

# NEWS TODAY

## CABINET APPROVED THREE NATIONAL LEVEL MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (MSCS) UNDER MSCS ACT, 2002

- Setting up of three national level MSCS will help in achieving the goal of 'Sahakar-se-Samridhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) through inclusive growth model of cooperatives.

3 New Cooperative bodies	Significance
<b>National Multi- State Cooperative Export Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as <b>umbrella organization for exports</b> of surplus goods/service.</li> <li><b>Primary to national level cooperatives societies</b> including primary societies, district, state and national level federations and MSCS <b>can become its member</b>.</li> <li>Higher exports will <b>increase production of goods and services</b> and increase <b>employment opportunities</b>.</li> <li>Increased export will <b>promote "Make in India"</b> thus leading to <b>Atmanirbhar Bharat</b>.</li> <li>Help cooperatives in getting benefits of export related government schemes/policies.</li> </ul>
<b>National Multi- State Cooperative Organic Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unlock demand and consumption of organic products</b> in domestic and global markets.</li> <li>Help <b>farmers to get high price of organic product</b> through aggregation, marketing and branding.</li> <li><b>Provide institutional support</b> for aggregation, certification, storage, processing etc.</li> <li>Better <b>management of entire supply chain</b> of products.</li> </ul>
<b>National Multi- State Cooperative Seed Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as an <b>apex organization for production, procurement, processing, branding, labelling, packaging, storage, marketing and distribution of quality seeds</b>.</li> <li>Develop system for <b>preservation and promotion of indigenous natural seeds</b>.</li> <li><b>Increase seed replacement rate</b>, varietal replacement rate, ensuring role of farmers in quality seed cultivation.</li> <li>Quality seeds production <b>reduces dependence on imported seeds, boost rural economy, strengthen food security</b>.</li> </ul>

- Though 'Cooperative Societies' is a **State Subject**, MSCS is regulated by Centre under MSCS, Act 2002.
  - MSCS are cooperative societies whose **activities are not confined to one state** and serve interests of individuals in more than one state.
- In related development, Ministry of cooperation is planning to **set up world's largest university for cooperative sector for promoting cooperative education, training, research and development**.
  - Cooperative University will award degrees for managerial positions, diplomas for supervisory jobs and certificates for operational-level positions annually by 2026-27.

## MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION NAMES FREE GRAIN SCHEME AS PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA (PMGKAY)

- Centre has named its **new integrated food security scheme** for providing free foodgrains to **Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) and Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** as PMGKAY.
  - It'll strengthen provisions of NFSA, 2013 in terms of accessibility, affordability and availability of foodgrains for poor.
- It will subsume **two subsidy schemes** of Department of Food & Public Distribution
  - Food Subsidy to FCI**: It is in form of **consumer subsidy** (Difference between Economic cost incurred by FCI and realized Central Issue Price) and **buffer subsidy** (Cost of holding and maintaining buffer stock).
  - Food Subsidy for decentralized procurement states** dealing with procurement, allocation and delivery of free foodgrains to states under NFSA.
- Earlier, **scheme with similar name (PMGKAY) was implemented during Covid-19 pandemic**.
- Difference between two schemes**
  - Earlier, NFSA beneficiaries were **getting foodgrains entitlement** (35 kg per AAY Household and 5 kg per person to PHH) at **subsidised rate** (Rs 3/kg rice, Rs 2/kg wheat and Rs 1/kg coarse grains).
  - Now, government has **done away with subsidised prices and providing foodgrains free of cost** for a year. However, **additional quantity of 5 kg foodgrains will not be provided**.

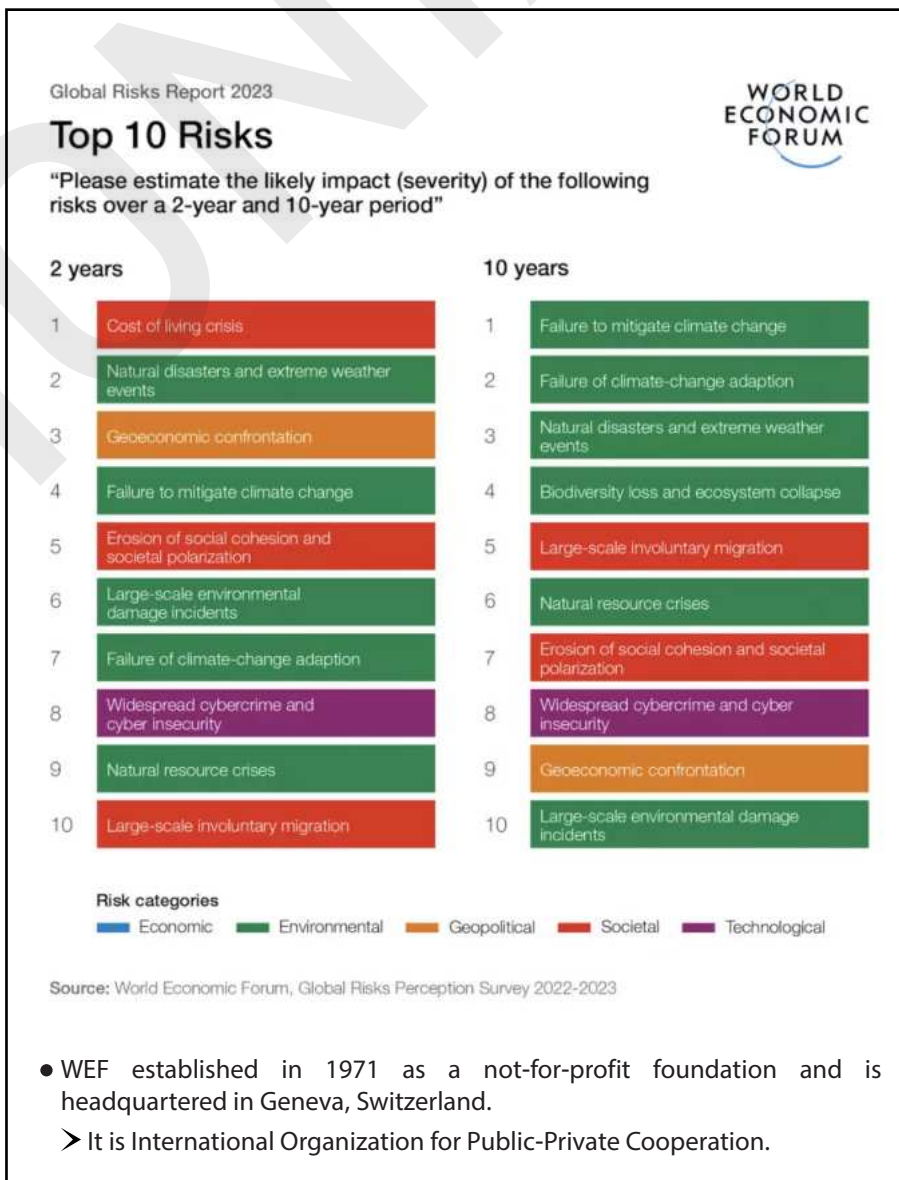
# CENTRE CLEARS RS. 2600 CRORE INCENTIVE SCHEME TO PROMOTE RUPAY, BHIM-UPI

- Scheme aims to **promote RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant)** in FY 2022-23.
- **Features of scheme**
  - Banks would be provided **financial incentives for promoting Point of Sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions** using RuPay and UPI.
  - **Promote UPI Lite and UPI 123PAY** as economical and user-friendly digital payments solutions.
    - **UPI Lite is an 'on-device wallet' feature by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to allow users to make small-value payments (upto ₹200) offline.
    - **UPI 123PAY** is an instant payment system for **feature phone (non-smartphone) users**.
- In addition, NPCI has allowed **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) with NRE (non-resident external) or NRO (non-resident ordinary) accounts in 10 countries** to use **UPI platform from their international mobile numbers**.
  - Member banks have to ensure such types of accounts are only **allowed as per extant Foreign Exchange Management Act regulations and RBI rules**.
  - 10 countries are **Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hongkong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and United Kingdom**.
- UPI works on principle of **SIM binding for security purposes** and till now, it was enabled only for Indian mobile numbers.
  - NRIs demanded enabling UPI on international SIM cards for **ease of payment and avoiding use of expensive international cards**.

- UPI is a **real-time payment system**, launched in 2016 by NPCI. It **links multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application**.
- NPCI is an **initiative of RBI and Indian Banks Association** under **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
  - It is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- NRE account helps NRIs **transfer foreign earnings to India**, while an NRO account helps them to **manage income earned in India**.

# WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF) RELEASES GLOBAL RISK REPORT 2023

- Report is published annually based on **Global Risks Perception Survey**. It highlights key risks across **five categories: Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal and Technological**.
  - Global risk is defined as **possibility of occurrence of an event or condition** which, if it occurs, would **negatively impact a significant proportion of global GDP, population, or natural resources**.
  - Global risks ranked by severity over **short and long term**. (refer image)
- **Key findings**
  - **Top 5 risks for India** are Digital inequality, Geopolitical contest for resources, Cost-of-living crisis, Debt crises, Natural disasters and Extreme weather events over short and medium term.
  - **Cost of living dominates global risks** in next 2 years while climate action failure dominates next decade.
  - **Economic aftereffects of COVID-19 and Ukraine war** resulted in **rising inflation, rapid normalization of monetary policies**, low-growth, low-investment era.
  - **Technology** such as AI, quantum computing and biotechnology, etc. will **exacerbate inequalities and digital divide**.
- Only **34% of climate finance** currently allocated to **climate adaptation** worldwide.
- **Recommendations**
  - **Investing in multi-domain**, cross-sector risk preparedness.
  - **Improving risk identification** and foresight.
  - **Re-building and strengthening global risk preparedness** cooperation.



# INDIA RECYCLES ONLY 30% OF 3.4 MT PLASTIC WASTE GENERATED ANNUALLY: REPORT

● Report titled 'Innovation in Plastics, The Potential and Possibilities' was released by Marico Innovation Foundation and developed in association with Indian Institute of Science and Praxis Global Alliance.

➤ It **examines plastic waste management ecosystem in India** to identify challenges and opportunities with special emphasis on business and technological innovations.

## ● Key findings of report

- India produces **3.4 million tonnes of plastic waste** in a year, **only 30 percent of it is recycled**. Rest of plastic waste is sent to **landfills or aquatic dumps**.
- **Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu** together contribute **38 percent** to total plastic waste generated in India.
- **94% of recycled plastic waste** is shredded in India using **mechanical recycling** method.

● **Impact of plastic waste:** Greenhouse gas emissions i.e., carbon dioxide, methane; Contamination of entire food chain due to presence of microplastics; Threats to animals especially marine species etc.

## ● Recommendations

- **Landfill and incineration taxes must be levied** in India to **encourage recycling**.
- **Authorise 'pay-as-you-throw' system**, which requires citizens to pay a variable rate per kilogram for a bag of mixed garbage.
- **Regulate entire life cycle of plastic bags** from manufacturing, imports to disposal.

## Initiatives for Plastic Waste Management (PWM)

- **PWM Amendment Rules, 2021** banned use of single use plastic (SUP) products from July 2022.
- **Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)** on plastic packaging.
- **National Dashboard** on Elimination of SUP.

## ALSO IN NEWS



Lokur Committee, 1965

- Experts have pointed that Office of Registrar-General of India (RGI) follows 'obsolete' criteria set out by Lokur Committee to define any new community as a Scheduled Tribe (ST).
- **Criteria set out by Lokur Committee** are indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with community at large, backwardness.
- **New criteria under government consideration included**
  - **Socio-economic**, including educational, backwardness vis-a-vis, rest of population of State;
  - **Historical geographical** isolation;
  - **Distinct language/dialect**;
  - **Presence of a core culture** relating to life-cycle, marriage, songs, etc.
  - Endogamy, or in case of exogamy, marital relationship primarily with other STs.








Horizontal reservation

- Uttarakhand Governor gave nod to 30% horizontal reservation in government jobs for Uttarakhand women.
- Horizontal reservation refers to **equal opportunity provided to categories of beneficiaries** such as women, transgender community, and differently abled, **cutting through vertical categories**.
  - It is to be **applied separately across each vertical category**. Here, 30% reservation for women will be independently applied in each category (SCs, STs, OBCs, Unreserved). Example – **Reservation under Article 15(3)**.
- **Whereas, Vertical Reservation** is reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.
  - It **applies separately for each of groups** specified under law.
  - Example - **Reservation under Article 16(4)**.



India US Trade Policy Forum (TPF)

- 13th India and United States TPF concluded in Washington.
- US highlighted **creation of a new TPF Working Group on Resilient Trade** that'll **provide a structured framework for trade-focused bilateral discussion** of issues of mutual interest including trade facilitation, labor, environment, and good regulatory practices.
  - Also, emphasizes on **finding solutions to several WTO disputes between both nations**.
- TPF is a **platform for continuous engagement between two countries** in area of trade and to further bilateral trade and investment relations.
  - TPF is **co-Chaired by Ministry of Commerce and Industry** on Indian side and USTR on American side.

 <p><b>Customs (Assistance in Value Declaration of Identified Imported Goods) Rules, 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)</b> has released these rules to <b>check undervaluation</b> of imported goods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Earlier, CBIC observed a rising trend of consignments misusing rules of origin and free trade agreement route to <b>evade duties by undervaluing them</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Features of Rules</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CBIC will release a list of <b>'identified goods'</b>, which will be subject to stricter scrutiny for their true value.</li> <li>➤ <b>Two committees</b> will be constituted - <b>Screening Committee</b> for preliminary examination, and <b>Evaluation Committee</b> for detailed examination.</li> <li>➤ Importer of identified goods will be required to declare value of goods using <b>Unique Quantity Code</b> (used to measure quantity under GST regimes).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Union government has informed that cadastral maps of 35% of over six lakh villages in country have so far been geo-referenced under DILRMP.</li> <li>● Cadastral Maps are a <b>digital form of land records that show all boundaries of different parts of land pieces</b> based on their length, area, and direction.</li> <li>● DILRMP is <b>implemented by Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is a <b>Central Sector scheme</b> that has been <b>extended to 2023-24</b>, to complete its original targets as well as expand its ambit with a slew of new schemes.</li> <li>➤ 3 Major components: Computerization of land record, Survey/re-survey, Computerization of Registration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>One World One Sun One Grid (OWOSOG)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Union India-Myanmar-Thailand interconnection plan is in line with OSOWOG programme under International Solar Alliance (ISA).</li> <li>● OWOSOG was <b>launched jointly by India and UK during COP 26 in 2021</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It aimed for <b>connecting solar energy supply across borders</b>.</li> <li>➤ It will be developed under <b>World Bank's technical assistance</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Three Phases of Plan:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>First Phase:</b> It will entail <b>interconnectivity within Asian continent</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Second Phase:</b> It will <b>add Africa</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Third Phase:</b> It is about <b>global interconnection</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FSSAI Survey stated that <b>15% of dietary supplements were found to be unsafe for consumption</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Unsupervised consumption of dietary supplements, warning poor-quality products can affect cardiovascular health and kidneys.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● FSSAI is under <b>Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is an <b>autonomous statutory body</b> established under <b>Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FSSA 2006 consolidates various acts &amp; orders that had earlier handled food related issues in various Ministries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ It <b>regulates and monitor, manufacture, processing, distribution</b> of food while ensuring safe and wholesome food to consumers.</li> <li>➤ Headquarters: Delhi.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORAD) missile system</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to procure VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system.</li> <li>● It is a <b>Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS)</b> designed and developed <b>indigenously by DRDO</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is meant to <b>target low altitude aerial threats at short ranges</b>.</li> <li>➤ These are <b>lightweight and portable surface-to-air missiles</b>.</li> <li>➤ These can be fired by individuals or small groups to destroy aircraft or helicopters.</li> <li>➤ <b>Propelled by a dual thrust solid motor</b>, it incorporates many novel technologies including <b>miniaturised Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>