







28 November 2024

National and International News

BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy	 Why in news? The Union Cabinet recently approved the 'BioE3' (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy, for fostering high-performance biomanufacturing of the Department of Biotechnology. Key Points: The policy seeks to include innovation-driven support for research and development and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors. This will accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing biomanufacturing and bio-Al hubs and biofoundry. Along with prioritising regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth, this policy will facilitate the expansion of India's skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation. To address the national priorities, the BioE3 Policy would broadly focus on the following strategic/thematic sectors: high-value bio-based chemicals; biopolymers and enzymes; smart proteins and functional foods; precision biotherapeutics; climate resilient agriculture; carbon capture and its utilisation; marine and space research.
E-Daakhil	 Why in news? The Department of Consumer Affairs is proud to announce the successful nationwide implementation of the E-Daakhil portal, now operational in every state and union territory of India. Key Points: The E-Daakhil portal empowers the consumer and their advocates to file the consumer complaints along with payment of requisite fees online from anywhere for the redressal of their complaints. It facilitates the consumer commissions to scrutinise the complaints online to accept, reject or forward the complaint to the concerned commission for further processing. The digital software for filing consumer complaints has many features like e-notice, case document download link and virtual hearing link, filing written response by the opposite party, filing rejoinder by complainant and alerts via SMS/e-mail. To facilitate the rural consumers for e-filing, it has been decided to integrate the common service centres (CSC) with the E-Daakhil portal.











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Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)	 Why in news? The Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), formerly known as the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), was established under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003, effective from April 1, 2002. With the enactment of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, the USOF has been renamed as Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN).
	 Key Points: It would replace the erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is a pool of funds generated by a 5 per cent Universal Service Levy charged upon all the telecom fund operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). This money would be used to fund the expansion of telecom networks in remote and rural areas. Working of the Digital Bharat Nidhi As per the Telecom Act, contributions made by telecom companies towards the Digital Bharat Nidhi will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). All revenues that the government receives, including loans raised and all money received in repayment of loans, are credited to the CFI. The government also incurs its expenditures from this fund. The Central government will deposit the collected funds to the DBN from time to time. Administration: The Centre will appoint an "administrator" who will select "DBN implementers" through "bidding" or invitation of applications from eligible persons. This so-called administrator will determine the modalities of providing funding to DBN implementers on a case-by-case basis, including but not limited to full funding, partial funding, co-funding, market risk mitigation, and risk capital.
Reports & Indices: Network Readiness Index 2024	 Why in news? India has moved up 11 positions to rank 49th in the Network Readiness Index 2024, compared to its 60th position in the NRI 2023 report. India has ranked 2nd in the group of lower-middle-income countries after Vietnam. Key Points: The Network Readiness Index (NRI) report maps the network readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their performance in four areas: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. The report is prepared by the Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit, nonpartisan research and educational institute based in Washington DC. This year's index includes 49 high-income economies, 32 upper-middle-income economies.











One Sub	e Nation One oscription Scheme	 Why in news? The One Nation One Subscription Scheme has been approved by the cabinet, with an allocated budget of Rs. 6,000 Crore for the year 2025-27.
		Key Points:
		 The scheme will provide seamless access to high-impact scholarly articles and journals for students, researchers and faculty members across government managed higher education and R&D institutions. The initiative has been launched in alignment with the vision of ViksitBharat@2047, NEP 2020 and Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to foster a research driven learning environment. Following are the key objectives of One Nation One Subscription Scheme: The initiative will provide access to subscription to more than 13,000 international e-journals from around 30 publishers. The aim is to encourage detailed interdisciplinary research that particularly benefits Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The scheme will be used to streamline the digital process through a unified portal for faster and easier usage by various students, researchers and faculty members.















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