

NEWS TODAY

Government launched National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE)

- Launched by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, NAP-SE aims at systematic reduction of snakebite envenoming risk through **sustained availability of anti-snake venom, capacity building, referral mechanism and public education.**
- ⊕ Its **vision** is to **reduce snakebite deaths and disability cases by half by 2030**, through 'One Health' approach.
 - ◆ One Health is an **integrated approach** to sustainably balance and optimize health of people, animals and ecosystems.
- ⊕ It envisages step-wise approach for **states/ union territories to develop their own action plan** as per their needs.
- **Key strategic actions identified by NAP-SE for**
 - ⊕ **Human health component:** Ensuring provision of anti-snake venom at all health facilities, strengthening surveillance of snakebite cases, institutionalization of Regional Venom Centre's etc.
 - ⊕ **Wildlife health component:** Education awareness, systematic research and monitoring, snake venom collection and snake relocation etc.
 - ⊕ **Animal and agriculture component:** Prevention of snakebites in livestock, community engagement, production and use of Anti-Venom etc.
- **Snakebite envenoming is a neglected tropical disease** caused by **bite of venomous snake.**
 - ⊕ In India, **around 90% of snakebites** are caused by '**big four**' among crawlers - **Common Krait, Indian Cobra** (spectacled cobra), **Russell's Viper** and **Saw Scaled Viper.**

Initiatives taken to control Snakebite Envenoming

- **Global:**
 - ⊕ In 2019, **World Health Organisation (WHO)** launched **Global strategy for prevention and control of snakebite envenoming** to reduce 50% death from snakebites by 2030.
 - ⊕ WHO developed **Regional Action Plan** for prevention and control of snakebite envenoming in **South-East Asia 2022-2030.**
- **India:**
 - ⊕ **Snakebite Helpline number (15400)** provides assistance to individuals/communities affected by snakebite incidents will be piloted in five States (Puducherry, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi).

Government Approves Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India

- **Key Highlights of Scheme**
 - ⊕ **Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).
 - ⊕ **Implementation:** **Project Management Agency (PMA)** will be responsible for **providing secretarial, managerial and implementation support** and carrying out other responsibilities as assigned by Government of India (GoI).
 - ⊕ **Eligibility Criteria**
 - ◆ **Minimum Investment required during 3 year window** is Rs 4150 Crore (USD 500 million). No limit on maximum Investment.
 - ◆ **Domestic Value Addition (DVA) criteria during manufacturing:** 25% within a period of 3 years, and 50% within 5 years from date of issuance of approval letter by MHI/ PMA.
 - ⊕ **Bank guarantee** will be returned **only when 50% DVA is attained** and **investment of at least Rs 4,150 crore has been made**, or to the extent of **duty foregone in 5 years**, whichever is higher.
 - ⊕ **Performance Criteria:** All electric passenger vehicles shall meet the performance criteria of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Auto scheme.
 - ⊕ **Tenure:** 5 years or as notified by GoI.
- **Rationale of Scheme**
 - ⊕ **Attract investments** from global Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturers; **Promote India as a manufacturing destination** for EV; **Promoting healthy competition** among EV players can lead to high production volume; **Reduce imports** of crude oil; Generate employment etc.

Other Initiatives to Promote EV

- **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of EVs (FAME) India scheme- Phase I** launched in 2015 and **Phase II** launched in 2019.
- **PLI Scheme for Automobile and Automotive Components (PLI-Auto)** in 2021, as financial incentives to promote domestic manufacturing and draw investments into value chain of automotive manufacturing industry.
- **EV 30@30** initiative for deployment of EVs and target at least 30 percent new EVs sales by 2030.

Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022 released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Index is Released by UNDP in their report **Human Development Report 2023/2024; Breaking the gridlock Reimagining cooperation in a polarized world.**
- **Key Highlights:**
 - ⊕ Topped by **Denmark**, followed by **Norway** and **Switzerland**.
 - ⊕ India has been ranked at **108 out of 193 countries** with a score of 0.437.
 - ◆ In 2021 India stood at rank 122 out of 191 countries.
 - ⊕ India's neighbouring nations such as **Bhutan** (80); **Sri Lanka** (90); and **Maldives** (76) have performed better.
- **GII** is a composite measure, reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in **three dimensions:**
 - ⊕ **Reproductive Health:** Use indicators namely the **maternal mortality ratio** and the **adolescent fertility rate**.
 - ◆ Also uses **Female reproductive health Index**.
 - ⊕ **Empowerment:** Measured by the share of **parliamentary seats held** and at least secondary attainment level by both gender.
 - ◆ Also uses Female and male empowerment Index.
 - ⊕ **Labour market:** Measured by **labour force participation rates** by both gender.
 - ◆ Also uses Female and male labour market Index.
- **GII score varies between 0** (when women and men fare equally) **and 1** (when men or women fare poorly compared to the other in all dimensions).

Initiative which helped in Improving India's rank

- **'Mission Shakti'** – An umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women
- **For female labour participation-**
 - ⊕ **Code on Social Security, 2020** has the provisions for enhancement in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, etc.
 - ⊕ **Code on Wages 2019-** No employer shall make any discrimination on the ground of sex while recruiting any employee for the same work.
- **Others:** Mission Poshan 2.0, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), etc.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launches unique Digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS) Platform

- Newly developed Digital CCMS was **designed by National Investigation Agency (NIA)**.
 - ⊕ It is a **user-friendly and easy-to-deploy, customizable, browser-based software** to help State Police forces in their investigations and prosecution.
- **Significance of Digital CCMS**
 - ⊕ **Enable NIA personnel to better coordinate in terrorism and organized crime cases**, thereby improving justice delivery.
 - ⊕ Help State Police forces **organise, integrate and digitalise data generated during investigations**, such as case documents, extracted data, collected evidence, and charge-sheets presented to court.
 - ⊕ **Foster stronger cooperation** between central and state agencies including Anti-Terror Squads of State Police.
 - ⊕ Bring **standardisation** into **investigations, streamline** compilation of terror-related data, **improves conviction rates** in sensitive and complex cases across country.
 - ⊕ **Assist NIA and State Police forces' preparedness** to implement new Criminal laws such as Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakhsya Sanhita.
- Additionally, **MHA launched Sankalan app** – A compendium of New Criminal Laws by National Crime Records Bureau.
 - ⊕ It is designed for **navigating through new criminal laws** as a bridge between old and new criminal laws.
 - ⊕ It will **work in offline mode as well** and its availability has been ensured in far-flung areas.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- It is a **central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency** in country.
- It was established under **NIA Act, 2008**.
- Headquarter at **New Delhi**.

India and Brazil hold First '2+2' Defence and Foreign Ministerial Dialogue

- In 2+2 Dialogue, both countries explored ways to expand cooperation in energy, critical minerals, technology, and counter-terrorism.
 - ⊖ 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is a meeting of Foreign and Defense Ministers from two countries to discuss issues of mutual interest.
 - ◆ India has 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with US, Australia, Japan etc.
- **India-Brazil Bilateral Relations**
 - ⊖ **Political Relations: Strategic Partners** since 2006.
 - ⊖ **Cooperation in Multilateral Forums:** It includes UN, G20, BRICS, IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) etc.
 - ◆ **G4 (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan)**, support each other for permanent seats in UNSC.
 - ◆ Part of India led alliance such as **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
 - ◆ Also enabling India's close cooperation with **MERCOSUR** (regional trading bloc in South America).
 - ⊖ **Trade: India** is 5th largest trading partner of Brazil (2021).
 - ⊖ **Space:** ISRO launched Brazil's satellite **Amazonia-1** (2021).
 - ⊖ **Security:** Joint statement and action plan for enhancing defense and security cooperation were signed (2020).
 - ⊖ **Cooperation in Bio-fuels:** Brazil is the world's second-largest producer of biofuels. It is also part of **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, an India-led Initiative.
- Mechanism like **Trade Monitoring Mechanism, Strategic Dialogue (NSA) etc.** are playing key role in enhancing relationship by resolving issues.

Government notifies the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024 in pursuant to the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023

- New rules will replace the **Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983**.
- Rules aims to **streamline and modernize the film certification process** for the digital age, keeping pace with the emerging technologies and advancement in film sector.
 - ⊖ Rules will also **enhance transparency, efficiency & ease of doing business** for the film industry.
- **Key Provisions of the Rules**
 - ⊖ **Three Age-Based Certification:** Under 'UA' category –'UA 7+', 'UA 13+' and 'UA 16+'. Categorisation is mainly meant for parents or guardians to consider whether their children should view such a film and these are **only recommendatory**.
 - ◆ **Other Existing categories:** U (Universal), A (only for adults), and S (Only to few class of persons).
 - ⊖ **Equity: Greater representation of women in the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Board, one-third of the members in the Board shall be women and preferably half shall be women.**
 - ⊖ **Perpetual Validity of Certificates:** Removal of the restriction on validity of certificate for only 10 years.
 - ⊖ **Change of Category of Film for Television:** Recertification of the edited film for Television broadcast, as only **Unrestricted Public Exhibition category** films can be shown on television.
- Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023 has amended the Cinematograph Act, 1952.



About CBFC

- It is a **statutory body**, regulates the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
 - ⊖ It has 9 regional offices.

Also in News



National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)

- India's first Oil Palm Processing Mill inaugurated under NMEO-OP.
- **About NMEO-OP**
 - ⊖ **Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2021** to promote oil palm cultivation and reduce import burden on edible oils.
 - ⊖ **Targets by 2025-26**
 - ◆ **Increase area** of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares.
 - ◆ **Increase in Crude Palm Oil production** to 11.20 lakh tonnes.
- **About Palm Oil**
 - ⊖ Around **90% of world's oil palm trees** are grown in **Malaysia and Indonesia**.
 - ⊖ Used in **food products, detergents, cosmetics and biofuel**.
 - ⊖ Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala accounts for 98% of total production.



Standards and Labeling Program

- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** has launched Standards and Labeling Program for the solar inverter under voluntary phase.
- **About Standards and Labeling Program (2006)**
 - ⊖ **Objective:** Help consumers **make an informed choice** about **various energy-consuming appliances**, in terms of energy savings.
 - ◆ Also aims to **reduce the end-use energy consumption** of appliances without diminishing the service levels.
 - ⊖ Currently invoked for 34 appliances/equipment (apart from solar inverter).
 - ⊖ **Appliances/equipment** have been notified under **mandatory** (e.g. Ceiling Fans, tubular Fluorescent Lamps Stationary Storage Type Electric Water Heaters etc.) and **voluntary** (Microwave Ovens etc.) labeling.



Voyager 1

- NASA found clue while solving Voyager 1's communication breakdown case, which was sending back incoherent data.
- **About Voyager 1**
 - ⊕ Launched in 1977 to flyby Jupiter and Saturn, it crossed into interstellar space in 2012.
 - ⊕ It was the first spacecraft to cross heliosphere, the boundary where the influences outside our solar system are stronger than those from our Sun.
 - ⊕ It discovered a thin ring around Jupiter and two new Jovian moons: Thebe and Metis.
 - ⊕ At Saturn, it found five new moons and a new ring called G-ring.



Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index

- Ministry of Home Affairs has been ranked among 10 top ministries in GRAI during 2023-24.
- **About GRAI**
 - ⊕ **Objective:** To present organisation-wise comparative picture and provide valuable insights about strengths and areas of improvement regarding grievance redressal mechanism.
 - ⊕ It is conceptualised and designed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
 - ⊕ It is based on dimensions Efficiency, Feedback, Domain and Organisational Commitment.
 - ⊕ It uses data from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS).



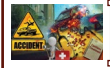
Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Fisheries scheme

- Department of Fisheries successfully inaugurates the integration of the Kisan Credit Card Fisheries scheme with the JanSamarth Portal.
 - ⊕ JanSamarth is a first-of-its-kind online platform for directly connecting lenders with beneficiaries.
 - ⊕ Citizens can avail loans under certain Central government schemes.
- In the year 2018-19, KCC facility has been extended to fishers and fish farmers to meet their working capital requirement.
 - ⊕ It covers Farmers either individual or joint borrower, Joint Liability Groups or Self Help Groups etc.
 - ⊕ Under it, farmer get interest Subvention of 2% annually and in case Prompt Repayment subvention will be 3%.



Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

- IEPFA invites comments from stakeholders to simplify, expedite and streamline claims settlement process.
- **About IEPFA**
 - ⊕ Established in 2016 under provisions of section 125 of Companies Act, 2013 under Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
 - ⊕ It is entrusted with responsibility of promoting Investor Education, Awareness and Protection and administration of IEPF fund.
 - ◆ IEPF has been established under Section 205C of Companies Act, 1956 by way of Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999 for protection of interests of investors.



Pilot Program for Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims

- Program was developed under Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to establish ecosystem for providing timely medical care to road accident victims, including during golden hour.
- **About Pilot Program**
 - ⊕ National Health Authority shall be implementing agency, in coordination with police, hospitals, State Health Agency etc.
 - ⊕ Victims entitled to cashless treatment upto maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs per accident per person for maximum period of 7 days from date of accident.
 - ⊕ Applicable to all road accidents.
 - ⊕ Claims raised by hospitals for providing treatment to be reimbursed from Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.



Ethanol 100

- Ethanol 100 fuel was launched by the Petroleum Ministry.
- **About Ethanol 100:**
 - ⊕ A cleaner and greener alternative to gasoline
 - ⊕ It is a blend of 92 to 94 percent ethanol, 4 to 5 percent motor spirit to provide colour to flame and 1.5 percent Co-solvent higher saturated alcohol.
 - ⊕ **Significance:**
 - ◆ It produces lower emissions of greenhouse gases, a reduction by around 63% on well to wheel basis.
 - ◆ Its high-octane rating makes it suitable for high-performance engines, ensuring enhanced efficiency and power output.
 - ◆ Significant reductions in foreign exchange savings.

Personality in news



Nana Jagannath Shankarseth (1803- 1865)

- Maharashtra cabinet decided to ask Ministry of Railways to rename Mumbai Central station after him.
- **About Nana Jagannath Shankarseth**
 - ⊕ Social reformer, educationist, and philanthropist and often described as architect of Mumbai (then Bombay).
- **Contributions**
 - ⊕ Became the first Indian to be nominated to Legislative Council of Bombay.
 - ⊕ Founder of Bombay Association (1852).
 - ⊕ Worked for education of girls and women.
 - ⊕ Founded Native School of Bombay which evolved into prestigious Elphinstone College.
 - ⊕ Part of committee that gave project impetus for India's first train that ran between Boribunder and Thane in 1853.
- **Values:** Courage, Compassion, Leadership, etc.

