



30 August 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Central Government</b> has recently <b>expanded the scope of the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme</b> to enhance its appeal, aligning with its goal of bolstering farm-related infrastructure across the country.</li> </ul> <p><b>About AIF Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To provide medium- to long-term debt financing for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.</li> <li><b>Duration:</b> FY 2020 to FY 2032 (10 years).</li> <li><b>Eligible Entities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)</li> <li>Marketing Cooperative Societies</li> <li>Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)</li> <li>Farmers</li> <li>Self Help Groups (SHGs)</li> <li>Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)</li> <li>Multipurpose Cooperative Societies</li> <li>Agri-entrepreneurs and Startups</li> <li>Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Exclusions:</b> <b>Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)</b> are not directly eligible, but <b>projects sponsored by them under PPP are eligible.</b></li> <li><b>Financial Support:</b> All scheduled commercial banks, scheduled cooperative banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) may participate.</li> </ul>
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National Teachers Award 2024

Why in the news?

- The **Department of Higher Education**, under the **Union Ministry of Education**, recently **selected 16 teachers** from **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** and **Polytechnic institutions** for the **National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024**.

About National Teachers Award:

- **Purpose of the Award:**
  - **Celebrates** the **unique contributions of exemplary teachers/faculty members** in **improving school education and enriching students' lives**.
  - **Recognizes outstanding educators** from higher education institutions and Polytechnics.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - **Open to regular faculty members of colleges, universities, higher educational institutions, and Polytechnics** in India.
  - Must have **at least five years of full-time teaching experience** at the **undergraduate or postgraduate level**.
  - Nominees should be **below 55 years of age** as of the last date for receiving applications.
  - **Vice-Chancellors, Directors, and Principals** (regular or officiating) are not eligible to apply.
- **Award Details:**
  - Winners will receive a medal and a certificate.
  - **Cash prize:** Rs 50,000.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

National Industrial Corridor Development Programme

Why in the news?

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by the **Prime Minister**, has approved **12 new project proposals** under the **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)**.

About National Industrial Corridor Development Programme:

- Aims to **develop new industrial cities** as "**Smart Cities**."
- **Integrates next-generation technologies** across infrastructure sectors.
- **Investment Facilitation:**
  - Targets both **large anchor industries** and **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
  - **Supports** the government's goal of **achieving \$2 trillion in exports by 2030**.
- **Newly Sanctioned Industrial Areas:**
  - Uttarakhand: Khurpia
  - Punjab: Rajpura-Patiala
  - Maharashtra: Dighi
  - Kerala: Palakkad
  - Uttar Pradesh: Agra and Prayagraj
  - Bihar: Gaya
  - Telangana: Zaheerabad
  - Andhra Pradesh: Orvakal and Kopparchy
  - Rajasthan: Jodhpur-Pali
- **Industrial Cities Development:**
  - Designed as **state-of-the-art industrial smart cities**.
  - Focuses on **creating regional manufacturing hubs**.
  - **Greenfield smart cities** built to global standards.
  - Embraces '**plug-n-play**' and '**walk-to-work**' concepts.
- **Alignment with PM GatiShakti National Master Plan:**
  - Emphasizes **integrated and seamless multi-modal connectivity**.
  - Ensures **advanced infrastructure** for **sustainable and efficient industrial operations**.



**Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)**

**Why in the news?**

- The **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)** recently celebrated its **54th Foundation Day** at its headquarters in **New Delhi**.

**About BPR&D:**

- **Establishment:** BPR&D was set up in **1970** under the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**, replacing the **Police Research and Advisory Council**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Mandate:**
  - **Identify the needs and problems of the police** in the country.
  - **Undertake research projects and studies**, suggesting solutions for challenges and meeting police requirements.
  - **Promote the use of appropriate technology in police work** by staying updated on the latest developments in science and technology, both in India and abroad.

**Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Why in the news?**

- Four monkeys were recently found dead in the **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Kannur district, Kerala**, raising concerns among wildlife authorities.

**About Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- **Location:**
  - Situated on the **western slopes of the Western Ghats**.
  - Contiguous with **Wayanad-Brahmagiri**, northern slopes of Wayanad, and the **Protected Areas of Karnataka State**, including **Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary and the forests of Coorg**.
- **Rivers:**
  - **Cheenkannipuzha river** is the main drainage system on the southern side.
  - **Other rivers:** Narikkadavu Thodu, Kurukkathodu, Meenumuttithodu.
- **Highest Peak:** **Katti Betta** is the **highest peak in the sanctuary**.



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