

Daily Current Affairs

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RAJASTHAN



Agreement between RSMET and IIT Dhanbad for Critical Mineral Exploration



Why in News?

- Recently, an agreement was signed between the Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dhanbad to explore and extract critical and strategic minerals from mining waste within the state.



Key Points:

- This initiative has been launched under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM).
- The primary objective of this project is to identify valuable minerals hidden within the mining debris and waste in Rajasthan.
- Under this agreement, the Department of Mines has identified 78 dumps and organized them into clusters of 10 dumps each.
- The Department of Mines has identified stockpiles of various minerals in Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh, Salumbar, Rishabhdeo, Ajmer, Beawar, Sawar, Nagaur, Sirohi, Jodhpur, Balesar, Sojat City, and Jalore.
- Notably, recent studies on pink and green marble waste in Rajasthan have indicated the presence of significant quantities of critical minerals such as nickel, cobalt, chromium, and gallium. These minerals will help meet the requirements of the defence, green energy, aerospace, and aeronautical industries.



Other Important Points:

- **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM):** The NCMM is a strategic initiative launched by the Union Ministry of Mines to ensure the country's mineral security and a clean energy transition.
- Following the announcement in the Union Budget 2024-25, the Union Cabinet officially approved this mission in January 2025.
- **Mission Duration:** Seven years, starting from January 2025.
- **Total Outlay:** ₹34,300 crore.
- **Objective of the Mission:** To ensure a continuous supply and domestic self-reliance regarding minerals (such as lithium and cobalt) essential for clean energy, electronics, and strategic sectors in India.

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET)

- **Formation:** In the year 2020.
- **Objective:** To utilize modern technology for the scientific exploration and mining of mineral reserves in Rajasthan, and to effectively manage and monitor related activities—including research, skill development, and revenue enhancement.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards

Why in News?

- Recently, the New Delhi-based Sangeet Natak Akademi announced 7 Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna), 108 Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards, and 106 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskars' for the years 2024 and 2025.



Key Points:

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are the country's most prestigious honors in the field of performing arts, conferred by the 'Sangeet Natak Akademi'—an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Culture.

Honored artists from Rajasthan:

S. No.	Name of Award	Artist Name	Field
1.	Sangeet Natak Akademi Award – 2024	Gulabo Sopera	Folk Dance (Kalbelia)
2.	Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar – 2024	Manzoor Khan Manganiyar	Folk Music
3.	Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar – 2025	Akram Khan Bahrupiya	Folk Dance

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NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	Miss Desert Rajasthan - 2026 ■ The grand finale of 'Miss Desert Rajasthan – 2026' was recently held in Jaipur. ■ Miss Desert Rajasthan - 2026 Crown: Poonam Kumawat. ■ Miss Moomal - 2026 Crown: Kusum Panwar.
2.	Rajasthan Senior Futsal League: Ganganagar City FC Wins ■ Ganganagar City FC won the final of the inaugural Rajasthan Senior Futsal League, held in Sri Ganganagar under the aegis of the Rajasthan Football Association. ■ In the title match, Ganganagar City FC defeated Zinc Football Academy, Udaipur by 3-2. ■ Best Player: Manish Meel (Zinc Football Academy).
3.	Prabhat Goswami: 'Saroj Kumari Kedarnath Maheshwari Hindi Language Satire Award' ■ Prabhat Goswami from Jaipur will be honored with the 'Saroj Kumari Kedarnath Maheshwari Hindi Language Satire Award'. ■ This award is presented by 'Shri Hindi Pustakalaya' (Deeg), a prestigious literary and cultural organization of North India.
4.	Siddhant Kumar ■ Para-swimmer Siddhant Kumar from Jaipur won three medals at the 26th Junior and Sub-Junior National Para-Swimming Championship held in Bengaluru. ■ Silver Medal: In the 100m backstroke. ■ Two Bronze Medals: In the 200m individual event and the 100m butterfly.



5.

43rd Rajasthan State Junior Handball Competition

- **Event:** Held from June 6 to 9, 2026, at Lalgarh Jatan (Sri Ganganagar).
- **Winners:** Sri Ganganagar (Boys' category) and Jaipur (Girls' category).
- In the boys' final, Sri Ganganagar defeated Gyan Jyoti Handball Academy by 28-21, while in the girls' title match, Jaipur defeated Hanumangarh by 20-17.
- **Organizer:** The District Handball Association, Sri Ganganagar, under the aegis of the Rajasthan State Handball Association.

6.

Manav Suthar

- Recently, Warwickshire signed spinner Manav Suthar—a resident of Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan—for the next two rounds of the County Cricket Championship.

7.

Operation Jamuhar

- Recently, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of the Rajasthan Police launched 'Operation Jamuhar' against drug trafficking; it is the largest covert mega-operation undertaken to date.
- This mega-operation, which dismantled a drug network spanning five states, was named 'Jamuhar' by combining the initial letters of these states:
 - ♦ Ja – Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ♦ U – Uttar Pradesh.
 - ♦ R – Rajasthan.
 - ♦ Mu – Manipur.
 - ♦ Ha – Haryana.
- Literally, 'Jamuhar' refers to a 'poisonous weed' that damages the main crop.

8.

National Highway-62

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways approved the four-laning project for the Nagaur-Bikaner National Highway (NH-62).
- This project will be developed at an estimated cost of approximately ₹1,359.33 crore.
- National Highway-62 (NH-62) is a major national highway connecting Abohar in Punjab to Pindwara in Rajasthan.



LPMS - Vinimay System

[Source: PIB]



Why in News?

- The Union Home Minister inaugurated the advanced Land Port Management System (LPMS) platform named 'Vinimay' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Key Points:

LPMS – Vinimay System:

- 'Vinimay' is a centralized, real-time electronic platform designed to function as a single electronic window for operations at India's international land ports.
- By integrating cargo tracking, passenger logs, and vehicle processing, it brings land border security and trade infrastructure on par with the modern, automated networks already operational at international airports and seaports.
- **Developer and Strategy:** This portal has been developed by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) under the administrative guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Objective:

- The Vinimay system aims to eliminate critical logistical bottlenecks and paperwork-heavy procedures that cause delays in land-based trade.
- By seamlessly connecting national regulatory and security databases on a single interface, it seeks to secure physical borders, prevent unauthorized intrusions, reduce operational costs, and significantly boost regional cross-border commerce in line with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

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Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap

[Source: PIB and AIR]



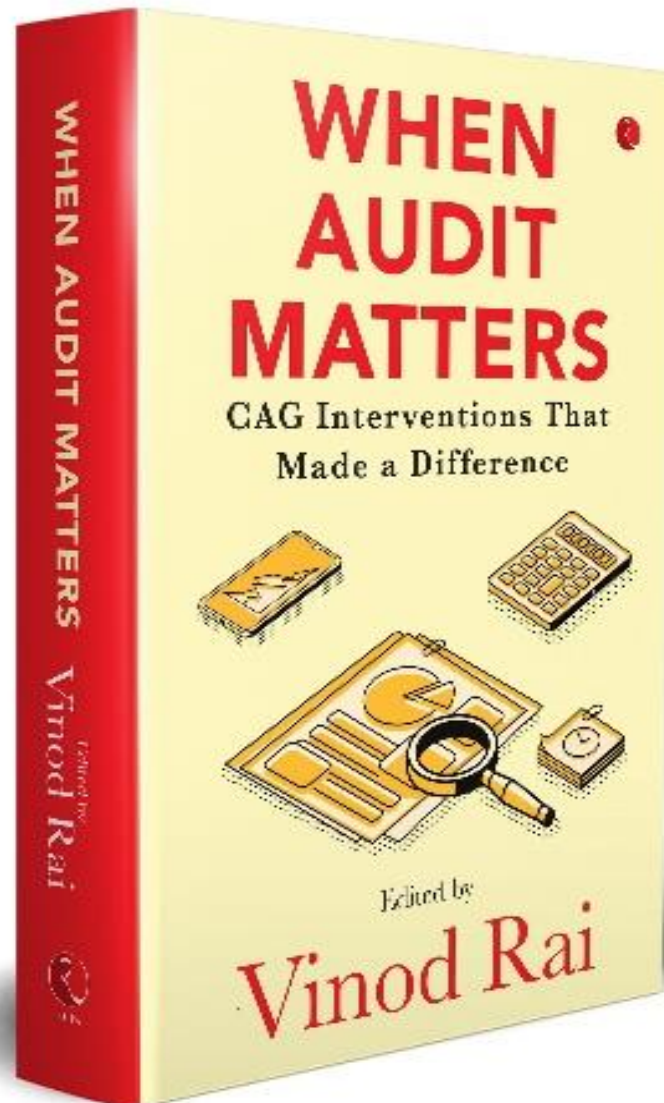
Key Points:

- Recently, Subhash C. Kashyap, former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha and a constitutional expert, passed away.
- He authored over 100 books. He served as the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha from 1983 to 1990.

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Book: 'When Audit Matters'

[Source: PIB and AIR]



Key Points:

- Vice President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book "When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference"—edited by former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai—at a ceremony held at the Vice President's House.

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22nd Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships, 2026

[Source: AIR and Asian Athletics]



Why in News?

- India secured the second spot on the medal tally with a total of 19 medals (10 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze) at the 22nd Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships, 2026, held in Hong Kong.



Key Points:

- Introduction:** This competition served as a qualifying event for the World U-20 Athletics Championships, 2026 (scheduled for August 5–9, 2026, in the USA).
- History:** The competition began in 1986 as the Asian Junior Athletics Championships. Prior to this, India had finished in second place only twice—in 1992 and 1996—when the championships were hosted in New Delhi.
- Event:** Held in Hong Kong, China, from May 20 to May 31, 2026.

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Medal Tally:

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	14	9	2	25
2.	India	10	5	4	19
3.	Japan	5	5	8	18
4	United Arab Emirates	5	0	1	6

Indian Contingent: A total of 48 Indian athletes (30 men and 18 women).

India's Medal Winners:

Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Nitin Gupta, Men's 5000m Race Walk	Sadhana Ravi, Women's Triple Jump	Nipam, Women's 100m
Amanat Kamboj, Women's Discus Throw	Upkar, Decathlon	Neeru Pathak, Women's 400m
Rahul Jakhar, Decathlon	Jithin Arjunan, Men's Long Jump	Aarti, Women's 200m
Pooja Singh, Women's High Jump	Nishchay, Men's Discus Throw	Team India, Men's 4x400m Relay
Nikhil Chandrasekhar, Men's 3000m Steeplechase	Team India, Women's 4x100m Relay	
Shahnawaz Khan, Men's Long Jump		
Basant, Men's High Jump Muskan, Women's 5000m Mogli Venkatram, Men's 800m Team India, Women's 4x400m Relay		

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Economic Developments



SAPLING Dialogue, 2026

[Source: PIB]



Why in News?

- The two-day regional high-level policy dialogue, "SAPLING (South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth) Dialogue 2026" jointly organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Government of India) and the World Bank Group concluded successfully on June 10, 2026, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.



Key Points:

- According to the World Bank Group, South Asia can generate millions of jobs and investment opportunities worth billions of dollars by transforming its food systems.

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- **Event:** Organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Government of India) in collaboration with the World Bank Group-led SAPLING initiative in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on June 9–10, 2026.

- **Theme of the Dialogue:** "Unlocking Value: Advancing Food Processing for Job Creation and Sustainable Growth in South Asia."

South Asia's Agriculture and Food Processing Sector:

- The region's agricultural sector is valued at over \$700 billion annually and employs approximately 43 percent of the workforce. However, despite its vast size, agriculture contributes only 16 percent to the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- More than 30 percent of the food produced in South Asia goes to waste annually, an amount sufficient to feed approximately 300 million people.
- The next phase of agricultural transformation lies not merely in increasing production but in expanding food processing, storage, logistics, marketing, and value addition.

Other Important Points:

India's Food Grain Production:

- **Production:** Food grain production in India has risen from 51 million tonnes in 1950–51 to over 330 million tonnes.
- **Exports:** Exports of processed food products have also more than doubled over the last decade, increasing from approximately \$4.9 billion to over \$10 billion.
- **Manufacturing Value Addition:** The food processing sector currently contributes approximately 9 percent to manufacturing value addition and about 13 percent to India's exports.

AgriConnect:

- AgriConnect, a global platform, aims to connect 30 million farmers to markets by 2030 through infrastructure investment, policy reforms, and the mobilization of private capital.
- This initiative is already supporting projects and reforms in several countries, including India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

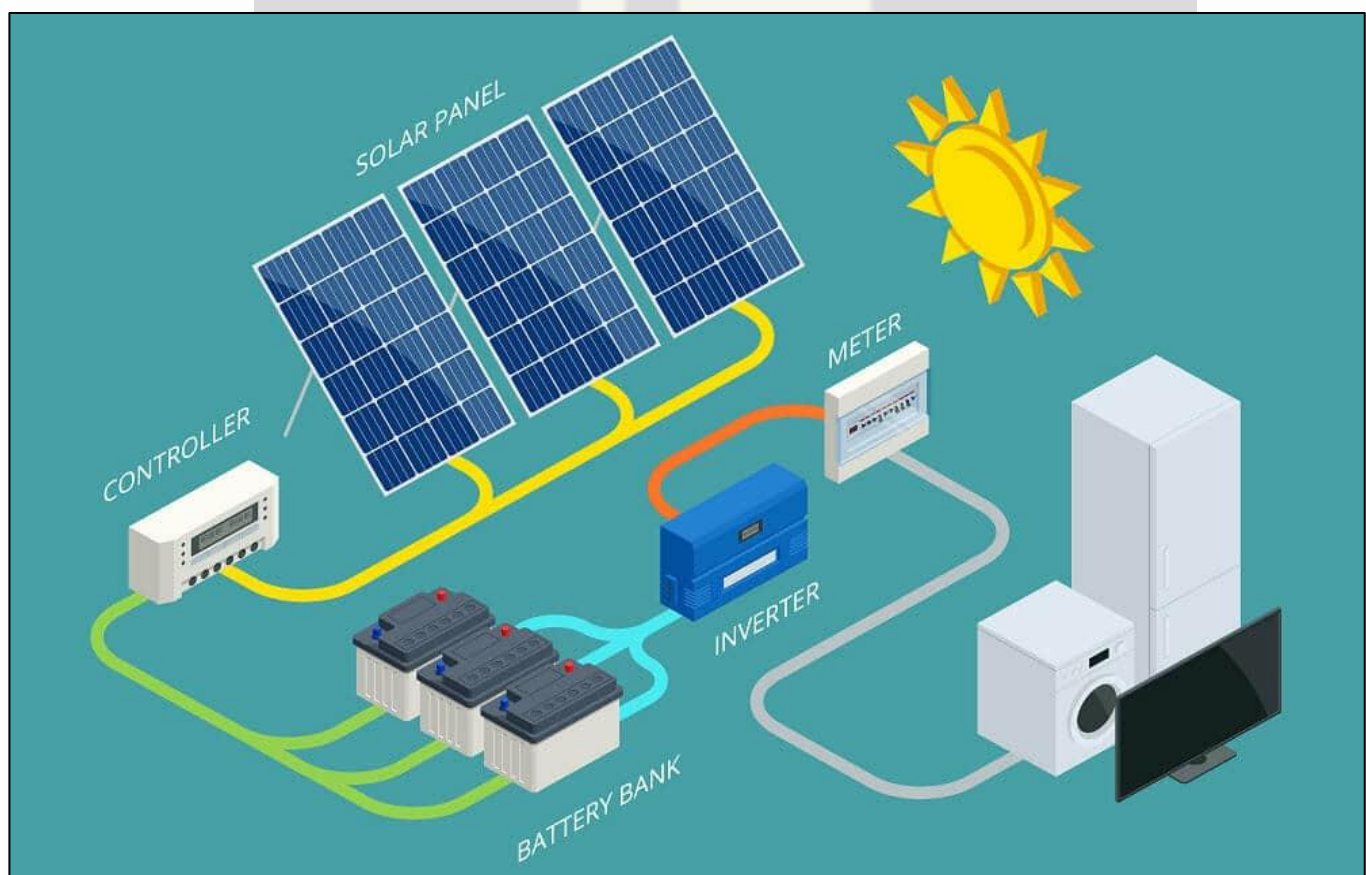
Battery Energy Storage System

[Source: THE HINDU]



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Defence has approved the establishment of a 250 MW solar power project equipped with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh.



Key Points:

Battery Energy Storage System

- A Battery Energy Storage System refers to a technology that stores electrical energy in rechargeable batteries for later use.
- It helps balance electricity demand and supply by storing excess power generated from renewable sources like solar and wind energy.

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- BESS improves grid stability, mitigates power fluctuations, and aids in peak load management. It also enhances energy availability in remote areas and strengthens energy security.

Key Storage Technologies

Electrochemical (Battery-based):

- **Lithium-ion:** Most widely deployed globally; energy density of 150–300 Wh/kg; round-trip efficiency of 90–95%; used in electric vehicles and grid-scale storage; however, it relies on imported lithium and cobalt.
- **Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP):** Safer, cheaper, and has a longer life cycle; increasingly the preferred choice for utility-scale battery energy storage systems and electric buses.
- **Sodium-ion:** Utilizes abundant domestic sodium; offers low cost and reduced geopolitical dependence. Strategically important for India limited domestic lithium reserves.
- **Solid-state:** Next-generation technology featuring solid electrolytes, high energy density, and superior safety. However, costs remain high, and scalability is currently limited.
- **Flow Batteries (Vanadium Redox, Zinc-Bromine):** Suitable for long-duration storage and exhibit minimal degradation; ideal for utility-scale renewable energy integration.

Indian Governance and State System

Prime Minister of India

[Source: The Hindu]

Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has surpassed Jawaharlal Nehru to become India's longest-serving Prime Minister to hold office through consecutive electoral mandates.



Key Points:

- Other Indian Prime Ministers and their tenures:

Prime Minister	Era	Historical Context	Consecutive Days in Office
Narendra Modi	Three Consecutive Terms (26 May 2014 – Present)	He completed 12 years of central governance in 2026. He is the first Prime Minister born after India's independence to hold the office and the longest-serving non-Congress Prime Minister.	4,399 days (as of 10 June 2026)

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Jawaharlal Nehru	Three Post-Election Terms (13 May 1952 – 27 May 1964)	He held the record for continuous service since India's first general election. His total tenure was 6,131 days, but that includes his interim, non-elected administration before 1952.	4,398 days
Indira Gandhi	Unbroken Initial Era (24 January 1966 – 24 March 1977)	She served continuously through the late 1960s and 1970s before her party lost power. She later returned for a separate term from 1980 to 1984.	4,077 days

Prime Minister of India

- **Constitutional Position (Article 75):** The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, serves as the head of the Union Government, and exercises real executive authority.
- **Leader of the Council of Ministers (Article 74):** The Prime Minister leads the Council of Ministers, which aids and advises the President in the discharge of constitutional functions.
- **Role:** The Prime Minister acts as the primary link between the President and the Council of Ministers, conveying Cabinet decisions to the President and advising on matters such as appointments, the summoning of Parliament sessions, and the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- **Head of Key Bodies:** The Prime Minister presides over several major institutions and councils, including NITI Aayog, the National Integration Council, and the Inter-State Council.

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New Chief Minister of Karnataka: D.K. Shivakumar

[Source: PIB, AIR, and TIE]



Why in News?

- Recently, following the Congress Legislature Party's (CLP) victory in the Karnataka elections, D.K. Shivakumar took the oath as the new (25th) Chief Minister of Karnataka.



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Key Points:

- **Appointment:** According to Article 164 of the Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor.
- **Oath:** Administered by Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot.
- Shivakumar previously served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka and as the President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.
- **Deputy Chief Minister:** Dr. G. Parameshwara, who had previously held the Home portfolio in the Siddaramaiah cabinet, took the oath as Deputy Chief Minister.
- **Change:** This move follows a major leadership restructuring within the Karnataka unit of the Indian National Congress, during which senior leader Siddaramaiah stepped down from the Chief Minister's post.
- **Financial Profile:** According to the affidavit filed during the 2023 elections, his assets exceed ₹1,400 crore, making him one of the wealthiest Chief Ministers in India.





Schemes and Policies



VB-G RAM G

[Source: AIR]



Why in News?

- The government has proposed an interim budget allocation of ₹95,692 crore to ensure a smooth transition from MNREGA to the Viksit Bharat-Gurante for Razgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB-G RAM G for states and Union Territories.



Key Points:

VB-G RAM G

- It will replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.



- This move marks a shift from a "demand-based framework" to a "supply-based scheme."
- **Enhancement of Livelihood Guarantee:** It will increase the statutory wage employment guarantee for rural households from 100 days to 125 days per financial year for adults who voluntarily come forward to perform unskilled manual labor.
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** This scheme will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with a funding-sharing pattern of 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states/Union Territories and 60:40 for all other states.
- **Allocation to States:** States will ensure transparent and need-based distribution of funds across districts and Gram Panchayats, taking into account the category of Panchayats and local development needs.
- **Unemployment Allowance:** If eligible applicants are not provided work within the stipulated timeframe, state governments will be obligated to provide an unemployment allowance.
- **Gram Panchayat Development Plan:** This plan will be prepared by Gram Panchayats and integrated with national spatial planning systems.
- **Institutional Monitoring:** Central and State Rural Employment Guarantee Councils will be constituted to review, monitor, and ensure the effective implementation of the Act's provisions in their respective jurisdictions.



INTERNATIONAL



Denmark's New Prime Minister: Mette Frederiksen

[Source: PIB and AIR]



Why in News?

- Mette Frederiksen (Social Democratic Party) has assumed the office of Prime Minister for the third consecutive term, leading a four-party center-left minority coalition in Denmark.



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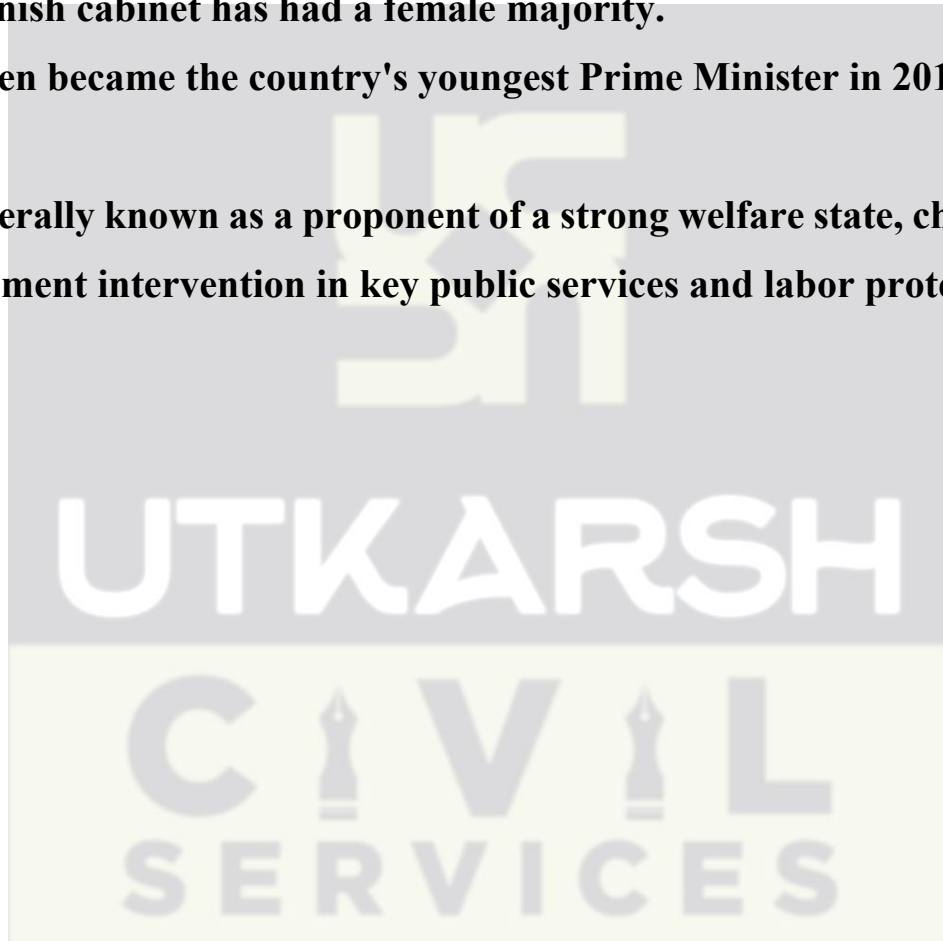


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Key Points:

- The coalition comprises the Social Democrats, the Socialist People's Party, Radikale Venstre, and the Moderates.
- Women make up 11 of the 21 ministers in the new cabinet, marking the first time a Danish cabinet has had a female majority.
- Frederiksen became the country's youngest Prime Minister in 2015 at the age of 41.
- She is generally known as a proponent of a strong welfare state, characterized by government intervention in key public services and labor protections.



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⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ⌚

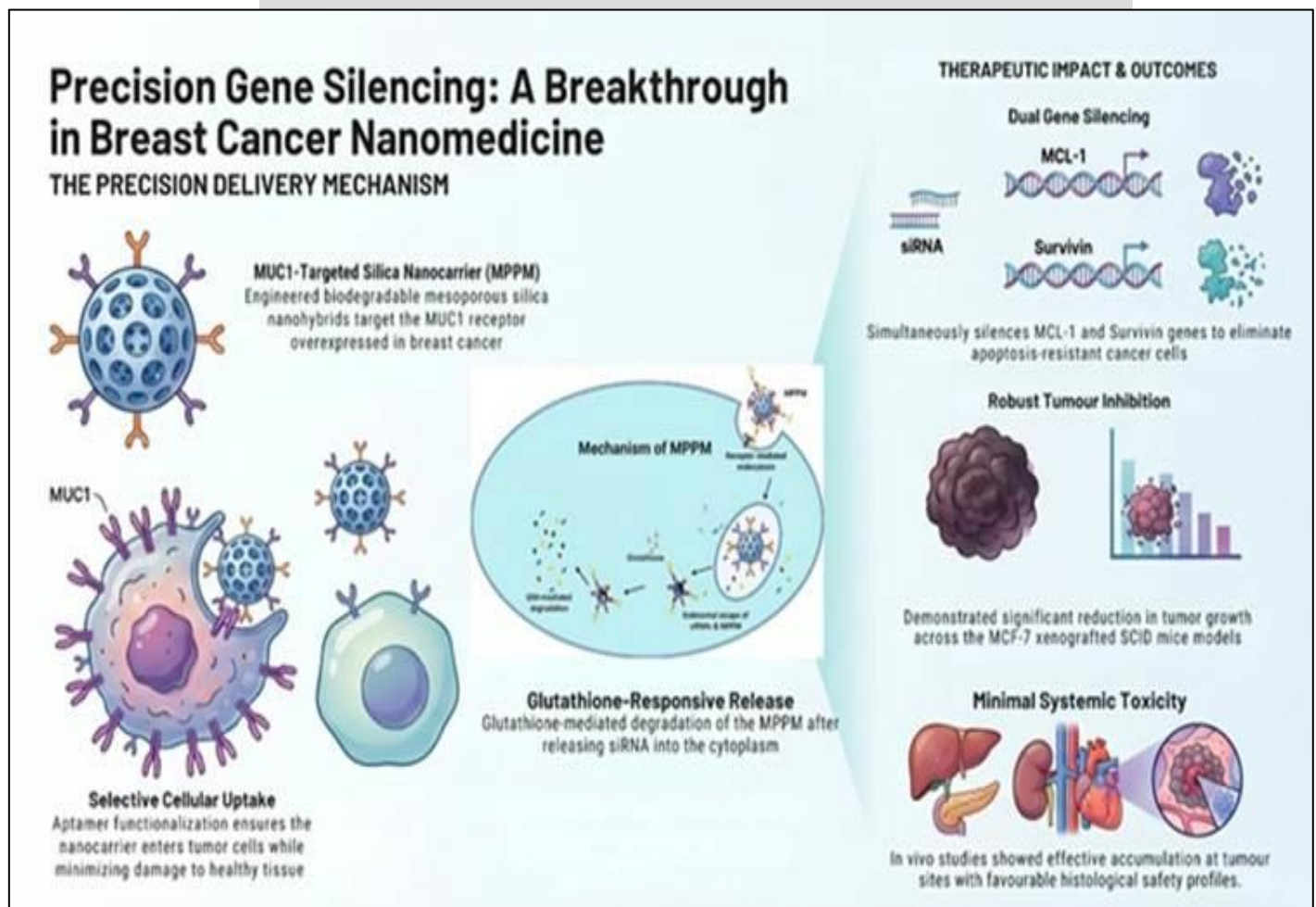
Nanomedicine for Cancer

[Source: PIB]



Why in News?

- Scientists at the Agharkar Research Institute, Pune an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India have introduced a novel biodegradable nanocarrier platform for targeted gene therapy in breast cancer.
- This gene-silencing strategy can effectively control breast cancer tumors, demonstrating its potential as a next-generation precision nanomedicine.





Key Points:

- **Research published in Advanced Healthcare Materials:** Offers new insights into targeted gene silencing of key survival pathways in breast cancer, enabling efficient tumor targeting and suppression.
- **Research Team:** Led by Niladri Haldar, Rajkumar Samanta, Surajit Patra, Devyani Sengar, Sachin Jadhav, and Virendra Gajbhiye.
- **Features:**
 1. The system is based on biodegradable mesoporous silica nanoparticles.
 2. These are known for their high loading capacity and tunable surface chemistry.
 3. They enable the efficient delivery of small interfering RNA (siRNA) molecules.
 4. A dual gene-silencing approach where the nanocarrier simultaneously delivers siRNA against two critical anti-apoptotic genes: MCL-1 and Survivin.

Research:

- The study developed an aptamer-guided biodegradable nanocarrier.
- The glutathione-responsive design of the nanocarrier ensures controlled drug release within the tumor.
- Robust gene knockdown and increased apoptosis were observed in the MCF-7 breast cancer model, resulting in a significant reduction in tumor growth.
- The study demonstrated minimal systemic toxicity.
- This technique represents a successful example of targeted delivery, controlled release (stimuli-responsive release), and combinatorial gene silencing.
- **Significance:** The research is considered crucial for next-generation RNA-based cancer therapies and precision oncology.