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1. Semicon India Conference-2022 (April 29, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Semicon India Conference-2022 today. This three-day event will take place in Bengaluru.

- The three-day conference is being organised to take forward the Prime Minister's vision to make India a leader in electronics manufacturing, semiconductor design, manufacturing and innovation.
- The conference is being seen as a launch pad to launch the country's ambition of becoming a global semiconductor hub, nurturing the chip design and manufacturing ecosystem.
- Industry associations, research organisations and education experts will participate in the conference.
- **Theme of the conference** : Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem
- **Vision** : To position India on the Semiconductor map of the world and build a vibrant semiconductor innovation and manufacturing ecosystem.

2. Mandate Document of National Curriculum Framework launched in Bengaluru (April 29, 2022)

The Union Minister for Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan today in Bengaluru released a mandate document for the National Curriculum Framework under the National Education Policy.

- The Mandate Document is a step between the National Educational Policy and the National Curriculum Framework.
- The mandate document is a step forward towards formation of new National syllabus and textbooks.
- The syllabus for the first phase of the National Curriculum Framework related to playschools will be ready by the next Saraswati Puja date.
- National Education Policy is a password to the future that will change the destiny of this country.
- National Education Policy is a unanimous document prepared after wide consultations.
- National Education Policy is a scientific document for all developing and third world countries to follow to reap demographic dividend.

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4. Central African Republic adopted the cryptocurrency as legal currency (April 29, 2022)

The Central African Republic has recognized the world's largest and most popular cryptocurrency, bitcoin as its legal currency.

- It became the second country in the world and the first country in the continent of Africa to legalise bitcoin.
- In 2021, El Salvador became the first country in the world to legalise bitcoin.
- Now people there can pay tax in crypto currency through government recognized platforms.
- The Central African Republic is one of six countries in Africa that use the Central African CFA franc.
- The Central African CFA franc is a regional currency issued by the Bank of Central African States (BEAC).
- **About Central African Republic -**
- The Central African Republic is a landlocked country located in Central Africa.
- Despite being rich in diamonds, gold, oil, uranium, the Central African Republic is today counted among the poorest countries.
- It became independent from France in 1960.
- Capital- Bangui
- President- François Bozize
- Prime Minister- Faustin-Archange Touadera

5. Russia Withdraws From UN World Tourism Organisation (April 29, 2022)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation Zurab Pololikashvili announced that Russia has decided to withdraw from the UNWTO.

- The UNWTO announced earlier in March that it wanted to suspend Russia over the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- The UNWTO had previously described the Russian invasion of Ukraine as inconsistent with the United Nations Charter and against the fundamental purpose of the UNWTO.
- Russia has decided to withdraw from the organisation even before the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's vote in the UN on 27 April 2022.
- This is the first time the UNWTO has met to discuss the suspension of one of its member states.
- **About United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) -**
- Formation- 1 November 1975
- Headquarters- Madrid, Spain
- Secretary General- Zurab Pololikashvili
- Member Countries- 160
- So far, 17 member states have withdrawn from the organisation at various times.
- UNWTO is a United Nations organisation that promotes tourism to promote economic growth, environmental sustainability and inclusive growth.

6. Centre keen on lifting AFSPA from northeast (April 29, 2022)

PM Narendra Modi said that AFSPA may be partially withdrawn from Assam, Manipur and Nagaland (from 1st April) due to peaceful conditions since 2014.

- AFSPA will now be applicable only in 31 districts and partially in 12 districts in four states of Northeast Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.
- These four states together have 90 districts.
- AFSPA was withdrawn completely in Meghalaya in 2018, Tripura in 2015 and Mizoram in the 1980s.
- **What is AFSPA?**
- Armed Forces Special Powers Act, (AFSPA), gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas."
- It came into force decades ago in the context of insurgency in the northeastern states.
- It provides "special powers" to the army, air force and central paramilitary forces.

- The Act provides that if "reasonable suspicion exists", the armed forces may also arrest any person without warrant; May enter or search premises without warrant and prohibit possession of firearms.
- AFSPA is presently in force in areas falling under the jurisdiction of 3 districts of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and 8 police stations of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Assam.

- **What are the Disturbed Areas?**

- A disturbed area means which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.
- A region may be disturbed because of differences or disputes between members of different, racial, religious, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory have power to declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

7. Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) - 2022 (April 29, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) in Surat, Gujarat on 29 april via video conferencing.

- Sardardham is organising GPBS under Mission-2026 to accelerate the socio-economic development of the Patidar community.
- The summit is held every two years. The first two summits were held in Gandhinagar in 2020 and 2018 and the current summit is now being held in Surat.
- **The main theme of GPBS-2022** - Atma Nirbhar Community to Atma Nirbhar Gujarat and India.
- **Aims of the Summit -**
 - to bring together small, medium and large enterprises within the community.
 - nurture and support new entrepreneurs
 - provide training and employment assistance to the educated youth.
- **Who are the Patidars?**
 - The Patidars or Patels claim themselves to be descendants of Lord Rama.
 - They are divided into two main sub-castes: Leuva Patels and Kadva Patels
 - The Patidars are spread throughout Gujarat, except in the eastern tribal belt, with high concentrations in northern Gujarat and Saurashtra.
 - 'Patidar' means one who owns a strip of land.
 - Post independence, tenants got land ownership rights, and thus Patidars became lords of large swathes of prime agricultural land.

- In mediaeval society, they were placed better in the caste hierarchy.
- Patidars represent 12.3% of the population of Gujarat.

8. MSME Ministry launches MSME Sustainable Certification Scheme (ZED) (April 29, 2022)

Union Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane launched the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme.

- The scheme is a comprehensive campaign to motivate and encourage MSMEs for ZED certification by adopting Zero Defect Zero Impact (ZED) practices and encouraging them to become MSME champions.
- ZED has the potential to become a national movement and aims to provide a roadmap for global competitiveness for India's MSMEs.
- Not only will ZED strive to improve productivity and performance, but it has the potential to change the mindset of manufacturers and make them more environmentally conscious.
- Through this scheme MSMEs can reduce wastage to a great extent, increase productivity, environmental awareness, save energy, make optimum use of natural resources and expand their markets.
- **Subsidy Under the Scheme**
 - Under the Scheme, MSMEs will get subsidy as per the following structure, on the cost of ZED certification:

1. Micro Enterprises: 80%
2. Small Enterprises: 60%
3. Medium Enterprises: 50%

- **Additional subsidy**

- There will be an additional 10% subsidy for MSMEs owned by women/SC/ST entrepreneurs in NER/Himalayan/LWE/Island areas/Aspirational Districts.
- In addition to above, there will be an additional subsidy of 5% for MSMEs which are also a part of the SFURTI OR Micro & Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) of the Ministry.
- Further, a limited purpose joining reward of Rs 10,000/- will be offered to each MSME once they take the ZED Pledge

- **Role of Ministry of MSME**

- It works to promote, develop and support MSMEs in all regions and states.
- The Ministry runs more than 20 different schemes such as PMEGP, SFUTI, MSE-CDP, RAMP Scheme, ATI, Udyam Registration, etc.

- These schemes offer support and strength in the areas of access to finance, market linkages, technology upgradation, capacity building, innovation/ideation and industrial infrastructure development etc.

9. Atal Tunnel receives IBC Best Infrastructure Project award (April 29, 2022)

The Atal Tunnel, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), received the 'Best Infrastructure Project' award from the Indian Building Congress (IBC).

- Director General BRO, Lt Gen Rajeev Choudhary received the award during the 25th Annual Conference of IBC for the outstanding achievement of BRO in the construction of this tunnel connecting Manali to Lahaul-Spiti Valley.

• About Atal Tunnel

- The 9.02 km long Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel globally and connects Manali with Lahaul-Spiti Valley throughout the year.
- It provides a strategic advantage to the armed forces by providing an alternate link to the crucial Ladakh region.
- It has also been a boon to the residents of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh.
- This tunnel, built using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM), was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 03, 2020.
- It is equipped with a semi-transverse ventilation system, where large fans circulate air separately throughout the tunnel.
- An emergency tunnel has been integrated into the tunnel cross-section under the main carriageway for evacuation during emergencies.
- Fire inside the tunnel will be controlled within an area of 200 metres and fire hydrants will be provided at specific locations throughout the tunnel.
- Pollution sensors continuously monitor the air quality in the tunnel and if the air quality in the tunnel is below the desired level, fresh air is injected into the tunnel through two heavy fins on each side of the tunnel.

10. AAI first time successfully conducts flight trials using 'GAGAN' (April 29, 2022)

Airports Authority of India (AAI) successfully test fired at Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan using GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) based LPV approach procedures.

- The successful test is a major achievement and a major milestone in the field of Air Navigation Services (ANS) in the history of Indian Civil Aviation.
- India is the first country in the Asia Pacific Region to achieve such a landmark.

• What is LPV (Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance)

- LPV is a Satellite Based Procedure which has been used by the aircraft for landing purposes at Kishangarh Airport (Rajasthan).
- It permits aircraft guided approaches that are operationally nearly equivalent to Cat-I/LS, without the need for ground-based navigational infrastructure.
- The service depends on the availability of GPS and GAGAN geostationary satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15) launched by ISRO.

- **Significance**

- The LPV approach will make it possible to land at airports that are not equipped with expensive instrument landing systems, including many smaller regional and local airports.
- AAI in coordination with Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has implemented Gagan Message Service (GMS) through which alert messages will be sent to fishermen disaster affected people on occurrence of natural calamities like flood, earthquake etc.
- Additional capabilities of GAGAN are also being explored for its use in non-aviation sectors like railways, surveying, agriculture, power sector, mining etc.

- **About GAGAN**

- It is an Indian Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) jointly developed by AAI and ISRO.
- This is the first such system developed for India and neighbouring countries in the equatorial region.
- GAGAN System was certified by DGCA in 2015 for Approach with Vertical Guidance (APV 1) and en-route (RNP 0.1) operations.
- There are only four Space-Based augmentation systems available in the world -

1. India (GAGAN),
2. US (WAAS)
3. Europe (EGNOS) and
4. Japan (MSAS).