

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 28 April 2026



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Amendment to the Rules of the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana'



Why in News?

- Recently, the State Government amended the rules of the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana' (Unemployment Allowance Scheme), raising the minimum age limit for eligibility to 21 years. Previously, there was no provision regarding a minimum age limit under this scheme.



मुख्यमंत्री युवा संबल योजना

के तहत शिक्षित बेरोजगार युवाओं को मिलेगा वित्तीय सहयोग

अपने नजदीकी ई-मित्र केंद्र से आवेदन करें



Department Name :
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

Service Name :
Employment - Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana Unemployment Allowance

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Key Points:

- **Launch of the Scheme:** February 1, 2019.
- **Concerned Department:** Department of Skill, Employment, and Entrepreneurship.
- **Name Change:** Renamed 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana - 2021' in the year 2021.
- The amended scheme came into force across the entire state on January 1, 2022.

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a domicile of Rajasthan and must have completed 21 years of age.
- The applicant must hold a graduate degree from any university established by law within Rajasthan.
- A female applicant holding a graduate degree from another state is eligible if she is married to a domicile of Rajasthan.
- At the time of application, the applicant must not be employed in either the government or the private sector. Furthermore, the applicant must not be engaged in self-employment.
- **Maximum Age Limit:** 30 years for general category applicants; and 35 years for applicants belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes, Transgender persons, Women, and Persons with Special Abilities (Differently-abled persons).
- **Maximum Duration:** The unemployment allowance is payable to the applicant for a maximum period of two years, or until they secure employment/self-employment (whichever occurs earlier).
- **Maximum Limit on Beneficiaries:** Unemployment allowance is granted to a maximum of two lakh youths annually.

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- It is mandatory for the applicant to be registered with the local Employment Office prior to the date of application.
- The applicant must not have been removed (dismissed) from any post by any government department or institution.
- If there is more than one unemployed person within a single family who meets the eligibility criteria under this scheme, the unemployment allowance shall be payable to a maximum of two individuals from that family, as per the details recorded in the Jan Aadhaar Card.

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IBM's Sole Office in Rajasthan: Ajmer

Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Government took a significant decision to promote 'Ease of Doing Business' in the mining sector and to expedite related processes.

Key Points:

- Through a notification issued under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, enhanced powers have been granted to the Regional Officers of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) for the approval of mining plans.
- Under the new notification, mining plans for mines involving Quartz, Feldspar, Mica, and Barytes—covering an area of 5 hectares or less—can now be approved at the regional level itself.
- It is noteworthy that the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has only one office in Rajasthan, which is located in Ajmer.
- Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM):** A multi-disciplinary government organization established in 1948 under the Ministry of Mines.
- It is engaged in the conservation of minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and natural gas, atomic minerals, and minor minerals), the scientific development of mineral resources, and the promotion of environmental safety in mines.

Facts for Prelims (Rajasthan Department of Mines and Geology):

- The Rajasthan Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) is the nodal agency responsible for mineral exploration, administration, and revenue collection within the state.
- Headquarters:** Udaipur.
- Discovery, exploration, and systematic development of mineral deposits.
- Granting of mineral leases, revenue collection, recovery of royalties/rents, ensuring systematic and eco-friendly mining operations, etc.

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15-Day 'Gram Rath Abhiyan'

Why in News?

- The Government of Rajasthan launched the 'Gram Rath Abhiyan' (Village Chariot Campaign) on April 27, 2026.



Key Points:

- This is a 15-day statewide campaign, the primary objective of which is to promote the 'Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet-2026' (GRAM-2026) and to raise awareness among farmers regarding government schemes.
- Additionally, its primary goal is to disseminate public welfare schemes—spanning 13 key departments including Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Rural Development—to the villagers.
- **Inauguration:** From the Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM RIPA), Jaipur.

Facts for Prelims (GRAM-2026):

- The Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM)-2026 is a premier international agricultural event organized by the Government of Rajasthan, aimed at securing global recognition for the state's agricultural sector through modern technology, innovation, and investment.
- **Dates:** May 23 to May 25, 2026.
- **Venue:** Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC), Sitapura, Jaipur.

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Jaipur Range Police's 'Mission Safer Road'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, the Rajasthan Police launched a digital initiative titled 'Mission Safer Road'.Main Objective: To provide advance warnings to travelers heading from Jaipur towards Delhi, Agra, Ajmer, and Sikar regarding hazardous routes or 'black spots'—locations where the risk of accidents is highest.The Rajasthan Police has categorized these black spots into three zones (Red Zone, Orange Zone, and Yellow Zone) based on the severity of the risk involved.
2.	<p>Unveiling of T-55 Tank and 'Dharma' Mural at IIT Jodhpur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, a T-55 tank and a 'Dharma' mural were unveiled at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur.The T-55 Main Battle Tank has been put on display at 'Shaurya Sthal' (Valor Point), located at the institute's main entrance.This tank is renowned for the pivotal role it played within the Indian Army's Armoured Corps, and particularly for its decisive contribution during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.The magnificent mural installed on the administrative building depicts the concept of the 'Dharma Yudh' (War for Righteousness) from the Mahabharata. It symbolizes the institute's vision of integrating ancient Indian wisdom with modern scientific excellence.

Geography and Geology

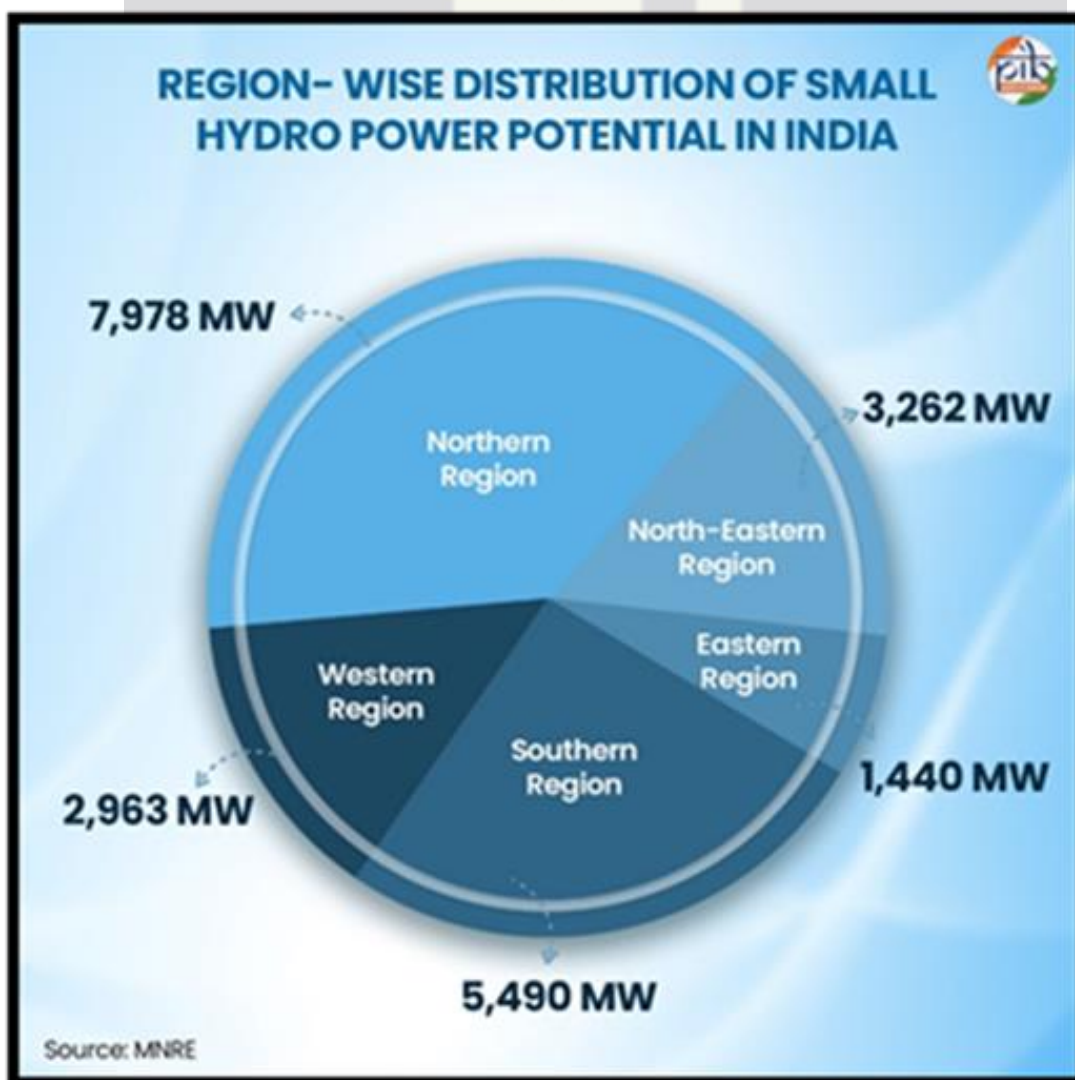
Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

Why in News?

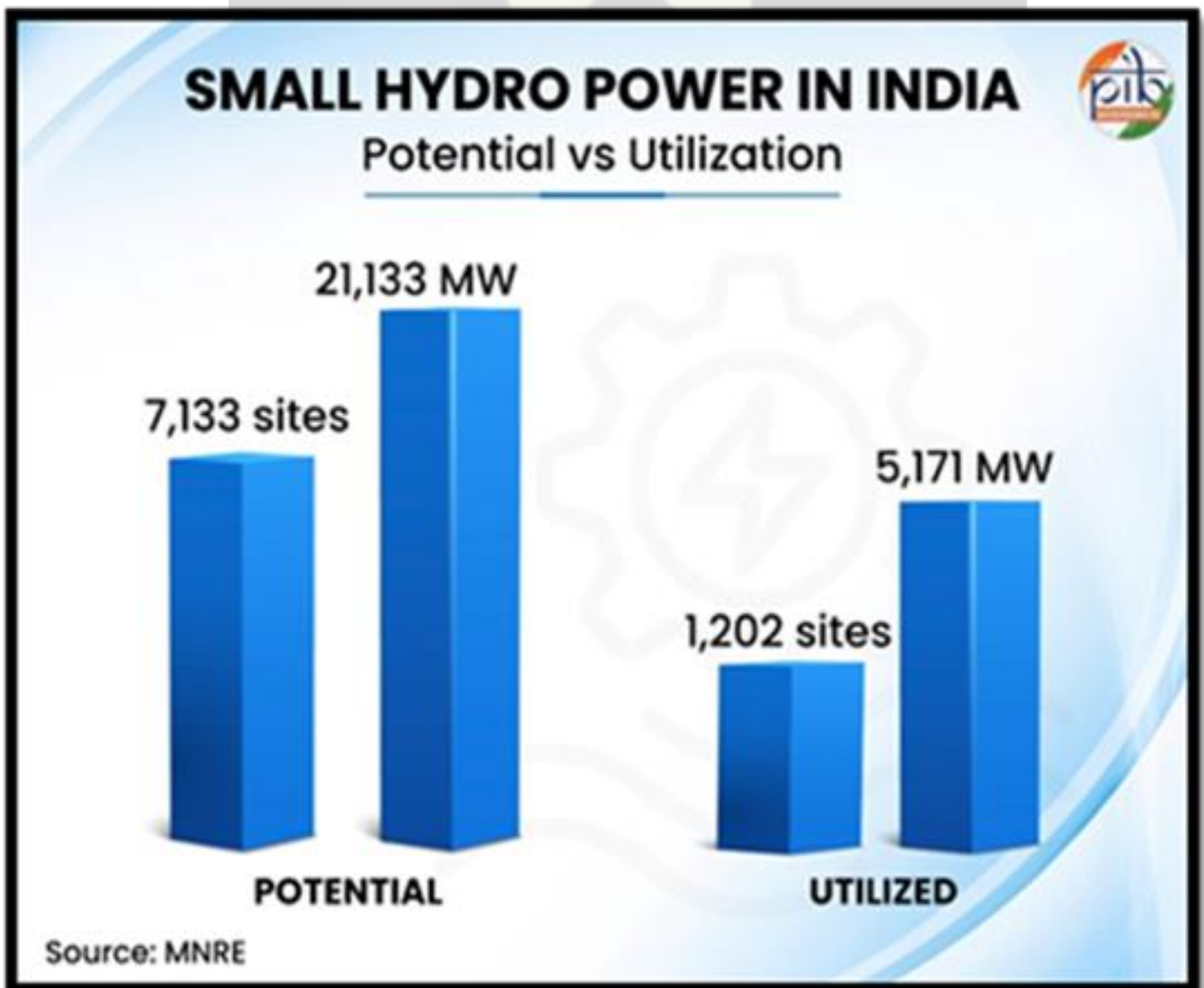
- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme.

Key Points:

- Hydroelectricity is a well-established renewable energy source that utilizes flowing water to generate electricity.




- In India, the primary distinction between large and small hydropower projects lies in their installed capacity and the respective ministerial jurisdiction under which they fall.
- Small Hydro Power projects are defined as those with an installed capacity of up to 25 MW and are administered by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Large hydropower projects with a capacity exceeding 25 MW fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Power.



Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

- This scheme promotes small hydropower projects as a long-term, eco-friendly energy source that has a minimal impact on the environment.
- Its objective is to foster inclusive growth by generating employment, incentivizing local investment, and strengthening regional economies, thereby contributing to a self-reliant future for India's energy sector.
- It will provide support to small hydropower projects (ranging in capacity from 1 MW to 25 MW) to be established across various states.
- The scheme aims to develop a small hydropower capacity of approximately 1,500 MW, particularly in the hilly and North-Eastern regions, which possess untapped potential and limited energy access.

SMALL HYDRO POWER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 

(At a Glance)

- ₹ 2,584.60 crore outlay to develop approximately 1500 MW of capacity (FY 2026–31).
- Targets small hydro projects (1–25 MW), with a focus on hilly & North Eastern regions.
- Higher financial support: Up to ₹ 3.6 crore/MW (30%) for NE & border areas (cap: ₹ 30 crore).
- Standard support: Up to ₹ 2.4 crore/MW (20%) for other states (cap: ₹ 20 crore).
- The scheme is expected to generate 51 lakh person-days of employment.

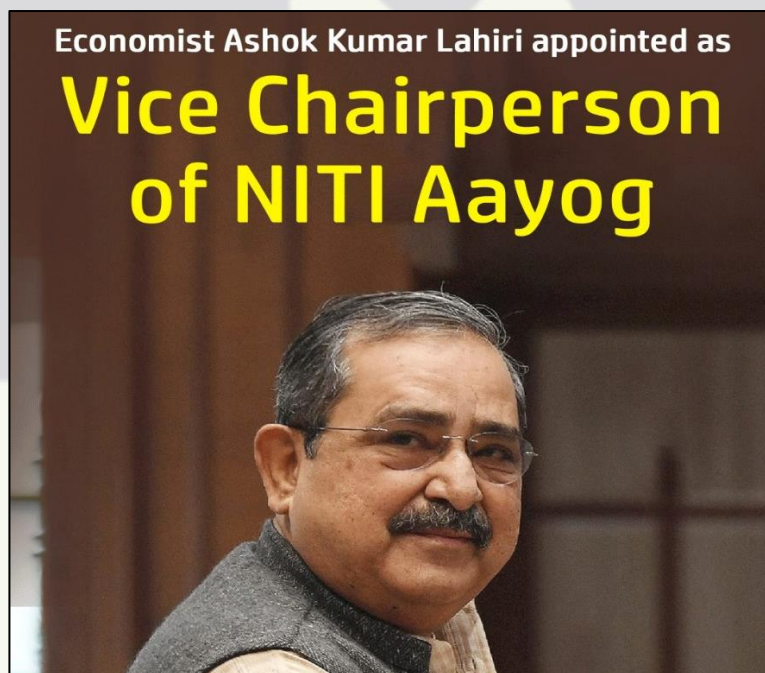
Source: MNRE

Indian Governance and State System

Ashok Kumar Lahiri Appointed Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog

Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reconstituted NITI Aayog, appointing Ashok Lahiri as its Vice-Chairman and replacing four of its five full-time members.



Key Points:

NITI Aayog

- **Establishment:** NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog is a government think tank established in 2015.
- **Objective:** It replaced the Planning Commission, aiming to focus on more contemporary challenges such as sustainable development, policy innovation, and governance reforms.

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- **Structure:** It is chaired by the Prime Minister, who serves as the Chairman, while the Vice-Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer lead the executive functions.
- **Governing Council:** The Prime Minister of India;
 - o It comprises the Chief Ministers of the States and Union Territories.
 - o The Lieutenant Governors of the Union Territories (excluding Delhi and Puducherry).
 - o The Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.
 - o The full-time members of NITI Aayog.

The key differences between the Planning Commission and NITI Aayog are as follows:

Aspect	Planning Commission	NITI Aayog
Objective	Centralized five-year planning and resource allocation.	Focus on cooperative federalism, long-term development, and policy research.
Structure	Led by the Prime Minister, with a Deputy Chairman and full-time members.	Led by the Prime Minister, with a Vice Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Governing Council.
Approach	Top-down, centralized planning.	Bottom-up approach, encouraging participation and cooperation of states.
Role in Governance	Executive authority over policy implementation.	Advisory body without direct enforcement power.
Five-Year Plans	Formulated and implemented Five-Year Plans.	Does not create Five-Year Plans, but focuses on long-term policy.

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Right to Safe Travel on National Highways

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court of India has held that the right to safe travel on National Highways constitutes an integral part of the 'Right to Life' enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution.

RIGHT TO SAFE TRAVEL ON HIGHWAYS IS PART OF ARTICLE 21: SC

SUPREME COURT ISSUES NATIONWIDE DIRECTIONS TO STRENGTHEN HIGHWAY SAFETY

“The safety of the commuter is an integral facet of the Right to Live with Dignity.”

ARTICLE 21
RIGHT TO LIFE & PERSONAL LIBERTY
सत्यमेव जयते

KEY DIRECTIONS

- Ban on unauthorised dhabas/structures within ROW
- No licence/NOC without NHA/PWD clearance; review of existing licences within 30 days
- No parking of heavy/commercial vehicles on carriageway or shoulder except at designated bays
- DMs to remove unauthorised structures within 60 days; District Highway Safety Task Force to be constituted
- ATMS, real-time alerts, GPS evidence & e-Challan for tech-driven enforcement
- MoRTH to submit compliance report to SC within 75 days

2% OF INDIA'S ROAD NETWORK ACCOUNTS FOR 30% OF ROAD FATALITIES

PREVENT TODAY, SAVE TOMORROW

Key Points:

Constitutional Interpretation

- The Court clarified that Article 21 casts a positive obligation upon the State to ensure a safe environment for travelers.
- Deaths resulting from avoidable hazards such as illegal parking, potholes, or unsafe infrastructure amount to a failure to discharge this duty.

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Key Directives Issued by the Court

- The Court imposed an immediate ban on the construction or operation of new dhabas (roadside eateries), restaurants, or commercial structures within the right-of-way of National Highways.
- It prohibited the parking or halting of heavy and commercial vehicles on the highways, paved carriageways, or paved shoulders—except at designated 'lay-bys' or roadside amenities—in order to prevent accidents caused by blind spots.
- District Magistrates have been directed to remove or demolish all unauthorized structures within a period of 60 days.
- No authority is permitted to grant licenses or approvals within highway safety zones without obtaining prior permission from the NHAI or the PWD.
- A 'District Highway Safety Task Force' must be constituted in every district to monitor and enforce safety norms.

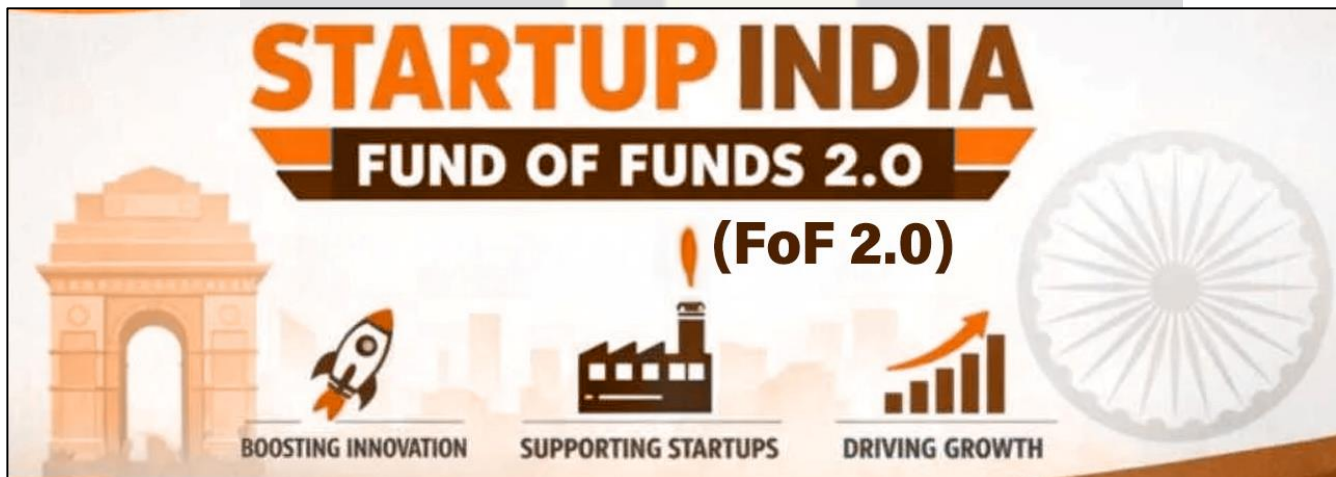
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Schemes and Policies

Startup India Fund of Funds (SIFoF) 2.0 Scheme

Why in News?

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has issued the operational guidelines for the Startup India Fund of Funds (SIFoF) 2.0 scheme.



Key Points:

- This scheme builds upon the success of the 'Fund of Funds for Startups' (FFS 1.0) scheme, which was launched in 2016.
- Its objective is to address financing gaps while simultaneously catalyzing the domestic venture capital market for startups.

SIFoF 2.0 Scheme:

- **Total Corpus:** ₹10,000 Crore.
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Implementing Agency:** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- **Objective:** To support Deep Tech and technology-driven innovative manufacturing, and to empower early-stage founders.
- **Methodology:** It will be implemented through Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), with the aim of boosting private investment and ensuring access to startup financing.



Falkland Islands



Why in News?

- The United Kingdom has rejected any change to its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The United States' stance regarding these islands remains unclear.



Key Points:

Falkland Islands:

- It is a self-governing Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom located in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- The Falkland Islands comprise an archipelago consisting of several islands, including two major islands (East Falkland and West Falkland) and several hundred smaller islands.
- It is situated approximately 480 km northeast of the southern tip of South America. It lies at an equal distance to the east of the Strait of Magellan.
- Argentina also lays claim to sovereignty over these islands. This dispute led to a war between the two nations in 1982.

Atlas Drone Swarm System (Atelasi)

Why in News?

- China's Atlas Drone Swarm System is raising concerns regarding global security.



Key Points:

Atlas Drone Swarm System (Atelasi):

- Introduction:** This is a truck-based drone swarm platform. It integrates launch, command, and support units to deploy and control multiple drones from a single system.
- Capability:** It can rapidly launch up to 96 drones. It enables a single operator to control surveillance, communication, and strike operations.
- Security Implications:** It provides China with an edge in terms of combat capability and poses a challenge to India's air defense systems.

The Bnei Menashe Community

Why in News?

- More than 240 members of the Bnei Menashe community from Manipur and Mizoram were relocated to Tel Aviv by the Israeli government.



Key Points:

The Bnei Menashe Community:

- This is a community in Manipur and Mizoram that identifies as Jewish.
- They belong to the Mizo-Kuki tribes. These tribes claim to be descendants of one of Israel's "Ten Lost Tribes" (the Tribe of Manasseh).
- This tribe was exiled by Assyrian conquerors in 722 BCE.
- Bnei Menashe means "Children of Manasseh" in Hebrew. Manasseh was the firstborn son of Joseph.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Project AI4WaterPolicy



Key Points:

- Project AI4WaterPolicy facilitated community-led development in Rajasthan.
- The AI4WaterPolicy pilot project was implemented in the water-stressed districts of Sirohi and Pali in Rajasthan.
- Working in collaboration with a field partner, an AI model conducted 352 interviews across 50 villages over a period of six months.
- Real-time thematic analysis conducted using artificial intelligence brought to light issues such as gender burden, delays in financing, and a lack of awareness regarding Panchayat processes.

Project on Strengthening Institutional Capacities to Safeguard Biodiversity Conservation Commitments

Why in News?

- A project has been launched to strengthen biodiversity governance at the grassroots level in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.

Key Points:

- This project has been initiated by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

About the Project

- **Joint Initiative:** This is a joint initiative of the Government of India, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Financial Grant:** US\$ 4.88 million.
- **Implementation Period:** 5 years (2025–2030).

Locations:

- **Tamil Nadu:** The Sathyamangalam landscape at the confluence of the Western and Eastern Ghats, comprising the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.
- **Meghalaya:** The Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Balpakram National Park, and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary in the Garo Hills.

⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

India's Space Economy

📣 Why in News?

- Private sector investment in India's space economy has exceeded \$600 million over the last five years.



📌 Key Points:

Private Sector Participation in the Space Economy

- **Rapid Growth in the Number of Startups:** The number of startups in the space sector, which was in the single digits in 2019, surged to over 400 by the beginning of 2026.
- **Participation Across Diverse Segments:** Startups are active across the entire value chain of the space sector. This includes launch vehicles, satellite and payload manufacturing, ground infrastructure development, and more.

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- **First Rocket Launch by the Private Sector:** In 2022, Vikram-S became India's first rocket to be built by the private sector. It was launched under "Mission Prarambh."

Significance/Necessity of Private Sector Participation in the Space Economy

- **High Growth Potential:** India's space economy is projected to reach approximately \$44 billion by 2033 (accounting for roughly 8% of the global market share). By 2040, this figure could rise to \$100 billion (accounting for approximately 10% of the global market share).
- **Infrastructure Development:** This encompasses private sector-led Earth observation satellite constellations (based on the PPP model), the development of shared satellite bus platforms, and other initiatives.
- **Global Competitiveness:** To compete with major global players such as SpaceX and Blue Origin, India's private sector requires policy support and a level playing field.
- **Expanded Reach and Improved Services:** Private sector companies can extend affordable satellite internet, remote sensing, and navigation services to underserved regions.

Key Initiatives to Promote Private Sector Participation in the Space Sector

- **Indian Space Policy 2023:** This policy permits non-governmental entities to participate in all areas of space activities, from end-to-end.
- **Key Organizations:** Organizations such as IN-SPACE, Antrix Corporation Limited, New Space India Limited, and the Indian Space Association are responsible for the regulation, promotion, and commercialization of space-related activities.

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- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** FDI of up to 74% has been permitted in satellite manufacturing and operations, while FDI of up to 49% is allowed in launch vehicles, spaceports, and related infrastructure.
- **SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN):** This serves as a public-private industry collaboration platform for startups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within the space sector.
- **Financial Assistance:** This includes Venture Capital Funds (SIDBI has operationalized a fund worth ₹1,000 crore), Technology Adoption Funds, Seed Fund Schemes, and similar initiatives.
- **Other Initiatives:** Specialized training programs and technology transfer programs.

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