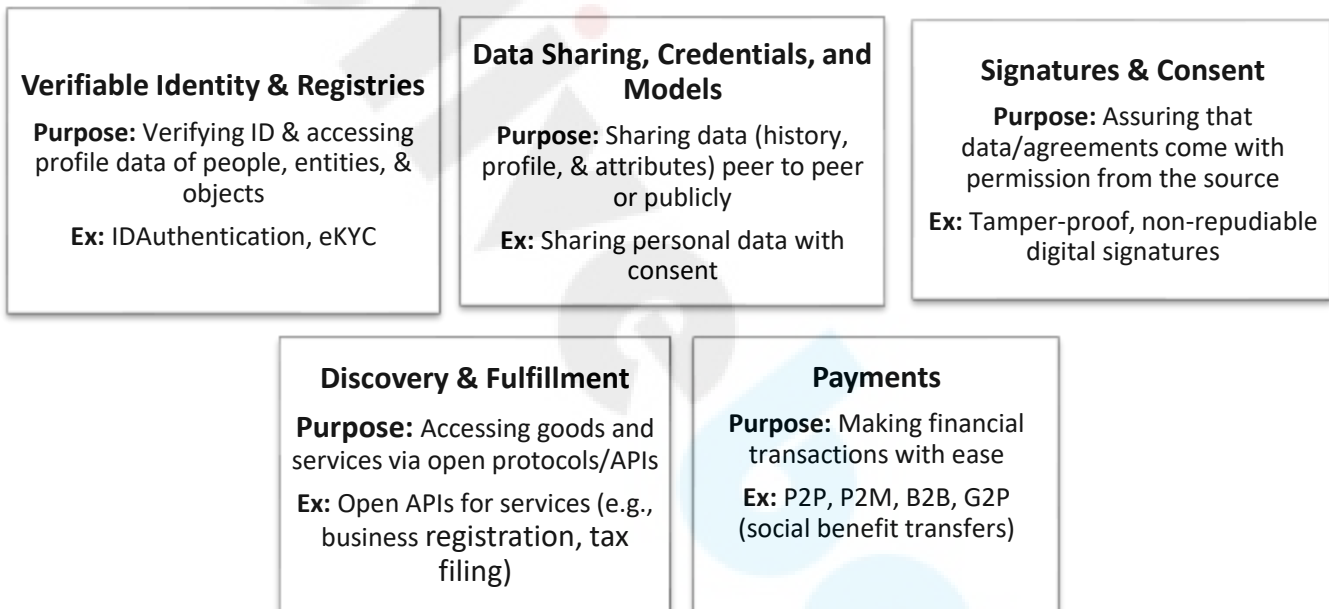## Report of India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure Released

➢ **In 2023, under India's G20 Presidency,** a task force was established to focus on priorities related to **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and financial inclusion**, and to promote the global adoption of **DPI.**

➢ **About Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** DPI includes foundational elements like digital identity, financial infrastructure, and data exchange solutions that help governments empower individuals and improve lives through digital inclusion. India's DPI initiative, known as **India Stack, consists of three key layers:**

- **Digital Identification:** Aadhaar
- **Real-Time Fast Payment:** UPI (Unified Payments Interface)
- **Data Sharing Platform:** Allows safe sharing of personal data without compromising privacy.

➢ **Achievements of India's DPI:**

- **UPI Transactions:** 10 billion transactions per month.
- **DigiLocker:** Over 6 billion documents stored by 211 million people.
- **Bank Account Ownership:** The gap between rich and poor in bank account ownership reduced from 14% to 1% (2011-2022).

Major Digital Public Infrastructure Categories within & across Sectors

Verifiable Identity & Registries

Purpose: Verifying ID & accessing profile data of people, entities, & objects

Ex: IDAuthentication, eKYC

Data Sharing, Credentials, and Models

Purpose: Sharing data (history, profile, & attributes) peer to peer or publicly

Ex: Sharing personal data with consent

Signatures & Consent

Purpose: Assuring that data/agreements come with permission from the source

Ex: Tamper-proof, non-repudiable digital signatures

Discovery & Fulfillment

Purpose: Accessing goods and services via open protocols/APIs

Ex: Open APIs for services (e.g., business registration, tax filing)

Payments

Purpose: Making financial transactions with ease

Ex: P2P, P2M, B2B, G2P (social benefit transfers)

Navigating New Horizons A Global Foresight Report

➢ **Navigating New Horizons A global foresight report on planetary Health and Humans wellbeing, 2024**, published by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).**

➢ The report identifies **several critical global changes** accelerating the **triple planetary crisis of pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change.** It also emphasizes that the current **global polycrisis**-wars, extreme weather, and pandemics

➢ **Key Global Shifts, Signals, and Potential Disruptions:**

➢ **Human-Environment Relationship:**

- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** Increasing resistance to antibiotics.
- **Uninhabitable Spaces:** More areas becoming unlivable due to climate change.

➢ **Resource Scarcity and Competition:**

- **Global Security Dynamics:** Scarcity and competition for essential resources like orbital space, which is filled with debris.

➢ **Digital Innovation Waves:**

- **Technological Advances:** Innovations in the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

➢ **Autonomous and AI Weapons Systems:**

- **Risks:** Increased danger from the misuse of biological agents due to AI and autonomous weapons.

Centre Reconstitutes NITI Aayog

➢ Since the term of **NITI Aayog, except for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO),** aligns with the term of the Union Government, reconstitution was necessary following the formation of the new government in June earlier this year**.**

➢ **About NITI Aayog :** The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog is a government think-tank established in 2015, replacing the Planning Commission. It was formed through a resolution of the Union Cabinet.

➢ **Composition:**
  - **Chairperson:** The Prime Minister of India
  - **Governing Council:** Includes the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories (UTs) with legislatures, Lieutenant Governors of other UTs, Ex-Officio Members, Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog, Full-Time Members of NITI Aayog, and Special Invitees.
  - **Ex-officio Members:** Up to 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers, nominated by the Prime Minister.
  - **Special Invitees:** Experts, specialists, and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge, nominated by the Prime Minister.

➢ **Regional Councils:** Formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or region.

➢ **CEO:** Appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, holding the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

➢ **Twin Mandate:**
  - Oversee the adoption and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.
  - Promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and Union Territories.

Asmita Project

➢ **The Ministry of Education has launched the Asmita Project** along with two other initiatives to promote multilingualism in education, aligning with the **New Education Policy, 2020.**

➢ **Three Initiatives:**
  1. **Asmita Project (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing):**
     - **Objective:** Provide students with high-quality study materials in their native languages.
     - **Goal:** Produce 22,000 books in 22 scheduled languages over 5 years.
     - **Implementing Agencies:** University Grants Commission (UGC) and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (BBS).
  2. **Bahubhasha Shabdkosh:** A comprehensive multilingual dictionary repository.
  3. **Real-time Translation Architecture:** Enhance translation capabilities using cutting-edge technology.

Inverse ETF

➢ **SEBI** has proposed introducing a **new asset class for investors** that can offer investment strategies, **including long-short equity funds and inverse ETFs.**

➢ **About Inverse ETFs (also known as 'Short ETFs' or 'Bear ETFs'):**
  - An Inverse ETF is an Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) designed to profit from a decline in the value of an underlying benchmark.
  - **Construction**: These ETFs use various derivatives to achieve their objective.
  - **Nature of ETFs**: ETFs are marketable securities that track an index, commodity, bonds, or a basket of assets, similar to an Index Fund.
  - **Function**: Inverse ETFs gain value when the underlying benchmark's value drops.
  - **Holding Period**: They are intended for short holding periods only.

Inauguration of Pre-clinical Network Facility and Ge-HuMic Facility

➢ **Asia's first health research-related Pre-clinical Network Facility** has been inaugurated in **Faridabad, Haryana,** under the **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).**

➢ Additionally, the **Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection (Ge-HuMic)** Facility has also been inaugurated**.**

➢ **About CEPI**
  - **Genesis**: Launched in 2017 by Norway and India, along with the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, and the **World Economic Forum (WEF).**
  - **Aim:** To speed up the development of vaccines for emerging infectious diseases and ensure fair access to these vaccines.
  - **Headquarters:** Oslo, Norway.