could increase by 500% by 2050. This may lead to hoarding and overproduction, causing inefficiency and larger environmental impacts.
➢ **Recommendations:**
  1. **Adopt Circular Economy Models:** Encourage recycling and reuse of materials.
  2. **Strengthen Environmental Regulations:** Enforce stricter environmental standards.
  3. **Invest in Renewable Energy:** Support R&D of energy-efficient technologies.
  4. **Promote Sustainable Business Models:** Incentivize models like electronic products as a service.
➢ **About UN Trade and Development**
  • **Established:** 1964 by the United Nations General Assembly as a permanent intergovernmental body**.**
  • **Objective:** Assist developing and least developed countries in integrating effectively into the global economy**.**
  • **Members:** 195 nations, including India.
  • **Flagship Reports:** Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, among others.
  • **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.

India Sends Humanitarian Aid To Landslide-Hit Papua New Guinea

➢ India's recent **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission** to **Papua New Guinea** underscores its commitment to the **Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)** partnership.
➢ **About FIPIC**
  • **Formation:** Established in 2014 to foster cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Islands.
  • **Members:** Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
  • **Geographical Groups:** These islands are part of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.
➢ **Objectives:**
  • **Trade and Investment:** Facilitate business exchanges and investment opportunities.
  • **Policies:** FIPIC reflects India's Act East Policy, Indo-Pacific policy, and South-South Cooperation.
  • **Diaspora:** Significant Indian communities in Fiji and Papua New Guinea drive this initiative.

MeDevIS (Medical Devices Information System)

➢ **The World Health Organization (WHO)** recently launched the **MeDevIS platform.**
➢ **About MeDevIS**
  • **Purpose:** The first global open-access clearinghouse for information on medical devices.
  • **Benefits:**
    ○ **Simplification:** Replaces complex, paper-based literature searches with a streamlined digital platform**.**
    ○ **Standardization:** Aims to simplify the naming of medical devices.
➢ **Naming Systems:** Primarily used in European countries. Later Used in Australia, Canada, the USA, and other member countries.

Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with Taiwan

➢ **India and Taiwan** have recently implemented an MRA for organic products. This agreement is notable as it marks the first bilateral agreement for organic products.
➢ **About the MRA for Organic Products**
  • **Implementation Agencies:** In India, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) oversees the agreement.
  • **Scope:** The agreement allows products produced and handled according to the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) standards to be sold in Taiwan.
  • **NPOP Framework:** Provides an institutional framework for accrediting certification bodies and certifying organic products.
➢ **Significance**
  • **Export Promotion:** Enhances the export of key Indian organic products such as rice, processed food, and green/black tea to Taiwan.

Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)

➢ The 25th meeting of the PM-STIAC was recently held.
➢ **About PM-STIAC**
  • **Constituted:** 2018
  • **Functions:**
    ○ **Advisory Role:** Provides advice to the Prime Minister on various science and technology matters.
    ○ **Assessment:** Evaluates the current status of science and technology in the country.
    ○ **Challenge Identification:** Identifies challenges and formulates strategies to address them.
    ○ **Roadmap Development:** Develops a forward-looking roadmap for science and technology.
    ○ **Implementation Oversight:** Monitors the implementation of science and technology interventions by relevant departments, agencies, and ministries.
➢ **Missions Approved by PM-STIAC: Deep Ocean Exploration Mission ,AI (Artificial Intelligence) Mission ,National Quantum Mission ,Electric Vehicle Mission ,AGNIi Mission**

GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)

➢ **Launch of GAINS 2024:** Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth launched the **GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) on July 10, 2024, in Kolkata.**
  • **Purpose:** The scheme seeks to address shipyard-related problems and promote technological development through start-ups and MSMEs.
  • **Government Policies:** GAINS 2024 aligns with the 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' initiatives.
  • **Focus on Innovation:** The scheme aims to develop innovative solutions for the shipbuilding industry, enhancing maritime security and air defence.
  • **Support for Start-ups:** GAINS 2024 encourages MSMEs and start-ups to contribute to technological advancements in ship design and construction.
  • **Objective:** The initiative aims to leverage the MSME and start-up ecosystem to address current and emerging challenges, achieving the goals of Atmanirbharta (self-reliance)

Vachana Literature

➢ **Fa.Gu. Halakatti, remembered for his role in revitalizing Vachana Literature, was honored on his birth anniversary.**
➢ **About Vachana Literature**
  • **Definition:** The term "vachanas" literally means "that which is spoken."
  • **Type:** Kannada rhythmic composition or poetry.
  • **Origin:** Emerged in the 11th century and flourished in the 12th century as part of the Sharana movement.
  • **Key Figure:** Guru Basavanna led the Sharana movement in Karnataka.
  • **Early Contributor:** Madara Chennaiah, an 11th-century cobbler-saint from the time of the Western Chalukyas' rule, is considered by some researchers to be the "father of Vachana poetry."