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National and International News

<p><b>Engineering Exports Promotion Council</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the <b>70th anniversary celebrations of EEPC India and unveiled its new logo in New Delhi.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EEPC India is the trade and investment promotion organization for the engineering sector sponsored by the <b>Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry.</b></li> <li>As an advisory body it actively contributes to the policies of the Government of India and acts as an <b>interface between the engineering industry and the Government.</b></li> <li>EEPC India organizes promotional activities such as buyer-seller meets (BSM) – both in India and abroad, overseas trade fairs/exhibitions, and India pavilion/information booths in selected overseas exhibitions. EEPC sponsors the India Engineering Exhibition (INDEE)</li> <li>EEPC India organizes <b>India Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS)</b>, This is recognized as the <b>only sourcing event in India – showcasing technology and providing a meeting place</b> for global buyers and sellers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a big boost to the medical devices industry, the <b>Union Minister of Chemicals &amp; Fertilizers and Health &amp; Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, launched the Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a comprehensive scheme which targets critical areas of the medical device industry and is expected to make India self-reliant in the sector.</li> <li><b>Components:</b> It consists of five sub-schemes namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Common Facilities for Medical Devices Clusters:</b> aims to enhance infrastructure by creating shared facilities, including R&amp;D labs, design and testing centers, and animal labs etc.</li> <li><b>Marginal Investment Scheme for Reducing Import Dependence:</b> aims at localized production of key components, raw materials etc.</li> <li><b>Capacity Building and Skill Development for</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Medical Devices:</b> offers financial support for running various courses to develop skilled technical workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Medical Device Clinical Studies Support Scheme:</b> provide financial aid for animal studies, human trials, and clinical performance evaluations.</li> <li>○ <b>Medical Device Promotion Scheme:</b> supports industry associations and export councils for organizing conferences, conducting studies and surveys.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Important Days:World Immunization Day 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>World Immunization Day</b>, observed annually on <b>November 10</b>, aims to raise awareness about the vital role vaccines play in preventing infectious diseases and protecting public health.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Immunization is one of the <b>most effective and cost-efficient interventions for controlling and eradicating diseases</b>, saving millions of lives globally each year.</li> <li>● By reducing the incidence of infectious diseases, immunization not only safeguards individuals but also <b>strengthens community health by building herd immunity</b>. This day encourages governments, healthcare providers, and communities worldwide to emphasize the importance of vaccines and extend immunization coverage, especially to underserved populations.</li> <li>● The <b>Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)</b> is one of India's most comprehensive public health initiatives, aiming to provide life-saving vaccines to millions of newborns and pregnant women each year.</li> <li>● Since 2005, under the <b>National Rural Health Mission</b>, the UIP has become a central component of India's public health efforts, <b>focusing on ensuring that vaccines reach every child, even in the most remote parts of the country</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Exercise AUSTRAHIND</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The third edition of the joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND began at the Foreign Training Node in Pune, Maharashtra.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exercise <b>AUSTRAHIND</b> is an <b>annual event</b> conducted alternatively in <b>India and Australia</b>.</li> <li>● Last edition of the same exercise was conducted in Australia in <b>December 2023</b>.</li> <li>● Aim of Exercise AUSTRAHIND is to <b>promote military cooperation between India and Australia through enhancement of interoperability in conduct of joint sub conventional operations</b> in semi-urban environment in semi-desert terrain under Chapter VII of the UN mandate.</li> <li>● The exercise will be conducted in two phases – <b>combat conditioning and tactical training phase and validation</b></li> </ul>



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	<p><b>phase.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drills/ aspects to be rehearsed during the exercise will include response to a terrorist action of capturing a defined territory; establishment of a Joint Operations Centre; conduct of joint counter terrorism operations like Raid and Search and Destroy Missions; securing of a helipad; employment of drones and counter drone measures and Special Heli Borne Operations, among others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, celebrating ten years of the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, hailed it as a tribute to the courage and sacrifices of veterans and ex-servicemen who devote their lives to safeguarding the nation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In simple terms, OROP implies that <b>uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service</b>, regardless of their date of retirement.</li> <li>• Earlier, ex-servicemen used to get pensions as per the Pay Commission's recommendations of the time when they had retired.</li> <li>• A Pay Commission examines and reviews the existing pay structure &amp; recommends changes in the salary, allowances, and other facilities for civil employees as well as for the armed forces.</li> <li>• Under OROP, <b>future enhancements in the rates of pension would be automatically passed on to the past pensioners.</b></li> <li>• This implies bridging the gap between the rate of pension of current and past pensioners at periodic intervals i.e. every 5 years.</li> <li>• The <b>scheme covers all three services — Air Force, Navy and Army.</b></li> </ul>

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