

ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

SKILL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

News: "Gamify India's skilling initiatives."

India needs to create 80 lakh new jobs in the non-farm sector annually until 2030 to meet the demands of the rising workforce— **Economic Survey 2023-24.**

Status of Skills

- **Indian youth aged 15-29 years:** Only 21% of them had received vocational/technical training through formal and informal sources—**PLFS 2022-23.**
- **India's graduates:** Only 51% of them are employable—**Chief Economic Advisor of India 2024.**
- **Indian engineers:** only 1.5% of them possess the skills for new-age jobs.
- **MSME workforce:** 60% of them lacks the new-age digital skills.
- These facts raise concerns regarding the reach, quality, and industry relevance of existing skilling programmes.

PM Internship Scheme:

- **Pilot project,** the first batch of 1.25 lakh interns will begin internship with **voluntarily participating companies** (top 500 companies of India) on December 2.
- Centre launched an **online portal**, which operationalises the PM Internship Scheme, **part of a five-scheme package** designed to spur **job creation and impart skills to 4 crore youth over five years.**
- Implemented by **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- **Criteria:**
 - Indian citizen of aged between **21-24 years.**
 - **Employment criteria:** not employed full time.
 - **Education criteria:**
 - Not enrolled in full time education.
 - Diploma from a polytechnic institute.
 - Certificate from Industrial Training Institute (ITI).
 - Bachelor degree.
 - No member of family is earning more than **Rs.8 Lakh per annum** and no member has a Govt. job.
 - Holding higher degrees like any masters **not eligible.**
 - Graduates from reputable institutions like IITs, IIITs etc **not eligible.**

SAMARTH Udyog Bharat 4.0:

- Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (**SAMARTH**).
- Initiative of **Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises.**
- Aims to create an ecosystem for propagating **Industry 4.0 technologies** in Indian manufacturing by 2025.

SWAYAM Platform:

- A platform that hosts all courses taught in classrooms from **Class 9 to post-graduation**, accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Hosts **more than 4,000 courses.**
- Universities/colleges **approving credit transfer can use the marks/certificate** obtained in these courses for the same.
- SWAYAM platform is developed by **Ministry of Education and NPTEL.**
 - Since its inception, **over 4 crore participants** have enrolled in the platform.

- **93% of successful course completions** in the platform were under the **engineering and physical sciences stream.**
- As of June 2024, **8 lakh candidates** were enrolled in SIDH's 752 online courses.

Skill India Mission

About Skill India Mission:

- **National Policy for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** in 2015, introduced the Skill India Mission, **comprising skilling schemes of all Ministries/Departments.**
- **Umbrella scheme**, where more than **20 Central Ministries/Departments** are implementing Skill Development Schemes to enhance skill levels of millions of people across India.
- **50 crore persons** have been trained since 2015—**PIB June 2024.**
- **Key Implementing Mechanisms and Programs of Skill India:**
 - **Schemes under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE):** PMKVY, JSS, NAPS, CTS.
 - **Skill Development Schemes under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD):** DDU-GKY, RSETI.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2015:

- To provide skills to 50 crore people by 2022 through institutionalised training. As of now, under PMKVY (1.0 to 3.0) total ~13 crore persons are trained—**PIB June 2024.**
- Implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Implemented by MoSDE.
- **Two components of PMKVY:**
 - **Short-Term Training (STT):**
 - **Eligibility:** 15-45 years.
 - STT is expected to **benefit candidates of Indian nationality who are either school/college dropouts or unemployed.**
 - Training is provided according to the National Skill Qualification Framework (**NSQF**).
 - This component is **implemented by** both Central and State govts.
 - STT has provision for both first time learners and reskilling existing workforce.
 - **Higher skills based courses are fee based** but under PMKVY 3.0, weaker and marginalised sections are supported.
 - STT is implemented in **accredited and affiliated training centres across the country** and placement assistance is provided by training providers.
 - Candidates are placed in job roles after approval of National Council for Vocational Education and Training (**NCVET**).
 - **PM-Kaushal Kendra:** shall act as nodal centres at district for providing self-employment support model training centres in every district.
 - **Recognition Prior Learning Scheme (RPL):**
 - **Eligibility:** 18-45 years, **prior experience in job** for which they want RPL certification.
 - It mainly **focuses on individuals engaged in unregulated sectors.**
 - Enable youth to take on industry relevant skill certifications which help them secure better livelihood.



- **No fee is charged** and certified candidate receives Rs.500.
- Both **Central and State govts implement** the scheme.
- MSDE is supported by **State Skill Development Missions and District Skill Committee** in implementation.
- It is implemented under **SANKALP programme**.
- **Placement/self employment is done in three months**, and monitoring is done by training providers.

Jan Sikhshan Sansthan (JSS):

- Aims to provide **vocational skills to non-literate, persons with rudimentary level of education** upto 8th and dropouts upto 12th standard in age group 15-45 years.
- **Prior focus on** women, SC, ST, OBC, minorities.
- **Implemented by MoSDE**.

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):

- **Promoting apprenticeship training and financial support to industries** undertaking apprenticeship program under the **Apprenticeship Act 1961**.
- **Implemented by MoSDE**.

Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS):

- Provides **longterm training** through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to youth across the country.
- **Implemented by MoSDE**.

- **National Skill Qualification Framework:** for common set of rules in every area of skill development:

The National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET):

- Has been established as the **regulator** in the field of skill development.
- It **sets standards** in accordance with National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).

Skill Development Schemes under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):**
 - **India has 5.5 crore rural youth** between age group of 15-35 years who are under BPL.
 - **DDU-GKY is a placement linked skill training initiative.**
 - **Aims at rural poor** youth 15-35 years of age.
 - Enable the candidate to find a job that pays minimum **salary of Rs. 6,000/- per month.**
 - **No registration or training fee.**
 - Certificate accreditation authority is National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).
- **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI):**
 - Established in each district of the country.
 - Aims to impart training and upskilling of rural youth towards **entrepreneurship development.**
 - RSETIs are **managed by banks** with active co-operation from both Central and State govts.

GS III

SYLLABUS: GOVERNMENT BUDGETING.

FISCAL DEFICIT

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 14.

News: "Confederation of Indian Industry urges government to stick to fiscal deficit target."

- **Fiscal deficit:** the difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowing's needed by the government.
- **Primary deficit:** means the fiscal deficit minus the interest payments.
- **Revenue Expenditure:** means the difference between revenue expenditure and revenue receipts.

FRBM Act 2003:

- **Rationale:** **legal backing to fiscal discipline** i.e to correct fiscal imbalances like high Revenue and Fiscal deficits.

Features of FRBM Act 2003:

- **Brought Transparency:** making **mandatory submission of following documents** along with the Budget annually to parliament
 - Macroeconomic Framework Statement.
 - Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.
 - Fiscal Policy Strategy statement.

Fiscal indicators in Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement:

- Fiscal Deficit as % of GDP.
- Revenue Deficit as % of GDP.
- Primary Deficit as % of GDP.
- Tax Revenues as % of GDP.
- Non tax Revenue as % of GDP.
- Central Govt. Debt as % of GDP.

Targets by FRBM Act 2003:

- **Fiscal deficit target for Centre:** reduce to 3% of GDP by 2008.
- **Central Govt. debt target:** reduce to 40% of GDP by 2024-25.
- **Combined Govt. debt target (Centre & States):** to 60% of GDP by 2024-25
- **Elimination of Revenue deficit** by 2009.

Borrowing conditions: on RBI & Central Govt.

- **Central Govt. cannot directly borrow from RBI** except through Ways and Means Advances (short term borrowing mechanism).
- **RBI not to subscribe to primary issues** of Central Govt. securities.

FRBM Amendment Act 2018: N.K. Singh committee Recommendation.

- **Fiscal Deficit target for Centre:** reduce to 2.5% of GDP by 2023.
- **Combined Debt-GDP ratio:** reduce to 60% by 2023, comprising:
 - 40% for the **Centre**.
 - 20% for the **States**.
- **Revenue Deficit Target:** reduce revenue deficit steadily by 0.25% each year to reach 0.8% by 2023.
- **Introduction of Escape clause:**
 - **Grounds:** agriculture collapse, structural reforms, National security, War.

- **Instances:** reduction in corporate tax, structural reforms, global financial crisis.
- Formation of **Fiscal Council to advise Govt.**

15th Finance Commission recommendations: Fiscal Deficit Target:

- **Centre:** reduce to 4% of GDP by 2025-26.
- **States (as % of GSDP):** 3% during 2023-26.

Debt to GDP Ratio:

By following fiscal deficit target it will result in reduction of Debt to GDP ratio:

- **For Central govt.:** 62% (2021) to 56% (2026).
- **For States:** 33% (2021) to 32% (2026).

9 DEC 2024

PYQs

GS III 2013: What are the reasons for introduction of Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.

BIODIVERSITY

PRE-CONTEXT

INDIAN STAR TORTOISE

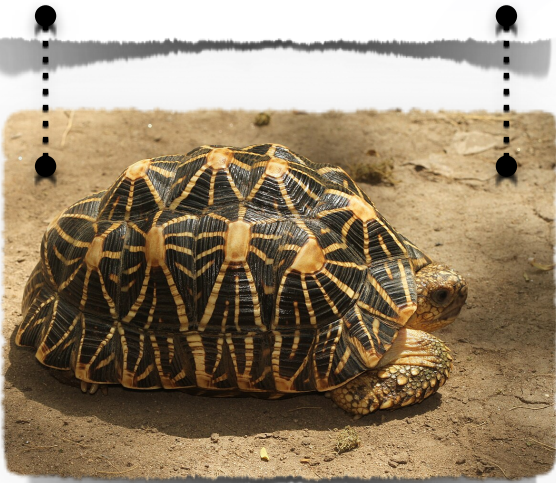
THE HINDU, PG.NO: 22.

News: "Study brings Indian star tortoise to evidence-based conservation."

About Star Tortoise:

- **Status:** *IUCN* (Vulnerable), *CITES* (Appendix 1), *WLPA* (Schedule 1).
- **Endemic to Indian Subcontinent.**
- **Habitat:** dry, scrub forests, grasslands, and semi-desert areas.

9 DEC 2024



SECURITY

PRE-CONTEXT

LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "A good beginning but China negotiations must continue."

About LAC:

- The concept of the LAC emerged after the **1962 Sino-Indian War**, it separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory in Himalayan region.
- **Unlike the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan**, the **LAC with China is not a legally recognized international boundary.**
- **LAC passes through** Ladakh, Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **LAC is divided into three sectors:**
 - **Western Sector (Ladakh Region):** The most contentious area, including Aksai Chin.
 - **Middle Sector (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand):** least disputed sector.
 - **Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh):** China claims this area as part of South Tibet (McMahon Line).
- Grabbing of land inch-by-inch is known as **'Salami Slicing'**.

Recent Incidents:

- **Doklam Standoff (2017):** A 73-day military standoff near the India-Bhutan-China tri-junction.
- **Galwan Valley Clash (2020):** First deadly confrontation in over four decades, resulting in casualties on both sides.
- **Current Situation:** China has agreed to restore troops to pre-2020 levels.

Geographical features along LAC:

- **Mountain Ranges & Glaciers:**
 - Karakoram Range, Saltoro Ridge, Ladakh Range, Greater Himalayas.
 - Eastern Himalayas.
- **Rivers:**
 - Shyok River, Indus (passes through Ladakh), Pangong Tso (lake in Ladakh).
 - Sutlej (Western sector).
 - Brahmaputra (Eastern sector).
- **Strategic Points: Glaciers, Valleys and Plains:**
 - Siachen Glacier (North of Depsang Plains).
 - Daulat Beg Oldie (Air strip of Indian Army).
 - Depsang Plains (Eastern Ladakh).
 - Karakoram Pass.
 - Galwan Valley (Eastern Ladakh).
 - Chang Chenmo Valley (eastern Ladakh).
 - Nubra Valley (located north to Leh).
- Finger-4 (on banks of Pangong Tso).
- Demchok (Village).
- Spiti Valley (in Himachal Pradesh).
- Doklam Plateau (Sikkim-Bhutan Border).
- Tawang Valley (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Yangtse (Arunachal Pradesh).

Infrastructure:

- **National Highway 1:** Strategic movement towards western LAC.

- **Darbuk-Skyok-DBO road.**
- **Atal Tunnel:** enhances connectivity in Ladakh near LAC.

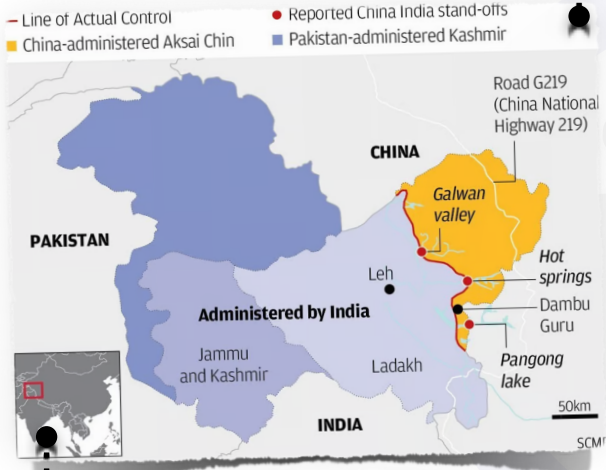
Wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks:

- Hemis National Park (Ladakh).
- Khardung La Wildlife Sanctuary (Ladakh).
- Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Changlang Tiger Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh).

Tribes:

- **Changpa or Rebos** a semi-nomadic community of Changthang region.

9 DEC 2024



Thank you!