

NEWS TODAY

PRIME MINISTER(PM) INAUGURATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN UTTARAKHAND UNDER THE NAMAMI GANGE MISSION

- The projects include construction and upgradation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). **PM also highlighted the four pronged strategy that helped rejuvenate river Ganga:**
 - > **Network of STPs** to prevent the waste water from flowing into the river.
 - > STPs were built by **keeping in mind the demands for the next 10 - 15 years.**
 - > 100 big towns/cities and 5000 villages along the river were **made Open Defecation Free.**
 - > An **all-out effort was made to stop pollution in the tributaries** of River Ganga.
- Namami Gange is an Integrated Conservation Mission **to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga.**
 - > **Main pillars of the mission are:** River front development, Conservation of Aquatic life and biodiversity, Creating Sewerage Treatment Capacity, Afforestation, Industrial Effluent Monitoring, Development of Ganga Gram etc.
 - > It is **being implemented by National Mission for Clean Ganga**, and its state counterparts—State Programme Management Groups.
- **Some issues faced in implementation:** poor performance in rehabilitating old STPs, less water flow level in Ganga, poor sludge management, lack of coordination between various agencies etc.



TELECOM COMPANIES ASK GOVERNMENT TO AUCTION E&V SPECTRUM BANDS INSTEAD OF DE-LICENSING THEM

- Department of Telecommunications is the custodian and manager of spectrum and **decides on the framework for spectrum allocation, licensing, and pricing.**
 - > Wireless services may be provided over **designated bands which may be either licensed or unlicensed (license exempt or de-licensed).**
 - > **Services in unlicensed bands (For example Wi-Fi) are less expensive**, as spectrum does not have to be paid for.
- De-licensing of E&V bands **will tilt the level playing field against licensed telecom service providers** since they are burdened with various costs like spectrum acquisition, license fee, spectrum usage charge and right of way.
- **Airwaves in the E band**, which falls between 71-76 GHz and 81-86 Ghz, **and V band**, between 57-64 GHz, can **transmit data with a speed of around 1,000 megabit per second.**
 - > Spectrum in E&V bands **can be utilised for both high-capacity access spectrum for voice and data services as well as backhaul link spectrum.**
 - ⇒ **Backhaul is a network that connects cells sites to central exchange.** It helps in managing high throughput (actual rate that information is transferred) offered by 4G/5G services.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT FRAMES TRANSGENDER PERSONS (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS) RULES, 2020

- Rules are issued under **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.** Act aims to protect the rights of transgender persons by granting them recognition and making welfare provisions for them.
 - > Earlier, Centre had constituted the **National Council for Transgender Persons under the act.**
- **Key Features are:**
 - > **District Magistrate (DM) will certify the gender of a person based** on an affidavit by the applicant, **without any medical or physical examination.**
 - > State governments **to constitute welfare boards for transgender persons** to protect their rights and interests, and facilitate access to schemes and welfare measures framed by the Centre.
 - > Provides for **review of all existing educational, social security, health schemes, welfare measures** etc. to include transgender persons.
 - > **State governments are required to take steps to prohibit discrimination of transgender persons** in any government or private organisation, or private and public educational institution under their purview.
 - > **Transgender-sensitive infrastructure** such as separate wards in hospitals and washrooms be constructed within two years of the Rules being notified.
 - > State governments have to set up **Transgender Protection Cell** to monitor cases of offences against transgender persons.

SAFE MOTHERHOOD ASSURANCE (SUMAN) WILL LEAD TO A FULLY RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE HEALTH SYSTEM

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **highlighted importance of SUMAN at the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Accountability Breakfast** event.
 - > PMNCH is the **world's largest alliance for women's, children's and adolescents' health**, bringing together over 1,000 partner organizations across 192 countries.
 - > It **enables partners to share strategies, align objectives and resources, and agree on interventions.** The Vice Chairs of PMNCH's Board are the Government of India and UK.
- **About SUMAN**
 - > It is an initiative (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) **for zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths.**
 - > **Under the scheme, free healthcare benefits will be provided** to pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns.
 - > **Main features of the scheme are**
 - ⇒ **Zero expense delivery** and C-section facility in case of pregnancy complications.
 - ⇒ **Free transport** to pregnant women from home to health facility and back.
 - ⇒ **Zero-tolerance for denial of services** at public health facility.
 - ⇒ **Services include** at least four ante natal check-ups that also includes one checkup during the 1st trimester, Iron Folic Acid supplementation, Tetanus diptheria injection etc.








GLOBAL NGO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) SHUTS OPERATIONS IN INDIA

- Recently, government froze all the bank accounts of AI India **over alleged charges of money laundering and suspected violations of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)**.
 - Consequently, Amnesty International India has to suspend its operations in India.
- In India, **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) monitors foreign funds donated to NGOs and organisations through the FCRA**.
 - FCRA was brought into force **to regulate flow of foreign funds to voluntary organisations** with the objective of preventing any possible diversion of such funds to anti-national activities.
 - AI and its three subsidiaries are not registered under FCRA**, a pre-requisite for civil society groups, associations and NGOs to receive foreign donations.
- There are certain **NGOs which are registered under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and are regulated by the Finance Ministry** and continue to disburse foreign funds to various associations.
 - In the past, several representations were made **to transfer the power to MHA for effective monitoring**.
- Recently government also brought **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill (FCRA), 2020** to amend FCRA, 2010 to enhance transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions.

ALSO IN NEWS

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| <p>Crime in India 2019 Report by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report highlighted that from 2018-19– <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crimes against women increased 7.3%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uttar Pradesh reported highest number of cases of crime against women and Assam reported highest rate of crimes against women (per lakh population). Maximum cases were of 'cruelty by husband or his relatives'. India recorded an average of 87 rape cases daily in 2019 Crimes against Scheduled Castes went up 7.3%. Crimes against children have gone up by 4.5% |
| <p>RBI extends WMA limits and Overdraft regulations for States/UTs for six months</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both these relaxations are aimed at helping States/UTs overcome short-term liquidity mismatches. Ways and Means Advances (WMA) scheme was introduced in 1997 to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government. The government can avail of immediate cash from the RBI, if required. But it has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing repo rate. If the WMA exceeds 90 days, it would be treated as an overdraft (interest rate on overdrafts is 2 percentage points more than the repo rate). |
| <p>Time Use Survey (TUS) by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective of TUS is to measure participation of men, women and other groups of persons in paid and unpaid activities. Key Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 38.2% of the population participates in "employment and other related activities", spending 429 minutes on an average each day. Only 18.4% women participating in employment activities compared with 57.3% men. Only 14% of men participate in unpaid care giving services for household members spending on average 76 minutes a day |
| <p>Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZ)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Green Tribunal has expressed concern after six states asked the MoEF&CC to whittle down the size of ESZ under Western Ghats (WG) by 6,386.65 sq km. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG cover six states — Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. ESZs are ecologically important areas notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 to be protected from industrial pollution and unregulated development. It seeks to provide special protection to landscape, biodiversity, wildlife, historical value, regulate developmental activities and ensure sustainable development in ESZ. |
| <p>Findings of second nationwide sero-survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sero-survey involves testing of blood serum of a group of individuals to monitor trends in prevalence of SARS-COV-2 infection at the district level. Key findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 7% of India's adult population may have been exposed to the coronavirus till the last fortnight of August. Prevalence in urban slums stood at an estimated 15.6%, as compared to 8.6% in non-slum urban areas, and 4.4% in rural areas. |
| <p>Project Management Information System (P-MIS) portal of National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) launched</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to monitor the progress of projects and administering loans. P-MIS will bring ease in review and management of projects and provide information and opportunity to give feedback to the citizens. NCRPB approves Regional & Sub-Regional Plans in National Capital Region & funds projects at affordable rate by raising Bonds from market or taking loans from bilateral/multilateral agencies. |
| <p>Defence India Startup Challenge-4 (DISC 4)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DISC 4 is aimed at expanding the horizons of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) ecosystem. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iDEX initiative was launched in 2018 with the objective to encourage and nurture innovations and to develop an effective defence Startup ecosystem in the country. Under Defence DISC 4, eleven challenges from Armed forces were thrown open to prospective startups, innovators and MSMEs to provide innovative ideas. |

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