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7 Febraury 2025 National and International News

Places in news: Chabahar Port	 Why in news? A day after U.S. President Donald Trump signed an order that could impose sanctions on India for its investment in Iran's Chabahar port, but the Union government remained silent regarding the order and its implications. Key Points: It is a deep-water port located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province. It is on the Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. It is the only Iranian port having direct access to the Indian Ocean. It consists of two separate ports called Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari. Its geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region. INSTC is a multi-modal transportation route linking the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via Saint Petersburg in Russia. India & Chabahar Project: It is India's first foreign port project. The deal agreement aims to establish an international
	 and Afghanistan to develop the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar. It is India's first foreign port project. The deal agreement aims to establish an international transport and transit corridor in Chabahar. The construction of the Chabahar Port and the construction of a rail line from Chabahar Port to Zahedan are the major highlights of this project. The idea was that the port would enable India to bypass Pakistan and access Afghanistan, and ultimately Central Asia. Moreover, the port could serve as a hub for transit trade between India, Iran, and Afghanistan and provide an alternative route to the traditional Silk Road that passes
National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)	through China. Why in news? The e-NAM platform has been expanded to enhance agricultural











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scheme	 trade by adding 10 new commodities along with their tradable parameters. The miscellaneous commodities include dried tulsi leaves, besan (chickpea flour), wheat flour, chana sattu (roasted chickpea flour), and water chestnut flour. The spices are asafoetida and dried fenugreek leaves. The vegetables are water chestnut and baby corn, while the fruit is dragon fruit. Key Points: National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is an electronic trading site that connects the current Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to form a unified national market for agricultural commodities. The Central Government fully funds e-NAM, which is implemented by the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. It is an innovative agricultural marketing initiative that sought to improve farmers' digital accessibility to a large number of markets and buyers, as well as to increase transparency in trade transactions. Features: e-NAM provides a digital platform for farmers, traders, and purchasers to undertake agricultural commodity trading online. By connecting different agricultural mandis across the country, e-NAM aspires to create a unified national market. The platform enables transparent price discovery by giving real-time information on commodity prices and arrivals in various markets. The e-NAM portal serves as a one-stop shop for all APMC-related information and services. This comprises commodity arrivals, quality and pricing, buy and sell offers, and e-payment settlement directly into farmers' accounts.
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	 Why in news? The National Institute of Virology (NIV) confirmed that contaminated water is the primary cause of the increase in Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) cases. Key Points: It's a neurological disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system. This is the part of the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord. It controls muscle movement, pain signals, and











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	 temperature and touch sensations. GBS is also called Acute Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculoneuropathy (AIDP). It can occur at any age, but it most commonly affects people between 30 and 50. Cause: The exact cause of the disease remains unclear, but it is often observed following a viral or bacterial infection, vaccination, or major surgery. Symptoms: It begins with an unknown fever, followed by weakness and other nervous system-related symptoms. It can increase in intensity over a period of hours, days, or weeks until certain muscles cannot be used at all. Treatment: There is no known cure for this syndrome. The most commonly used treatment is intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), which is made from donated
	 blood that contains healthy antibodies. This helps calm down the immune system's attack on the nerves.
Project VISTAAR	 Why in news? The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed MoUs with Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan to onboard their technical and content review committees onto the network and initiate small pilots under Project VISTAAR.
	 Key Points: It is a digital platform designed by integrating information about start-ups in the agriculture and allied sectors. The initiative aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the agricultural extension system through digitalisation. This will help farmers and other stakeholders access the capabilities and offerings of these start-ups more easily. It contains details on over 12,000 start-ups in the agriculture and farming sectors. This database serves as a valuable resource for connecting farmers with relevant technological solutions and services. Significance: The digitalisation of the agricultural extension system will substantially expand its outreach, enabling every farmer to access high-quality advisory services on crop production, marketing, value addition, and supply chain management. By delivering timely, contextual, and accurate information, the process of digitalisation will augment the current extension system, ensuring better support for farmers in agriculture and allied fields.







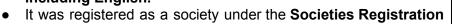




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Restructured National Bamboo Mission	 Why in news? The restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has been launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2018-19.
	 Key Points: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme started in the year 2006-07 and was subsumed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16. MIDH is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented from 2014-15 for the holistic development of horticulture in the country, covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa. The funding pattern is 60:40 between Centre and State Government for all States except NE & Hilly States, where it is 90:10 and 100% in case of Union Territories/Bamboo Technology Support Groups (BTSGs) and National Level Agencies. The aim of the National Bamboo Mission will focus on the development of bamboo in limited States where it has social, commercial and economical advantages. Nodal Ministry: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) under the Mission: The initiative would assist farmers, local craftspeople, and other persons involved in the bamboo industry, including allied sectors, both directly and indirectly. The initiative aims to reduce the import of bamboo goods while also increasing farmer income. It establishes a full value chain for the expansion of the bamboo sector.
	 Do you know? Bamboo is majorly grown in the North Eastern region and States including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
Awards & Honors: Sahitya Akademi Awards	 Why in news? Chaman Arora was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri for his book lk Hor Ashwthama.
	 Key Points: Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English.













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Act, 1860.

- About Award:
 - It is awarded for the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognised by the Akademi.
 - Akademi gives 24 awards annually to literary works in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India.
 - Besides the 22 languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised English and Rajasthani as languages in which its programme may be implemented.
 - The award, in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and 1,00,000 rupees will be presented.



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