

NITI Aayog to Launch 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'

- **NITI Aayog** is launching '**Sampoornata Abhiyan**', a **3-month campaign** from **4th July – 30th September 2024**
- **Objective:** Achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).
- **Aspirational Districts, Key Indicators Include:**
 - Number of Soil Health Cards distributed
 - Percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level
 - Percentage of children fully immunized
- **Aspirational Blocks, Key Indicators Include:**
 - Percentage of people screened for diabetes and hypertension
 - Percentage of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) that have received a revolving fund
- **Background:**

<u>Aspirational Districts Programme</u>	<u>Aspirational Blocks Programme</u>
Launched in January 2018 by Hon'ble Prime Minister	Launched in January 2023 by Hon'ble Prime Minister
Aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 districts across the country	Aims for saturation of essential government services in 500 Blocks (329 Districts) across the country
Focuses on five themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Nutrition • Education • Agriculture & Water Resources • Financial Inclusion & Skill Development • Infrastructure 	Focuses on five themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Nutrition • Education • Agriculture and Allied Services • Basic Infrastructure • Social Development
Progress is measured on 81 indicators of development	Progress is measured on 40 indicators of development Block Profile can be accessed from here

Bretton Woods Conference Celebrates Its 80th Anniversary

- The **Bretton Woods Conference**, officially called the **United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference**, was held in 1944 in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA.
- **About the Bretton Woods Conference**
 - **Purpose:** The conference aimed to establish new rules for the international monetary system after World War II.
 - **Participants:** Delegates from 44 countries attended the conference.
- **Key Outcomes:**
 - **Creation of Institutions:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), now known as the World Bank (WB), were established.
 - **Fixed Exchange Rate System:** Countries agreed to fix their currencies to gold or the US dollar.
 - However, after the dollar exchange crises of 1971 (when the US suspended the dollar's convertibility into gold) and 1973, floating exchange rates were introduced.
 - **Promotion of Free Trade:** The conference aimed to foster international prosperity and peace through free trade.

Centre Developing National Indicators to Measure Extreme Poverty

- The government is creating a national indicator to measure "extreme poverty" in the **National Indicator Framework (NIF) 2024**, tracking progress on SDGs to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.
- **Reasons for the Indicator:**
 - **Outdated Poverty Line:** Based on the Suresh Tendulkar Committee's 2009 report. Other suggestions by D T Lakdawala (1993) and C Rangarajan (2014) were not adopted.
 - **Global Variations:** IMF reported <1% extreme poverty in 2021, while the World Bank reported 12.92%.
 - **Policy Needs:** Accurate poverty estimates are crucial for anti-poverty programs.
- **Poverty Measurement in India:**
 - **Official Poverty Line:** Based on consumption expenditure. CES conducted every five years by the National Sample Survey Office.
 - **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI):** Shows poverty reduction from 24.85% (2015-16) to 14.96% (2019-21).
 - **Committee Estimates: Tendulkar Committee:** Rs 1,000/month (urban), Rs 816/month (rural). Rangarajan Committee: Rs 32/day (rural), Rs 47/day (urban).

TDF Scheme

- The **Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme**, led by the **Ministry of Defence** and executed by **DRDO**, encourages public/private industries, especially start-ups and MSMEs, to enhance cutting-edge technology and promote **self-reliance** in defence.
- **Projects:** 77 projects, Rs 300 crore sanctioned.
- **Objectives:** Grants for defence tech, engage MSMEs/start-ups, focus on niche R&D, bridge defence and private sector.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the **SCO Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- **New Member:** Belarus became the 10th member.
 - Dialogue partner since 2010, observer since 2015.
- **About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**
 - **Founded:** 2001
 - **Purpose:** Promote regional cooperation against terrorism, separatism, and extremism.
 - **Members:** China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Belarus.
 - **Headquarters:** Beijing
 - **Languages:** Russian and Chinese
 - **Observers:** Afghanistan, Mongolia
 - **UN Observer:** Since 2005

Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)

- India recently announced the results of the **15th** round of the **Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)**.
- The **Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)** is a joint initiative by the governments of Australia and India. Its main goal is to support collaborative research projects between partners from both countries.
- **Funding Details:**
 - Minimum grant amount: \$500,000
 - Maximum grant amount: \$1,000,000
 - Project duration: Up to 3 years
- For this round, projects must focus on a specific priority area and offer mutual benefits to both Australia and India.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

- SEBI has updated regulations to permit equity-oriented ETFs and Index Funds to increase investments in listed securities of their sponsors' group companies.
- **About ETFs:**
 - ETFs are securities that follow an index, commodity, bonds, or a mix of assets similar to an Index Fund.
 - An Index Fund mirrors the performance of a specific index, such as the Nifty or Sensex.
 - ETFs trade on stock exchanges like regular stocks, and their value is based on the net asset value of the underlying stocks they represent.