

RESERVATION FOR AGNIVEERS

The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to reserve 10 per cent vacancies for recruitment in Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles for Agniveers.



About:

- Agniveers will also get ten per cent reservation in Defence Ministry's job vacancies.
- Reservations for agniveers meeting requisite eligibility criteria will be implemented in the Indian Coast Guard and defence civilian posts, and all the 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings. This reservation would be in addition to existing reservations for ex-servicemen.
- The Ministry has also decided to give three years age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in Central Armed Police Force and Assam Rifles.
- For the first batch of Agniveer, the age relaxation will be for five years beyond the prescribed upper age limit.

BALIKA PANCHAYAT

Gujarat becomes first State in the country to launch Balika Panchayat.



About:

- The country's first-ever girl Panchayat, "Balika Panchayat", which was started in several villages of Gujarat's Kutch district, aims to promote the social and political development of the girls and ensure their active participation of girls in politics.
- This is a unique initiative of the Women and Child Development Welfare department of the Gujarat Government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- It started in Kunaria, Maska, Motagua, and Vadsar villages of the Kutch district.

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also planning to begin the girl panchayat across the country.
 - “Balika Panchayat” is managed by people in the 11-21 age group and its main objective is to promote the social and political development of the girl child and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.
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POST-MAURYAN SITE IN BARPALI

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought the intervention of the centre in regard to the excavation and preservation of a recently discovered post-Mauryan site in Barpali in Odisha.



About:

- The 2000 year old post-Mauryan site which was discovered recently by the history department of the Sambalpur-based Gangadhar Meher University.
 - The site, spread over 17 hectares of land, has yielded numerous priceless artifacts and antiquities. Hence, the minister has urged the union culture ministry to direct the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to take over the excavation work of the site for better exploration.
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PM MODI IN KARNATAKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 8th International Yoga Day celebration by participating in a Mass Yoga Demonstration involving thousands of participants at Mysuru Palace Ground in Mysuru, Karnataka. The theme of International Day of Yoga is - Yoga for humanity”.



About:

- He inaugurated the Centre for Brain Research and laid the foundation Stone for Bagchi Parthasarathy Multi-speciality

Hospital at IISc Bengaluru.

- During the Programme, the Prime Minister dedicated to the Nation, India's first Air Conditioned Railway Station - Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Station at Baiyappanahalli, which is developed on the lines of a modern airport at a total cost of around Rs 315 crore.
- The Prime Minister also dedicated to the Nation the 100 percent electrification of the Konkan railway line (about 740 Kms) from Roha (Maharashtra) to Thokur (Karnataka) by flagging of Electric trains from Udupi, Madagaon and Ratnagiri.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Coaching terminal for sub-urban traffic at Naganahalli Railway Station. The Coaching terminal will also have a MEMU shed and will decongest the existing Mysuru Yard.
- He also dedicated to the nation the 'Centre of Excellence for persons with communication disorders' at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH).

NEGOTIATIONS FOR INDIA-EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

In a joint event held at the Headquarters of the European Union (EU) at Brussels, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, and Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of European Commission formally re-launched the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.



About:

- Besides, negotiations were also launched for a stand-alone Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and a Geographical Indicators (GIs) Agreement.
- While the proposed IPA would provide a legal framework for cross-border investments to enhance the confidence of investors, the GI pact is expected to establish a transparent and predictable regulatory environment, to facilitate trade of GI products including handicrafts and agri-commodities.

Background



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- Last year, in the India and EU Leaders' Meeting held in Porto on 8th May 2021, an agreement was reached for resuming negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial FTA and starting fresh negotiations on the IPA and a separate agreement on GIs.
- Both partners are now resuming the FTA talks after a gap of about nine years since the earlier negotiations were left off in 2013 due to difference in the scope and expectations from the deal.

Significance

- This would be one of the most significant FTAs for India as EU is its second largest trading partner after the US.
- The India-EU merchandise trade has registered an all-time high value of USD 116.36 Billion in 2021-22 with a year-on growth of 43.5%. India's export to the EU jumped 57% in FY 2021-22 to \$65 billion. India has a surplus trade with EU.

Other FTAs

- India earlier this year has concluded FTAs with Australia and the UAE in a record time.
 - The FTA talks with Canada and the UK are also underway.
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