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23 December 2023

International & National News

Chief guest at the 2024 Republic Day celebrations



Context

- **French President Emmanuel Macron** will be the chief guest at the 2024 Republic Day celebrations
- As Strategic Partners, India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues.
- This year marks the **25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership**

DevINE scheme

Context

- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) convened a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the States in the region
- The meeting comes in the wake of a review by the Prime Ministers Office (PMO) that found that the scheme was yet to take off despite adequate funds.

About Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) Scheme

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% central funding.
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of **Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER)**.
- It will have an outlay of **Rs.6,600 crore** for the four years from **2022-23 to 2025-26**.
- The infrastructure projects will be funded in line with the priorities laid down under the **PM Gati Shakti program**.
- The objectives of PM-DevINE are to:
 - Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti;
 - Support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER;
 - Enable livelihood activities for youth and women;
 - Fill the development gaps in various sectors.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Palna Scheme



Context

- The Women and Child Development Ministry **aims to establish 17,000 creches in anganwadis** across the country.
- The Ministry plans to **depute two additional creche workers** in each Anganwadi.

Key points

- These initiatives are being taken under the **‘Palna’ scheme** to address the need for quality daycare facilities or creches for children of working women by providing a safe and secure environment for the nutritional, health and cognitive development of the children, thereby enabling more women among all socio-economic groups to take up gainful employment in the **organized and unorganized sector**.
- According to government data, the **participation of women in the workforce has increased to 37% in 2022**.
- As of March 31, 2021, **13.87 lakh Anganwadi and mini-Anganwadi centres** are operational across the country.

China bans export of rare earth technologies



Context

- China, **the world’s top processor of rare earths**, banned the export of technology to extract and separate the strategic metals, as it overhauled a list of technologies deemed key to national security.
- It **also banned the export of production technology for rare earth metals** and alloy materials as well as technology to prepare some rare earth magnets.
- The move comes as Europe and the U.S. scramble to wean themselves off rare earths from China, which **accounts for 90% of global refined output**.
- Rare earths are a group of **17 metals used to make magnets for use in EVs and other electronics**.

One-stop health sector regulator

Context

- The Central government is exploring **setting up a health sector regulator that will bring private and government health insurance schemes** under its purview to facilitate affordable insurance coverage for all
- The Ministries of Finance (MoF) and Health are in “initial discussions” over the need for a sector watchdog.
- Doctors’ bodies have urged that private and government insurance be brought under a single regulator. Meaning, regulating government schemes like **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the Central Government Health Scheme, Employees’ State Insurance Corporation, etc.**



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Female Athlete of the Year



Context

- U.S. gymnast **Simone Biles** has been voted Associated Press' **Female Athlete of the Year** for a third time.
- Her triumphant return that included her record eighth U.S. national championship and a sixth world all-around gold made Biles the fourth woman in last 50 years to claim the honour for a third time **after tennis stars Serena Williams (five times), Chris Evert (four) and golfer Annika Sorenstam (three).**

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