

NEWS TODAY

REVISED GUIDELINES ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)-2023 RELEASED

• Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released revised guidelines to broaden scope of Scheme so as **to enable MPs to recommend developmental works as per changing needs of community.**

• Also, **a new Web-Portal was launched** for implementation of **Revised Fund Flow Procedure** under MPLADS.

➤ It will facilitate **real-time monitoring, greater transparency and accountability** in the system.

• MPLADS, a Central Sector Scheme launched in 1993, **enables MPs to suggest and get executed developmental works of a capital nature** based on locally felt needs with an emphasis on creation of durable assets.

➤ Under it, MPs **receive Rs.5 crore each year in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each.**

➤ Every year, M.P. shall recommend atleast **15% of MPLADS funds for areas inhabited by S.C. population and 7.5 percent for areas inhabited by S.T. population.**

➤ Funds under MPLADS are **non-lapsable.**

➤ **District Authority is responsible for overall coordination and supervision of works** under scheme at district level.

➤ **MoSPI is responsible for policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism** for implementation of Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION OF WORK BY MPs UNDER MPLADS

• **Lok Sabha MPs** can recommend works **in their Lok Sabha constituencies.**

• **Rajya Sabha MPs** can recommend within state of election.

• **Nominated members** of both Houses can recommend works anywhere in country.

MOU BETWEEN IFC-IOR AND REGIONAL COORDINATION OPERATIONS CENTRE (RCOC), SEYCHELLES TO FURTHER MARITIME COOPERATION

• MoU aims **to promote collaboration** towards enhancing **maritime domain awareness, information sharing and expertise development.**

• Information Fusion Center - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), established in 2018, is **hosted by India Navy** at Gurugram **to further Maritime Safety and Security in Indian Ocean Region.**

➤ To enable better correlation and timely inputs, IFC-IOR **also hosts International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from partner nations** including Australia, France, Italy, Japan, US, UK.

➤ IFC-IOR has **established linkages with** several multinational **maritime security centres.**

• **Need for Maritime Security for India**

➤ **Economic Interest** - Over 90% trade by volume and 70% trade by value of India passes through maritime transport.

➤ **Energy Interest** - Around 80% of crude oil requirements is imported in India through sea routes.

➤ **Strategic Interest** - Aggressive inroads of China in Indian ocean through its string of pearls policy requires Indian to build its maritime security capabilities.

➤ **Internal Security** - Indian ocean serves as a transit route for narcotics, fake currency and cross border terrorist into India.

INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR MARITIME SECURITY

Appointment of India's first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC)

PM's vision SAGAR ('Security and Growth for all in the Region')

Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI)

Joint Maritime Exercises like Malabar, Indo Thai Corpat to increase interoperability of naval forces

Defence Acquisition and modernisation like scorpion class submarines and aircraft carrier (INS Vikrant)

CABINET APPROVED RATIFICATION OF THREE PROTOCOLS RELATING TO AMENDMENTS IN CHICAGO CONVENTION

- Ratification would provide **better opportunity for India to become more instrumental in matters pertaining to international civil aviation.**
- **Protocols ratified are:**
 - **Protocol to insert Article 3 bis** that refrain member States from use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight.
 - **Protocol to amend Article 50 (a)** for raising strength of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council from 36 to 40.
 - **Protocol to amend Article 56** raising strength of Air Navigation Commission from 18 to 21.
- International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), 1944 **established core principles permitting international transport by air.**
 - Articles of Convention **establish privileges and obligations of all contracting States** and promote international ICAO **Standards and Recommended Practices adoption** that regulate international air transport.
 - It has **193 state parties** including **all UN members except Liechtenstein.**
- Chicago Convention **led to creation of ICAO.**
 - It is a **specialized agency of United Nations** linked to **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).**
 - **India is a founding member** of ICAO.
 - ICAO is **not a global regulator**, ICAO standards **never supersede the primacy of national regulatory requirements.**

INDIA, CHINA HOLD IN-PERSON BORDER TALKS AFTER 3 YEARS

- Both sides **discussed proposals for disengaging in remaining friction areas** along Line of Actual Control (LAC) to create conditions **to restore normalcy in relations.**
 - Border between India and China is **not clearly demarcated throughout and there is no mutually agreed LAC.**
- **LAC is divided into three sectors:** Western, Middle and Eastern.
 - **Boundary dispute in Western Sector** (Ladakh) pertains to **Johnson Line** proposed British in 1860s.
 - **In Middle Sector** (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), dispute is a minor one. Both have **exchanged maps on which they broadly agree.**
 - **Disputed boundary in Eastern Sector** (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim) is **over McMahon Line** (in Arunachal Pradesh) decided in 1914.
- **A series of agreements signed to address disputes arising over LAC:**
 - **1993 Agreement** on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC.
 - **1996 Agreement** on Confidence-Building Measures in the Military Field Along the LAC.
 - **2005 Protocol on Modalities** for Implementation of Confidence-Building Measures in Military Field Along LAC.
 - **2012 Agreement** on Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.
 - **2013 Border Defense Cooperation Agreement.**



COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (CAG) URGES GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT AUDIT DATA STANDARDS

- CAG stated that **lack of standardisation in underlying data structures** across government IT applications **has been one of the major challenges** for audit and **adopting audit data standards will:**
 - **Ensure that data/information** maintained by various departments/agencies can be **seamlessly organised for better analysis.**
 - **Help** not only policymakers and executives, but also auditors in **carrying out digital audits.**
- An audit is the **examination of financial report** of an organisation by **someone independent of that organisation.**
 - **CAG submits three audit reports to President**—audit report on appropriation accounts, audit report on finance accounts, and audit report on public undertakings.
- **Issues with Audit process**
 - **No Powers to Enforce Audit Findings:** While the audit notices a systematic violation of law, rules, and regulations by departmental officers it is unable to take effective action to prevent them.
 - **Issues with CAG's Act:** Act is silent about what happens when a public official spends money, which is not legally available.
 - **Accounts keeping of State government companies** is in a chaotic state.
 - **Other issues: Post facto audit i.e.** CAG audits expenditure only after it has incurred, **lack of economic expertise** within CAG etc.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MEITY) SEEKS PROPOSALS TO MAP THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

- Digital economy is the **economic activity that results from billions of everyday online connections** among people, businesses, devices, data, and processes.
 - India is **among top three global economies in number of digital consumers**.
- Also, India has **one of the fastest rate of growth of digital adoption**.
- **Significance of digital economy for India**
 - Digital transformation **could empower un-served and underserved segments and create \$ 1 trillion of economic value in 2025**, sustaining 60-65 million jobs.
 - **About \$390-500 billion** of this \$1 trillion economic value would come **from digital applications in sectors like agriculture, health, and education**.
 - Restricting cash-based transactions **can efficiently expel the black economy**.
 - **E-governance will be the ultimate outcome** of digital economy.
- Earlier, a **report by MeitY recommended following measures** that will help India to optimally **harness digital technologies in the core economic and social sectors**:
 - **Improve ease of operations and reduce operating costs** for digital businesses.
 - **Unlock flow of domestic capital** into digital businesses.
 - **Support Indian digital innovators** through government procurement.
 - **Unshackle centres of higher education** and innovation.

ALSO IN NEWS



Law Commission of India

- **Cabined approved extension of term** of 22nd Law Commission of India.
- It is a **non-statutory body**. First **law commission of independent India** was constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted from time to time.
- **It will consist of:**
 - **A full-time Chairperson.**
 - **Four full-time Members** (including Member-Secretary).
 - **Secretary**, Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department as **ex officio Member**.
 - **Not more than five part-time Members.**
- **Mandate includes:**
 - Recommending **repeal of obsolete enactments**.
 - Suggesting **enactment of new legislations**.



Perpetual Funds

- **SEBI plans to allow perpetual funds** in India.
- **Unlike traditional funds** which have a finite tenure, **perpetual funds can have an open term** with respect to the tenure and **don't have a sunset period**.
- These funds are **aimed at long-term investors** such as pension funds and insurance firms which **do not want return of capital but regular income**.
- **Types of perpetual funds:** limited partnerships traded publicly on an exchange, real estate investment trusts, closed-ended funds etc.



Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

- **EPFO has introduced new guidelines**, under which subscribers and employers can jointly apply for higher pension under Employees' Pension Scheme.
- EPFO, a **Statutory body under Union Ministry of Labour & Employment**, is one of the world's largest social security organisations.
- **It operates three schemes:** Employee's Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS) and Insurance Scheme 1976.

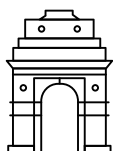


Phosphor-Gypsum

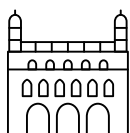
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to explore **use of phosphor-gypsum in highway construction**.
- Phosphor-gypsum is a **waste by-product from the processing of phosphate rock** in plants producing phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizers.
- It is **contaminated by various impurities**, both chemical and radioactive, and is **usually stockpiled within special areas**.
 - Because of contamination, **only around 15% of world phosphor-gypsum production is recycled**.



 <p>Malaria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deadly malaria vector, transmitter Anopheles Stephensi, has been detected in Kenya. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Anopheles Stephensi originated in Southeast Asia, West Asia and Arabian Peninsula. • Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by Plasmodium parasites, which are spread to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – P. falciparum and P. vivax – pose greatest threat. ➢ Anopheles stephensi is capable of transmitting both Plasmodium falciparum and P. vivax. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is highly adaptive and can thrive in urban environments.
 <p>Khajuraho Group of Monuments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parrot lady (returned by Canada in 2015) has been housed at museum in Khajuraho. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is a 12th-century idol that belongs to Khajuraho, a town in Madhya Pradesh famous for its temples associated with erotic art. • Khajuraho Group of Monuments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A UNESCO World Heritage Site, there were originally a group of Hindu and Jain temples, Currently only 20 temples survive. ➢ Temples (Nagara-style) at Khajuraho were built during Chandella dynasty, which reached its apogee between 950 and 1050 . ➢ They strike a perfect balance between architecture and sculpture.
 <p>Mohiniyattam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Famous Mohiniyattam exponent Kanak Rele passed away. • Mohiniyattam is a classical dance form of Kerala. • It is performed by women in honour of god Vishnu in his incarnation as enchantress Mohini. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Conventionally a solo dance performed by female artists, it emotes a play through dancing and singing. ➢ Instruments used: Maddalam, Mridangam, Veena, Kuzhitalam or Cymbals, Edakka etc. ➢ It has its roots in sage Bharata Muni's text called 'Natya Shastra'. • 8 Classical dances are Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Sattriya, Mohiniyattam and Manipuri.
 <p>Teja chilli</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite, huge international demand for Teja chilli, farmers are facing challenges in recovering investment due to rising costs. • It is famous for its culinary, medicinal and other wide-ranging uses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is mainly exported to China, Bangladesh and a few other south Asian countries. ➢ Mainly cultivated in Southern India (especially Telangana) in both Kharif (Summer crop) and Rabi crop (Winter crop) seasons. ➢ It is a tropical and sub-tropical plant requiring a combination of warm, humid yet dry weather.
 <p>Places in News</p>	<p>Burkina Faso (Capital: Ouagadougou)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burkina Faso announced an end to operations led by France (against militant groups) in the country. • Political features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is a landlocked country in western Africa. ➢ Shars border with: Mali to north and west, Niger to northeast, Benin to southeast, and Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo to south. • Geographical features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Terrain: It occupies an extensive plateau, and its geography is characterized by a savanna that is grassy. ➢ Highest Mountain: Mount Tenakourou. ➢ Major rivers: Black Volta, Red Volta, and White Volta—all of which converge in Ghana to form Volta River. 



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



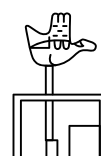
HYDERABAD



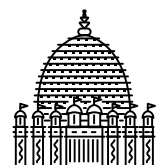
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI