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Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

CBSE has released a public notice inviting students to apply for the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS) for the academic year 2025–26.

- **Scholarship sponsored by** - The Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education.
- **Aim** - It is designed to provide financial assistance to deserving students to help meet part of their daily expenses during their *graduation and postgraduation studies.*
- It is meant to help bright students from ***economically weaker backgrounds*** continue their higher education.
- **Eligibility -** These scholarships are *evenly distributed between male and female students.*
- They are then dispersed among several State Education Boards and central boards, such as CBSE and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE).
- Dispersal is based on the population of students in the ***18-25 age*** category in each state's jurisdiction.
- The number of scholarships allotted to a State Education Board is distributed amongst pass-outs of the Humanities, Science and Commerce streams in the ratio of **3:3:1.**
- **Eligibility criteria**
  - Be above the 80th percentile of successful candidates in the relevant stream from their respective board of examination in Class XII.
  - Be pursuing a regular course (and not a distance-learning course) in a recognized institution.
  - Not be availing benefits from any other scholarship schemes.
  - Have a family income of less than Rs 4.5 lakh per annum.

    - Students changing their institution may be allowed to continue or renew the scholarship.
- **Amount awarded -** For the first three years of undergraduate education, the scholarship offers Rs 12,000 per year, and for the fourth and fifth years, it offers Rs 20,000 annually.
- In the fourth and fifth years of professional studies, such as B.Tech, students receive 20,000 annually.
- **Application process -** Applications need to be submitted online via the National Scholarship Portal (NSP).
- **Disbursement of scholarship -** It is disbursed directly into the student's savings bank account through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, utilizing the *Public Financial Management System (PFMS) gateway.*
- To facilitate this, students are required to link their Aadhaar number with their bank account.
- **Institutional Nodal Officers** have also been requested to verify, mark defects, or reject applications through their respective login portals promptly to ensure smooth processing.

Reference

Economic Times | CSSS

India's Outreach to the Global South

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

Recently Prime Minister's is on a 9-day, 5-nation tour from July 1, 2025, covering Africa and South America.

- **Prime Minister's foreign visit** – The **foreign visit** intended to strengthen India's engagement with the **Global South**, economic partnerships, diaspora ties and participation in the **BRICS Summit**.
- **Focus –** To strengthen India's strategic and economic footprint in Africa & South America.
- It reinforces India's leadership role in the Global South.
- It deepens ties with key resource-rich nations (lithium, oil, gold).
- It showcases India's commitment to multilateralism and global governance reforms.

Key Countries and Highlights

- **Ghana** – It is the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM in three decades.
- Ghana is one of West Africa's fastest-growing economies.
- India is the largest destination for Ghanaian exports, mainly gold.
- **Agenda of the visit** – Strengthening ties in economy, energy, defence, development cooperation.
- **Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) –** First Indian PM visit to T&T since **1999**.
- **Large Indian diaspora** – About 40-45% of Caribbean Indian diaspora lives here.
- It marks 180 years of Indian immigration to T&T.
- Bilateral trade (2024-25) – **$341.61 million**.
- **Agenda of the visit –** Cultural ties, economic cooperation.
- **Argentina –** First bilateral Indian PM visit in 57 years.
- Meeting with President Javier Milei, known for close ties with the US.
- In 2024 India was Argentina's 5th-largest trading partner.
- **Agenda of the visit –** Defence, agriculture, mining, oil & gas, energy.
- Strong cooperation in **lithium**, crucial for India's green energy transition.
- **Brazil –** Attending BRICS Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

> *The 17th BRICS Leaders' Summit is scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from July 6th to 7th, 2025 and the theme is "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance".*

- Brazil is the India's largest trading partner in South America.
- **Agenda of the visit** – Global governance reforms, Peace, security, multilateralism, AI regulation, climate action and global health.
- **Namibia –** PM Modi's first visit to Namibia and 3rd Indian PM visit overall.
- Trade with Namibia grew from $3 million in 2000 to $600 million currently.
- **India's investments in Namibia** – Mining, diamond processing, manufacturing, services.
- Previously, India received **eight cheetahs** and relocated to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in 2022.

Reference

[The Indian Express| India's Outreach to the Global South]

GOSAT-GW Satellite

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Science & technology

Why in news?

Recently Japan launched its third satellite in the Japan's mission to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

- **GOSAT-GW –** Global Observing Satellite for Greenhouse gases and Water cycle.
- **Developed by** – **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**.
- **Aim** - To monitor carbon, methane, and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- It monitors aspects of the global water cycle, including sea surface temperature and precipitation.
- **Launch** – It is launched on June 29, 2025, from Tanegashima Space Center, Japan.
- It is launched using Japan's H-2A rocket, which completed its 50th mission.
- **GOSAT series** – It is the third satellite in the **GOSAT series** following GOSAT and GOSAT-2.
- **Global collaboration** – Within one year, it will begin distributing data to users worldwide, including the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- **Significance** – It supports climate change mitigation efforts by providing high-resolution environmental data.
- It aims to improve global understanding of greenhouse gas emissions, water cycle changes and aids in tracking progress toward net-zero emissions targets.
- It supports disaster management through better rainfall and ocean temperature data.
- It helps in monitoring of sea surface temperature and precipitation.
- It supports global climate models and policies by providing high-resolution data.

Quick Facts
• **H-2A rocket** – It is introduced in 2001 and carried major missions like Japan's SLIM moon lander and Hayabusa2 asteroid probe. • It is retired after this mission and will be replaced by H3 rocket, designed to be more cost-competitive and capable of carrying larger payloads.

Reference

The Hindu| Japan launches climate change monitoring satellite

Role of Private Capital in Sustainable Development

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Sustainable Development

Why in news?

Recently, Finance Minister highlighted Role of Private Capital in Sustainable Development issues at the International Business Forum, Sevilla, Spain.

- **Private capital** – It is the money invested by private players (like individuals, companies, venture funds, or private equity firms) to support businesses, infrastructure, or development, aiming for financial returns or economic growth.
- Private investment is crucial for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
- It acts as a catalyst by unlocking capital, boosting productivity, fostering innovation, and introducing technology.

Forms of Private Capital in Sustainability

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** – Capital inflows into green energy, sustainable infrastructure, etc.
- Investments made with the intention to generate measurable social and environmental impact alongside financial returns.
- **Green bonds** – They are financial instruments specifically aimed at funding eco-friendly projects.
- **Venture capital** – Supporting green start-ups, clean technologies, and circular economy ventures.

Role in Sustainable Development

- **Development imperative –** Private capital is becoming a vital source of development finance, amid volatile FDI flows and global uncertainties.
- **Bridging the financing gap –** Public funds alone are insufficient to meet the $4.5 trillion annual investment needed globally for SDGs.
- **Innovation and technology development –** Private sector drives innovation in renewable energy, waste management, water conservation,

and clean mobility.
- **Scalability and efficiency –** Private enterprises can scale sustainable solutions rapidly, leveraging operational expertise and market networks.
- **Catalysing climate action –** Private capital accelerates decarbonization efforts through renewable energy, carbon markets, and green infrastructure.

Challenges in Mobilizing Private Capital

- Low and middle-income countries still receive a disproportionately small share.
- Perceived high risks in emerging markets.
- Inadequate regulatory frameworks.
- Lack of reliable data on sustainability impact.
- High cost (borrowing rates) of capital.

Reference

Economic Times| Role of Private Capital in Sustainable Development

Thali Index Shows Hidden Hunger Despite Falling Poverty Estimates

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Social Development

Why in new?

Recent findings show that discrepancies in poverty estimation which highlights hidden food deprivation.

- **Thali Index** – It is a proposed measure to assess the standard of living based on food affordability in India.
- It uses the price of a **basic vegetarian thali** (meal) as a practical metric.
- It represents a culturally familiar, nutritionally balanced unit comprising **rice/roti, lentils, vegetables**, and optionally dairy/meat/fish.
- **Thali price reference –** Price of a vegetarian thali taken as ₹30, based on data from **Crisil**, considering regional variations across India.
- **Shift from Calorie-based measurement –** The Thali Index reflects **actual food consumption patterns** that consider nutrition, cultural norms, and satisfaction, not just calories.
- It provides a more relatable and tangible measure for the general public.

Key Findings Using Thali Index (2023-24)

- **Affordability** – Up to 40% of the rural population could not afford two vegetarian thalis a day.
- In urban areas, up to 10% of the population faced the same deprivation.
- It indicates higher food deprivation than suggested by official poverty estimates from SBI or World Bank.
- **Policy implications –** Current poverty estimates may understate the need for food subsidies.
- Thali Index suggests food subsidies **should not be eliminated** but rationalised.
- Thali Index offers a goods-based, realistic measure of food security.
- It is compatible with nutritional and calorific assessments, making it a comprehensive tool for evaluating poverty and deprivation.

Reference

The Indian Express| Thali Index