

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

### **1. 'PARAKH' - A new regulator to bring uniformity between the state and central boards in India ( Aug. 31, 2022 )**

The Center is planning to create '**PARAKH**', a benchmark framework for assessing students at secondary and higher secondary levels, to bring about "**uniformity**" across state and central boards.

#### ***What is PARAKH?***

- **PARAKH** full name is -**Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**.
- It will act as a constituent unit of the **NCERT**.
- It will also be tasked with conducting periodic learning outcome tests like National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Survey.
- This framework will seek to curb the emphasis on rote learning as envisaged by the National Policy on Education (NEP) 2020.
- It will be the proposed implementing agency and also will be part of the NEP proposal.
- Its team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally.

#### ***Response of the States :***

- Most states supported the proposal to conduct board exams twice a year, including one test to help students improve their scores.
- The states have also agreed to the proposal to introduce two types of papers on mathematics - a standard exam, and an exam of higher level aptitude.
- This will help in reducing the fear of maths among the students and encourage learning.

### **2. Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dies at the age of 91 ( Aug. 31, 2022 )**

Former Soviet President **Mikhail Gorbachev** died on 30 August at the age of 91.

#### **IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- In June, he was taken to the hospital after suffering from a serious kidney ailment.
- He played an important role in ending the **Cold War**.

#### ***About Mikhail Gorbachev :***

- **He was born in 1931 in southern Russia.**

- Gorbachev was the last leader of the former Soviet Union from 1985 until 1991, he pushed for stronger Soviet-India ties.
- During his tenure, he visited India twice in 1986 and 1988.
- He became general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in 1985.
- He wanted to reform the communist regime on the lines of democratic principles by giving freedom to the citizens.
- Gorbachev's policies helped to open up the Soviet economy and liberalize society in the late 1980s.
- He played a major role in the withdrawal of Soviet troops from a nearly decade-long military operation in Afghanistan.
- He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990 "for his role in the radical change in East-West relations".

***Cold War :***

- The Cold War was an ongoing political rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union and its allies that developed after World War II.
- This enmity between the two superpowers was first named the Cold War by George Orwell in an article published in 1945.
- Its period is considered to be between 1945 to 1991.
- The term "cold" is used because there was no direct large-scale war between the two sides.

**3. ICAT Signs MoU with the NorthCap University for Emerging Technologies ( Aug. 31, 2022 )**

**The International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Northcap University (NCU)**, Gurugram on August 30.

***About the MoU :***

- This MoU has been signed to enhance industry-academic partnership to conduct short-term and medium-term courses and research in the field of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and related emerging technologies as per industry requirement.
- The MoU was signed by ICAT Acting Director Pamela Tikku and NCU Vice Chancellor Prof Nupur Prakash.
- The expertise of ICAT coupled with NCU's outstanding proficiency in developing content in the field of automotive technology will help aspiring candidates to take admission in flexible curricula.
- The entrants will be able to prepare for the diverse segments of the automotive sector in India.

***International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) :***

- It has been located at **Manesar** since **1996 as a division of NATRIP (NAB) Implication Society (NAITS)** under the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- It undertakes the testing and certification of automotive and their critical safety components.
- It is one of the independent investigative agencies under the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR)** notified by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India.

***NorthCap University (NCU) :***

- It was established in 1996 in **Gurugram**.
- This NCU is an '**A**' grade recognized university by the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**.
- It has been ranked among the top 100 in the engineering category under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.
- It has also been awarded as the top 30 universities of India in the Atal Ranking, 2021 and the best performing university in the Deemed Universities category.

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**5. Delhi Police becomes first police force to make collection of forensic evidence mandatory ( Aug. 31, 2022 )**

Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to make the collection of forensic evidence mandatory for offences punishable with **more than six years**.

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- The order was issued on August 30 during the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the police headquarters.
- Delhi being a Union Territory, its police force is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The purpose of the initiative is to increase the conviction rate and to integrate the criminal justice system with forensic science investigation.
- The Home Minister said that in serious cases, the police should file the charge sheet only after legal investigation.
- A detailed action plan has been prepared to crack down on narcotics in Delhi.
- A strategy has also been chalked out to crack down on multi-state criminal gangs operating in Delhi and NCR (National Capital Region) and adjoining states.
- The Home Minister directed the police to expedite the efforts to provide them a safe environment with a more professional and sensitive approach on the safety of women, children and senior citizens.

- The recently released NCRB report showed a 40% increase in crimes against women in
- Delhi, which is the highest among all metropolitan cities in the country.

***Forensic mobile vans :***

- As per the guidelines, in addition to Delhi Police's own mobile vehicles in all districts, one forensic mobile vehicle will be allotted to each district.
- This vehicle will provide on the spot scientific and forensic assistance to the investigating officers, if required.
- These vehicles will be equipped with scientific instruments.
- Forensic Mobile Vehicles will no longer be under the administrative control of the city police, but will act as an independent body and answerable to the court.

***What is Forensic Science?***

- Forensic science is the application of scientific methods or expertise to investigate crimes or to examine evidence to be presented in court.
- It is an important part of the **criminal justice system**.
- **Document examination, DNA analysis, Electronic/digital media, Fingerprinting, Autopsy techniques, Engineering, Linguistics, Anthropology etc** are the field of forensic science.
- **India's first** Central Fingerprint Bureau was established in the year 1897 in **Kolkata**, which started functioning in the year 1904.
- **The Center for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD)** has been set up in **Hyderabad** under the Department of Biotechnology.
- **The National Forensic Science University** was established by the Government of India in the year **2000 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

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**7. Most suicides reported from Maharashtra ( Aug. 30, 2022 )**

**According to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Maharashtra has the highest number of suicides. Tamil Nadu comes in second place and Madhya Pradesh comes in third place.**

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- According to the report, 1,64,033 people committed suicide across the country in 2021 as against 1,53,052 in the year 2020.
- According to this report, there has been an increase of 7.2 percent in the cases of suicide in the year 2021 as compared to 2020. At the same time, the suicide rate has increased by 6.2 percent.
- Maharashtra has reported the highest number of suicides at 22,207 in the year 2021. This is followed by Tamil Nadu with 18,925 suicides, Madhya Pradesh 14,965, West Bengal 13,500 and Karnataka 13,056.
- The NCRB has said in its report that these five states alone account for 50.4 per cent of the total number of suicides across the country. The remaining 49.6 percent cases have been reported in other 23 states and eight union territories.

***In Union Territories :***

- In the year 2021, **Delhi** has reported the **highest number** of suicide cases among union territories.
- Delhi recorded 2840 suicide cases, followed by Puducherry with 504 cases.
- The all-India rate of suicide in 2021 was 12 percent.

***Road accident deaths in 2021 :***

- There were about 4.22 lakh traffic related accidents in the country in 2021. In which 1.73 lakh people lost their lives.
- **Uttar Pradesh** had the **highest death** toll of 24,711 followed by **Tamil Nadu** at 16,685 and **Maharashtra** at 16,446.

***About National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) :***

- NCRB was established in 1986 under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It was established on the basis of the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the Task Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs (1985).
- The NCRB collects annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country ('Crime in India' report).
- The main objective of NCRB is to modernise India's police and empower it in information technology.

***Major Publications :***

- Crime in india report

- Accidental death and suicide
- Prison statistics
- Reports of missing women and children in India

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**9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kutch Branch Canal at Narmada, Gujrat ( Aug. 30, 2022 )**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28 August inaugurated the 357.18-kilometer-long Kutch Branch Canal (KBC).**

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- KBC stretched from the **Sardar Sarovar Narmada Dam** in Narmada district 750 kilometres away, to the last of the villages of **Gujarat's Mandvi taluka, Mod Kuba**.
- The dam will help in providing irrigation facilities to Kutch and drinking water to all 948 villages and 10 towns of Kutch district.
- The total length of the canal is about 357 km.
- A part of the canal was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 2017 and the remaining part has been inaugurated now.
- Built at a cost of Rs 6493 crore, the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) officials have claimed this dam as "the longest branch dam in the world".

***About Sardar Sarovar Dam :***

- The foundation stone of the project was laid by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on 5 April, 1961.
- It is a concrete gravity dam built on the Narmada river in **Navagam** near the town of **Kevadiya, Narmada District**, in the state of **Gujarat**.
- It was built to provide water and electricity to the four Indian states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- It is located in Gujarat's Narmada district, on the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- It irrigates drought prone areas in Gujarat and arid regions of **Barmer and Jalore** districts of **Rajasthan**.

The dam also provides flood protection to 210 villages and Bharuch city.

***Narmada River :***

- Narmada river is the largest west flowing river of the peninsular region.
- It flows through a rift valley between the Vindhya Range on the north and the **Satpura Range** on the south.
- It originates from the **Maikalla** range near **Amarkantak** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Major Tributaries of Narmada- **Hiran, Orsang, the Barna and the Kolar**.

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