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16 March 2024

National & 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 500 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 and WHO-GMP standards, the scheme supports a broader spectrum of technological upgrades.



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- **Integration with State Government Schemes:** The 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.

PM-SURAJ Portal

Context:

- PM unveiled the '**Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan**' (PM-SURAJ) national portal online.
- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched a nationwide initiative to offer 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 marginalized communities**.
- Small entrepreneurs from marginalized communities, including Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and sanitation workers, can benefit from the PM-SURAJ Portal.
- **The objective of the PM-SURAJ Portal is to provide financial assistance directly to beneficiaries, eliminate middlemen and commissions, and empower marginalized communities economically and socially.**
- PM-SURAJ Portal aims to uplift marginalized 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.
- India has opted out of the trade pillar due to misalignment with its **trade policies**.



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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**. They 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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