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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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</li></ul>
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	Companies (NBFCs), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) may participate.
<b>National Teachers Award 2024</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Department of Higher Education</b>, under the <b>Union Ministry of Education</b>, recently <b>selected 16 teachers</b> from <b>Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)</b> and <b>Polytechnic institutions</b> for the <b>National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About National Teachers Award:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Purpose of the Award:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Celebrates the unique contributions of exemplary teachers/faculty members in improving school education and enriching students' lives.</li><li>○ Recognizes outstanding educators from higher education institutions and Polytechnics.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Eligibility Criteria:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Open to regular faculty members of colleges, universities, higher educational institutions, and Polytechnics in India.</li><li>○ Must have at least five years of full-time teaching experience at the undergraduate or postgraduate level.</li><li>○ Nominees should be below 55 years of age as of the last date for receiving applications.</li><li>○ Vice-Chancellors, Directors, and Principals (regular or officiating) are not eligible to apply.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Award Details:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Winners will receive a medal and a certificate.</li><li>○ <b>Cash prize:</b> Rs 50,000.</li></ul></li></ul>



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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 Kopparthi
  - 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:**



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Emphasizes integrated and seamless multi-modal connectivity.</li><li>○ Ensures advanced infrastructure for sustainable and efficient industrial operations.</li></ul>
<b>Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&amp;D)</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The <b>Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&amp;D)</b> recently celebrated its <b>54th Foundation Day</b> at its headquarters in <b>New Delhi</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About BPR&amp;D:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Establishment:</b> BPR&amp;D was set up in <b>1970</b> under the <b>Union Ministry of Home Affairs</b>, replacing the <b>Police Research and Advisory Council</b>.</li><li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi.</li><li>● <b>Mandate:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Identify the needs and problems of the police</b> in the country.</li><li>○ <b>Undertake research projects and studies</b>, suggesting solutions for challenges and meeting police requirements.</li><li>○ <b>Promote the use of appropriate technology in police work</b> by staying updated on the latest developments in science and technology, both in India and abroad.</li></ul></li></ul>

**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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**MPSC GAZETTED  
CIVIL SERVICES 2024**

संयुक्त पूर्व परीक्षा  
(पेपर 1 आणि पेपर 2)  
20 Total Tests

Test Series

**MPSC GROUP  
B & C 2024**

संयुक्त पूर्व परीक्षा  
(अराजपत्रित)  
27 Total Tests

Test Series

**MAHARASHTRA  
KA MAHAPACK**

MPSC Civil Services, MPSC  
Non Gazetted Combined, &  
More

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