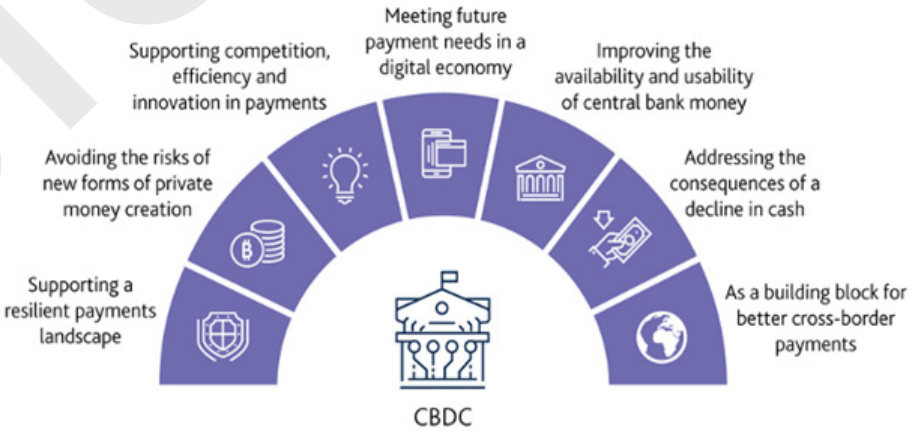
# NEWS TODAY

## DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS (DoT) DEBATES A STRATEGY ROAD MAP TO PROMOTE IPR IN TELECOM SECTOR

- **Reasons to promote intellectual property rights (IPR) in telecom sector**
  - **India's share in the global supply chain** for telecom equipment is **less than 1%.**
  - **India takes 5-8 years for giving telecom patents** compared with 1-2 years in the US and 3 years in China.
  - **India has no publicly accessible India patent database** for the sector that start-ups can access.
- **Road map proposed**
  - **'Sovereign Patent Fund': to aggregate patents** from home-grown firms and offer them as a bouquet abroad **and procuring patented licensing** for the country in key technologies such as 5G and 6G, etc.
  - **Bharat Technology Bank:** to focus on **offering Indian patents to needy countries** at nominal fee with the objective of creating diplomatic goodwill and helping Indian companies access new markets.
  - **Digicom Intellectual Property Management Board:** to facilitate IPR licensing, IP management and arbitrate on issues related to standard essential patent (SEP) in India. SEPs protect the telecom industry's core technology like wifi, Bluetooth, GPS, etc.
- **Benefits for telecom sector:**
  - Help in making Indian telecom sector **internationally competitive,**
  - Will incentivize investment in **expansion of technological capabilities** through R&D.

## CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC) LIKELY TO POSE RISKS FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY, SAYS WORLD BANK

- According to the World Bank, introduction of CBDC could potentially **pose risks to financial stability, financial integrity, data protection and privacy, and cyber resilience.**
  - Further, it can have implications for the legal and regulatory framework, **increased responsibilities of the central bank,** and also lead to **currency substitution through cross-border transactions.**
- CBDC is the legal tender issued by a Central Bank in a digital form. It is the **same as a fiat currency (backed by the government) and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.** Only its form is different.




  - CBDC can be digitally created and recorded on **centralised or decentralised ledgers.**
- **Types of CBDCs:**
  - **Wholesale CBDC:** Access and circulation are restricted to **predefined classes of agents** (like banks and select financial institutions).
  - **Retail/general-purpose CBDC:** Access and circulation are open to a **wider class of agents, including individuals.**
- CBDC offers numerous benefits to the economy (refer to the infographics).
- In Union Budget 2022-23, Minister of Finance announced that **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would launch its own Digital Rupee (CBDC) to minimise money laundering, terror financing, tax evasion cases.**
  - The **Bahamas and Nigeria** have already launched CBDC.

# INDO-FRENCH DIALOGUE ON BILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION CONCLUDES IN PARIS

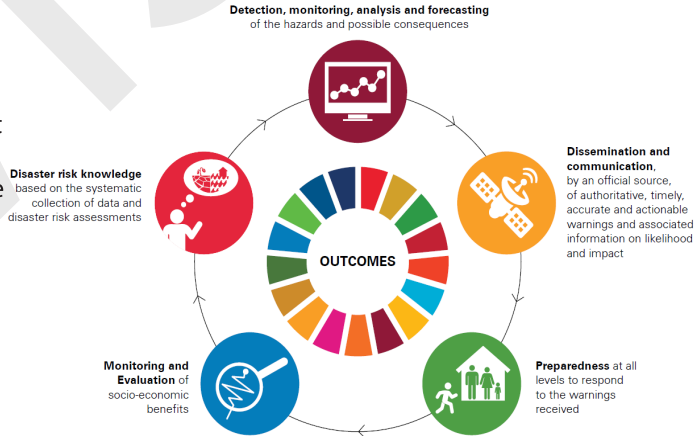
- 20th edition of **India-France Joint Staff talks** focussed on new initiatives in strengthening bilateral defence engagement.
  - India-France Joint Staff talks is a **forum established to enhance defence cooperation between both the nations** through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels.
  - France is fast growing as India's partner in defence cooperation.
- Earlier, **India and France inked a roadmap to enhance exchanges on the blue economy** with an aim to forge a common vision of ocean governance based on the rule of law.
- **India-France areas of cooperation**
  - **Energy: International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is joint initiative of both countries, launched during COP21 to promote solar energy.
  - **Defence:** India purchased Rafale aircraft and signed a contract for 6 Scorpene submarines (P-75 Project) from France.
    - Both sides carry out **three biennial training exercises** namely, **GARUDA(Airforce), VARUNA (Navy) and SHAKTI (Army).**
  - **Space:** Signed an agreement for **cooperation for India's first human space mission Gaganyaan.**
  - **Civil Nuclear:** Both signed a **civil nuclear agreement** in 2008.
  - **Geo-Strategic:** Both are committed to ensuring a **free and rule-based Indo-Pacific Region.**

**India-France relations snapshots:**

- Traditionally **close and friendly** relations.
- Entered into **Strategic Partnership** in 1998.
- Both support a **multi-polar world** order.
- France has continued to **support India's claim for permanent membership** of the Security Council and the reforms of **the United Nations.**

# UN: EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (EWS) MUST PROTECT EVERYONE WITHIN FIVE YEARS

- According to an United Nations target, within the next five years, **everyone on Earth should be protected by EWS** against increasingly extreme weather and climate change.
  - The announcement was made on **World Meteorological Day (23rd March).**
  - **World Meteorological Organisation** has been tasked to lead the effort and **present an action plan** to achieve this goal.
  - **$1.5 billion needs to be invested over the next five years** to establish a worldwide EWS.
- EWS is an **adaptive measure for climate change,** using integrated communication systems to help communities prepare for hazardous climate-related event.
  - Currently, **one third of the world's population is not covered by EWS.**
- It helps to **reduce economic losses and mitigate the number of injuries.**
  - Since 1970s, early warning weather systems have reduced the number of people killed by natural disasters by 76%.
- **EWS in India**
  - **Regional Landslide EWS,** developed by **Geological Survey of India,** will forecast slope specific and site-specific landslide possibilities.
  - **Community-based** Flood EWS is an **ICT-enabled system to detect and respond to flood emergencies.**
  - **Indian Tsunami EWS,** established in 2007, is operated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS), Hyderabad.




**Components of an end to end early warning system.**

# EXPORTS OF INDIAN DAIRY PRODUCTS TOP $500-MILLION MARK, HIT EIGHT-YEAR HIGH

- The exports of Indian saw a **93% growth in value and 63% volume growth for in FY22** over the same period a year ago.
- **Reasons for surge in exports**
  - **Rise in demand for both commodity and value-added dairy products.**
  - Rise **in global prices.**
  - **Rising feed costs and fertiliser shortage** in dairy-rich countries.
    - This enhanced the demand for Indian dairy product.
- Additionally following initiatives have also strengthen Indian dairy sector
  - **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund** to provide subsidized loan @6.5% to capital stressed milk cooperatives.
  - **Animal Husbandry infrastructure development fund** to help to increase of meat processing capacity and product diversification.
  - **National Programme for Dairy development** to create and strengthen dairy **infrastructure for procurement, processing and marketing** of milk and milk products.
  - **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to Livestock Farmers** to provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system.
  - **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry** to incentivise manufacturing of Mozzarella Cheese.
  - **100% FDI permitted** through automatic route for Animal Husbandry
- **India ranks first in milk production,** accounting for 20% of world production. It employees 80 million people.

# AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION (ABDM): NHA SEEKS INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO BUILD NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH ECOSYSTEM

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has floated an Expression of Interest for all technology providers **to develop innovative solutions** for ABDM.
  - The NHA is responsible for implementing ABDM.
  - ABDM aims to create a **seamless online platform** that will enable **interoperability within the digital healthcare ecosystem** (refer to the infographics).
- These parties shall provide the solutions **as a service at no cost.**
- **Contribution could be for**
  - **Unified Health Interface (UHI):** A digital platform (similar to Unified Payment Interface) for interoperability between various digital solutions.
  - **Health Claims Protocol (HCP):** Health providers (Hospitals, labs, etc.) can submit their e-claims on this platform which can be received by payers (e.g.: Insurers, TPAs) for processing.
  - **Software as a Service (SaaS):** Ex Hospital Information System (HIS), , health lockers, etc.
  - **Open-Source Solutions:** Software pertaining to SaaS or any other tool which may be of use to healthcare providers.
  - **Other Solutions:** Any other specific proposal by the interested parties.
- **Advantages of collaboration**
  - **Speed up the development** of the digital health ecosystem.
  - Help in **making digital public goods available** to public and/or private entities.

## ALSO IN NEWS

### 'Tree City of the World' (TCW) Tag

- **Mumbai and Hyderabad** have been jointly recognised as **'2021 TCW'.**
- TCW programme started by **United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation** and American non-profit organisation **Arbor Day Foundation.**
  - It provides **direction, assistance, and worldwide recognition for a community's dedication** to its urban forest.
    - Also, provides framework for healthy, sustainable urban forestry programme in town or city.
  - City was evaluated based on five standards i.e. **Establish Responsibility, Set the Rules, Know What You Have, Allocate the Resources, and Celebrate the Achievements.**

### Schengen Area

- EU has reportedly decided to "punish" the UK by requiring non-EU citizens to get a transit Schengen visa to fly to the UK on transit flights operated by its airlines.
  - **A Schengen visa is a short-term visa** that allows its holder to travel freely throughout the Schengen area.
- Schengen Area signifies a zone **where 26 European countries, abolished their internal borders, for the free and unrestricted movement of people.**
  - These countries are **Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.**

### Report titled as 'Skill action plan to fuel transition from coal to renewable energy in India' released

- **Key Highlights:**
  - India needs a **strong action plan** to reskill coal mine workers while **making a transition from conventional fuel to renewable energy.**
  - Coal mines create **over 7.25 lakh direct jobs** and many more indirect jobs.
    - Most of them are **blue-collared workers** who need to be **upskilled with the newer skills** of the hour.
  - Focus on development of **a replicable 'just transition' framework** which can be used by districts or states to **ensure that livelihood disruption** of the impacted coal mine workers is **minimised.**

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| **Neptune cruise missile** | • **Moskva,** guided missile cruiser of Russian Navy, was hit by two Neptune anti-ship cruise missiles.<br>➢ Moskva, **named after city of Moscow.**<br>➢ **Originally commissioned as Slava in 1983.**<br>• Neptune is a **coastal anti-ship cruise missile** which is capable of destruction of naval vessels in **range of 300 km.**<br>➢ Inducted into Ukrainian Defence Forces in March 2021.<br>➢ **16-ft long engine-powered missiles** can travel at speeds of up to **560mph (900 km/h)** and at **heights of between nine and 30ft** above surface. |
| **Khalsa Panth** | • Prime Minister greeted the Sikhs on the special occasion of **Khalsa Saajna Diwas** which marks the **anniversary of the beginning of Khalsa Panth.**<br>• **About Khalsa panth:**<br>➢ The term 'Khalsa' means **sovereign or free.**<br>➢ On this day in **1699, tenth Guru** of Sikhs, **Guru Gobind Singh** Ji established the Khalsa Panth.<br>➢ It was established in order to teach the followers that **no ritual or superstition is above Almighty** and one should **not fall for any superstition.** |
| **Chennakeshava temple** | • The **rathotsava** at the 900-year-old Chennakeshava temple of Belur in Karnataka **began with the syncretic tradition after the moulvi recited the Koran. T**he origin of this tradition is not known.<br>• The temple was built in the early 12th century by the Hoysala ruler, Vishnuvardhana. Built with soapstone, the temple features a **very detailed finish.**<br>• Enclosed by a **Prakara with a Gopurabuilt in the Vijayanagar style,** the temple stands on a **platform or Jagati and looks like a huge casket.** |
| **Madhavpur Mela** | • The Mela/fair is a religio-cultural fair taking place every year in Madhavpur, a village on the Porbandar coast of Guajarat.<br>• The fair **begins on Ram Navami,** and culminates on Tryodashi. It celebrates the **marriage of Lord Krishna with Rukmini** (the daughter of King Bhimak of the present-day Arunachal Pradesh) around 4,000 years ago.<br>➢ Thus, the fair shows the **cultural connections of the Northeast with the western part of the country.**<br>• **The village has temples of Lord Krishna, and Rukmini,** believed to have been built in the 15th century. |
| **Solomon isla nds (Capital: Honiara)** | • A recent document revealed that Solomon Islands and China reached a deal for an **unprecedented level of security cooperation.**<br>• **Physical location:** Solomon Islands are an archipelagic state in **Melanesia,** located in **southwest Pacific Ocean.**<br>➢ It is geographically positioned in the **Southern and Eastern hemispheres** of the Earth.<br>• **Neighbours:** It is situated to the southeast of **Papua New Guinea and to the northwest of Vanuatu.**<br>• **Geographical features:**<br>➢ **Mountainous,** heavily forested **volcanic islands** (some active) and a few low-lying **coral atolls.**<br>➢ **Highest point:** Mount Popomanaseu,<br>➢ **Lowest point:** Pacific Ocean<br> |

DELHI LUCKNOW JAIPUR HYDERABAD PUNE AHMEDABAD CHANDIGARH GUWAHATI