

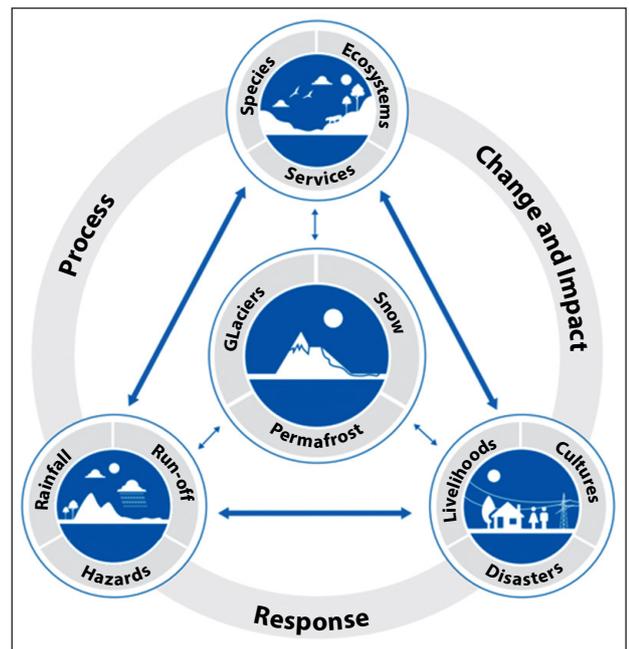
NEWS TODAY

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY PASSES PUNJAB POLICE AMENDMENT BILL, 2023

- The bill amends the procedure to select **Director General of Police (DGP)**, and paves the way for the state to appoint him/her.
 - State government cited that **'public order and Police'** is listed under the **State List in the Seventh Schedule of Constitution**.
 - The bill seeks to amend the **Punjab Police Act, 2007 to bypass the requirement of the empanelment by UPSC**.
- **Current procedure to appoint DGP**
 - As per the guidelines laid down by the **Supreme Court in former DGP Prakash Singh petition on police reforms**, the state government is supposed to send a panel of eligible officers to the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
 - UPSC then **shortlists three officers from the panel** and the state government would select an officer of its choice among those three.
 - In 2018 SC order stated that **any conflicting rule/legislation counter to the direction for the appoint of post by state or central government** shall remain in abeyance.
 - However, the bill passed by Punjab Assembly enables the State Government to form a **seven member Empanelment Committee**.
 - **This committee will form a panel of three senior-most officers** to choose DGP for the state.

WATER, ICE, SOCIETY, AND ECOSYSTEMS IN THE HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA (HI-WISE) REPORT

- Released by **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**.
 - The **Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)** is one of the highest mountain ranges in the world. It is also referred as the **Third Pole and water tower of Asia**.
- **Key Findings**
 - **Cryosphere:** Acceleration of glacier mass loss by 65%.
 - **Glaciers could lose up to 80%** of their current volume by the end of this century.
 - **Recommendations:** Evaluate the **effects and chalk out the adaptation strategies**.
 - Assess changing permafrost include elevated risks for livelihoods and infrastructure.
 - Permafrost is the thick subsurface layer of soil that remains below freezing point throughout the year.
 - **Water:** With accelerated glacier melt, **'peak water'** will be reached around mid-century.
 - Evidence for **slow-onset hazards** related to glacier retreat as well as heavy precipitation.
 - **Recommendations:**
 - Prepare an action for an **increased dependence on** meltwater.
 - **Ecosystem:** Shrinking of the **cryosphere – attributable to climate change** – is resulting in glacier mass loss, snow cover reduction, shrinkage of permafrost area.
 - **Recommendations:** Adopt **Nature-based solutions**.
 - **South-South cooperation** to address it.
 - **Society**
 - Intensifying cryosphere change, population growth, and infrastructure development has **intensified hazards**.
 - **Recommendations:**
 - Collaborative efforts to understand the **transboundary implications**.

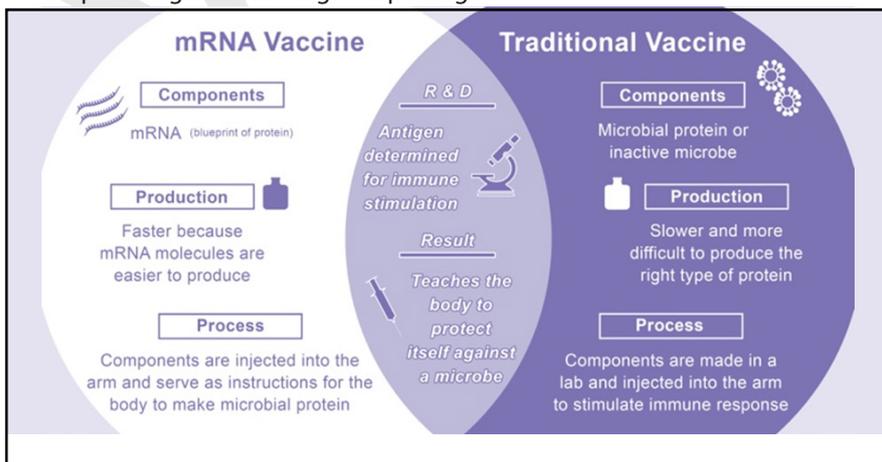


TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI) RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS ON 'LICENSING FRAMEWORK AND REGULATORY MECHANISM FOR SUBMARINE CABLE LANDING IN INDIA'

- The framework will **ease the rules for setting up submarine (undersea) cable landing stations (CLS)** in India.
 - In August 2022 the **Department of Telecom (DoT)** sought such recommendations while highlighting various concerns related to **Submarine Cables (SMC) and Cable Landing Station (CLS)**.
 - The **SMC are laid on the ocean floor and digitally connect countries typically, connect terrestrial telecom networks, and the CLS is the location where they make a landfall.**
- **Key highlights**
 - **Essential Services' and Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) status** can be accorded to **CLS and Submarine Cables (SMC) operation and maintenance services.**
 - **Exemption of custom duty and GST** on the goods and items required for CLS, and submarine operation and maintenance.
 - The clearances related to **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Coastal Region Zone (CRZ)** required for SMC and CLS may also be made online as a part of **Saral Sanchar portal.**
 - A section should be added in the **Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022** to promote, protect and prioritise 'CLS' and 'SMC' in India.
 - The Bill provides a mechanism to exercise the **right of way** (right to pass over or through real property owned by someone else) for laying telecom infrastructure.

INDIA'S FIRST MRNA VACCINE GET APPROVAL DRUGS CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA (DCGI)

- **GEMCOVAC-OM a mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine** produced by Genovra Biopharmaceuticals Ltd have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by DCGI.
 - It is a **lyophilized (freeze dried) vaccine**, stable at 2- 8 °C, is delivered using a device called Tropis.
 - Tropis use the technology that **propels liquid at high pressure to deliver vaccines** through the skin **without utilising needles.**
- **Clinical trials and approval of new drugs/vaccines** are governed by the **New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules 2019** under the provisions of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
 - **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** headed by the DCGI is the authority to grant approval of Vaccine.
 - **Vaccine Testing and subsequent approval** involves **preclinical phase** (without testing on humans) and **three phases of human clinical trials.**
- **About mRNA vaccine**
 - It is **type of vaccine that use messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules** to provide instructions to the body's **cells for producing a protein that triggers an immune response** against a pathogen.
 - Once the **mRNA is injected into the body**, the **cells read the instructions and produces the protein.**
 - **This then stimulates the immune system to recognize** and mount a response against the targeted pathogen.



E-NAM SET TO CROSS 1 TRILLION RUPEES TRADE IN FY24

- Launched in 2016, e-NAM is a **pan-India electronic trading portal that networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee mandis.**
 - It creates a **unified national market for agricultural commodities** by:
 - **streamlining of procedures** across the integrated markets.
 - **removing information asymmetry** between buyers and sellers.
 - **promoting real-time price discovery.**
 - It is completely **funded by the Central Government and is implemented by the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium**, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- **Other key features**
 - Facilitate trade from warehouses based on **e-NWR (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt).**
 - NWR system allows **transfer of ownership of a commodity stored in a warehouse** without having to deliver it physically.
 - **Platform of Platforms (POP)** to facilitate farmers to **sell the produce outside their state borders.**
 - **41 service providers from different platforms** facilitating various value chain services like trading, quality checks, warehousing, fintech, etc. are covered
 - **AI based assaying equipments** have been integrated with e-NAM platform
- **Key outcomes envisioned:**
 - **Single license** for trading across all markets in a State
 - **Single point of market fee**
 - Improved supply-chain and **reduced wastage**

HEATWAVE IN INDIA: GOVT'S 5-MEMBER TEAM TO VISIT WORST-AFFECTED STATES

● Heat wave is a **condition of air temperature** which becomes fatal to the human body when exposed.

➤ It is **defined based on the temperature thresholds** over a region in terms of actual temperature or its departure from normal.

● According to IMD, Heat wave is considered if **maximum temperature of a station** reaches at least **40 degree Celsius or more for Plains** and at least **30 degree Celsius or more for Hilly regions**.

➤ Classification based on **departure from normal average temperature**

■ **Heat Wave** - Departure from normal 4.5 degree Celsius to 6.40 degree Celsius

■ **Severe Heat Wave** - Departure from normal is >6.40C

➤ Classification based on **actual temperature**

■ **Heat Wave** - Maximum temperature crosses or equal to 45 degree Celsius.

■ **Severe Heat Wave** - Maximum temperature crosses or equal to 47 degree Celsius.

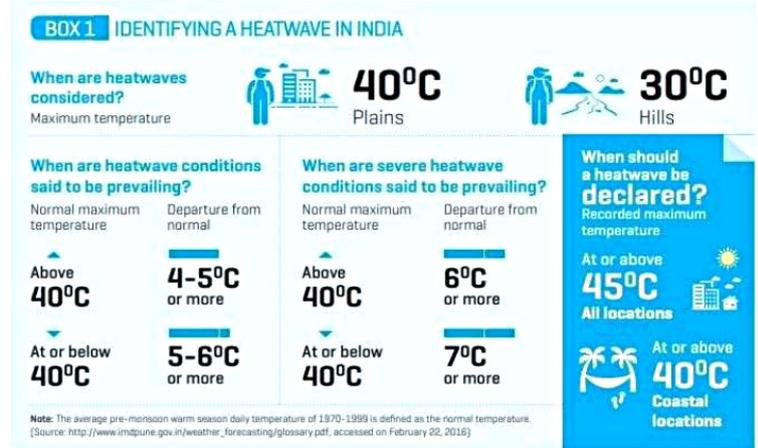
● **Efforts to deal with Heat Waves**

➤ **National Action Plan on Heat Related Illness (NAP-HRI)**

■ It was released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2021.

■ It outlines the challenges posed by heat waves, heat-related illnesses and their management from primary to tertiary level.

➤ **NDMA guidelines on Heat Waves.**



ALSO IN NEWS



Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation



Genesis: Established in 1951 under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.



Ministry: Ministry of Labour and Employment



Role: EPFO is country's principal organization responsible for providing **social security benefits to the organized/semi-organized sector workforce** covered under the statute of

- The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme 1952 (EPF)
- The Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS)
- The Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme 1976 (EDLI)



Summer solstice

- On **21st June the event of summer solstice** takes place.
- The summer solstice is the time when the **Sun is directly above the Tropic of Cancer** leading to the **longest daylight**.
 - It marks the **longest day** of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and officially the beginning of the summer season.
 - **Earth's axial tilt is highest** on this day.
 - **The sun reaches its highest point in the sky and daylight lasts the longest.**



Blue Ocean Event (BOE)

- The term "**Blue Ocean Event**" refers to a **hypothetical event** in which the **Arctic Ocean** becomes **ice-free during the summer months**.
 - It describes a scenario **where the extent of sea ice in the Arctic has melted to such a degree** that only small, scattered patches or a completely ice-free ocean surface remains.
- BOE represents a **critical tipping point** in the Arctic system, as more sea ice melts, it reduces the **amount of sunlight reflected into space**, leading to further warming and ice loss.



 <p>Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China has recently blocked a proposal at UN to blacklist 26/11 attacks accused and LeT terrorist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The move was proposed by India and US to designate the terrorist under al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. • Background: UN Security Council had adopted Resolution 1267, which imposed sanctions against the Taliban for providing sanctuary and training for terrorists, including Osama bin Laden. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pursuant to these resolutions, the 1267 Committee, now called the al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee, oversees and maintains the al-Qaeda sanctions list. ➤ Sanction by the committee includes, assets freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo.
 <p>Greenwashing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) and department of consumer affairs are working jointly on setting up a task force to curb greenwashing. • Greenwashing/ green sheen is the act of making false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a product or practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Greenwashing is classified as an unfair trade practice by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. ➤ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) too has a green product certification scheme to monitor products labelled as eco-friendly.
 <p>Phototropism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phototropism is the ability of the plant to reorient the shoot growth towards a direction of light source. • Positive phototropism is the response of a plant toward a light source. • Negative phototropism (also called "aphotropism") causes growth in the opposite direction. • The plants first sense the light using photoreceptors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Photoreceptors are special molecules consisting of a protein and a pigment that absorbs light called a chromophore. ➤ The specific photoreceptors which are responsible for detecting light during phototropism are called phototropins. • The sunflower plant is the example of this phenomenon.
 <p>Sickle Cell Disease</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, World Sickle Cell Awareness day was celebrated on 19th June to raise awareness about sickle cell disease. • Sickle Cell Disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder. ➤ It is characterized by abnormal shape of red blood cells that take on a crenate or sickle shape. ➤ It can lead to stroke, eye problems, infections, and episodes of pain called pain crises. ➤ A blood and bone marrow transplant is currently the only cure for sickle cell disease.
 <p>Child Helpline 1098</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the One Nation One Helpline vision, the child helpline number 1098 will be merged with the emergency response support system 112. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The task of integration would be carried out by C-DAC, Kerala. • Child Helpline 1098 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. ➤ CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) is the nodal agency for the monitoring and maintenance of the helpline. ➤ It functions under union Ministry of Women and Child Development
 <p>Ocean Ring of Yoga – International Yoga Day (IYD-2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Navy personnel to perform yoga onboard aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on International Day of Yoga. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Ocean Ring of Yoga is an event organized by the Indian Navy on International Yoga Day ➤ "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" theme for IDY 2023. • In 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131.
 <p>Chashma nuclear power plant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China inked an agreement with Pakistan to set up a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant Chashma-V at Chashma in the Mianwali district of Punjab.