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1. NMDC wins IEI Industry Excellence Award 2022 (Dec. 17, 2022)

NMDC wins IEI Industry Excellence Award 2022

National Miner **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** won the coveted IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) **Industry Excellence Award 2022** on 16th December, 2022 in **Chennai**.

Important facts

- On behalf of NMDC, **N R K Prasad, CGM (IE & MS)**, received the award from **Dr K Ponmudy**, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- NMDC, the **largest producer of iron ore** in the country, was honoured at the **37th Indian Engineering Congress** for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence.
- The Institution of Engineers (India) has given the Industry Excellence Award to NMDC , after reviewing the business operations, financial performance, environmental performance, research and development, CSR and corporate governance policies of a company.
- With an **eco-friendly, economic and efficient approach**, NMDC is undertaking transformational projects to maintain its domestic leadership and move towards becoming a global mining company.

About NMDC

- It was incorporated in **1958** as a Government of India **public enterprise**.
- It is India's largest producer of iron ore.
- Since inception, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, it has been exploring minerals including copper, rock phosphate, limestone, magnesite, diamond, tungsten and beach sand, among others.
- Headquarters: **Hyderabad**

2. G-7 agrees \$15.5B energy deal with Vietnam to cut emissions (Dec. 15, 2022)

G-7 agrees \$15.5B energy deal with Vietnam to cut emissions

The **Group of Seven (G-7)** rich industrialised nations has approved an agreement to provide **\$15.5 billion** to **Vietnam**.

Important facts

- This will help the **Southeast Asian nation** rapidly move from coal-fired power to **renewable energy**, thereby reducing its climate-damaging pollution.
- The Group of Seven major economies, along with **Norway and Denmark**, said that the aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to **“net zero” by 2050**, a goal which experts say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at **1.5 degrees Celsius** (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).
- The Just **Energy Transition Partnership** with Vietnam is among a series of agreements that developing and rich nations are negotiating.
- The first such deal was signed with **South Africa** last year, and a similar agreement was reached with Indonesia last month.
- The **\$15.5 billion** of funding will come from public and private sources over the coming three to five years.

About G7

- The G7 or the **Group of Seven** is a group of the seven most advanced economies.
- The seven countries are **Canada, the USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy**.
- It was formed in **1975**.
- G7 countries meet annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- All the G7 countries and India are a **part of G20**.
- The G7 does not have a fixed headquarters.
- The **UK currently chairs** the G7 and has invited India along with Australia, the Republic of Korea and South Africa as guest countries for the G7 summit.

3. Four day Meeting of G20 Development Working Group under India's Presidency begins in Mumbai (Dec. 13, 2022)

G20 Development Working Group under India's Presidency begins in Mumbai

The **G20 Development Working Group (DWG)** under **India's Presidency** began in **Mumbai** on 13 December.

Important facts

- The meeting will take place in Mumbai on 13-16 December. G20 Members, guest countries and invited international organisations would be attending the meeting in person.
- India's G20 Sherpa **Amitabh Kant** addressed the delegates at the inaugural session.

- He said, the Government of India has tried to bring better data governance and has launched several initiatives like **Data Governance Quality Index**.
- The group is part of the G20's sherpa track and is one of the first working groups to be created in **2010**.
- The Indian presidency will hold two events - "**Data for Development: Role of G20 in advancing the 2030 Agenda**" and "**Infusing new LiFE into Green Development**" - before the official meeting of the working group.
- Review of SDG progress and G20's efforts to achieve the **SDG targets** would be discussed at the DWG meeting.
- In the context of green development, focus areas would include climate finance and technology, as well as just energy transitions for developing countries.
- With a human-centred approach to technology, tech-enabled development in sectors ranging from agriculture to education will also be discussed.
- The meeting will highlight **women's empowerment and representation** including efforts to bring women forward and in key positions to promote socio-economic development and achievement of SDGs.

4. Mallika Sarabhai became the Chancellor of Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University (Dec. 7, 2022)

Mallika Sarabhai became the Chancellor of Kerala

The **Kerala Government** on 6 December appointed well known classical dancer **Mallika Sarabhai** as the chancellor of the **Kerala Kalamandalam deemed** university.

Important facts

- Last month the government amended the rules of the university to remove Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** from the post of its chancellor.
- Since it is deemed to be university, norms of the University Grants Commission will not be applicable to it.
- The amended rules of the deemed university also stated that the governance system and management structure of the Kerala Kalamandalam shall be in accordance with the decision of the state government.
- Born as the daughter of renowned dancer **Mrinalini Sarabhai** and space scientist **Vikram Sarabhai**, Mallika Sarabhai is a world renowned **Bharatanatyam** and **Kuchipudi** performer.
- Apart from being a dancer, she has also proved her mettle in the fields of theatre, film and television and has also established herself as a writer, publisher and director.

5. EGramSwaraj and Audit Online of Ministry of Panchayati Raj wins Gold Award under the National Awards for e-Governance (Nov. 26, 2022)

EGramSwaraj and Audit Online of Ministry of Panchayati Raj wins Gold Award

E-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has won the Gold Award under the category "**Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation**" of the National Awards for e-Governance.

The award is a recognition of the excellent and exemplary work done by Team eGovernance and supported by Team NIC-MoPR.

The prestigious National Award was handed over to Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj Union by Union Minister of State, and Dr. Jitendra Singh during the [**25th National Conference on e-Governance**](#) at **Jammu** on 26 November 2022.

6. Government to hold the 25th National e-Governance Conference in Jammu (Nov. 21, 2022)

Government to hold the 25th

The 25th National e-Governance conference will be held at the **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University at Kakryal in Katra town of Reasi district in Jammu region** on 25 and 26 November 2022. The 24th National e-Governance conference 2021 was held on 7 & 8th January 2021 at Hyderabad, Telangana.

The conference will be inaugurated by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Government of India.

26th November is celebrated as the **Constitution Day** in the country to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. As part of the celebrations Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh will administer reading of the Preamble to the Constitution with all participants on 26th November 2022.

Who is organising the Conference

The **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances** (DARPG) and **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** (MeitY), in association with the Union Territory **Government of Jammu and Kashmir** is organizing the conference.

Nearly 2000 officers from across the country are likely to attend the two-day long conference.

Theme of the Conference

The theme of the 25th National e-Governance conference is "**Bringing Citizens, Industry and Government Closer**".

The application and use of Information technology and communication (ICT) in governance is known as **e-governance**. It makes governance transparent and efficient. Some of the examples of e-governance are Digital India, Aadhaar, and National Portal of India etc.

7. India moves up 6 place to be ranked 61st on the Network Readiness Index 2022 (Nov. 20, 2022)

India moves up 6 place to be ranked 61st

India has improved its rank by **6 places** to be ranked at **61 place** in the recently released Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022). The report prepared by the US-based non-profit body **Portulans Institute** compliments India and says that "India has a greater network readiness than would be expected given its income level".

The Network Readiness Index ranks the **131 countries** on 58 variables across four pillars of four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact.

India's Performance

- India improved its score from 49.74 in 2021 to **51.19** in 2022.
- India has secured 1st rank in "**AI talent concentration**",
- 2nd rank in "**Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country**" and "International Internet bandwidth",
- 3rd rank in "**Annual investment in telecommunication services**" and "**Domestic market size**", 4th rank in "**ICT Services exports**" and
- 5th rank in "**FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions**" and "**AI scientific publications**".
- India is ranked **3rd** out of 36 in the group of **lower-middle-income countries** after Ukraine (50) and Indonesia (59).

Top three countries on the Network Readiness Index

The **United States** topped the list with an overall score of 80.3. It was followed by **Singapore** with a score of 79.35 and **Sweden** with a score of 78.91.

In the **Asia Pacific region**, the list was led by **Singapore**, followed by **South Korea** and **Japan**.

Full Forms

FTTH: Fiber to the Home

ICT: Information Communication Technology

AI: Artificial Intelligence

8. Blackstone launches its Asian Data center business from India (Nov. 16, 2022)

Blackstone launches Asian Data center

American multinational private equity investor **Blackstone** has started its data centre business in Asia from India. It plans to increase it to 600 MW over the next two years through presence in five locations in the country.

Blackstone launched its data center platform Lumina CloudInfra on 15 November 2022. The Lumina CloudInfra is owned and managed by Blackstone's Real Estate and Tactical Opportunities funds.

Initially the data center will be set up in **Mumbai** and **Chennai**, and later on it will be set up in **Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad** and **Pune**.

National Data Center

The government data center has been set up and managed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The first Data Centre was launched in **Hyderabad in 2008**, followed by NDC Pune in 2010, NDC Delhi in 2011 and NDC Bhubaneswar in 2018.

It operates 37 small Data Centres at various State Capitals to provide services to the Government at all levels.

National Data Centre (NDC) at **Bhubaneswar is a Cloud-enabled Data** Centre which has been offering cloud services to Government Departments since its inception.

The National Data Centres form the core of e-Governance Infrastructure in India by providing services to various e-Governance initiatives undertaken by the Government of India.

What is a Data Center?

A data center is a facility that centralizes an organization's shared IT operations and equipment for the purposes of storing, processing, and disseminating data and applications. Because they house an organization's most critical and proprietary assets, data centers are vital to the continuity of daily operations.

9. Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act implemented in Madhya Pradesh to protect the rights of tribals (Nov. 16, 2022)

(PESA) Act

The **Madhya Pradesh government** implemented the **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act** in the state on 15 November.

Important facts

- It was formally announced by **President Draupadi Murmu** at a function organised by the state government in Shahdol district on the occasion of the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.
- On this occasion, Madhya Pradesh Governor **Mangu Bhai Patel**, Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** and several tribal ministers from the state and the center were present.

- It aims to protect the tribal population from exploitation with the active participation of Gram Sabhas.

Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996

- The Parliament enacted a special law called the **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) in 1996** and came into force on **24 December 1996**.
- The Act is currently in force in areas included in the **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution, which deals with the administration of districts dominated by tribal communities, and is applicable to 10 states in the country.
- These **10 states are** Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Telangana.
- The Objective of the Act is to ensure self-governance through Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas.

10. MoU to set up effective governance systems under DAY-NRLM (Nov. 11, 2022)

effective governance systems under DAY-NRLM

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Gurugram-based Veddhis Foundation** to support setting up of effective governance systems under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)** on 10 November, 2022.

Important facts

- The partnership with MoRD and Veddhis Foundation is for **three years** and is a non-financial partnership.
- The MoU was signed by Joint Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, Nita Kejrewal from MoRD and Murugan Vasudevan, CEO, Veddhis Foundation in a meeting chaired by Secretary, Rural Development, Nagendra Nath Sinha.
- As per the MoU, Vedis Foundation will set up a PMU in the Rural Livelihoods (RL) Division of the Ministry of Rural Development for the next five years.
- The MoU will also strengthen the state's capabilities, establish innovative models and implement a national strategy for convergence of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and SHGs.
- One of the initial focuses as part of the MoU is an annual report on the status of SRLMs in which the various SRLMs are expected to be evaluated on the basis of 'Governance Index'.

About Veddhis Foundation

- Vedis Foundation has set up Project Management Units-PMUs in the State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- It will work on a 360-degree approach for effective implementation of the top level priorities of the government in Rajasthan in future.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)

- It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in **June 2011**.
- It aims to reduce rural poverty by increasing livelihood opportunities through skill development and better access to financial services for rural poor households in the country.
- With an annual budget outlay of over Rs 13,000 crore, the program covers 7.15 lakh villages in 723 districts, and covers over 8.6 crore rural households.