

NEXT-GEN LAUNCH VEHICLE

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a rocket named Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) to replace the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).



About:

- NGLV will feature semi-cryogenic propulsion (refined kerosene as fuel with liquid oxygen (LOX) as oxidiser) for the booster stages which is cheaper and efficient.
- According to ISRO the NGLV should be a cost-efficient, three-stage, reusable heavy-lift vehicle with a payload capability of 10 tonnes to Geostationary Transfer Orbit.
- NGLV will feature a simple, robust design which allows bulk manufacturing, modularity in systems, sub-systems and stages and minimal turnaround time.
- Potential uses will be in the areas of launching communication satellites, deep space missions, future human spaceflight and cargo missions.

PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle):

- It is an indigenously-developed expendable launch system of the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization). It was developed in the 1980s.
- It comes in the category of medium-lift launchers with a reach up to various orbits, including the Geo Synchronous Transfer Orbit, Lower Earth Orbit, and Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.
- All the operations of PSLV are controlled from the Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota, east coast, India.
- It has a four-stage system comprising a combination of solid and liquid-fuelled rocket stages.
 - The first stage at the very bottom is solid fuelled having six strap-on solid rocket boosters wrapped around it.
 - Second stage is liquid fuelled whereas the third stage has a solid fuelled rocket motor.
 - At the fourth stage, the launcher uses a liquid propellant to boost in the outer space.

WHAT ARE RYTHU BHAROSA KENDRAS THAT ARE BEING VISITED BY AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION?

In News:

- An Ethiopian delegation led by the country's Agricultural Minister Dr Meles Mekonen Yimer is in Andhra Pradesh to study the first-of-its kind Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs).
- The Ethiopian delegation will visit several RBKs and understand how they function.
- They will likely sign a MoU with the state government and Centre to transfer the know-how.
- Under this MoU, AP officials will provide training to Ethiopian officials on operation of RBKs, and share knowledge about the farming systems in the state.

Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs)

- Set up for the first time in the country, the RBKs are single-window service centres for farmers that have been set up across the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- They are a one-stop solution to all farmers' needs and grievances.
- RBKs sell **pre-tested quality seeds, certified fertilisers and animal feed.**
- Farmers can purchase or hire farm equipment, and even sell their produce at the prevailing MSP in the RBKs.
- Agriculture and horticulture officials manning the RBKs also provide services like soil testing and make recommendations — on which crops to sow, and quantity and type of fertiliser to be used.
- The state government also pays crop insurance, procures grains and makes payments to farmers through the RBKs.

Benefits to farmers

- **Facilitates interaction between farmers and scientists**
- RBKs facilitate interaction between farmers, agriculture scientists, and agriculture extension officers right at the village level.

- Apart from providing services and items for sale, RBK officials demonstrate new farm equipment and provide training to farmers.
- **Guides the farmers in choosing appropriate cropping pattern**
- Based on inputs provided by officials after soil testing and weather conditions, many farmers have changed their cropping patterns.
- The RBKs, staffed by agriculture and horticulture graduates, help farmers decide the crops they should cultivate in a scientific manner.
- **Other benefits**
- The RBKs have been responsible for elimination of spurious seeds and uncertified and dangerous fertilisers.
- They also assist in selling their produce at MSPs, through supporting systems of e-cropping, geo-tagging, and the CM App through which payments are made to farmers.

International recognition

- The Centre has recently nominated the RBK concept for the Food and Agriculture Organisation's "Champion" award.
- As per the government officials, several agrarian countries are expressing interest in understanding the RBK concept and seek to implement it in their countries.

SUPREME COURT DELIVERS SPLIT VERDICT ON KARNATAKA HIJAB BAN

In News:

- The Supreme Court has delivered a split verdict in the batch of pleas challenging Karnataka HC's ruling of upholding the prohibition of wearing hijab in educational institutions of the state.

Hijab Row

- The hijab row came to the fore on January 1 at Government PU College in Udupi, where six female students claimed that they were not allowed to enter classrooms wearing hijab.
- The students started protest against college authorities, which soon snowballed into a state-wide issue.

- Later, several petitions were filed in the Karnataka High Court.
- In these petitions, Muslim students sought the right to wear Hijabs in classrooms under Article 14, 19 and 25 of the Constitution of India.

Judgement passed by HC

- **Hijab not indispensable to Islam:**
 - Karnataka HC held that the use of a hijab is not essential to the practice of Islam. Thus, the right to freedom of religion was not violated.
- **No significant right**
 - It ruled that there exists no substantive right to freedom of expression or privacy inside a classroom and, therefore, these rights were simply not at stake here.
- **Indistinguishable legislation**
 - It further held that the ban did not stem directly out of the government's order, which only called for a uniform dress code to be prescribed by the State or school management committees.
 - Hence, the law did not discriminate, either directly or indirectly, against Muslim students.

Matter reaches to Supreme Court

- Petitions were filed in Supreme Court of India against the verdict of Karnataka HC.
- A two-judge Bench started hearing arguments on the correctness of a Karnataka HC judgment.
- The current split verdict is the result of this hearing.

News Summary

- The Supreme Court has delivered a split verdict on whether Muslim students should shed their hijabs at their school gates.
 - A split verdict is passed when the Bench cannot decide one way or the other in a case, either by a unanimous decision or by a majority verdict.
 - Split verdicts can only happen when the Bench has an even number of judges.

Key Highlights

- **Justice Hemant Gupta backs HC verdict**

- He upheld Karnataka’s prohibitive government order, saying “apparent symbols of religious belief cannot be worn to secular schools maintained from State funds”.
- He further said secularity’ meant uniformity, manifested by parity among students in terms of uniform.
- Justice Gupta held that adherence to uniform was a reasonable restriction to free expression. The discipline reinforced equality.
- **Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia was against the HC verdict**
- As per Justice Dhulia, secularity meant tolerance to diversity.
- Wearing or not wearing a hijab to school was ultimately a matter of choice. For girls from conservative families, her hijab is her ticket to education.
- Asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates, is first, an invasion of their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education.

AGAINST HC VERDICT	BACKS HC VERDICT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia quashes Feb 5 K'taka order which bans clothes that “disturb equality, integrity & public order” in schools & colleges ➤ Says “concept of essential religious practices” not the issue, “it is ultimately a matter of choice, nothing more, nothing less”. Asking a pre-univ schoolgirl to take off hijab at school gate is an “invasion” of her privacy ➤ Echoing petitioners’ concerns, he says education of girls on his mind: “...A girl child for whom it is still not easy to reach her school gate... (the question is) whether we are making the life of a girl any better...” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Justice Hemant Gupta dismisses appeals, says he has framed 11 questions and the answers to those are against the appellants ➤ These include the respective scope and interplay of right to equality (Article 14), freedom of expression (Art 19), privacy and dignity (Art 21) and right to religious practices (Art 25) ➤ Enforcement of uniforms does not violate right to freedom of expression, he says. Rather, it “reinforces right to equality” ➤ Is wearing of hijab essential religious practice? Can students seek to wear it to school as a “matter of right”, he asks
<p>“ ALL THE PETITIONERS WANT IS TO WEAR A HIJAB! IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK IN A DEMOCRACY? ”</p>	<p>“ RELIGIOUS BELIEF CANNOT BE CARRIED TO A SECULAR SCHOOL MAINTAINED OUT OF STATE FUNDS ”</p>

What happens next?

- In case of a split verdict, the case is heard by a larger Bench.
- The larger Bench to which a split verdict goes can be a three-judge Bench of the High Court, or an appeal can be preferred before the Supreme Court.
- In the case of the hijab verdict, the CJI, who is the ‘master of the roster’, will constitute a new, larger Bench to hear the matter.

PM GATISHAKTI

According to the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has the potential to save over Rs. 10 Lakh Crore annually by improving logistics efficiency.



About:

- The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 13, 2021.
- It is a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and reduce logistics costs.
- It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.
- Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.

DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER (DBT)

IMF terms India's Direct Benefit Transfer scheme, as a 'logistical marvel'.



About:

- The aim of DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) is to transfer the benefits and subsidies of various social welfare schemes directly in the bank account of the beneficiary on time by bringing efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and also to eliminate the intermediary body.
- It was started on 1st January, 2013.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- It was created in the Planning Commission to act as the nodal point for the implementation of the DBT programmes.
 - The Mission was transferred to the Department of Expenditure in July, 2013 and continue to function till 14.9.2015.
 - To give more impetus, DBT Mission and matters related thereto has been placed in Cabinet Secretariat under Secretary (Co-ordination & PG) w.e.f. 14.9.2015.
 - According to the government data, more than Rs 24.8 lakh crore has been transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode since 2013.
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