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1. SVAMITVA Yojana of Ministry of Panchayati Raj gets National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Aug. 28, 2023)

In the 26th National Conference on e-Governance 2023, the National Award was given to the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

An Overview of the News

- The objective of the SVAMITVA scheme is to survey the population of villages, map rural areas with advanced technology, and provide ownership rights of property to individuals living in rural areas.
- State-of-the-art technologies such as drones and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are used for this initiative.
- Property cards have been created, which enable rural property owners to leverage their property for financial benefits.

Significance of the Award:

- The National Award for e-Governance was given in the category "Application of emerging technology for providing citizen-centric services".
- It recognizes the innovative use of technology in the scheme to provide services that directly benefit citizens.

National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG):

- The 26th NCeG was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and jointly organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The theme was "Developing India, Empowering Citizens" with a focus on advanced technologies and effective e-governance strategies.
- The objective of the conference is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and promote collaboration among stakeholders.

National e-Governance Awards Categories:

- The National e-Governance Awards were presented in five categories, including government process re-engineering, emerging technology applications, district-level e-governance initiatives, research on citizen-centric services, and emerging technology applications by start-ups.

Effect of SVAMITVA Scheme:

- SVAMITVA Scheme is implemented in collaboration with the Survey of India, State Revenue and Panchayati Raj Departments, and NIC-GIS.

- Property cards empower rural property owners to access bank loans and resolve land disputes with accurate maps.

Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department - **Giriraj Singh**

2. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launches Tele-Law 2.0 (Aug. 26, 2023)

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched Tele-Law- 2.0 on August 25, 2023, in New Delhi.

An Overview of the News

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) hosted the Tele-Law 2.0 event at **Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi.**
- The event marks the **achievement of helping 5 million citizens** and highlights the use of technology in providing **pre-litigation advice to the public.**
- Tele-law services are being integrated with legal representation services under the **Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono)** program.
- This integration streamlines access to **legal advice, assistance, and representation through a unified registration process on the Tele-Law platform.**
- The event recognizes and honors frontline workers who play a vital role in providing legal services directly to the people.
- The event has been organized by the Department of Justice in association with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.
- The event is in line with the government's vision to strengthen the legal aid ecosystem and ensure equitable access to justice for all.

Important components of organizing include:

- Screening of a documentary showing the journey of tele-law from **2017 to 2022.**
- "Tele-Law-2.0" is being launched, which combines the **Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu** apps, Also an e-tutorial has been released.
- Unveiling of **"Voices of Beneficiaries"**, a compilation of firsthand experiences shared by people who have benefited from Tele-Law.
- Presenting the **"Achievers Catalogue"**, which acknowledges outstanding performers such as Paralegal Volunteers, Village Entrepreneurs, Panel Lawyers, and State Coordinators for the years **2022-2023 and April to June 2023.**

3. B20 Summit India 2023 begins in New Delhi (Aug. 25, 2023)

B20 Summit India 2023 began in New Delhi on 25 August.

An Overview of the News

- During the three days, the summit will be attended by various prominent personalities, including **Union Ministers like Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Dr. S Jaishankar.**
- The first day of the summit will host seven sessions covering topics like B20 India's priorities, global alignment, Artificial Intelligence's role in business and society, trade opportunities and regulations, resilient global trade's inclusive value chains, and a session with Trade Ministers.
- **Eminent leaders including Tata Sons Executive Chairman and B20 India Chairman N Chandrasekaran**, Mastercard CEO Michael Meibach, and World Economic Forum President Borge Brende will be present.
- **The theme of the summit is "B20 India R.I.S.E." which is a symbol of responsible, agile, innovative, sustainable, and equitable businesses.**
- Under the chairmanship of India, seven task forces were set up, covering areas such as global value chains, future of work, skill development, mobility, digital transformation, financing economic reforms, climate change, technology, innovation, and financial inclusion for empowerment.
- Summit discussions expanded to two Action Councils focusing on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters related to business and African economic integration.

4. World Water Week - 20 to 24 August (Aug. 23, 2023)

World Water Week, a global event organized annually by the Stockholm International Water Institute since 1991, will take place at the Waterfront Congress Center from 20 to 24 August.

An Overview of the News

- This non-profit event serves as a platform to address the global water crisis and various related challenges.
- It aims **to develop solutions to the international water crisis (along with many other problems).**
- Water, an important natural resource, plays an important role in our daily activities like drinking and cleaning. Therefore its conservation is very important.
- The theme for World Water Week 2023 is **"Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World,"** The theme encourages a re-evaluation of water management practices and emphasizes the need for new ideas, innovations, and effective governance systems in the face of increasing water scarcity, and instability around the world.

History of World Water Week

- World Water Week is a recurring global event that has taken place every year since its inception in 1991.
- The event is organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), a non-profit organization committed to advocating for sustainable water solutions.

- The first World Water Week was held in 1991 in Stockholm, Sweden.
- The theme of the opening ceremony was **"Water: An Imminent Crisis."**
- The event brought together water experts and professionals from around the world to discuss and address challenges related to water scarcity and pollution.
- Since its inception, World Water Week has been held continuously in Stockholm.
- The event serves as an important platform for international stakeholders to engage in discussion, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative efforts to tackle various water-related issues.

5. Anwarul Haq Kakar sworn in as the 8th Interim Prime Minister of Pakistan (Aug. 17, 2023)

Anwarul-Haq-Kakar-sworn-in-as-the-8th-Interim-Prime-Minister-of-Pakistan
Ethnic Pashtun leader Anwarul Haq Kakar was sworn in as the 8th Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, becoming the youngest person to hold the role.

An Overview of the News

- President Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Anwarul Haq Kakar in a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Distinguished attendees include outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and prominent leaders.
- Kakar formally resigned from the Senate and the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), strengthening his commitment to the neutrality expected in his current position.
- The Senate Chairman has accepted Kakar's resignation as per Article 64, Clause (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Anwar Ul Haq Kakar: Background and Political Journey

- Ethnic identity and party affiliation: Kakar, an ethnic Pashtun, is affiliated with the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).
- Birthplace and political entry: Hailing from the provincial capital Quetta, Kakar entered politics in the late 21st century.
- Experience as Spokesperson: In a previous role, he served as the spokesperson for the Balochistan Provincial Administration in 2013 and gained valuable insight into regional governance.
- Senate tenure and election: Anwar ul Haq Kakar assumed a position in the Pakistani Senate as a senator in March 2018.
- He secured this seat in the 2018 Pakistani Senate elections as an independent candidate representing Balochistan through a general seat.

Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan - General Asim Munir

6. Nivriti Rai appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Invest India (July 20, 2023)

Nivriti-Rai-appointed-as-Managing-Director-and-CEO-of-Invest-India

Renowned global business and technology expert **Nivriti Rai** has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of **Invest India**.

An Overview of the news:

- Ms Rai takes over from **Manmeet K Nanda**, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), who assumed the additional charge of MD & CEO in the interim in March 2023.

Career of Nivriti Rai:

- Ms. Rai joins Invest India after an illustrious 29 years of service as a global business and technology veteran at **Intel**.
- She was leading Intel India as Country Head for the last 07 years and spearheaded Intel's growth and investments in the country.

Promotion of indigenous technology:

- During his tenure at Intel India, he made significant contributions in the areas of indigenous technology development, start-up ecosystem, electronics manufacturing ecosystem and policy making, especially in the areas of critical and emerging technologies.

Awards and Honors:

- Ms. Rai was also conferred with the prestigious **Nari Shakti Puraskar** for her outstanding contribution in the field of technology.

Invest India:

- India's National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency.
- **Established:** 2009 (Carried out as a non-profit enterprise under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry).
- Invest India focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and developing new partnerships to enable sustainable investment in India.
- It leverages private sector experts to meet the government's vision, which includes high standards of transparency, ethics and corporate governance.
- Chairman of the Board of Invest India Secretary of DPIIT: **Rajesh Kumar Singh**.

7. Nivruti Rai appointed as MD & CEO of Invest India (July 20, 2023)

Nivruti Rai took charge as the Managing Director and CEO of Invest India.

An Overview of the News

- Nivruti Rai replaced Manmeet K Nanda, who served as the interim CEO.

- Rai brings 29 years of experience from Intel, where he held global leadership roles.
- He led Intel India as Country Head for seven years and promoted growth and investment in India.
- Nivruti Rai has received the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for her contribution to technology.
- The Invest India Board is chaired by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT.

Other Board Members

- PK Tripathi, Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.
- Aarti Bhatnagar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, DPIIT.
- Mohd Noor Rehman Shaikh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
- Anand Mahindra, Chairperson, Mahindra Group.
- Pankaj R. Patel, Chairperson, Cadila Healthcare.
- Harshvardhan Neotia, Chairperson, Ambuja Neotia Group.
- Rekha M. Menon, Chairperson and Senior MD, Accenture.
- Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM.
- Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

Invest India Contribution and Initiatives

- Invest India played a key role in implementing flagship initiatives such as Make in India and Startup India.
- The organisation is known for its transparency, ethics and corporate governance.

8. TCRM Matrix Framework unveiled by NITI Aayog to enhance technology assessment and innovation (July 19, 2023)

NITI Aayog released the **Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix)** framework for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in India on 18 July 2023.

An Overview of the news:

- The TCRM Matrix Framework released by NITI Aayog is a pioneering assessment tool developed to revolutionize technology assessment, foster innovation and encourage entrepreneurship in India.
- This action plan paper highlights the historical evolution of the Technology Framework, including the **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)**, **Commercialization Readiness Level (CRL)**, and **Market Readiness Level (MRL)** scales.

- By building on the core principles of these frameworks, the TCRM Matrix Framework presents an integrated assessment model that provides deep insights and actionable intelligence to stakeholders at every stage of the technology development cycle.
- The Action Plan paper provides clear guidelines for integrating the TCRM Matrix framework within the wider innovation ecosystem.
- By doing so, policy makers, strategists, academics and investors can harness its full potential and drive meaningful change.
- Adoption of the TCRM Matrix framework requires a comprehensive analysis and contextualization within specific national and regional innovation scenarios.
- The launch of the Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix) framework is a milestone for India's innovation and entrepreneurship landscape.

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog:

- On January 1, 2015, a new institution NITI Aayog was formed in place of the Planning Commission, envisaging maximum governance, minimum government, emphasizing the spirit of 'cooperative federalism'.

Composition of NITI Aayog:

- **Chairman:** Prime Minister
- **Vice President:** Appointed by the Prime Minister
- **Governing Council:** Chief Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.
- **Regional Council:** The Prime Minister or his nominee presides over meetings of Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors to address specific regional issues.
- **Ex-officio Membership:** Up to four members of the Union Council of Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Ad-hoc Membership:** Two ex-officio members by rotation from leading research institutions.
- **Chief Executive Officer:** Secretary to the Government of India who is appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed term.
- **Special Invitees:** Experts in various fields nominated by the Prime Minister.

9. World's largest International Temple Convention and Expo organized in Varanasi (July 13, 2023)

World's-largest-International-Temple-Convention-and-Expo-organized-in-Varanasi
The world's largest **International Temple Convention and Expo (ITCX)** will be organized from 22 to 24 July 2023 at the **Rudraksh Convention Center in Varanasi.**

An Overview of the news:

- Conceived by **Temple Connect (India)**, it is the world's first event solely dedicated to the management of temples.
- The conference will focus on nurturing and empowering the governance, management and operations of the world and temple ecosystem.

Conference Participation:

- More than 450 temple functionaries from 25 countries are expected to participate in the conference.
- Along with Hindus, office bearers of Math-Temples and Gurudwaras belonging to **Sikh, Buddhist and Jainism** have also been invited.

Launch of the conference:

- The conference will be inaugurated by RSS chief **Mohan Bhagwat** on July 22.
- The event will be held at **Rudraksh Convention Centre**.
- For the first time, the International Temples Convention & Expo is being organized by Temple Connect.

Conference organized under Incredible India:

- The three-day event is being organized as part of the Incredible India campaign in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- In this, development, empowerment of temple management, operation and administration will be discussed.
- According to the founder of Temple Connect, best practices will be created for the teams of the leading places of worship in the world.

Theme of the conference:

- During this conference, the experience of pilgrims visiting temples, monasteries and gurudwaras will be asked, topics like crowd management, solid waste management and what should be improved in basic facilities will also be discussed.
- The conference will serve as a platform to introduce the world to India's rich heritage of places of worship, while learning about the diverse cultures, traditions, arts and crafts of places of worship around the world.

10. Union Ministry of Education releases Performance Grading Index for States (July 10, 2023)**Performance-Grading-Index-for-States**

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education released the **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** report for States/UTs, an index for evidence based comprehensive analysis of school education system in State/UTs.

An Overview of the news:

- According to PGI, even though the states have been successful to a great extent in recent years in connecting most of the children to schools, they are still far behind in the standards of teaching-learning and quality.

PGI 2.0:

- This year's report released by the Ministry of Education has been named **PGI 2.0**.

Punjab and Chandigarh on top in overall ranking:

- No state has been found in the top-5 category of PGI. Punjab and Chandigarh have been placed at the top position with the highest number of points in the overall ranking of PGI.
- While on the parameters of learning outcome and quality, **Rajasthan** has also topped with **Punjab and Chandigarh** with the highest marks.

Six Standards and Ten Categories:

- The Ministry has set **six standards and ten categories** in place of the earlier **five standards and eight categories** to determine the performance of the states in school education, in which the subject of teacher education has been added anew.
- In these indexes, the weightage (marks) given on the basis of government work has been reduced.

Six Standards of PGI 2.0:

- Among the six parameters on the basis of which this grade of states has been prepared,
- Learning Outcome and Quality,
- Access to School
- Infrastructure and Facilities,
- Equality,
- Governance Management and
- Includes teacher education and training.
- States have been given marks on the basis of 73 different parameters of all these.

Ten categories of PGI:

- The ten categories that have been created under PGI, which is based on 1000 marks, include:
- Daksha (941-1000)
- Utkarsh (881-940)
- Ati Uttam(821-880)
- Uttam (761-820)
- Pracheshta-1(701-760)
- Prachesta-2 (641-700)
- Pracheshta-3 (581-640)
- Aspirant-1 (521-580)
- Aspirant- 2 (461-520) and
- Akankshi-3 (401-460).

No state in top five:

- In the PGI-2.0 report for the year 2021-22, there is no state in the top-5 categories in the overall ranking, while **Punjab and Chandigarh** have found place in the sixth category i.e. **Prachesta-2**.
- Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu were in the seventh category i.e. **Prachesta-3**.
- Thirteen states have made it to the eighth category of overall ranking i.e. **Aspirational-1**, including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Sikkim, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Dadar Nagar Haveli is included.

- 12 states including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand have made it to the ninth category i.e. **Akankshi-2**.