



30 Aug 2024

National and International News

<p>Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Government has recently expanded the scope of the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme to enhance its appeal, aligning with its goal of bolstering farm-related infrastructure across the country. <p>About AIF Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To provide medium- to long-term debt financing for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support. Duration: FY 2020 to FY 2032 (10 years). Eligible Entities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) Marketing Cooperative Societies Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) Farmers Self Help Groups (SHGs) Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) Multipurpose Cooperative Societies Agri-entrepreneurs and Startups Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects Exclusions: Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are not directly eligible, but projects sponsored by them under PPP are eligible. Financial Support: All scheduled commercial banks, scheduled cooperative banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) may participate.
<p>National Teachers Award 2024</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Higher Education, under the Union Ministry of Education, recently selected 16 teachers from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Polytechnic institutions for the National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024.



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	<p>About National Teachers Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose of the Award: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Celebrates the unique contributions of exemplary teachers/faculty members in improving school education and enriching students' lives. ○ Recognizes outstanding educators from higher education institutions and Polytechnics. ● Eligibility Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open to regular faculty members of colleges, universities, higher educational institutions, and Polytechnics in India. ○ Must have at least five years of full-time teaching experience at the undergraduate or postgraduate level. ○ Nominees should be below 55 years of age as of the last date for receiving applications. ○ Vice-Chancellors, Directors, and Principals (regular or officiating) are not eligible to apply. ● Award Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winners will receive a medal and a certificate. ○ Cash prize: Rs 50,000.
<p>National Industrial Corridor Development Programme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP). <p>About National Industrial Corridor Development Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aims to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities." ● Integrates next-generation technologies across infrastructure sectors. ● Investment Facilitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targets both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). ○ Supports the government's goal of achieving \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. ● Newly Sanctioned Industrial Areas:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uttarakhand: Khurpia ○ Punjab: Rajpura-Patiala ○ Maharashtra: Dighi ○ Kerala: Palakkad ○ Uttar Pradesh: Agra and Prayagraj ○ Bihar: Gaya ○ Telangana: Zaheerabad ○ Andhra Pradesh: Orvakal and Kopparthi ○ Rajasthan: Jodhpur-Pali ● Industrial Cities Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designed as state-of-the-art industrial smart cities. ○ Focuses on creating regional manufacturing hubs. ○ Greenfield smart cities built to global standards. ○ Embraces 'plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' concepts. ● Alignment with PM GatiShakti National Master Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emphasizes integrated and seamless multi-modal connectivity. ○ Ensures advanced infrastructure for sustainable and efficient industrial operations.
Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) recently celebrated its 54th Foundation Day at its headquarters in New Delhi. <p>About BPR&D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment: BPR&D was set up in 1970 under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, replacing the Police Research and Advisory Council. ● Headquarters: New Delhi. ● Mandate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify the needs and problems of the police in the country. ○ Undertake research projects and studies, suggesting solutions for challenges and meeting police requirements. ○ Promote the use of appropriate technology in police work by staying updated on the latest



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	developments in science and technology, both in India and abroad.
Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four monkeys were recently found dead in the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur district, Kerala, raising concerns among wildlife authorities. <p>About Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Situated on the western slopes of the Western Ghats. ○ Contiguous with Wayanad-Brahmagiri, northern slopes of Wayanad, and the Protected Areas of Karnataka State, including Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary and the forests of Coorg. • Rivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cheenkannipuzha river is the main drainage system on the southern side. ○ Other rivers: Narikkadavu Thodu, Kurukkathodu, Meenumuttithodu. • Highest Peak: Katti Betta is the highest peak in the sanctuary.

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