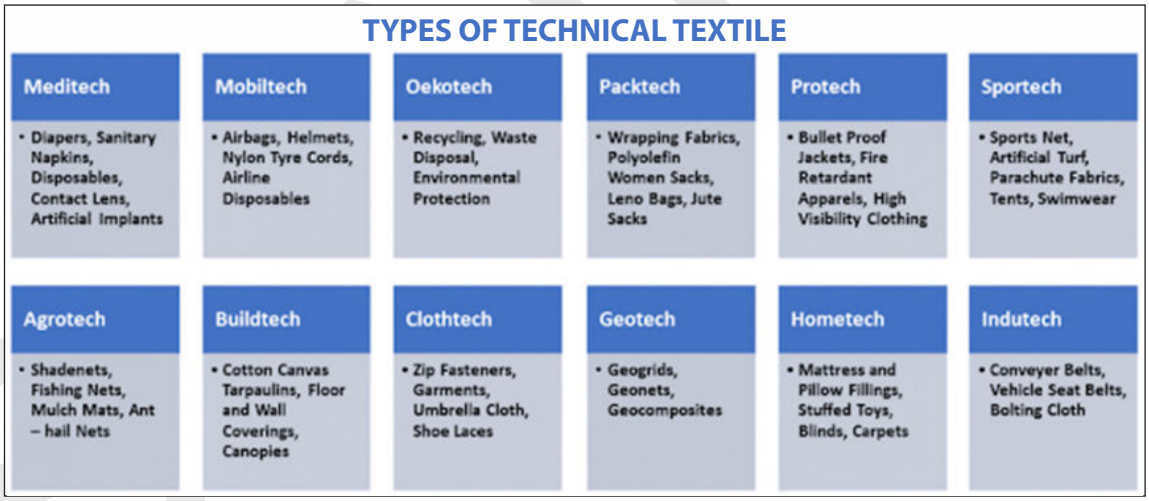
NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF TEXTILE ISSUED GUIDELINES FOR TECHNICAL TEXTILES

- The Ministry has issued two guidelines under the Programme of **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).**
  - General Guidelines for **Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles-** for Private & Public Institutes
    - It will enable New Technical Textiles Degree Programme (undergraduate & Post Graduate).
  - General Guidelines for **Grant for Internship Support in Technical Textiles** (GIST).
    - Grant of upto INR 20,000 per student per month shall be provided to the empaneled companies for providing internships to B.Tech students of relevant Departments/Specializations in Public/Private Institutes under the GIST guidelines.
- Technical textiles (TT) are textiles materials and products manufactured **primarily for technical performance and functional properties** rather than aesthetic characteristics.
  - They are used **individually or as a component/part of another** product to enhance its functional properties.
  - It is a **knowledge based research oriented industry.**
- With a view to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles, **NTTM was launched with a four-year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24.**
  - **The Mission have four components**
  - **Research, Innovation and Development.**
  - **Promotion and Market Development.**
  - **Export Promotion.**
  - **Education, Training, Skill Development.**



CENTRE PUTS ON HOLD TOURIST ACTIVITIES AT JAIN RELIGIOUS SITE IN JHARKHAND

- The Union government ordered **a stay on all ecotourism activities at Sammed Shikhar,** located on the **Parasnath Hill** in Giridih district of Jharkhand.
  - It also directed the state government to strictly **enforce an existing ban on sale of liquor, other intoxicants and meat** in the Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary area.
  - Earlier in 2019, the Parasnath Sanctuary was notified as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ),** which allows conditional development work and eco-tourism in the area.

- Santhals are the **largest tribe in the Jharkhand** and West Bengal state of India in terms of population and are also found in the states of Odisha, Bihar and Assam.

- **Sammed Shikhar is the biggest** pilgrimage destinations for both sects of Jainism — the Digambaras and the Svetambaras.
  - According to Jainism, **out of twenty four Tirthankaras or Spiritual Guru of Jainism, twenty have found their Salvation or Nirvana or Moksya here.**
  - The reference of the temple and the hill is found on the **holy textbook Jnatradharmakatha, of Jainism.**
- Santhal call the hills as **'Marang Buru' i.e.,** the hill of the deity and celebrate a hunting festival on the full moon day in Baisakh (mid-April).
- At **1365 m Parasnath** is the highest mountain peak in the state of Jharkhand.

CABINET APPROVES RS12,882 CRORE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN THE NORTHEAST

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Schemes of the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region(MDoNER) for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26).
  - This includes **North East Special Infrastructure development scheme (NESIDS) and Schemes of North Eastern Councils**
    - **NESIDS is** 100% centrally funding is provided to the State Governments of North Eastern Region for the projects of physical infrastructure and social Infrastructure.
- **Other Schemes for Northeast**
  - **Prime Minister's Development initiative for the north eastern region (PM-DevINE).**
    - It is a is a **Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding.**
    - **PM-DevINE is an additionality** to the quantum of resources available for the development of the NER. It will not be a substitute for existing Central and State Schemes.
    - **PM-DevINE Scheme will have an outlay of Rs.6,600 crore for the four year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.**
  - **North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project.**
  - **North East Industrial Development Scheme.**
  - **North East Venture Fund (NEVF).**
  - **MSMEs have been promoted under various schemes** to boost entrepreneurship development.

The objectives of the schemes of the MDoNER

- To supplement the **efforts of the different Central Ministries & Departments.**
- **Provide gap-filling support** to the eight North Eastern States as per their felt needs, by taking up projects.
- Assist in covering the **social sector deficits** and **enhancing livelihood** and **employment opportunities** in the region.

DRAFT UGC (SETTING UP AND OPERATION OF CAMPUSES OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (FHEIS) IN INDIA) REGULATIONS, 2023 RELEASED

- **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has unveiled draft norms to allow FHEIs to set up campuses in India for internationalising India's higher education as envisaged in **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.**
- **Key features**
  - **Approval: UGC** will grant in-principle approval to FHEIs to set up campuses in India.
  - **Eligibility:** A foreign university with a rank among the **top 500 global rankings** or a foreign educational institution of **repute in the home jurisdiction.**
  - **Mode of teaching:** Courses offered should be taught in a **physical mode and online classes are not allowed.**
  - **Autonomy in FHEIs:** Determining fees, and the freedom to choose faculty from both India and abroad.
  - **Protection to students:** FHEIs are mandated to take UGC's **prior approval to discontinue any course/programme or close the campus** and to establish a **students' grievances redressal mechanism.**
  - **Securing India's national interest:** FEHIs shall not offer any such programme or course which jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education in India.
  - **Working of finances:** Cross border movement of funds under **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.**
  - **Equivalence with degree awarded by foreign HEI in their country of origin.**

SIGNIFICANCE

- Enable Indian students to obtain foreign qualifications at affordable cost.
- Reduction in foreign exchange outflow.
- Control in brain drain.
- Stimulation to R&D in India.
- Element of competition in higher education sector.
- Make India an attractive global study destination.

INDIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR (NSA) HOSTS THE 36TH SESSION OF THE ANNUAL INDO-FRENCH STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

- At the annual India-France Strategic Dialogue, both sides emphasized **Rule-based-International order and 'strategic autonomy'.**
  - **Rule-based-International order** generally consists of a set of rules encouraging peaceful, cooperative behavior among states that is consistent with liberal values and principles; formal institutional bodies.
  - **Strategic autonomy'** is the ability of a state to take a relatively independent decision on matters of vital Interest.
- India and France **established strategic partnership in 1998.**
- The **areas of defence & security cooperation, space cooperation and civil nuclear cooperation constitute** the principal pillars of Strategic Partnership
  - **Defence cooperation:** Procurement of **French Rafale,** agreement regarding the **Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support;** Joint defense exercises, viz. Shakti (Army), Varuna (Navy) and Garuda (Airforce), etc.
  - **Space cooperation:** Jointly developed Megha-Tropiques satellite, TRISHNA (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment), cooperation in Gaganyan Mission, etc.
  - **Civil nuclear cooperation:** Civil nuclear cooperation was signed in 2008, cooperation in Jaitapur and Tarapur Nuclear Power Project, etc.
    - **France is supporting** India's bid for accession to the **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).**

ALSO IN NEWS

Decennial census

- Government informed States that the **date of freezing of administrative boundaries has been extended till June 30** which indicate that the decennial census exercise has been postponed till September, at least.
  - As per norms, **census can be conducted only three months after freezing of boundary limits** of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations.
  - According to provisional data compiled by the RGI till June 2021, **the total number of districts in the country have gone up from 640 in 2011 to 736 presently.**
- The last census was held in 2011.

NAAC releases new benchmark

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council released the **benchmark it has set for universities and autonomous colleges.**
- The benchmarks manual is its **secret ledger of maximum scores** it awards to awards to institutions that line up for assessment.
- These will act as a barometer, allowing institutions to identify the areas need to be worked upon.
- **About NAAC**
  - It's an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC) from 1994.
  - It assesses and certifies Higher Education Institution's (HEIs) .

Indigenous livestock breeds

- **India now has 212 indigenous livestock breeds after ICAR-NBAGR registers 10 new ones.**
- The 10 new breeds included three new cattle breeds **(Kathani, Sanchori, Masilum), one buffalo breed (Purnathadi),** three goat breeds **(Sojat, Karauli, Gujari) and three pig breeds (Banda, Manipuri Black, Wak Chambil).**
- **Significance of Indigenous breeds**
  - Better suited to climate resilience.
  - More heat tolerant, better immunity and disease resistance.
- **20th Livestock Census,** while the population of exotic / crossbred cattle increased by 29.3 per cent **compared** to the 2012 Census, **the population of indigenous cattle declined by six per cent.**

Eat Right Station

- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station awarded 'Eat Right Station' with a **5-star rating certification** by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- This **railway stations set benchmarks in providing safe** and wholesome food to passengers.
- The certification is part of the **'Eat Right India' movement**
  - **'Eat Right India' movement** is based on three key pillars – **Eat Safe, Eat Healthy, and Eat Sustainable.**
  - It is based on the approach the food is suitable both for the people and the planet.

Snapdragon Satellite

- It is the world's first **'satellite-based two-way capable messaging solution' for premium smartphones** recently announced by the Qualcomm and Iridium.
- It offers truly global coverage **from pole to pole** and can support **two-way messaging–** for a variety of purposes such as **emergencies or recreation in remote, rural and offshore locations or no internet connectivity areas.**
- Beyond smartphones, Snapdragon Satellite can expand to **other devices, including laptops, tablets, vehicles and IoT.**
- **Limitation:** High Latency and cost, not available in low end phones.

Virovore

- **"Virovore" refers to organisms that eats viruses** (virus-only diet is termed as "virovory")
  - **Viruses,** often thought to be **predators that feed and kill their hosts, are nutrition for** another group of microscopic, often unicellular organisms, **called protists.**
- According to researchers in the US, **Halteria** (microscopic ciliates or protisits that populate freshwater throughout the world) - **can eat huge numbers of infectious chloroviruses.**
- The **new findings may change our understanding of the role viruses play in the food chain** at a microscopic level.

African Swine Fever (ASF)

- Recently 700 Pigs culled In Madhya Pradesh amid African Swine Flu scare.
- ASF is a **highly contagious viral disease** of domestic and wild pigs, whose mortality rate can reach 100%.
- It leads to an acute form of **hemorrhagic fever in domestic and wild pigs.**
- There is currently **no effective vaccine** against ASF.
- It is **not a danger to human health,** but it has devastating Effect on the farming economy.
- The virus is **highly resistant in the environment** so it can survive on clothes, boots, wheels, and other pork products such as ham.

'Atmospheric River' Storm

- A powerful storm is heading towards California, threatening the **state with flooding, landslides, high winds and power outages.**
- **About Storm**
  - Atmospheric rivers are long, narrow regions in the atmosphere like rivers in the sky that transport most of the **water vapour outside of the tropical region to higher latitudes.**
  - When the atmospheric rivers make landfall, they often release this water vapour in the form of rain or snow.
  - **Most atmospheric rivers** are weak systems but those that contain the largest amounts of water vapor and the strongest winds can create **extreme rainfall and floods.**

Place in news

Tanzania (capital: Dodoma)

- **Location**
  - It is largest of the **East African countries.** situated just south of the Equator.
  - The Tanzania mainland is bounded by
    - **Uganda, Lake Victoria, and Kenya** to the north,
    - Indian Ocean to the east,
    - **Mozambique, Lake Nyasa, Malawi, and Zambia** to the south and southwest,
    - **Lake Tanganyika, Burundi, and Rwanda** to the west.

- **Geographical Features:**
  - **Highest Point Location: Kilimanjaro**

    Kilimanjaro is the highest point in Africa and one of only two mountains on the continent that has glaciers (the other is Mount Kenya)
  - **Rivers:** The Pangani, Wami, Ruvu, Rufiji, and Ruvuma rivers

Denmark (Capital: Copenhagen)

- In 2022, there was not even a single bank robbery case in Denmark.
- Physical Location
  - Denmark is located in **Northern Europe.**
  - It belongs to a group of **Nordic** Countries (Other are **Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden).**
  - It **shares border with Germany** to the south. Its **maritime neighbors are UK, Norway and Sweden.**

Geographical features

- Mainland of Denmark **lies on the Jutland Peninsula.**
- **Major rivers:** Guden, Odense, Skjern, Stora, Susa and Vida.
- **Highest Point:** Yding Forest Hill.

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