



PM Lays Foundation Stone of Solar Power Plant in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 20 Feb 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **NLC (Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited) India Ltd 300-mw [solar power](#) project in Barsingsar**, Rajasthan.

- NLC India is a **navratna company** under **the coal ministry**.

Key Points

- The total cost of **NLC India's solar project is estimated at Rs 1,756 crore** and it is scheduled to be commissioned in September 2024.
- The project is strategically **located near** the existing **Barsingsar Thermal Power Station** which offers advantages in power evacuation through the existing network and utilisation of common infrastructure facilities.
 - The project will not only give green and cheap power to the region but also provide great employment opportunities to the youth.

Navratna Company

- **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** are classified into 3 categories- **Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna**.
 - As of 2023, there are 13 Maharatna, 16 Navratna and 68 Miniratna CPSEs.
- **Navratna Companies** in India are a group of CPSEs that have enhanced financial autonomy and flexibility to compete in the global market. They are given certain privileges, such as **investing up to Rs 1,000 crore without explicit government approval**.
- The Navratna status was **first introduced in 1997**.
 - To attain Navratna status, a firm must initially hold the **Miniratna designation** and it needs to achieve a score of **60 or more (out of 100) according to six performance criteria**, which include metrics like Net Profit to Net Worth, Earnings per Share, and Inter-Sectoral Performance.

Transit Hostels for Home Guards in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 20 Feb 2024

Why in News?

The **Home Guard department in Uttarakhand** is set to provide **residential facilities for its [Home](#)**

[Guards](#) especially in Udham Singh Nagar and other key districts.

Key Points

- Preparations to **construct hotels in 8 districts** are underway with a budget approval of Rs 13.50 crore received from the government.
- The identified districts span both the Garhwal and Kumaon division. With **Haridwar securing the most extensive plot—approximately 50 bighas of land.**
- The departmental sources revealed that the **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** has been prepared for the construction of hostels in different cities of eight districts, including **Udham Singh Nagar district headquarters, Rudrapur, Nainital, and Haridwar.**
 - As part of the next phase, DPRs for the remaining five districts will be prepared and submitted to the government, ensuring the extension of this initiative across the state.

Home Guard

- On **6th December, 1946**, the first Home Guards Unit was conceived and raised in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency .
- During the turmoil period of civil disorders and communal riots, as a **civilian voluntary force** in aid of administration as an auxiliary to police, **under the stewardship of Morarji Desai**, former Prime Minister.
- It was **reorganised** in India in **1966 after the Sino-Indian War.**

Upgradation of 108 Roads in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 20 Feb 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has approved the upgradation of 108 roads in Uttarakhand under the [Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana \(PMGSY\)](#).

Key Points

- **108 roads** covering a **total length of 1,197.207 km** in Uttarakhand will be upgraded at an **estimated cost of Rs 967.73 crore** under PMGSY -III.
- Out of the **total Rs 967.73 crore**, the **Centre will give Rs 803.85 crore** and the **remaining Rs 163.88 crore** will be borne **by the state government.**
- The approval is being given in acknowledgement of the fact that the hilly areas are hit by [natural disasters](#) every year and people in the hills have to face various hardships.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- It was launched on 25th December, 2000 with an objective to provide connectivity, by way of an all-weather road to unconnected habitations.
- PMGSY - Phase III
 - Phase III was approved by the Cabinet during July **2019**.
 - It gives priorities to facilities like:
 - **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)**
 - GrAMs are retail agricultural markets in close proximity to the farm gate that promote and service a more efficient transaction of the farmers'

produce.

- **Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.**
- Under the PMGSY-III Scheme, it is proposed to consolidate **1,25,000 Km** road length in the States. The duration of the scheme is **2019-20 to 2024-25**.

Uttar Pradesh Invokes ESMA | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Feb 2024

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government invoked [the Essential Services Maintenance Act \(ESMA\), 1968](#) banning strikes by government employees in all State government departments, corporations, and authorities for a period of six months.

- The decision **came during ongoing farmers strike called by various union organisations.**

Key Points

- Under **sub section (1) of the section-3** of the **Uttar Pradesh Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1966 (UP Act No 30 of 1966)**, the State government prohibited strike for a period of six months.
- The Act gives the police the **power to arrest the employees violating provisions** without a warrant and **imprisonment for a term** which may extend up to one year or a fine which may extend to ₹1,000 or both, to any person who instigated a strike which was illegal under the Act.
- In the past, the UP government had banned strikes for six months during the peak of the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), and again in May 2021.

The Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968

- It was **enacted in 1968** to ensure the **delivery of certain services**, which if obstructed would affect the normal life of the people.
- It is a law made by the Parliament of India under **List No. 33 in Concurrent List of 7th Schedule of Constitution of India**.
- Services fall under this category are:
 - Services relating to **public conservation, sanitation, water supply, hospitals, or national defence** are essential.
 - Any establishment involved in producing, delivering, or distributing **petroleum, coal, electricity, steel, or fertilizer** also gets classified as providing essential services. Aside from that, any banking-related service may be subject to ESMA.
 - This statute also applies to communication and transportation services and any government initiative relating to the acquisition and distribution of food grains.

Prime Minister Lays Foundation Stone of AIIMS Rewari | Haryana | 20 Feb 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rewari**, in the presence of Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya.

Key Points

- During the ceremony, the PM highlighted the vision of **Viksit Bharat** and underscored the importance of the health sector in propelling the country towards that **vision by 2047**.
- The establishment of AIIMS in Rewari, Haryana, has been approved under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme** of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
 - PMSSY aims to correct regional imbalances in the availability of affordable and reliable specialized health services and to enhance facilities for quality medical education in the country.
 - Under PMSSY, the **establishment of 22 new AIIMS has been approved**. Of these, 15 AIIMS have been approved since 2014.
- This new AIIMS is being developed at a **cost of Rs 1650 crore on 203 acres of land at Majra Mastil Bhalkhi village in Rewari** district of Haryana.

Vision India@2047

- It is a project initiated by the **NITI Aayog**, the apex policy think tank of India, to create a **blueprint for India's development in the next 25 years**.
- The project aims to make India a global leader in **innovation and technology**, a model of **human development and social welfare**, and a champion of **environmental sustainability**.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

- It was **announced in 2003** with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- The Nodal Ministry is the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- It has two Components:
 - **Setting up of AIIMS** like institutions.
 - **Upgradation of government medical colleges** in various states.
 - The project cost for upgradation of each medical college institution is **shared by the Centre and the state**.