

# NEWS TODAY

## Union Cabinet approves revision of Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme

Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) is being implemented across the country with the **primary objective of reducing risks to animal health** through various measures since 2022.

### About Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)

- **Objective:** To improve the animal health sector by way of implementation of **prophylactic vaccination programmes** against various diseases of livestock and poultry.
  - ⊕ It includes **capacity building, disease surveillance, and strengthening of veterinary infrastructure.**
- Consists of three components: **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) and Livestock Health & Disease Control (LH&DC), and Pashu Aushadhi.**
  - ⊕ **Pashu Aushadhi** is the new component added to the scheme for improving availability of **generic veterinary medicine** through network of **PM-Kisan Samridhi Kendra and Cooperative Societies.**
- LH&DC has three sub-components:
  - ⊕ **Critical Animal Disease Control Programme (CADCP)**
    - ◆ It is proposed to cover two critical diseases (Peste des Petits Ruminants, Swine fever) for its control and eradication for saving losses to farmers.
  - ⊕ **Establishment and Strengthening of existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries - Mobile Veterinary Unit (ESVHD-MVU).**
    - ◆ It supports door-step delivery of livestock health care.
  - ⊕ **Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD):** To target state-prioritized exotic, emergent, and zoonotic animal diseases, including Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

### Other steps taken for Livestock Promotion

- **National Livestock Mission (NLM):** To focus on entrepreneurship development and breed improvement in poultry, sheep, goat and piggery including feed and fodder development.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF):** To help increase milk and meat processing capacity.
- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM):** To enhance productivity of bovines and increase milk production.

## Role of Quantum Computing in National Security highlighted by NITI Aayog

Advancements in quantum computing such as **Longer Qubit Coherence (imparting stability), Enhanced Qubit Control and Fidelity (increasing accuracy) & Progress in Error Correction** (E.g. **Google's Willow Chip** with a self-checking mechanism) are redefining national security priorities across multiple domains.

- Recently, **NITI Frontier Tech Hub** has been established by NITI Aayog as a Frontier Tech Action Tank to accelerate India's transition into a Frontier Tech Nation.

### Role of Quantum Computing in National Security

- **Cryptography and Cybersecurity:** E.g. **Fault-tolerant quantum computers** can break public-key encryption algorithms rendering internet security, online banking & communications obsolete.
- **Intelligence Gathering:** Complex and vast data processing can lead to **increased signal intelligence**, unprecedented interception and counterintelligence operations.
- **Military Applications:** Quantum algorithms can **optimize logistics, resource allocation, and battlefield strategy.** E.g. Quantum-enabled AI (Quantum AI) can power autonomous military drones and robotic systems.
- **Quantum Geopolitics:** Early breakthroughs and competition will shape future global power.



### Key Recommendations

- **Continuous Monitoring and Cryptographic Intelligence:** Establish a task force to track global quantum advancements and assess vulnerabilities in critical national systems.
- **Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) Transition Plan:** It should involve risk prioritization-based transition and roadmap.
- **Technology Access Agreements:** Establish bilateral partnerships for rapid adoption of modalities that offer scalability in this field

## RBI announces over USD 21 Billion Liquidity Infusion to support growth

This initiative comprises **two Open Market Operations (OMOs)**; purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs) and **USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap auction**.

### About Open Market Operations (OMO)

- Under this, **RBI buys or sells G-Secs in the open market** to influence the money supply and interest rates within an economy.
- While **purchase of G-Secs in the open market increases the high powered money (H)**, an open market sale of G-Secs decreases the same by an equal amount.
  - ⊕ **High-powered money is the sum of commercial bank reserves and currency (notes and coins) held by the Public.**

### About US Dollar-Indian Rupee swap auctions

- Under it, a **bank shall sell US dollars to the RBI** and simultaneously agree to buy the same amount of US dollars at the end of the swap period.
- It is done through an auction under which each **bank quotes their swap rates** (forward premium or discount) and the lowest bidder is accepted first under the programme.



### Need for Liquidity Infusion

- Banking system has experienced liquidity challenges since November 2024, due to factors **such as tax outflows, significant foreign portfolio investor selling in Indian equities, RBI intervention in forex markets, etc.**
- Comfortable liquidity conditions typically help in **better pass-through of loan rates, ensure policy transmission, and push economic growth.**

### Other Liquidity Infusion Instruments

- **Quantitative tools:** Liquidity Adjustment Facility (Repo and Reverse repo), Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), Bank Rate, etc.
- **Qualitative tools:** Credit Rationing, Moral Suasion, Selective Credit Control (SCC), Margin Requirement, etc.

## Fiscal Support Agreement signed for India's first commercial semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat

The agreement has been signed between **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**, **Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL)**, and **Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited (TSMPL)**.

- It is seen as a major step towards implementing **>₹91,000 Crore semiconductor project** which will have a capacity of **50,000 wafers starts per month (WSPM)**.
- Government of India through India Semiconductor Mission has committed **50% fiscal support** on pari-passu basis (equal footing) for the project under Semicon India Programme.
  - ⊕ **India Semiconductor Mission is a specialized and Independent Business Division within Digital India Corporation.**

### About SemiconIndia Programme

- **Aim:** to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystem
- **Financial Outlay- 76000 crore.**
- **Schemes under the program:-**
  - ⊕ Modified Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India.
  - ⊕ Modified Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India.
  - ⊕ Modified Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab / Discrete Semiconductors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) / OSAT facilities in India and
  - ⊕ Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

### Other Initiatives

- **Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors:** aims to offset the disability for domestic manufacturing of electronic components and semiconductors.
- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Large-Scale Electronics:** aims to attract investment in mobile phones value chain including electronic components and semiconductor packaging.
- **Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme:** aims to generate **Industry-ready manpower** for creating vibrant fabless chip design ecosystem in the country.

## Supreme Court seeks response on misuse of CAMPA Funds in Uttarakhand

Response was sought from Uttarakhand Chief Secretary on allegations of misuse of **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds** by Forest Department, based on a CAG Report.

### About Compensatory Afforestation

- **Compensatory afforestation** ensures that forest lands getting 'diverted' for non-forest purposes, like industrial or infrastructure development, is mandatorily accompanied by afforestation effort on at least an equal area of land.
  - ⊕ Compensatory Afforestation involves identification of non-forest land or degraded forest land, provision of funds, utilisation of funds and monitoring mechanism etc.
- **Statutory provisions**
  - ⊕ **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980:** Whenever forest land is to be diverted for non-forestry purposes the equivalent non-forest land for compensatory afforestation and funds to be imposed.
  - ⊕ **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016**
    - ◆ Provisions for establishment, management and utilisation of **national compensatory afforestation fund** and **state compensatory afforestation funds**.
    - ◆ These funds are **non-lapsable and interest-bearing** and the National Fund is maintained in the **Public Account of India**.
    - ◆ Provides for constitution of National CAMPA and State CAMPAs to manage and utilise Compensatory Afforestation Funds.
    - ◆ **Compensatory levies are apportioned in the National and State Fund in the ratio of 10:90.**

## Also in News



### Isolationism

Some experts argue that policies adopted by the present USA President signals a new era of isolationism.

#### Isolationism

- It is a political principle or practice of **showing interest only in one's own country** and avoiding political or economic entanglements with other countries.
- This feature has **periodically shaped U.S. foreign policy**, often emerging in response to actual or perceived failures in allocating resources to costly or risky international engagements.
- **Benefits:** Domestic control, Conflict avoidance.
- **Disadvantages:** Less effective for global issues, often stifles economic growth.



### Majuli Island

Rising human-wildlife conflicts on Assam's Majuli River Island are threatening the livelihoods of the region's agrarian population.

#### About Majuli Island

- **Location:** River Brahmaputra, in Assam.
- It is the **world's largest river island**.
- It became the **first island to be made a district** in India.
- **Formation:** The island is formed by the **Brahmaputra River** in the south and the **Kherkutia Xuti**, a branch of the Brahmaputra, joined by the **Subansiri River** in the north.
- It was formed due to course changes by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries, **mainly the Lohit**.
- It is an important site for **Assamese neo-Vaishnavite culture** as **Vaishnava Satras** were founded here by **Sankardeva**.



### Parvatmala Pariyojana

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved construction of ropeway project in Uttarakhand under Parvatmala Pariyojana.

#### Parvatmala Pariyojana (2023)

- **Aim:** To improve connectivity in hilly areas.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH).
- **Implementation Agency:** National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML), a special purpose vehicle of the NHAI.
- The projects are being implemented through **Public-Private Partnership** with around **60%** contribution support by **Government of India**.
- **Benefits of Ropeways:** Last mile connectivity, Environment-friendly, Ideal for difficult terrain



### Taj Trapezium Zone

Supreme Court directed **Forest Research Institute (FRI)** to carry out a **tree census in the Taj Trapezium Zone**.

#### About Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)

- TTZ is a defined area of **10,400 sq km** around the **Taj Mahal** to protect the monument from pollution.
- It comprises monuments including three World Heritage Sites: **Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri**.
- **1996 Supreme Court ruling** banned use of coal/ coke in industries located in TTZ with a mandate for switching over from coal/ coke to natural gas, and relocating them outside TTZ or shutting down.
- Centre constituted **Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority** under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**.
- It has four zones named as **Red, Green, Orange, and White**.





### Activated Carbon

The activated carbon industry is struggling to keep itself afloat, faced with challenges.

- These challenges include **rising manufacturing costs, shrinking coconut shell availability, increasing global gold carbon demand**, etc.

#### About Activated Carbon

- It is also called **activated charcoal/coal or active carbon**.
- **Production:** from **environmental wastes with high carbon content**.
- **Features:**
  - ⊕ High surface area, pore structure (micro, meso and macro) and High degree of surface reactivity.
- **Uses:-**
  - ⊕ **purification, dechlorination and deodorization of water**
  - ⊕ as an **economical adsorbents** in food grade products, cosmetology, automotive applications.
  - ⊕ **precious metal recovery** mainly for gold.



### Jaipur Declaration on Circular Economy

12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific concluded with the **unanimous adoption of the 'Jaipur Declaration'** by the member countries.

#### Key Highlights of the Jaipur Declaration (2025–2035)

- **Nature:** Voluntary declaration.
- It speaks about **resource efficiency and sustainable material consumption** and covers informal sectors, gender issues, and labour issues.
- A **collaborative knowledge platform as a global alliance C-3 (Cities Coalition for Circularity)** has also been agreed upon.
- It provides for means of **implementation, partnerships, technology transfer, funding mechanism** and research and development.
- The declaration **calls for integration of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and circular economy principles**.



### LCA Tejas

Recently, DRDO conducted high-altitude trials of Indigenous Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**.

- **ILSS** is cutting-edge system generating and regulating breathable oxygen for pilots in flight, eliminating dependence on traditional liquid oxygen cylinders.

#### About LCA Tejas

- It is an Indian single-engine **4.5-generation multirole combat aircraft**.
- Designed and developed by the **DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency**.
- Three production variants: **Tejas Mark 1, Mark 1A, and the Tejas trainer/light attack aircraft**.



### Platinum

Recently, India imposed **import restrictions on platinum alloys** to curb misuse of trade agreements.

#### About Platinum (Pt)

- It is a **shiny, silvery metal** and is much rarer than both gold and silver.
- It is **one of the most stable metals** and is resistant to corrosion, even at high temperatures.
- It is **found uncombined in alluvial deposits**.
- Most commercially produced platinum comes from **South Africa**, from the **mineral cooperite (platinum sulfide)**.
- Some is prepared as a **by-product of copper and nickel refining**.
- **Applications:** In chemical industry as a catalyst for the production of nitric acid, silicone and benzene; in **Electronics industry** for computer hard disks and thermocouples; as a **Chemotherapy drug** used to treat cancers, etc.

## Personality in News



### Bijayananda Patnaik

The Prime Minister remembered former Odisha Chief Minister Bijayananda Patnaik on his birth anniversary.

#### About Bijayananda Patnaik (5 March 1916 – 17 April 1997)

- He was one of the main architects of modern Odisha and is popularly known as Biju Patnaik

#### Key contributions:

- In 1942, he joined the **Quit India Movement**.
- He was a **Pilot of the Indian Air Force**.
- In 1961 he became the **Chief Minister of Odisha**.
- He **established the Kalinga Foundation** for dissemination of knowledge in Science. He also founded the **Kalinga Prize** given by **UNESCO**.
- **Acheivement:** The **Indonesian Government** had honoured him with the **Bhumi Putra (Son of Soil)** title for his role in the **Indonesian freedom struggle**.
- **Key values:** Patriotism, leadership, bravery etc.

