

NEWS TODAY

CABINET APPROVES NATIONAL MEDICAL DEVICES POLICY, 2023

Policy aims to

- **Make India global leader in manufacturing and innovation of medical devices** over next 25 years.
- **Help medical devices sector grow** from present \$11 Bn to \$50 Bn by 2030.
- **Facilitate an orderly growth** of medical device sector to meet **public health objectives** of access, affordability, quality and innovation.

Salient features of Policy

- **Medical devices sector**, a sunrise sector, will be cover by **six broad areas of policy interventions**:



Regulatory Streamlining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By creation of a Single Window Clearance System for Licensing, enhancing Role of Indian Standards like BIS and designing a coherent pricing regulation.
Enabling Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and strengthening of large medical device parks, clusters equipped with world class common infrastructure facilities in proximity to economic zones.
Facilitating R&D and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing Centres of Excellence in academic and research institutions, innovation hubs, 'plug and play' infrastructures and support to start-ups.
Attracting Investments in the Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging private investments, series of funding from Venture Capitalists, and also Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
Human Resources Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging available resources in Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for skilling, reskilling and upskilling of professionals. • Develop partnerships with foreign academic/industry organizations. • Multidisciplinary courses for medical devices in existing institutions.
Brand Positioning and Awareness Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a dedicated Export Promotion Council for the sector. • Learning from best global practices of manufacturing and skilling system.

NUCLEAR LIABILITY ISSUES NOT YET RESOLVED FOR JAITAPUR PROJECT: FRENCH COMPANY EDF

- Earlier, Electricite de France (EDF) **submitted its offer for construction of six nuclear power reactors in Maharashtra's Jaitapur**.

➤ However, **issues regarding India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA)** continue to hold up project.

- **Laws on civil nuclear liability** ensure that **compensation is available to victims for nuclear damage** caused by a nuclear incident or disaster and **set out who will be liable for those damages**.
- **India enacted CLNDA in 2010**, to put in place a **speedy compensation mechanism for victims** of a nuclear accident.

➤ Act was also meant to **facilitate India becoming a State Party to Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC)**

- Objective of CSC is to **establish a worldwide liability regime** and to **increase amount of compensation** available to the victims.

- CSC is based on **principle of exclusive liability of the operator** of a nuclear installation and **no other person**. It **lays down conditions** under which **national laws can extract liability from the supplier**.

- **However, India**, going beyond these conditions, **introduced the concept of supplier liability over and above that** of the operator's in CLNDA.

➤ This has **make suppliers** of nuclear equipment **wary of operationalising nuclear deals with India**.

KEY FEATURES OF THE CLNDA

- **Provides for strict and no-fault liability on the operator**, where it will be held **liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part**.
- **Specifies amount the operator will have to shell out** in case of damage caused by an accident.
- **Specifies limitations on the amount and time** when action **for compensation** can be brought against the operator.

SUPREME COURT (SC) MODIFIES ORDER ON ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES (ESZ) AROUND PROTECTED FORESTS

- **Modifying its June 2022 order** that mandated a **minimum 1-km ESZ** around **national parks or wildlife sanctuaries**, SC stated that **ESZ cannot be uniform across the country and has to be “protected area-specific”**.
 - Earlier, Centre and several States had **sought modification of the order as it affected villages in the peripheries of forests**.
- **Key highlights of modified order**
 - **2022 order will not be applicable:**
 - **To ESZs for which draft and final notifications have been issued** by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and in respect of proposals which have been received by Ministry.
 - **Where national parks and sanctuaries are located on inter-state borders** or share common boundaries.
 - **No mining would be allowed**, either within national parks and sanctuaries or in a 1-km radius.
 - **Any developmental activities undertaken** within ESZs **should follow the MoEF&CC 2011 guidelines** and also provisions of the 2022 Office Memorandum by MoEF&CC.
- ESZ are **ecologically important and fragile areas** around protected areas designated under Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986.
 - **As per National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)**, **land within 10 km of boundaries** of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is **to be notified as ESZ**.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ESZ

Create a kind of shock-absorber around protected areas.

Minimize impact of urbanization and other developmental activities.

Helps in in-situ conservation.

Minimise man-animal conflict.

NITI AAYOG RELEASES “PROMOTING MILLETS IN DIETS: BEST PRACTICES ACROSS STATES/UTS OF INDIA” REPORT

- Report presents a **set of good and innovative practices** adopted by **states governments and organizations** (refer infographic) in various aspects of **millet value-chain**.
- Millets, **also known as Nutri-cereals**, are a wide range of **small-seed cereals grown** and consumed as a **staple diet especially in arid and semi-arid regions**.
 - **Example:** Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Finger Millet, Foxtail Millet, Proso Millet, etc.
 - **Benefits of millets:** nutritional richness, anti-diabetic properties, low water requirement, low inputs requirement, climate resilient crop etc.
- India is the **largest producer** and **among top 5 exporters of millets** in the world. However, **there is a decline in area and production** due to:
 - **Promotion of rice and wheat** vis-a-vis millet production.
 - **Low margins associated with millet production**, vis-à-vis other crops.
 - **Relatively shorter shelf life of the crops** creates storage related concerns.
 - **Lower demand** due to urbanisation, and unavailability of ready to eat millets.
- **Initiatives related to millets by India:** Millets declared as Nutri-cereals; made part of National Food Security Mission (NFSM); declared 2018 as ‘National Year of Millets’; UNGA declared 2023 to be observed as ‘International Year of Millets’ etc.

States initiatives to promote millets	Inclusion of millets in ICDS	Research and Development and use of technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Revival of Millets Cultivation by Tribals and Drought Mitigation Project in Andhra Pradesh • NFSM-Nutri Cereals Mission in Nagaland, Tamil Nadu Millets Mission, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As supplementary food by many States/UTs leading to a boost in production, consumption and distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrihub-Technology Business Incubator by Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), to cater start-ups needs. • ICRISAT is utilizing public-private partnerships to steer its R&D initiatives and South-South collaboration for bio-fortification of millets

PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME ATTRACTED ₹53,500 CRORE OF INVESTMENT SO FAR

- **Recent data on PLI scheme highlighted that:**
 - **Government paid incentives of ~2,874 crore** (1.4 % of amount that has been allocated) **to PLI beneficiaries**.
 - It has **generated 3 lakh jobs**, and resulted in **incremental output worth 5 lakh crore**.
- **Union Budget 2021-22 announced** an outlay of **INR 1.97 lakh crores** for the **PLI schemes for 14 key sectors**, **shortlisted** on the basis of their **potential for revenue and employment generation**.
 - Sectors include **electronic manufacturing, automobile, battery, pharma, food, textiles, telecom** etc.
- **Objective is to**
 - Develop **core competencies of Indian industries**,
 - Encourage **innovative technologies**,
 - **Create economies of scale** through efficient processes and
 - **Boost their global presence** through exports.
- Scheme **extends an incentive** on net incremental sale (over base year) of manufactured goods covered **under target segments**.
- **Challenges**
 - While the scheme is **successful in mobile and manufacturing sectors**, **extending these benefits to other sectors is still a challenge**.
 - **Applications are not taken within time bound manner**.
 - **No common set of parameters to understand the value added** by beneficiary companies.
 - **Lack of a centralized database** to monitor progress.

SUPREME COURT (SC) ORDERS DIGITISATION OF ALL RECORDS OF TRIAL, CIVIL COURTS

- In a step aimed at **bolstering technology adaptation in the judiciary** to **enhance efficiency, equity, and ease**, SC issued **directions to all the High Courts** for ensuring **digitalisation of lower court records**.
 - **SOP issued by E-committee of SC** requires all high courts to **establish a digitisation cell, judicial digital repositories, and a standardised system** for conversion of records.
- **Need for use of technology in judiciary**
 - **Overcoming pandemic like situation** to stay open and improve participation rates.
 - **Speedy justice delivery** and cost effective.
 - **Reducing pendency burden** on the Courts
 - Enhanced **transparency and accountability**.
 - **Bridging rural urban gap** in making justice **equally accessible**.
- **Challenges in using technology in Justice delivery:** Digital divide , lack of know-how, initially capital intensive, risk of cybersecurity, etc.
- **Other initiatives taken**
 - **e-Court mission:** a mission mode project for digitisation of judiciary.
 - **Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** to enable seamless transfer of data and information among stakeholders like courts, police, jails
 - **Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER)** by SC, a software to transmit Court Orders swiftly, securely through electronic mode.
 - **SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software)** to translate English judgments into regional language.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues(UNPFII)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22nd session of the UNPFII held recently. • UNPFII is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council. • Forum was established in 2000 with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is one of three UN bodies to deal specifically with indigenous peoples' issues. ➤ Others are Expert Mechanism on Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Special Rapporteur Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 <p>Default Bail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court held that fundamental right (under Article 21) of an accused to get default bail cannot be scuttled by filing supplementary charge sheets in cases where a probe is yet to be completed. • Default or statutory bail is a right to bail that accrues when police fail to complete investigation within a specified period in respect of a person in judicial custody. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is enshrined in Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). • For most offences, police have 60 days to complete the investigation and file a final report before the court. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ However, for some offences there is a 90 or 180 days limit also.
 <p>Levies on power generation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Power (MoP) has asked states not to levy or impose any tax or duty on generation of electricity especially from hydro projects. • MoP stated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any such tax /duty on generation of electricity (from thermal, hydro, wind, solar, nuclear, etc) is illegal and unconstitutional. ➤ Entry-53 of List-II (State List) empowered states to only levy taxes on consumption or sale of electricity in their jurisdiction and not on the generation of electricity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ As electricity generated within the territory of one State may be consumed in other States.
 <p>Triple tests for surrogacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnataka High Court has evolved "triple tests" to help a couple facing legal hurdles to have a surrogate child under provisions of Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Act allows only altruistic surrogacy and penalises commercial surrogacy. • The triple test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Genetic test for husband to ensure child is not born with any disorder. ➤ Physical test for couple to ascertain their capacity to manage the child. ➤ Economy test for couple to ensure that they can protect the future of the child.

 <p>Nano DAP (Liquid)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IFFCO launched Nano DAP (Liquid). ● Nano-DAP (Diammonium phosphate) is a next-generation fertilizer with nanoparticles of Nitrogen and Phosphorus, i.e., particles with size between 1 to 100 nanometres. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DAP is a phosphate-based fertilizer manufactured by reacting Ammonia with Phosphoric acid. ➤ A bottle of nano DAP will be equivalent to one bag of conventional DAP. ● Advantages of using Nano-DAP: Reduced fertilizer subsidy burden, Reduced input cost to agriculture, Improved Agriculture Sustainability through higher nutrient uptake, lower water consumption, Higher Use-Efficiency etc.
 <p>Quasars (quasi-stellar radio sources)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A recent study revealed that merger of galaxies ignites quasars. ● Quasars are very bright, distant and active supermassive black holes that are millions to billions of times mass of the Sun. ● Typically located at the centers of galaxies, they feed on infalling matter and unleash torrents of radiation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A quasar's light outshines that of all the stars in its host galaxy combined. ➤ Quasars are a subclass of active galactic nuclei (AGNs).
 <p>Exercise Ajay Warrior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is India - UK Joint Company Level Military Training exercise.
 <p>Manamadurai pottery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recently Manamadurai pottery of Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. ● A unique type of clay is sourced from water bodies like Nedunkulam, Nathapurakki, Sundaranadappu, Seikalathur to make these pots. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Main raw materials for making these pots are soil and water. ➤ Vaigai River which runs through the Manamadurai village enriches the clay used for the pottery.
 <p>Monasteries in News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delegates of G20 summit visited Hemis and Thiksey Monasteries. ● Hemis Monastery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hemis Monastery is the largest monastic institution in Ladakh. It is situated on western banks of the Indus River. ➤ It belongs to Dragon Order of Mahayana Buddhism (or the Drukpa Lineage). ➤ Hemis has more than 200 branch monasteries in the Himalayas. ● Thiksey Monastery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a Tibetan Buddhist gompa (monastery) linked with the Gelugpa sect. ➤ It is located on top of a hill in Thiksey hamlet, Ladakh. ➤ It is notable for its resemblance to Tibet's Potala Palace. ➤ It is also known for its annual Gustor Festival.  
 <p>Places in news</p>	<p>Israel (Capital: Jerusalem)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prime Minister congratulated people of Israel on 75th anniversary of their independence. ● Political Boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Israel is a small country in the Middle East. It shares border with Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Egypt. ● Geographical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Snowy mountains in the north and the hot desert (Negev Desert) in the south. ➤ Lowest point: The Dead Sea (also the lowest point on the Earth's surface at 416 meters below sea level) ➤ Highest point: Mount Hermon ➤ Major river: Jordan 