



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

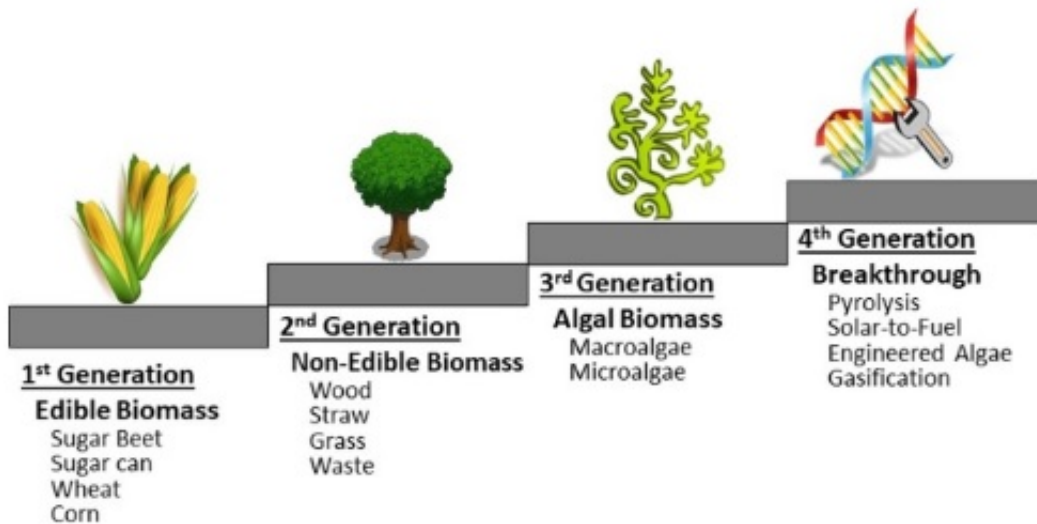
Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

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](#).