

### PRADHAN MANTRI NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP MELA

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will organise the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) in over 200 districts across the country on May 9, 2023.

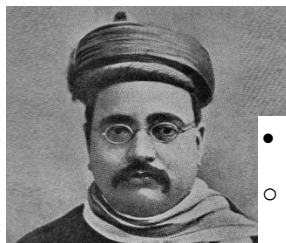


#### About:

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will be organising the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela every month now on.
- It's objective is to connect the youth with more opportunities of on-ground training within corporates and further a chance to get employment.
- Individuals having a 5th-12th grade pass certificate, a skill training certificate, an ITI Diploma, or a graduate degree can apply for an interview across these trades/opportunities.
- The candidates will be given a choice of 500+ trades, including welders, electricians, housekeepers, beauticians, mechanics, and others.
- Candidates will also receive Apprenticeship certificates recognised by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) at the end of their training period, which will give them industry recognition.

### GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has recently paid homage to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary.



#### About:

- **Indian National Congress (INC):**
  - Gokhale became a member of the Indian National Congress in 1889. He was the leader of the moderate faction of the Congress party.
  - In 1905, he was elected president of the Indian National Congress (Benares Session).

- He played a leading role in bringing about Morley-Minto Reforms, the beginning of constitutional reforms in India.
- **Member in British India Legislature:** In 1899, Gokhale was elected to the Bombay Legislative Council and in 1901 he was elected to the Imperial Council of the Governor-General of India.
- **Servants of India Society:** It was formed by him in Pune (Maharashtra) in 1905 to further the expansion of education in India. The Society organised mobile libraries, founded schools, and provided night classes for factory workers.
- **Ranade Institute of Economics:** In 1908, he founded the 'Ranade Institute of Economics'.
- **Mentor to Gandhi:** In his autobiography, Gandhi calls Gokhale his mentor and guide. In 1912, Gokhale visited South Africa at Gandhi's invitation. He received personal guidance from Gokhale, including a knowledge and understanding of India and the issues confronting common Indians.
- **Hitavad:** He launched the English weekly newspaper named The Hitavad (The people's paper) in 1911.

## MAHARANA PRATAP

PM recently paid tributes to Maharana Pratap on his Jayanti.



### About:

- Pratap Singh popularly known as Maharana Pratap, was a king of Mewar, a region in the present day state of Rajasthan.
- He was the eldest son of Udai Singh II (founder of city of Udaipur).
- **Battle of Haldighati:** It was fought on 18 June 1576 between the forces Maharana Pratap; and the Mughal emperor Akbar's forces, led by Man Singh I of Amber. The Mughals were the victors but failed to capture Pratap, who escaped.
- **Resurgence:** Mughal pressure on Mewar relaxed after 1579 following rebellions in Bengal and Bihar. Taking advantage of the situation, Pratap recovered Western Mewar including Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur and Gogunda. During this period, he also built a new capital, Chavand, near modern Dungarpur.

- **Chetak:** Chetak is the name given in traditional literature to the horse ridden by Maharana Pratap at the Battle of Haldighati. However, some Historians debate it. According to tradition, Chetak, although wounded, carried Pratap safely away from the battle, but then died of his wounds. The story is recounted in court poems of Mewar from the 17th century onwards.
- **Pratap Gaurav Kendra:** It is a tourist spot at Tiger Hill in Udaipur city, Rajasthan. It aims at providing information about Maharana Pratap and the historical heritage of the area with the help of modern technology.

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## REGULATIONS FOR TACKLING MISLEADING ADS AND CLAIMS

### Why in News?

- The Advertisement Monitoring Committee at the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** flagged 32 fresh cases of food business operators (FBOs) making misleading claims and advertisements.
- They were found to be in contravention of the Food Safety and Standards (Advertisements & Claims) Regulations, 2018.

### What has been Observed in the Food Advertising Ecosystem in India?

- FSSAI seeks that the advertisements and claims be **truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, not misleading and help consumers** to comprehend the information provided.
- **Claims must be scientifically substantiated** by validated methods of characterising or quantifying the ingredient or substance that is the basis for the claim.
- According to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), food advertising has been a “fairly violative sector”.
- Last month, an uproar ensued after allegations were made against health drink **Bournvita**.

### Some Misleading Words in the Food Advertising Ecosystem in India:

- **Natural:** A food product can be referred to as ‘natural’ if it is a single food derived from a recognised natural source and has nothing added to it.
  - Therefore, **composite foods** - a mixture of plant and processed constituents, can be called ‘made from natural ingredients’ instead of ‘natural’.

- **Fresh:** It can be used for products which are not processed in any manner other than washing, peeling, chilling, trimming, cutting or irradiation by ionising radiation (not exceeding 1 kGy to delay in ripening, killing of insects/pests, etc).
  - The regulations forbid the ‘fresh’ reference **if the processing endeavours to achieve an extension in the shelf-life** of the product (may instead use ‘fresh frozen’).
- **Pure and original:**
  - ‘Pure’ is to be used for **single-ingredient foods** to which nothing has been added and which are devoid of all avoidable contamination.
  - ‘Original’ is used to describe food products **made to a formulation, with a traceable origin** that has remained unchanged over time.
- **Nutritional claims:**
  - Nutritional claims may either be about the specific contents of a product or comparisons with some other foodstuff.
  - **Claims of equivalence** such as “contains the same of (nutrient) as a (food)” or “as much (nutrient) as a (food)” may be used in the labelling.
  - According to the ASCI, **most complaints of misleading Ads were related to the nutrition of a product, its benefits and the ingredient mix** not being based on adequate evidence.

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## [DOVAL IN SAUDI TO DISCUSS US RAIL LINK PLAN FOR WEST ASIA](#)

### Why in news?

- Recently, Saudi Prince and Prime Minister hosted a special meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of **India, the U.S. and the UAE, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**.
  - This meeting is being billed as another important Quad in West Asia.
- The participating leaders discussed an ambitious infrastructure project that will counter China's efforts to expand its footprint through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

### I2U2

- I2U2 is a diplomatic group of the India, Israel, the UAE and the United States.
  - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has used the I2-U2 moniker for the four-member grouping.

- The grouping was launched in October 2021 when the first virtual meeting of the foreign ministers of India, Israel, the US and the UAE took place.
- The new grouping is described as an international forum for economic cooperation.
- This grouping is already being termed as a **New Quad**’ or the **‘Middle-Eastern Quad**’.
- **Objective** – To generate synergies that go beyond government level cooperation.

## **China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**

- China’s Belt and Road Initiative (also known as One Belt, One Road (OBOR)) envisages the construction of a maze of road, rail and port projects through a number of countries.
- It aims to strengthen Beijing’s economic leadership through a vast program of infrastructure building throughout China’s neighbouring regions.
- This initiative is called “21st century silk road,” and is made up of
  - a belt of overland corridors (also known as silk road economic belt)
  - a maritime road of shipping lanes.

## **Background: Origin of the new initiative**

- The new initiative came up during talks that were held over the last 18 months in another forum called I2U2.
- Israel raised the idea of connecting the region through railways during the I2U2 meetings over the last year.
- Part of the idea was to use India’s expertise on such big infrastructure projects.

## **Why India is keen to participate in the project?**

- **Presence of China in the West Asian region**
  - Beijing has expanded its sphere of political influence in the West Asian region through what Delhi views as **mission creep**.
  - Mission creep is a term used to describe a situation where a mission or project expands gradually beyond its original goals, often without clear direction or oversight.
- **India’s interests in West Asia**

- This project has potential implications for India's interests in West Asia, which provides **energy security**.
  - Such connectivity will allow for faster movement of the crude and minimise India's costs in the long term.
  - The connectivity boost will also help India's eight million citizens who live and work in the Gulf region.
  - **India as an infrastructure builder**
    - The project will help India build a brand as an infrastructure builder in the railways sector.
    - Boasting a strong rail network at home and buoyed by the success of creating such infrastructure in Sri Lanka, India has the confidence to do it overseas.
  - **India's connectivity to its western neighbours faces several challenges**
    - India feels that India's connectivity to its western neighbours has been limited for long by Pakistan's blocking of overland transit routes.
    - So, Delhi wants to use shipping routes to reach West Asian ports.
    - These include Chabahar and Bandar-e-Abbas (Iran), Duqm (Oman), Dubai (UAE), Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and Kuwait City.
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## BUDDHISM, INDIA'S SOFT POWER PROJECTION TOOL

### Context

- The Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation hosted a two-day **global Buddhist summit** in New Delhi.
- The summit was attended by significant key figures from the global Buddhist community **including Dalai Lama**.
- The event provided India with **an opportunity to strengthen its soft power by connecting with the Buddhist population around the world**.

### What Efforts has India made so Far?

- **The PM's emphasis on Buddha's teachings**
  - The Prime Minister of India emphasised on the **continuing relevance of the Buddha's teachings** in today's world.

- Against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine crisis “**India has not given ‘Yuddha’ to the world but ‘Buddha’.**”
- **To give the world a new politics**
- The Delhi summit’s theme, “Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis”, also highlights India’s attempts to provide an alternative to contested global politics, with **morality at its core.**
- **Development, Preservation and Restoration of Buddhist sites**
- The Indian government has been **focusing on Buddhist Diplomacy by promoting tourism** through the development of the “**Buddhist tourist circuit.**”

### **India's guiding principle and objectives behind its Buddhist Diplomacy**

- **Cooperation rather than Coercion**
- This concept is deep rooted in India’s historical and cultural ties to the region.
- The current government’s guiding principles for **foreign policy (Panchamrit Principles)** include “**Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata**” which refers to culture and civilisation.

### **Through these efforts India wants:**

- **To become a responsible global power:** India aspires to reinforce its image as a responsible power committed to peaceful coexistence and cooperation.
- **To shape a discourse on global stage:** With its strong historical and cultural ties to Buddhism, India is well-positioned to play a leading role in shaping the discourse around Buddhist issues on the global stage.
- **To promote regional peace**
- Buddhist diplomacy has the potential to promote regional cohesion, given that nearly 97% of the global Buddhist population is based in Asia.
- For instance, during the Cold War, China engaged with its neighbours using Buddhist Diplomacy effectively.

## FINANCIAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FSDC)

Finance Minister recently chaired the 27th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).



### About Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):

- It is an apex-level forum constituted by the Government of India in December 2010.
- **Status:** FSDC is not a statutory body. No funds are separately allocated to the council for undertaking its activities.
- **Objective:** Strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
- **Composition:**
  - It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister of India.
  - Its members include the heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC) Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser.
  - The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.
- **Functions:**
  - It monitors macroprudential supervision of the economy, including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.
  - It addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues.
  - It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- **Sub-committee of FSDC:**
  - A sub-committee of FSDC has also been set up under the chairmanship of Governor RBI.
  - It discusses and decides on a range of issues relating to financial sector development and stability, including substantive issues relating to inter-regulatory coordination.



## INDIA'S FIRST AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTRE

Defence Minister recently inaugurated the nation's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre.



**About Indian Air Force Heritage Centre:**

- **Location: Chandigarh.**
- This is the **first heritage centre of the IAF** and is spread over 17,000 square feet.
- The heritage centre **highlights the IAF's role in various wars**, including in 1965 and 1971 and the Kargil War, and the Balakot air strike through murals and memorabilia.
- It houses **five vintage aircraft** and will provide visitors with **cockpit exposure** and an **experience with flight simulators**.
- It also houses the **first IAF-made patent aircraft Air Force 'Kanpur-1 Vintage Prototype Aircraft'**, a **single-engine indigenous flying machine** designed and built by the late Air Vice Marshal Harjinder Singh in 1958 at Base Repair Depot Kanpur.
- The centre also showcases **augmented reality, holograms, virtual reality, and electro-mechanical enclosures**, interactive kiosks highlighting various facets of the IAF.
- The centre also has a **special segment which has been dedicated to women officers** in the IAF for their contribution to the service of the nation.
- An **audio-visual gallery will present the journey of the IAF** through time, tracing its evolution from its inception to the modern day as well as promotional movies.
- There is a **section where uniforms of the IAF will be shown**, besides an enclosure for its ranks and badges.

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## WHY DOES INDIA NOT HAVE A LAW TO RECALL BAD DRUGS FROM THE MARKET?

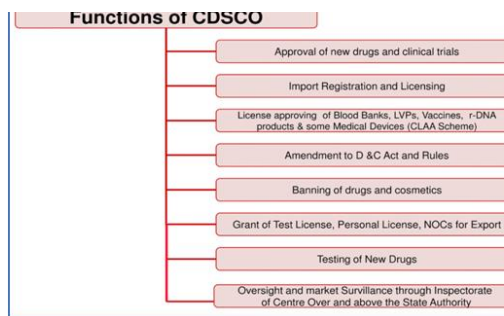
**Background:**

- Recently, **Abbot**, a multinational pharmaceutical company, published a public notice in newspapers alerting people about a mislabelled batch of medicine that it had inadvertently shipped to the market.

- Such recalls take place regularly in the U.S., including by Indian companies.
- This is because, in the U.S., **pharmaceutical companies are required to recall from the market those batches of drugs that have failed to meet quality parameters.**
- India, on the other hand, has been mulling the creation of a mandatory recall law for substandard drugs since 1976.
- However, till date, no such law exists that mandates such medicine be removed from the market to this day.

### Delay in Legalising the Recalling of Substandard Drugs:

- In 1976, the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC), and the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), discussed the issue of drug recalls.
- The same issue came up again in 2018 and 2019 at the meetings of the DCC, but India still lacks a recall law, 46 years on.



### What Are the Consequences of This Delay?

- Every month, dozens of drugs fail random-testing in government laboratories.
- People, including children, are almost certainly dying or suffering from adverse health events because substandard drugs are not swiftly removed from the

market.

### About Drug Controller General of India (DCGI):

- Drugs Controller General of India is the head of department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- The CDSCO is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare