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Golden Jubilee celebration of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Golden Jubilee celebration of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) at Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad today. The Prime Minister took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcased on the occasion and also unveiled the Golden Jubilee Coffee Table Book.
- Gujarat has become a giant tree with branches all over the world. He did not forget to acknowledge the contribution of 'Pashu Dhan' the animals in the white revolution.
- Amul is an example of the transformation that is brought about by decisions taken with foresight. The origins of Amul lay in Kheda Milk Union under the guidance of Sardar Patel. With the expansion of cooperatives in Gujarat, GCMMF came into being.
- Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) is India's largest food



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- GCMMF is a testimony of the resilience of cooperatives, their entrepreneurial spirit and the strong determination of farmers, which has made Amul one of the strongest dairy brands in the world.
- Prime Minister congratulated everyone for the Golden Jubilee celebration of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) and said that a sapling that was planted 50 years ago by the farmers of product marketing organization with annual turnover of 7.2 Billion USD. Its daily milk procurement is approximately 25.9 million liters per day.
- GCMMF is the Apex Organization of the Dairy Cooperatives of Gujarat, popularly known as AMUL, which aims to provide remunerative returns to the farmers and also serve the interests of consumers by providing quality products which are good value for money.

- GCMMF is the India's largest exporter of Dairy Products. It has been accorded a 'Trading House' status.

Cabinet approves 'Fair and Remunerative Price' (FRP) of sugarcane

Why in News?

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for Sugar Season 2024-25 at Rs 340/quintal at sugar recovery rate of 10.25%. This is historic price of sugarcane which is about 8% higher than FRP of sugarcane for current season 2023-24. The revised FRP will be applicable w.e.f. 01 Oct 2024.

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- At 107% higher than A2+FL cost of sugarcane, the new FRP will ensure prosperity of sugarcane farmers. It is noteworthy that India is already paying the highest price of sugarcane in the world and despite that Government is ensuring the world's cheapest sugar to domestic consumers of Bharat.



- This decision of Central Government is going to benefit more than 5 crore sugarcane farmers (including family members) and lakhs of other persons involved in sugar sector. It re-confirms fulfilment of Modi ki Guarantee to double farmers' income.

- With this approval, sugar mills will pay FRP of sugarcane @ Rs 340/quintal at recovery of 10.25%. With each increase of recovery by 0.1%, farmers will get additional price of Rs 3.32 while the same amount will be deducted on reduction of recovery by 0.1%.
- However, Rs. 315.10/quintal is the minimum price of sugarcane which is at recovery of 9.5%. Even if sugar recovery is lesser, farmers are assured of FRP @ Rs 315.10/quintal.
- With timely policy interventions by the Government, sugar mills have become self-sustainable and no financial assistance is being given to them by Government since Sugarcane Season 2021-22. Still, Central Government has ensured 'Assured FRP and Assured Procurement' of sugarcane to farmers.

Joint Initiative on Public Health of Tribal Students

Why in News?

- Ayush and Tribal Affairs Ministries Announced Joint Initiative on Public Health of Tribal Students.

More About the News

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Tribal Affairs in October 2022 to explore the areas of collaboration, convergence and synergy for tribal development. Accordingly, CCRAS developed 72 Poshan Vatikas in EMRS of 20 states. CCRAS Institutes also participated in the mega health camps during Janajati Mahotsav at Saraikela, Jharkhand.
- Starting a national level project on health screening and management will help in identifying the prevalence of diseases and health management among our Eklavya students. It will help in developing healthy lifestyle practices in children as per the principles of Ayurveda, thereby improving and protecting their health and overall well-being with emphasis on prevention of diseases.

- The project aims at screening the general health condition of the students enrolled in classes 6th to 12th. The screening will be carried out in selected 55 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) spread across 14 states of the country. The special focus is on Anaemia, Haemoglobinopathies, Malnutrition & Tuberculosis.



- Efforts will be made to inculcate healthy lifestyle practices among students as per the principles of Ayurveda. Also, an integrated approach will be made for the management of the diseases.
- Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) impart quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
- The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students including good health. At present, there are 401 functional schools spanned across the country with focus on special state-of-the-art facilities for providing quality education and training in sports and skill development.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on Space Sector

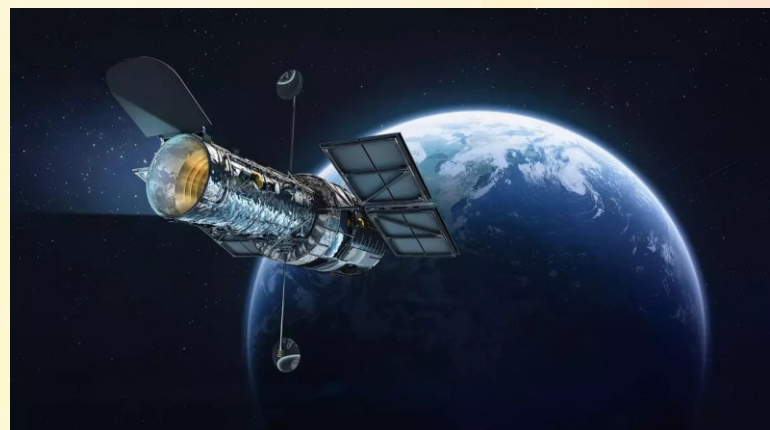
Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the amendment in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on space sector. Now, the

satellites sub-sector has been divided into three different activities with defined limits for foreign investment in each such sector.

More About the News

- Indian Space Policy 2023- The Indian Space Policy 2023 was notified as an overarching, composite and dynamic framework to implement the vision for unlocking India's potential in Space sector through enhanced private participation. The said policy aims to augment space capabilities; develop a flourishing commercial presence in space; use space as a driver of technology development and derived benefits in allied areas; pursue international relations and create an ecosystem for effective implementation of space applications among all stakeholders.
- As per the existing FDI policy, FDI is permitted in establishment and operation of Satellites through the Government approval route only. In line with the vision and strategy under the Indian Space Policy 2023, the Union Cabinet has eased the FDI policy on Space sector by prescribing liberalized FDI thresholds for various sub-sectors/activities.



- The proposed reforms seek to liberalize the FDI policy provisions in space sector by prescribing liberalized entry route and providing clarity for FDI in Satellites, Launch Vehicles and associated systems or subsystems, Creation of Spaceports for launching and receiving Spacecraft and manufacturing of space related components and systems.

- Under the amended FDI policy, 100% FDI is allowed in space sector. The liberalized entry routes under the amended policy are aimed to attract potential investors to invest in Indian companies in space.
- This increased private sector participation would help to generate employment, enable modern technology absorption and make the sector self-reliant. It is expected to integrate Indian companies into global value chains.
- With this, companies will be able to set up their manufacturing facilities within the country duly encouraging 'Make In India (MII)' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives of the Government.

Aeronautical Development Agency Signs MoU with Indian Air Force

Why in News?

- Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for integration of futuristic Weapons and Sensors for LCA Tejas aircraft.

More About the News

- Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is a premier organization under the aegis of the Department of Defence R&D with mandate to Design and Develop Tejas-LCA and its Variants.
- In present war scenario, there is a continuous need of upgrading the weapons and sensors suite of the aircraft and towards this, ADA has initiated the know-how transfer for integration of weapons and sensors to SDI.



- This will facilitate the IAF to independently carry out sensors, weapon integration and flight testing to enhance the operational capability of Tejas-LCA fighter.
- ADA has successfully developed and type certified Tejas LCA with a credit of more than 10000 sorties of incident free flying. IAF has already formed two squadrons of this fighter aircraft and twin seater aircraft are also being inducted.

iCreate, Microsoft and MeitY Join Hands to Transform & Boost Indian Startups in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Why in News?

- International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate), Microsoft signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) facilitated by the Ministry of Electronics & IT to boost AI startups in India. This MoU is in line with the vision set forth by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his meeting with Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella last year.

More About the News

- Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Electronics and Information Technology, and Jal Shakti, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar presided over signing of the MoU and he said that this partnership will support and transform AI startups not just in big cities but also in smaller towns and villages.
- Microsoft and iCreate, in the presence of Minister Chandrasekhar launched iMPUL-AI (iCreate-Microsoft programme for



Emerging Leaders in Artificial Intelligence) programme. The program will screen 1100 AI innovators across India to become AI Most Valuable Players (MVPs) and focus on priority themes of Healthcare, Financial Inclusion, Sustainability, Education, Agriculture, and Smart Cities.

- In the second stage, the program will select and scale 100 startups across India to build with Azure OpenAI, and the top 25 will receive go-to-market support from Microsoft's Global Network to develop advanced, globally competitive products.
- Microsoft and iCreate will also provide AI skilling opportunities to 11,000 innovators, startups, and young Indians from across the country through Microsoft's Learning Management System. On completion, participants will receive globally recognized certifications from Microsoft, providing a significant boost to their employability and career progression.
- The iMPEL-AI programme is carefully designed to foster AI innovation and product development with access to both mentorship and technology infrastructure that are needed by Indian innovators to build globally successful AI ventures.

Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana under Skill India Mission

Why in News?

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, on Tuesday inaugurated the Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana, in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- The initiative was also launched virtually across 9 cities including Bhopal, Kanpur,



Indore, Varanasi, Bharatpur, Shillong, Silchar, Dibrugarh and Guwahati, emphasizing the nationwide scope of this initiative.

More About the News

- The Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana aims to equip individuals with comprehensive entrepreneurship training, aligning with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, of creating job providers rather than job seekers.
- Tailored specifically for beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme, this unique National Entrepreneurship Development Project underscores the government's steadfast commitment to nurturing job providers across the nation.
- Recognizing the imperative to adapt to the evolving job market, this initiative focuses on reskilling and upskilling employees to enhance their competitiveness and adaptability in an era of disruptive technology.
- The Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana will offer comprehensive entrepreneurship training over a period of 22 weeks, combining theoretical knowledge with practical exposure through experiential learning. The training will be conducted through offline, online and hybrid modes, with certificates awarded upon completion, enhancing the course's credibility and value.
- PM SVANidhi Scheme- The PM Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, which was launched in June, 2020 amid the pandemic, is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors a collateral-free loan.
- The government aims to provide benefits under the PM SVANidhi Scheme to a total of 42 lakh street vendors by December 2024. The scheme is expected to provide a significant boost to the street vending sector in India and help street vendors overcome the economic challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.