

NEWS TODAY

3RD SESSION OF NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (NPDRR) CONCLUDES

- 3rd NPDRR was **jointly organized by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).**

➤ Main theme of session was **"Building Local Resilience in a Changing Climate"**.

- Building local resilience will help to **anticipate climate risks and hazards, absorb shocks, and reshape and transform** development pathways in longer term.

Major highlights for Building Local Resilience

- Prime Minister's 10-Point Agenda (refer image) emphasizes for **building local capacities and initiatives.**
- In India, **system, solutions and strategy of disaster management has always been local.** Example, **Bhunga houses of Kutch** which survived earthquake to a large extent.
 - Also, traditional houses in Kerala, known as **"Nalukettu,"** are built with sloping roofs to prevent waterlogging during floods.
- Need to **evolve local models of housing and town planning** as per new technologies.
- **Real time registration and monitoring system** on aspects like age of houses, drainage, resilience of electricity and water infrastructure, etc.
- **Local participation** by engaging **'Yuvak Mandals'** and **'Sakhi Mandals'** at village and neighborhood levels.

NPDRR is a **multi-stakeholder National Platform** established in 2013 by government. It offers a **strategic direction and roadmap for formulation** of our future **National Action Plans on DRR.**

Sl No.	Agenda Point
1	All development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management.
2	Risk coverage must include all, starting from poor households to SMEs to multi-national corporations to nation states.
3	Women's leadership and greater involvement should be central to disaster risk management.
4	Invest in risk mapping globally to improve global understanding of Nature and disaster risks.
5	Leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of disaster risk management efforts.
6	Develop a network of universities to work on disaster-related issues.
7	Utilise the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies for disaster risk reduction.
8	Build on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction.
9	Make use of every opportunity to learn from disasters and, to achieve that, there must be studies on the lessons after every disaster.
10	Bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters.

INDIA, AUSTRALIA PLEDGE TO RAISE TRADE TO \$100BN

- In recently held 18th Joint Ministerial Commission between India-Australia, **both countries have expressed to boost bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030** with critical minerals, mobility, education, sports, space and defence in target.

➤ To achieve \$100bn target, **both countries are keen to sign a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** by end of 2023 **to reduce existing trade imbalance**, which is in favour of Australia.

➤ CECA generally cover **negotiation on trade tariff and TRQ (Tariff Rate Quotas) rates only.**

- The deal will be built on Free Trade Agreement (FTA), known as **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)**, that came into effect between two countries in 2022.

➤ ECTA slashed away duties on 96% of Indian exports and 85% of Australian exports.

India- Australia trade relations

➤ In 2021, **trade in goods and services between both countries was around \$27.5 bn**, with Indian exports valued at \$10.5 bn and imports at \$17 bn.

➤ Australia is **17th largest trading partner of India**, while **India is Australia's 9th largest partner.**

- FTAs are arrangements between two or more countries or trading blocs that primarily agree to **reduce or eliminate customs tariff and non-tariff barriers on substantial trade** between them.

➤ India has inked FTAs with several countries, including Australia, UAE, Mauritius, Japan, Singapore etc.

CENTRE OPPOSES LEGAL RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

- In its counter-affidavit in Supreme Court, Centre said **decriminalisation of Section 377 IPC cannot give rise to a claim to seek recognition for same-sex marriage under Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954.**
 - In 2018, 5-Judge Constitutional bench in **Navtej Singh Johar case held Section 377 of Indian Penal Code unconstitutional** insofar as it criminalized sex between consenting adults of same gender.
 - SC held that **LGBTQ+ persons enjoy right to equality, dignity and privacy guaranteed by Constitution** on same ground as all other citizens.
- However, **legal framework governing marriage institution in India does not presently allow members of LGBTQ+ community to marry** the person of their choice.
 - This is considered **violative of fundamental rights** including Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(a).
- **Other related judgements**
 - In 2017, **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs. UOI**, it was held that **Article 21 would include Right to Privacy.**
 - In 2018, **Shafin Jahan vs. Asokan K.M.** case, SC established that **right to choose a marital partner would be a part of right to privacy.**
 - In 2022, Delhi high court recognised **right of freedom of marriage as a part of fundamental right to life under article 21.**

• SMA, 1954 provides a **civil form of marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law.**

➤ It allows people from two **different religious backgrounds to come together** in marriage bond.

➤ It lays down **procedure for both solemnization and registration of marriage**, where either of husband or wife or both are not Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, or Sikhs.

THREE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (COE) FOR HORTICULTURAL CROPS APPROVED UNDER MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE (MIDH)

- MoAFW stated that three CoE will be set up for **dragon fruit, mango & vegetables, vegetables & flowers** at Bengaluru, Jajpur and Ponda (Goa) respectively.

Objectives of MIDH



Production and productivity improvement of fruit and vegetable crops.



Increased coverage of area with improved cultivator, rejuvenation of aged orchards.



Protected cultivation, creation of water resources, integrated pest management.



Capacity buildings of farmers and technicians are provided for adopting improved technologies.

- These CoE will serve as **demonstration and training centres for latest technologies**; and source of planting material for fruits and vegetable seedlings for protected cultivation.

- MIDH, implemented by **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW)**, is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for holistic growth of horticulture sector** covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, etc.

➤ **Funding pattern:** Centre (60%) States (40%). For North Eastern States and Himalayan States, Centre (90%) states (10%).

➤ **National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing various schemes** under MIDH.

➤ **Schemes under MIDH:** National Horticulture Mission (NHM); Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH); National Bamboo Mission (NBM); NHB, Coconut Development Board (CDB); and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH).

- Horticulture crops are characterised by **high-value crops, higher productivity per unit of area and lower requirement of irrigation and input cost.**

➤ In India, **10% of land in horticulture contributes to 33% of Agricultural Value.**

35TH MEETING OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)

- Rwanda has been selected to host 35th meeting of Board of GCF (B.35) which will be held in **Kigali, capital of Rwanda.**

➤ Board of GCF generally holds **three meetings per year. Board is independent** and guided by Conference of Parties (COP) to Convention.

- Meetings are attended by more than 300 participants, including **National Designated Authorities (NDAs)**, and **Accredited Entities and other partners** who assist in delivering climate finance to developing countries.

➤ **NDAs:** Ministry of **environment forest and climate change.**

➤ **Direct access accredited entities:** IDFC Bank, Yes Bank, NABARD, SIDBI, IESIL (IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure and Services Limited).

- GCF was **established in 2010 under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** to help developing countries reduce their GHG emissions and adapt to impact of climate change.

➤ It is **governed by a 24 Board member Board.** Secretariat is located in Songdo, Incheon- South Korea.

- **Key features of GCF**

➤ **Country-driven approach** i.e., developing countries lead GCF programming and implementation.

➤ **Balanced allocation** i.e., GCF is mandated to **invest 50% of its resources to mitigation and 50% to adaptation in grant equivalent.**

➤ Provide **financial support through flexible combination of grant, concessional debt, guarantees or equity instrument.**

ALSO IN NEWS



Compassionate Appointment (CA)

- Supreme Court in a recent judgement held that compassionate appointment is not a vested right of dependents of a deceased employee.
- Concept of CA can be traced to **Article 39 (right to livelihood)**, which is **under Directive Principles of State Policy**.
 - It aims to **provide employment on compassionate grounds to dependent family members of a government servant who dies in harness or retires** on medical grounds, leaving the family without any source of sustenance.
 - CA are made by **either Joint Secretary in charge of administration in Ministry or Department concerned or Head of Department** in case of attached and subordinate offices.
 - They can also be made by **Secretary of a Ministry or Department in special cases**.



Least Developed Country (LDC) status

- Bhutan will become seventh nation to graduate from United Nations' list of LDC by 2023 end.
- LDCs are **developing countries listed by UN that exhibit lowest indicators of socioeconomic development**.
 - Currently, **UN lists 46 countries that qualify as LDCs**. List of LDCs is **reviewed every three years by Committee for Development Policy (CDP)**.
- UN identifies **three criteria for a country to be classified as an LDC**
 - **Gross national income (GNI) per capita below threshold of USD 1,230** over a three-year average.
 - **Perform poorly on a composite human assets index** based on indicators including nutrition, health and education.
 - **Country must demonstrate economic vulnerability** such as being prone to natural disasters and possessing structural economic constraints.



Bank run

- Since 2008 financial crisis, Silicon Valley Bank is the largest bank to fail in the US. Also, the Signature bank met the same fate. The **failure which was due to consistent increase in interest rates led to the Bank run**.
- Bank run occurs when a **large number of people simultaneously take out their money deposited with a bank or any other financial institution** over fears that it could go out of business.
 - Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation was established in 1933 in response to bank run during the Great Depression period.



PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana (PM VIKAS)

- PM addressed the Post Budget Webinar on PM VIKAS.
- It was announced in **Union Budget 2023-24 to improve quality, scale and reach of traditional products and integrate them with MSME value chain** to enhance their value.
 - It **provides financial support to artisans, access to advanced skill training**, knowledge of modern digital techniques and efficient green technologies, brand promotion, linkage with local and global markets, digital payments and social security.



Operation Trishul

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has **extradited 33 fugitives involved in various criminal activities** under its 'Operation Trishul' since 2022.
- Under 'Trishul', **CBI geolocates criminals with help of Interpol channels and seeks their deportation or extradition** through formal route.
 - It **utilises Interpol's Star Global Focal Point Network**, analysis of financial crime files and using Interpol's channels to identify dispersal of proceeds of crime.
 - It includes not just tracing suspects, but also **tracing the proceeds of financial crimes**.



Vayulink

- Indian Air Forces inducted "Vayulink" which is an in-house system to identify friendly forces during combat.
- Vayulink is effectively **a data link system which connects all entities, combat and non-combat**, through a single link.
 - It'll **enhance battlefield transparency through identification of friendly forces in a combat situation** whether airborne or on ground through secure, jammer-proof communication.
 - It'll **arm pilots with accurate weather data** before they fly.
 - System **integrates inputs available from multiple sources in a joint battlefield** and provides near real-time data to operators.
 - It helps in **improving situational awareness** and consequently aiding in effective decision making.

 Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is maritime exercise between Indian navy and French navy.
 High- powered committee to oversee transfer and import of captive wild animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supreme Court has increased the jurisdiction of a high-powered committee led by its former judge. It would now conduct necessary checks and undertake fact-finding exercises concerning import, transfer, procurement, rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals, including those in captivity, across India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambit of committee was earlier restricted to Tripura and Gujarat. Chief Wildlife Wardens of States would be a part of committee. Other designated members: Director General of Forests, Head of Project Elephant Division (MoEF) and Member Secretary (Central Zoo Authority of India). From now on, State and Central authorities should report seizure of wild animals or abandonment of captive wild animals to committee.
 Mount Merapi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mount Merapi, located in Central Island of Java, in Indonesia erupted recently after 2010. It is 2,968 metres high and is considered as most active of 130 active volcanoes in Indonesia. Indonesia is located in 'Ring of Fire' and currently has highest number of active volcanoes in world.
 Guidelines for Blood Donor Selection and Blood Donor Referral- 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to a petition in SC, Ministry of Health & family Welfare has backed the reason for excluding transgenders, men having sex with men (MSM) and female sex workers from donating blood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are considered at risk of HIV and Hepatitis infections or Transfusion Transmissible Infections (TTI). Guidelines to this extent violated fundamental right to equality, right to non-discrimination, and right to life and dignity of these communities. Guideline was established to provide safe, sufficient and timely supply of blood to the needy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donor should be of the Age group 18-65 to donate blood.
 Fluorescent microscopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA Scientists devise 'Glowscope' Microscope, to make fluorescent microscopy affordable for schools. Fluorescence microscope studies an object by analysing how it re-emits light that it has absorbed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object is illuminated with light of a specific wavelength. Particles in object absorb this light and reemit it at a higher wavelength (i.e., different colour). These particles are called fluorophores. Proposed device is affordable, can be set up easily and used in schools and colleges effectively.
 Japanese Encephalitis (JE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A recent Study revealed that Children who have received doses of JE vaccine had low levels of neutralising antibodies IgG at different time points making them prone to infection. JE is caused by flavivirus, which belongs to same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is spread by Mosquitoes and is not transmitted from person-to-person. There is no cure for the disease and treatment is focused on relieving symptoms. It either shows no symptoms or mild short-lived symptoms on individuals.

