





Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

16 March 2024

National and International News

Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Indian Navy's New Headquarters in Delhi



Context:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian Navy's new headquarters, Nausena Bhawan, in Delhi Cantonment.
- This marks a significant milestone as the Indian Navy establishes its first independent headquarters in Delhi, consolidating its operations previously spread across 13 different locations.

Key points:

- It is equipped with a state-of-the-art integrated building management system for efficient coordination and monitoring of security services and utility systems.
- Nausena Bhawan has achieved Green Rating IV under the integrated habitability assessment.

National Speed Breeding Crop Facility



Context:

 The Union Minister of Science & Technology recently inaugurated the pioneering "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" at the prestigious National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali.

Key points:

- The facility is dedicated to developing new varieties of crops like wheat, rice, soybean, pea, and tomato.
- It achieves over four crop generations annually through a meticulously controlled environment.
- The primary aim is to assist agricultural and biotechnology researchers in enhancing crop varieties, aiding plant breeders, and supporting farmers in adopting high-yielding and nutritionally rich varieties.
- The facility is particularly significant for North Indian States like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and the UT of J&K.
- NABI's technology facilitates the development of climate-resistant crops, freeing farmers from seasonal limitations.
- It enables year-round farming, enhancing food security and economic stability.



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About NABI:

- NABI is India's first Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, established on February 18, 2010.
- It aims to transform the agri-food sector in India.
- NABI focuses on agricultural biotechnology, food, and nutritional biotechnology.
- It aims to provide innovative solutions for quality food and nutrition through research.
- NABI has strong connections with national and international organizations and industries.
- Located in the agri-food cluster of the "Knowledge City" in Mohali, Punjab, along with neighboring institutes.
- NABI has contributed significantly to initiatives such as the 'Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech (UNaTI) Mission,' 'Poshan Abhiyan,' and the establishment of Biotech Kisan Hubs in regions like Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana.

Revamped **Pharmaceuticals** Technology **Upgradation Assistance Scheme**



Context:

The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has introduced the Revamped **Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance (RPTUAS) Scheme.**

Key points:

Objective: Provide subsidies based on quality reimbursement to aid pharmaceutical companies in achieving Revised Schedule M and WHO-GMP certifications, enhancing product quality and safety.

Key features of the scheme:

- **Expanded Eligibility Criteria:** Extends eligibility beyond Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to encompass any pharmaceutical manufacturing unit with a turnover of less than crores, facilitating technology and quality upgradation.
- Flexible Financing Options: Introduces more flexible financing, emphasizing subsidies on a reimbursement basis rather than traditional credit-linked approaches.
- Comprehensive Support for Compliance: Aligned with revised Schedule-M WHO-GMP standards, the scheme supports a broader spectrum of technological upgrades.
- **Integration with State Government Schemes:**





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| | Revised scheme allows integration with state government initiatives, enabling units to benefit from additional top-up assistance. New Benefit Limits Based on Turnover: Incentives are determined based on the company's turnover. |
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| PM-SURAJ Portal | PM unveiled 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal online. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched a nationwide initiative aimed at offering credit support to the marginalized segments of society. |
| | Key points: It is a national portal launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide credit support to small entrepreneurs from marginalised communities. Small entrepreneurs from marginalised communities, including Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and sanitation workers, can benefit from the PM-SURAJ Portal. The objective of PM-SURAJ Portal is to provide financial assistance directly to beneficiaries, eliminate middlemen and commissions, and empower marginalised communities economically and socially. PM-SURAJ Portal aims to uplift marginalised communities and integrate them into the mainstream economy, which is essential for achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. |
| Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity | Context: • Union Minister Piyush Goyal Joins Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Virtual Ministerial Meeting. |
| | Key points: The four pillars of IPEF are (1) Trade; (2) Supply Chains; (3)Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Infrastructure; and (4) Tax and Anti-Corruption. • The IPEF is not an FTA. • India actively participates in the IPEF but not across all pillars. |





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• India has opted out of the trade pillar due to misalignment with its **trade policies**.

About IPEF:

- IPEF was launched in May 2022, bringing together 14 regional partners Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam in a new model of economic cooperation.
- IPEF negotiations began in late 2022.
- In May 2023, the IPEF partners announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations for a first-of-its-kind IPEF Supply Chain Agreement.
- In November 2023, the IPEF partners announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations on the proposed IPEF Clean Economy and Fair Economy Agreements, as well as on a proposed overarching Agreement on IPEF to help ensure the durability of the framework and held a signing ceremony for the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement.

International Day of Mathematics



Context:

Pi Day, celebrated annually on March 14, honors the mathematical constant pi (π) , chosen due to the significance of the date's digits (3/14 mirroring the first three digits of pi).

Key points:

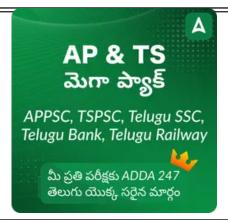
- In 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives officially recognized Pi Day.
- UNESCO declared Pi Day as the International Day of Mathematics in November 2019.
- **Origins:** Founded by Larry Shaw in 1988 at the Exploratorium in San Francisco.







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