



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 16-07-2024

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MeDevIS platform

Syllabus: GS-2; Health, International Relations

Context

- *The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched MeDevIS, an online platform that provides users with access to information on medical devices.*

About

- *MeDevIS is an advanced platform designed to streamline and **enhance the management of healthcare services**.*
- *It is tailored to meet the needs of medical professionals, healthcare institutions, and patients by providing comprehensive tools and features that facilitate efficient healthcare delivery.*

Core Features:

- **Patient Management**
 - *Electronic Health Records (EHR): Secure and accessible storage of patient health records.*
 - *Appointment Scheduling: Easy and flexible scheduling with reminders for both patients and healthcare providers.*
 - *Telemedicine: Virtual consultations to improve accessibility and convenience.*
- **Clinical Management**
 - *Prescription Management: Digital prescriptions with automated drug interaction checks.*
 - *Laboratory Integration: Seamless integration with lab services for quick and accurate test results.*
 - *Medical Billing: Automated billing processes with insurance integration for hassle-free payments.*
- **Data Analytics**
 - *Health Analytics: Advanced data analytics to monitor patient health trends and outcomes.*
 - *Operational Analytics: Insights into operational efficiencies and areas for improvement within the healthcare institution.*
 - *Predictive Analytics: Predictive models to anticipate patient needs and optimize resource allocation.*
- **Communication Tools**
 - *Secure Messaging: Encrypted communication channels between healthcare providers and patients.*

- *Collaboration: Tools for multidisciplinary teams to collaborate on patient care.*
- **Compliance and Security**
 - *HIPAA Compliance: Ensures all patient data is handled according to industry standards.*
 - *Data Security: Robust security measures to protect sensitive health information.*
- **Customization and Scalability**
 - *Customizable Modules: Tailor the platform to specific needs of different medical specialties.*
 - *Scalability: Suitable for small clinics to large hospitals with the ability to scale as the institution grows.*

Benefits of MeDevIS:

- **Efficiency**
 - *Streamlines administrative and clinical workflows, reducing the time spent on paperwork and manual processes.*
- **Improved Patient Care**
 - *Provides healthcare professionals with comprehensive tools to enhance patient care and outcomes.*
- **Accessibility**
 - *Enables remote access to healthcare services, making it easier for patients to receive care from anywhere.*
- **Cost-Effective**
 - *Reduces operational costs through automation and efficient resource management.*
- **Data-Driven Decisions**
 - *Empowers healthcare providers with actionable insights from data analytics to make informed decisions.*

Conclusion:

- *MeDevIS is a cutting-edge healthcare management platform that brings together all aspects of patient care and administrative management into one cohesive system. By leveraging technology and data analytics, it aims to improve the efficiency of healthcare delivery and enhance patient outcomes.*
- *Whether you are a small clinic or a large hospital, MeDevIS offers the flexibility and scalability to meet your unique needs.*

Financial inclusion index

Syllabus: GS-2; International Institutions

Context

- *Financial inclusion index rises with growth across all segments:*

About

- *The Reserve Bank's FI-Index, capturing the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to 64.2 in March 2024, showing growth across all parameters.*
- *The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.*

Parameter

- *The FI-Index comprises three broad parameters — access (35%), usage (45%), and quality (20%) — with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators.*

Significance

- *According to RBI, a unique feature of the index is the quality parameter which captures the quality aspect of financial inclusion as reflected by financial literacy, consumer protection and inequalities and deficiencies in services.*

Digital Economy Report 2024

Syllabus: GS-2; International Institutions

Context

- *The Digital Economy Report 2024, released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), highlights the complex relationship between the global digital economy and environmental sustainability.*

Findings of the report

- **Energy Consumption and Emissions**
 - *The digital economy is a significant consumer of energy.*
 - *Data centers alone consumed 460 terawatt-hours of electricity in 2022, with projections to double by 2026.*

- *Bitcoin mining, for example, has dramatically increased its energy use, reaching 121 terawatt-hours by 2023, more than the annual consumption of countries like Finland or Belgium.*
- **Environmental Impact**
 - *The digital sector contributes 1.5% to 3.2% of global greenhouse gas emissions, comparable to air transport and shipping.*
 - *The production and disposal of electronic devices also contribute to a growing e-waste problem.*
 - *E-waste increased by 30% between 2010 and 2022, reaching 10.5 million tons globally, with inadequate waste management practices exacerbating pollution.*
- **Disproportionate Effects on Developing Countries**
 - *Developing countries, while being primary suppliers of critical minerals needed for digital technologies, bear a disproportionate share of the environmental burden.*
 - *They are often less equipped to handle the pollution and resource depletion that come with the digital economy.*
 - *These countries produce essential minerals like cobalt, lithium, and copper but receive fewer economic benefits from digitalization compared to developed nations.*
- **Recommendations for Sustainability**
 - *UNCTAD emphasizes the need for a shift toward a circular digital economy.*
 - *This includes responsible consumption and production, increased use of renewable energy, and improved e-waste management.*
 - *The report also suggests that developing countries leverage their resources to gain more value in the global digital supply chain, thus fostering sustainable development.*

Conclusion

- *Overall, the Digital Economy Report 2024 calls for urgent action to balance the benefits of digitalization with its environmental costs, ensuring that growth in the digital sector is both inclusive and sustainable.*

Informal sector

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy

Context

- *The Great Indian Unemployment: India lost 16 million informal sector jobs in past 7 years*

More to know

- *Unemployment is one of the most pressing challenges of India.*
- *According to the latest **Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises (ASUSE)** for 2021-22 and 2022-23 released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), nearly half of Indian states and three Union territories saw informal sector job losses over seven years.*
- ***Demonetisation, GST, COVID-19** shocks cost Rs 11.3 lakh crore and 16 million informal sector jobs for India.*
- *The number of workers employed in the informal sector in 2022-23 has dropped by 1.645 million or about 1.5 per cent to 109.6 million compared to 111.3 million in 2015-16.*
- *With the lack of employment, ration card, medical insurance or even the security of getting enough money to fill the rations, India's informal sector workers are moving back to the villages, away from the cities they once helped build.*

About

- *The informal sector, also known as the informal economy, refers to **economic activities that are not regulated by the government, not protected by formal labor laws**, and often not included in the official statistics of a country's economy.*
- *It encompasses a wide range of activities and jobs, many of which are characterized by low wages, lack of job security, and the absence of social benefits like health insurance or pensions.*

Characteristics

- **Lack of Formal Registration:** *Businesses and workers in the informal sector typically operate without official registration or recognition by government authorities.*
- **Absence of Labor Protection:** *Workers do not have formal employment contracts, and therefore, lack legal protection in terms of wages, working conditions, and job security.*
- **Cash-Based Transactions:** *Transactions in the informal sector are often conducted in cash, making it difficult for authorities to track and tax these activities.*
- **Small-Scale Operations:** *Informal sector activities are usually small-scale and may involve self-employment or family-run businesses.*

- **Diverse Activities:** *The informal sector includes a variety of activities such as street vending, unregistered small businesses, casual labor, domestic work, and informal manufacturing.*
- **Flexibility:** *The informal sector provides flexibility for workers who may not have access to formal employment opportunities, allowing them to earn a livelihood through various means.*
- **Social and Economic Impact:** *While the informal sector can provide essential goods and services and offer employment opportunities, it can also lead to issues such as **exploitation**, lack of workers' rights, and reduced tax revenues for the government.*

Examples

- **Street Vendors:** *People who sell goods or food on the streets without a permanent shop or license.*
- **Domestic Workers:** *Individuals who work in households performing tasks such as cleaning, cooking, and childcare without formal contracts.*
- **Agricultural Laborers:** *Farmers and farmworkers who are not formally employed by any organization and often work on a seasonal or part-time basis.*
- **Day Laborers:** *Workers who are hired on a daily basis for manual labor, such as construction workers, without formal contracts.*
- **Small-Scale Artisans:** *Craftspeople who produce goods like pottery, textiles, or jewelry in small quantities and often sell them in local markets.*
- **Unregistered Small Businesses:** *Shops, repair services, and other small businesses that operate without official business licenses or registration.*
- **Freelancers:** *Individuals who provide services such as writing, graphic design, or programming without long-term contracts or formal employment status.*
- **Waste Pickers:** *People who collect and sell recyclable materials from garbage dumps and streets.*
- **Transport Services:** *Operators of informal transport services like rickshaws, motorcycle taxis, and minibuses that do not follow official regulations.*

Dogfish Shark

Syllabus: GS-3; Environment & Ecology

Context

- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark *Squalus hima* from **Sakthikulangara fishing harbour** in Kerala along the Arabian Sea.



About

- Dogfish sharks are a group of sharks belonging to the family Squalidae, known for their slender bodies and rough skin.

Key Characteristics

- **Species Diversity:** The dogfish shark family includes several species, with the most well-known being the Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*).
- **Size:** They are relatively small sharks, typically ranging from 2 to 3.5 feet (0.6 to 1.1 meters) in length.
- **Appearance:** Dogfish sharks have a distinctive appearance with two dorsal fins, each equipped with a spine. Their bodies are slender, and their skin is covered in rough, sandpaper-like denticles.
- **Color:** They generally have a gray or brownish coloration on the top, with a paler underside.

Habitat and Distribution

- **Global Presence:** Dogfish sharks are found in temperate and subarctic waters around the world. They inhabit both coastal and deeper offshore waters.
- **Habitat:** They prefer cooler waters and are often found at depths ranging from the surface to about 3,300 feet (1,000 meters).

Behavior and Diet

- **Diet:** Dogfish sharks are opportunistic feeders, preying on a variety of marine organisms such as fish, squid, and crustaceans.
- **Social Behavior:** They are known to form large schools, particularly when they are young. These schools can consist of hundreds or even thousands of individuals.

Reproduction

- **Ovoviviparous:** Dogfish sharks are ovoviviparous, meaning they give birth to live young. The embryos develop inside eggs that remain within the mother's body until they are ready to hatch.
- **Gestation Period:** They have one of the longest gestation periods of any vertebrate, lasting up to 24 months.

Conservation Status

- **Overfishing:** Many dogfish shark populations have been significantly impacted by overfishing, primarily for their meat and liver oil. Their slow reproductive rate makes them particularly vulnerable to overexploitation.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Various conservation measures have been put in place in different regions to protect dogfish sharks and promote sustainable fishing practices.

Interesting Facts

- **Adaptability:** Dogfish sharks are highly adaptable and can survive in a wide range of environmental conditions.
- **Longevity:** They can live for several decades, with some individuals reaching ages of 40 years or more.
- **Historical Use:** Historically, dogfish sharks have been used for various purposes, including as a source of food, fertilizer, and liver oil.