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1. Government Unveils Ambitious Development Plans: MSP Hike, Mega Port, Offshore Wind Terminals, and Airport Upgrade (June 20, 2024)

Government unveiled development plans including increase in MSP, mega ports, offshore wind terminals and airport upgrades.

An Overview of the News

Minimum Support Price (MSP) Increase:

- MSP approved for 14 Kharif crops for the marketing season 2024-25.
- Significant increases in MSP for crops including Paddy, Cotton, Millets, Pulses, and Oilseeds to benefit farmers.

Vadhavan Port Development:

- Government to develop an all-weather greenfield port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra.
- Estimated cost of over 76 thousand crore rupees.
- Planned to be among the top 10 ports globally after completion.
- Phase-wise development with a capacity of 23 million TEU.
- Expected to create 12 lakh job opportunities.

Offshore Wind Terminals:

- First offshore wind terminals to be developed in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- Each terminal to have a capacity of 500 megawatts.
- Part of the government's efforts to increase renewable energy capacity.

Varanasi Airport Development:

- Approval for the development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi.
- Project cost estimated at 2,869 crore rupees.
- Emphasis on developing the airport as a green airport for environmental sustainability.

National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme:

- Cabinet approval for the scheme.
- Establishing off-campus facilities of National Forensic Science University and Central Forensic Science Laboratories across the country.

2. PM Modi unveils 1,500 crore Multiple Development Projects in J&K during visit (June 20, 2024)

PM Modi launched development projects worth Rs 1,500 crore in Jammu and Kashmir during his two-day visit.

An Overview of the News

- He laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 84 major developmental projects in the Union Territory, worth over 1,500 crore rupees.
- PM Modi attended the "**Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K**" event in Srinagar on 20 June.
- During the event, he distributed appointment letters to over 2,000 newly appointed government employees.
- He also launched the Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project, valued at 1,800 crore rupees.
- On 21 June, PM Modi will lead the tenth International Yoga Day celebration in Srinagar, participating in a yoga session and addressing the gathering.

About Jammu and Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir was a state of India till August 2019, which was bifurcated on 31 August 2019 to form two union territories named Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Capital- **Srinagar (May-October), Jammu (November-April)**
- Lieutenant Governor - **Manoj Sinha**
- Legislative Council - **36 seats**
- Legislative Assembly - **89 seats**

3. HAL Receives Rs 45,000 Crore RFP from MoD for 156 Indigenous Light Combat Helicopters (June 19, 2024)

On 17th June 2024, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), based in Bengaluru, Karnataka, received a Request For Proposal (RFP) from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the procurement of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) Prachand, estimated to cost Rs 45,000 crore.

An Overview of the News

- The MoD issued this RFP under Regulation 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- Of the 156 LCHs, 90 are allocated for the Indian Army (IA) and 66 for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About Light Combat Helicopter (LCH):

- The LCH Prachand is the first indigenous Multi-Role Combat Helicopter, designed and manufactured by HAL in collaboration with French engine-maker Safran.
- Key aviation technologies such as the glass cockpit and composite airframe structure have been indigenised.
- It is the world's only attack helicopter capable of landing and taking off at an altitude of 5,000 meters (16,400 ft), suitable for operations in high-altitude areas like the Siachen glacier and Eastern Ladakh.
- The LCH is a 5-8 tonne class dedicated combat helicopter, powered by twin Shakti engines.
- It features a countermeasure dispensing system that protects it from enemy radar detection.

Important Points:

- In April 2024, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) issued a tender to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of 97 indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The estimated worth of the tender is over Rs 65,000 crore.

About HAL:

- HAL is a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- Chairman and Managing Director (CMD): **C.B. Ananthkrishnan (Additional Charge)**
- Headquarters: **Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- Established: **1940**

4. PM Modi Inaugurates New Nalanda University Campus (June 19, 2024)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly built campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar.

An Overview of the News

- The event was held at Sushma Swaraj Auditorium at Nalanda University.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha, along with other delegates, were present at the new campus of Nalanda University. The event was also attended by ambassadors from 17 countries.

Prime Minister Modi's Address

- PM Modi emphasized the role of knowledge in making India developed by 2047.
- Stressed that strengthening education and knowledge systems can help India achieve superpower status.
- Mentioned the International Solar Alliance as an example of such initiatives.
- The government aims to re-establish India as a major knowledge centre with a new identity in the education sector.

Remarks by Other Leaders

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar:
 - Spoke on the revival of Nalanda as a global bridge of learning.
 - Highlighted education, training, and capacity building as effective ways to promote international understanding.
- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar:
 - Praised the glorious history of ancient Nalanda University.
 - Acknowledged the ruins of ancient Nalanda University as a World Heritage site.

Historical Significance of Nalanda

- Nalanda University, founded in Rajagriha (now Rajgir) in Bihar in the 5th century BC by Kumararagupta of the Gupta Dynasty, was among the earliest educational institutions globally.
- It thrived under Gupta kings like Kumaragupta, Emperor Harsha of Kannauj, and later under the Pala empire.
- Nalanda functioned not only as a university but also as a Buddhist monastery.
- According to Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang, the university housed 10,000 monks and 2,000 teachers.
- Aryabhata, the renowned mathematician and astronomer, led Nalanda University.
- Prominent figures such as Harshavardhana, Nagarjuna, and Vasubandhu were among its notable students.
- Nalanda boasted an illustrious 800-year tradition as a center of learning.

UNESCO recognizes two world heritage sites in Bihar: the Mahabodhi Mahavihara in Bodh Gaya and the remnants of the ancient Nalanda University.

5. National Conclave on Sickle Cell Disease Awareness (June 19, 2024)

National Conclave on Sickle Cell Disease Awareness about Sickle Cell Disease was held at AIIMS, New Delhi.

An Overview of the News

- Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram emphasized that sickle cell disease (SCD) is not limited to tribal communities and can affect anyone.
- Oram stressed the importance of widespread awareness and the need to approach treatment from a human development perspective.
- Grassroots Efforts: Called for initiatives at Gram Panchayats and Anganwadis.
- Inter-Disciplinary Cooperation: Stressed the importance of cooperation among ministries and departments.
- Patient Interaction: Oram interacted with SCD patients.
- Conclave Details: One-day event at AIIMS with top hematology experts discussing SCD treatment and research.

Overview of Sickle Cell Anemia

- Sickle cell anemia is a type of inherited disorder under the umbrella of sickle cell disease.
- It affects the shape of red blood cells, which are responsible for carrying oxygen throughout the body.
- Some red blood cells become sickle-shaped (like crescent moons) and are rigid and sticky.
- These malformed cells can slow down or block blood flow.

Normal Red Blood Cells:

- Typically round and flexible, allowing easy movement through blood vessels.

Symptoms and Signs

- Anemia:
 - Sickle cells break apart easily, typically dying in 10 to 20 days, compared to the usual 120 days for normal red blood cells.
 - This leads to a shortage of red blood cells, known as anemia, resulting in fatigue due to insufficient oxygen.
- Pain:
 - Known as pain crises, these episodes occur when sickle-shaped cells block blood flow to the chest, abdomen, and joints.
 - Chronic pain can occur due to bone and joint damage, ulcers, and other factors.
- Swelling of Hands and Feet:
 - Blocked blood circulation by sickle cells causes swelling in these areas.

Frequent Infections:

- - Damage to the spleen by sickle cells increases infection risk.
 - Babies and children with sickle cell anemia often receive vaccinations and antibiotics to prevent serious infections, such as pneumonia.
- Delayed Growth or Puberty:
 - The shortage of healthy red blood cells affects oxygen and nutrient supply, slowing growth in babies and children and delaying puberty in teenagers.
- Vision Problems:
 - Blockage of tiny blood vessels supplying the eyes can damage the retina, leading to vision issues.

6. Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations Released by CDS General Anil Chauhan (June 18, 2024)

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan unveiled the Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations during a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee in New Delhi.

An Overview of the News

- The doctrine is considered a pivotal publication that will direct Commanders in navigating Cyberspace Operations within complex military environments.
- The Defence Ministry highlighted the Joint Doctrine's role in promoting Jointness and Integration across the Indian Armed Forces.
- It marks a significant stride in enhancing the ongoing military processes.
- In addition to traditional domains like Land, Sea, and Air, Cyberspace has become crucial in contemporary warfare.
- Operations in this domain are crucially integrated into national security strategies to influence outcomes across other operational arenas.

Guidance and Focus Areas:

- The doctrine focuses on comprehending the military aspects of cyberspace operations.
- It provides conceptual guidance to commanders, staff, and practitioners involved in planning and executing operations in cyberspace.

7. The Post Office Act of 2023 Officially Takes Effect (June 18, 2024)

The Post Office Act, 2023 officially took effect on 18th June 2024, replacing the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

An Overview of the News

- Under the new Act, the government is empowered to intercept parcels transmitted through India Post under specific circumstances such as state security and public order concerns.
- Interception can occur during public emergencies or to ensure public safety or tranquility, authorized by the central or state governments or designated officers.
- Officers in charge can detain or dispose of intercepted shipments and have authority to open, detain, or destroy parcels containing prohibited items as per the Act or other laws.

Appointment and Powers of Director General of Postal Services

- Appointment: Director General of Postal Services will lead India Post.
- Regulatory Powers: Empowered to make regulations on various matters, including tariffs for services and supply of postage stamps.

Legislative Process

- Bill Passage: Post Office Bill 2023 passed by Parliament in December.
- Presidential Assent: Received assent from the President of India on 24th December 2023.

8. AIIMS Publishes Case Study on India's First Successful Delivery of An Anemic Child with One of the World's Rarest Blood Groups (June 18, 2024)

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi published a case study on India's first successful delivery of a child suffering from anemia with one of the world's rarest blood groups, Rh 17 antigen.

An overview of the news

- Dr. Neena Malhotra, Head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at AIIMS Delhi, briefed the media on the complications that arose during pregnancy due to alloimmunisation, which is the incompatibility between the red blood cells of the mother and the baby.
- The fetus underwent 6 intrauterine blood transfusions to reduce the chances of hydrops or heart failure.
- Dr. Aparna Sharma, an Obstetrics and Gynaecology professor, highlighted that the biggest challenge was obtaining the rare Rh 17 antigen, which had to be sourced from Japan.

About AIIMS

- It is a public medical research university and hospital located in New Delhi, India.
- The institute is governed by the AIIMS Act, 1956.

AllMS Delhi operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- Established: **1956**
- Current President: **Mansukh Mandaviya**
- Dean: **Neena Khanna**
- Director: **M Srinivas**
- Motto: "**Sharīramādyam khalu dharmasādhanam**" ("**The body is indeed the primary instrument of dharma**")

Anemia Overview

- Anemia is characterized by a deficiency of healthy red blood cells or hemoglobin, impairing oxygen transport to the body's tissues.
- Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells responsible for carrying oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body.
- Symptoms include tiredness, weakness, and shortness of breath.

Types of Anemia

- Aplastic Anemia
- Iron Deficiency Anemia
- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Thalassemia
- Vitamin Deficiency Anemia

Symptoms of Anemia

- General Symptoms:
 - Symptoms depend on the cause and severity of anemia.
 - Initially, anemia can be mild and symptomless, but symptoms worsen as anemia progresses.
 - An underlying disease can mask anemia symptoms, with anemia sometimes discovered through tests for other conditions.
- Possible Symptoms:
 - Tiredness
 - Weakness
 - Shortness of breath

- Pale or yellowish skin (more noticeable on lighter skin tones)
- Irregular heartbeat
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Chest pain
- Cold hands and feet
- Headaches

9. PM Modi to Release ₹20,000 Crore Under PM-KISAN (June 17, 2024)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 17th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) on June 18, 2024.

An Overview of the News

- Amount and Beneficiaries: Over ₹20,000 crore will be disbursed to 9.26 crore beneficiary farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- Scheme Impact: So far, more than 11 crore eligible farmer families have received benefits totaling over ₹3 lakh crore under the PM-KISAN scheme.
- Special Recognition: PM Modi will grant certificates to over 30,000 women from Self Help Groups, including Krishi Sakhis.

Inauguration of Nalanda University Campus

- Event Date: On June 19, 2024, the Prime Minister will visit the ruins of Nalanda and inaugurate the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar.
- Collaboration: Nalanda University is a joint initiative between India and East Asia Summit countries.
- Inauguration Ceremony: The event will be attended by several eminent personalities, including the Heads of Missions from 17 countries.

Nalanda University Campus Details

- Academic Infrastructure: The campus includes two academic blocks with 40 classrooms, accommodating around 1,900 students.
- Facilities:
 - Two auditoriums with a seating capacity of 300 each.
 - A student hostel with a capacity for 550 students.
 - An International Centre and an Amphitheatre that can accommodate up to 2,000 individuals.
 - A faculty club and a sports complex.

- Sustainability: The campus is designed as a 'Net Zero' green campus, powered by a solar plant. It has its own water treatment and recycling plants, 100 acres of water bodies, and other environment-friendly facilities.

Heritage and Legacy

- Historical Significance: The original Nalanda University, established around 1,600 years ago, is one of the world's first residential universities.
- UNESCO Heritage Site: In 2016, the ruins of Nalanda were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

10. 'Nepal International Tourism Expo' Kick Starts in Kathmandu (June 15, 2024)

The two-day 'Nepal International Tourism Expo (NITE)' kicked off in Kathmandu on June 14 to promote Nepal's tourism globally.

An Overview of the News

- Held from June 14-15, 2024 at Bhrikutimandap Exhibition Hall.
- Organised in collaboration with Kathmandu Metropolitan City in collaboration with Nepal Tourism Board and other associations.

Inauguration and Goals

- Inaugurated by Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Hit Bahadur Tamang.
- Minister Tamang emphasised the event's potential to boost Nepal's international tourism presence.
- Minister Tamang noted ongoing efforts to meet the government's target of 1.6 million tourists this year, including resolving tourism sector issues and waiving VAT and unnecessary taxes on air tickets.

Participation and Networking

- It aims to unite tourism related businesses such as hotels, resorts, homestays, travel/tour/trekking/mountaineering agencies, airlines and stakeholders from both domestic and international sectors.
- Participating countries include Nepal, India, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Maldives, USA, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, UAE, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Malaysia and Bhutan, with a total of 155 entrepreneurs.
- Government of Bihar participated to promote tourism opportunities in ecotourism in Guru Circuit, Jain Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Valmiki Tiger Reserve.
- Provides a two-day networking opportunity for national and international tourism stakeholders to foster collaboration and lasting partnerships.

About Nepal

- The kingdom of Nepal was established by the Shah dynasty.
- It is a landlocked country in South Asia.
- Prime Minister - Pushpa Kamal Dahal
- President - Ram Chandra Paudel
- Capital - Kathmandu
- Currency - Nepalese Rupee