

# NEWS TODAY

## ECUADOR, NIGERIA, PANAMA TAP INDIA FOR GENERIC MEDICINE SCHEME

• India to help these countries to provide their citizens with access to low-cost generic medications through a scheme similar to Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

➤ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aimed at helping these three countries to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras, (JAKs), centres from where quality generic medicines are made available to all.

• PMBJP was launched by Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2008 with objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to people.

➤ Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), erstwhile Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is implementing agency of PMBJP.

➤ Medicines available under scheme are priced 50-90% less than branded medicines.

➤ There are already more than 9,000 JAKs functional across the country. Union government has set a target to increase number of JAKs to 10,000 by March 2024.

• Generic medicine has exactly same active ingredient as the brand name drug and yields same therapeutic effect.

➤ They are sold at a cheaper price. Generics are less expensive because manufacturer does not have to duplicate the original clinical trials for effectiveness and safety.

### GENERIC DRUGS PROVISIONS UNDER PATENTS ACT, 2005

• Generic versions of patented drugs will be permitted to be manufactured and exported under a Compulsory License (CL) to meet major health needs of underdeveloped countries.

## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF) RELEASED FUTURE OF JOBS REPORT 2023

• Fourth edition (first edition in 2016) of this bi-annual series explores how jobs and skills will evolve over next five years (2023-2027).

➤ It tracks labour-market impact of Fourth Industrial Revolution, green energy transitions, supply-chain shifts etc.

• Key findings

➤ Key drivers of business transformation include technology adoption, followed by rising cost of living, slow economic growth, and green transition.

➤ 44% of workers' skills will be disrupted in next five years.

➤ 61% of Indian companies think broader applications of ESG standards will drive job growth, followed by increased adoption of new technologies and broadening digital access.

➤ 23% of jobs in next five years are expected to change.

➤ Strongest net job-creation effect is driven by green transition, broader application of ESG standards, and localization of supply chains.

➤ Key drivers of expected net job destruction are slower economic growth, supply shortages and rising cost of inputs, and rising cost of living for consumers.

• Barriers to business transformation 2023- 27: Skill gaps in local labour market; Inability to attract talent; Outdated/ inflexible regulatory framework; Shortage of investment capital etc.

• Workforce strategies 2023-27: Invest in learning and training on job; Accelerate automation of processes; Expand use of contract work; Hire significantly more permanent staff etc.

### Top 10 skills of 2023

1.  Analytical thinking	6.  Technological literacy
2.  Creative thinking	7.  Dependability and attention to detail
3.  Resilience, flexibility and agility	8.  Empathy and active listening
4.  Motivation and self-awareness	9.  Leadership and social influence
5.  Curiosity and lifelong learning	10.  Quality control

#### Type of skill

Cognitive skills Self-efficacy Management skills Technology skills Working with others

#### Source

World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2023.

#### Note

The skills judged to be of greatest importance to workers at the time of the survey



# GOVERNMENT TO BRING A POLICY TO AVOID CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR CONSUMPTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (NDPS)

- Centre to bring a policy under which **drug addicts and users** will have to **submit themselves before treatment centres** in order to escape criminal prosecution.
  - Currently, under **NDPS Act 1985**, consumption of any narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance may **attract a jail term of up to one year and/or fines up to ₹20,000**.
- **Drugs and Substances usage in India**
  - In 2021 and 2022, **number of vulnerable districts (for drug use) has gone up from 272 to 372**.
  - Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Goa, Chandigarh, Puducherry, and Tripura are having **100% districts marked as vulnerable**.
  - As per **“Magnitude of Substance Use in India 2019” Report of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)**, alcohol had emerged as most used substance among adults at 17.1% prevalence, followed by **cannabis, opioids, sedatives etc.**
- **Efforts to limit the drug abuse**
  - **Scaling up network of 508 rehabilitation and de-addiction facilities under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.**
  - Tie ups with **spiritual and faith based organisations that have their own hospitals, educational institutes, counselling facilities, etc.**
  - **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-2025).**

## NDPS ACT, 1985

- It deals with drugs and their trafficking. It authorizes Central Government to take necessary measures for identification, treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation of addicts, and preventive education.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was constituted** and empowered to coordinate all activities for administration and enforcement of Act.

## CENTRE TO PUSH EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (ECCE) THROUGH ANGANWADIS

- Centre is planning to push **ECCE through 14 lakh Anganwadi centres** under ‘Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi’ slogan.
  - For this, **anganwadi centres** will be **recalibrated to focus on early learning of children under 6 years**, particularly those **under 3 years**, which has proven to be a foundation for child’s development.
- Early Childhood refers to **formative stage of first six years of life, with well-marked sub-stages and age-specific needs.**
  - ECCE encompasses **care, health, nutrition, play and early learning within a protective and enabling environment.**
  - Government’s plans for **ECCE are aligned with National Education Policy 2020, which prioritises foundational literacy and numeracy.**
- **Ministry of Women & Child Development** had set up a high level **task force (chaired by Sanjay Kaul)** which made **following recommendation** in its report (2022)
  - **Mission-mode approach** to “rebranding of anganwadis” with **upgraded infrastructure, ECCE materials, play equipment, etc.**
  - **Re-designation of Anganwadis workers as anganwadi teachers,** and helpers as childcare workers.
  - **Creche facilities for children under 3 years.**
  - **Schemes like MGNREGS and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) can be leveraged** in upgrading anganwadi system.
  - **Develop common curriculum** across different models and **emphasis on education in child’s mother tongue.**

# NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES (NCST) FLAGS DISCREPANCIES IN FOREST CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND (GNI) PROJECT

## GNI PROJECT

- NCST cited alleged **violation under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** in A&N islands on grounds that GNI project will **affect the rights of local tribes people and that NCST was not consulted.**
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs reports that island administration **neither recognised nor granted ownership of any forest land to local tribes people before approving diversion of forest land** as per FRA.
  - According to **Rule 6(3) (e) of Forest Conservation Rules-2017 (FCR)**, any **diversion of forest land would first require District Collector to recognise and vest rights to locals** as per FRA.
  - Authorities can then **seek consent of the now-rights-holding gram panchayats** for diversion of this land.
- However, **government insisted that locals will not be displaced for the project.**
  - Project intends to use 7.114 sq. km of tribal reserve forest land, where **Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), and Nicobarese reside.**
- Most of the GNI has been **designated as a tribal reserve under A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Act, 1956 (PAT56).**
  - Under PAT56, **power of notification and de-notification of land as a Tribal Reserve is solely with administrator of islands.**

# INDIA TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION IN CIVIL AVIATION FROM 2027

● Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has announced that India will start participating in **International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG)** from 2027.

➤ In order to **mitigate carbon emissions from aviation**, ICAO has adopted goals of **2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, carbon neutral growth and net zero by 2050**.

● CORSIA offers a **harmonised way to reduce emissions from international aviation, minimising market distortion**, while respecting special circumstances and respective capabilities of ICAO Member States.

➤ CORSIA is implemented in **three phases (refer image)**. Participation is voluntary for first two phases.

➤ CORSIA is **applicable only to flights** originating from one country to another i.e., **international flights**.

➤ CORSIA will **mitigate around 2.5 billion tonnes of CO2 between 2021 and 2035**, which is an annual average of 164 million tonnes of CO2.

● **41st ICAO Assembly adopted LTAG** for international aviation of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 in support of UNFCCC Paris Agreement.

➤ LTAG does **not attribute specific obligations or commitments** in form of emissions reduction goals to individual States but each **state will contribute within its own national timeframe and circumstances**.

		PILOT PHASE			FIRST PHASE			SECOND PHASE										
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035		
MONITORING, REPORTING & VERIFICATION TO SET THE BASELINE		<b>VOLUNTARY</b> States are volunteering to be part of the scheme from 2021 (more States are encouraged to volunteer)  Operators flying routes between volunteering States will offset emissions based on the average CO2 growth of the aviation sector.						<b>MANDATORY</b> With exemptions for: Small Islands, Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and States which have less than 0.5% of air traffic (although they can still volunteer).  <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Operators will offset based on average CO2 growth of the sector.</td> <td>Offset obligations shift to include over 20% of individual operator growth</td> <td>Offset obligations shift to be over 70% based on individual operator growth.</td> </tr> </table>								Operators will offset based on average CO2 growth of the sector.	Offset obligations shift to include over 20% of individual operator growth	Offset obligations shift to be over 70% based on individual operator growth.
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<b>OVER 80% OF THE GROWTH IN AIR TRAFFIC CO2 AFTER 2020 WILL BE OFFSET</b>																		

● ICAO (HQ: **Montreal, Canada**) was **established in 1947** under Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), which was drafted in 1944 by 54 nations.

➤ **Membership:** 193 members including India. ICAO is not an international aviation regulator. It is a **specialized agency** of United Nations.

➤ Its vision is to achieve **sustainable growth of global civil aviation system**.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### Company limited by guarantee

- Government had approved Rs2 crore subsidy through National Dairy Development Board to Youth Rural Entrepreneur Foundation (YREF), a **company limited by guarantee**.
- A company limited by guarantee **is one in which**, if the company goes bankrupt, those running it only have to **pay a sum they had guaranteed to pay** when it was set up.
  - Usually, this structure is put in place for **charitable organisations and non-profits**, where any profit earned by company is re-invested into business.
  - It is defined **under Companies Act, 2013**.



### Decarbonise steelmaking

- In steelmaking industry, **hydrogen can be used instead of carbon** in an **important chemical reaction** that contributes to **5-7% of the global greenhouse-gas emissions and 11% of carbon dioxide emissions**.
- **Strong steel consists** of a tiny amount – less than 1% – of carbon. To achieve this mix, **iron oxide is heated with coke** (form of coal with high carbon content) at 1,700 degree C inside a blast furnace.
  - In this reaction, **carbon reacts with oxygen to release carbon dioxide**.
- India is the **world's second-largest steelmaker**, making the sector's decarbonisation plans integral to India's climate commitments.



### Painted Storks (Mycteria leucocephala)

- One of the **largest flocks of Painted Storks** has been spotted in Andhra Pradesh.
- They belong to **Ciconiidae** family. These birds are **widely distributed over plains of Asia**.
  - These are usually seen in **freshwater wetlands** and **occasionally in coastal regions**. They are found in **Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam**.
  - **IUCN Status: 'Near Threatened'**.
  - Its breeding season extends from **July to October in North India** and **November to March in South India**.
  - They have a **long heavy yellow beak** with a down curved tip. **Bare head is reddish or orange in color**.



 <p><b>Achanakmar Tiger Reserve (ATR)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A tigress that had been captured in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district was released into ATR.</li> <li>● ATR is located in Chhattisgarh's eastern aspect of <b>Maikala hills</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1975 and was declared as a tiger reserve in 2009.</b></li> <li>➤ It is a part of huge <b>Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Maniyari river</b> flows right through the heart of the reserve.</li> <li>➤ <b>Flora:</b> Sal, Bija, Saja, Haldu, Teak, Tinsa etc.</li> <li>➤ <b>Fauna:</b> Tiger, Leopard, Bison, Flying Squirrel, Wild Dog, Hyena etc.</li> <li>➤ <b>Vegetation:</b> Tropical moist deciduous forest.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Kalesar National Park (KNP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Haryana forest department has launched efforts to <b>trace pug marks of a tiger</b> that was caught in a camera trap at KNP.</li> <li>● KNP is situated in <b>foot hills of Shiwalik</b> ranges of mighty Himalayas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It falls under Yamunanagar District of Haryana, sharing boundary with three States viz., <b>Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal &amp; U.P.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Yamuna River</b> makes <b>east boundary of park</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Flora:</b> Sal forests, Khair forests etc.</li> <li>➤ <b>Fauna:</b> Leopard, Barking deer, Python, King Cobra, Monitor lizard etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Fabry Disease</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Patients suffering from Fabry disease have not received any financial help for treatment despite <b>availability of ₹50 lakh of financial support for treatment of all rare disease patients in National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021.</b></li> <li>● Fabry Disease is a <b>rare inherited neurological disorder</b> that occurs when enzyme <b>alpha-galactosidase-A cannot efficiently break down fatty materials known as lipids</b> into smaller components that provide energy to body. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Symptoms:</b> Heart enlargement, Progressive kidney impairment leading to renal failure, Gastrointestinal difficulties etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Hydrogen Sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It is a <b>highly toxic, colorless and flammable</b> gas having a strong odor of rotten eggs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Because it is heavier than air, it <b>tends to accumulate at the bottom of poorly ventilated spaces.</b></li> <li>➤ It is a <b>central participant in sulfur cycle</b>, the biogeochemical cycle of sulfur on Earth.</li> <li>➤ It occurs <b>naturally in crude petroleum, natural gas, and hot springs.</b></li> <li>➤ Exposure to hydrogen sulfide may cause <b>irritation to eyes and respiratory system</b>. It can also cause apnea, coma, dizziness, headache, insomnia, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Subaltern School of Historiography</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Historian Ranajit Guha</b>, a pioneer of Subaltern School, passed away.</li> <li>● Term "subaltern" was <b>first coined by Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci</b> to refer to <b>any class of people subject to the hegemony of another, more powerful class</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Word subaltern has been used as a general attribute of subordination in South Asian society expressed in terms of <b>caste, class, gender and office</b>.</li> <li>➤ Subaltern school looks at history from <b>perspective of subaltern groups</b> (peasants, untouchables, women, and traditionally non-dominant communities).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Rang Ghar</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rang Ghar represents glorious era of Ahom Kingdom. It is known as <b>first Ampitheatre or first Pavilion of Asia</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was built by <b>Swargadeo Promotta Singha</b> in 1744 A.D. Its shape is <b>octagonal at base</b>.</li> <li>➤ It was built specially for enjoyment of <b>recreational/sports activities</b> by royal families and public of <b>Ahom dynasty</b>.</li> <li>➤ Roof over the <b>two-storey building</b> is shaped like an <b>inverted royal Ahom boat</b>, topped with <b>carved stone crocodiles</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Shilabhatarika</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Researchers at Pune-based Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI) have decoded <b>Chalukyan copper plates manuscripts which shed new light on Shilabhatarika</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It establishes Shilabhatarika, <b>7th century CE Sanskrit poetess, as a daughter of "Satyashraya"</b>.</li> <li>➤ Title of <b>"Satyashraya"</b> (patron of truth) was associated with <b>Chalukyan Emperor, Pulakeshin II of Badami</b>.</li> <li>➤ Previously, it was believed that she was the <b>wife of 8th century Rashtrakuta ruler, Dhruva</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Shilabhatarika's works adhere to <b>Panchali style</b> that calls for a balance of word with its meaning.</li> </ul>