

15-03-2024

India's 1st Future-LABS center at C-DAC Thiruvananthapuram

Why in News?

- Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Jal Shakti, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurated India's first Future-LABS center in Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Thiruvananthapuram.

More About the News

- This center, namely, "Centre for Semiconductor Chips & Systems for Strategic Electronics", will be playing a crucial role in catalyzing an ecosystem for next generation chip design, manufacturing, and research.



- There are three areas having great potential for Indian startups and students – Artificial Intelligence (AI), Semiconductors, and the future of electronics. CDAC will be a willing and facilitating partner to create these labs within colleges and universities. This initiative will make Thiruvananthapuram India's next innovation hub.
- Among the other announcements, there was a collaboration announced between C-DAC (T) and the Ministry of Railways for the development of electric locomotive technologies. An MoU was signed between C-DAC(T) and Tata Power for the

development and deployment of micro-grid technologies.

- There was also the announcement for the transfer of technology of the electric vehicle wireless charger, developed by C-DAC(T) and VNIT Nagpur, to BelRise Industries Limited.
- The industry partners in attendance highlighted how collaboration with C-DAC has bore fruit and therefore they will continue their support in enhancing Kerala's tech innovation ecosystem.

About Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)

- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.
- Different areas of C-DAC, had originated at different times, many of which came out as a result of identification of opportunities.
- The setting up of C-DAC in 1988 itself was to built Supercomputers in context of denial of import of Supercomputers by USA. Since then C-DAC has been undertaking building of multiple generations of Supercomputer starting from PARAM with 1 GF in 1988.

Credit Assistance Program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras

Why in the News?

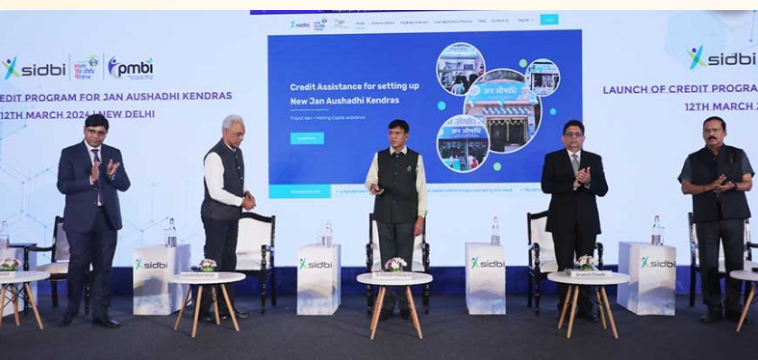
- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare inaugurated a credit assistance program for Jan Aushadhi Kendras on 12th March 2024 in New Delhi.

More About the News

- Over the past few years Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana has

successfully delivered the benefit of affordable and quality medicines for all Indian citizens.

- The commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister has successfully ensured its larger foot print by covering the entire nation with around 11,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras and it has now been decided to increase its geographical reach by increasing the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras to 25,000 in next 2 years.
- These Jan Aushadhi Kendras which are run by private entrepreneurs and with the support of the Government in the form of incentives have been able to provide around 2000 types of medicines and 300 types of surgical devices.



- It is estimated that around 10 to 12 lakh people visit Jan Aushadhi Kendras every day and save their money while buying requisite medicines.
- In order to facilitate invoice-based financing to the entrepreneurs running the Jan Aushadhi Kendras and to also give them support for infrastructural establishment of retail medical outlets, Small industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) have come together by signing 02 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs).
- After a successful completion of a pilot credit programme to provide working capital assistance to Jan Aushadhi Kendras it has been decided to go ahead to provide credit facility of working capital to around 11,000 existing and proposed 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- SIDBI will offer the project loan for a credit

limit up to Rs. 2 lakhs at a very competitive and affordable interest rate, which will work as a working capital and with easy recovery process. The entire ecosystem will be working on a digital mode while ensuring ease of doing business.

- SIDBI proposes to use GST-Sahay technology platform while disbursing funds to these micro and small enterprises through the 2 MoU's and it will be a big boost for the entire scheme.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025

Why in the News?

- In consultation with the Automotive Industry it has been decided to scale up the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 and organize the expo at three venues: Bharatmandapam; Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Center) Dwarka, and India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida, simultaneously from 17th January- 22nd January 2025.

More About the News

- The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 will showcase a diverse array of commercial and passenger vehicles, electric vehicles (Evs), auto components, tyres, battery and storage components, software integrated into vehicles, and construction equipment, amongst others.
- The event would be an Industry led event with active participation of Industry associations like EEPIC India, SIAM, ACMA, ATMA, IESA, NASSCOM, ICEMA, Invest India, CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM.
- These industry associations extended



invitation to other industry bodies as well to be a part of this event encouraging wider participation. Several sectoral sessions, business forums, CEOs conclave, media interactions and other such business engagements will be organized on the sidelines of the show.

- Additionally, the event will highlight the burgeoning start-up ecosystem within the mobility sector.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal lauded industry bodies and automobile associations for their initiative in successfully organizing the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024 - the largest event ever held in India, covering every aspect of the Automobile Industry's value chain under one roof.

Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) Portal

Why in the News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th March 2024 launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal and sanctioned credit support to one lakh entrepreneurs of disadvantaged sections.



More About the News

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched a nationwide initiative aimed at offering credit support to the marginalized segments of society today, where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was the Chief Guest of the event.

- During the event, PM unveiled the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal online which symbolized the ministry's dedication in placing the underprivileged at the forefront, towards uplifting the most marginalized sections of society, and supported credit assistance to one lakh entrepreneurs hailing from disadvantaged communities.
- During the program, the PM also distributed Ayushman Health Cards and PPE kits to Safai Mitras under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE). This initiative aims to safeguard the health and safety of frontline workers who serve in challenging conditions.
- The program witnessed the participation of about 300,000 thousand beneficiaries of various government schemes from disadvantaged groups across the country.

NITI Aayog Launched 'Vocal for Local' Initiative

Why in the News?

- In a move towards bolstering local economies and fostering grassroots entrepreneurship, NITI Aayog launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative under its Aspirational Blocks Programme on 13th March, 2024 in the presence of Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog.

More About the News

- This initiative aims to encourage a spirit of self-reliance among the populace of Aspirational Blocks, propelling them towards sustainable growth and prosperity.
- In order to encourage these products, a dedicated window for Aspirational Blocks Programme under the brand name 'Aakanksha' on GeM portal has been established.
- The logo for 'Aakanksha' was also unveiled under the 'Vocal for Local' initiative by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog.

- As a part of this initiative, indigenous local products from 500 Aspirational Blocks have been mapped and consolidated under Aakanksha.
- Akansha is an umbrella brand which could be supplemented into multiple sub-brands that have a potential to create an international market.
- This comprehensive capacity-building approach is expected to significantly strengthen the Vocal for Local initiative, thereby ensuring sustainability.
- By nurturing a conducive ecosystem for local businesses to flourish, the 'Vocal for Local' initiative is poised to usher in a new era of economic empowerment and self-sufficiency.
- Through sustained efforts and collective action, NITI Aayog remains committed to realising the full potential of every Aspirational Block, driving inclusive growth and prosperity for all.

About NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog was formed on January 1, 2015, to better serve the needs and aspirations of people, emphasising the idea of Maximum Governance and Minimum Government.
- The full form of NITI Aayog is the National Institution for Transforming India.
- It is the premier policy think tank of the Indian government, providing inputs for different programmes and policies.
- NITI Aayog gives directional and strategic people-driven input to central, state and union territory governments with a shared vision of National priorities and shapes the country's economic growth.
- The NITI Aayog is important in constructing strong states that will help create a dynamic and strong nation. The key objective of NITI Aayog is to give a directional approach to India and advance research and innovation.

Maharashtra's Ahmednagar to be called Ahilyanagar

Why in the News?

- The Maharashtra Cabinet on 13th March 2024 formally approved the renaming of

Ahmednagar district to Ahilyanagar after the 18th Century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.

More About the News

- The decision to rename the district had already been announced by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in May last year on the 298th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar, who had established Maheshwar (in Madhya Pradesh) as the seat of the Holkar dynasty.
- The renaming of Ahmednagar follows the Mahayuti government's decision to rename Aurangabad district as 'Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar' and Osmanabad as 'Dharashiv'.
- Ahmednagar was founded in 1494 AD by Ahmad Nizam Shah, who later established an independent Sultanate in Ahmednagar (the Nizam Shahi dynasty) after the break-up of the Bahamani Sultanate into five successor states known collectively as the Deccani Sultanates.
- Ahilyabai Holkar was the Rani of Indore, within the Maratha Confederacy. She established Maheshwar as the seat of the Holkar Dynasty. After the demise of her husband Khande Rao Holkar and father-in-law Malhar Rao Holkar, Ahilyabai herself undertook the affairs of the Holkar dynasty.

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