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## National and International News

<p><b>National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NCRMP was implemented in <b>eight coastal states in two phases</b>. Phase-I covered Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, while Phase-II included Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and West Bengal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Project is to <b>undertake suitable structural and non-structural measures to mitigate the effects of cyclones in the coastal states and UTs of India</b>.</li> <li>To be implemented by the <b>National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs</b>, along with coordination from the respective state governments and the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM).</li> <li>The Project has identified <b>13 cyclone prone States and Union Territories (UTs)</b>, with varying levels of vulnerability.</li> <li>To be assisted by the <b>World Bank</b>.</li> <li><b>These States/UT have further been classified into two categories, based on the frequency of occurrence of cyclones, size of population and the existing institutional mechanism for disaster management.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Category I:</b> Higher vulnerability States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.</li> <li><b>Category II:</b> Lower vulnerability States i.e. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Components of the Project:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved early warning dissemination systems.</li> <li>Enhanced capacity of local communities to respond to disasters.</li> <li>Improved access to emergency shelter, evacuation, and protection against wind storms, flooding and storm surge in high areas.</li> <li>Strengthening DRM capacity at central, state and local levels in order to enable mainstreaming of risk mitigation measures into the overall development agenda.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>UGC Draft Regulations 2025</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers for Higher Education and their representatives from <b>six states passed a joint resolution opposing the draft</b></li> </ul>



**University Grants Commission Regulations, 2025**, and the grading of higher education institutions under the New Education Policy, 2020.

- This decision followed the 2025 State Higher Education Ministers' conclave hosted by Karnataka, with representatives from Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka.
- They issued a 15-point resolution urging the Centre to withdraw the new draft regulations.

**Key Points:**

- **Key features of the guidelines:**
  - The Chancellor or Visitor of the university will have the authority to form a three-member Search-cum-Selection Committee responsible for appointing the Vice-Chancellor (VC).
- **Composition of the Search-cum-Selection Committee:**
  - **Chairperson:** A nominee of the Visitor/Chancellor.
  - **Nominee from UGC:** A nominee from the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
  - **Nominee from University's Apex Body:** A nominee from the university's apex body (e.g., Syndicate, Senate, Executive Council, Board of Management, or equivalent).
- **Eligibility Criteria for Vice-Chancellor:**
  - **Professional Background:** Minimum of 10 years of senior-level experience in academia, industry, public administration, public policy, or public sector undertakings, with a proven track record of significant academic or scholarly contributions.
  - **Inclusivity:** Encourages candidates from economically weaker sections (EWS), SC, ST, OBC, and persons with disabilities.
  - **Academic Background:** Candidates no longer need to be professors but must show leadership in academic or research fields.

**About National Education Policy (NEP):**

- The new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is the **first education policy of the 21st century in India, which replaces the previous National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986.**
- The Ministry of Education formed a committee under **Dr. K Kasturirangan**, which outlined this new policy.
- 5 foundational pillars of NEP 2020: **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability.**
- This policy is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It **aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic, flexible,**



	and multidisciplinary and aimed at bringing out the unique capabilities of each student.
<b>Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, the second round of the PLI scheme for specialty steel was launched on <b>January 6, 2025</b>, within the overall budget allocated for the scheme.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PLI scheme <b>was launched (in March, 2020) to boost India's domestic manufacturing base and enhance its global supply chain contribution.</b></li> <li><b>Objective:</b> Covering 14 sectors, the scheme aims to create significant employment opportunities and drive industrial capital expenditure (capex).</li> <li>Under the PLI scheme, eligible <b>companies receive financial incentives based on their incremental sales from products manufactured in India.</b></li> <li>These incentives encourage companies to <b>invest in upgrading their manufacturing capabilities, adopting modern technologies, and expanding their production capacities.</b></li> <li><b>How is PLI different from other traditional subsidies?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Only limited sectors are eligible:</b> The scheme has the potential to attract maximum investments and scale rapidly to provide the maximum returns in terms of incremental production, employment, and export.</li> <li><b>Time-bound pre-committed levels of investment and productions:</b> Hence, cannot be called a subsidy scheme.</li> <li><b>Focus on supporting upcoming technologies:</b> That can be commercialised at a large scale like advanced chemistry cell batteries, electronic and technology products.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Bharat Pol Portal</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>BHARAT POL portal, launched on January 7, 2025</b>, aims to assist Indian law enforcement agencies in seeking international cooperation for addressing transnational crimes, including narcotics trafficking, human and arms trafficking, cybercrime, economic fraud, child pornography, and terrorism.</li> <li><b>Currently, the BHARAT POL Portal features five key modules:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Connect Module:</b> Links CBI with Indian law enforcement agencies on a single platform.</li> <li><b>Broadcast Module:</b> Transmits foreign requests for assistance or criminal intelligence to Indian agencies.</li> <li><b>INTERPOL References Module:</b> Enables quick international assistance through INTERPOL channels for investigations abroad.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>INTERPOL Notices Module:</b> Facilitates secure transmission of INTERPOL Notices requests to Indian authorities.</li> <li>○ <b>Resources Module:</b> Provides access to documents and capacity-building resources.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is aimed at streamlining the <b>processing of requests for international assistance through INTERPOL.</b></li> <li>● It will <b>handle tasks such as the issuance of Red Notices and other colour-coded INTERPOL notices, facilitating more efficient international cooperation in criminal investigations and law enforcement.</b></li> <li>● <b>Key Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Improved Efficiency:</b> The portal will provide easier and faster access to international police assistance, strengthening India's efforts in combating transnational crimes.</li> <li>○ <b>Real-Time Information Sharing:</b> It will enable Indian Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to share real-time information, ensuring quicker access to necessary support from global policing networks.</li> <li>○ <b>Developed by:</b> Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which will oversee its operation and integration with international law enforcement systems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The CBI is <b>India's premier investigative agency, responsible for handling serious crimes and providing leadership in fighting corruption within the police force across the country.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Establishment:</b> It was <b>established in 1963 following the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Non-Statutory Body:</b> The CBI is not a statutory body but was set up by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It derives its power to investigate from the <b>Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Mitigation Project (NGRMP)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Central Government has approved the implementation of the National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Mitigation Project (NGRMP) in four states: Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NGRMP is aimed at <b>reducing the risks associated with glacial lake outburst floods, particularly in regions that are highly susceptible to such natural disasters.</b></li> <li>● <b>The objectives of NGRMP project are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prevent loss of life and reduce economic loss and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>damage to critical infrastructure due to GLOF and similar events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strengthen the early warning and monitoring capacities based on last mile connectivity.</li> <li>○ Strengthen scientific and technical capabilities in GLOF risk reduction and mitigation at local levels through strengthening of local level institutions and communities.</li> <li>○ Use of indigenous knowledge and scientific cutting-edge mitigation measures to reduce and mitigate GLOF risk.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The NGRMP project has four components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Component I:</b> GLOF Hazard and Risk assessment (elaboration of standardized assessment method and a lake inventory)</li> <li>○ <b>Component II:</b> GLOF Monitoring and Early Warning System (including remote sensing data, community involvement for monitoring, alerting/ dissemination)</li> <li>○ <b>Component III:</b> GLOF Mitigation Measures (Site-specific interventions combining technical expertise and community involvement)</li> <li>○ <b>Component IV:</b> Awareness Generation &amp; Capacity Building (involving stakeholders at multiple levels).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>What are glacial lakes?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Glacial lakes</b> are large bodies of water that sit in front of, on top of, or beneath a melting glacier.</li> <li>● As a glacier withdraws, it leaves behind a depression that gets filled with meltwater, thereby forming a lake.</li> <li>● In case the boundary around them breaks, huge amounts of water rush down the side of the mountains, which could cause flooding in the downstream areas. This is called the <b>Glacial Lake Outburst Flood</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government of India has developed specific guidelines for the empanelment of hospitals under the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) which mandates a physical verification of hospitals at the time of empanelment.</li> <li>● As per empanelment guidelines, public hospitals with inpatient services are deemed empanelled.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Launched in September 2018</b>, the scheme aimed to offer secondary and tertiary care services to the vulnerable population in the society.</li> <li>● It was launched as a <b>second component of the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme</b>.</li> <li>● This scheme aimed to <b>offer medical coverage of Rs. 5 lakh</b></li> </ul>

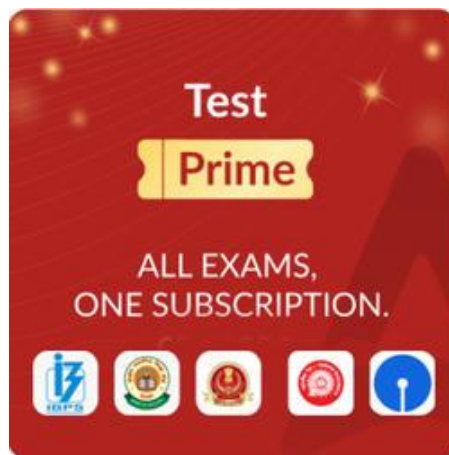


	<p>per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to poor and vulnerable families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scheme covers over nearly 40% of the population targeted towards the poorest and the vulnerable.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The scheme is targeted to cover 10.74 crore poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban worker's families.</li> <li>○ The beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, i.e., the hospital.</li> <li>○ Under the scheme every eligible family will be given Rs 5 lakh Insurance coverage benefit per year.</li> <li>○ It offers Health Benefit Packages which covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 8,34,716 km of road length has been sanctioned under various ongoing initiatives of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), with 7,71,641 km already completed and upgraded to date.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched on:</b> 25 December, 2000.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To provide connectivity, by way of an all-weather road to unconnected habitations.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> Unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States, Deserts and Tribal Areas as per 2001 census) in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population.</li> <li>• <b>Funding Pattern:</b> The <b>Union Government bears 90% of the project cost</b> in respect of projects sanctioned under the scheme <b>in North-Eastern and Himalayan States, whereas for other states the Union Government bears 60% of the cost.</b></li> <li>• <b>PMGSY - Phase I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PMGSY - Phase I was launched in December, 2000 as a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme.</li> <li>○ Under the scheme, 1,35,436 habitations were targeted for providing road connectivity and 3.68 lakh km. for upgradation of existing rural roads in order to ensure full farm to market connectivity.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>PMGSY - Phase II</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Government of India subsequently launched PMGSY-II in 2013 for upgradation of 50,000 Kms of existing rural road network to improve its overall</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<p>efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ While the ongoing PMGSY - I continued, under PMGSY phase II, the roads already built for village connectivity were to be upgraded to enhance rural infrastructure.</li> <li>○ The cost was shared between the centre and the states/UTs.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>PMGSY - Phase III</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Under the PMGSY-III Scheme, it is proposed to consolidate 1,25,000 Km road length in the States. The duration of the scheme is 2019-20 to 2024-25.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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