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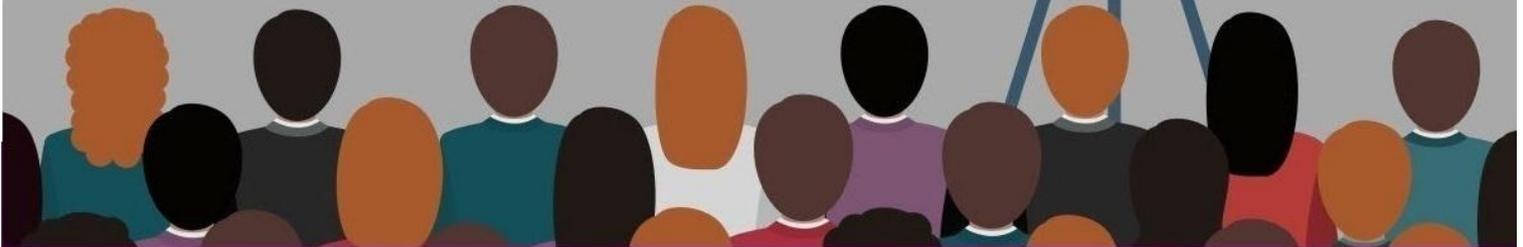
**FREE CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS**

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**SESSION - 5**

*Sunday*

**MANZHAN**



**IN ASSOCIATION WITH....**



**BANGALORE SCHOOL  
OF CIVIL SERVICES**

**BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS**

**TIME: 10am VENUE: Bangalore school of Civil Services, Near hebbal Police Station,  
Bellary main road, HEBBAL, Bangalore Contact: 9886151564/ 42103963/ nammakpsc@gmail.com**

**Call and register Now!!!!**

KEEPING OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE QUALITY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR CIVIL SERVICES ASPIRANTS, Team NammaKPSC in its 5th SESSION will be covering following topics

- BT COTTON And issues
- Make in India
- Annuity Hybrid Model
- Selected schemes of Government of Karnataka
- India-France Relationship and its significance

## BT COTTON

- Q. A genetically engineered form of cotton, known as the Bt-cotton, has been developed. The objective of this is:
- a. To make it pest-resistant
  - b. To improve its taste and nutritive qualities
  - c. To make it drought-resistant
  - d. To make its shelf-life longer

Q. How is Bt cotton created? Examine the merits and demerits of Bt cotton.

Q. What is Biotechnology? Examine its role in Food security and livelihood of farmers.

*“DISHEARTENING STORIES OF BT COTTON FARMERS ARE UNFOLDING ACROSS RAICHUR DISTRICT DUE TO WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION OF BT COTTON CROP DUE TO PINK BOLLWORM ATTACK”*

- Raichur is one of the major cotton growing districts in the State.
- The extent of loss is yet to be measured as no survey has been conducted. Cotton is cultivated on nearly 60,000 hectares of lands in the district, most of which is Bt cotton.
- Farmers started switching to the crop in big numbers in 2007-08 and there has been increase in acreage over the years since then.

### What is Bt cotton

- Genetically engineered cotton with a gene from the **bacteria Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt)**
- Toxic to **the bollworm**, a pest that preys on the cotton plant.

### Bt cotton is vulnerable to

- Climatic variations
- Attack by sucking pests and insects outside the resistance-claim purview.

### Pink bollworm

- The **pink bollworm** was not a threat to cotton crop when the Bt technology was developed because of its negligible population.

- But over a period of time, the worm massively increased its population and is now causing maximum damage to the crop
- Farmers control sucking pests, usually found at the backside of leaf, by heavily spraying different pesticides.
- But we cannot control pink bollworm through pesticide spraying as it is inside the cotton boll. The cotton bolls look absolutely normal from outside. But, each boll is infected by the pink bollworm inside. The worm eats cotton seeds and thus prevents the development of cotton staple fibre around it well before the cotton boll opens

**Measures by the govt**

- The State Government has issued notices to companies which sold Bt cotton seeds to farmers this year
- The State Government is awaiting a comprehensive report by an expert panel on the crop loss suffered by Bt cotton growers due to pink bollworm attack. After receiving the report the government would decide whether Bt cotton seed companies should be held responsible for the loss and how much should be released as compensation to farmers, he added.
- The affected farmers can move the consumer court claiming compensation directly from seed companies because their crop was destroyed despite claims of pest resistance
- The government would also think as to how the affected farmers could be compensated

**MAKE IN INDIA****Q. Identify the sector which is not covered under Make In India initiative**

- a. Textile
- b. Automobile
- c. Thermal power plant
- d. Nuclear technology

**Q. Critically examine how make in India can turn India into a Manufacturing hub of the world. Also discuss the challenges of this Initiatives.**

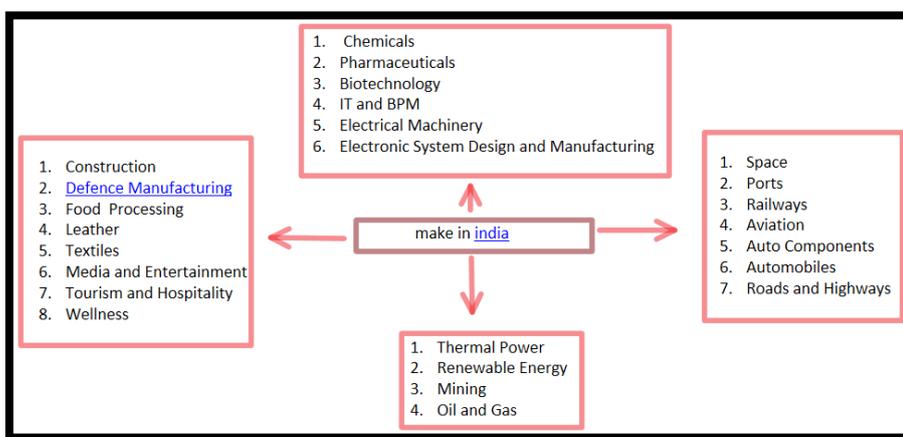
**What is Make in India**

- Promoting India as an important investment destination
- A global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.
- Does not target manufacturing sector alone, but also aims at promoting entrepreneurship in the country.
- Creating a conducive environment for investment, modern and efficient infrastructure,
- Opening up new sectors for foreign investment and
- Forging a partnership between government and industry through positive mindset.

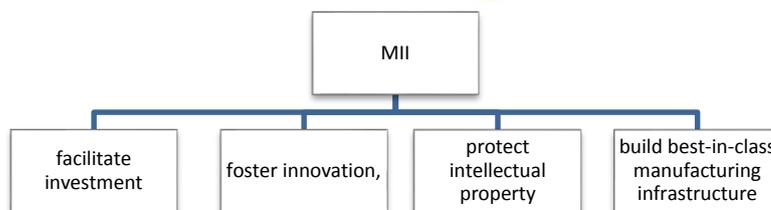
**Why MII : timely response to a critical situation**

- September 2014
- by 2013, the much-hyped emerging markets bubble had burst
- India’s growth rate had fallen to its lowest level in a decade.
- The promise of the BRICS nations had faded
- India was tagged as one of the so-called ‘Fragile Five’.
- Global investors debated whether the world’s largest democracy was a risk or an opportunity. India’s 1.2 billion citizens questioned whether India was too big to succeed or too big to fail.
- India was on the brink of severe economic failure.

The following 25 sectors have been identified under the ‘Make in India’ initiative :



**What’s being done?**



- An Investor Facilitation Cell has also been created in ‘Invest India’ to assist, guide, handhold and facilitate investors during the various phases of business life cycle.
- Information on 25 thrust sectors has been put up on ‘Make in India’s web portal (<http://www.makeinindia.com>) along with details of FDI Policy, National Manufacturing Policy, Intellectual Property Rights and Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor and other National Industrial Corridors.
- The Government is continuously simplifying and rationalizing the processes for boosting investor sentiment, and creation of enabling business environment. Some of the recent initiatives towards this end include

- pruning the list of industries that can be considered as defence industries requiring industrial license,
  - two extensions of two years each to the initial validity of three years of the industrial license,
  - removal of stipulation of annual capacity in the industrial license, and
  - deregulating the annual capacity for defence items for Industrial License.
- Further, the Government is implementing various schemes for promoting technological upgradation and providing more depth and value addition in the country's manufacturing sector e.g. Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 which facilitates import of capital goods at zero duty to enhance our export competitiveness; and the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) of the Ministry of Textiles.
  - Besides, various other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India such as Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, are also implementing several schemes for boosting manufacturing and upgradation of technology in their respective sectors.
  - The recent amendments in FDI policy include allowing FDI in Defence up to 49 %, in Railway infrastructure up to 100 %, in Insurance and Pension Sector upto 49 %. The investment limit requiring prior permission from Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)/Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs is increased from Rs. 1200 crore to Rs. 3000 crore.
  - The definition of investment by Non Resident Indians (NRIs), Person of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCIs) in FDI policy has been revised.
  - Further, the Government has launched the e-biz Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan, and is implementing the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project.
  - In addition, the Government has conceptualized Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor, Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, Bengaluru Mumbai Economic Corridor and the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (as the first phase of an East Coast Economic Corridor), and setting up a National Industrial Corridor Development Authority (NICDA) for coordinating and overseeing progress of the various industrial corridors.

### **Impact**

- After the launch of 'Make in India' initiative in September 2014 there is 48 percent increase in FDI equity inflows during October 2014 to April 2015 over the corresponding period last year. A positive response has been received from within the country and globally for the 'Make in India' initiative.
- The Investor Facilitation cell in Invest India has received more than 12000 queries on its portal since the campaign began.
- Several countries such as Japan, China, France and South Korea have announced their intention to make huge investments in India in various industrial and infrastructure projects.

- An Expert Committee has been constituted to examine the possibility of replacing multiple prior permissions and pre-existing regulatory mechanism and to prepare a draft legislation.

## HYBRID ANNUITY MODEL

**Q. What is Hybrid Annuity model? How is better than the earlier EPC model? Discuss.**

*“THE UNION GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE HYBRID ANNUITY MODEL FOR BUILDING NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, PAVING THE WAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 28 PROJECTS WORTH RS. 36,000 CRORE THIS FISCAL YEAR.”*

*“THE UNION CABINET HAS APPROVED THE PROPOSAL FOR TAKING UP HYBRID ANNUITY BASED PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) MODEL UNDER NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME”*

- Under this public-private partnership (PPP) model, the government will invest 40 per cent of the construction cost and the balance will come from the private developer.
- The government will invest money in five equal instalments based on the targeted completion of the project.
- The private developer will recover his investment from the government by receiving annuity payments over a period of 15 years

### **WHY HAM**

- No revenue or traffic risk - Under this model, the highway toll tax will be collected by the government unlike the build, operate and transfer (BOT) toll model where the private sector collects it.
- Bring in efficiency mainly in capital cost, project completion time and quality.
- This model will bring in long-term infrastructure funds like pension funds into the sector
- Will double the speed of project completion in the country as the government will no longer will be dependent on its limited financial resources and the expertise of private sector will be utilised to operate and maintain the roads.

### **WHAT WAS BEING DONE - In the present fiscal year,**

- 1,000 km national highway projects were awarded through the BOT model – where a private operator funds the project, operates it for a period and transfers it back to the government – and
- 3,000 km through the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) model in which the government pays the contractor a sum to build the project.

## Selected schemes of Government of Karnataka

Q. Explain the significance of state renewable energy policy in light of the energy crisis in the state

Q. Which of the following is not a biofuel programme of Govt of Karnataka

- a) Hasiru honnu
- b) Hombelaku
- c) Hosabelaku
- d) Suvarna bhoomi

The State has an installed renewable energy capacity of 4386 MW at the end of FY 2013-14. Considering all the above mentioned sources it is anticipated that the State has the potential to generate an estimated capacity of 30,000 MW.

The policy initiatives have enabled capacity addition of 2104 MW during the 5 years of the policy period.

1. **Karnataka Renewable Energy Policy 2009-14**
2. **The Karnataka State Bio-fuel Policy**

### Special biofuel programmes of the Karnataka state Government

#### 1. **Hasiru honnu programme:**

- biofuel saplings are grown along the hedges and fences of the lands of farmers and in useless agricultural land.

#### 2. **Baradu Bangara programme:**

- The waste forest land or any government land, reserved land, barren agricultural land, on the sides of road, channels, canals and useless barren land available on the basins of lakes and rivers can be used to grow biofuel saplings.

#### 3. **Suvarna Bhoomi scheme**

- This is a project to credit subsidy of Rs. 10,000/- to the bank account of each agricultural family in order to increase the agricultural income of small and very small farmers who perform dry farming and own less than 5 acres of arid land.

#### 4. **Hasiru Kalyana Scheme:**

- 1.7 lakh hectares of waste land belonging to farmers has already been identified using satellite technology in the six districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadagiri, Koppala, Raichur and Bellary under the biofuel plantation programme in the waste land of farmers in the Hyderabad Karnataka (Kalyana Karnataka) region.

#### 5. **Construction and development of Clonal Orchards:**

- for development of the breeds grafted at ten different places of our state and
- for development of local biofuel trees.

**6. Establishment of Biofuel Park:**

- Biofuel Park has been established at Madenur of Hassan district with the help of Karnataka State Biofuel development Board.

**7. Hombelaku Scheme:**

- to involve the members of Women's' Self-help Groups in seed collection, processing and value-addition activities.

**8. Hongirana Scheme:**

- Hongirana scheme aims at establishing biofuel outlets -- voluntary organizations in each district centre-- biofuel products are available under a single roof.

## INDIA FRANCE

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Q. Which is the first foreign military contingent to march down the Rajpath during the Republic day Parade?

- German Army soldiers
- French Army soldiers
- Israel Army soldiers
- Russian Army soldiers

Q. Critically examine how Indo-French relationship can help address the growing threat of Terrorism in Indian subcontinent.

**India, France to co-develop naval missile**

- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved the 'Maitri' project for the co-development of a Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (SR-SAM) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with MBDA of France.

Project Maitri:

- The Maitrimissile project is a next-generation quick-reaction **surface-to-air missile** with a lethal near-hundred per cent kill probability under development by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- It is a short-range (15 km, 9.3 mi) surface-to-air point defence missile system.

**India, France agree on deal for 36 Rafale jets**

- Indian PM, during his visit to France, has announced that the Indian Air Force (IAF) would buy 36 Rafale fighters in fly-away condition.

Details:

- These will equip two IAF squadrons with 18 aircraft each.

**India, France sign deal for Jaitapur N-project**

- India and France recently signed an agreement to fast-track the stalled nuclear project in Jaitapur in Maharashtra.

Details:

- The Jaitapur project, where French company Areva is to set up six nuclear reactors with total power generation capacity of about 10,000 Mw, is stuck for long because of differences over the cost of electricity to be generated.
- The agreement signed between India's Larsen and Toubro and France's Areva is aimed at cost reduction by increasing localisation, thereby improving the financial viability of Jaitapur project.

**Indo-French naval exercise (Varuna)**

- The 14th edition of the **Indo-French naval exercise (Varuna)** recently concluded at Goa. It was a ten day long exercise and included both a harbour and sea phase.
- VARUNA aims at deriving mutual benefit from the experiences of the two navies.

Details:

- The scope of Exercise VARUNA included the entire gamut of maritime operations ranging from Aircraft Carrier Operations, Anti Submarines Warfare Exercises, Maritime Interdiction Operations to multi-ship replenishment exercise.
- The confidence gained through such exercises helps develop Standard Operating Procedures, particularly in the fields of Joint Maritime Air Operations Planning with exchange of Carrier Operational Capabilities.
- The exercise goes a long way in enhancing interoperability between the two navies and also showcases the close ties between the two countries.

**France commits €300 million for solar energy**

- French President Francois Hollande committed €300 million (around \$325 million or Rs. 2,200 crore) over the next five years for the global development of solar energy
- Mr. Hollande announced after inaugurating the interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance at Gurgaon, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Through this solar alliance, the French President would like to open a new chapter to help give countries with no resources other than the sun an opportunity to produce electricity for meeting the needs of most of their people.

**About International Solar Alliance**

- The International Solar Alliance, envisaged to bring together 122 countries that lie wholly or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn,
  - It is an initiative announced by Mr. Modi at the COP 21 Summit in Paris in November.
  - The member countries are to be those that enjoy 300 or more days in a year of bright sunlight.
  - The Alliance would focus on three broad areas.
1. First, it is about pooling together the requests of countries with a huge potential in order to reduce their cost of capital.

2. Second, it is about opening the markets in order to reduce the cost of investment.
  3. Third, it is about transferring the necessary technology and know-how from developed to developing countries
- The challenge is also to bring in investments. The estimated amount necessary for the advancement of this energy to be more than \$1 trillion. Therefore all resources provided by the COP 21 is mobilised so that they are made available to all the countries willing to develop solar energy

### **India France Bilateral talks**

- India and France signed 14 agreements, including an intergovernmental agreement for purchase of Rafale fighters, nuclear reactors, French railway locomotives and a major commitment to counter terror cooperation.
- The two leaders came together for their official bilateral talks a day before participating in the Republic Day parade.
- However the financial component of the deal is yet to be finalised

### **Terrorism**

- The two sides said they would embark on new ways of cooperation on fighting terrorism, including intelligence-sharing and joint exercises along with the annual strategic dialogues and a joint working group on counter terrorism meetings.
- They called for “decisive action to be taken against Lashkar-e-Tayibba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the Haqqani Network and other terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda,” urging Pakistan to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Patahankot and Gurdaspur attacks and the 2008 Mumbai attack, in which two French nationals were among those killed.

### **Space partnership**

- At least three of the 14 agreements signed were on expanding space collaboration.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation and its French counterpart CNES (National Centre for Space Studies) agreed to work together in the next Mars mission, as well as a satellite launch and a thermal infrared observation mission.

### **French soldiers take part in Republic Day parade**

- French Army soldiers created history by marching down the Rajpath during the Republic Day parade, becoming the first foreign military contingent to take part in the celebrations.
- Led by Lt Col Paul Bury of the French Army's 35th Infantry Regiment, one of the oldest regiments of France, the 76-member contingent marched before an audience that included President Pranab Mukherjee, visiting French President and Chief Guest Francois Hollande and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Forty-eight members of 'The Music of the Infantry', a ceremonial band based in Lyon in France, played two military tunes at the parade as the spectators cheered them.
- The French Army's 35th Infantry Regiment traces its origin back to 1604 when it was raised in Lorraine in France.
- The regiment has as many as 12 battle honours to its credit. It has varied combat experiences, having served in Algeria, Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan among other places

### **Others**

- Under the 'Make in India' banner, India and France signed a deal that will allow French industrial major Alstom to make 800 high horse power locomotives in India. The

locomotives are expected to be made in the electric locomotives factory in Madhepura, Bihar.

- Both sides also signed an agreement on upgrading the Delhi-Chandigarh line to 200 kmph, in keeping with France's special focus on Chandigarh 'Smart City' project
- In the joint statement, France also committed itself to supporting India's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council and India's accession to the multilateral (nuclear) export control regimes in 2016 itself.

**Significance**

- The broad spectrum covered by the range of agreements marked continuity in bilateral ties. Agreements on nuclear issue, counterterrorism, defence show a positive continuum of the past work.
- But the visit obviously highlights the fact that France remains an important interlocutor for India, in the European Union, as India's position on sensitive issues have often been supported by France even when it faced opposition from other European powers
- France has been liberal with technology transfer and its support is crucial for India

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