

NEWS TODAY

Cabinet approves amendment in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on the space sector














- To date, FDI was permitted in the establishment and operation of Satellites through the Government approval route only.
- Under the amended FDI policy, **100% FDI is allowed in the space sector.**
 - ⊖ Now, the satellite sub-sector has been **divided into three different activities** with defined limits for FDI in each such sector. **Limits are given in the box**

Upto 74% under Automatic route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Satellites-Manufacturing & Operation, Satellite Data Products and Ground Segment & User Segment. ⊖ Beyond 74% these activities are under government route.
Upto 49% under Automatic route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launch Vehicles and associated systems or subsystems, Creation of Spaceports for launching and receiving Spacecraft. ⊖ Beyond 49% these activities are under government route.
Upto 100% under Automatic route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Manufacturing of components and systems/ sub-systems for satellites, ground segment, and user segment.

- The amendment is in line with the vision and strategy under the **Indian Space Policy 2023.**
- **Significance of the amendment**
 - ⊖ Expected to integrate Indian companies **into global value chains.**
 - ⊖ **Generating employment, enabling modern technology absorption, and making the sector self-reliant.**
 - ⊖ Encouraging 'Make In India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives of the Government.

NASSCOM released “Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) of India - Accelerating India’s Digital Inclusion” report

- DPI is a **digital network** that enables countries to safely and efficiently **deliver economic opportunities and social services to all residents.**
 - ⊖ **India Stack**, India's own foundational DPI, consists of 3 layers: **digital identity products** centered around **Aadhaar, Payments, and Data.**
- **Key findings**
 - **By 2030, economic value add from DPIs** has potential to increase **3 times** from current 0.9% to **2.9-4.2% of GDP** driven by:

 Government	 Start-ups	 Corporates
 Proactive policy support & regulatory clarity regarding data privacy, open networks, interoperability	 Build products & services for the digital Bharat to capitalize on the full-scale adoption of existing digital infrastructure	 Capitalize on the future demand of digital & build the infrastructure layer
 Promote the usage of existing digital ecosystem and their benefits and usage through awareness camps	 Build business models to help drive the adoption of existing DPIs	 Set-up accelerator programs to foster innovation to solve citizen problems by incubating startups and non-profits
 Set-up task force to drive adoption of newer digital entities and solve challenges & barriers to adoption	 Assess new-age technologies to integrate and improve the digital ecosystem	 Keep a global mindset when building solutions and build innovative solutions for the world
 Launch sandbox for fostering innovation through partnerships with startups & corporates		
 - ⊖ Presently, **over 30 countries** are either **adopting** or in **early discussions** to **implement India’s DPI.**
- **Key challenges in DPI adoption include**
 - ⊖ **Lack of interconnectedness** among government ministries.
 - ⊖ **Lack of real-time data availability.**
 - ⊖ **Limited language expansion** for users to access in preferred languages.
 - ⊖ **Future partnerships beyond government services.**
- **Recommendations to achieve the 2030 DPI potential**

UNICEF supported survey “Factors Influencing Young Women’s Participation in Labor Force and Non-traditional Jobs” released

- The survey was administered via **U-Report**, UNICEF’s digital community for young people with the help of the **YuWaah** initiative.
 - ⊕ YuWaah Initiative incubated by UNICEF, is a **public-private youth platform** to provide economic opportunities to young people.
- It targeted **youth aged 18 to 29 through social media**.
- It used the **International Labour Organisation definition** for non-traditional jobs i.e. employment arrangements that deviate from standard employment such as delivery jobs, jobs in shops, etc.
 - ⊕ They are featured prominently on **digital labor platforms**.
- **Key findings of the survey**
 - ⊕ Majority of respondents believe that **young women prefer working from home to manage work and home at same time**.
 - ⊕ **Access to information and schemes or support from family** are perceived as key drivers by 52% of the respondents.
 - ⊕ Around half of respondents consider **non-traditional jobs unsafe for women**.
- **Recommendations of Survey:**
 - ⊕ Workplaces should have **gender-sensitive policies** e.g. flexible working hours, maternity leave, and childcare facilities.
 - ⊕ Formulate policies to **encourage women to participate in non-traditional jobs**.
 - ⊕ **Create work-from-home guidelines** that promote and provide flexible work models.
 - ⊕ **Implement community-based models for behavioral change** to support women in the workforce.

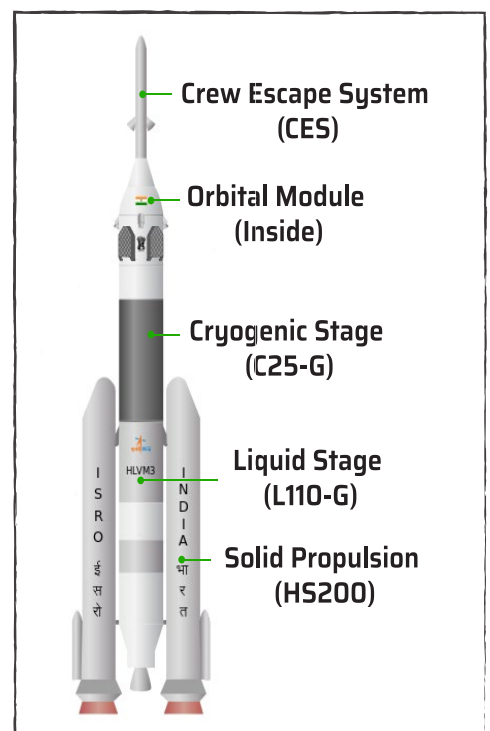
**United Nations
Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**

HQ: New York

- **Genesis:** in 1946 as UN International Children’s Emergency Fund
 - ⊕ It became a permanent part of the **United Nations in 1953** and its name was changed to United Nations Children’s Fund.
- **Mandate:** works in over 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child.
- **Key reports**
 - ⊕ The State of the World’s Children,
 - ⊕ Rights Denied

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) completed the human rating of its CE20 cryogenic engine

- Human-rating refers to rating a system that is **capable of safely transporting humans**.
- The final test was carried out at the **High Altitude Test Facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri**, to simulate the flight conditions.
- CE20 cryogenic engine powers the **cryogenic stage of the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan missions**.
- **About Human-rated LVM3**
 - ⊕ It is a three-stage vehicle **consists of the solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage**.
 - ⊕ It is capable of launching the **Orbital Module to an intended Low Earth Orbit of 400 km**.
 - ◆ Orbital Module will be **Orbiting Earth** comprising of Crew Module and a Service Module.
 - ⊕ It consists of **Crew Escape System (CES)** to ensure that the Crew Module is taken to a **safe distance in case of any emergency**.
- **About Gaganyaan**
 - ⊕ It is India’s **first human spaceflight mission**.
 - ⊕ It aims to launch a crew of 3 members to **low earth orbit of 400km for three days**.
 - ⊕ **India will become the fourth country** to send a crewed spacecraft to space (after the USA, Russia, and China).



Right to adopt children is not a fundamental right within Article 21: Delhi High Court

- HC also said that **Right to adopt children** cannot be raised to a **level granting Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) the right to demand their choice** of who to adopt.
- Therefore, HC upheld **Regulation 5 (7) of Adoption Regulations 2022**.
 - ⊕ Under **Regulation 5 (7) couples with two or more biological children** shall **only** be considered for **special needs children** and **hard to place children** (applicable retrospectively).
 - ◆ special needs child means a child who is **suffering from any disability** as provided in **Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016**.
 - ◆ hard to place child means a child who has **not been placed in adoption** after going through procedure mentioned under rule.
 - ⊕ Under **Regulation 5 (2) Other PAPs**, irrespective of **marital status**, with or without a **biological child** (son or daughter) can go for adoption subject to following:
 - ◆ **Married couple need consent of both spouses**
 - ◆ **Single female** can adopt a child of **any gender**
 - ◆ **Single male** shall **not adopt a girl child**.
- The **2022 Regulations** are issued under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act or JJ Act of 2015**.

About JJ Act 2015 (Amended in 2021)

- **JJ Act, 2015** is a **secular Act** that governs adoption of an orphan / abandoned / surrendered child.
 - ⊕ **Hindu Adoption Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA)** also governs adoption in India.
- It establishes **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** under Ministry of Women & Child Development,
 - ⊕ CARA is the **nodal body** to monitor and regulate **in-country and inter-country adoptions** of Indian children.

Cabinet approves inclusion of additional activities in National Livestock Mission (NLM)

- **Key changes**
 - ⊕ **Additional coverage:** **Eligible entrepreneur** will get capital subsidy and state government will be assisted for **breed conservation of horse, donkey, mule, camel**.
 - ⊕ **Enhancing Fodder supply:**
 - ◆ **Eligible entrepreneurs** will get **capital subsidy for seed processing infrastructure**.
 - ◆ **State government will be assisted for fodder cultivation** in the non-forest land, waste land/range land/non-arable, etc.
 - ⊕ **Simplification of Livestock Insurance programme:**
 - ◆ Premium for the farmers has been reduced to **15% as against the current beneficiary** share of 20%,30%, 40% and 50%.
 - » Remaining premium will be **shared by the Centre and the State**.
 - ◆ Number of animals to be insured has also been increased to **10 cattle unit** instead of 5 cattle unit for cattle sheep and goat.
- **About NLM**
 - ⊕ **Ministry:** **Ministry of Fisheries , Animal Husbandry and Dairying**
 - ⊕ **Type:** Both **Centrally Sponsored** and **Central sector**
 - ⊕ **Key objectives**
 - ◆ **Entrepreneurship** development in **small ruminant, poultry and piggery sector & Fodder sector**.
 - ◆ Increase of per-animal productivity through **breed improvement**.
 - ◆ **Increased meat, egg, goat milk, wool and fodder production**.
 - ⊕ **Components:** **3 Sub-Mission -**
 - ◆ **Breed improvement of Livestock and Poultry**
 - ◆ **Feed & Fodder**
 - ◆ **Innovation and Extension**
 - ⊕ **Jurisdiction:** Implemented all over India from 2021-22.

Also in News



Article 142 of the Constitution

- Supreme Court (SC) using Article 142 **quashed Chandigarh's Mayor election**.
- **Article 142**
 - ⊕ Empower SC to pass a **decree or order for doing complete justice in any cause or matter** pending before it.
 - ⊕ Such **decree or order is enforceable throughout** India in such manner **as may be prescribed by any law** made by Parliament (or by President's order until such provision is made).
 - ◆ Also Subject to such law, SC has power to make **any order to secure attendance** of any person, **discovery or production of any documents, investigation or punishment** of any contempt of itself.



Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)

- **NTPC's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Score** has ascended by two levels in the **CDP Water Security Rating**.
 - ⊕ Ratings improved due to NTPC's efforts to **enhance water reuse and recycling**.
- **About CDP**
 - ⊕ It is a **not-for-profit charity** that runs the **global disclosure system** for investors, companies, cities, states, and regions to **manage their environmental impacts**.
 - ⊕ Founded in 2000, CDP was the **first platform to leverage investor pressure** to influence corporate disclosure on environmental impact.



Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- FSDC has asked financial sector regulators to take further measures to check the spread of unauthorized lending through online apps.
- **About FSDC**
 - ⊕ It was set up by the Government as the apex-level forum in 2010 (Not a statutory body).
 - ⊕ **Chairman:** Union Finance Minister.
 - ⊕ **Members:** heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC), Finance Secretary, etc.
 - ⊕ In 2018, FSDC was reconstituted to include more members
 - ⊕ The Council deals, inter-alia, with issues relating to financial stability, financial sector development, and inter-regulatory coordination, etc.
 - ⊕ **No funds are separately allocated** to it for undertaking its activities.



Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved FRP of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for sugar season 2024-25.
- **About FRP:**
 - ⊕ FRP is the price declared by central government, at which mills are bound to procure sugarcane from farmers.
 - ◆ **Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955** gives powers to fix FRP.
 - ⊕ Based on recommendations of **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.**
 - ⊕ **Linked to a basic recovery rate of sugar**, with a premium payable to farmers for higher recoveries,
- Some states announce **State Advised Price (SAP)** to procure sugarcane in their respective states.
 - ⊕ **SAP is normally higher than FRP.**



Lesser penalty for cooperation under Competition Act

- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** issued a notification to enforce Section 33 of the **Competition (Amendment) Act 2023.**
 - ⊕ Section 33 Empowers the CCI to impose a lesser penalty on any producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider which is alleged to have violated the provision on **Anti-competitive agreements.**
 - ◆ A lesser penalty could be imposed if such entities make a **full and true disclosure** in respect of the alleged violations and such disclosure is vital.



'Zombie Deer Disease'

- Recently a significant rise has been witnessed in the cases of 'Zombie Deer Disease' In USA.
- **About Zombie Deer Disease**
 - ⊕ It is also known as **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**,
 - ⊕ Caused by: **misfolded proteins** known as prions and affects species in the cervid family i.e., **deer, elk, reindeer, sika deer, and moose.**
 - ⊕ It is a **contagious neurological condition** fatal to animals and there are no treatments or vaccines.
 - ⊕ Till now, **no direct evidence of its human transmission** has been found.
 - ⊕ **Symptoms:** Drastic weight loss (wasting), stumbling, listlessness, and other neurological symptoms.



Sammakka-Sarakka Festival

- Prime Minister extends greetings for Sammakka-Sarakka festival.
- **About festival**
 - ⊕ Also known as **Medaram Jatara** is a **biennial tribal festival celebrated in Telangana** by Koya tribe (the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana).
 - ⊕ Largest tribal fair in Asia, and the **second-largest fair in India**, after the Kumbh Mela
 - ⊕ **Commemorates** the fight of a **mother and daughter**, Sammakka and Saralamma, with **reigning rulers against an unjust law.**
 - ⊕ Tribal take a **holy dip in the red water of Jampanna Vagu** (a tributary to River Godavari).



T-50

- The **longest transportation tunnel of the country** opened on the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** known as T-50.
- The tunnel is **12.77 km long.**
- It falls between the **Khari-Sumber section.**

Places in News



Greece (Capital-Athens)

- India and Greece agree to expand cooperation in diverse areas.
- **About Greece**
- **Political Boundaries**
 - ⊕ Southernmost of countries of **Balkan Peninsula.**
 - ⊕ **Surrounding seas:** Aegean Sea (east), Mediterranean Sea (south), and Ionian Sea (west).
 - ⊕ **Land borders:** Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey (east), Republic of Macedonia.
- **Geographical features**
 - ⊕ **Highest Peak:** Mount Olympus.
 - ⊕ **Major Rivers:** Haliacmon, Marista, etc.
 - ⊕ **Climate Type:** Mediterranean climate.



AHMEDABAD BENGALURU BHOPAL CHANDIGARH DELHI GUWAHATI HYDERABAD JAIPUR JODHPUR LUCKNOW PRAYAGRAJ PUNE RANCHI