

SIKKIM STATEHOOD DAY

President, Vice President greet people of Sikkim on their Statehood day.



About the day:

- Sikkim commemorates its statehood day annually **on May 16** to acknowledge its integration with India and its emergence as the **22nd state in the country in 1975.**

- The state of Sikkim was formed by the **36th Amendment of the Constitution** of India in 1975.

Brief history of Sikkim:

- In the **17th century**, the **Namgyal dynasty** formed the Kingdom of Sikkim. The kingdom was made a **protectorate of the British Empire in 1890** but the **dynasty continued to function under the Chogyal** (Buddhist priest-kings).
- After India's independence, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru agreed to continue the kingdom's unique protectorate status. India oversaw Sikkim's external relations, defence, diplomacy, and communications but otherwise preserved its administrative independence.
- In order to **enable constitutional rule** under the Namgyal rule, a **state council was established in 1953**. After around two decades a **people's agitation against the monarchy in 1973** was led by former Sikkim Council member **Kazi Lhendup Dorji**.
- After riots broke out in front of the Chogyal's palace in **1973**, the Chogyal formally requested security from India and this led to **the kingdom signing a contract with India**.
- In 1974 a new constitution was adopted in the state, which restricted Chogyal to a titular post. In 1974, The Indian government changed **Sikkim's status to "associated state"** and gave it one seat each in **the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha**.
- In **1975**, The Sikkim Prime Minister requested that Sikkim become a state of India in a petition to the Indian Parliament thus Sikkim became a state in India, and the monarchy was abolished on May 16.

CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (CCPA)

Recently, The Central Consumer Protection Authority has issued order against five e-commerce platforms for selling seat belt alarm stopper clips.



Why in news?

- CCPA passed orders against the five e-commerce players for violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

About CCPA:

- It is a regulatory body established in 2020 based on the provisions of the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- **Composition**
 - It will have a Chief Commissioner as head, and only two other commissioners as members one of whom will deal with matters relating to goods while the other will look into cases relating to services.
 - The CCPA will have an Investigation Wing that will be headed by a Director General.
 - District Collectors too, will have the power to investigate complaints of violations of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements.
- Objective: To **promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class**.
- It will be **empowered-**
 - To conduct investigations into violation of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution,
 - Order recall of unsafe goods and services,
 - Order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements,
 - Impose penalties on manufacturers/ endorsers/ publishers of misleading advertisements.

WHAT IS A GENERIC DRUG?

The Central government recently issued a warning to doctors at the government-run hospitals and CGHS wellness centres to follow the prescribed rules for issuing generic medicines.



About Generic Drug:

- It is a **medication that has exactly the same active ingredient as the brand-name drug** and yields the same therapeutic effect.
- It is the **same in dosing, safety, strength, quality, the way it works, the way it is taken, and the way it should be used.**
- These similarities **help to demonstrate bioequivalence**, which means that **a generic medicine works in the same way** and provides the same clinical benefit as **the brand-name medicine.**
- They also **have the same risks and benefits** as their brand-name counterparts.
- Generic drugs **do not need to contain the same inactive ingredients** as the brand-name product.
- A generic drug **can only be marketed after the brand name drug's patent has expired.**
- Generic drugs are **usually much less expensive** than brand-name drugs.

WHAT IS IDEX (INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENCE EXCELLENCE)?

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) recently reached a milestone with the signing of the 250th contract, the first one under the Mission DefSpace.



About iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence):

- It is the **flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, launched in April 2018.
 - **Aim:** To achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development in **Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries** including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.
- iDEX has partnered with leading incubators in the country to **provide handholding, technical support and guidance to the winners of iDEX challenges.**

- iDEX will be **funded and managed by a ‘Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)’** which has been formed as a **‘not for profit company’** as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 by the two founder members, i.e. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - HAL & BEL.
- **iDEX will function as the executive arm of DIO**, carrying out all the required activities, while **DIO will provide high-level policy guidance to iDEX.**
- Under iDEX, **financial support is provided to Start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and Partner Incubators through DIO.**

What is Mission DefSpace?

- It was **launched by the Prime Minister during DefExpo in October 2022.**
- **The goal of Mission DefSpace is to make India Atmanirbhar in defence technologies in the space domain.**
- It will **encourage technology development in space for defence applications by startups and young entrepreneurs through 75 Defence Space Challenges** launched across various Department for Defence Production (DDP) initiatives viz iDEX, ‘Make 1’, and ‘Make 2’.
- **The challenges are classified into five buckets**, viz. Launch System, Satellite System, Communication & Payload System, Ground System and Software System provide a holistic 3600 overview of space.

WHAT IS THE “MERI LIFE” APP?

The Government recently launched the "Meri LiFE" (My Life) mobile application to empower young people and encourage their participation in tackling climate change.



About “Meri LiFE” app:

The app is **inspired by the concept of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, which was envisioned by the Prime Minister at COP 26.

- **Aim: To promote mindful utilisation instead of wasteful consumption.**



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- The application will **foster a nationwide movement for LiFE, demonstrating the power of citizens** in saving the environment.
- Through this app, the **impacts of simple actions in daily life can be understood**, which can have a larger climate impact.
- Meri LiFE is a **marketplace where young people can explore their interests, find Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability focused opportunities that match their interests**, and sign up to act on issues that matter the most to them.

What is Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)?

- It was **launched by the Prime Minister on 20 October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat.**
- The mission **focuses on bringing about behaviour changes in individuals through simple and easy-to-do actions.**
- It is envisioned as an **India-led global mass movement that will nudge individual and collective action to protect and preserve the environment.**
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry** for national-level coordination and implementation of Mission LiFE.
- The global movement will **showcase sustainable goals and climate actions taken by countries** and individuals around the world.
- To monitor the progress of LiFE, the **Ministry has developed two dedicated portals.**
 - **The Mission LiFE Portal (missionlife-moefcc.nic.in):** Allows open access to download over 100 creatives, videos, and knowledge materials created by the Ministry for LiFE.
 - **The Meri LiFE Portal (merilife.org):** Enables ministries and institutions to upload event reports and track the progress of the mass mobilization drive.

THE NEW ALZHEIMER'S DRUG

Why in News?

- Within a year, a second drug has been found effective in checking cognitive decline in people with early Alzheimer's.

About Alzheimer's Disease:

- Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of **dementia**.

- Dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that are severe enough to interfere with daily life.
- Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia.
- It is a progressive disease beginning with mild memory loss and possibly leading to loss of the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to the environment.
- Alzheimer's disease involves parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language.
- It can seriously affect a person's ability to carry out daily activities.

Prevalence of Dementia in India –

- The estimated dementia prevalence for adults ages 60+ in India is 7.4%.
- About **8 million Indians older than 60 years live with dementia.**
- Dementia is more prevalent among females than males and in rural than urban areas.

What is Known about Alzheimer's Disease?

- Scientists do not yet fully understand what causes Alzheimer's disease.
- There likely is not a single cause but rather several factors that can affect each person differently.
- Age is the best known risk factor for Alzheimer's disease.

Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease:

- There is **currently no known cure for Alzheimer's disease.**
- Treatment addresses several areas –
 - Helping people maintain brain health.
 - Managing behavioural symptoms.
 - Slowing or delaying symptoms of the disease.
- Doctors prescribe a healthy diet, exercising regularly, sleeping well, and reducing the risk of diabetes and heart disease.
- Other than that, doctors suggest that people, especially the elderly and those with family history, should keep their brains active and engaged.
 - Solving puzzles, learning new languages or new skills, and going out and making friends can all help.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE: AS PRESIDENT, INDIA CAN GUIDE G20'S DISASTER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Context

- The G20 under India's Presidency has endorsed a **new working group on disaster risk reduction.**
- This makes it well-positioned to **prioritise disaster risk financing to achieve the targets set by the Sendai Framework for 2030.**

Recent Reports on Disaster

- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Report 2022**
 - India has witnessed a **climate change-induced natural disaster almost every day in 2022.**
 - Some examples are **Floods in Uttar Pradesh and Amarnath, Manipur Landslides, Cyclone Asani, Uttarkhanad Avalanche, etc.**
 - As a result, 2,755 lives were lost, almost 1.8 million hectare of crop area was affected, 416,667 houses were destroyed and killed close to 70,000 livestock.
- **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Sixth Assessment Report:** It highlights that a **significant number of people live in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change, especially South Asia.**
- **The 2021-22 Human Development Report:** The report shows that disasters not only worsen poverty and thwart development, but also generate social polarisation across nations and communities.

What steps should the countries consider to improve Disaster Management?

- States need to **enhance their capacity to understand risks and integrate them into government planning and budget processes.**
- The insurance industry needs better regulation, legislation, and supervision.
- **Partnerships with the private sector** need to be enabled to transfer sovereign risk to the capital markets, and the financing for response, recovery.

- **Reconstruction needs to be improved** by using preventive measures.

Challenges to Disaster Management

- **The lack of competent financial risk management** and insurance has provided a fertile breeding ground for these risks to proliferate and intensify.
- Significant **difficulty in collecting and analysing data** on hazards and exposures.
- The necessity of **strengthening technical and institutional capacity for risk assessment** and modelling.
- Achieving **comprehensive coverage of disaster risks**.
- There is also a **scarcity of investment in a development-oriented approach** that unites all parties into a transparent framework of action at the national level.

How can G20 under Indian Presidency overcome these challenges?

- India has extensive experience dealing with natural disasters and **can lead in promoting awareness of the financial impacts of disasters**.
- It can also lead the way in **establishing a regulatory framework** to enhance the financial capacity of insurance companies to cover disaster losses.
- By emphasising the importance of disaster risk financing, **the G20 can help governments worldwide to manage risk more effectively** and ensure sustainable development.
- The G20's new **Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG)** has recognised the importance of prioritising disaster risk financing.

Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG)' objectives

- The DRRWG will **strive to address all the key components of a comprehensive financial management strategy for disaster risks**. This will be the focus of their second meeting in Mumbai in the last week of May.
- The DRRWG will offer an **extensive overview of disaster risk assessment** and financing practices across a wide range of economies.
- It can also support the **harmonisation of definitions and methodologies for data collection and analysis** to improve access to international (re)insurance markets.

- DRRWG will offer affordable and comprehensive insurance coverage of disaster risks, financial assistance and compensation for affected individuals and businesses, and risk transfer mechanisms, including catastrophe bonds and insurance, for management of fiscal risks.
- It will help issuers, investors, and other stakeholders to identify and classify disaster-resilient investments, assets, and entities in a more effective and evidence-based manner.
- The DRRWG could channel more capital towards disaster risk reduction investments, while also creating new opportunities for innovation in sectors less commonly associated with disaster resilience, such as health, social protection, and natural capital.

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF)

The US recently proposed that advance notices of tariff changes and export restrictions be considered by the 14 member nations of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).



About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):

- It is an economic initiative launched by United States President on May 23, 2022.
- IPEF has fourteen member states: Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.
- This framework is intended to advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness for member economies.
- The forum seeks to go beyond traditional free trade agreements and work on the issues of supply chains, clean energy, decarbonisation, infrastructure, and tax and anti-corruption.
- The initiative aims to contribute to cooperation, stability, prosperity, development, and peace within the Indo-Pacific region.
- This framework will offer tangible benefits that fuel economic activity and investment, promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and benefit workers and consumers across the region.