



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 26-12-2024

GS-1

1. **Women Empowerment Through Organic Farming**

GS-2

2. **Svमितva scheme**

GS-3

3. **RBI survey on income and spending**
4. **Kamarajar Port**
5. **Glass Child Syndrome**

Women Empowerment Through Organic Farming

Syllabus: GS-1: Social Empowerment.

Context:

- Organic farming plays a significant role in empowering women, especially in rural areas, by providing sustainable livelihoods, improving nutritional security, and promoting gender equality.
- Women form **75% of the workforce in agriculture** in India, making them crucial stakeholders in organic farming.

Significance of Organic Farming for Women Empowerment

- **Economic Empowerment:**
 - Provides income-generation opportunities through small-scale organic farms.
 - Enhances savings by reducing dependence on chemical inputs.
 - Examples: Self-Help Groups (SHGs) promoting organic farming, such as Deccan Development Society in Telangana.
- **Skill Development:**
 - Involves training in organic composting, vermiculture, seed preservation, and sustainable farming techniques.
 - Case Study: **Navdanya Initiative**, led by Dr. Vandana Shiva, trains women farmers in eco-friendly practices.
- **Health Benefits:**
 - Reduces health hazards linked to chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
 - Improves family nutrition through diverse organic produce.
- **Social Empowerment:**
 - Creates community networks among women through cooperative farming models.
 - Promotes leadership roles in farmer producer organizations (FPOs).

Key Government Initiatives

- **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):**

- Encourages organic farming through cluster-based approach.
- Includes women farmers as priority beneficiaries.
- **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):**
 - Supports SHGs to undertake organic farming projects.
- **Mahila Kisan SashaktikaranPariyojana (MKSP):**
 - Focuses on improving women's access to resources and promoting sustainable farming practices.

Data & Facts

- Organic farming market in India: **\$1.36 billion** (2023); women farmers constitute a significant share.
- **Sikkim:** 100% organic state, women-led cooperative movements have boosted livelihoods.
- **Kerala:**Kudumbashree Mission supports over **3 lakh women** in organic farming ventures.

Challenges

1. Limited access to credit and land ownership.
2. Lack of awareness about organic certification and markets.
3. Time poverty due to unpaid household responsibilities.

Way Forward

1. Promote **Women Farmer Producer Organizations (WFPOs)** for better market access.
2. Strengthen capacity-building programs tailored for women.
3. Provide dedicated financial schemes to support women in organic farming.

Conclusion

Organic farming is a powerful tool for women empowerment, contributing to environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation, and achieving gender equity in rural India. Scaling up women-centric organic farming initiatives can help align with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Svmitva scheme

Syllabus: GS-2: Governance – Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Context:

- PM Modi to distribute 58 lakh property cards under scheme to digitise rural property records.

Svmitva Scheme:

Introduction

- **Launch Year:** April 2020
- **Ministry:** Panchayati Raj Ministry
- **Objective:** Recording property rights in rural areas to digitise property records and strengthen the rural economy.

Key Highlights of the Scheme

- **Property Cards Distribution:**
 - **Date:** December 27, 2024
 - **Event:** Distribution of 58 lakh property cards to owners in over 50,000 villages across 12 States by PM Modi.
 - **Cumulative Total:** 2.19 crore property cards finalised so far.
- **Features and Benefits:**
 - **Facilitation of Loans:** Property cards are recognised by banks for providing loans.
 - **Reduction in Property Disputes:** Clear ownership records reduce conflicts.
 - **Empowerment of Women:** Enhanced property ownership for women in rural areas.
 - **Community Planning:** Identification of open spaces aids in village-level planning and community development.
- **Progress and Coverage:**
 - **Drone Mapping:** Achieved 92% coverage, mapping 3.17 lakh villages out of a target of 3.44 lakh.
 - **Implementation Targets:** Expected to be completed by 2026.

➤ **Adoption by States:**

- **Total Onboarded:** 31 States/UTs.
- **Limited Participation:** Sikkim, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu participated only in the pilot phase.
- **Own Versions:** Telangana and Bihar.
- **Non-Adoption:** West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland, and Meghalaya have not onboarded.

Challenges and Concerns

- **Non-Adoption by Key States:** Non-participation by West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland, and Meghalaya is flagged as a concern by Central officials.

Importance of the Scheme

- **Economic Upliftment:** Strengthens rural economy by facilitating property monetisation.
- **Administrative Efficiency:** Reduces ambiguity in property ownership records, aiding governance and planning.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Enhances women's economic independence through property ownership recognition.

Conclusion

The Svamitva Scheme is a transformative initiative that not only digitises rural property records but also plays a pivotal role in reducing disputes, empowering women, and enabling economic development in rural areas. However, achieving full participation across states remains a critical goal.

RBI survey on income and spending

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Growth and Development.

Context:

- An RBI survey shows that in the second half of 2024, more people were pessimistic about the Indian economy. This was not the case in the first half of the year.

Key Highlights

➤ Urban Spending on Essentials:

- **88.6%** of urban households reported increased spending on essential items in November 2024 compared to the previous year.
- This is the **highest share in nine years** and the second highest in over a decade (highest in June 2015).
- Less than **2% reported a decline**, and under **10% felt spending had remained the same**.

➤ Urban Spending on Non-Essentials:

- **30% of households** reported increased spending on non-essential items, the highest in the past **five and a half years**.
- Non-essential spending had sharply declined during the pandemic but steadily increased post-pandemic.

Inflationary Pressures

➤ Price Perceptions:

- **94.3%** of urban respondents in November felt commodity prices had increased compared to the previous year, marking the **sixth highest share in over a decade**.
- Less than **1% felt prices had decreased**, while a shrinking share felt prices remained unchanged.

- Rising prices are driving expenditure increases, not improved purchasing power.

Income and Employment Trends

➤ Income Levels:

- Less than **25%** of respondents in November reported an increase in income compared to the previous year, the **lowest share in over 19 months**.
- Income levels showed improvement in the first half of 2024 but declined in the second half, reversing the post-pandemic recovery trend.

➤ Employment Perceptions:

- Perceptions of job opportunities mirrored income trends, showing a decline in the second half of 2024.

Economic Sentiments

- **Pessimism vs Optimism:**
 - In the second half of 2024, a higher share of respondents were pessimistic about the economy, reversing the more optimistic sentiments observed in the first half.
- **RBI Consumer Confidence Survey:**
 - Conducted bi-monthly across 19 major cities, the survey reveals critical insights into consumer behavior and economic perceptions.

Economic Growth Projections

- **Real GDP Growth (2024):**
 - Projected by the RBI to be **6.6%**, indicating moderate growth amidst inflationary pressures.

Socio-Economic Context

- **NSS 80th Round Survey:**
 - Scheduled from **January 1, 2025**, this survey is expected to provide a deeper understanding of socio-economic trends.

Implications for Policy and Governance

- Rising inflation and stagnant income growth highlight the need for:
 - **Price stabilization measures.**
 - Policies to **boost income levels** and **employment opportunities.**
 - A focus on improving the **purchasing power** of urban consumers.

Kamarajar Port

Syllabus: GS-3: Infrastructure – Ports.

Context:

Kamarajar Port, with a 154% capacity growth, has become a key driver of India's port-led industrialization under the Sagarmala Programme.

Kamarajar Port Overview:

Established:

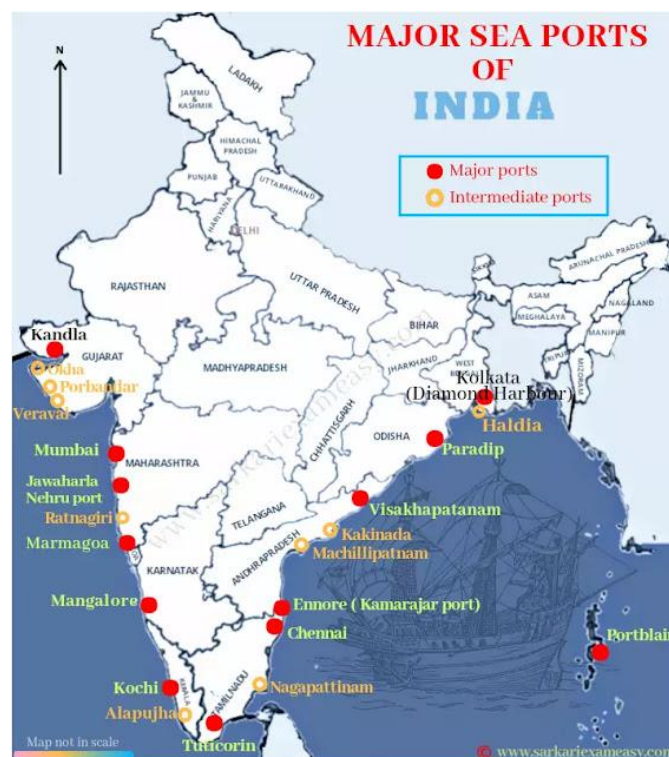
- Declared a major port under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, in March 1999.
- Incorporated as Ennore Port Limited under the Companies Act in October 1999.

Location:

- Positioned on the Coromandel Coast, approximately 24 km north of Chennai Port in Tamil Nadu.

Features and Significance:

- **12th Major Port of India:** Officially designated as a major port, showcasing its critical role in India's maritime infrastructure.
- **First Corporatized Major Port:** Registered as a public company, making it unique in India's port ecosystem.
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Plays a pivotal role in India's National Perspective Plan, spearheading port-led industrialization and boosting economic activities.
- **Capacity Growth:** Achieved 154% capacity expansion, underlining its efficiency and contribution to industrialization efforts in the region.



Sagarmala Programme

➤ **Objective:**

A flagship initiative by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways to promote port-led development and harness India's 7,500 km coastline for economic growth.

➤ **Focus Areas:**

- Modernizing port infrastructure and enhancing operational efficiency.
- Port connectivity enhancement through rail, road, and inland waterways.
- Coastal community development through skill-building and livelihood initiatives.
- Encouraging coastal shipping and inland water transport.

➤ **Components:**

- **Port Modernization and New Port Development:** Developing new ports and upgrading existing ones to world-class standards.
- **Port Connectivity Improvement:** Linking ports to hinterlands and industrial clusters.
- **Port-Led Industrialization:** Establishing Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) and industrial clusters.
- **Coastal Community Development:** Supporting communities through employment and skill-building programs.

➤ **Significance:**

- Reduces logistics costs and transit times for domestic and international trade.
- Boosts manufacturing, export competitiveness, and coastal tourism.
- Contributes to sustainable development with environmentally conscious planning.

➤ **Achievements:**

- Over 800 projects identified under the programme with an investment potential of INR 5.48 lakh crore.
- Development of Coastal Economic Zones and enhanced cargo handling capacity at ports.

Glass Child Syndrome

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – diseases.

Context:

- **Glass Child** – Refers to siblings of children with chronic illnesses or disabilities.
- Often feel invisible or overshadowed by their sibling's condition.
- Highlights the emotional struggles these children face.

Emotional Impact on Siblings

- Feelings of **neglect** and being secondary to the ill sibling's needs.
- Can lead to:
 - **Resentment**
 - **Jealousy**
 - Complex family dynamics.

Recognising Signs of Distress

- Parents should monitor for:
 - **Frustration**
 - **Jealousy**
 - **Feelings of being overlooked**
- Prompt and compassionate addressing of these signs is crucial.

Communication is Key

- **Open dialogue** helps validate the healthy sibling's feelings.
- Engage in **discussions about the illness** to encourage emotional expression.

Creating Quality Time

- **Dedicated one-on-one activities** strengthen the parent-child bond.
- Helps the healthy sibling feel valued, reducing resentment.

Encouraging Responsibility and Balance

- Healthy siblings may develop a **sense of responsibility** for their ill sibling.
- While fostering **maturity and empathy**, parents should:

- **Encourage normalcy** in the child's life.
- Promote **childhood enjoyment** alongside support for their sibling.

Long-term Impact

- Experience can foster **compassion, empathy, and resilience**.
- Parents should strive to build a **supportive family environment** for both children.