

NEWS TODAY

CABINET APPROVES AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (IMC) FOR FACILITATION OF WORLD'S LARGEST GRAIN STORAGE PLAN IN COOPERATIVE SECTOR

- Plan entails **setting up various types of agri-infrastructure**, including warehouse, custom hiring center, processing units, etc. at **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) level**, thus transforming them into multipurpose societies.
- IMC is **approved by convergence of various schemes** of various ministries (refer table).
 - IMC will be constituted **under chairmanship of Minister of Cooperation** with ministers of MoA&FW, MoCAF&PD and MoFPI as members.
- Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project** in at least **10 selected Districts** of different States/ UTs.
 - Also, a **National Level Coordination Committee, implementation guidelines and a portal for linkage of PACS** with Govt. of India and State Governments **will be rolled out**.
- Benefits of the plan**
 - Will address not just the **shortage of agricultural storage infrastructure, but would also strengthen PACS** to undertake various other activities such as:
 - Functioning as Procurement centres** for State Agencies/ Food Corporation of India.
 - Serving as Fair Price Shops.**
 - Setting up common processing units.**
 - Creation of decentralized storage capacity** at the local level would reduce food grain wastage.
 - Would prevent distress sale of crops**, thus enabling the farmers to realise better prices for their produce.

Ministry	Schemes
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of food grains under the National Food Security Act Procurement operations at Minimum Support Price
Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

SEBI PROPOSES ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE FOR HIGH-RISK FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS (FPIs)

- SEBI released a **Consultation Paper** on framework for **mandating additional disclosures from FPIs to enhance trust** in the Indian securities markets.
- SEBI has identified several issues w.r.t FPIs including:
 - Concentrated investments by some FPIs raise concern** that promoters of such corporate groups, or other investors acting in concert, could be using the **FPI route for circumventing regulatory requirements**.
 - FPI route can be used to circumvent the government regulation**, under which an entity of a country sharing land border with India can invest only under the Government Route.
- SEBI's new proposal include:
 - FPIs may be further categorized as Low** (Government and related entities), **Moderate** (Pension Funds or Public Retail Funds) and **High Risk** (All other FPIs).
 - Enhanced transparency measures** for fully identifying all **holders of ownership, economic, and control rights** may be mandated for certain objectively identified high-risk FPIs.
 - FPIs with an **exposure of more than 50% to a single group** or with **assets of over Rs 25,000 crore** will be tagged as 'high risk' and **will be required to provide additional information**.
 - Disclosures by FPIs **must be unconstrained by** any thresholds **set by PMLA** (Prevention of Money Laundering) **rules and FPI regulations**.

• **To remove ambiguity** over FPI and FDI, **Minister of Finance while presenting the 2013-14 budget announced that**

- where an investor has a stake of **10 percent or less** in a company, **it will be treated as FII** and, where an investor has a stake of **more than 10 percent**, it will be **treated as FDI**.



MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MeitY) LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT ON ELECTRONICS REPAIR SERVICES OUTSOURCING (ERSO)

- **MeitY**, along with several other ministries/departments, **converged with industry to launch ERSO Pilot initiative** to make India the **Repair Capital of the World**.
 - Over the next 5 years, **ERSO industry is likely to fetch India around \$20 billion** in revenue and also **generate millions of jobs**.
 - **Global electronic equipment repair service market** is forecast to reach **USD 188 billion by 2026**.
- ERSO involves **outsourcing defective/damaged electronic items to Indian repair service organizations** for repair, refurbishment, and calibration to achieve optimal functionality.
- **India's advantage in the ERSO sector**
 - **Availability of a skilled & affordable workforce** provides **significant repair advantage** (almost 57% more competitive than China) over other countries.
 - Factors such as **availability of electronic equipment insurance, right to repair concept, Domestic Digital push** by Government.
 - **Other factors** include **innovative offerings to target customers, rapid urbanization** and technological advancements, growing **demand for refurbished electronic equipment etc.**
- **Significance for India:** Contribution to Mission LiFE and Circular Economy, Incremental tax revenue for the Government, skill enhancement of workforce, growth of MSME sector etc.

CABINET APPROVES CITY INVESTMENTS TO INNOVATE, INTEGRATE AND SUSTAIN 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)

- **CITIIS**, a sub-component of **Smart Cities Mission**, is a joint program of **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**.
 - **CITIIS 1.0 was launched in 2018 and assisted 12 cities across India** in sustainable urban infrastructure projects.
- **CITIIS 2.0 is a program by MoHUA** in partnership with **AFD, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), EU, and NIUA**.
 - **Program will run from 2023 till 2027**.
 - **Funding support** will include **loan from AFD and KfW and a technical assistance grant from EU**.
- **CITIIS 2.0 envisages** to support competitively **selected projects promoting circular economy** with focus on
 - **Integrated waste management** at the city level,
 - **Climate-oriented reform actions** at the State level, and
 - **Institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination** at National level.
- **CITIIS 2.0 has three major components:**

Component 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and technical support for developing projects focused on building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in up to 18 smart cities.
Component 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States will be provided support to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Set-up/strengthen their existing State climate centres/ Climate cells/ equivalent. ➢ Create State and city level Climate Data Observatories. ➢ Facilitate climate-data driven planning, develop climate action plans. ➢ Build capacities of municipal functionaries. • All States and UTs will be eligible for support on demand basis.
Component 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions at all three levels; Centre, State and City to further climate governance in urban India.

GOVERNMENT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SETTING UP SEMICONDUCTOR AND DISPLAY FABS AS PER MODIFIED SEMICON INDIA PROGRAMME

- In 2021, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched **Semicon India programme** with a financial outlay of **INR 76,000 crore for developing a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem**.
 - In 2022, **several modifications** to the programme **were approved**.
- **About Modified Semicon India Programme**
 - **Schemes under programme include**
 - Modified Scheme for **setting up of Semiconductor Fabs** in India
 - Modified Scheme for **setting up of Display Fabs** in India
 - Modified Scheme for **setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab / Discrete Semiconductors Fab and Semiconductor ATMP / OSAT facilities** in India
 - **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**
 - **Fiscal incentive of 50% of the project cost is available** to companies/consortia/ joint ventures for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs and Display fabs of specified technologies in India.
 - **Application window** is open **till December 2024**.
 - **India Semiconductor Mission**, within Digital India Corporation, MeitY, **is the nodal agency** for implementing Programme.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY (CEA) NOTIFIES THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN (NEP) FOR THE PERIOD OF 2022-32

- NEP includes the **review of last five years** (2017-22), a detailed plan for next five years (2022-27) and **prospective plan for 2027-32**.

➤ **As per Electricity Act 2003**, CEA is required to prepare a NEP in accordance with National Electricity Policy and notify such Plan once in five years.

- **Key highlights of NEP**

➤ **Peak electricity demand** would rise from **203 Gigawatt (GW)** in 2021-22 to **277.2 GW in 2026-27**.

➤ **Likely installed capacity** for the year 2026-27 will be **609,591 MW** with around **57.4% non-fossil based capacity** (from around 42.5% as on April'2023).

- Installed renewable capacity will include **mostly solar**, followed by wind, hydro, biomass and battery energy storage system.

➤ **Total CO2 emissions** projected will increase from **1002 Million Tonnes** in 2021-22 to **1100 Million Tonnes** in 2031-32.

- Average CO2 **emission rate from coal based stations** has been on a **declining trend** indicating improvement in efficiency of power generation from coal based power plants.



Central Electricity Authority (CEA)



New Delhi

Genesis: It is a **statutory body**, which has been constituted under the **Electricity Act, 2003**.

Functions: It **advises central government** on the matters relating to the national electricity policy, formulate short-term and perspective plans for development of the electricity system.

- It also specifies **technical standards and safety requirements** for electrical plants, and electric lines.
- **Regulate inter-State transmission** of electricity, regulate tariff of generating companies etc.

Members: It consists of **not more than 14 members** including Chairperson, who hold office during **the pleasure of the Central Government**.

ALSO IN NEWS



Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

- **UAE withdrew its participation** in CMF.
- **Headquartered in Bahrain**, CMF is a **multinational maritime partnership (India also a member)**, that focuses on **counter-narcotics, counter-smuggling, suppressing piracy, training** etc.
 - CMF **also respond to environmental and humanitarian incidents**.
 - **Combined task forces of CMF** include **Maritime Security Operations outside Arabian Gulf**, **Maritime Security Operations inside Arabian Gulf, Red Sea** maritime security etc.
- CMF is **Commanded by a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral**.



Universal Postal Union (UPU)

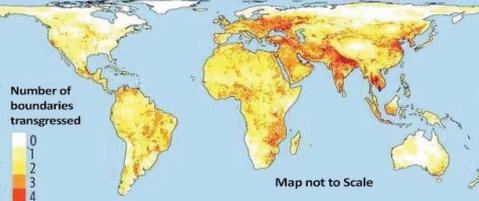
UNIVERSAL
POSTAL
UNION

- Cabinet approved **establishment of a Regional Office of UPU** in New Delhi.
- **Established in 1874**, UPU is **one of the oldest international organization** worldwide.
 - **HQs:** Swiss capital Berne.
 - **It has 192 member countries** (including India).
- It is the **primary forum for cooperation between** the postal sector entities.
- It **sets the rules for international mail exchanges** and makes **recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and financial services** volumes.



Increased in irrigation cover

- According to a NITI Aayog member, **more than half of India's cultivated land** now has **access to assured irrigation**.
- **In 2022-23**, of 210 million hectares of gross sown area, **nearly 55%, had irrigation access**.
 - Increase in irrigation cover is **attributed to expansion** especially in **dryland farm zones of Telangana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka**.
- Increase has been **driven by Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Har Khet Ko Paani-Surface Minor Irrigation** etc.
- Out of total irrigated area, **40% is currently watered through canal networks**, and 60% through groundwater.

 <p>Earth System Boundaries (ESBs)</p>	<p>● A research has flagged that 7 of the 8 ESBs that are critical for stability of the Earth's health and survival of species have already been crossed.</p> <p>● ESBs are scientifically quantified safe and just limits for climate, freshwater, biodiversity and different kinds of pollution.</p> <p>➤ By operating within these limits, we can maintain a stable and resilient planet with accessibility to necessary resources.</p> <p>➤ These are hard limits and even temporary overshooting of some of the boundaries can permanently damage the planet's critical systems.</p> <div> <p>A dire warning for the planet</p> <p>The report concludes that numerous of the safe boundaries for climate, biodiversity, freshwater and different kinds of pollution to air, soil and water have already been crossed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe and just climate (1.0°C): BREACHED 2. Functional integrity: BREACHED 3. Levels of surface water: BREACHED 4. Groundwater: BREACHED 5. Nitrogen: BREACHED 6. Phosphorus: BREACHED 7. Aerosols: PARTLY BREACHED 8. Safe but not just climate (1.5°C): NOT BREACHED  <p>Number of boundaries transgressed</p> <p>Map not to Scale</p> </div>
 <p>Quasi-moon</p>	<p>● Astronomers have discovered a new asteroid (dubbed 2023 FW13) along Earth recently.</p> <p>● It is considered a "quasi-moon" or "quasi-satellite," meaning it orbits the sun in a similar time frame as Earth does, but is only slightly influenced by Earth's gravitational pull.</p> <p>➤ Experts believe that it has been orbiting Earth since 100 BC.</p> <p>● Earlier, a quasi-satellite known as Kamo'oalewa was also discovered in 2016.</p>
 <p>Neuralink Chip</p>	<p>● Elon Musk's neurotechnology company Neuralink has received approval from US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) to conduct human trials of brain implants.</p> <p>● Neuralink is making a medical device known as a Brain-Computer interface (BCI) or Link.</p> <p>➤ Device connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth.</p> <p>➤ It could enable precise control of prosthetic limbs, mimicking natural motor functions and revolutionize treatments for conditions such as parkinson's, epilepsy, spinal cord injuries, autism, depression etc.</p>
 <p>Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN)</p>	<p>● Indian Council of Medical Research National Institute of Virology (ICMR NIV) has joined CLN that works to test vaccines which can be used during pandemic, epidemic disease outbreak.</p> <p>● CLN is a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and is largest global group which has standardised methods and materials for testing vaccines.</p> <p>● As CLN members, each institution will support the rapid development of novel vaccines against a future Disease X – a newly identified pathogen with epidemic or pandemic potential.</p> <p>➤ In interepidemic periods, facilities will support vaccine development against one or more of CEPI's priority diseases – Chikungunya, Lassa virus, MERS, Nipah etc.</p>
 <p>Human organs and tissue transport through Metro rail services</p>	<p>● Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs notified Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Amendment Rules, 2023 to allow transportation of human organs or tissues or both for organ transplant.</p> <p>● Existing rule prohibited carrying of blood dried or coagulated or decomposed, whether human or animal, corpses, carcasses of dead animals or of dead birds, bones (excluding bleached or cleaned bones), human skeleton, parts of human body etc.</p> <p>● Also, portable radio devices which possess risk to radio communication network and communication based traffic control signalling network are prohibited in metro rail service.</p>
 <p>Personalities in News</p>	<p>Ahilyabai Holkar (1725 – 1795)</p> <p>● Maharashtra government has decided to rename Ahmednagar district as Ahilyanagar.</p> <p>● She was a 18th century Malwa queen.</p> <p>● She took control of Malwa in 1754 after her husband's (Khande Rao) death in Battle of Kumbher against king of Bharatpur.</p> <p>● Highlights/achievements of her rule</p> <p>➤ She excelled at administrative and military strategies and during her rule perfect order and good government prevailed.</p> <p>➤ City of Maheshwar became a literary, musical, artistic and industrial centre, and she helped establish a textile industry there, which is now home to famous Maheshwari saris.</p> <p>➤ Restoration/revamp of various temples including Kashi Vishwanath, Badrinath, Dwarka, Omkareshwari etc.</p> <p>➤ Ethical values: Courage, Compassion, Great administrator etc.</p>