

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

❖ Context

- Recently, SEBI approved a **ceiling on the Initial Public Offering (IPO) proceeds** to be used to make unspecified acquisitions.

❖ Key Highlights

- In its Board meeting, the **SEBI approved rules capping at 35%** the amount for future inorganic growth.
- SEBI also approved **conditions for sale of shares by significant shareholders in the Offer For Sale (OFS) process via an IPO** and has extended the lockin period for anchor investors to 90 days

❖ About SEBI

- It is the **regulator of the securities and commodity market** in India owned by the Government of India.
- It was **established in 1988 and given statutory status through the SEBI Act, 1992.**
- SEBI is responsible to the **needs of three groups:**
 - **Issuers** of securities
 - **Investors**
 - **Market intermediaries**
- **Functions:**
 - **Quasi-legislative** – drafts regulations
 - **Quasi-judicial** – passes rulings and orders
 - **Quasi-executive** – conducts investigation and enforcement action

❖ Powers

- To **approve by-laws of Securities exchanges.**
- To **require the Securities exchange to amend their by-laws.**
- **Inspect the books of accounts and call for periodical returns** from recognized Securities exchanges.
- **Inspect the books of accounts of financial intermediaries.**
- **Compel certain companies** to list their shares in one or more Securities exchanges.
- **Registration of Brokers and sub-brokers**

Honey Farmer Producer Organisations

❖ Context

- Recently, The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched **14 Honey Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) of TRIFED** along with **TRIFED VANDHAN CHRONICLE, MIS portal of MSP for MFP.**

❖ Key Highlights

- **MOU between UNICEF & TRIFED** on 'Tribal Samvaad Network' signed .
- A central sector scheme titled **"Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)"** was launched in 2020 to ensure economies of scale for farmers over the next 5 years.
- Special emphasis has been laid on **beekeeping by the formation of 100 FPOs** in identified potential Districts/States.

❖ FPOs or FPC

- It is an **entity formed by primary producers** including farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, and craftsmen.
- It can be a **Producer Company, a Cooperative Society** or any other legal form.
- FPOs are basically the **hybrids of cooperatives and private companies.**
- The **participation, organisation and membership pattern** of these companies are more or less similar to the cooperatives.
- But their **day-to-day functioning and business models** resemble those of the professionally-run private companies.
- The **Companies Act was amended by incorporating Section-IX A** in it to allow creation and registration of FPOs under it

❖ TRIFED Van Dhan: A Chronicle of Tribal Grit & Enterprise

- The TRIFED Van Dhan Chronicle documents **the work done for the promotion of tribal enterprises** in the country and the achievements of tribal entrepreneurs under the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana.

❖ MIS Portal for Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produces (MFPs)

- It is a ready **dashboard for the authorised users** of The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
- In this dashboard, **data is available on a real-time basis**, pertaining to the list of procurement centres and their locations, and the procurement of MFPs being done across the country

Face to Face Centres



Sun Temple

❖ Context

- Sand inside Konark Sun Temple may be cleared which was added by the British for stability.
- A formal decision on this is yet to be taken.

❖ Key Highlights

- The need to remove the sand was felt after a study warned of **possible damage caused by the sand settling down**- resulting in a gap of 17 feet between the sand layer and the structure.
- The temple had been **filled with sand and sealed by the British authorities in 1903** in order to stabilise the structure.



❖ About Sun Temple

- It was **built in the 13th century**, the Konark temple was conceived as a gigantic chariot of the Sun God, with 12 pairs of exquisitely ornamented wheels pulled by seven horses.
- It was **built by King Narasimhadeva I, (1238 – 1264 A.D)** The temple was **included in UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1984.
- It is a perfect **blend of Kalinga architecture, heritage, exotic beach and salient natural beauty**.
- It is **protected under the National Framework of India by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act (1958)** and its Rules (1959).
- This temple was **also known as 'BLACK PAGODA'** due to its dark color and used as a navigational landmark by ancient sailors to Odisha. Similarly, the **Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the "White Pagoda"**.

Indian Army's Quantum Laboratory

❖ Context

- Indian Army establishes the **Quantum Lab at Military College of Telecommunications, Mhow, MP** with the support of National Security Council Secretariat to spearhead research and training in key thrust areas - **Quantum Key Distribution, Quantum Communication, Quantum Computing and Post Quantum Cryptography**

❖ Quantum mechanics

- Quantum mechanics is a **fundamental theory in physics** that provides a description of the physical properties of nature at the **scale of atoms and subatomic particles**.
- Quantum mechanics differs from classical physics in that **energy, momentum, angular momentum, and other quantities** of a bound system are **restricted to discrete values (quantization)**, objects have characteristics of both particles and waves (**wave-particle duality**), and there are **limits to how accurately the value of a physical quantity can be predicted prior to its measurement**, given a complete set of initial conditions (the uncertainty principle).

❖ Quantum Computing

- It is the performance of calculations based on the probability of an object's state before it is measured

❖ Quantum communication

- Quantum communication takes advantage of the laws of quantum physics to protect data. These laws allow particles- typically photons of light for transmitting data along optical cables- to take on a state of superposition, which means they can represent multiple combinations of 1 and 0 simultaneously. The particles are known as quantum bits, or **qubits**
- If a hacker tries to observe them in transit, their super-fragile quantum state "collapses" to either 1 or 0. This means a hacker can't tamper with the qubits without leaving behind a telltale sign of the activity.

❖ Quantum Key Distribution

- QKD involves **sending encrypted data as classical bits over networks**, while the **keys** to decrypt the information are encoded and **transmitted in a quantum state using qubits**.
- The longest QKD network is in China, which boasts a 2,032 kilometer (1,263-mile) ground link between Beijing and Shanghai. Banks and other financial companies are already using it to transmit data.

❖ Post Quantum Cryptography

- In cryptography, post-quantum cryptography refers to **cryptographic algorithms that are secured against a cryptanalytic attack by a quantum computer**.
- All of the mathematical problems related to current cryptographic algorithms which can not be solved by a supercomputer can be easily solved on a sufficiently powerful quantum computer
- It is also sometimes referred to as **quantum-proof, quantum-safe or quantum-resistant**.

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SOLAW 2021

❖ Context

➤ The State of world's land and water resources for food and agriculture report released by Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

❖ Key Highlights

- **By 2050, agriculture will need to produce almost 50 % more food, livestock fodder and biofuel than in 2012** to satisfy global demand and keep on track to achieve "zero hunger" by 2030.
- **Most pressures on the world's land, soil and water resources are from agriculture.**
- **Cropland increased 4 %** (63 million hectares) between **2000 and 2019**. Grassland and shrub-covered areas used to graze animals or as sources of fodder have declined by 191 million hectares over two decades, to 3,196 million ha in 2019, and converted to cropland
- Population increases have meant **agricultural land available per capita** for crops and animal husbandry **declined by 20 per cent between 2000 and 2017** to 0.19 ha /capita in 2017.
- **Human-induced land degradation primarily affects cropland.** Although **cropland covers only 13 % of the global land cover classes** (11,477 million ha), **degraded cropland accounts for 29 per cent of all degraded areas.**
- **Almost a third of rain-fed cropland** and nearly a **half of irrigated land** are **subject to human-induced land degradation.** Globally, **only 38% of irrigated land is stable.** Soil salinity is estimated to take up 1.5 million ha of cropland out of production each year.
- Over 60 per cent of irrigated areas are degraded in northern Africa, south Asia and the middle east-western Asia.
- **Between 2000 and 2018, the decline in global per capita internal renewable water resources (IRWR) was about 20 per cent.** The change was greater in countries with the lowest per capita IRWR, such as sub-Saharan Africa (41 %); Central Asia (30 %); Western Asia (29 %) and Northern Africa (26 %). The region with the lowest percentage change was Europe (3 %).
- **The regions with the largest water withdrawals per capita were Central Asia and Northern America.**
- **Progress made in reducing the number of undernourished people** in the early part of the 21st century has been **reversed.** The number has risen to 768 million in 2020 from 604 million in 2014.

News in Between the Lines

e-Shram Portal



❖ Context

➤ The e-Shram portal had issued over 15.53-crore e-Shram cards by Tuesday evening

❖ Key Highlights

- **Uttar Pradesh sees the highest number of enrolments** at 31.6 lakh.
- It is a **portal through which the government aims to register 38 crore unorganised workers**, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, among others.
- It was **launched by the Ministry of Labour & Employment** on 25th August.
- The **workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12-digit unique number**, which, going ahead, will help in including them in social security schemes.
- Registration at E-shram will **facilitate unorganized workers to get the benefits** of various social security and employment-based schemes.

Extreme Cold Clothing System (ECWCS)

❖ Context

➤ Recently, **DRDO has handed over technology of extreme cold weather clothing system to five Indian companies** aimed at fulfilling the Indian Army requirements and also to export these to other countries.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is an **ergonomically designed modular technical clothing with improved thermal insulation and physiological comfort** based on the insulation required at various ambient climatic conditions in Himalayan regions during different levels of physical activity.

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- The **ECWCS** embodies physiological concepts related to the reduction in respiratory heat and water loss, unhindered range of motions and rapid absorption of sweat while providing waterproof, windproof features with adequate breathability and enhanced insulation as well as strength features required for high altitude operations. It is designed to suitably provide **thermal insulation over a temperature range of +15 to -50 degrees Celsius** with different combinations of layers and intensity of physical work.

Sankalp Smarak



❖ Context

- In order to preserve an important event in history, Commander-in-chief A&N Islands has dedicated the memorial to the nation

❖ Key Highlights

- Netaji took the charge of the Indian National Army and became its supreme commander in July 1943 in Singapore.
- On 23 October 1943, Azad Hind declared war against Britain and the United States.
- On 29 Dec 1943, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose arrived at the Port Blair Aerodrome**, as the Head of the Provisional government of Azad Hind and the Supreme commander of Indian National Army
- His visit marked a declaration of A&N islands as the **“first liberated territory of India”** and symbolic fulfillment of his promise that the Indian National Army would stand on Indian soil by the end of 1943
- On 30 Dec 1943, national flag** was hoisted for the first time on **Indian soil, at Port Blair**
- The islands were renamed **Shaheed (Martyr)** and **Swaraj (Independence)**.
- Colonel Shaukat Malik** of the Indian National Army **hoisted the flag for the first time on Indian mainland on 14 April 1944, in Moirang, Manipur**
- On **4 July 1944**, Bose during a motivational speech to rally Indians in **Burma**, gave the most famous quote - **“Give me blood and I shall give you freedom!”**
- On **6 July 1944**, in a speech broadcast by the **Azad Hind Radio** from **Singapore**, **Bose addressed Mahatma Gandhi** as the **"Father of the Nation"** and asked for his blessings and good wishes for the war he was fighting.

Tajassus



❖ Context

- Government releases Science monthly magazine in Urdu, Hindi & English
- Kashmiri, Dogra and other languages versions to follow

❖ Key Highlights

- Tajassus is the **urdu version meaning curiosity**, prepared in association with Central University of Kashmir. Hindi and English version are based on theme **“Dream 47”** referring to 100th year of independence
- The government is trying to bridge the huge language divide in the country. Promoting science communication and education in vernacular languages will go a long way in making India **“Atma Nirbhar”**
- Vigyan Prasar under **SCoPE (Science, Communication, Popularization and Extension)** initiative is trying to push communication of the latest developments in science in Indian languages through print media, tv, radio and OTT platform (**IndiaScience TV**)

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