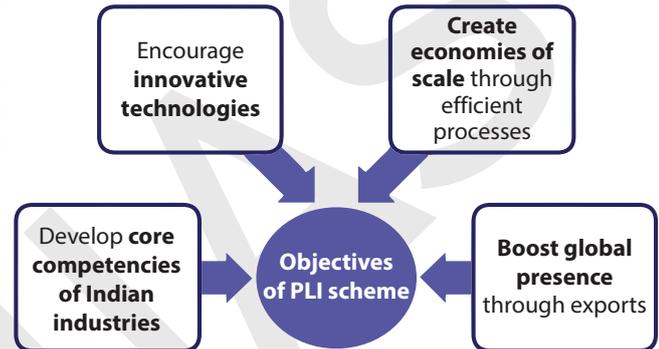# NEWS TODAY

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEMES CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASE IN PRODUCTION, EMPLOYMENT GENERATION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- PLI related **data from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** highlighted:
  - A **significant increase in FDI inflows** from FY 2021-22 to FY 2022-23 **in various sectors** including: **Manufacturing** (+76%), **Drugs and Pharmaceuticals** (+46%), **Food Processing Industries** (+26%) and **Medical Appliances** (+91%).
  - **60% import substitution** achieved **in Telecom sector.**
  - **Actual investment of Rs. 62,500 Crore** has been realized till March 2023 which has **resulted in incremental production/ sales over Rs. 6.75 Lakh Crore and employment generation of around 3,25,000.**
  - **Exports boosted by Rs 2.56 Lakh Crore** till FY 2022-23.
- **Union Budget 2021-22 announced** an outlay of **INR 1.97 lakh crores for PLI schemes for 14 key sectors** including electronic manufacturing, automobile, battery, pharma, food, textiles, telecom etc.
  - Scheme **extends incentive** on net incremental sale (over base year) of manufactured goods covered **under target segments.**
- **Challenges**
  - **Low disbursal of incentives** to manufacturers.
  - **6 of the 14 sectors** including textiles, solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries **are lagging.**
  - **No common set of parameters to understand the value added** by beneficiary companies.
  - **Lack of a centralized database** to monitor progress.

Encourage **innovative technologies**

Create economies of scale through efficient processes

Develop **core competencies of Indian industries**

Objectives of PLI scheme

Boost global presence through exports

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- **World Conference on Human Rights,** held in June 1993, **by consensus adopted Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA).**
  - **Building on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** of 1948, delegates at Vienna **affirmed the universality, indivisibility and interdependency** of human rights.
- **Vienna Declaration stated**
  - **Universal nature of all human rights** and fundamental freedoms **is beyond question.**
  - **Right of self-determination** to freely determine their political status, and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
  - **A role for international action** to promote and protect human rights.
- **Vienna consensus gave birth to** historical advances on
  - **Rights of women, children, indigenous peoples, minorities** and other groups.
  - **Fight against impunity,** including establishment of **International Criminal Court** (ICC).
- However, **new challenges are holding back fulfilment** of UDHR and VDPA, among these, **digitalization and climate change, inequalities, gender discrimination,** and a rise in **hate speech, disinformation and polarization.**
- Throughout 2023, **UN Human Rights is celebrating Human Rights 75 initiative** to call on States and all others to take clear steps **to fulfil the promises of the Universal Declaration.**

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

- **Foundation** laid by **UDHR (1948).**
- **Two treaties** i.e International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) **adopted in 1966.**
- **Together** with UDHR, ICCPR and ICESCR **comprise the International Bill of Human Rights.**
- **India has ratified both** ICCPR and ICESCR. Unlike the covenants, **the UDHR is not a treaty and has not been signed or ratified by states.**

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MARKS ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

- **Theme** of year-long global campaign is **Peace Begins with Me.**
- **Peacekeeping began in 1948** when UNSC authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East. There are **currently 12 UN peacekeeping operations.**
  - **UNSC determines** (deriving power from UN charter) **when and where a UN peace operation should be deployed.**
- **It helps countries** torn by conflict **achieve lasting peace, supports political processes, protects civilians,** assists in the **disarmament, demobilization** and guarantee **ceasefires.**
  - **It is guided by three basic principles:** Consent of the parties, Impartiality and Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.
  - **In 1988,** UN peacekeepers were **awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.**
- **India and Peacekeeping**
  - **Deployed Over 200,000 troops over the years** in around 49 UN Peacekeeping Missions.
  - **First country to deploy an all-women contingent** to UN peacekeeping mission **in Liberia.**
  - **India in collaboration with UN launched UNITE Aware Platform,** a situational awareness software programme that will utilise modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers.
  - India **provided COVID-19 vaccines** for UN Peacekeeping personnel worldwide.

INSTITUTIONS MUST PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR AUDITING AI- BASED GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS: COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG)

- In a recent report, **CAG highlighted** that Supreme Audit Institutions have a **crucial role in audit of Responsible AI** to ensure good governance, transparency and accountability.
  - AI **can be used for removing repetitive tasks** in audit, **enabling analysis of large volumes of data** and risk assessment, fraud detection and continuous auditing.
- Report also presented a **case for use of AI in public sector to:**
  - Enables **faster, more efficient, and more effective delivery of services.**
  - **Increase transparency and accountability.**
  - Better **citizen engagement and informed policy decisions.**
- Report highlights **need for a Responsible AI which stands on four pillars:**
  - **Organisational democratisation** that empowers and encourages individuals to raise concerns.
  - **Systems** that **enable AI to flourish.**
  - **Systems and platforms that are trustworthy** and explainable by design.
  - **Articulation of responsible AI Mission** that is anchored in organisational values and ethical guardrails.
- Report presented some of the **global standards for AI that can be used for auditing:**
  - **UNESCO Global Agreement:** to guide governments and companies towards AI technologies that confirm with commonly agreed principles.
  - **ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 42:** an international standards committee responsible for developing AI standards.

RELATED NEWS

Hiroshima AI Process (HAP)

- **At the recent G7 summit,** hosted by Japan, leaders initiated **HAP to regulate Artificial Intelligence** (AI).
  - HAP will be **established through a G7 working group,** in cooperation **with OECD and Global Partnership on AI (GPAI).**
- With the help of HAP, **G7 countries could move towards a divergent regulation** based on shared norms, principles and guiding values.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister **proposed a four-point framework** with a **focus on technological availability and improvement** and **Consistent training and capacity building** for securing UN peacekeepers to meet contemporary threats.

CENTRE ANNOUNCES THREE SCHEMES WORTH OVER RS 8000 CR FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN COUNTRY

- **Central government will provide funds to the States for:**
  - **Expanding** and modernize **fire services.**
  - **Reducing risk of urban flooding** in the seven most populous metros including Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Pune.
  - **National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project** for 17 States and UTs.
- **India's approach** towards disaster management has **shifted from relief-centric and reactionary to Disaster Risk Reduction** with focus on **early warning system, prevention, mitigation and preparedness** at grassroots level.
- **Recent initiatives taken**
  - **IMD gives 5 days advance forecast** of rainfall and flood (earlier used to give three days advance forecast).
  - **271 wetlands identified in Northeast** by ISRO for **flood management.**
  - **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** launched.
  - **Model Fire Bill and State level action plan for Thunderstorm and Lightning, cold wave and fog** by Centre.
  - **Strict protocols for states, where nuclear power plants** are coming up, for rescue in emergency.
  - **Building dedicated institutions** like National Fire Service College (NFSC) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy.
  - **Aapda Mitra** scheme, **a Centrally Sponsored Scheme,** focusing on **training community volunteers** in disaster response in **30 most flood-prone districts.**

US SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVED LEGISLATION TO REMOVE CHINA'S "DEVELOPING COUNTRY" STATUS

- Legislation establishes a **US policy against granting China developing country status** in future treaties and international organisations.
  - ➢ **Earlier,** a similar legislation was **passed by House of Representatives.**
- It has been asserted that **China can no longer be considered** a developing country, given its **significant economy, military power, and extensive investments worldwide.**
- **World Trade Organization (WTO) has not defined 'developed' and 'developing' countries** and therefore **member countries are free to announce** whether they are 'developed' or 'developing'.
  - ➢ **UN also has no formal definition** of developing countries, but still uses the term for monitoring purposes.
- **Advantages of Developing country status:**
  - ➢ **Receive preferential treatment** in terms of **market access, loans, reduction in government support and technical assistance** from international organisations.
  - ➢ **Longer transition period** before they are required to fully implement WTO agreement.
  - ➢ **Benefit from unilateral preference schemes** of some of developed country members such as USA's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).
  - ➢ **Favourable treatment concerning issues** such as **climate change** responsibilities.

ALSO IN NEWS

Ordinance	• **A recent analysis showed that:** ➢ Number of **ordinance issued has dropped since 2019.** ➢ **In 2022,** for the first time in 59 years, **no ordinances were promulgated.** ➢ **10th Lok Sabha** (1991 to 1996) **holds record for promulgating most number of ordinances i.e** 109. • **Article 123 empowers President to promulgate ordinances** during the recess of Parliament. • These ordinances **have the same force and effect as an act of Parliament,** but are in the nature of temporary laws.
Capacity Building Commission(CBC)	• **Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI)** gets accreditation certificate from CBC. • Established in 2021, CBC has been **mandated to drive standardisation and harmonisation** across **Indian civil services landscape.** ➢ Commission's role is **central to the overall** institutional **framework of Mission Karmayogi-**National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. • Established as an **independent body with complete executive and financial autonomy,** CBC comprises of **three Members** and is supported by **an internal Secretariat.**
Cost Inflation Index(CII)	• **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified** the final CII for FY24 at 348. • CII number is **used to adjust the purchase price of assets** on the **basis of inflation.** • CII number **helps to calculate long-term capital gains** on assets **after taking inflation into account.** ➢ **From the current financial year,** CII number **cannot be used for debt mutual fund schemes and international equity mutual fund schemes,** among others.
Common panel of Insolvency Professionals (IPs)	• Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) **will prepare a common panel of Insolvency Professionals** (IPs) for appointment as: ➢ IRP (interim resolution professional), ➢ Liquidator, ➢ RP (resolution professionals) and ➢ BT (bankruptcy trustee). • Board will also **share the list in advance with the adjudicating authority (AA)** to choose from to **oversee various cases** of resolution or liquidation. ➢ At present, IBBI is required to **recommend the IP's name only after receiving reference** from AA. • **Advantages:** Avoid administrative delays in the appointment of IPs, will expedite insolvency resolution etc.

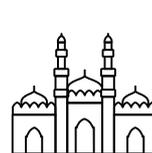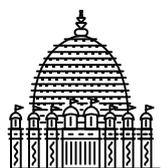|	
European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)	• European Union (EU) gave the **final go-ahead to EUDR** that aims **to minimise risk of deforestation and forest degradation** associated with **products that are placed on or exported from EU market.** ➤ **Mandatory due diligence rules** are set **for palm oil, cattle, wood, coffee, cocoa, rubber and soy.** ➤ **Rules also apply to a number of derived products** such as chocolate, furniture, printed paper etc. • It **assigns a level of risk related to deforestation and forest degradation** to countries within and outside the EU.
Two warships launched	• **Two warships Anjadip** (named after an island on western coast) **and Sanshodhak** were launched. • Anjadip is the **3rd Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Craft** (ASWSWC), and **Sanshodhak is the 4th Survey Vessel Large** (SVL). ➤ ASWSWCs **require less draft and can operate close to the coast,** searching for underwater threats and neutralising enemy assets. ➤ **SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships** with new generation hydrographic equipment **to collect oceanographic data.** • Both are being built by **Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE).**
Mayon Volcano	• Thousands evacuated as **Mayon Volcano oozes lava.** • It is the **most active volcano in the Philippines** and **one of the most active in the world,** having erupted over 51 times in the past four centuries. ➤ It is also called **one of the world's most perfect volcanic cone** because of the symmetry of its shape. • It is **situated in main island of Luzon** and is at the **centre of Mayon Volcano National Park.**
Tissue Engineering	• Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) **approved first indigenously developed animal-derived tissue engineering scaffold** for healing skin wounds. • Tissue engineering is a **biomedical engineering discipline to create tissues or cellular products outside the body** or to **repair tissues within the body.** • It **combines the principles of materials** and cell transplantation to develop substitute tissues and/or promote endogenous regeneration. • **Artificial skin and cartilage are examples** of engineered tissues.
Leptospirosis	• **With the onset of monsoon** in India, threat of **Leptospirosis disease has increased.** • It is a potentially fatal **zoonotic bacterial disease,** caused **by a bacterium Leptospira interrogans,** or leptospira. • It is a **contagious disease** in animals (carrier includes rodents, cattle, pigs, and dogs) but is **occasionally transmitted** to **humans** in certain environmental conditions. • It is prevalent in **warm, humid countries** and in both **urban** and **rural areas.** • Its **symptoms mimic** those of **dengue, malaria, and hepatitis.**
Chikungunya	• **A single-dose vaccine for chikungunya was found safe** and produced a strong immune response. ➤ **VLA1553 vaccine** is developed **by French biotech company Valneva.** • Chikungunya is a **mosquito-borne disease** caused **by chikungunya virus** (CHIKV), which is endemic in some regions of **Africa, Asia, and the Americas.** • Chikungunya virus is **transmitted by mosquitoes,** most commonly **Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti** and **Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus,** which can also **transmit dengue and Zika viruses.** ➤ These mosquitoes **bite primarily during daylight hours.** ➤ There is **currently no approved vaccine** or **specific treatment** for chikungunya virus infections.

DELHI　　**LUCKNOW**　　**JAIPUR**　　**HYDERABAD**　　**PUNE**　　**AHMEDABAD**　　**CHANDIGARH**　　**GUWAHATI**