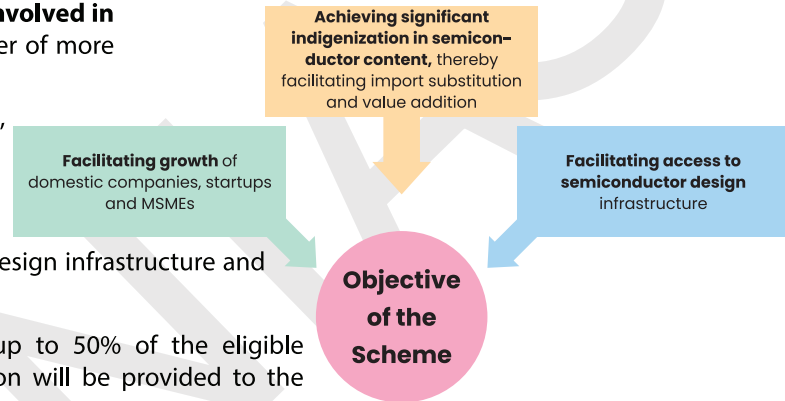


NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION (MEITY) SEEKS APPLICATIONS UNDER ITS DESIGN LINKED INCENTIVE (DLI) SCHEME

- MeitY is seeking **applications from 100 domestic companies, start-ups and MSMEs** under its DLI Scheme.
 - It is a part of recently approved **Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem** in India.
- DLI scheme **aims to nurture at least 20 domestic companies involved in semiconductor design** and facilitating them to achieve turnover of more than ₹1500 Crore in the next 5 years.
 - C-DAC** (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), under MeitY, **will serve as the nodal agency.**
- Scheme has three components:**
 - Chip Design infrastructure support:** Under this, C-DAC will setup the India Chip Centre to host the state-of-the-art design infrastructure and facilitate its access to supported companies.
 - Product Design Linked Incentive:** A reimbursement of up to 50% of the eligible expenditure subject to a ceiling of ₹15 Crore per application will be provided to the approved applicants.
 - Deployment Linked Incentive:** An incentive of 6% to 4% of net sales turnover over 5 years subject to a ceiling of ₹30 Crore per application will be provided to approved applicants whose semiconductor design are deployed in electronic products.



INDIA'S STANCE ON NEPAL BOUNDARY WELL KNOWN, CONSISTENT & UNAMBIGUOUS: INDIAN EMBASSY

- Statement was made **amidst discontent in Nepal over reports claiming that India is undertaking construction activities** in areas that Nepal has included in its map.
 - Recently, PM Modi, at a public rally, mentioned Lipulekh construction undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- Disagreement between India and Nepal is over the regions **Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura (all three in Uttarakhand) and Susta (Bihar).**
- Nepal considers the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli** (signed between Gurkha rulers of Kathmandu and East India Company) **as only authentic document on boundary delineation.**
 - Sugauli Treaty **marks Kali river** (called Mahakali in Nepal) **as north-western border with India.**
- However, **origin of Kali river is interpreted differently.**
 - For Nepal, river originates from Limpiyadhura** in the higher Himalayas, giving it access to a triangular-shaped land defined by Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh and Kalapani.
 - For India, **river begins in the village of Kalapani**, which reduces Nepal's territorial demand.
- Significance of the region**
 - Lipulekh pass has been **used by pilgrims and tourists on their way to Kailash Mansarovar.**
 - Height of the Lipulekh pass **aids India's surveillance of Chinese movements.**



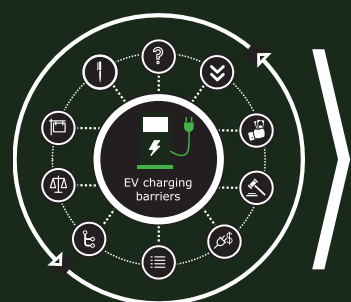
IN FIRST BRAHMOS MISSILE EXPORT ORDER, PHILIPPINES APPROVES \$374-MILLION CONTRACT











- Apart from Philippines, **there is interest for acquiring BrahMos missiles from several countries** and negotiations are in advanced stages with Indonesia and Thailand.
- BrahMos is a **joint collaboration between India (DRDO) and Russia (NPOM)** and can be launched from land, sea and air against surface and sea-based targets.
 - Its range is being extended from the **original 290-km to 350-400-km now.**
 - Name **represents Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.**
- In recent years, **Government has taken several initiatives to promote indigenisation and self-reliance** in defence manufacturing including:
 - **Notification of positive Indigenisation** lists to provide opportunity to Indian defence industry to manufacture these items.
 - **Launch of SRIJAN portal** (to promote indigenization) and **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** (to foster innovation and technology development).
 - Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)} category accorded **top most priority for procurement of capital equipment.**
 - **Defence Industrial Corridors**, one each in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
 - **Enhanced FDI** in Defence Sector up to 74% through the Automatic Route and up to 100% by Government Route.
- **Benefits of indigenisation:** Reduction in import dependency, security, generation of employment, integrity and sovereignty amongst Forces etc.

MINISTRY OF POWER (MOP) PROMULGATED REVISED GUIDELINES & STANDARDS FOR CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV)

- Objective is **to enable a faster adoption of EV and to promote energy security** and reduction of emission intensity by promotion of entire EV ecosystem.
 - Guidelines will supersede the 2019 guidelines.
- **Key highlights of the guidelines**
 - **Phase wise rollout of public charging infrastructure:** Phase I (1-3 years) for Cities with population of 4 million plus as per census 2011, Phase II (3-5 Years) for Big cities like State Capitals, UT headquarters.
 - **Owners may charge their EVs at their residence/offices** using their existing electricity connections.
 - **Land at promotional rates** for installation of Public Charging Stations (PCS) through a Revenue Sharing Model.
 - **State Governments to fix the ceiling of Service charge** to be charged by PCS.
 - **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** shall create and maintain a **national online database of all PCS.**
- **Initiatives to enhance EV Charging infrastructure**
 - **NITI Aayog released handbook** to guide EV charging infrastructure.
 - MoP has allowed sale of electricity as 'service' for charging of electric vehicles.
 - **Incentives** for EV charging infrastructure deployment **under FAME II.**

Key barriers in EV charging infrastructure



- | | |
|--|--|
|  Uncertainty around EV penetration in India |  No mechanism for socializing the cost of power infrastructure development |
|  Lower capacity utilization |  Lack of Managed Charging Framework and functions |
|  High cost of finance |  No regulatory framework for charging service provider to participate in power market for demand response |
|  No mandate for Discom to develop charging infrastructure |  Land identification and allocation |
|  Fixed demand charges in EV tariff |  Issues related to administrative clearances |

MINISTER FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SUGGESTS 5-POINT REFORM AGENDA FOR FCI

- Speaking on 58th Foundation Day of Food Corporation of India (FCI), **Minister gave 5 principles to improve FCI's progress:**
 - **Change public perception** of FCI from being inefficient & corrupt to dynamic, inclusive & honest.
 - **Focus on integrating end-to-end tech solutions** right from procurement to delivery for operational efficiency & leakage free distribution.
 - **A grievance redressal mechanism to react rapidly** to farmer/Farmer Producer Organisation in distress.
 - Plan for **modern infrastructure & logistics.**
 - **Global best practices** to make India a Food hub.
- FCI was setup **under Food Corporation's Act 1964 to fulfill objectives of:**
 - Effective **price support operations** for safeguarding farmer's interests.
 - **Distribution of foodgrains** for public distribution system (PDS).
 - Maintaining **satisfactory level of operational and buffer stocks** of foodgrains to ensure National Food Security.
- **Issues faced by FCI**
 - **Economic cost of rice and wheat, to FCI, rose to ₹37 per kg and ₹27 per kg in 2020-21 respectively** from ₹26 per kg and ₹19 per kg in 2013-14 respectively.
 - Grain stocks held remain in **excess of buffer stocks norm**, leading to wastage.
 - **Leakages** (food grains not reaching intended beneficiaries) in **PDS estimated at 46.7%.**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER HELD VIRTUAL MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER OF SRI LANKA

- Key areas of the discussion included **renewable energy projects and investments in information technology in Sri Lanka and two credit lines for fuel and food.**
 - These are **in line with four pillars for short and medium-term cooperation** between both nations, framed recently to deepen economic cooperation.
- India Sri Lanka relations**
 - Commercial** - Sri Lanka is one of India's largest trading partners among SAARC countries. There is an India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) in place since 2000.
 - Developmental Cooperation:** Sri Lanka is one of the major recipients of development credit given by India (For ex: for tsunami-damaged Colombo-Matara rail link).
 - Economic and Infrastructure cooperation:** Developing Trincomalee port and oil tank farms, Joint India-Japan agreement to develop East Container Terminal at Colombo harbor etc.
- Issues faced**
 - Fisherman issue** - Given proximity of territorial waters of both countries, especially in Palk Straits and Gulf of Mannar, incidents of straying of fishermen are common.
 - Chinese hegemony**- Sri Lanka has handed over strategic port of Hambantota to China.
 - Ethnic issue:** Prolonged conflict between Sinhala majority and Tamil minority that has undermined bilateral ties in recent decades.

ALSO IN NEWS



State legislatures had fewer sittings than Parliament in 2021

- A recent analysis by The Hindu** on the functioning of nine **State Assemblies found that these worked for 11 to 43 days in 2021.**
 - After a low of 33 days in 2020, **Parliament saw only a small improvement in 2021** by functioning for 58 day.
- Both the Parliament and State Assemblies **cited restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic as primary reason** for this.
- Constitution **does not prescribe a minimum number** of sittings. **Article 174** says that State legislature has **to meet within six months of the last session.**



Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) invited **applications from 100 academia, R&D organisations, start-ups and MSMEs** under its C2S Programme.
- C2S Programme **aims to train 85 thousand high-quality and qualified engineers** in the area of Very large-scale integration and Embedded System Design.
- Under C2S, project would be initiated **in certain key areas including Energy & Environment, Healthcare, Agriculture, Disaster management** etc.
- It would be **implemented at about 100 academic institutions** (Start-ups and MSMEs can also participate) across the Country, including IITs, NITs, and IIITs.
 - C-DAC will be the nodal agency.
- Also, recently PM announced that **16 January will be celebrated as National Startup Day.**



Oxfam released "Inequality Kills" report

- Key global findings**
 - World's ten richest men more than doubled their fortunes** during first two years of pandemic.
 - Pandemic has set **gender parity back from 99 years to now 135 years.**
 - Richest 1% emit more than twice as much CO2** as the bottom 50% of the world.
- Findings related to India**
 - Income of 84% of households declined in 2021** but number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142.
 - In 2021, share of the bottom **50% of the population in national wealth was a mere 6%.**
 - More than 4.6 crore Indians** are estimated to **have fallen into extreme poverty in 2020.**








Building Resilience Index (BRI)

- It is a **web-based hazard mapping and resilience assessment framework** for the building sector.
 - BRI is an **innovation of International Finance Corporation** and is supported by World Bank.
- It is designed to**
 - Facilitate **access to location-specific hazard information,**
 - Provide resilience **measures to mitigate applicable risks,** and
 - Improve transparency** for disclosing a building's resilience information between sector stakeholders.
- BRI makes it easy for building sector stakeholders,** including construction developers, financial institutions, insurers, and governments to **assess, improve, and disclose the resilience of buildings.**



Capitals Coalition

- It is a global collaboration redefining value to transform decision making.**
- Coalition ambition is that **by 2030 majority of businesses, financial institutions and governments will include value of natural capital, social capital and human capital in their decision-making** to deliver a fairer, just and more sustainable world.

 <p>Goat Head Yogini</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a 10th century stone idol and was illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari, Banda, Uttar Pradesh. It is now being brought back from London. • About Yoginis - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They are a group of powerful female divinities associated with the Tantrik mode of worship. ➤ They are worshipped as a group, often 64, and are believed to possess infinite powers.
 <p>Volcanic eruption in Tonga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A violent eruption in Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano (an underwater volcano) triggered tsunami waves around the Pacific. ➤ There are an estimated one million undersea volcanoes, and most of them are located near the tectonic plates. • Tonga is a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, located near Fiji and Samoa. ➤ It is divided into four main groups – Tongatapu, Ha'apai and Vava'u and Niuas. ➤ It lies on the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area of dynamic geological activity. ➤ Tonga is the only Pacific country with a constitutional monarchy. ➤ It is ranked the second most vulnerable country to natural hazards (after Vanuatu). 
  <p>Personalities in News</p>	<p>Pandit Birju Maharaj</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born as Brij Mohan Nath Mishra, he was a legendary Kathak maestro and leading exponent of the Kalka-Bindadin gharana of Lucknow. • He was an equally prolific singer, poet and painter. • Personality Traits: Artist, dedication towards work, expressive. • Significant contribution/achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He served Kathak Kendra (Delhi) as principal Guru for several decades. ➤ He brought Kathak (Classic Dance form) to film industry and spread it at global level. ➤ Awarded Padma Vibhushan (country's second-highest civilian award) in 1986. ➤ Honoured with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Kalidas Samman by Government of Madhya Pradesh, Rajiv Gandhi Peace Award <p>Thiruvalluvar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is also known as Valluvar. • He is best known for his work — Tirukkural, a collection of couplets on politics, love, ethics and matters concerning economics. ➤ It is considered as a very important text in Tamil literature. • Personality Trait: Advocate life of a discipline, self control, non-violence, temperance, devotion.



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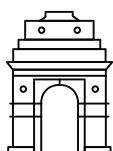
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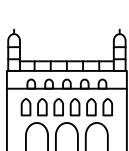
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DELHI



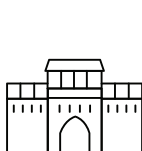
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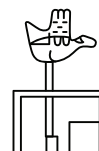
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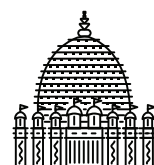
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CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI