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श्रीकृष्णराजी समाचार
ALL INDIA RADIO NEWS



June 2023 – 1st to 7th

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1 GA IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Place / Developed by / Launched	Key Facts
1.	First Indian to receive the Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star- Droupadi Murmu, President of India	--	<p>The Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star is the highest civilian award of Suriname.</p> <p>The President of India also witnessed the cultural festival on the occasion of the commemoration of 150 years of the arrival of Indians in Suriname in Paramaribo.</p>
2.	First female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)- Celeste Saulo	--	<p>She is a meteorologist from Argentina</p> <p>She will succeed Petteri Taalas</p>
3.	First Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meteorologist and an Arab meteorologist from Asia to be named as the President of World Meteorological Organization (WMO)- Dr Abdulla Al Mandous	--	<p>He is from United Arab Emirates (UAE).</p> <p>He will succeed Gerhard Adrian</p>
4.	India's First International Cruise Vessel- MV EMPRESS	Launched from: Chennai's International Cruise Terminal	<p>The cruise visited three ports in Sri Lanka viz, Hambantota, Trincomalee, and Kankasanturei.</p> <p>The cruise is an outcome of an agreement signed between Chennai Port and Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd during the first Incredible India International Cruise Conference in 2022</p>
		Additional Information: The Government of India intends to build three new international cruise ports by 2024.	
5.	First Indian state to launch its own broadband service- Kerala	--	Kerala has achieved this milestone by launching Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) .

6.	First All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to receive National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) accreditation - AIIMS Nagpur	--	--
7.	India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters for a flight from Juhu to Pune using GAGAN satellite technology	--	GAGAN refers to GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation GAGAN developed by: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI)
8.	First Manufacturer To Achieve GreenPro Ecolabel - JSW Steel	--	JSW Steel Vijayanagar's 'Automotive Steel' products has received the accreditation
		About GreenPro Ecolabel Developed by: Confederation of Indian Industry's Green Business Centre It recognizes the highest standards of environmental sustainability and product performance in the Indian manufacturing sector	
9.	First Insurance Company to launch exclusive term insurance plan for Type 2 diabetic and pre-diabetic individuals in India- Bajaj Allianz Life	--	Plan Name: Bajaj Allianz Life Diabetic Term Plan Sub 8 HbA1c
10.	India's first co-branded digital fashion & lifestyle credit card	Launched by: Kotak Mahindra Bank in partnership with Myntra	--
11.	First Indian Private Dairy to offer Heat Index Insurance Plan to Farmers- mooPay	Product launched in association with IBISA Network, HDFC ERGO, and Gramcover	Aim: to compensate mooMark dairy farmers for income loss resulting from decreased milk productivity during summer heat waves.
12.	India's first mobile-based expense management card	Launched by: Karbon Card	It is a Visa-powered prepaid card It offers users up to 1% cashback on transactions
13.	India's first lithium-ion cell manufacturing gigafactory	To be built at: Gujarat To be built by: Tata Group	In this regard, an MoU was signed between Gujarat Government and Tata Group

14.	India's first National centre for earthquake safety of dams	To be set up at: Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) in Jaipur, Rajasthan	An MoU was signed between MNIT & National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) to set up the centre.
15.	First female National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadet in India to complete the advanced mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand- Shalini Singh	--	--
16.	First Dettol Climate Resilient School	Launched in: Uttarkashi District, Uttarakhand Launched by: Reckitt	Launched under: Dettol Banega Swasth India Campaign Launched on: World Environment Day
		<p align="center">About Dettol Climate Resilient School Project</p> <p>Aim: to create a sustainable school environment across Uttarakhand; to build Dettol Climate Resilient Schools in Chardham – Gangotri, Yamuntori, Kedarnath and Badrinath.</p>	
17.	First public sector bank in India to launch Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility - Bank of Baroda	--	<p>Under this facility, customers can withdraw cash using via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in all its Automated teller machines (ATMs).</p> <p>Customers can avail two transactions a day per account with a withdrawal limit of Rs 5,000 per transaction.</p>
18.	World's first Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite -'Drishti'	Developed by: GalaxEye, an IIT-Madras-incubated space-tech startup	<p>GalaxEye has planned to launch its first satellite 'Drishti Mission' in 2024.</p> <p>It will be India's first & world's highest resolution multi-sensor imaging satellite.</p>

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

S.No	Initiatives / Programs in News	Launched by / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	Food Safety and Certification (FoSTaC) E-Learning App for street vendors	Developed by: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	The initiative was launched during the inauguration of the National Training Centre for FSSAI at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh .

			The app contains learning and training modules about food safety guidelines.
2.	Cluster redevelopment programme	<p>Launched by: Government of Maharashtra</p> <p>Launched in: Thane</p> <p>Executed by: City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO)</p>	<p>It is Asia's largest cluster development scheme.</p> <p>It has been conceptualized for the collective redevelopment of unauthorized and official dangerous buildings.</p> <p>It will be implemented in Thane, Mira-Bhayandar area of Thane district & Mumbai.</p> <p>The occupants will get a 323 Sq ft ownership house</p>
3.	Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the incidents of violence in the state of Manipur	<p>Constituted by: Ministry of Home Affairs</p> <p>Constituted under: Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952</p>	<p>Commission Head: Justice Ajai Lamba, former Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court</p> <p>Total Members of the Commission: Three</p> <p>Headquarters of the Commission: Imphal.</p>
4.	'Nayi Pahal' programme	Initiative of: Goa Raj Bhavan	<p>It is a Book Sponsorship Scheme</p> <p>Objective: to promote young writers in Goa to publish their first book.</p> <p>Recently, five books in Konkani, Marathi and English languages have been released under the programme.</p>
5.	Amrit Generation Campaign: Naye Bharat Ke Sapne	Launched by: Meta and Ministry of Women and Child Development	Aim: to showcase the aspirations of young India by inviting youth in the age group of 16-18 years to create Reels on Instagram and Facebook showcasing their aspirations and dreams for the future
6.	Union Cabinet has approved the third revival package for BSNL	--	<p>Total Outlay of the package: Rs.89,047 crore</p> <p>The approval includes allotment of 4G/5G Spectrum to BSNL.</p> <p>Authorized Capital of BSNL to be increased from Rs.1,50,000 crore to Rs.2,10,000 crore</p>

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

S.No	Focus Area	Venue	Key Facts
1.	3rd India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue	New Delhi	--
2.	2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	To be held at: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)	It is the is the world's largest and most important gathering of conservationists

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

BANKING/INSURANCE

S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
1.	Partnership to extend digital supply chain financing solutions to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs).	Yubi (online debt marketplace) & Indian Bank	The partnership aims to disburse Rs 1,500 crore in the first year
2.	MoU to provide financial solutions to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) & HDFC Bank	--

OTHERS

S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
3.	MoU for development of Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project (480MW) in Nepal	NHPC Limited (India) and Vidhyut Utpadan Company Limited (VUCL), Nepal	The project will use the flow from the Karnali River in Nepal for power generation
4.	MoU for strategic partnership for financing infrastructure and logistics sector projects in India and abroad	Power Finance Corporation (PFC) & RITES Limited (engineering consultancy company)	--
5.	MoU to develop Renewable Energy Power Parks and Projects in Uttar Pradesh	NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL)	Under the MoU, floating and ground mounted Solar Projects

			<p>would be set in the Rihand reservoir.</p> <p>A solar PV Project dedicated for solarization of Ayodhya city will also be developed under the MoU</p>
6.	MOU to generate Employment for Ex-Servicemen	Directorate General Resettlement under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence and Apnatime Tech Pvt Ltd	--
7.	MoU for technical collaboration	Indian Navy and Indian Maritime University	The MoU sets forth collaboration in the fields of training, joint research & development, collaborative courses, resolution of field level issues by teams from Centre of Excellence (Marine Engg), INS Shivaji, Lonavala and Indian Maritime University
8.	MoU	Maharashtra government & Bajaj Finserv Ltd	Under the MoU, Bajaj Finserv Ltd will develop projects to the tune of Rs 5000 crore in Pune
9.	MoU to develop Pumped Storage schemes and other Renewable Energy Source projects in Maharashtra.	NHPC Limited and Department of Energy, Government of Maharashtra	<p>Under the MoU, four Pumped Storage Projects will be developed aggregating to a total capacity of 7,350 MW, namely, Kalu, Savitri, Jalond and Kengadi</p> <p>The MoU entails harnessing the Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to help achieve the national objective of Energy Transition, i.e., installed capacity of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and Net Zero by 2070.</p>
10.	Three MoUs to strengthen startup ecosystem	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. STPI Next Initiatives & BRC, 2. SRM institute of Science and Technology and STPI Next Initiatives & India Angels Network and Center for Entrepreneurship Development 3. STPINEXT initiatives and Incubation (CEDI) of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy 	<p>The MoUs were signed during the Seminar on "Growth avenues for Indian IT industry and emerging tech ecosystem".</p> <p>The seminar was organized by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), on its 32nd Foundation Day in Delhi</p>
11.	MoU to collaborate on identifying and developing public-private partnership	International Finance Corporation (IFC) and National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)	Aim: to support the India's target of achieving a USD 5-trillion economy while fostering low-

(PPP) projects to bolster India's infrastructure

carbon and climate-resilient growth

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Initiatives / Programs in News	Launched by / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	Shenzhou-16 manned spaceship	<p>Launched by: China</p> <p>Launched from: Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre</p>	<p>The spacecraft carried three astronauts, including its first civilian, to its Tiangong space station.</p> <p>Astronauts part of the mission:</p> <p>Gui Haichao - China's first civilian astronaut</p> <p>Jing Haipeng- first Chinese astronaut to go into space for a record fourth time.</p> <p>Zhu Yangzhu- It is his first journey into space</p>

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISES

S.No	Exercise	Countries / Forces Involved	Key Facts
1.	Arctic Challenge 2023	<p>Host: Finland, Norway, and Sweden</p> <p>Other Participants: 14 members from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)</p>	<p>The exercise is being held every second year</p> <p>It is Finland's first joint training in the Arctic region since becoming a member of NATO</p>
2.	Exercise Ekatha (sixth annual edition)	Indian Navy & Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)	<p>Venue: Maldives</p> <p>Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of Indian Navy participated in the exercise</p>

DEFENCE INITIATIVES AND TECHNOLOGIES

S.No	Initiative / Missile / Technology	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
3.	Agni-1 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile	Developed by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	Recently, training launch of Agni-1 was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha

4.	MH 60 Romeo (MH60R)- Indian Navy's MH-60R helicopter	Manufactured by: Lockheed Martin Corporation	MH60R recently completed its maiden landing on INS Vikrant
5.	Varunastra	Designed & Developed by: Vizag-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Manufactured by: Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).	It is an advanced heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo of Indian Navy. It was recently test-fired with a live warhead against an undersea target Maximum speed: 40 knots Maximum operating depth: 600 m

ENVIRONMENT

S.No	Topic	Country / State / Organization	Key Facts
1.	Pisodonophis kalinga (kalinga snake eel)- New species of eel.	Discovered at: Chilika lagoon, Palur canal, Ganjam district, Odisha	Discovered by: scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

SPORTS

S.No	Tournament	Venue	Winner / Looser	Key Facts
1.	3rd Khelo Indian University Games (KIUG) 2022	Uttar Pradesh	Overall Champion: Panjab University, Chandigarh (69 medals- 26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals) Second Place: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (GNDU) Third Place: Jain University, Karnataka	Closing Ceremony held at : Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Banaras Hindu University (BHU) campus in Varanasi. Water sports were introduced for the first time in KIUG 2022 Mascot: Jitu, the Barasingha (it represents Swamp Deer- the state animal of Uttar Pradesh) Anthem: "Khelo India – Har Dil Mein Desh" (composed and sung by Palash Sen)
2.	Men's hockey Junior Asia Cup 2023	Salalah, Oman	Winner: India (2-1) Runner-up: Pakistan	India has won the title for the fourth time. With this victory, India has created a new record of winning the maximum titles at the Men's Junior Asia Cup.

				Pakistan has won the title for three times . Goalkeeper of the Tournament: Mohith HS (India)
3.	Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) TR-Nation ODI for the Deaf, 2023	Kolkata	Winner: Indian Deaf cricket team Runner-up: Bangladesh Deaf Team	Indian Team defeated Bangladesh Team by record 166 runs
4.	23rd Dubai Chess Open	Dubai Chess & Culture Club, UAE	Winner: Aravindh Chithambaram (India)	Aravindh Chithambaram has won the title for the second consecutive year
5.	Spanish Grand Prix (Formula 1 motor race)	Circuit de Barcelona-Catanuya, Spain	Winner: Max Verstappen (Netherlands, Red Bull) First Runner-up: Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom, Mercedes) Second Runner-up: George Russell (United Kingdom, Mercedes)	--

BANKING AND FINANCE

BANKING INITIATIVES

S.No	Program / Initiative / Landmarks	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	Turbo UPI	Developed by: Razorpay, in partnership with National Payments Corporation Of India (NPCI) and Axis Bank	Turbo UPI is India's fastest one-step UPI (unified payments interface) payment solution
2.	Tie-up to launch voice-banking solutions	Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP) and IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)	Voice-banking technology will be available in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu initially , in addition to English
3.	Kotak Réserve	Kotak Private Banking, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank	It is an exclusive saving program for UHNIs (Ultra High Net Worth Individuals) & HNIs (High Net Worth Individuals)

4.	Project Kuber	State Bank of India (SBI), Bengaluru Circle	<p>Objective: to source, facilitate and cater to various banking needs of customers.</p> <p>The project comprises four Transaction Banking Hubs and One Corporate Salary Package Hub</p>
5.	'Wellth- Where Investments and Health Unite' program.	YES SECURITIES & WatchYourHealth (WYH), a tech driven healthcare platform	<p>Objective: to provide investment solutions to healthcare professionals</p>
6.	"My Account Starts Today" advertising campaign	HSBC India	<p>The campaign features HSBC India's brand influencer Virat Kohli</p>

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

S.No	Acquirer	Acquiree	Key Facts
7.	General Atlantic	Acko Tech	<p>The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of additional stake of 4.04% in Acko Tech by General Atlantic.</p> <p>Approval provided under Regulation 19(2) of the Competition Commission of India (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations) Regulations, 2011.</p>

OTHERS

S.No	Topic	Key Facts
8.	Yes Bank has launched its new logo	 <p>Yes Bank's new logo represents 'soaring bird'.</p> <p>Yes Bank has planned to launch an integrated campaign with the tagline – 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.</p>
9.	The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has directed SBI Life Insurance Co Ltd to take over the policies of Sahara India Life Insurance Co Ltd	<p>The decision envisages to protect the interests of policyholders of the defunct insurance arm of the Sahara Group.</p>

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person	Position	Organization / Country / State / Company	Key Facts
1.	Ashwani Kumar	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	UCO Bank	--
2.	Sandeep Batra (Reappointment)	Executive Director	ICICI Bank	--
	Hari Mundra (Reappointment)	Independent Directors		
	B. Sriram (Reappointment)			
	S. Madhavan (Reappointment)			
3.	Amarendu Prakash (succeeded Soma Mondal)	Chairman	Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)	--
4.	Dennis Francis (to succeed Csaba Korosi)	President	78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	Dennis Francis is the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations. UNGA 78th session will commence in September 2023 and will end in September 2024
5.	Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassador	Wrangler	--

PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Personality	Profession	Key Facts
1.	Vellayani Arjunan	Linguist and writer	He passed away recently. He hails from Kerala
2.	Sulochana Latkar	Indian Actress	She passed away recently She has acted in Marathi and Hindi Movies.
3.	Ved Kumari Ghai	Sanskrit scholar	She passed away recently.

			She hails from Jammu and Kashmir
4.	Ama Ata Aidoo	Ghanaian writer and professor	She passed away recently. Notable Works: The Dilemma of a Ghost, Changes
5.	Zlatan Ibrahimovic	Swedish footballer	He recently announced retirement from football.
6.	Aamir Raza Husain	Theatre director & actor	He passed away recently. He hails from Uttar Pradesh.
7.	Jim Hines	American Sprinter	He passed away recently. He created history by becoming the first man to officially go below 10 seconds for 100 metres , running a hand-timed 9.9 seconds at the 1968 US Championships.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Author	Key Facts
1.	"RINGSIDE – Up, Close and Personal on India and Beyond"	Dr Vijay Darda	The author is the Chairman of the Editorial Board of Lokmat Media Group.
2.	Nalanda	Abhay K	--
3.	The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life	BK Shivani	--
4.	Kathakali Dance Theatre: A Visual Narrative of Sacred Indian Mime	K.K. Gopalakrishnan	--

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

S.No	Festival	Country / State	Key Facts
1.	Lavender Festival	Venue: Bhaderwah Valley, Jammu and Kashmir	Organized by: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – Indian Institute Of Integrative Medicine (CSIR IIIM), Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir Organized under: CSIR One Week One Lab Program

Bhaderwah Valley has emerged as the **Lavender capital of India**

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place	Why in News	Key Facts
1.	Sindhu Central University, Ladakh	It has been recently established by the Central Universities (amendment Act 2021) with the territorial jurisdiction of UT of Ladakh	It will be is fully funded and supported by the Government of India through the Ministry of Education
2.	Mekedatu balancing reservoir	To be built by: Government of Karnataka Location: Kanakapura, Ramanagara district, Karnataka	To be built under: Mekedatu multi-purpose project
3.	Bahanaga Bazaar railway station, Balasore district, Odisha	Recently, Coromandel Express, Howrah Superfast Express & a goods trains collided near Bahanaga Bazaar station	--
4.	Nova Kakhovka dam, southern Ukraine	It was recently breached, causing extensive flooding	It is located on Dnieper river in Kherson Oblast
5.	Baba and Mai monument & Mama Sranan monument	Recently, the President of India visited these monuments at Paramaribo, Suriname	Baba and Mai monument symbolises first Indian man and woman who set foot in Suriname . Mama Sranan monument Mama Sranan, the Mother Suriname holding her five children , the five ethnicities that inhabit Suriname with care and affection.

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Days	Date	Themes & Misc.
1.	Global Day of Parents 2023	June 1	Theme: "The power of parenting: raising happy, healthy and hopeful children"
2.	World Milk Day 2023	June 1	Theme: "Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods" Day established by: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

		Additional Information: Under the aegis of Azadi Kaa Amrit Mahotsav, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in collaboration with the Agriculture Production Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, celebrated World Milk Day at SKICC, Srinagar.	
3.	Telangana Formation Day	June 2	Telangana was formed out of Andhra Pradesh in 2014
4.	World Bicycle Day	June 3	Theme: "Riding Together for a Sustainable Future." Theme: Solutions to plastic pollution Campaign: #BeatPlasticPollution Host: Côte d'Ivoire Supported by: Netherlands Day observed & led by: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
5.	50th World Environment Day	June 5	
6.	UN Russian Language Day 2023	June 6	Day established by: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Six official languages of the United Nations (UN): Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
7.	Fifth World Food Safety Day	June 7	Theme: "Food standards save lives." Slogan: "Food safety, everyone's business"

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	Miscellaneous News	Key Facts
1.	INS Trishul has recently visited port Anjouan, Comoros as a part of Indian Navy's long-range deployment	--

Following are the YouTube reference videos for this week; however, this does not cover all the news and comprises of important news in a very crisp manner (not in detail):

Date	YouTube Link
1 st and 2 nd June	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWW5f3h-0_c
3 rd to 6 th June	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kb0NbRkrYlo

7th Junehttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orwHO9P_UY4

2 GA + ESI



SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.1 UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023

Why in News?

- Recently the Union Minister of Education released the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023.

Important Information

- **The UGC Act 1956** provides for **Central Government to declare any institution** other than a University to a status of **Institution Deemed to be University** as if it were a university within the meaning of Section 2(f).
- The **first set** of Regulations was notified in the **year 2010**, which was revised in 2016 and 2019.
- The new Regulations are built on the **principle of a “light but tight” regulatory framework** envisioned in the **National Education Policy 2020**.
- **Salient features of Regulations**
- **The eligibility criteria to apply for deemed to be university status: is NAAC ‘A’ grade with at least a 3.01 CGPA for three consecutive cycles** or **NBA accreditation for two third of eligible programmes for three consecutive cycles** or in the **top 50 of any specific category of NIRF for the last three years continuously** or in **top 100 of overall NIRF Ranking for last three years continuously**.
- Institution deemed to be University **may start new courses or programmes in any field in their existing campus and approved off-campus centres**, with the prior approval of its Executive Council.
- **Distinct institution category:** an institution focusing on **teaching and research in unique disciplines** and/or **addressing the strategic needs of the country** or engaged in the **preservation of Indian cultural heritage or preservation of the environment** or dedicated to **Skill Development** or dedicated to **Sports or languages** or any other discipline(s), so determined by the Expert Committee of Commission

- **Eligibility to set up off-campus centres:** Institutions deemed to be Universities with **minimum 'A' grade and above** or **ranked from 1 to 100** in the "Universities" category of **NIRF rankings** of the relevant year are.
- Universities under a "**distinct category**" can apply for **off-campus after five years** of their declaration if they are accredited with **an A grade** or **figured in the top 100** in the "**universities**" category of NIRF.
- **Withdrawal of permission given to start new courses or new programmes:** Deemed to be Universities with **NAAC less than an 'A' grade** or **ranked more than 100** in the **current NIRF ranking** and failed to rectify the deficiencies pointed out by UGC.
- University offers different courses which come under the regulatory ambit of different statutory bodies, namely the University Grants Commission, the All India Council of Technical Education, National Medical Council, etc., the **rules and regulations regarding fee structure, number of seats, etc., issued by such statutory body concerned shall be applicable.**
- The institution deemed to be University **may provide fee concession or scholarships or may allocate seats to meritorious students** belonging to **socially and economically deprived** groups of the society.
- The institutions deemed to be Universities shall **compulsorily create Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** identities of their students and **upload their credit scores in digital lockers** and ensure that the credit scores are reflected in **ABC portal and adopt Samarth e-Gov.**
- Institutions **can offer Twinning Programmes, Joint Degree Programmes, and Dual Degree Programmes** in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the regulations concerned.

2.2 cyber shikshaa programme

Why in news?

- Recently Microsoft on signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Directorate General of Training (DGT) to train students regarding cyber security skills.

Important information

- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**
- MoU signed between: **Directorate General of Training (DGT) and Microsoft.**
- Target to train: **6,000 students and 200 educators in digital and cyber-security skills.**
- Courses offered: training in AI, cloud computing, web development and cybersecurity skills.

The Cyber shikshaa programme:

- Launched by: **the Data Security Council of India and Microsoft India.**
- Launch year: **2018**
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**
- Duration of the programme: **3 years.**
- Aim: **create a dynamic pool of skilled women** in the **field of Cyber Security** across the country.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.3 Green Grids Initiative — One Sun, One World, One Grid

Why in News?

- Recently, Green Grids Initiative — One Sun, One World, One Grid was mentioned in the news.

Green Grids Initiative—One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG)

Proposed by	The Prime Minister of India in 2018						
Launched in	2021						
Launched by	India, United Kingdom, in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the World Bank Group (WB)						
Aim	to provide power to about 140 countries through a common grid that will ensure the transfer of clean and efficient solar power						
Implementation	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">Phase I</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Indian grid would be connected to the grids of Middle East, South Asia and South-East Asia to develop a common grid</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">Phase II</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">connect the functional first phase to the pool of renewable resources in Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">Phase III</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">global interconnection</td> </tr> </table>	Phase I	Indian grid would be connected to the grids of Middle East, South Asia and South-East Asia to develop a common grid	Phase II	connect the functional first phase to the pool of renewable resources in Africa	Phase III	global interconnection
Phase I	Indian grid would be connected to the grids of Middle East, South Asia and South-East Asia to develop a common grid						
Phase II	connect the functional first phase to the pool of renewable resources in Africa						
Phase III	global interconnection						

2.4 Waiver of ISTS charges

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Power has granted **waiver** of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges to **Off-Shore Wind Projects** and extended the **waiver to Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia**.

Waiver of ISTS charges of off-shore wind power projects

- Complete waiver of ISTS charges for off-shore wind power projects commissioned on or before 31st December, 2032 for a period of 25 years from the date of commissioning of the Project.**
- The off-shore projects **commissioned from 1st January, 2033** would be given **graded ISTS charges**.
- Previously, all wind energy projects were provided waiver upto 30.06.2025.
- Now, **offshore wind would be treated separately, and waiver to these would granted up to 31st Dec, 2032 with graded transmission charges thereafter.**

Period of Commissioning of Offshore Wind Power Projects	Applicable ISTS Charges
01.01.2033 to 31.12.2033	25% of the applicable ISTS charges
01.01.2034 to 31.12.2034	50% of the applicable ISTS charges
01.01.2035 to 31.12.2035	75% of the applicable ISTS charges
From 01.01.2036	100% of the applicable ISTS charges

Waiver of ISTS charges for Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia projects

- Complete waiver of ISTS charges for a period of 25 years** from the date of commissioning of the project, for **Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia production units, using Renewable Energy (commissioned after 8th March 2019), Pumped Storage System or Battery Storage Systems or any hybrid combination of these technologies.**

- **Projects commissioned on or before 31st December, 2030** shall be **eligible** for this waiver.
- **Applicability of waiver date** extended from 30 June 2025 to **31 Dec 2030**.
- Projects **commissioned after 31st December, 2030** will attract **graded transmission charges** thereafter.

Period of Commissioning of Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Plants	Applicable ISTS Charges
01.01.2031 to 31.12.2031	25% of the applicable ISTS charges
01.01.2032 to 31.12.2032	50% of the applicable ISTS charges
01.01.2033 to 31.12.2033	75% of the applicable ISTS charges
From 01.01.2034	100% of the applicable ISTS charges

Other Guidelines

- Criteria for availing the **complete waiver of ISTS charges for PSP projects** has now been linked to the **date of award of the project rather than commissioning of the project**.
 - It will be applicable in cases where **construction work is awarded on or before 30th June, 2025**.
- **ISTS charges on drawl of energy from energy storage projects**, which was earlier granted to the project, will henceforth be **available for each individual user of such project**.
 - The individual user will get this benefit, if **at least 51%** of the energy utilized by the user for charging the storage system is renewable energy,

2.5 City-Recycler Connect workshop

Why in News?

- Recently Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) organised a City-Recycler Connect workshop.

Important Information

- Organized by: **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** in collaboration with **German Development Cooperation (GIZ)**.
- Organized as a part of: **Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' campaign**
- **A digital platform "Sansaadhan"**: for enabling **city and recycling market connect** was also showcased during the workshop.
- **Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' campaign**
- Launched by: **Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- Duration: **three-week campaign**
- Aim: to **champion the RRR's of waste management- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**.

2.6 'One Student One Tree Campaign 2023'

Why in news?

- Recently Minister of State for Education informed that, AICTE will launch "One Student One Tree Campaign 2023".

- Occasion: **World environment Day 2023 celebration.**

Important information

- **Launched by: AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education)**

2.7 City Investment to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)

Why in news?

- Recently The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0).

Important Information

- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**
- **In partnership with: French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).**
- Duration: **four years, i.e., from 2023 till 2027.**
- **The funding:** loan of **Rs.1760 crore** (EUR 200 million) **from AFD and KfW** (EUR 100 million each) and a **technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr.** (EUR 12 million) **from the EU.**
- **Focus areas: integrated waste management** at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the National level.
- **Number of Components: 3**
- **Additional information**
- **CITIIS 1.0** was launched **jointly in 2018 by MoHUA, AFD, EU, and NIUA**, with a total outlay of **₹933 crore.**
- It had **3 components.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.8 Nyaya bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services)

Why in News?

- Recently the Pro Bono Club of NEHU, Shillong organised an enlightening session on the RTI Act, of 2005
 - **Under the aegis of: Department of Justice**
 - ✓ **Venue: Shillong**

Important Information

- **Nyaya bandhu**
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Law and Justice.**
- Launch year: **2017**
- Aim: to **establish a framework for dispensation of pro bono legal services** across the country.
- **Function: connects the practicing advocates** interested in pro bono work **with the eligible marginalized and vulnerable beneficiaries** through a **Mobile Application.**

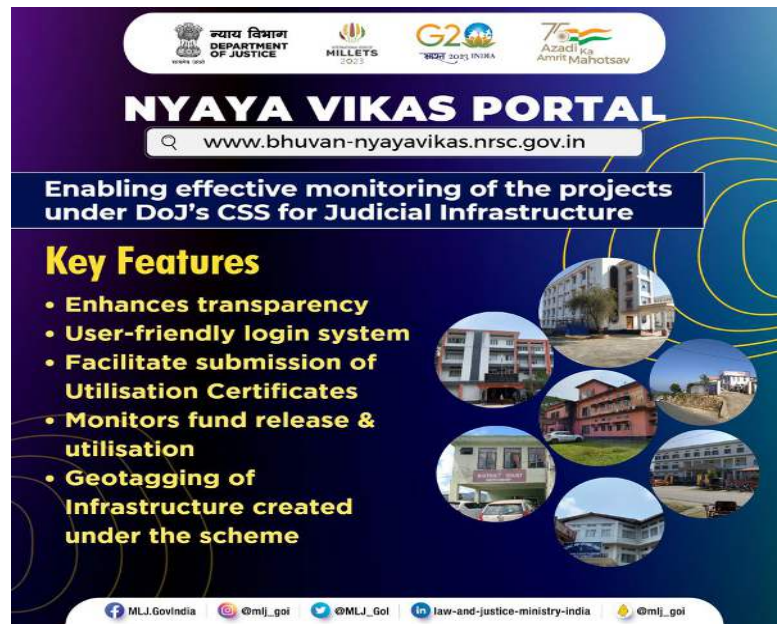
2.9 Nyaya Vikas Portal

Why in news?

- Recently Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice launched the Nyaya Vikas Portal

Important information

- Launched by: **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.**
- With the **technical assistance** of: **NRSC (National Remote Sensing Centre), ISRO.**
- Purpose: Monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Judiciary.**
- Four efficient ways of logging into the portal:**
- The scheme Nyaya Vikas: started from: 1993-94**
- Infrastructure included** under Nyaya Vikas: construction of court halls and residential units for Judicial Officers / Judges of District and Subordinate Courts, new features like Lawyers Hall, Toilet complexes and Digital computer rooms have been added to the scheme added from 2021.
- The funds sharing pattern: Center and State is **60:40 in respect of States** and **90:10** in respect of **North Eastern and Himalayan States**; and **100%** in respect of **Union Territories**



2.10 EPFO formed 3 committees to frame Draft Schemes for PF, Pension and Insurance

Why in news?

- Recently EPFO (employees provident fund organization) has formed 3 committees to frame draft schemes for pension, provident fund and insurance under EPFO.
 - These committees are to be **formed in line with the code on social security 2020.**

Important information

- Overall coordinator for all 3 committees: Chanramauli chakraborty**, Additional central provident fund commissioner (ACC)
- The 3 committees:**
- Committee on employee's provident fund scheme (EPFS)**- headed by: **Sanjay Kumar**
- Committee on employee's pension scheme**- headed by: **Rajiv Bhist**

- **Committee on employees Deposit linked insurance scheme**- headed by: **Vaishali dayal**.
- The **1st draft on 3 schemes** is expected to be submitted by: **June 23, 2023**.

About EPFO

- Established in: **1952**; HQ: **New Delhi**.

GLOBALIZATION

2.11 Global Vaccine Research Collaborative Discussion on Vaccine Research and Development

Why in News?

- Recently the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed Global Vaccine Research Collaborative Discussion on Vaccine Research and Development, a G20 co-branded event
 - **The event was organized under India's G20 Presidency.**
 - ✓ **Venue: Hyderabad**

Important Information

- **Organized by: Dept. of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India.**
- Organized **on the sidelines of the 3rd G20 Health Working Group Meeting.**
- **Global vaccine Research Collaborative:**
- The **Department of Pharmaceuticals** is working with Program for **Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)** and **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** to convene and build consensus.

2.12 BBINM Countries

Why in news?

- Recently The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways attended a crucial meeting of stakeholders of maritime development in the Bay of Bengal area.
 - **Venue: Kolkata, West Bengal.**

Important information

- BBINM countries: includes **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Myanmar.**
- Mandate: **maximising maritime trade potential in the region.**

Addition information

- **Act east policy:**
 - Aim: to **strengthen India's economic and strategic ties** with countries in **southeast Asia and East Asia.**
 - Focus is on connecting **Northeastern states of India with the neighboring countries.**
 - The policy focuses on **India-ASEAN cooperation** in domestic initiatives. This includes infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, and smart cities.

2.13 India joins Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN) for testing vaccines

Why in news?

- Recently India joined the Centralized Laboratory Network for testing vaccines.

Important information

- **Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV)** will join from Indian side.
- **Additional information**
- **Centralized Laboratory Network**
- Currently has **15 partner facilities in 13 countries** that works to test vaccines which can be used during pandemic, epidemic disease outbreak.
- It is a **part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**

2.14 Eighth Meeting of Standing Committee of International Solar Alliance

Why in news?

- Recently the eighth meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held in New Delhi.
 - Venue: New Delhi
 - ✓ Chaired by: Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy.

Important information

- **Co-chair of the meeting: France.**
- **Matters discussed:** ISA Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C), ISA SolarX Startup Challenge, ISA Solar Finance Facility.
- **Additional information**
- **ISA:**
- Came into existence with the joint **effort by India and France.**
- Conceptualized during: **CoP 21 to UNFCCC in 2015, Paris**
- Number of countries: **93 Member countries and 115 Signatory countries.**
- It is the **first international intergovernmental organisation to be headquartered in India.**
- The ISA is guided by its **'Towards 1000' strategy** which aims to mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030.

MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

2.15 India emerges as top source country for FDI into Dubai

Why in News?

- Recently India has emerged as a key source country for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Dubai.

Important Information

- Share of **Greenfield Projects** in the total FDI: **77.5%**
- **Top sectors by FDI projects** from India into Dubai in 2022: **software & IT services (32 per cent), business services (19 per cent), consumer products (9 per cent), real estate (6 per cent), and financial services (5 per cent).**
- **Top sectors by FDI capital** from India into Dubai in **2022: consumer products (28 per cent), software & IT services (20 per cent), communications (19 per cent), pharmaceuticals (8 per cent), and business services (8 per cent).**

- **Additional information**
- **Retaining its top spot for a second successive year**, Dubai achieved **89.5 per cent YoY (year-over-year) growth** in total announced FDI projects in 2022.
- **D33: Dubai Economic Agenda**

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.16 G20 (Group of twenty) meetings

News 1 Startup20 calls for commitment of \$1 Trillion for Startups by 2030

- **Occasion: 3rd Startup20 Meeting**
- **Venue: Goa**
- Key action points:
- Proposal for allocating a substantial **sum of 1 trillion dollars for the startup ecosystem by 2030.**

News 2 G20 India Presidency: 3rd HWG Meeting

- **Venue: Hyderabad, Telangana.**
- **Side event:** “Strengthening Global Collaboration Network on Research and Development in Medical Countermeasures (Diagnostics, Vaccines and Therapeutics) with a focus on Future Health Emergencies”
- Session on ‘**Digital Health Innovations and Solutions** to Aid Universal Health Coverage and Improve Healthcare Service Delivery’- **Keynote by NITI Ayog.**
- Focus area of session: **minimizing the digital health divide** by promoting digital solutions and innovation to aid universal health coverage
- **Additional information**
- India provides approximately **60% of the global vaccine supply**, accounts **for 20-22% of generic exports** and stands as a **major exporter of pharmaceuticals**, serving over 200 countries through its pharma exports.
- **Genome Valley:** is **India’s first organized cluster for Life Sciences R&D** located in Hyderabad.

News 3 Third G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group (IFA WG) Meeting

- **Venue: Goa**
- Aim: **Strengthen Financial Resilience** and Give **Voice to Global South**
- **Jointly steered by:** the **Ministry of Finance** and the **Reserve Bank of India** along with **France** and the **Republic of Korea.**

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

2.17 India has emerged as the 2nd Largest Producer of Crude Steel in the world

Why in News?

- Recently Union Minister of Steel in a press conference shared the data regarding the steel sector in India.
 - The theme of the press conference: 9-years of Government's "Seva, Sushasan and Gareeb kalyan" focusing on the Steel sector.**
 - ✓ **Venue: New Delhi.**

Important Information

- India currently ranks as the World's 2nd Largest Producer of Crude Steel**, surpassing Japan in 2018.
- Important date shared:**
- India stands as a **net exporter of steel witnessing an export of 6.72 MT** of finished steel against the import of 6.02 MT in 2022-23.
- The country **was a net importer of steel in 2014-15** with 9.32 MT imports Vis-à-vis the export of 5.59 MT.
- Progress made by the steel sector from pre-2014-15 to 2022-23.**

S.No	Key Parameters	FY 2014-15	FY 2022-23	% increase
1.	Crude steel Capacity (MT)	109.85	160.3	46%
2.	Crude steel Production (MT)	88.98	126.26	42%
3.	Total Finished Steel Production (MT)	81.86	122.28	49%
4.	Consumption (MT)	76.99	119.86	57%
5.	Per capita steel consumption (in Kg)	60.8	86.7	43%

- In the past 9 years (2014-15 to 2022-23)**, Steel CPSEs viz. SAIL, NMDC, MOIL, KIOCL, MSTC, and MECON, used ₹90,273.88 crores of their own resources for CAPEX and paid a **dividend to the Government of India to the tune of ₹21,204.18 crores.**
- Steel Scrap Recycling Policy: Six Vehicle Scrapping Centres** have been opened in various cities.
- National Steel Policy 2017 (NSP 2017):** India has set the targets of achieving the **total crude steel capacity of 300 MTPA** and **total crude steel demand/production of 255 MTPA** by 2030-31.
- Policy for providing **preference to Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel Products (DMI & SP Policy)** in **government procurement** led to **import substitution of ₹34,800 Crore** approximately.
- Brand India'** labeling: is an important exercise to **differentiate Indian quality steel** from the others.

2.18 Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

Why in news?

- Recently The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched a National Mission titled “Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)”

Important information

- **Nodal Ministries: The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**
- **Aim:** to **facilitate indigenous research, development** and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies **in the power sector.**
- **Funding:** by **pooling financial resources of the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** and the Central Public Sector Enterprises under the two Ministries.
- **Initial period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28:** Mission will follow the technology **life cycle approach of Idea to Product.**
- **Structure of the Mission:**
- Have a two-tier structure: a **Technical Scoping Committee** and an **Apex Committee.**
- **The Technical Scoping Committee, chaired by the Chairperson of Central Electricity Authority.**
- **The Apex Committee, chaired by the Union Minister for Power & New and Renewable Energy.**
- **Areas Identified for Research:**
- Alternatives to Lithium-Ion storage batteries
- Modifying electric cookers / pans to suit Indian cooking methods
- Green hydrogen for mobility (High Efficiency Fuel Cell)
- Carbon capture
- Geo-thermal energy
- Solid state refrigeration.
- Nano technology for EV battery
- Indigenous CRGO technology

2.19 National electricity Plan for the period of 2022-32

Why in news?

- Recently The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has notified the National Electricity Plan (NEP) for the period of 2022-32.
 - This includes the **Review of the last five years (2017-22)**, a detailed plan for the **next five years (2022-27)** and the **prospective plan for the next five years (2027-32).**

Important information

- **Some important data shared**
- **According to the NEP document,** the projected **All India peak electricity demand and electrical energy requirement is 277.2 GW and 1907.8 BU** for the year **2026-27** and **366.4 GW and 2473.8 BU** for the year **2031-32** as per 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) Demand projections.
- **the likely Installed Capacity** for the year **2026-27 is 609,591 MW** comprising of **273,038 MW of Conventional capacity** (Coal-235,133MW, Gas-24,824MW, Nuclear-13,080MW) and **336,553 MW of Renewable based Capacity** (Large Hydro-52,446 MW, Solar-185,566 MW Wind-72,895 MW, Small Hydro-5,200 MW, Biomass-13,000MW, Pump Storage Plants

(PSP projects) -7446MW) along with BESS capacity (Battery Energy Storage System) of 8,680MW/34,720 MWh.

- **The likely Installed Capacity for the year 2031-32** is estimated to be **900,422 MW** comprising of **304,147 MW of Conventional capacity** (Coal-259,643 MW, Gas-24,824MW, Nuclear-19,680MW) and **596,275MW of Renewable based Capacity** (Large Hydro-62,178 MW, Solar-364,566MW, Wind-121,895MW, Small Hydro-5450MW, Biomass-15,500 MW, PSP-26,686MW; excluding 5856 MW of likely Hydro based Imports) along with BESS capacity of 47,244MW/236,220MWh.
- **Share of non-fossil based capacity** is likely to **increase to 57.4%** by the end of **2026-27** and may likely to further increase to **68.4% by the end of 2031-32** from **around 42.5% as on April'2023**.
- **The average PLF (Plant Load Factor) of the total Installed coal capacity of 235.1 GW** is likely to be about 58.4% in 2026-27 and that of 259.6 GW of coal based capacity is likely to be about 58.7 % in 2031-32.
- **The domestic coal requirement has been estimated to be 866.4 Million Tonnes for the year 2026-27** and **1025.8 Million Tonnes for the year 2031-32** and estimated requirement of 28.9 MT of coal imports for the plants designed to run on imported coal.
- The total **fund requirement** for generation capacity addition for the period **2022-2027** is estimated to be **Rs. 14,54,188 Crores** and for the **period 2027-2032 has been estimated to be Rs. 19,06,406 Crores**.
- The average emission factor is expected to reduce to 0.548 kg CO₂/kWh_{net} in the year 2026-27 and to 0.430 kg CO₂/kWh_{net} by the end of 2031-32.



SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

2.20 National Policy on Rare Disease

Why in News?

- Recently The Delhi High Court has set up a five-member panel to implement the Centre's rare diseases policy in an efficient manner and ensure that its benefits reaches patients

Important Information

- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family welfare.**
- Launch year: **2021**.
- **Aim:** To increase **focus on indigenous research** and local production of medicines.
- To **lower the cost of treatment** of rare diseases.
- To **screen and detect rare diseases early at early stages**, which will in turn help in their prevention.
- **Key provisions:**
- **Disease categorization**

- **Group 1:** Disorders **amenable to one-time curative treatment.**
- **Group 2:** Those **requiring long term or lifelong treatment.**
- **Group 3:** Diseases for which **definitive treatment is available** but **challenges are to make optimal patient selection for benefit**, very high cost and lifelong therapy.
- **Financial support**
- Patients listed **under Group 1** will have the **financial support of up to Rs. 20 lakh** under the umbrella scheme of **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.**
- Beneficiaries for such financial assistance would **not be limited to BPL families**, but extended to about **40% of the population, who are eligible as per norms of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**, for their treatment in **Government tertiary hospitals only.**
- **Centres of Excellence:** designating **eight health facilities** as 'Centres of Excellence' and these will also be provided **one-time financial support of up to Rs. 5 crore** for up gradation of diagnostics facilities.
- **National Registry:** A national **hospital-based registry** of rare diseases will be created.
- **Additional information**
- **What is rare disease?**
- a 'rare disease' is defined as a **health condition of low prevalence** that affects a small number of people.
- Example: Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSD), Pompe disease, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, haemophilia etc.
- **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi** provides for **financial assistance to patients, living Below Poverty Line (BPL)** and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty Government hospitals / institutes.

2.21 Infection Geography of Dengue

Why in News?

- Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) has informed that the **Infection Geography of Dengue** has increased from **eight States/ Union Territories (UTs) in 2001** to **all states/ UTs now.**

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

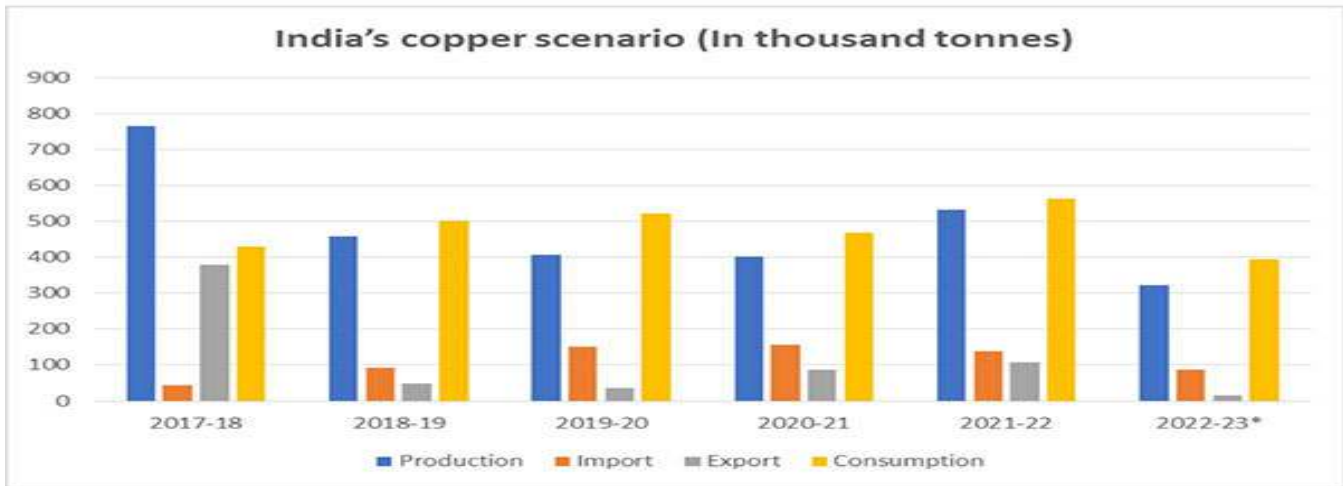
2.22 India becomes Net copper importer for fifth year in a row

Why in News?

- Recently India's copper imports witnessed a 15 per cent year-on-year jump in financial year 2022-23
 - **As per data, the country imported 2.75 million tonnes of copper, both finished and refined, in financial year 2022-23.**
 - ✓ The imports witnessed notable **surge by 15% over** the previous year

Important Information

- Important data shared by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- The country's copper imports **had totalled 2.38 million tonnes and 2.39 million tonnes in fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2022** respectively. The FY23 imports were lower upon comparison with 3.57 million tonnes recorded in FY20.



(*April-October; Source: Government)

- From a **net exporter of 335,000 tonnes in 2017-18**, India became a **net importer of copper, first in 2018-19** and the trend remains unaltered till 2021-22.
- **Major causes:**
- **Domestic copper production fell significantly** from FY2019 onwards as a result of shutdown of the Sterlite Copper plant in Tuticorin.
- **Lower refined production** created a huge deficit in the domestic copper market, resulting in large imports for fifth year in a row.
- **Additional information**
- **Major copper producing states** in India
- **Madhya Pradesh (53% of total production) > Rajasthan (43%) > Jharkhand (4%)**
- **5 largest copper mines in India**
- Malanjkhand Mine, Madhya Pradesh
- Khetri mine, Rajasthan
- Kolihan mine, Rajasthan
- Surda mine, Jharkhand
- Banwas mine, Rajasthan

3 GA + FINANCE



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.1 Norms for transactions in corporate bonds through RFQ platform

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has released **Norms for transactions in corporate bonds through Request for Quote (RFQ) platform by stock brokers.**
- **Objective:** to increase liquidity on the platform.

Key Guidelines

- **Applicability:** only trades pertaining to proprietary capacity of stock brokers
- Stock brokers must undertake **at least 10% of their total secondary market trades by value in corporate bonds in that month** by placing **quotes through one-to-one (OTO) or one-to-many mode (OTM) on the RFQ platform** of stock exchanges from **July 1, 2023.**
- This value will be increased to **25% from April 2024.**
- Stock brokers will have to consider the trades executed by value through **OTO or OTM mode of RFQ** with respect to the total secondary market trades in corporate bonds, during **the current month and immediately preceding two months on a rolling basis.**

About Request for Quote (RFQ) platform

- **Launch Year:** 2020
- It is a **trade execution platform.**
- It is a **direct participation model** where **all participants trade in their own accounts**

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.2 Surety bonds and e-bank guarantees allowed for road contracts

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (**MoRTH**) has allowed **acceptance of e-bank guarantee and insurance surety bonds as bid security and performance security in standard documents** of engineering, procurement, and construction (**EPC**), hybrid annuity model (**HAM**) and **Build Operate Transfer (BOT) (Toll) projects.**
- The Ministry of Finance has agreed to contractors engaged by National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) & National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (**NHIDCL**) to **convert their bank guarantees into insurance surety bonds.**
- For all the **existing contracts** - including road development, toll contracts, and ropeways - the **Bank Guarantee (BG) may be replaced by an Insurance Surety Bond.**

Additional Information

- In 2022, **India's first Surety Bond Insurance product** was launched by **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.**

Note: eBank Guarantees (News 3.27) & Surety Bonds (News 3.35) discussed in CurrentTap- May 2023.

4 STATIC

IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS

S.No	Organization Name	Headquarter	Establishment Year
1.	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Gland, Switzerland	1948
2.	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Geneva, Switzerland	1950
3.	United Nations General Assembly	New York, United States	1945
4.	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	Brussels, Belgium	1949
5.	SIDBI	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	1990

COUNTRY, CURRENCY AND CAPITAL

S.No	Country	Currency	Capital
1.	Suriname	Surinamese dollar	Paramaribo
2.	Côte d'Ivoire	West African CFA franc	Yamoussoukro

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