

NEWS TODAY

UNION CABINET APPROVES E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT PHASE-III FOR 4 YEARS WITH A FINANCIAL OUTLAY OF RS.7210 CRORE

● **E-Courts Mission Mode Project** is a national e-Governance project for ICT enablement of district & subordinate courts.

➤ **Type:** Central Sector Scheme

➤ **Implementation:** Under the joint partnership of the **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India** in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts.

➤ Phase I of e-courts was concluded in 2015 and Phase II concluded in 2023.

● E-Courts Mission Mode Project **Phase-III aims to create a unified technology** platform for the judiciary.

➤ It aims to promote ease of justice by **making the system more accessible, affordable, reliable, predictable, and transparent for all stakeholders.**

➤ **Major Components:** Cloud Infrastructure, Paperless Court, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), Integration with Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), S3WAAS platform etc.

● **Expected outcomes**

➤ **Citizens:** Live streaming (Increase transparency in the system), Virtual Courts (expanding ease of Justice) etc.

➤ **Lawyers:** Digital hearings and e-filings Increasing efficiency and inclusivity for women and differently-abled lawyers, etc.

➤ **Judges:** Intelligent scheduling (Prioritisation of cases as well as time management), Greater access to information and research tools etc.

➤ **Courts:** ICT Infrastructure for new courts (Enhanced digital capacity), AI based "Smart" system etc.

GENERATIVE AI (GAI) AND JOBS: GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON JOB QUALITY AND QUANTITY

● Working paper released by **International Labour Organization (ILO)**- a UN UN Specialized agency.

● **GAI** is a branch of artificial intelligence that uses **deep-learning models** like OpenAI's **ChatGPT** and Google's Bard to create high-quality content like text, speech, etc.

➤ It leverages advanced **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** to understand complex language structures.

➤ **NLP** is a machine learning technology that gives computers the ability to interpret, manipulate, and comprehend human language.

● **Key observations**

➤ **GAI is more likely to augment jobs** as opposed to **fully automating occupations.**

➤ Share of jobs potentially exposed to automation with GAI grows with the income of the country.

➤ **Poorly managed tech** transition has gendered effects and **can disproportionately harm women.**

● **Recommendations**

➤ **Negotiation between employers and workers** to encourage redeployment/-training over job loss.

➤ Instituting **social protection and skills development programs.**

➤ **Enhancing job quality, training, and income support mitigates automation's gender effects.**

➤ Bring **AI regulation laws** involving **tripartite systems of workers, employers, and governments.**

ABOUT GPT

● **GPT (Generative Pre-Trained Transformers)** belongs to the family of **Large Language Models** – a type of **Machine Learning model based on neural networks.**

➤ **LLMs** are deep learning algorithms that **can recognize, summarize, translate, predict, and generate content** using very large datasets.

CABINET APPROVES EXPANSION OF PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA (PMUY)

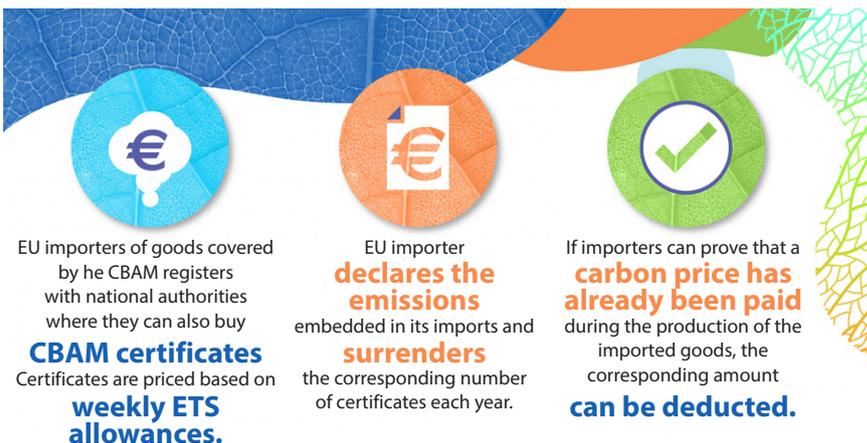
- Extension of PMUY will add new 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year **2023-24 to 2025-26**.
 - It will take total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crore.
- **PMUY** was started in 2016 with the objective of providing **deposit-free LPG connections to women from poor households**.
 - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
 - **No State/UT-wise** allocation of funds is done under PMUY.
 - PMUY beneficiaries have the **option to choose from 14.2 kg Single Bottle Connection(SBC)/ 5kg SBC/ 5kg Double Bottle Connection(DBC)**.
- **Benefits under PMUY**
 - As per the existing modalities of Ujjawala 2.0, **the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries**.
 - **A targeted subsidy of Rs.200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year** is being provided to PMUY consumers.
- **Initiatives to expand LPG coverage:**
 - **PAHAL:** To reduce 'ghost' accounts and illegal use of household cylinders for commercial purposes, the **subsidy was directly transferred to the individual's bank account electronically**.
 - **Significance:** Empowered women economically and socially, Reduced household air pollution, Reduced black carbon emission, etc.
 - **GIVE IT UP:** People were encouraged to voluntarily surrender their subsidies.
 - **Free refill under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana** (During Covid-19 time), etc.

GREEN ENERGY TO HELP INDUSTRY DEAL WITH EU'S CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (CBAM): MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

- CBAM is a policy instrument to put a **fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon-intensive goods** that are entering the EU and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
 - Reporting under it will start from 1 October 2023. It becomes operational in its definitive phase on 1 January 2026.
 - The CBAM is **designed to be compatible with WTO rules**.
- CBAM is like a **non-tariff barrier** (NTB) for Indian exports.
 - An NTB is any measure, other than a customs tariff, that acts as a barrier to international trade.
- **India's Approach to deal with CBAM**
 - Adoption of **low-carbon emitting technologies** and production methods.
 - Promoting **decarbonization** with the help of initiatives like **Green Hydrogen Mission, Solar Mission** etc.
 - India is negotiating with the EU to **keep MSMEs out of the ambit**.
- EU is **India's third largest trading partner** and India is the EU's 10th largest trading partner.
 - In 2022, India's 27 per cent exports of iron, steel, and aluminium products of value USD 8.2 billion went to the EU.

MARINE LIGHT POLLUTION THREATENS COASTAL MARINE SYSTEMS: STUDY BY JOURNAL AQUATIC CONSERVATION

- **Light pollution** also known as '**Artificial Light at Night**' (**ALAN**) is an excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial (usually outdoor) light in the environment.
- **Sources of light for Marine Ecosystem:**
 - **Natural Sources-** Sunlight, **moonlight, starlight**, and bioluminescent light (**result of endogenous biochemical reactions**).
 - **Artificial light:** City lights, by **offshore oil and gas platforms**, wind farms, and island development.
- **Significance of Light for Marine Ecosystem**
 - **Ocean is generally divided into three zones** based on the **amount of sunlight it receives** i.e., Euphotic (<200 m), Dysphotic(**200 and 1,000 m**), and Aphotic zones (below 1,000 m).
 - Marine organisms have **visual systems guided by light** and solar and lunar cycles regulate their life events e.g., eggs hatching, etc.
- **Impact of Light Pollution:**
 - Reduce ability of Shallow-inhabiting photosynthesizers (plants and algae) to produce chlorophyll.
 - It can **alter symbioses and lower overall reef health**.
 - Physiology **change in one species can impact** the inter-species interactions.
 - Can lead to **slow colonization of dominant species**.
- **Suggestions:**
 - Use red light in coastal areas and build barriers against artificial light.
 - Establishment of **marine conservation areas** or international dark sky areas.
 - Reducing light pollution during known **critical periods for marine communities**.
 - Advancement of better alternatives to cruises, lighthouses, and ships etc.



G20/OECD PRINCIPLES OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2023

- Endorsed at recently concluded **G20 summit 2023**.
- Aim to **help companies navigate changing capital markets** while **promoting market confidence** and **financial stability**.
 - **Principles were first issued in 1999** and were **endorsed by G20 Leaders in 2015**.
- **Corporate Governance** may be defined as a **set of systems, processes, and principles** that ensure that a company is governed in the **best interest of all stakeholders**.
- **Principles of Corporate Governance:**

Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and regulatory requirements should be consistent with the rule of law. • Supervisory authorities should give due attention to associated risks of Digital technologies. • Cross-border cooperation for the exchange of information.
Shareholder rights and ownership function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospects for shareholders participation in general shareholder meetings. • Address conflicts of interest inherent in related transactions.
Institutional investors, stock markets, and intermediaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition of insider trading and market manipulation, etc.
Disclosure and Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Capital structures, group structures, voting rights, etc. • Annual external audit by an independent agency.
Responsibilities of the board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat all shareholders fairly, and ensure a formal and transparent board nomination and election process, etc.
Sustainability and resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability-related disclosure frameworks should be consistent with internationally recognized standards. • Established dialogue on sustainability.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>National E-Vidhan Application (NeVA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About NeVA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a Unicode-compliant software developed to make all legislative body work and data available online for usage by both citizens and Assembly members. ➤ It embodies the concept of 'One Nation, One Application.' ➤ Funding: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. ➤ Technical support: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. ➤ Significance: Automation of the entire legislative process, tracking of decisions and documents, and sharing of information.
<p>Ayushman Bhav Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a collaborative effort spearheaded by Gram Panchayats to extend comprehensive healthcare coverage to every village and town. • It has 3 components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ayushman Apke Dwar 3.0: to provide Ayushman cards to remaining eligible beneficiaries enrolled under the PM-JAY scheme. ➤ Ayushman Melas: To facilitate the creation of Health IDs and issuance of Ayushman Bharat Cards. ➤ Ayushman Sabhas: To raise awareness about vital health schemes and disease conditions.
<p>FDI in Pharmaceutical Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per the FDI Policy of India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total FDI inflows in pharmaceutical sector has been Rs.43,713 crore during last five years (from 2018-19 to 2022-23). ➤ Greenfield (New project): 100% foreign investment is allowed under automatic route. ➤ Brownfield (Existing project): FDI upto 74% are allowed under the automatic route and Government approval is required for investment beyond 74%.
<p>Skill India Digital (SID) Platform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched SID as a state-of-the-art platform to bring all skilling initiatives together. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SID is the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for skilling, education, employment, and entrepreneurship ecosystem of India. • Objective: To make skill development more innovative, accessible, and personalized in its embodiment, focusing on digital technology and Industry 4.0 skills. • The platform incorporates Aadhar-enabled facial recognition technology as well as artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to recommend customised courses to students.

 <p>Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DiCRA is a collaborative digital public good that provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate-resilient agriculture.• It is curated by UNDP and partner organizations to inform public investments in agriculture.• It will promote food systems by enhancing support for smallholder farmers.
 <p>TTPs (Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures)-based cybercrime investigation framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TTPs-based cybercrime investigation framework can help track and classify cybercrimes, identify the chain of evidence required to solve the case, and map evidence onto the framework to convict criminals.• It was developed by IIT Kanpur with support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), developed a methodology and tool for apprehending cybercriminals' modes of operations in a crime execution lifecycle.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ NM-ICPS aims to develop technology platforms to carry out R&D, translational research, product development, incubating & supporting start-ups, and commercialization.
 <p>K2-18 b Exoplanet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NASA's James Webb Space Telescope discovered the presence of carbon dioxide and methane on an Exoplanet.• K2-18 b exoplanet is 120 light years from Earth.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Planets that orbit stars, other than our sun, are called Exoplanets.• James Webb Telescope is a space telescope specifically designed to conduct infrared astronomy.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Its high-resolution and high-sensitivity instruments allow it to view objects too old, distant, or faint for the Hubble Space Telescope.
 <p>MESSENGER (Mercury Surface, Space Environment, Geochemistry and Ranging)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NASA recently shared image of Mercury captured by MESSENGER on social media.• MESSENGER was a NASA spacecraft mission designed to study the planet Mercury.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Its primary goal was to study the geology, magnetic field, and chemical composition of the planet.➤ It was launched in 2004 and mission ended in 2015.• Among its accomplishments, the mission determined Mercury's surface composition, revealed its geological history, discovered details about its internal magnetic field, and verified its polar deposits are dominantly water-ice.
 <p>Hindi Diwas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is annually observed on September 14 to commemorate the adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari script as one of the official languages of the nation.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Article 343 recognises Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.• World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 to honor the inception of the World Hindi Conference.
 <p>Operation Polo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75th anniversary of Operation Polo is being celebrated.• It is the code name of military action launched by the Indian Army on September 13, 1948, to integrate the princely state of Hyderabad.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It was launched because Nizam Mir Osman Ali Shah was reluctant to join India after Independence in 1947.
 <p>Places in news</p>	<p>Armenia (Capital: Yerevan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Union Cabinet approved the MoU with Armenia on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.• Political Boundaries<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Location: Landlocked country of Transcaucasia (populated region to the south of the Caucasus Mountains).➤ Border: Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (a disputed territory), Turkey, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (an exclave of Azerbaijan), Georgia, and Iran.• Geographical features<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Physical features: It is a mountainous country (there are no lowlands).➤ Highest Peak: Mount Aragats (Alaghez)➤ Rivers: Aras River 