

Overview of the AMRUT Scheme

- **Purpose:**
 - The **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** aims to address infrastructure challenges in urban areas, particularly concerning water supply, sewerage, and pollution.
- **Launched by the NDA-1 government in June 2015, with AMRUT 2.0 starting on October 1, 2021, (till FY 2025-26)**
- **Ministry of Housing And Urban Affairs**
- **Centrally sponsored scheme**
- **Financial Outlay:**
 - AMRUT 1.0: ₹50,000 crore for five years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20.
 - AMRUT 2.0: ₹2,99,000 crore, with ₹76,760 crore from the Central government over five years.
- **Progress:**
 - As of May 19, 2024, ₹83,357 crore has been utilized.
 - Achievements include: 58,66,237 tap connections, 37,49,467 sewerage connections, Development of 2,411 parks, Installation of 62,78,571 LED lights.
- **Shortcomings:**
 - **Health and Sanitation Issues:**
 - High mortality due to inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene.
 - Significant disease burden due to unsafe water and sanitation.
 - **Water Supply Concerns:**
 - Many reservoirs are filled to just 40% capacity.
 - Projected groundwater depletion in major cities.
 - Insufficient access to drinking water and sewerage connections in urban households.
 - **Air Quality Issues:**
 - Deteriorating air quality in AMRUT cities.
 - AMRUT 2.0 does not address air quality, focusing only on water and sewerage.
- **Structural Issues:**
 - Project-oriented approach rather than a holistic one.
 - Lack of participation from city governments and local bodies.
 - Managed by bureaucrats, parastatals, and large technology-based companies, with minimal involvement of elected representatives.
 - Governance structure dominated by non-elected officials and private interests, violating the 74th constitutional amendment.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Implement nature-based solutions and a comprehensive, people-centric methodology.
 - Empower local bodies and ensure participation from city governments.
 - Integrate urban planning with sustainable water management and climate considerations.
 - Improve stormwater management and preserve water bodies and lakes.

Certificates of Deposit (CD)

- Banks Fundraising Through Certificates of Deposit (CDs) rises amid liquidity deficit.
- **About CDs:**
 - **Type:** Negotiable money market instrument.
 - **Form:** Issued in dematerialised form or as a Promissory Note.
 - **Issuers:** Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, and select All India Financial Institutions (FIs).
 - **Eligible Investors:** Individuals, corporations, companies, etc.
 - **Denomination:** Minimum of Rs.5 lakh.
 - **Duration:** For banks -7 days to 1 year, For Fis- 1 to 3 years.

➤ Report released by the International Labour Organisation

- **Global Unemployment in 2024:**
 - The world unemployment rate is expected to see a slight decrease.
 - Approximately 183 million people are actively looking for work but remain unemployed.
- **Gender Employment Gap:**
 - Employment rates show a significant gender gap, with 45.6% of women (aged 15 and above) employed compared to 69.2% of men, resulting in a 23.6% difference.
 - The primary reasons for this disparity include family responsibilities such as marriage and parenthood.
- **Income Disparity:**
 - Women earn lower labour income compared to men, a disparity that is particularly pronounced in developing countries.
- **Informal Employment:**
 - The number of informal workers has increased from 1.7 billion in 2005 to 2.0 billion in 2024.

India Assumes Chair Of Colombo Process For 2024-26

➤ India assumed the Chair of the Colombo Process for the 2024-26 term, marking its first time in this role since the initiative began in 2003.

➤ About the Colombo Process

- The Colombo Process is a regional consultative mechanism that facilitates discussions on managing overseas employment and contractual labor. It includes 12 member states from Asia, such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, with India being one of the founding members.

➤ Key thematic areas of focus for the Colombo Process include:

- Recognition processes for skills and qualifications
- Promoting ethical recruitment practices

➤ The United Nations' **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** provides technical and administrative support to the Colombo Process.

IIT Bombay Leading The Daksha Project

➤ India is leading the Daksha project in collaboration with institutions like the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), and Raman Research Institute (RRI).

➤ About the Daksha Project

- The Daksha project aims to develop two high-energy space telescopes to study explosive astrophysical phenomena. These telescopes will be equipped with three types of sensors to cover a wide energy range from low to high.

➤ Objectives

- Detect, locate, and analyze high-energy counterparts of gravitational wave sources.
- Achieve high-sensitivity detection and study of Gamma Ray Bursts (GRBs).
 - GRBs are short-lived bursts of gamma-ray light, the most energetic form of light.

RudraM-II

➤ The RudraM-II missile was successfully flight-tested from the Su-30 MK-I.

➤ About RudraM-II

- **Development:** Indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Type:** Solid-propelled, air-launched missile designed for air-to-surface operations.
- **Previous Testing:** In 2020, the new-generation anti-radiation missile (NGARM), RudraM, was successfully tested.
- **Significance:** It is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile (ARM) of the Indian Air Force.
- **Navigation:** Equipped with an Inertial Navigation System (INS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation system.
- **Targeting:** Features a Passive Homing Head (PHH) that can detect, classify, and engage targets across a wide range of frequencies as programmed.