

NEWS TODAY

DIGITAL PUBLIC GOODS (DPGS): NEW WAY OF PROMOTING COMPETITION IN DIGITAL MARKETS

- DPGs are defined by United Nations as **Open source software, open data, open Artificial Intelligence (AI) models, open standards and open content** that adhere to **privacy regulations** and are aimed at **achieving the Sustainable Development goals**.

➤ They are **non-excludable** (available to all citizens) and **non-rivalrous** (do not dwindle in supply as more people consume them.)

➤ **Examples of DPG** include **District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2)** which is a free and open source health management data platform used by multiple organisations, and a total 54 countries.

- It is a **substitute or complement to direct regulation of digital markets that are prone to concentration** and the accompanying adverse effects on welfare.

- Efforts taken in India to **protect and promote competition in digital markets**

➤ **Universal Service Obligation** - a form of cross-subsidy through which states ensure that rural and unprofitable areas too access telecommunications services.

➤ **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative** that aims to integrate different e-commerce ecosystems into one solution.

➤ **Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA)** aimed at breaking data silos by allowing seamless data transfer between data controllers and data users through an intermediary called Consent Manager (CM).

○ **Challenges that persist in its implementation:** Cyber security, issues of technology sophistication, cost challenge, lack of skills, lack of optimal incentive of the private players to innovate, and cyber security issues.



SHIKSHAK PARV: PM LAUNCHES VIDYANJALI 2.0, OTHER KEY INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION SECTOR

- The 'shikshak parv' is being observed **to recognise the contributions of teachers**.

➤ The theme of "Shikshak Parv-2021" is **Quality and Sustainable Schools: Learnings from Schools in India**.

- The PM launched various initiatives while addressing the inaugural session of an educational conclave at Shikshak Parv.

Key initiatives

➤ **Vidyanjali 2.0 portal:** It will facilitate donations, contributions from Corporate Social Responsibility funds, and volunteering, all aimed at developing and improving schools.

➤ **School Quality Assurance and Assessment Framework (S.Q.A.A.F) of CBSE:** To provide global parameters of attainment as standards for dimensions like curricula, pedagogy, assessment, infrastructure, inclusive practices and governance process in schools affiliated to it.

➤ **Educational tools for the differently abled:** Indian Sign Language Dictionary (audio and text embedded sign language video for the hearing impaired, in conformity with Universal Design of Learning) and talking Books (audio books for the visually impaired).

➤ **NISHTHA 2.0 teachers' training programme** for NIPUN Bharat.

➤ **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) and National Education Technology Forum (NETF)** for providing a digital and technological framework to the entire country.



- National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) 2021 **outlines the framework to energize and catalyse the digital education ecosystem** to create and deliver diverse, relevant, contextual, innovative solutions that benefit the student, parent, teacher and educational communities.

➤ NDEAR will act as a **'super connect' between various academic activities** in the same way as the UPI interface revolutionised the banking sector.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE APPROVES DELEGATION OF FINANCIAL POWERS TO ARMED FORCES FOR REVENUE PROCUREMENT

- Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2021 provide enhanced **delegation of Revenue Procurement powers to the Armed Forces**.
 - Revenue procurement **entails procurement of already sanctioned assets in service including renewals and replacements**.
- DFPDS 2021 **aims to empower field formations; focus on operational preparedness; promote ease of doing business and enhance jointness among the Services**.
- **Significance of DFPDS 2021**
 - To **empower Field Commanders and below to procure equipment/war-like stores** in a speedy manner for urgent operational necessities and meeting essential sustenance requirements.
 - To **strengthen the security infrastructure** of the country.
 - To **overcome procedural delays**, bring greater **decentralisation and operational efficiency**.
 - Help in making **quicker decisions at all levels** and optimal use of resources.
- **Other Government initiatives for Arm procurement:**
 - **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020:** To ensure timely acquisition of military equipment, systems and platforms as required by the Armed Forces in terms of performance, capabilities and quality standards, through optimum utilisation of allocated budgetary resources.
 - **Defence Investor Cell:** To provide information including addressing queries related to investment opportunities, procedures and regulatory requirements for investment in the sector.

INDIA-FRANCE AGREE ON SPACE SECURITY DIALOGUE (SSD)

- The bilateral space security dialogue will be the **third for India**. **Earlier, India has had such arrangement with two countries - Japan (2019) and United States (2015)**.
 - For France, **India will be the first Asian country** with which it will have such a dialogue.
 - Cooperation between India and France **across space and nuclear domains reflect the confidence and trust the two enjoy with each other**.
- Through SSD, both countries will arrive at a **common multilateral understanding of the emerging space environment and the possible threats to the safe, secure, sustainable, and continued access to outer space**.
- **Significance of SSD**
 - **Indication of India's changing space orientation:** India's civil space cooperation engagements with different countries have evolved to focus more on space security.
 - **To protect space assets**, as the rapid growth of counter-space capabilities by China is a serious threat for India, France, Japan, and U.S.
 - To address **global navigation satellite system, space situational awareness, space security**, sustainability of the outer space environment and collision avoidance in outer space.
 - Such conversations with like-minded partners would give India a **prominent leadership role in global governance**.

○ India – France space Cooperation:



- France is assisting India in **medical support for Indian astronauts and their ongoing training** for India's manned space mission by 2022.
- **Space Climate Observatory:** To enhance their cooperation on combating climate change.
- **TRISHNA (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High resolution Natural resource Assessment):** To monitor the water cycle to help in finding out proper ways to utilize it.
- **Megha-Tropiques:** To study tropical atmosphere and climate related to aspects such as monsoons, cyclones, etc.
- **SARAL (Satellite for ALTIKA and ARGOS):** To study the ocean from space using altimetry was successfully launched in 2013.

THREE NEW HEATWAVE HOTSPOTS IN INDIA PUT LARGE POPULATION AT IMMEDIATE HEALTH RISK: STUDY

- The study published in the journal "International Journal of Climatology" links the association of Heat Wave (HW) and **Severe Heat Wave with mortality over India**.
- **Key findings**
 - **HW a deadly health hazard:** It claimed thousands of lives across the globe in recent decades, with episodes strengthening in frequency, intensity, and duration in the past half-century in India as well.
 - **Shift in the Spatio-temporal trend of HW events:** From the eastern region of Gangetic West Bengal and Bihar to North-Western, Central and further to south-central region of India.
- **Heat wave:**
 - Heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degree C or more for Plains and at least 30 degree C or more for Hilly regions.
 - It is one **of the Natural hazards under National Disaster Management Act, 2005** (others are: Floods, Urban flooding, Landslide, Heat Wave, Tsunami, Cyclone, Earthquake).
 - Heat wave have **severe impacts on health, agriculture, economy, and infrastructure**.
- **Government strategies to control HW:**
 - **Establish Early Warning System** and Inter-Agency Coordination.
 - **Capacity building / training programme for health care professionals**.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States have been urged to take advantage of AIF to help small and marginal farmers who lack warehousing and cold storage facilities. About Central Sector Scheme of Financing facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim - Provide medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets. Operational from 2020-21 to 2029-30 Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) etc.
 <p>T+1 (Trade plus 1 day) settlement cycle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has introduced an optional T+1 settlement cycle for the markets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T+1 means that settlements will have to be cleared within one day of the actual transactions taking place. It will come into force on January 1, 2022. It is expected to benefit domestic investors by increasing market liquidity and trading turnover while reducing settlement risk and broker defaults. To switch back to T+2 settlement cycle, stock exchange will have to give one-month notice to the market.
 <p>Coal based Hydrogen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Coal constitutes Task Force and Expert Committee to prepare roadmap for Coal based Hydrogen Production. Coal is one of the important sources of hydrogen making (Brown Hydrogen) apart from Natural Gas (Grey hydrogen) and renewable energy (Green Hydrogen) through electrolysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coal has not been encouraged elsewhere because of the fear that while extracting hydrogen via coal (from the moisture embedded in coal) there may be carbon emission.
 <p>Initiative to promote tribal products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRIFED, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, is setting up an Atmanirbhar Bharat corner in 75 Indian Missions/ Embassies across the world in the next 90 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corner will be an exclusive space to promote Geographical Indication tagged tribal art and craft products besides natural and organic products. TRIFED has been actively collaborating with several other ministries to take up the cause of promotion of GI Tag products along with tribal products and transform them into a brand, symbolizing empowerment of tribal artisans.
 <p>Vatan Prem Yojana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched by the Gujrat Government to assist people of Gujarat settled outside India (NRIs) in donating for development works in their native villages. Such NRIs can contribute 60% of the cost of a village-level project, while the remaining will be borne by the state government (40%). Scheme will cover village-level projects like smart classes in schools, community hall, primary health centre, etc. Goal - To create development projects worth ₹1000 crore by December 2022.
 <p>Odisha's school transformation programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Odisha government would set up an 'iconic' school at the investment of ₹100 crore. The school will have a total of 1,000 students 500 each in Classes 11th and 12th drawn from all corners of the State. Students would be expected to crack all-India examinations. Schools would be equipped with language laboratories, smart class, mathematics and high technology computer application centres. Odisha Adarsh Vidyalayas set up at block level to provide free quality education in English will be reinvented.

 <p>AUSINDEX</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the Biennial maritime warfare exercises between the Royal Australian and the Indian navies. It is being held this year in Australia.
 <p>Personalities in news</p>	<p>Jaydev</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Culture has launched the book "Gita Govinda: Jaydev Divine Odyssey" along with an exhibition on "Gita Govinda". He was 12th century Indian author of the Sanskrit poem 'Gita Govinda' and the sole devotee to Lord Sri Krishna or Lord Jagannath of Puri Dham, Orissa. Gita Govinda describes the touching love story of Krishna (incarnation of the Hindu God Vishnu) and the shepherd girl Radha. It is considered an important text in Bhakti movement of Hinduism.

