

BILL FOR GATI SHAKTI UNIVERSITY INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

In News:

- A bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha seeking to convert the National Rail and Transportation University, a deemed-to-be-university, into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous central university.

About PM Gati Shakti:

- The Prime Minister Gati Shakti – National Master Plan was announced in 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It is essentially a **digital platform** to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another.
- It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

Need for such framework:

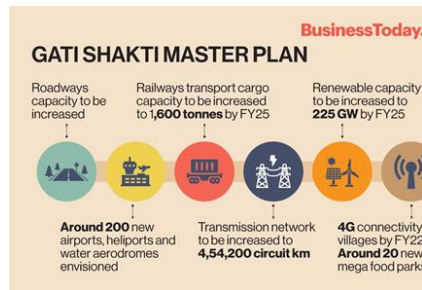
- Infrastructure creation in India had suffered for decades from multiple issues.
- There was lack of coordination between different Departments, for example, once a road was constructed, other agencies dug up the constructed road again for activities like laying of underground cables, gas pipelines etc.
- This not only caused great inconvenience but was also a wasteful expenditure.
- PM Gati Shakti will address the past issues through institutionalizing holistic planning for stakeholders for major infrastructure projects.

6 Pillars of PM Gati Shakti:

- **Comprehensiveness** –
 - It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal.

- Each and every Department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & execution of projects in a comprehensive manner.
- **Prioritization** –
 - Through this, different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross-sectoral interactions.
- **Optimization** –
 - The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after identification of critical gaps.
 - For the transportation of the goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.
- **Synchronization** –
 - Individual Ministries and Departments often work in silos.
 - There is lack of coordination in planning and implementation of the project resulting in delays.
 - PM Gati Shakti will help in synchronizing the activities of each department, as well as of different layers of governance, in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.
- **Analytical** –
 - The plan will provide the entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.
- **Dynamic** –
 - All Ministries and Departments will now be able to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects, through the GIS platform.
 - Satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and progress of the projects will be updated on a regular basis on the portal.
 - It will help in identifying the vital interventions for enhancing and updating the master plan.

Targets under PM Gati Shakti:



• The **Rs 100 lakh crore national master plan** includes 11 industrial corridors, achieving a Rs 1.7 lakh crore turnover in defence production and having 38 electronics manufacturing clusters and 109 pharma clusters by 2024-25.

• It fixes targets up to 2024-25 for all infrastructure ministries.

- Implementing Agency: **National Networking Group**
- National Networking Group will consist of experts or officials from all the stakeholder departments.

News Summary:

- Union Education Minister introduced the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill.
- The Bill seeks to convert the **National Rail and Transportation University (NRTU)**, a deemed-to-be-university, into **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**, an autonomous central university.
- The Bill seeks to expand the scope of the university from beyond just the Railways to cover the entire transport sector and support growth and modernisation in the field.
- The new university, once the Bill clears both Houses of Parliament, will be funded and administered by the Ministry of Railways.

Purpose of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya:

- The establishment of the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya will address the need for talent in the strategically important and expanding transportation sector.
- This will help meet the demand for trained talent to fuel the growth and expansion of the sector.
- The university will carry out critically-needed research and development by creating innovative technologies to encourage local manufacturing and substitute the imports of expensive technology, equipment and products.

National Rail and Transportation University (NRTU):

- NRTU was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **Vadodara, Gujarat** in 2018.
- It is India's first university focussed on transport-related education, multidisciplinary research and training.

ISRO TO UNDERTAKE MAIDEN FLIGHT OF SSLV ON AUGUST 7

In News:

- ISRO will undertake the maiden flight of its newly developed Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) on August 7.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

- SSLV is a rocket that is designed to orbit satellites weighing less than 500kg in Low Earth Orbit and 300 kg to Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- It is a 3 stage Launch Vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion Stages and liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) as a terminal stage.

Key Features

- SSLV is the smallest vehicle at 110-ton mass at ISRO.
- It will take only 72 hours to integrate, unlike the 70 days taken now for a launch vehicle. Only six people will be required to do the job, instead of 60 people.
- The other features include: flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, Launch on demand feasibility, minimal launch infrastructure requirements, etc.

Significance

- **Seamless launch of small satellites**
 - The launch of small satellites has until now been dependent on ‘piggy-back’ rides with big satellite launches on ISRO’s PSLV.
 - The SSLV is intended to cater to a market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits with a quick turn-around time.
- **Suited for launching multiple microsattellites & supports multiple orbital drop-offs.**
- **Shift the burden of commercial launches from PSLV**
 - The SSLV is likely to cost a fourth of the current PSLV.

News Summary: Key highlights

- **Maiden flight of SSLV**

- On its first flight, the SSLV will carry one of India's Earth Observation Satellites – EOS-2 – that will have applications in mapping and developing various GIS applications.
- It will also carry the AzadiSat, a satellite developed by 750 rural students from across the country coordinated by SpaceKidz India.
 - SpaceKidz India is a space start-up creating "Young scientists" for the "Country" and spreading awareness among children for a "borderless world".
 - It claims to be the 1st organization in the World to have launched Satellites through high school and college students.
- **Gaganyaan mission delayed**
 - The work on Gaganyaan mission, country's first manned flight to space, has been delayed due to the pandemic.
 - India was set to celebrate 75th Independence Day with the first human spaceflight.

CREATION OF DISTRICTS

The West Bengal cabinet has approved the creation of seven new districts in the state. This will take the number of districts in West Bengal to 30 from the existing 23.



List of districts

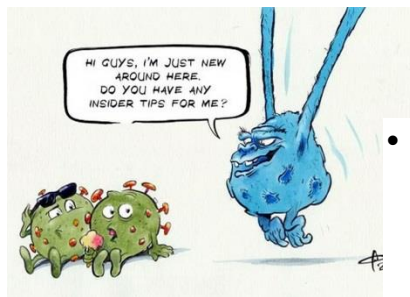
- A new Sundarban district will be carved out of South 24-Parganas district;
- two new districts will be created out of North 24-Parganas district — Ichhamati in Bongaon subdivision and a yet unnamed district in Basirhat;
- Ranaghat, a city and municipality in Nadia district, will become the fourth new district;
- a new district of Bishnupur will be carved out of the existing Bankura district; and
- two new districts of Baharampur and Jangipur will be created out of Murshidabad district.

Do you know?

- States keep creating new districts from time to time as smaller units would make governance easier and would benefit the people by bringing the government and the administration closer to them.
 - This power of creating or scrapping districts, or changing their boundaries lies with the state governments, who can pass a law in the Assembly or simply issue an order and notify it in the gazette. The Centre does not have a say in the matter.
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V.K. PAUL TASKFORCE ON MONKEYPOX

In the wake of the detection of monkeypox cases in India, the Union government has constituted a task force to monitor and provide guidance on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and to explore vaccination against the infection in the country.



About:

- The team will be headed by V.K. Paul, member (Health), NITI Aayog. India has reported six confirmed cases of monkeypox so far — four in Kerala and two in Delhi.
 - According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 18,000 cases have been reported from 78 countries.
 - Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus, which belongs to the same family of viruses that causes smallpox.
 - The disease is endemic in regions like West and Central Africa, but lately, cases have been reported from non-endemic countries too, according to WHO.
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THE INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL

The Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Antarctic Bill.

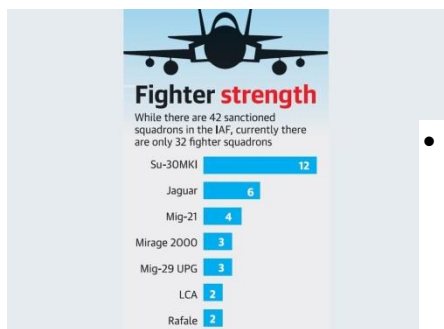


About:

- The Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 seeks to allow the application of Indian laws to the country's research stations in Antarctica.
- It also aims to provide national measures to protect the Antarctic environment and associated ecosystems.
- The Bill will also give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

IAF FIGHTER SQUADRONS

In a tragic accident, a MIG-21 trainer jet of the IAF crashed in Rajasthan killing both the pilots onboard.



About:

- The MIG-21 was inducted into the IAF in the early 1960s. Currently, there are four MIG-21 squadrons in service. IAF officials have stated that there is technical life still left in them.
- The IAF has an authorised strength of 42 fighter squadrons. As time passes, the drawdown is increasing as the total technical life is completed.
- However, the rate of new inductions is not matching the drawdown, depleting the overall number of fighter squadrons.
- In addition to the indigenous aircraft coming up, the IAF is confident that increasing the low availability rates of Su-30 and other fighters in service will offset some of the shortfall in the interim.