

IMPORTANT NEWS

UIDAI launches nationwide drive to strengthen the Aadhaar ecosystem

Inside Story of the News:

- In order to **increase the effectiveness of the thousands of Aadhaar operators** throughout the nation, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched a **nationwide capacity building drive**.
- By making the operators aware of the most recent revisions to the Aadhaar ecosystem's policies and procedures and reducing operator-level error during the enrolment, update, and authentication processes, this initiative will improve the Aadhaar ecosystem even more.
- It will also enhance the experience of residents.
- As part of this endeavour, the UIDAI has already held over two dozen training sessions across a number of states and Union Territories in recent months.
- Operators on the ground must have a thorough understanding of procedures, rules, and policies because they are in charge of registration, updates, and authentications.
- Through these training events, about 3500 operators and master trainers have received instruction on the most recent information, enrolment, update, and authentication processes.
- These operators and master trainers can start the knowledge-dissemination process and transmit the information acquired farther.

Government launches 'Meri LiFE' app

Inside Story of the News:

- **The "Meri LiFE" (My Life) mobile application** has been launched by the government in an effort to empower youth and promote their engagement in the fight against climate change.
- The app attempts to encourage careful usage rather than wasteful consumption and was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mission LiFE.
- LiFE stands for **Lifestyle For Environment**.
- The Union environment ministry serves as the coordinating authority for implementing Mission LiFE at the national level.
- In order to integrate their operations with LiFE and spread awareness about sustainable practises, it has been mobilising a variety of stakeholders, including central ministries, state governments, institutions, and private organisations.
- To increase nationwide advocacy and further promote LiFE, a month-long mass mobilisation campaign is being held.
- It will culminate in a lavish commemoration of World Environment Day on June 5.
- The ministry has created two specific portals to make it easier to track progress:

- The Mission LiFE Portal provides open access to over 100 creatives, videos, and knowledge materials created by the ministry for LiFE.
- The Meri LiFE Portal enables ministries and institutions to upload event reports and track the progress of the ongoing mass mobilisation drive.
- Over 1,00,000 LiFE-related activities have taken place in India in just 10 days, and more than 1.7 million people have actively participated in pro-environment campaigns.
- These activities range widely and include cleanliness drives, bicycle rallies, plantation campaigns, marathons, plastic collection campaigns, composting workshops, and the undertaking of LiFE pledges.
- Additionally, street plays, essays, paintings, and youth parliaments are among the cultural competitions that schools and colleges are using to engage students.

WPI slips into negative territory for the first time since July 2020

Inside Story of the News:

- As overall prices decreased across the board for the month of April this year, the **Wholesale-Price based inflation (WPI) dipped into the negative area for the first time in over three years.**
- Compared to the 1.34 percent reported in March and the 15.38 percent in April of previous year, the WPI inflation decreased (minus) 0.92 percent in April 2023.
- The WPI inflation rate has fallen into negative for the first time since July 2020.
- The decrease in the price of basic metals, food products, mineral oils, textiles, non-food items, chemicals and chemical products, rubber and plastic products, and paper products is principally responsible for the decrease in the rate of inflation in April.
- For the past 11 months, the country's WPI inflation has been steadily declining.
- The WPI's month-over-month variation from March 2023 to April 2023 stayed at 0.0 percent.
- From 2.32 percent in March, the inflation rate for food declined dramatically to 0.17 percent last month.
- The inflation rate for manufactured goods dropped to (minus) 2.42 percent from (minus) 0.77 percent in March.
- In the category of primary articles, the inflation rate decreased to 1.60 percent in April from 2.40 percent in March.
- Inflation in the fuel and power basket decreased from 8.96% in March to 0.93% last month.
- The reduction in WPI is consistent with the April drop in retail inflation.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation inched down to 4.7 percent in April, the lowest level in 18 months.

MCA launches C-PACE

Inside Story of the News:

- To centralise the process of removing businesses from the MCA Register, the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) established the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)**.
- The C-PACE will lighten the load on the registry and give stakeholders easy filing, prompt and methodical removing of their firm names from the register.
- The establishment of C-PACE is part of MCA's efforts towards ease of doing business and ease of exit for companies.
- For the purpose of processing and disposing of applications, the C-PACE institution, formed under subsection (1) of section 396, will be operational through the Registrar of Companies (RoC).
- On May 1, 2023, R.K. Dalmia, director, inspection and investigation at MCA, formally inaugurated the Office of C-PACE.
- Harihara Sahoo, ICLS, has been appointed as the first registrar of the office of C-PACE, which will work under the supervision of the Director General of Corporate Affairs (DGCoA), New Delhi.
- The C-PACE will help keep the registry clean and provide stakeholders with more meaningful data.
- With the establishment of the C-PACE, companies can anticipate a hassle-free exit procedure.

Union Minister launches Sanchar Saathi portal

Inside Story of the News:

- A key component of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a digital India is user safety and security. The **Sanchar Saathi portal** was recently launched by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, Railways, and Electronics and IT, in an effort to realise this objective.
- In order to further the PM's vision, three reforms are being implemented:
 - **CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register)** – for blocking stolen/lost mobiles.
 - **Know your mobile connections** – to know mobile connections registered in your name.
 - **ASTR (Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification)** – to identify fraudulent subscribers.
- By misusing mobile phones, a number of frauds, including identity theft, forged KYC, and banking frauds, can occur. This portal has been created to prevent similar frauds.
- The new Telecom bill places a priority on user safety as well.
- By using Sanchar Saathi portal, more than 40 Lakh fraudulent connections have been identified and more than 36 Lakh such connections have been disconnected so far.

About Sanchar Saathi initiative:

- India now has the second-largest telecom ecosystem in the world with 117 crore subscribers.
- Mobile phones are used for a variety of activities outside communication, such as banking, entertainment, e-learning, healthcare, and accessing government services.

- To safeguard users from various frauds, Department of Telecom has developed a citizen-centric portal named Sanchar Saathi.
- It allows citizens to:
 - check the connections registered on their names.
 - report fraudulent or unrequired connections.
 - block the mobile phones which are stolen/lost.
 - check IMEI genuineness before buying a mobile phone.

Under the flagship scheme PMMSY, seven major field studies being carried out by NPC

Inside Story of the News:

- **Seven significant field studies are being conducted** as part of the flagship **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** by the autonomous **National Productivity Council (NPC)**.
- The major field studies would be undertaken in seven areas:
 - (i) Best practices in fish marketing system of Andhra Pradesh and dissemination through workshop;
 - (ii) Agro-climatic zone-specific mapping of innovative fishing Practices for enhancing Production and Productivity in Upper Gangetic Plain Region;
 - (iii) Design improvement in storage containers used in supply chain for inland and marine fishes by vendors;
 - (iv) Improvement in fish marketing infrastructure of Ghazipur and Howrah fish markets;
 - (v) Evaluation of RAS and Biofloc technologies and their dissemination through workshop;
 - (vi) Strengthen monitoring mechanism of implementation of PMMSY and
 - (vii) Assessment of post-harvest losses in inland and marine fisheries and to suggest measures to minimize these losses.
- The field studies would be completed by NPC in around nine months.
- The PMMSY offers a wide range of activities for the benefit of fishers, fish farmers, youth, women, entrepreneurs, etc. while seeking to increase production and productivity.
- The scheme has made it easier to build clusters, achieve economies of scale, boost the competitiveness of the fisheries industry, and generate higher earnings for stakeholders, among other things.
- The PMMSY has established a favourable environment for the development of entrepreneurship and encouraged involvement in the private sector while accelerating growth and expansion of the sector in an organised manner.
- The government has offered financial aid through PMMSY to individuals and organisations involved in the fishing industry in order to construct vital supply chains and infrastructure to support the sector.
- PMMSY has received overwhelmingly positive responses from states and UTs, and projects totalling Rs. 14659.12 have been approved by the government till 31.03.2023.
- PMMSY is being implemented by the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), Government of India.

- PMMSY is a scheme that aims to create a "Blue Revolution" by developing the nation's fisheries industry in a sustainable and responsible manner, at an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores.
- Since FY 2020–21, PMMSY is being implemented in all states and Union Territories.
- With regard to fish production, productivity, and quality as well as technology, post-harvest infrastructure, and marketing, it is intended to close significant gaps in the fisheries value chain.
- India has been the second largest aqua resources producing country and figured among the top fish exporting countries.
- Fish and fish products make up about 17% of India's agricultural exports.
- More than 2.8 crore fishermen and fish farmers at the primary level, as well as many more along the fisheries value chain, depend on the fisheries sector for their living.
- PMMSY offers a wide range of activities for the benefit of fishers, fish farmers, youth, women, entrepreneurs, etc.
- The scheme has promoted cluster development, economies of scale, increased the competitiveness of the fisheries sector, and generated higher income for stakeholders.
- PMMSY has created a favourable environment for the development of entrepreneurship and encouraged involvement in the private sector while expediting growth and expansion of the sector in a planned manner.

About NPC:

- The National Productivity Council (NPC), an autonomous organisation under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, was established in 1958.
- Major field studies under PMMSY have been given to NPC in order to increase the value to the stakeholders from the scheme.
- Shri Parshottam Rupala, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the major field studies entrusted to NPC at NPC Headquarters in New Delhi.

Jal Jeevan Mission achieves milestone of 12 crore tap water connections

Inside Story of the News:

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** celebrates a new milestone of more than **12 crore rural families now having access to safe and clean drinking water through taps**, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Kaal.
- Only 3.23 Crore (16.64%) of households in villages had access to a piped water connection when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the launch of JJM from the Red Fort ramparts on August 15, 2019.
- As of now, 5 States (Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab) and 3 UTs (Puducherry, D&D and D&NH and A&N Islands), have reported 100% coverage.
- Himachal Pradesh at 98.35%, followed by Bihar at 96.05%, are also poised to achieve saturation in the near future.

- Goa, Haryana, Punjab, A&N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D are 'Har Ghar Jal certified States/ UTs i.e., in these states/ UTs, the villagers have confirmed through Gram Sabhas that 'all households and public institutions' in the village are getting adequate, safe and regular supply of water.
- As a consequence of the persistent efforts of the Union and State governments, tap water is now available in 9.06 lakh (88.55%) schools and 9.39 lakh (84%) anganwadi centres across the nation.
- Only 21.64 lakh (7.84%) households in the 112 aspirational districts of our country had access to tap water at the time of the Mission's commencement; this number has since climbed to 1.67 crore (60.51%).
- Telangana's three aspirational districts (Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Jayashankar Bhupalpalli, and Bhadrabri Kothagudem), two of Gujarat's (Dahod and Narmada), Punjab's (Moga and Ferozepur), one of Haryana's (Mewat), and Himachal Pradesh's (Chamba) have reported having 100% access to tap water.
- The Indian government is relentlessly working in partnership with states/UTs to further expedite the pace of implementation.
- JJM is giving the rural population enormous socioeconomic advantages. Regular access to tap water frees individuals, particularly women and young girls, from having to carry heavy bucket loads of water to satisfy daily household needs, which reduces arduous labour that has been done for centuries. The time that has been saved can be used to assist children's education, learn new skills, and engage in income-generating activities.
- Rural piped water supply schemes have always placed a strong emphasis on community involvement in their planning, implementation, operations and maintenance (O&M) in order to maintain long-term sustainability.
- More than 5.24 lakh Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSC)/ Pani Samitis have been constituted in the country and 5.12 lakh Village Action Plans (VAPs) have been prepared. These plans include those for enhancing drinking water sources, treating and reusing greywater, and performing routine maintenance on in-village water supply systems.
- Arsenic/Fluoride contamination in drinking water sources harmed 22,016 habitations (Arsenic - 14,020, Fluoride - 7,996), with a population of 1.79 Crore (Arsenic – 1.19 Crore, Fluoride – 0.59 Crore). According to states/UTs, all areas afflicted by arsenic/fluoride now have access to safe drinking water.
- By providing safe water through taps to all rural households, schools, anganwadis, and other public institutions, Jal Jeevan Mission is working towards achieving the SDG 6, which is to provide safe and affordable water to all, in line with its motto of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas.

Amy Pope elected next Director General of IOM

Inside Story of the News:

- The **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**, often known as the United Nations Migration Agency, chose **Ms. Amy E. Pope** as its **next Director General** on May 15, 2023, during the IOM Council's sixth special session.

- IOM, the premier intergovernmental organisation in the field of migration, was established in 1951 and is dedicated to the idea that migrants and society are better off when mobility is humane and orderly.
- IOM is part of the United Nations system, as a related organisation.
- The United States of America nominated the Director General-elect Pope, who started serving as IOM's Deputy Director General for Management and Reform in September 2021.
- The incumbent Director General Mr. António Vitorino was also a candidate in the election.
- Ms. Pope will take over as Director General of IOM for a five-year term commencing on October 1, 2023, making her the first woman to lead IOM.
- In order to improve the field delivery and risk management of the IOM, improve internal justice outcomes and operational results, and strengthen coordination with the UN system, Ms. Pope implemented a series of budgetary, management, and administrative reforms during her time serving as the Deputy Director General.

Tata Consumer Products to delist GDRs

Inside Story of the News:

- **Tata Consumer Products** recently said that it **will delist its global depository receipts (GDRs)** from the London Stock Exchange and Luxembourg Stock Exchange **from June 23** this year.
- Termination notice has been issued by Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, which serves as the depository for the company's GDR holders.
- The company previously stated that it had decided to end the GDR programme and hence the relationship with Deutsche since the GDR holding throughout the years is relatively negligible when compared to the paid-up capital.
- As part of its results, Tata Tea's manufacturer also reported a net profit of Rs 352 crore for the three months ending in December, an increase of 32.7%.
- Its net sales was Rs 3,475 crore, an 8.3% increase over the previous year. The company ascribed the increase to underlying growth of 8% in India business, 2% in overseas business, and 22% in non-branded business.
- Its profit before interest, depreciation, and tax for the quarter was Rs 581 crore, up 22.7% from the corresponding period last year.
- Tata Consumer's India packaged beverages division experienced a 9% revenue decline in the December quarter as a result of pricing adjustments, a slowdown in demand, and the delayed arrival of winter in its important north and east markets.
- The India foods business registered 29 per cent revenue growth and 4 per cent volume growth in the quarter.
- In its international business, beverages business revenue grew 4 per cent.

The sixth submarine of P75 'Vaghsheer' begins sea trials

Inside Story of the News:

- **The sixth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11880, Indian Navy's Kalvari class**, commenced her sea trials on May 18.
- The submarine was launched in 2022 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- After these trials are completed, **Vaghsheer** will be delivered to the Indian Navy in early 2024.

- In less than 24 months, MDL has already delivered three of the Project-75 submarines, making the start of the sixth submarine's sea trials a noteworthy accomplishment.
- Four submarines of the project— INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela and INS Vagir— have been commissioned into Indian navy.
- In January 2023, at the Naval Dockyard Mumbai, the fifth stealth Scorpene class submarine of the Indian Navy, INS Vagir, was commissioned.
- Six diesel-electric attack submarines of the Kalvari class, based on the Scorpene class, are being built at MDL as part of Project 75.
- Project 75 is one of the largest 'Make in India' projects.
- With the P75, India has been able to absorb technology more quickly and significantly and has developed a multi-tiered industrial environment for submarine construction.