

# NEWS TODAY

## MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS LAUNCHES SCHEMES TO PROMOTE DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING OF BULK DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES

### Intended benefits:

- Make **India self-reliant and capable of catering to the global demand** for the selected bulk drugs and medical devices.
- **Reduce import dependence** by compensating for the manufacturing disability.
- Significantly **bring down the manufacturing cost** of bulk drugs & medical devices.

For Medical Devices	For Bulk Drugs
<b>Scheme for Promotion of Medical Device Parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Objective:</b> Create <b>world class infrastructure facilities</b> in order to make Indian medical device industry a global leader.</li> <li>○ <b>4 Medical Device Parks</b> to be setup with maximum grant-in-aid of Rs 100 crore to each.</li> <li>○ <b>One-time grant-in-aid</b> will be provided which will be 90% of the project cost in case of North-East and hilly States and 70% in case of other States.</li> <li>○ <b>Implementation:</b> Through State Implementing Agency, a legal entity, set up by concerned State Government.</li> </ul>	<b>Scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Objective:</b> Promote <b>setting up of bulk drug parks in the country</b> for providing easy access to world class Common Infrastructure Facilities.</li> <li>○ Envisages <b>creation of 3 bulk drug parks</b> with total outlay of Rs 3000 crore and Maximum grant-in-aid for one bulk drug park to Rs.1000 crore.</li> <li>○ <b>One-time grant-in-aid</b> will be provided which will be 90% of the project cost in case of North-East and hilly States and 70% in case of other States.</li> <li>○ <b>Implementation:</b> Through State Implementing Agency.</li> </ul>
<b>Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Objective:</b> Boost <b>domestic manufacturing of medical devices</b> in four target segments, like Cancer care / Radiotherapy medical devices, Radiology &amp; Imaging medical devices etc.</li> <li>○ <b>Financial incentives</b> will be given for a period of five years, to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments.</li> <li>○ <b>Eligibility:</b> Companies registered in India with Net worth more than 18 crore.</li> <li>○ <b>Implementation:</b> Through a <b>Project Management Agency</b> responsible for providing secretarial, managerial and implementation support.</li> </ul>	<b>PLI Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ DIs /APIs in India</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Objective:</b> Attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in critical KSMs/ Drug Intermediates (DIs)/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).</li> <li>○ <b>Financial incentives will be provided</b> on sales of 41 identified products (around 53 APIs) for six years.</li> <li>○ <b>Implementation:</b> Through Project Management Agency.</li> </ul>

## THERMAL, SOLAR POWER CAN BE BUNDLED FOR ROUND-THE-CLOCK (RTC) POWER SUPPLY

- New guidelines by Ministry of power **provides for supply of RTC power to distributors** through a Bundling Scheme, **which is first of its kind scheme in world.**
- Bundling Scheme is a plan to **sell renewable energy (RE) and thermal power in a bundle** so that end users can get uninterrupted supply of power.
- **Key guidelines:**
  - Power **generators have to ensure at least 85% availability** both annually and during peak hours.
  - **Bidders will have to supply at least 51% of the power from renewable sources.**
  - Bidders can **club smaller thermal projects to tie-up with their renewable projects.**
    - RE component can include solar and non-solar sources such as wind, hydro, or any combination of the same.
  - Bidder will have to **pay a penalty equivalent to 25% of the shortfall** in energy terms.
- **Benefits of Bundling Scheme:**
  - **Address issues of intermittency**, limited hours of supply and low capacity utilisation of transmission infrastructure;
  - Facilitate **grid-connected solar power generation;**
  - Help states **fulfil their renewable purchase obligation (RPO)** etc. Under RPO, Discoms are obliged to purchase certain percentage of electricity from RE sources.

## GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SET UP A NATIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (NLMC)

- NLMC will be set up as a **separate authority to manage surplus land assets and land owned** by the Centre as well as central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).
  - **'Surplus' land or property** are those that are not needed or are not appropriate for provision of public service for which the agency owning the property is responsible.
- NLMC will setup **special purpose vehicle (SPV)** to pursue land lease or concessions as a primary mode of commercial exploitation. **SPV will**
  - **Develop model concession agreements** for land developments,
  - **Raise money from the market** backed by land assets,
  - **Look after resettlement and rehabilitation** of occupiers,
  - Make **timed decisions for concession** / selling land to avoid disruption to local real estate markets.
- **Need for such body**
  - Apart from Railways and Defence, other government departments **do not have a specialised organisation to handle commercial development** of government land.
  - A **separate authority working with various departments** can bring effectiveness, transparency and ensure speedy decisions.
  - **Proper utilisation of land**, large amount of which acquired by governments remains unused.

# CENTRE TO CONVERT RAVINES OF CHAMBAL REGION INTO ARABLE LAND WITH WORLD BANK SUPPORT

- Centre has decided to convert large area of **ravines (Bihad in Hindi)** area of **Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into arable land.**
  - Currently, more than **3 lakh hectares of rugged (rocky and uneven surface) land** in this region is not cultivable.
- Project would involve **levelling of the ravines, building percolation tanks and creating bunds** to prevent erosion of soil.
  - It will help in **improved agricultural development, creating employment opportunities** etc.
- **Ravines are badland topography** formed by **deep erosive action of water on the soil** and are the intricate network of gullies. E.g. Chambal ravines occur in the catchment area of the **Chambal River and its tributary, Kunwari River.**
  - These are the **worst form of land degradation** and about 3.97 million hectares of land in India form ravines.
  - Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat **account for about 70% of the country's ravines.**
- **Causes of ravine formation:** Climate change, catastrophic storms, tectonic uplift or base level lowering, removal of vegetation and deforestation, overgrazing etc.
- **Coping mechanisms for ravines:** Integration of soil-water conservation, scientific techniques, contour bunding, channelling, gully path modifications, changing cropping patterns, and land levelling.



# INDIA LIKELY TO MISS TARGET OF ERADICATING AIDS BY 2030: INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) STUDY

- In 2016, at the **UNs' High-Level Meeting on AIDS**, India committed towards the goal of 'ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030'.
  - **SDG 3.3** aims to End AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- **Key highlights of the study**
  - **Decline in annual new HIV infections was only 27% from 2010 to 2017** against a national target of a 75% decline by 2020.
  - **People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLHIV):** 2.1 million in 2017.
  - **States with highest number of PLHIV** in 2017: Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
  - **Signs of rising new HIV infections in the low-burden states** of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram etc. in 2017 compared with 2010.
- **Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)** is a **chronic, life-threatening condition** caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV interferes with body's ability to fight infection and disease, by damaging immune system.
- **Steps taken to eradicate AIDS**
  - **National AIDS Control Programme**, based on three pillars-Prevention, Care-counselling and Treatment.
  - **National Strategic Plan (2017-24)** on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infection.
  - **Project Sunrise** for prevention of AIDS in 8 North-Eastern states.

## ALSO IN NEWS

<b>Rafale fighter jets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently <b>first batch of five Rafale fighter aircraft</b> took off from France for India.</li> <li>• Rafale is a French <b>twin-engine multi-role fighter jet</b> designed and built by Dassault Aviation.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ It can <b>carry out all combat aviation missions:</b> air superiority and air defence, close air support, in-depth strikes, reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes and nuclear deterrence.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>India-France signed agreement</b> in 2016 for supply of 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets.</li> </ul>
<b>Seismic noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, <b>change in the Earth's seismic noise and vibrations</b> amid COVID-19 lockdown was reported.</li> <li>• <b>Seismic noise</b> refers to the relatively persistent vibration of the ground due to a multitude of causes like transport and manufacturing etc.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ It is the <b>unwanted component of signals</b> recorded by a seismometer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This noise makes it <b>difficult for scientists to study seismic data that is more valuable.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Vertical transmission of COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country's <b>first mother-child vertical transmission of COVID-19</b> was recorded in Maharashtra.</li> <li>• Vertical transmission <b>takes place when the baby is in the uterus.</b> If the mother is infected, the <b>transmission of the virus takes place through the placenta.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Placenta is a <b>temporary organ</b> that develops in the uterus during pregnancy and <b>provides oxygen and nutrients to the growing baby.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Bhavai</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a form of <b>traditional street play</b> performed across villages of <b>Saurashtra and North Gujarat.</b></li> <li>• It is a unique stage art form, <b>performed with 'Bhava', meaning expression revealing emotions.</b></li> <li>• It is <b>exclusively performed by male members</b> in various costumes and character forms.</li> <li>• It is mainly <b>performed by the Targala community also known as Bhavaya;</b> they hail from both the Hindu and Muslim communities.</li> </ul>

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