Rapid Fire Current Affairs
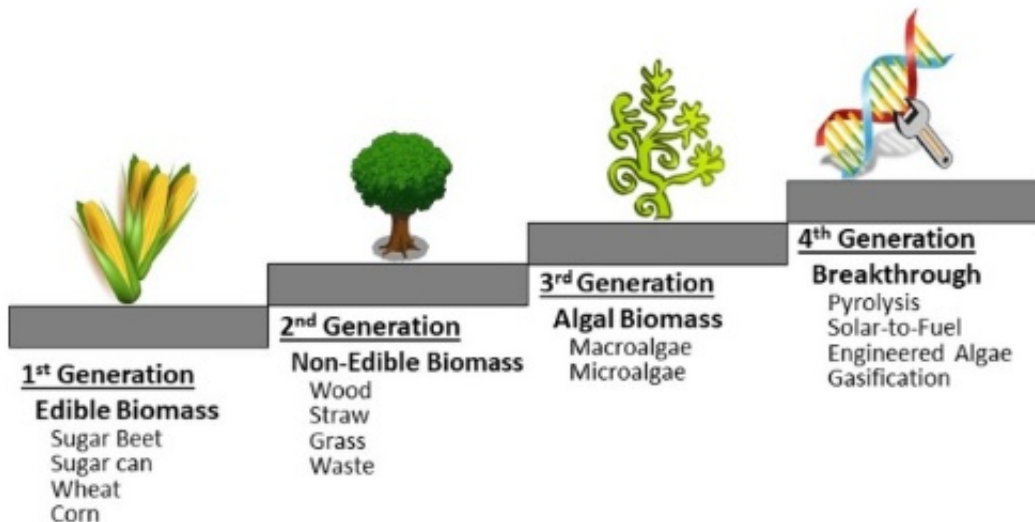
Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

According to S&P Global, The Services **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** recently reached an **impressive 13-year high of 62.3 in July** after a three-month low in June. Highlights the sector's resilience and its role in driving economic growth.

- PMI is a **survey-based measure** that provides information about **current and future business conditions** to company **decision-makers, analysts, and investors**. It is a survey-based measure
- It is calculated separately for the **manufacturing and services sectors** and then a **composite index is also constructed.** The **PMI is a number from 0 to 100.**
  - A **PMI above 50 indicates expansion,** while a **PMI below 50 indicates contraction.**
- **Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the UAE** emerged as key sources of growth for India's services sector.

Read more: Purchasing Managers Index

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana

Recently, the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** provided valuable insights into the **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana** in a written reply in the **Lok Sabha.**

- Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana was launched in March 2019.
  - It focuses on **integrated bio-ethanol projects for Second Generation (2G) ethanol** using **lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstocks.**
  - **Total financial allocation: Rs. 1969.50 crore (2018-19 to 2023-24).**
- Under this scheme the maximum financial assistance of **Rs.150 crore per project for commercial projects** and **Rs.15 crore per project for demonstration projects** has been

prescribed for **enhancing commercial viability, promoting R&D,** and adoption of technologies in the **field of production of 2G ethanol.**

- **Key states benefiting:** Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Assam, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh.
- Steps beyond PM JI-VAN Yojana to Enhance Bio-ethanol: **Imposition of additional excise duty on non-blended fuels, Ethanol Purchase Agreements (EPA), diversification of feedstock,** separate price for 2G ethanol, reduced GST on ethanol for EBP Programme.

Read more: Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana

African Gene Variant CHD1L: Shield Against HIV Progression

A recent study published in the journal Nature reveals that certain **individuals of African descent carry a unique gene variant, Chromodomain Helicase DNA Binding Protein 1 Like (CHD1L) ,** that plays a pivotal role in moderating the progression of **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)**.

- This variant of the **CHD1L** gene is exclusively found in the African population and has been linked to **reduced viral loads of the most virulent strain of HIV, HIV-1.**
    - The gene's function involves **coding for proteins that facilitate DNA damage repair.**
- Consequently, their potential to **transmit the virus is diminished,** and the advancement of their own illness is decelerated.
- While **4% to 13% of individuals of African origin might carry this gene variant,** the mechanisms by which it influences viral load are not yet fully understood.

Read more: Human immunodeficiency virus

MASI: Revolutionizing Child Care Institution Oversight

Recently, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** provided valuable insights into the MASI Portal during a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

- The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has introduced an application named **'MASI' - Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection.**
- Developed to **enhance the real-time monitoring of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)** and their inspection processes across India, this app has emerged from the need to effectively manage inspections **mandated by the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015**.
- It allows unified inspections by various authorities, including **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), State Inspection Committees,** Juvenile Justice Boards **(JJBs), and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs).**

Read more: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, **Child Care Institutions.**

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