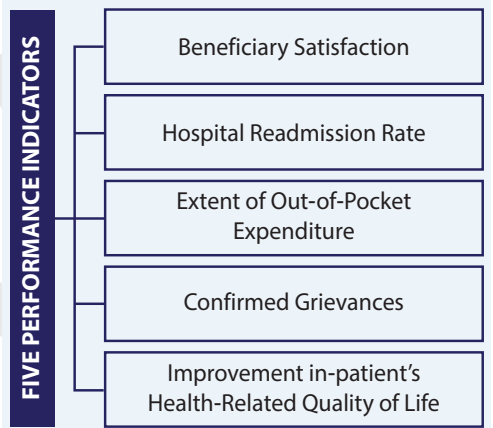


NEWS TODAY

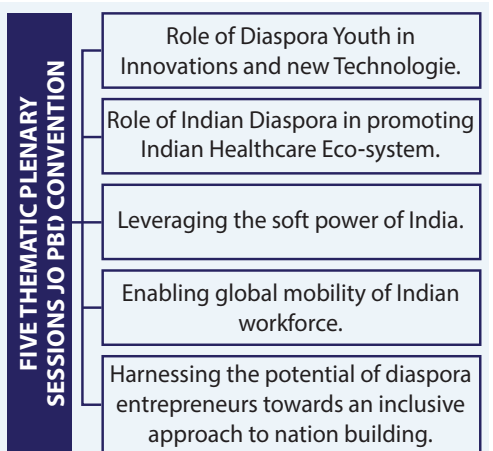
NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NHA) INTRODUCES NEW SYSTEM UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA (AB PM-JAY) TO GRADE HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE

- New initiative will introduce the **concept of 'value-based care'**, where **payment will be outcome based** and providers will be rewarded according to **quality of treatment delivered**.
- It aims to **focus on measuring the performance of hospitals from volume of services provided to value of healthcare services** under AB PMJAY.
 - Performance of AB PM-JAY empanelled hospitals will be measured based on **five performance indicators**. (refer image)
 - Performance shall be **made available on public dashboard** that will help beneficiaries to make an **informed decision**.
- **Significance of Value based care**
 - Create **demand for quality treatment**.
 - Patients will get **better health outcomes and higher satisfaction out of the services they receive**.
 - **Improve healthcare landscape in India** by incentivizing and encouraging healthcare providers to focus more on delivering patient-centric services.
- AB PMJAY is a **centrally sponsored health assurance scheme**. It provides a **cover of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care** hospitalization.
 - It **provides cashless and paperless access to services** for beneficiary at point of service.
 - Beneficiary families have been identified from Socio Economic Caste Census, 2011.



PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATED 17TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS (PBD) CONVENTION IN INDORE

- PBD convention is **celebrated two years since 2015 to strengthen engagement of overseas Indian community** with Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
 - It is held on **January 9 to mark Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa** in 1915.
 - Theme of PBD Convention is **"Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal"**.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** is given out as part of PBD.
 - It commemorates **contribution of Indian diaspora to create a better understanding of India abroad**, support India's causes and work for welfare of local Indian community.
- Diaspora is a community of people from the same homeland who have been scattered or have migrated to other lands.
- **Significance of Diaspora**
 - Help in **strengthening the identity of Brand India**.
 - Remittances aid in **socioeconomic development**.
 - **Act as bridges, mediators, facilitators, lobby, and advocacy groups** at international platforms.
 - **Facilitating entrepreneurship** in the form of technical knowledge transfers and finances.
- In addition, to mark PBD, **India and U.K. launched Young Professionals Scheme**.
 - It'll **permit upto 3,000 of their degree-holding citizens** aged between 18 and 30 to **live and work in each other's countries** for a period of two years.



DAMS WILL LOSE 26% STORAGE CAPACITY BY 2050: UN STUDY

- Study was conducted by UN University Institute on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)- **UN's think tank on water**.
- It highlighted that **3,700 Indian dams will lose 26 percent of their total storage by 2050** due to **accumulation of sediments**.
- **Concerns related to accumulation of sediments**
 - Reduction in hydro- electricity generation;
 - **Reduction in water availability for irrigation** due to less storage capacity;
 - Affects **safety of dams** and reduces **discharge capacity and flood attenuation capabilities**;
 - **Increases loads** on dam and gates, damages **mechanical equipment** and creates a wide range of **environmental impacts**.
- India is **3rd largest dam-owning nation in world** after US and China.
 - India has **5334 completed and operational** large dams while 411 large dams are **under construction**.
- **Importance of dams:** Water for drinking and industrial use, irrigation, flood control, hydro power generation, Inland navigation and recreation.
- **Issues with Dams:** Most of large dams were built half a century ago, thus **highly vulnerable to wear and tear**; Lack of information on dam ageing etc.

INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR DAM SAFETY

- **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** with financial assistance from World Bank.
- **Dam safety act, 2021** for setting up empowered institutional framework for dam safety both at Central and State level.
- **Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA)**.

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS) PUBLISHED INDIAN STANDARD FOR USB TYPE C RECEPTACLES, PLUG AND CABLES

- BIS under Ministry of Consumer Affairs has introduced standard for **USB Type-C port, plug and cables used in electronic devices** like mobile phone, laptop etc.
 - It aims to **provide common charging solutions for various electronic devices** sold in country by March 2025.
- **USB i.e., Universal Serial Bus (an industry standard)** is used for connecting a wide variety of devices to a processor.
 - **USB Types:** USB-A is a **flat and rectangular shape**; USB-B has **multiple designs**, but common **shape is a square**; and USB-C is a **smaller rectangular with rounded corners**. (refer image)
 - **In EU by 2024**, all mobile phones, tablets and cameras will be sold with a USB Type-C charging port.
- **Need for Common Charger**
 - To **reduce number of chargers per consumer**, thus **reducing e-waste in India** (as of 2021, 5 million tonnes of e-waste generated in India).
 - Step towards **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** that nurtures a global network of individuals, i.e., '**Pro-Planet People**' (P3).
 - **Ease out technological 'lock-in' effect**, whereby a consumer becomes dependent on a single manufacturer.
- BIS also published standards for **digital television receivers** with built-in satellite tuners and **video surveillance security systems**.



OZONE LAYER RECOVERY IS ON TRACK, HELPING AVOID GLOBAL WARMING BY 0.5°C

- Report titled "**Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2022**" was prepared in coordination with **WMO, UNEP, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NASA and European Commission**.
 - It is published **every four years on Montreal Protocol (MP) progress** and confirms phase-out of nearly 99 percent of banned ozone-depleting substances (ODS) such as chlorine, bromine, methyl chloroform etc.
 - ODS are **long-lived man-made chemicals which destroy protective ozone layer**.
- **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer, 1987** was negotiated as a protocol to Vienna Convention, 1985.
- **Key observations of report**
 - Actions taken under MP contribute to **ozone recovery in upper stratospheric layer**.
 - If current policies remain in place, **ozone layer is expected to recover to 1980 values by around 2066 over Antarctic, by 2045 over Arctic and by 2040 for rest of world**.
 - Compliance with **2016 Kigali Amendment to MP**, which requires **phase down of production and consumption of some hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**, is estimated to **avoid 0.3–0.5°C of warming by 2100**.

ABOUT OZONE

- **Highly reactive molecule formed of three oxygen atoms** found primarily in two regions of atmosphere.
- Nearly **90% of Earth's ozone resides in stratosphere** (known as Ozone Layer) **above troposphere** (layer closest to Earth's surface).








SUPREME COURT DISMISSES PLEA CHALLENGING PANELS IN GUJARAT, UTTARAKHAND FOR UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)

- SC refused a plea challenging decision of Gujarat and Uttarakhand governments to constitute committees to introduce and implement UCC.
 - SC stated that **constitution of such committees by states is within ambit of state under Article 162 and cannot be challenged for being ultra vires.**
 - Article 162** states that **executive power of a state shall extend to matters** with respect to which **legislature of state has power to make laws.**
- UCC refers to a **single law, applicable to all citizens** in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption and inheritance.
 - It comes **under Article 44** - which says that **state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for citizens** throughout territory of India.

Arguments against UCC	Arguments in favour of UCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law commission stated that UCC is neither necessary nor desirable. Can erode minorities' right and right to freedom of religion (Article 25 of Constitution). Parliament does not have exclusive jurisdiction over 'Personal laws' as it is mentioned in Concurrent List. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen gender justice as mostly the religious or customary personal laws are biased in favour of men. Address inconsistency in laws regarding marriage, succession, etc. for people belonging to different communities. To make judicial pronouncements enforceable (Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum, 1985 etc.).

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMNAM was conducted recently in 242 districts of country. PMNAM was organised by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility: Candidates who are Class five to Class 12th pass outs and have skill training certificates, or ITI Diploma holders or graduates. It aims to raise apprenticeship opportunities in India to 60 lakhs by 2026. Government is aiming to train one million youth per annum through apprenticeship training. Under it, selected individuals receive a monthly stipend in accordance with government criteria for gaining new skills.
<p>One Rank, One Pension (OROP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC granted time till 15 March 2023 to Centre to implement OROP payout to nearly 25 lakh army pensioners. OROP aims at pension uniformity for armed forces personnel retiring at same rank with same length of service irrespective of date of retirement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates of pension would be revised at periodic intervals. Armed Forces Personnel retired upto June 30, 2019 (excluding pre-mature retired w.e.f. July 01, 2014) will be covered under OROP.
<p>Pre-Packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PPIRP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPIRP is a process wherein a resolution arrangement is agreed upon between distressed corporate debtor and lender before approaching National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for bankruptcy proceedings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It gives legal sanction to a plan agreed among banks, promoters, and buyer. It was introduced under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2021 to deal with stress of small and mid-sized companies. Benefits of PPIRP: Least disruptive to businesses, Reduced burden of benches of NCLT, Quicker, cost-effective insolvency resolution process etc.
<p>Gini Coefficient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI Ecowrap study analyzed the impact of share of Rice and wheat procurement on Gini Coefficient for 20 and 9 States respectively. Gini coefficient is a statistical measure to gauge the rich-poor income or wealth divide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It ranges from 0 (or 0%) to 1 (or 100%) with which 0 represents perfect equality, and 1 represents perfect inequality. Values over 1 are theoretically possible due to negative income or wealth. A general rise in Gini Coefficient indicates that government policies are not inclusive and may be benefiting rich as much as or even more than poor. Gini figure below 0.40 is generally considered to be within tolerable limits. <div> <p>Diagram illustrating the Gini Coefficient. It shows a square with a diagonal line of equality (45°) and a Lorenz curve. The area between the line of equality and the Lorenz curve is labeled 'A', and the area below the Lorenz curve is labeled 'B'. The Gini coefficient is calculated as $\frac{A}{A+B}$. The x-axis is labeled 'Cumulative share of entities from lowest to highest share' and the y-axis is labeled 'Cumulative percentage held'.</p> </div>

 <p>Open Access (OA) movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OA is a movement that makes online publications immediately available free of charge and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is supported and put into practice by several countries and institutions, as demonstrated by number of institutional signatories of Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and Berlin Declaration on OA to Knowledge. UNESCO supports unrestricted OA which promotes the principle of openness, an essential element of progress.
 <p>SPRINT scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Navy has signed an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd for armed autonomous boat swarms under 'SPRINT' scheme. SPRINT stands for Supporting Pole-vaulting In R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (IdeX), Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims at development of 75 indigenous technologies by industry for Navy.
 <p>Advisories to prevent train accidents involving elephants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent CAG report highlighted that more than 63,000 animals, including animals like Indian elephants had been run over by trains between 2017-18 and 2020-21. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is despite general advisories to prevent train accidents involving elephants issued in 2010. Advisories include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearance of vegetation on sides of railway track, Underpasses and overpasses across railway track to allow elephants to escape, Signboards to pre-warn loco pilots, Sensitisation programmes for loco pilots, guards and station masters, Keep railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants.
 <p>Hawaii's Kilauea volcano</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawaiian volcano kilauea erupted again recently. Kilauea volcano is active shield volcano (erupts magma of low viscosity and hence less steep) located on the Hawaiian island.. Hawaii, USA is a group of 8 volcanic islands in the central Pacific Ocean stretching in a crescent from Kure Island in west to Hawaii in east. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volcanoes make up 51% of Hawaii Island landmass.
 <p>National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st capacity building programme for civil servants of Arunachal Pradesh on good governance started at NCGG, Mussoorie campus. NCGG is an autonomous institute under Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances with its headquarters at New Delhi. Institute is involved in conducting training and research programmes for improved public service delivery and good governance models. It provides a platform for exchange of ideas between civil servants of different countries and also helps in providing opportunities to collaborate and implement new ideas and concepts.
 <p>Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a cutting-edge technological advancement that utilises machine learning and artificial intelligence to create new forms of media, such as text, audio, video, and animation. Uses of GAI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can craft sales, marketing, and brand messaging. GitHub, Copilot6 and ChatGPT1 can generate code and help with developer productivity. It can sift through numerous legal research materials and produce a pertinent, specific, and actionable summary. Help health professionals with their medical diagnosis. Help to create and simulate complex engineering, design, and architecture.
 <p>Parshuram Kund Festival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parshuram Kund Festival will be held in Arunachal Pradesh from 12th to 16th January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an annual religious fair when pilgrims come for a holy dip at Parshuram Kund on Makar Sankranti. Parshuram, son of Sage Jamadagni, was sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Parshuram Kund is a sacred pond located in Tailung area of Mishmi plateau in lower reaches of Lohit River in Lohit District. Kund falls within Kamlang Reserve Forest Area and is surrounded by dense forest of Rudraksha trees of Elaeocarpaceae family.