

NEWS TODAY

CENTRE INTRODUCES 'CONSTITUTION (128TH) AMENDMENT BILL, 2023' NAMED NARI SHAKTI VANDAN BILL IN LOK SABHA (LS)

- **Last such attempt** for women reservation was made in 2010 when Rajya Sabha Passed a similar Bill.
- **Need for women reservation: Low representation** of women in Parliament (less than 15%) and in States (example- Mizoram have no women legislator).
- **Key highlights**
 - **Reservation: 1/3rd** reservation to women in:
 - **Lok Sabha** (inserted Article 330A)
 - **State Assemblies** (inserted Article 332A)
 - **Assembly of NCT of Delhi** (through amendment to Article 239AA).
 - Reservation is also **extended to seats reserved for SCs and STs** in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
 - **Duration of reservation: 15 years** from commencement of Act and **Parliament can extend it further.**
 - **Enforcement of reservation:** Reservation will come into effect **after completion of delimitation exercise** based on the **first Census** conducted after the passage of the Bill.
 - **Rotation of seat:** Rotation of reserved seats reserved shall take effect after **each subsequent delimitation.**
- **Process of Amendment:**
 - Bill will have to be passed in **each House of Parliament** by a **majority of total membership** of house and by a **majority of not less than 2/3rd** of members of the House "**present and voting**".
 - Bill will require **ratification by at least 50% of the States.**

LEVERAGING E-COMMERCE FOR THE GROWTH OF MICRO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)

- The **India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)** has released its annual survey on MSMEs, focusing on the leverage of E-commerce for the growth of MSMEs.
 - **Established in 1981, ICRIER is one of India's premier economic think tanks** with the goal of providing policy advice to effectively deal with external economic shocks.
- **MSMEs in India**
 - Around **19.3 million MSMEs which employ around 131.04 million individuals** are registered on the Udyam portal of which **96.2 % are classified as micro, 3.4 % as small, 0.4% as medium** enterprises.
 - **Udyam portal** provides MSMEs with a permanent registration and basic identification number.
 - **27% of the MSMEs** are engaged in **manufacturing** and **73% are in services.**
- **Challenges in integrating with E-Commerce sites:**
 - Lack of knowledge and digital illiteracy.
 - Lack of digital infrastructure.
 - Lack of access to skilled labour.
- **Significance of E-Commerce integration:**
 - Successful integration with **E-commerce platform have reported an increase in sales.**
 - Integrated firms **report higher turnovers and profitability.**
 - Integrated firms have a **higher share of permanent employees**

CLASSIFICATION	MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM
Manufacturing Enterprises and Enterprises rendering Services	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.1 crore and Annual Turnover; not more than Rs. 5 crore	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.10 crore and Annual Turnover; not more than Rs. 50 crore	Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.50 crore and Annual Turnover; not more than Rs. 250 crore



WHO HYPERTENSION REPORT REVEALS 4.6 MILLION LIVES IN INDIA CAN BE SAVED BY 2040 WITH BETTER CONTROL

• WHO has released **first-ever report on hypertension** titled 'Global Report on Hypertension: The Race against a Silent Killer.'

• About Hypertension

- > It is a **condition of higher blood pressure than normal**, measured by diastolic and systolic blood pressure levels.
- > **Systolic pressure is the maximum blood pressure** during contraction of the ventricles and **diastolic pressure is the minimum pressure** recorded just prior to the next contraction.

• Key findings

- > Globally, **higher prevalence of hypertension among males** (34%) than females (32%).
- > In India, 31% of the population have hypertension.
- > Only **37%** of Indians with hypertension are **diagnosed** and only **30% get treatment**.
- > **Cardiovascular disease deaths** attributable to high systolic blood pressure are **higher among females (54%) than males (51%)**.
- > **Risk factors** include higher salt intake, tobacco use, obesity, alcohol consumption, and physical inactivity.

• Interventions in India

> India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI)

- A collaborative initiative between **MoHFW, state governments, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and WHO-India**.
- Aims to improve hypertension control using evidence-based treatment protocol, uninterrupted drug supply, patient-centered care, task sharing, and digital information system.

OECD RELEASES REPORT 'EMBRACING A ONE HEALTH FRAMEWORK TO FIGHT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

• Key highlights

- > **AMR is a top preventable public health threat** and resistance is expected to remain **above 40% by 2035 for India**.
- > **Economic costs by 2050** for AMR are estimated at **3.8% of annual GDP (as per World Bank)**.
- > **Misuse of antimicrobials** in human and animal health remains one of the **key drivers of AMR**
- > **Investments in line with the One Health framework** offer a cost-effective means to limit the harmful effects of AMR.
 - **One Health'** promotes **coordinated action across human and animal health, agri-food systems and the environment**

• About AMR

- > AMR occurs when **microbes** (bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses) evolve so that **antimicrobial drugs** against them are **no longer effective**.
 - As a result of this drug resistance, **infections spread and become harder to treat**.
 - Microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance are referred to as **"superbugs"**.

• Key initiatives

> India

- **National action plan on containment of AMR** focusing on One Health approach was launched in 2017.
- **National AMR surveillance network of state medical college labs (NARS-Net)** to generate quality data on AMR.

> **Global Action Plan on AMR endorsed by** World Health Assembly in 2015.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE UNVEILS INITIATIVES FOR FARMERS

• Initiatives aim to **enhance financial inclusion, optimize data utilization, and improve the lives of farmers** across the nation.

• Key initiatives:

- > **KCC Ghar Ghar Abhiyaan:** Campaign to (as per World Bank) **connect around 1.5 crore beneficiaries** who are not yet connected to **KCC scheme**.
 - KCC scheme aims at providing **timely credit support to farmers** including those engaged in **Animal husbandry and fishery**.
 - It could be availed for the **cultivation of Crops, Post-harvest expenses, and consumption requirements of Farmer Households**.
- > **Kisan Rin Portal (KRP):** For comprehensive **farmer data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims** under the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)**, etc.
 - MISS Provide **Short Term Agri Loan up to 3 lakh at subsidized interest rates**.
 - **Interest subvention of 2% and Prompt Repayment Incentive of 3%** is given to farmers.
- > **WINDS Manual:** Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative aims to establish a network of **Automatic Weather Stations and Rain Gauges at the taluk/block and gram panchayat levels**.
 - It will help in implementation of **crop insurance** Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).



FISCAL COST OF REVERTING TO THE OLD PENSION SCHEME (OPS) BY THE INDIAN STATES – RBI

•Key Highlights

- The **reduction in outgo for the States by reverting to the OPS is only short-lived** and its effect will outpace the New/National Pension Scheme (NPS) contribution for most of the States by the 2030s.
- **Switching to the OPS**, the estimated actual **pension burden will be increased by around 4.5 times** of the pension outgo under the NPS.
- By 2060, the additional **OPS burden will be rising to 0.9% of GDP annually** for the states.

While most of the countries are moving towards defined contribution plans, **switching back to OPS by the States would be fiscally unsustainable.**

•Difference between OPS and NPS

OPS	NPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OPS is a defined benefit (DB) scheme under which, the employees get a pension fixed at 50% of the last drawn salary. • OPS exempts income from taxation. • Applicable to government employees on retirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPS is a defined contribution (DC) scheme in which the employees' contribution is 10% of basic salary and dearness allowances, with a matching contribution from the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For central Govt. employees, the employer's contribution is 14%. • NPS allows a tax exemption of 60% of the corpus upon maturity, and the rest 40% is taxable when invested in annuities. • Applicable to all citizens aged between 18 to 65 years.

ALSO IN NEWS



Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)



Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

GANHRI



Genesis: Established as the **International Coordinating Committee of institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights** in 1993.

It was renamed as GANHRI in 2016.



Organisational Structure: It consists of a **General Assembly** and **Bureau comprising an executive committee** of 16 members.



Members: 120 members (88- A status and 32- B status NHRI's)
"A Accreditation"



Functions:

- It **accredits National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)** with a 'A status' (full compliance) or 'B status' (partial compliance) based on their adherence in meeting the requirements of the Paris Principles.
- They also **support NHRI's in capacity building** and on **various thematic areas to improve human rights.**



Five Eyes alliance

- It is an **intelligence-sharing arrangement** between **US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.**
- Under this, intelligence agencies of these five countries **share signal, military and human intelligence among themselves.**



Indo-Canada relation

- Deteriorating Indo-Canadian relations are expected to have potential economic spillovers in terms of trade and investment between the two nations.
 - It led to a pause in negotiations on the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between the two nations.
 - It can also adversely impact the Indian diaspora based in Canada.



Nagorno-Karabakh

- Azerbaijan has launched military operation against Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The region is **referred to as Artsakh by Armenians** and is a **landlocked mountainous area** in South Caucasus.
- It was **claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia** after the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917 and has remained a point of tension ever since.
- The **territory is recognised as part of Azerbaijan**, but its inhabitants are predominantly ethnic Armenians.



 <p>SDG Summit 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, SDG Summit concluded with a political declaration outlining commitment to create a sustainable and inclusive world by 2030. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was convened by the President of the UN General Assembly as a high-level political forum. Key outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reiterated Addis Ababa Action Agenda for efficient use of financial flows for sustainable development. ➤ Support of all nations for a crucial overhaul of the international financial system to better reflect the current state of the world economy. ➤ Recommitted to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
 <p>Collaborative Partnership on Forests</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #007bff; padding: 10px;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">CPF Collaborative partnership on Forests</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPF has launched the Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genesis: Established in 2001 by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) as an voluntary interagency partnership on forests. Mission: To help enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Functions: Support work of UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), provide scientific and technical advice to the UNFF, etc. Members: Comprises international organizations, institutions, and secretariats that have substantial programs on forests. </div>
 <p>Green Nudges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green nudges are positive and gentle persuasion to encourage sustainable and environment-friendly behavior in people. Its benefits include being cost-effective, work better in raising awareness, bringing long-term sustainable changes, etc.
 <p>Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A panel of experts convened by NASA called for more data and a serious inquiry into the origins of 'UAP' or Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Panel also highlighted that the ability to study UAPs "is hindered by poor data collection and a lack of uniform standards. UAP are defined as sightings "that cannot be identified as aircraft or known natural phenomena from a scientific perspective".
 <p>Paryushan Parv</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paryushan Parv is celebrated for 8 days by Shwetambar Jains and 10 days by Digambar Jains who also call it Das Lakshan Parv. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is observed as the period of daily fasting, confession and inner reflection. Samvatsari is the last day of Paryushan marked by seeking of forgiveness by Jain community from all living beings for sins they may have made (deliberately or otherwise). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Samvatsari falls on Ananth Chaurdsashi and is observed as the day when Vasupujya (twelfth tirthankara) attained nirvana.
 <p>Places in News</p>	<p>Ukraine (Capital: KYIV)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missile explosion in Kostyantynivka city is being seen as a result of a wayward Ukrainian rocket. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The City is situated in eastern Ukraine, on the Kryvyi Torets River. About Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ukraine is known as the 'breadbasket of Europe'. ➤ Bounded by: Belarus, Russia, Sea of Azov, Black Sea, Moldova and Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland. ➤ Geographical feature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main Rivers: Danube river, Dnieper river. ○ Highest Peak: Mount Hoverla 

Errata: In News Today Dated 19th September 2023, under 'Also in news', the heading 'Places in News' was incorrectly mentioned. The correct heading is 'Chausath Yogini temple'