



19 July 2024

National and International News

<p>Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Minister for Science & Technology recently inaugurated Asia's first "Pre-clinical Network Facility" for health research in Faridabad. This facility is established under the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). <p>About CEPI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch and Founders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2017. An innovative partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil organisations. Founded in Davos, Switzerland by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments of Norway and India Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Wellcome Trust World Economic Forum Mission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats. Ensure accessibility to all people in need. Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the development of over 50 vaccine candidates or platform technologies. Targets multiple known high-risk pathogens and potential future threats like Disease X. Pandemic-Beating Plan (2022-2026): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central goal: '100 Days Mission.' Aim: Compress the time to develop safe, effective, globally accessible vaccines against new threats to just 100 days. Ind-CEPI Mission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology. Focus: Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development. Program Management: Managed through a dedicated Program Management Unit (PMU) at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
<p>MV Sea Change</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MV Sea Change, the world's first commercial passenger ferry powered entirely by hydrogen fuel, was recently launched at the San Francisco Ferry Building.



	<p>About MV Sea Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World's First Zero-Emission Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The ferry is powered entirely by zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells. ○ Built by All American Marine Shipyard for SWITCH Maritime. ● Specifications and Performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity: 75 passengers. ○ Hydrogen-powered fuel cells produce electricity for electric motors. ○ Operational endurance: About 16 hours. ○ Travel range: Around 300 nautical miles between refueling. ○ Maximum speed: 20 knots. ○ Service speed: 8-12 knots. ● Technology and Environmental Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uses H2 fuel cells combining hydrogen from storage tanks and oxygen from the ambient air to generate electricity. ○ Byproducts: Only heat and water vapor, no pollutants.
Srijan portal	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence, has recently notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL), which includes 346 items. ● These items will be exclusively procured from the Indian industry following the indigenisation timelines specified on the Srijan portal. <p>About Srijan portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indigenization Portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed by the Department of Defence Production. ○ Provides information on items suitable for indigenization by the private sector. ○ Allows DPSUs/OFB/SHQs to display items currently imported or planned for import. ○ Enables Indian Industry to design, develop, and manufacture these items. ● Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Defence.
Common Services Centres Special Purpose Vehicle	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Common Services Centres Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) recently celebrated its 15th anniversary. <p>About Common Services Centres Special Purpose Vehicle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initiative of MeitY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. ○ Monitored by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). ● Mission Mode Project:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part of the Digital India Programme. ○ Ensures systemic viability and sustainability of the scheme. ● Service Delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acts as front-end delivery points for government, private, and social sector services. ○ Provides a centralized collaborative framework for service delivery through CSCs. ● Access Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivers various electronic services to villages. ○ Contributes to a digitally and financially inclusive society. ○ Provides essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education, and agriculture services. ○ Offers a range of B2C services to rural and remote areas.
Late Blight Disease	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) has issued an advisory to potato farmers nationwide, warning of a high risk of late blight disease in their crops due to changing weather conditions. <p>About Late Blight Disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transmission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spread from infected transplants, volunteer potato/tomato plants, and related weeds. ○ Airborne spores can travel long distances in storms. ○ Rain deposits spores on plants, leading to infection. ○ Favored by cool, wet weather and cycles repeatedly under favorable conditions. ● Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leaves, Petioles, and Stems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lesions appear as round or irregular dark green to purplish-black areas, resembling frost injury. ■ Whitish growth of spore-producing structures may be seen at lesion margins on under-leaf surfaces. ○ Potato Tubers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rot up to 15 mm (0.6 inch) deep. ■ Secondary fungi and bacteria (particularly <i>Erwinia</i> species) often invade, causing significant rotting and losses during storage, transit, and marketing. ● Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timely application of fungicide is effective. ○ Rapid epidemics can occur once crops are infected.

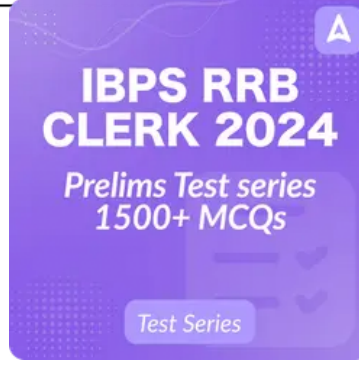


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