

# NEWS TODAY

## MINISTRY OF POWER RELEASES STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDEX (SEEI) 2021-22

• SEEI assesses the annual progress of states and UTs in energy efficiency (EE) implementation. It improves data collection, enables cross-state collaboration, and develops EE program ideas.

➤ Index uses **51 indicators across seven sectors:** buildings, industry, municipality, transport, agriculture, distribution companies (DISCOMs), and cross-sectoral initiatives.

• Index has been developed by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** in collaboration with **Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)**.

➤ AEEE is an industry led, membership based not-for-profit organization that drives EE markets and policies in India.

### • Key Highlights

➤ Categorizes states and UTs as **'Front runner'** (>60), **'Achiever'** (50-60), **'Contender'** (30-49.5), and **'Aspirant'** (<30).

➤ **States in Front Runner category:** Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Telangana.

➤ **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh showed most improvement** since the last index.

### • Recommendations

➤ Develop and **implement State EE Action Plans**.

➤ **Facilitate fiscal support for EE** by earmarking funds.

➤ **Strengthen institutional capacity by appointing EE nodal officers** in all government departments and setting up EE cells in district and head offices.

➤ **Mainstream monitoring and reporting of energy data** through transparent online portals.



### Bureau of Energy Efficiency



**Genesis:** Statutory body established under provisions of the Energy Conservation Act (ESA) 2001.



**Ministry:** Ministry of Power



**Objective:** Reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.



#### Key functions/Initiatives

• **Create awareness and disseminate information** on energy efficiency and conservation.

• **Promote innovative financing** of energy efficiency projects.

• **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)** sets minimum energy standards for certain new commercial buildings.

• **Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme** under National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency.

## CHINA ENDS MILITARY DRILLS AFTER SIMULATING STRIKES ON TAIWAN

• China and Taiwan have a **contentious relationship that has its roots in aftermath of Chinese Civil War**, which ended in 1949 with **defeat of Nationalist government by Communist Party of China (CPC)**.

➤ **Nationalist government**, led by Chiang Kai-shek, **fled to Taiwan**, and **established Republic of China (ROC)**.

➤ **CPC established People's Republic of China (PRC)** on the mainland.

• **Taiwan's government claims itself as an independent country**. However, **China sees it as a breakaway province to be reunified** with mainland one day i.e. **One China principle**.

➤ India's stand has been of recognising "One China policy" but **since 2010, India is not using One China policy in its official statements and documents**.

### • Implications for India of China - Taiwan conflict

➤ **Economic:** Taiwan **manufactures more than 90% of world's most advanced semiconductors**.

▪ During April-February 2022-23, **Taiwan's share in India's import of telecom instruments jumped to 9%** from 2.3% in the same period a year earlier.

➤ **Strategic :** **India's trade through South China Sea (SCS)** -which stands at nearly 55% of its total trade within Indo-Pacific region -will be disrupted.



# MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS (MOPSW) ISSUED DRAFT ON 'SAGARMALA INNOVATION AND START-UP POLICY'

● Draft policy aims at nurturing start-ups and other entities to co-create future of India's growing maritime sector.

- India comprises a significant size maritime sector with 12 Major and 200+ Non-Major Ports.
- About 95% of country's trade volume and 65% of trade value being undertaken through maritime transport.

● Challenges for rise of maritime start-ups in India

- Lack of maritime-specific ecosystem and industry coordination for start-ups.
- Maritime start-ups are often hardware start-ups, rather than generally found software or app-based start-ups, and therefore require much higher financial support over time.
- International regulatory requirements including IMO Regulations, green ports, environment, safety and security.

● Key Features of the draft policy

- Maritime Innovation Hub (MIH): To develop incubators and accelerators, develop centralized repository, attract investment etc.
- Apex Committee: It will provide overall guidance and approval to the Programme and will monitor and periodically review the progress made by MIH of various institutes/ Organizations.
- Incubators: To support start-ups in an early stage.
- Seed Fund Scheme will be available to select start-ups that are part of incubators/ accelerators.

## NEED FOR MARITIME STARTUPS



**Decarbonization of Maritime industry** and Green Port Technologies



**Optimizing processes**, improving efficiency and creating scale in the maritime sector using AI and Machine Learning



**Augmentation of Maritime Cybersecurity**, Development of smart communication, **Advancement of marine electronics** etc.

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA (ECI) GRANTS NATIONAL PARTY STATUS TO AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP)

● Citing Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, which stipulates criteria for recognition as a national or state party, ECI now recognises six national parties:

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian National Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Communist Party of India (CPI) (Marxist), National People's Party (NPP) and AAP.
- Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and CPI lost their national party status.

● ECI reviewed parties' performances in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and 21 state assembly polls since 2014.

### How is a Party's National status decided?

- **Votes in Lok Sabha (LS), state polls:** A party should secure at least 6% of votes polled in four or more states in LS or assembly elections, and, in addition, have at least four members in LS.
- **Seats in LS:** It should have at least 2% of total Lok Sabha seats, and have candidates from not less than three states.
- **Must be a state party:** in at least four states.

### Benefits of National Party Status

- **Exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol** to candidates set up by it throughout India.
- Need only **one person to propose a candidate's name** to enable them to file nominations.
- **Get broadcast/telecast facilities** over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.
- **Can have up to 40-star campaigners** while other can have up to 20-star campaigners.

# PREVENTIVE DETENTION LAWS COLONIAL LEGACY, MUST BE USED ONLY IN RAREST OF RARE CASES: SUPREME COURT (SC)

● SC, while setting aside a detention order, made several observations including:

- Courts must analyse cases arising from such laws with extreme caution to ensure there are checks and balances on exercise of power of the government.
- Every procedural rigidity must be followed in entirety by the government in cases of preventive detention.

● Preventive detention means detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court. Its purpose is to prevent him from committing an offence in the near future.

- Parliament has exclusive authority to make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs and security of India.
- Both Parliament as well as state legislatures can concurrently make a law for reasons connected with Security of a state, Maintenance of public order and Maintenance of supplies and services.

● Protection against arrest and detention under Article 22 (1) and 22 (2) are not available to a person arrested or detained under preventive detention laws.

- Detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.

# TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION URGING CENTRE TO SET TIME LIMIT FOR GOVERNOR FOR CLEARING BILLS

- Resolution has been passed in **backdrop of pending assent, to nearly 20 bills, by governor.**
- When a bill is sent to Governor** after it is passed by state legislature, **he can:**
  - > **Give his assent** to the bill, or
  - > **Withhold his assent**, or
  - > **Return the bill** (if it is not a money bill) **for reconsideration of state legislature.** However, **if bill is passed again** with or without amendments, governor has to give his assent, or
  - > **Reserve bill** for consideration of **President.**
- Other issues w.r.t Governor and state governments in recent years include:**
  - > **Lack of provisions** for the **manner in which Governor and state must engage publicly** when there is a difference of opinion.
    - Example – Recently **West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala** saw bitter and acrimonious exchanges between state governments and Governors.
  - > **Passing negative remarks** on state administration (law and order and political violence etc.).
  - > **No clear distinction between constitutional and statutory roles-** Governors as a chancellor is a point of conflict.
  - > **Misuse of discretionary power** (Time taken to decide over disqualification of members).
  - > **Removal of Governor** - no written ground or procedure.

RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED

- Sarkaria Commission-** Governor should be from outside the state, he should not be a member of the ruling party.
- NCRWC-** Governor should be appointed by a committee comprising the PM, Home Minister, Speaker and CM of state.
- Nabam Rebia Judgement (2016)** ruled that the exercise of Governor's discretion Article 163 is limited and not arbitrary.
- Punchhi Commission (2007)-** a fixed term of 5 years to the governors and their removal by the process of impeachment by state legislature.

## ALSO IN NEWS

 <b>UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UNDEF was created</b> by UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan <b>in 2005 as a UN General Trust Fund to support democratization efforts around the world.</b></li> <li>• It funds projects that <b>empower civil society, promote human rights, and encourage participation</b> of all groups in democratic processes.</li> <li>• An <b>Advisory Board of UNDEF considers proposals, offers policy guidelines,</b> recommends funding proposals for approval by the Secretary General.</li> <li>• <b>India, a founding member of UNDEF, is also current member of the Advisory Board.</b></li> </ul>
 <b>RBI unveils Information Technology (IT) services outsourcing norms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RBI issued norms <b>for banks, NBFCs and regulated entities (RE)</b> of financial sector to ensure that such arrangements <b>do not undermine their responsibilities and obligations to customers.</b></li> <li>• <b>Key highlights of norms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Outsourcing should not interfere</b> with ability of RE <b>to effectively oversee and manage</b> its activities.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Evaluate need for outsourcing of IT services</b> based on comprehensive assessment of attendant benefits, risks etc.</li> <li>&gt; Put in place <b>a risk management framework</b> for outsourcing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <b>Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Home Minister launched <b>VVP in Kibithoo village in Anjaw district in Arunachal Pradesh.</b></li> <li>• VVP, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, <b>provide funds for development of essential infrastructure and creation of livelihood opportunities.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; VVP (approved for 2022-23 to 2025-26 ) will cover <b>Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Scheme will help in <b>improving quality of life of people and reversing outmigration adding to improved security</b> of border.</li> <li>• <b>Key interventions:</b> Road connectivity, drinking water, electricity, mobile and internet connectivity, tourist centers etc.</li> </ul>
 <b>Exercise Cope India 23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>bilateral Air Exercise</b> between the <b>Indian Air Force and United States Air Force.</b></li> </ul>

 <p><b>National Policy on Menstrual Hygiene</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Supreme Court (SC) directed the central government to <b>frame a National Policy on menstrual hygiene for school-going girls</b> in the country.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ SC stated that the said <b>policy must ensure low cost sanitary napkins and safe disposal mechanisms</b> of sanitary napkins in schools.</li><li>➢ SC also asked <b>States and UTs to provide the ratio of girls' toilets</b> in schools.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>SC was hearing a petition</b> which stated that <b>inadequate Menstrual Hygiene Management options were a major barrier to education</b>, with many girls dropping out of school.</li></ul>
 <p><b>Cellular Agriculture</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● In the backdrop of <b>rising contribution of food industry in carbon emissions</b> (accounts for a third of carbon emissions), <b>Cellular Agriculture is being promoted</b> by many.</li><li>● Cellular Agriculture is the <b>production of animal-based products from cell cultures</b> rather than <b>directly from animals</b>.</li><li>● <b>It uses two different approaches:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ <b>Cell cultivation (cellular):</b> meat is directly produced from cells (fed with nutrients in large cultivators).</li><li>➢ <b>Precision fermentation (acellular):</b> microorganisms are used rather than cell cultures to produce products such as milk and egg-white proteins.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>PM visited Theppakadu Elephant Camp</b> in MTR.</li><li>● <b>About MTR</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ <b>Geographical location and other Important features:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Located in Nilgiris District</b> of Tamil Nadu at tri-junction of 3 states- <b>Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu</b>.</li><li>■ <b>Shares boundary with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary</b> (Kerala) on West, <b>Bandipur Tiger Reserve</b> (Karnataka) on North.</li><li>■ <b>Part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve</b>.</li><li>■ Received accreditation of <b>Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA TS)</b>.</li></ul></li><li>➢ <b>Forest Type:</b> Tropical evergreen forest, moist deciduous forest, moist teak forest, dry teak forest etc.</li><li>➢ <b>Fauna:</b> Elephants, Gaur, Tiger, Panther, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Wild Boar, hornbill etc.</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p><b>National Innovation Foundation (NIF)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 11th Biennial <b>National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge</b> Awards of NIF presented.</li><li>● NIF, autonomous body of Department of <b>Science and Technology</b>, was set up to strengthen <b>grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge</b>.</li><li>● NIF has <b>pooled a database of technological ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge</b> practices from over 625 districts of the country with the help of a grassroots to global (G2G) model.</li><li>● NIF has <b>also set up an augmented Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab)</b> for product development and strengthening in-house research.</li></ul>
 <p><b>National Centre of Excellence in Technology for Internal Security (NCETIS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● UIDAI - IIT Bombay join hands (under NCETIS) to develop touchless biometric capture system.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It will allow <b>fingerprint authentication from home alike face authentication making Universal authenticator</b> a reality</li></ul></li><li>● NCETIS is a <b>joint initiative by IIT Bombay and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</b>, under its flagship <b>Digital India Programme</b>.</li><li>● NCETIS is <b>aimed at developing indigenous technology solutions for Internal Security forces</b> in broad areas of Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM).</li></ul>
 <p><b>Zojila Tunnel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● This tunnel will provide <b>year-round connectivity between Kashmir Valley and Ladakh</b>.</li><li>● It will pass under the <b>Zojila Pass</b> in the Himalayas between <b>Ganderbal in Kashmir and Drass town in Kargil district of Ladakh</b>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ It is a <b>horseshoe-shaped single-tube, 2-lane tunnel</b>.</li></ul></li><li>● It is <b>strategically important</b> because <b>Zojila Pass</b>, located on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway, <b>is closed in winters due to snowfall</b>.</li></ul> 