

### NDTV: THE HOSTILE TAKEOVER

#### Context

- The article discusses the potential takeover bid of NDTV by Adani Group which evokes the dangers of over-borrowing, the growing clout of large corporates in the media business and the need for media companies to focus on subscription revenues.

#### Why Adani Group want stake in NDTV

- **Not a hostile takeover:** A hostile takeover occurs when a company or a person attempts to take over another company against the wishes of the target company's board or management. However, Adani, as the new owner of VCPL is just exercising the warrants and therefore has 29% stake of NDTV.
- **No intent of gaining control:** Adani's open offer under SEBI rules to buy a further 26% in NDTV at ₹294 a share is far below the current market price of ₹424 a share.
  - If the open offer has to succeed, people should be willing to sell their shares to Adani at 294. But why would they do that when the market price is 30% higher or more.
  - Thus, If Adani wanted to take over, he'd have offered at least as much as the market price of the share, which he hasn't.
- **Reasons for corporate buying share in media houses:** Tycoons typically buy media companies because it gets them **influence** or it is some sort of **philanthropic**
  - If it were the second, an easier way would be to just inject funds into a media company through say, **preference shares** or such instruments and give it the **resources** to pursue independent journalism.
  - With a 29% stake, however, Adani Group can be a **prickle** in the side of a **company's management** because they can **block** a certain category of **shareholder** resolutions even if don't have a say in the day-to-day affairs of the company. These resolutions need 75% of shareholder votes to pass and are also called **special resolutions**.
- **Significance of Special resolution:** Buyback of shares, loans and investments by a company and appointment of certain directors, etc, requires a special resolution.

## What happens next?

- On its part, NDTV may invoke another clause in the **loan agreement** which **bars VCPL** and its **associates** from purchasing shares of the television company, which will increase their holding to more than 26% in NDTV without the consent of the promoters.
- However this clause can be tricky to apply as VCPL may say that it is **just converting holding** in RRPR and hence, **not purchasing shares** of NDTV. This will be a key point of the litigation.

## Effect on Indian media

- **Increased competition:** The Adani Group's entry into the media business (it already has a 49% stake in BQ Prime) is yet another example of the growing dominance of corporations in this sector.
- **Control recital:** Companies, often like governments, want to control the narrative. And that narrative will not necessarily serve the interest of the public at large.
- **Undue influence:** Due to large and diverse conglomerates own media units and also are in **regulated sectors** such as energy or telecom, there is a significant conflict of interest which could crimp **editorial independence** as they wouldn't want to displease the government. This can happen even if the corporate owner tries to maintain an arm's length relationship with their media entity.

---

## [BACK TO MOON: NASA SET TO LAUNCH ARTEMIS-1 LUNAR MISSION](#)

### In News:

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States is set to launch the Artemis-1 mission, which will take humans back to the Moon after more than half a century.
- Artemis-1 will be NASA's first non-crew mission to the Moon in recent history, paving the stage for the human orbital mission (Artemis-2) and manned landing mission (Artemis 3) in 2025.

### About the Artemis-1 mission:

- Formerly known as Exploration Mission-1, Artemis 1 is the first planned uncrewed test flight in NASA's Artemis program which is designed to eventually land humans on the Moon again.
- The Apollo program, also known as Project Apollo, was NASA's third human spaceflight program (after Project Mercury and Project Gemini), which succeeded in preparing and landing the first humans on the Moon from 1968 to 1972.
- It is also the first flight of the agency's -
- **Space Launch System (SLS)** rocket, which will be the most powerful rocket engine ever flown to space, even more powerful than Apollo's Saturn V rocket that took astronauts to the Moon in the 1960s and 1970s.
- The complete **Orion spacecraft** - a partially reusable crewed spacecraft designed by Lockheed Martin and the European Service Module and manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space.
- Artemis-1, which will also deploy 10 CubeSat satellites, will test how well SLS and Orion can complete a mission to the Moon and back.
- The test flight is currently scheduled to launch on 29 August 2022 from the Kennedy Space Center.

## Why is NASA going back to the Moon?

- **There is much science/research to be performed on the moon**
- The rock samples collected by Apollo astronauts decades ago taught scientists a lot about Earth's and the moon's geologic history.
- What today's astronauts can acquire could reveal considerably more.
- NASA has announced 13 potential landing locations (for Artemis), all in the **south pole region**, where water ice has been proven deep inside craters that never see sunlight.
- The sites are among the best in the world for studying lunar geology and understanding and sampling lunar ice.
- **A stepping stone to Mars**
- Mars is at least 200 times farther away from Earth than the moon, creating a huge problem in keeping astronauts safe from things like radiation exposure.

- On these increasingly difficult missions like Artemis, astronauts will live and work in deep space, developing the science and technology needed to transport humans to Mars.
  - **To mark permanent human presence**
  - The main goal of Apollo was to beat the Soviet Union to the moon. It was successful, but there was no long-term plan to establish a permanent human presence there.
  - Artemis may witness a slow transition into a permanent human presence on the moon.
  - **It has the potential to stimulate the development of new technologies**
  - According to NASA, commercial items derived from the space agency's research contribute between \$100 million and \$1 billion to the US economy each year.
  - Artemis has the potential to stimulate similar breakthroughs (like a reusable spacecraft) and boost the economy.
  - **It has the ability to inspire future engineers and scientists**
  - The Apollo lunar mission is reported to have inspired thousands of new engineers and scientists.
  - NASA will receive virtually real-time video from the moon's surface via Artemis, which may excite those who are not considering careers in space exploration or engineering.
- 

## [FIGHTING MALNUTRITION WITH MILLET: CHANDIGARH & ODISHA SHOW THE WAY](#)

### **In News:**

- In June 2022, the NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the UN World Food Programme, had published a report titled 'Take Home Ration – Good Practices across the States/UTs'.
- The report outlines a number of beneficial and creative techniques that the States and UTs have used to implement the Take Home Ration value chain.

### **Take Home Ration (THR) Programme**

- In line with the Union government's persistent efforts to ensure food and nutrition security, India has been implementing the **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)**.
- The THR programme is a part of the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under ICDS.

- SNP is provided in two ways – Take-Home Rations and Hot-Cooked Meals at Anganwadi Centres.
- The THR programme offers fortified rations for use at home for children aged 6 to 36 months as well as pregnant and lactating women.
- THR aims to fill in the nutrition gap among infants and young children by way of complementary feeding.
- Under the programme, rations might be given as raw ingredients or in packets that have already been cooked.

### **Key Highlights of the ‘Take Home Ration – Good Practices across the States/UTs’ Report:**

- The report, prepared by the NITI Aayog and UN World Food Programme, outlines a number of beneficial and creative techniques that the States/UTs have used to implement the Take Home Ration value chain.
- **Procurement**
  - This section highlights various good practices related to procurement adopted by various States and UTs.
  - For instance, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Chandigarh, and Mizoram are procuring THR products through e-tendering for maintaining fair play and transparency.
- **Production Model**
  - Decentralized production model increases efficiency for last mile delivery of THR to beneficiaries.
  - In Odisha, Women SHGs are responsible for each of the processes from procurement to the production of the products within defined time limits.
  - In Karnataka, THR is produced by Mahila Supplementary Food Production Centres (MSPCs) led by Women Self-help groups.
- **Product Formulation**
  - The THR product must be healthful and enriched with enough ingredients to meet the nutritional requirements of the intended beneficiaries.
  - For example, in Madhya Pradesh, fortified Khichdi premix is made with smaller particles for greater palatability.

- Beneficiaries in Haryana receive fortified sweetened flavoured milk.
- The goal is to ensure that the target population accepts and consumes the product.
- **Quality assurance & quality control –**
  - Gujarat has implemented inspections throughout the production process at the Amul THR factory to improve the quality of THR.
  - Once the product enters the Anganwadi centres, third-party laboratories gather random samples.
- **Monitoring –**
  - To ensure effectiveness of the programme, it is critical to monitor its execution.
  - Jharkhand has adopted a real-time monitoring approach using call centres.
- **Supply chain management –**
  - Supply chain management is an important component of the THR value chain.
  - Odisha has adopted the Mo-Chhatua software application and management information system to streamline supply chain management.
  - Similarly, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Telangana have opted for technological solutions.
- **Social and behaviour change communication -**
  - For any initiative to have an impact, information, education and communication (IEC) play a pivotal role.
  - Several state governments have designed IEC material showcasing the importance of THR.
  - It includes flyers, flip-books, folk media campaigns, and digital platforms of IVR, and WhatsApp chatbot.

## About Millets:

- Millets are a rich source of Protein, Fibre, Minerals, Iron, Calcium and have a low glycaemic index.
- India is a major producer of Millets, accounting for 80% of Asia's production and 20% of global production.
- Major Millets crops grown in India and their percentage share of production are Pearl Millet (**Bajra**) – 61% share, Jowar (**Sorghum**) – 27%, and Finger Millet (**Mandua/Ragi**) – 10%.

## Steps taken by the Govt to popularise Millets and other cereals:

- The Union government had proposed to the United Nations for declaring **2023 as International Year of Millets**.
- The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets in March, 2021.
- Over 500 Startups are working in Millet value chain with the Indian Institute on Millet Research.
- More than Rs.6.2 crores has been disbursed to over 66 Startups while about 25 Startups have been approved for further funding.

---

## SMALL CELLS

To expedite the roll-out of 5G, telecom operators in the country will leverage street furniture such as poles, advertisement hoardings and bus shelters for deploying low-power base stations called ‘small cells’ that will help bring the network closer to the consumers.



### About:

- Small cells are needed for deploying 5G as opposed to earlier generations such as 4G, because of the frequency. The higher the frequency, the lower the wavelength, which means that the distance they travel is less.
- Small cells are low-powered radio access nodes or base stations that have a coverage range from a few metres up to a few hundred metres. They are portable, easy to deploy and help provide localised coverage.
- As per the TRAI paper, small cells provide coverage for very short distances and therefore they are installed in a large number — even more than 200 per square kilometre — for good geographical coverage to provide highly reliable and high-capacity broadband.

---

## TO BOOST SELF-RELIANCE, RAJNATH RELEASES THIRD INDIGENISATION LIST

## In News:

- Defence Minister has approved the **third** Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs), sub-systems and components which are being manufactured by defence PSU.
- The indigenisation of the 780 items will be taken up under the ‘Make in India’ category.
  - The category aims to achieve self-reliance by involving greater participation of the Indian industry.

## In Focus: Indigenisation of Indian Defence Sector

- It can be understood as the capability to develop and produce defence equipment within the country for the purpose of achieving self-reliance.
- It helps in reducing the burden of imports.
- It aims to design, develop and lead the production of state-of-the-art sensors, weapon systems, platforms for the Indian Defence Services.

## Background:

- Indian Government is pushing towards defence indigenisation. For this, it has, from time to time, released negative import list/positive indigenisation list.
  - The items on the lists cannot be imported by the Services and should be sourced from within the country.
- In August 2020, the government notified the first negative import list of 101 items.
- In May 2021, the government notified the second list, comprising 108 items.
  - It renamed the third list as ‘positive indigenisation list’.

## Importance of Indigenisation

- **Economic**
  - Despite having the fifth largest defence budget, India procures 60% of its weapon systems from foreign markets.
  - Higher import leads to increase in the fiscal deficit.
- **Employment generation**



- It will help MSMEs involved in the defence manufacturing and will promote start-ups. This, in turn, will generate employment in India.
- **Security**
  - India is surrounded by porous borders and hostile neighbours. It needs to be self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence production.
- **Geopolitical**
  - Given the current geopolitical scenario after the Ukraine war, the importance of being self-reliant in defence production is more apparent than ever.
  - Self-reliance in Defence manufacturing will also promote India as a defence exporter.
  - Recently, India has signed a \$375 million deal to export the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to the Philippines.

## Recent steps

- **Change in Defence Procurement Policy (DPP)**
  - The policy increased the Indigenous Content stipulated in various categories of procurement by about 10% to support the 'Make in India' initiative.
  - It added an additional category Buy (Indian-IDDMM) as the most preferred way of defence goods acquisition.
    - IDDMM - Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured.
  - Preference has been given to 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy & Make (Indian)' & 'Make' categories of acquisition over 'Buy (Global)' category.
- **Negative import list/positive indigenisation list**
- **Space created for private players**
  - Government has incentivised the private sector to invest in defence manufacturing.
  - In this direction, it has relied on transfer of technology, providing a platform for handholding etc.
  - The government recently corporatised the Ordnance Factory Board and converted it into seven DPSUs.
- **Budget 2022-23**
  - The annual Budget of 2022-23 announced that:

- Defence R&D will be opened up for industry, start-ups and academia
- 25% of the Defence R&D budget has also been earmarked for this purpose.
- In addition, this year’s budget also announced that an independent nodal umbrella body will be set up for meeting wide-ranging testing and certification requirements.

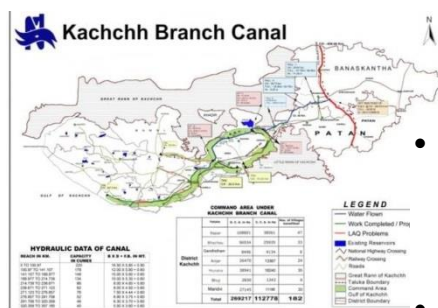
## News Summary

- The fresh list specifies the timelines beyond which the strategically-important 780 items will be procured only from the domestic industry.
- The new list comes at a time when the US-led western countries have slapped wide-ranging sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.
- India is faced with the challenge of maintaining high operational military readiness because almost 70% of its defence hardware and software is of Soviet or Russian-origin.

---

## KUTCH BRANCH CANAL (KBC)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 357.18-kilometer-long Kutch Branch Canal (KBC) that stretched from the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Dam in Narmada district 750 kilometres away, to the last of the villages of Gujarat’s Mandvi taluka, Mod Kuba.



### About:

- Built at the cost of Rs 6493 crore, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL) officials acclaim KBC as the “longest branch canal in the world”.
- The project began around 2008 and passes over Dudhai village which was the epicentre of the 2001 earthquake.
- While the construction of the branch canal was completed in May, about 1200 km of a total of 5000 km network of minor canals for laying the distribution network is yet to be completed.