

NEWS TODAY

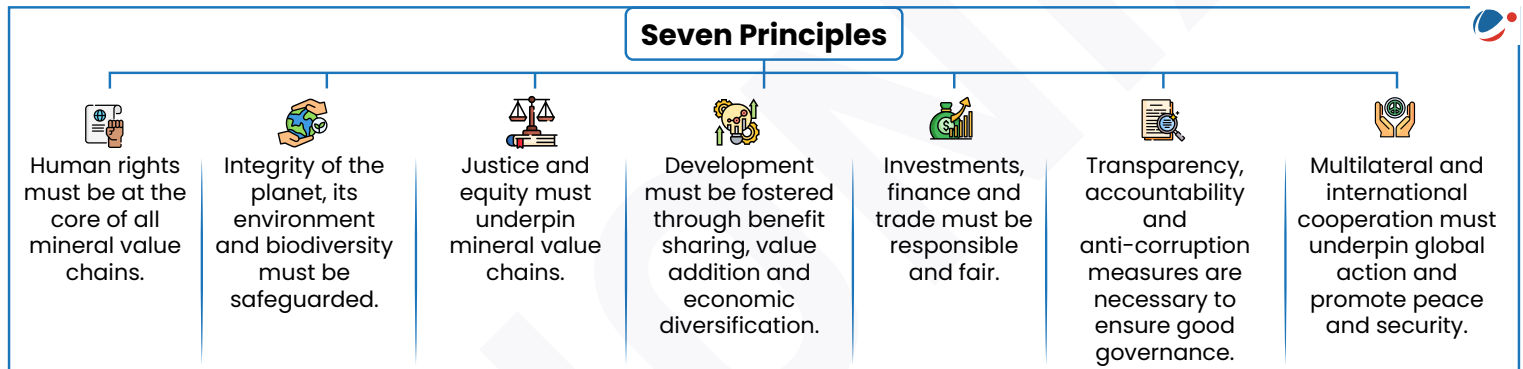
“Resourcing the Energy Transition: Principles to Guide Critical Energy Transition Minerals Towards Equity and Justice” report released

Report has been released by **UN Secretary-General’s Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETMs)**, established to develop **guiding principles for energy transition**.

- **CETMs are** minerals necessary to construct, produce, distribute and store renewable energy.
 - ⊕ They include Rare Earth Elements, copper, cobalt, nickel, lithium, graphite, cadmium, selenium etc.
 - ⊕ **Demand for CETMs expected to triple by 2030** as the world transitions from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

About the Report

- Report outlines **seven Guiding Principles (see infographic)** and **five Actionable Recommendations** to ground the renewables revolution in **justice and equity**.
 - ⊕ Guiding principles are required as increasing demand for CETMs risks **perpetuating commodity dependence**, exacerbating **geopolitical tensions** and **environmental and social challenges**, and undermining efforts towards the energy transition.
- **Actionable Recommendations include establishment of:**
 - ⊕ **A high-level expert advisory group** to accelerate greater benefit-sharing, value addition and economic diversification in CETMs value chains.
 - ⊕ **Global traceability, transparency, and accountability framework** along entire mineral value chain.
 - ⊕ **Global Mining Legacy Fund** for strengthening financial assurance mechanisms for mine closure and rehabilitation.
 - ⊕ Initiative that **empowers artisanal and small-scale miners** for responsible mining.
 - ⊕ **Material efficiency and Circularity targets** to balance consumption and reduce environmental impacts.



NITI Aayog releases Expert Group Report on Future Pandemic Preparedness

Report reflects on **challenges faced during COVID-19 pandemic** and proposes a comprehensive strategy for future pandemic preparedness.

- It emphasizes **"One Health" approach** to address **growing threat of zoonotic diseases**.

Issues faced during COVID-19:

- **Legislative:** Provisions of NDMA & Epidemic Diseases Act (EDA) are not entirely suited for a public health emergency.
- **Surveillance and Data Management:** Multiple data sources were not well-integrated, affecting decision-making.
- **Research and Innovation:** Research bodies are not linked with industries for rapid development of diagnostics & vaccines.

Key recommendations:

- **Governance:**
 - ⊕ Enacting **Public Health Emergency Management Act(PHEMA)** to address aspects beyond epidemics, including non-communicable diseases, disasters, and bioterrorism,
 - ⊕ Creation of an **Empowered Group of Secretaries on Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response (PPER)** chaired by Cabinet Secretary.
 - ⊕ Setting up of a **special PPER fund**
- **Data Management, Surveillance and Early Predictive Warning:**
 - ⊕ Creating a well-connected/**integrated robust surveillance network**
 - ⊕ Building a **solid modeling and forecasting network** for early prediction
- **Research and Innovation:**
 - ⊕ Setting up an **Institute of Innovation** for New Platform technologies and vaccine development
 - ⊕ Creating **Centers of Excellence** for Skilling Human Resources in identified gap areas.

Existing Framework for Epidemic/Pandemic Management:

- **'Public Health and Sanitation'** is under **Entry 6 of the State list** (Seventh Schedule).
- **Entry 29 of Concurrent List** empowers center and State both to legislate for **prevention of infectious or contagious diseases** from one state to another.
- **International Health Regulation (2005)** provides legal framework for States in handling public health emergencies.
- **EDA 1897** is main legislation on subject matter.
- **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme** provides for disease surveillance

Union Cabinet approves Modification of scheme of Budgetary Support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects

Union Cabinet modified the scheme for **faster development of Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) and improvement of infrastructure** in remote and hilly project locations.

- Scheme of Budgetary support for cost of enabling infrastructure for HEP was launched by **Ministry of Power in 2019**, along with other measures to promote hydropower sector in India.
 - ⊕ It provided budgetary support for **constructing roads and bridges** connecting major dam, power house and other project infrastructure with nearest state/national highway.

Modified Scheme

- **Funding: Total outlay of Rs.12,461 crore** for cumulative generation capacity of about 31,350 MW.
- **Implementation Period:** FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32.
- **Expansion:** Scheme expanded to **include costs for constructing transmission lines, ropeways, railway sidings, and communication infrastructure**, in addition to **roads and bridges**.
- **Eligibility:** HEPs **>25 MW capacity** including private sector projects and all **Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)**.

Other Measures for Development of HEP

- Declaring **Large Hydro Power projects** (> 25 MW projects) as **Renewable Energy sources**.
- **Hydro Power Purchase Obligations (HPOs)** requiring entities to purchase electricity from HEPs.
- **Tariff rationalization measures** for bringing down hydropower tariff
- **Budgetary support for flood moderation / Storage HEPs.**

Challenges with HEP development

- **Financial constraints** as HEPs are capital intensive and require high upfront costs.
- **Geological concerns** during construction in hilly regions, especially in Himalayas.
- **Power Evacuation issues** as these are built in remote regions.
- **Social issues** due to large land acquisition and rehabilitation requirements.

Cabinet approves ₹5 lakh Health Cover for Senior Citizens

Union Cabinet approved health cover for senior citizens under **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.

- Scheme is set to benefit **about 6 crore senior citizens**.

Details of expansion of Scheme:

- **Eligibility Criteria:** All senior citizens **aged 70 and above** regardless of their income.
- **Benefits offered:** Senior citizens will receive a family-based **cover of Rs. 5 lakh annually**.
 - ⊕ Those already covered by AB PM-JAY will receive an **additional top-up of Rs. 5 lakh annually**, separate from their family's existing cover.
- **Ease of Access:** Eligible senior citizens will be issued a **distinct card**.
- **Senior citizens** already availing benefits of **other public health insurance schemes** may either choose their existing scheme or AB PM-JAY.
- Senior citizens under **private health insurance or Employees' State Insurance schemes** are also eligible for AB PM-JAY benefits.

About AB PM-JAY Scheme:

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- **Type:** **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under Ayushman Bharat Mission
- **Target:** 12 crore families (approximately 55 crore beneficiaries)
- **Purpose:** To achieve the agenda of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**.
- **Benefits:** Providing health cover of Rs. 5 lakh/family/year for **secondary and tertiary care hospitalization**.
 - ⊕ Covers up to **3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization** expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- It is the **world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme**.

Other Schemes for Senior Citizens:

- **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana:** To improve the quality of life of senior citizens.
- **Senior Aging Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative:** To promote and incentivize senior care products and services.
- **Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity or SACRED portal:** To connect senior citizens with job providers in the private sector.

PM announces adoption of Delhi Declaration on Civil Aviation

2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APMC) concluded with unanimous adoption of Delhi Declaration.

➤ APMC which also celebrates **80 years of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** has been organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation and ICAO.

Key commitments under Delhi Declaration:

- **Reaffirming Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Beijing):** Pursue implementation of State Safety Programme, Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Navigation Service Plan
- **Aviation Safety & Security:** Achieve aspirational goal of Global Aviation Security Plan
- **Gender Equality:** Take necessary measures to strengthen gender equality
- **Aviation Environment Protection:** Reduce emissions and other environmental impacts of aviation
- **Ratification of International Air Law Treaties:** Encourage Asia & Pacific States to ratify amendments to Convention on International Civil Aviation

Civil Aviation Sector in India

- **India is fastest growing aviation market** in world and is currently **3rd largest in domestic segment.**
 - ⊖ **Number of aircraft** in India is more than **800** and **airports** have exponentially grown to **157**.
- **Gender Equality:** 15% of the pilots in India are women (global average is 5%).
- **Schemes for Aviation Sectors:** Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) –Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), Digi Yatra & Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008 (To prioritize carbon neutrality).

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- **Genesis:** Established in 1944 on basis of Chicago Convention, It is a **United Nations Specialized agency.**
- **Members:** 193 (India is a member)
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada
- **Vision:** Achieve sustainable growth of global civil aviation system.
- **Mission:** Develops policies and Standards, undertakes compliance audits and cooperation of its Member States and stakeholders.
- **Key Agreements/Initiatives:** Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG)

Supreme Court reiterates rights of detenu in preventive detention cases

In **Jaseela Shaji vs Union of India case (2024)**, the Supreme Court highlighted the rights of detenu (detained person) to make an effective representation against preventive detention.

➤ Preventive detention means **detention of a person without trial.**

Highlights of the Judgment

- Detenu has the **right to be furnished with the grounds of detention along with the documents** relied on for such detention.
 - ⊖ If there is **failure or even delay in furnishing** those documents, it would amount to **denial of the right to make an effective representation** under **Article 22(5)** of the Constitution.
- **Article 22(5)** mandates that detaining authority must:
 - ⊖ Inform detenu as soon as practicable of **grounds on which detention** has been made.
 - ⊖ Provide detenu the earliest **opportunity of making a representation against detention order.**

Preventive Detention

- **Article 22(3)** allows the authorities to **detain individuals for preventive reasons**, such as the maintenance of **public order or national security.**
- The constitution provides for **certain safeguards:**
 - ⊖ No preventive detention law should authorize the **detention beyond three months unless an Advisory Board approves it.**
 - ⊖ Grounds for preventive detention shall be communicated earliest.
 - ⊖ Provide earliest opportunity of making a representation.

Laws for preventive detention

- National Security Act, 1980
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 1967
- Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974
- Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act (PBMSECA), 1980

Also in News

Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)

Recently, the flight test of VL-SRSAM has been successfully conducted by **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) & Indian Navy** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.

➤ Flight test was carried out from a **land-based vertical launcher.**

About VL-SRSAM

- It is a vertically launched surface to air missile with **all-weather capability** for use by Indian Navy.
- It is a **ship borne weapon system** designed to neutralise **various aerial threats** at close ranges, including sea-skimming targets.
- **Features:** Indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker
- **Developed by:** DRDO

Bio-decomposer

Delhi Government is preparing to **spray bio-decomposer**, an alternative to stubble burning, over 5,000 acres of farmland.

About Bio-decomposer

- Developed by **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).**
- Bio-decomposer is a **microbial liquid spray** (consortium of seven fungal species).
 - ⊖ It can **degrade diverse horticultural and agricultural residues** like vegetable waste, citrus fruit waste, flower waste paddy straw, soybean trash, millet, maize residues rapidly and effectively.
- **Significance:** **Valuable composting technology** to convert agri-waste into nutrient-rich products
 - ⊖ **Improves soil** and supports plant growth.
 - ⊖ Able to **decompose the agri residue in-situ within 25 days.**



State Finance Commission

Kerala Cabinet clears proposal to constitute seventh State Finance Commission.

About State Finance Commission (SFC)

- **Article 243I** of the Constitution empowers the Governor of a state to constitute a Finance Commission every five years.
 - ⊖ Article 243I was introduced by **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992**.
- It **reviews the financial position of the Panchayats** and recommends principles for governing:
 - ⊖ **Distribution** between state and panchayats of net **proceeds of state taxes**
 - ⊖ Determination of **taxes, duties, tolls and fees** which may be assigned to **Panchayats**
 - ⊖ **Grants-in-aid** to Panchayats from State Consolidated Fund.
- **Article 243Y** provides that SFC shall make similar recommendations for municipalities.



National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI)

NIMI has recently launched YouTube Channels to make vocational education more accessible for ITI Students.

About NIMI

- **Genesis:** Set up in 1986 by name of Central Instructional Media Institute by Government of India as a Subordinate Office.
 - ⊖ Registered as a **society under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975**.
 - ⊖ **Renamed as NIMI** in 2003.
- **Functioning:** Autonomous institution under government of India, **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Directorate General of Training (DGT), New Delhi**
- **Objective:**
 - ⊖ Nodal Agency to **develop Instructional Materials, e-content, Question Banks**, Train media developers and trainers.
 - ⊖ **Enable translation of books** into Hindi and other regional languages .



EXERCISE AL NAJAH V

Indian Army Contingent departs for 5th edition of INDIA- OMAN Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH V.

About Exercise AL NAJAH V

- Exercise AL NAJAH has been held **biennially since 2015** alternatively between India and Oman.
- Exercise will take place at **Rabkoot Training Area in Salah, Oman**.



National Stock Exchange (NSE)

SEBI approves ten times hike in NSE's authorized share capital to ₹500 crore.

About NSE:

- **Headquarter:** Mumbai
- **Establishment Year:** Incorporated in 1992, recognized as stock exchange by SEBI in 1993 and commenced operations in 1994.
 - ⊖ Stock exchange is a **centralised marketplace** where securities **such as stocks, bonds, and derivatives** are bought and sold by investors.
- **India's largest stock exchanges** by market cap.
- **Nifty 50** (owned and managed by NSE Indices Limited) is **flagship stock market index of NSE**.
 - ⊖ Consists of diversified **50 stock indexes from various sectors** of economy.
- **Pioneer in Technology:** First exchange in India to implement electronic/screen-based trading.



National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

Central Government, under Companies Act, 2013, notified NaBFID as a **Public Financial Institution (PFI)**.

- Only institutions established under any **Central or State Act** or whose at least **51% paid up share capital is held by central or state government** can be notified as PFI.

National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

- NaBFID was established as an infrastructure focused **Development Financial Institution (DFI)** under the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021**.
- It was established to support the development of **long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing** in India including development of bonds and derivatives markets.



Rangeen Machhli App

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has recently launched 'Rangeen Machhli' App.

About Rangeen Machhli App:

- Developed by **ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture** with support from the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- **Objective:** Provides **multilingual information** on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages.
- **Features:** Locate **nearby aquarium shops**, Promoting local businesses and **connecting users with reliable sources** for ornamental fish.

About Ornamental Fish Farming in India:

- It is practise of **raising attractive, colorful fishes of various characteristics**, which are reared in a confined aquatic system.
- **Indigenous Ornamental Fishes:** Loaches, Eels, Barbs, Catfish, and Goby, Clown Fish etc.

Place in News



Mexico (Capital: Mexico City)

Mexico became the first country to approve **popular election of judges**.

Political features

- It is located in **North America**.
- **Territorial Boundaries:** USA (north), Guatemala and Belize (south-east).
- **Maritime Boundaries:** Pacific Ocean (West & South), Gulf of Mexico (East) and Caribbean Sea (South-East).

Geographical Features

- Region is part of **Ring of Fire**, characterized by active volcanism and frequent seismic activity.
- **Major Rivers:** Rio Grande, Colorado.
- **Mountain range:** Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre Occidental (Extension of Rocky Mountains).
- **Major mountain peaks:** Pico de Orizaba, Popocatepetl.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI