

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL (NEC)

The Plenary meeting of North Eastern Council concluded recently.



About:

- NEC is not a constitutional body, but a statutory organization established in 1971 under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.

Functions:

- To function as Apex Regional Planning Body for the North Eastern Region.
- Implementing various projects through the State and Central agencies.

Composition:

- It comprises Governors and Chief Ministers of all the 8 North-Eastern States and three members nominated by the President.

Administration:

- In June 2018, Union cabinet approved the nomination of the Home Minister as the ex-officio chairman and Minister for DoNER (Development of North-East Region) as the council's vice chairman.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NICDC)

4th NICDC Investors' Roundtable Conference to be held in Mumbai on October 10.



About:

- The 4th NICDC Investors' Roundtable Conference organized by Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL).
- The Investors Roundtable Conference has previously been hosted in Delhi, Kochi, and Ahmedabad.

- The 4th edition of the conference will showcase the development of upcoming greenfield industrial cities across India, which have been planned by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited.
- Currently, four such greenfield smart industrial cities are being developed in Maharashtra in the districts of Aurangabad, Raigad, Satara and Nagpur.

National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC):

- National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) is a Special Purpose Vehicle aiming to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities" and converging next generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.
- The programme is aimed at providing impetus to planned urbanization in India with manufacturing as the key driver.

[MANESAR ANTI-TERROR 2022](#)

India is currently hosting the multilateral anti-terror exercise ‘Manesar Anti-terror 2022’ scheduled from October 8 to 13.



About:

- It is under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).
- It is stage 2 of the exercise and the Stage-1 of the Exercise was conducted from July 27 to August 1 by the National Counter Terrorist Forces of SCO Member Countries in their respective territories.
- The exercise is aimed at exchanging expertise, best practices and build synergy between the Counter Terrorism Forces of the SCO RATS Member Countries to enhance capabilities for conducting Anti-Terrorist operations and countering other security threats collectively.

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS):

- Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) one of the permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and has its headquarters in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- The objective of SCO RATS is to facilitate cooperation and coordination against Terrorism, Extremism and Separatism.
- India assumed the chairmanship of the Council of SCO RATS in Oct 2021.
- Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE) is an annual Counter Terrorist Exercise held within the framework of the SCO RATS.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- The SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc that India and Pakistan joined as full-time members back in 2017.
- The founding members of this group include China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

THE ONLINE GAMING MARKET IN INDIA, AND PROPOSED RULES TO REGULATE IT

In News:

- An inter-ministerial task force has recently proposed the creation of a central regulatory body for the online gaming.
- The task force was set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to propose contours of a national-level legislation to regulate online gaming.

The online gaming market in India:

Types:

- **e-Sports:** These are video games that were played privately or on consoles in video game stores in the 1990s, but are currently played online in a structured manner between professional players, either individually or in teams.

- **Fantasy sports:** These are games in which the player selects a team of real sports players from several teams and earns points based on how well the players perform in real life. **For example,**
- **Online casual games:**
 - These could be **skill-based**, where the outcome is heavily impacted by mental or physical skill or **chance-based**, where the outcome is heavily influenced by some randomised activity, such as rolling a die.
 - A game of chance may be considered as gambling if players bet money or anything of monetary value.

Size of online gaming market in India

- The Indian mobile gaming industry's revenue is predicted to exceed \$1.5 billion in 2022 and reach \$5 billion by 2025.
- Between 2017 and 2020, the industry in India increased at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 38%, compared to 8% in China and 10% in the US.
- According to a FICCI report, transaction-based games revenue increased by 26% in India, while the number of paying players increased from 80 million in 2020 to 95 million in 2021 (by 17%).

Need for a central law:

- **Lack of regulatory oversight:**
 - Online gaming exists in a regulatory grey area and there is no comprehensive legislation with respect to its legality or its boundaries.
 - Also, there is currently no regulatory framework to govern various aspects of online gaming companies such as -
 - Having a grievance redressal mechanism, Protection of data and intellectual property rights, and Prohibiting misleading advertisements.
- **Online gaming is a state subject (Under Entry 34, List II 'Gambling' and 'Betting'):**
 - However, state governments have stated that it is extremely difficult for them to implement some restrictions, such as geo-blocking specific apps or websites within their state's borders.
 - Also, state governments (unlike the Centre), lack the necessary blocking authority to issue blocking orders for offshore betting sites.

- There is also concern that legislation passed in one state may not be relevant in another, resulting in inconsistencies across the country.
- **Societal concerns:** A number of reported incidences of persons losing big amounts of money on online games, resulting to **suicides** in various parts of the country.

Recommendations of the task force:

- **Nodal ministry to regulate online gaming:**
 - The task force has suggested that MeitY may act as the nodal ministry to regulate online gaming, except for the e-sports category on which the Department of Sports can take the lead.
 - The scope of the regulation by MeitY should only cover online gaming (games of skill) and the issues of games of chance (nature of online betting and gambling) should be excluded from its scope.
 - Certain other aspects of online gaming such as advertisements, code of ethics relating to content classifications, could be regulated by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 - **The Consumer Affairs Ministry** can regulate the sector for unfair trade practices.
- **Creating a regulatory body for the online gaming industry:**
 - This body will establish what constitutes a game of skill or chance, and will certify various gaming forms, as well as pursue compliance and enforcement.
- **Establishing a three-tier dispute resolution mechanism:**
 - This will be similar to that prescribed under the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021 for online streaming services, consisting of -
 - A grievance redressal system at the gaming platform level,
 - A self-regulatory body of the industry, and
 - An oversight committee led by the government should be put in place for online gaming.
- **Bringing online gaming platforms under the scope of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:**
 - These platforms will also be treated as ‘reporting entities’ under the Act of 2002, and will be required to report suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit-India.

- This means that any online gaming platform (domestic or foreign) offering real money online games to Indian users will need to be a legal entity incorporated under Indian law.
 - **Betting apps can be included under the proposed Digital India Law:**
 - Many offshore betting and gambling websites which are illegal in India have become popular among Indian users, as they allow users to transact in Indian rupees through internet banking, UPI and popular wallets.
 - Despite being based outside India, some of these websites are widely advertised in Indian media.
 - g., during the most recent Asia Cup and US Open, betting websites such as 1xBet and FairPlay placed dummy advertisements on streaming networks.
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WORLD POST DAY

World Post Day is observed each year on **October 9** across the world.

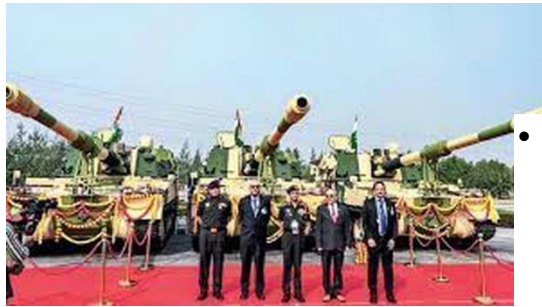


About:

- The day is celebrated to commemorate the date of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
 - It was instituted at the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo, Japan.
 - **Theme:** The theme for World Post Day 2022 is 'Post for Planet'.
 - **Universal Postal Union (UPU):** The Universal Postal Union (UPU) was started in 1874 in Switzerland.
- India:**
- The world's first official airmail flight took place in India on February 18, 1911.
 - The Indian Post Office Act 1898 was passed by the legislature on March 22, 1898. It became active on July 1, 1898.
 - In Independent India, the first official postal stamp was issued on November 21, 1947. The new stamp depicted the Indian flag with the patriots' slogan 'Jai Hind'.
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AATMANIRBHAR IN DEFENCE PRODUCTION

India ranks fourth among 12 Indo-Pacific nations in self-reliant arms production capabilities, according to a study released this month by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).



About:

- The 12 countries in the study were selected because they have the highest military spending in the region — Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan,

Thailand and Vietnam.

- The study, which measures self-reliance until 2020, is based on three indicators of self-reliance in each country:
 - Arms procurement
 - Arms industry
 - Uncrewed maritime vehicles

China

- China was the world's fifth largest arms importer in 2016-20.
- Its self-reliance policies, and its high economic growth in that period meant that the Chinese arms industry now increasingly fulfills the requirements of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).
- Its high volume of imports in absolute terms accounts for only 8 per cent of total procurement for the period, the lowest share for any of the 12 governments.

India

- India is ranked as the second largest importer of arms for its armed forces in 2016-20. India is highly dependent on imports of complete foreign major arms, including many produced under licence or as components for its domestic production.
- Of India's total volume of procurement in 2016–20, 84 per cent was of foreign origin. Domestic arms companies provide only 16 per cent of its total procurement.

- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Indian Ordnance Factories, Bharat Electronics, Mazagaon Docks and Cochin Shipyard are among the major Indian arms servicing companies. Ashok Leyland, one of the largest suppliers of trucks to the Indian Army, is the only company ranked in the top 50 in the Indo-Pacific.
- India has seven Uncrewed Maritime Vessel projects ongoing. In the private sector, Larsen & Toubro has been developing AUV prototypes on its own and in collaboration with foreign partners, such as Italy's EdgeLab.

SHARAD PURNIMA

Sharad Purnima being celebrated in country on October 9.



About:

- This religious festival is celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu lunar month of Ashvin.
- It is also known as the Arogya Parv or Health Festival. It is also known as Kaumudi, or Kojagari Purnima.
- The full-moon night is celebrated differently in different cultural regions of the country.
- On this auspicious day, many divine pairs like Radha Krishna, Shiva Parvati, and Lakshmi Narayan are worshipped along with the moon and are offered flowers and kheer (a sweet dish made of rice and milk).
- Deities in temples are usually dressed in white, signifying the brightness of the moon.
- It is also observed as a harvest festival in many states across the country.

73RD RAISING DAY OF TERRITORIAL ARMY

The 73rd Raising Day of Territorial Army was celebrated across the country on October 9.





CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



About:

- It aims to commemorate its raising by the first Governor General C Rajagopalachari on this day in 1949.

History:

- The Territorial Army (TA) was raised by the Britishers in 1920 through Indian Territorial Act of 1920 and it was org into two wings namely - 'The Auxiliary Force' for Europeans & Anglo-Indians and 'The Indian Territorial Force' for Indian Volunteers.
- After Independence Territorial Army Act was passed in 1948 and the Territorial Army was formally inaugurated by the first Indian Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari on 09 Oct 1949.

Role:

- The Territorial Army is part of Regular Army and its present role is to relieve the Regular Army from static duties and assist civil administration in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations where life of the communities is affected or the Security of the Country is threatened and to provide units for Regulars Army as and when required.

Eligibility:

- Any citizen between the age of 18-42 can be a part of the service.
- The pensionable age for a soldier below officer's rank in the TA is the same as that of a regular soldier — 15 years.

Operations:

- The TA units were also actively involved in operations during the 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars.
- Since 2020, the Indian military has been recalibrating the TA for better operational and intelligence roles, especially in the Andaman Islands to keep an eye out for possible Chinese intrusions in the region.

Motto:

- The motto of the Territorial Army of India is 'Savdhani Va Shoorta' (Vigilance and Valour).