Garbhini-Drishti | Haryana | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

India took a major step forward in its commitment to **cutting-edge biomedical research and innovation** by inaugurating the nation's first **Ferret Research Facility**, launching the **GARBH-INi-DRISHTI data repository**, and finalizing a key technology transfer agreement.

- The event was held at the **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)** in the **NCR Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad, Haryana**.

Key Points

- **THSTI Ferret Research Facility:**
  - India inaugurated the THSTI Ferret Research Facility, a state-of-the-art establishment adhering to the **highest biosafety and research standards.**
  - The facility plays a **crucial role in vaccine development, therapeutic testing, and research on emerging infectious diseases.**
  - It **strengthens India's pandemic preparedness strategy** and enhances its position in global scientific research.
- **GARBH-INi-DRISHTI:**
  - GARBH-INi-DRISHTI is a pioneering **DBT Data Repository and Information Sharing Hub** at THSTI.
  - The platform provides **clinical data, images, and biospecimens from over 12,000 pregnant women, newborns, and postpartum mothers.**
    - As one of South Asia's largest maternal and child health databases, it **enables researchers to conduct transformative studies** to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes.
  - This initiative represents a collaborative effort among India's leading research institutions and hospitals, fostering a strong research ecosystem.
- **Technology Transfer Agreement:**
  - THSTI signed a **Technology Transfer Agreement** with M/s **Sundyota Numandis Probioceuticals Pvt. Ltd.** to commercialize its innovative **microbial consortium,** **Lactobacillus crispatus.**
    - **Isolated from the reproductive tracts of women** enrolled in the GARBH-INi cohort, this synthetic microbial consortium holds immense potential for **nutraceutical applications.**
  - The agreement facilitates the translation of research into real-world health solutions through **targeted microbiome-based interventions.**

Garbh-Ini

- **Garbh-Ini (Interdisciplinary Group for Advanced Research on Birth Outcomes—DBT India Initiative)** was initiated by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT), in 2014** as a collaborative interdisciplinary program.
- This program is led by **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, NCR Biotech cluster, Faridabad.
- It aims to elucidate **biological and non-biological risks of preterm birth (PTB)** to create **important knowledge-driven interventions** and technologies that can be sustainably

implemented in clinical practice and in the community for this disease.

Mahri Laado Radio Programme | Haryana | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The Haryana government launched the flagship initiative **"Mahri Laado" Radio Programme,** which has become an exemplary success story under **the [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.](#)**

Key Points

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme:**
    - The Government of India launched **the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme** on **22nd January 2015 in Panipat, Haryana.**
    - This initiative **aims to address the declining [Child Sex Ratio (CSR)](#)** and ensure that **girls and women receive equal opportunities, care, and dignity.**
    - **Objectives of the BBBP Scheme:**
        - Increase **[sex ratio at birth](#)** through awareness and interventions.
        - Improve institutional deliveries for maternal and child health.
        - Enhance girls' enrolment in secondary education and curb dropout rates.
        - Encourage early **[Antenatal Care (ANC)](#)** registration for maternal well-being.
        - Promote awareness on safe **[Menstrual Hygiene and Management (MHM)](#)**.
- **Mahri Laado Radio Programme:**
    - It was launched on **16th August 2024** as a key initiative under BBBP.
    - This community-driven programme **aims to address gender inequality, empower girls, and promote the value of daughters in Haryana.**
    - **Broadcast Schedule:** Every Wednesday and Thursday on **[All India Radio (AIR)](#)** stations- Chandigarh, Hisar, Rohtak, and Kurukshetra.
    - **Content Format:** The 15-minute segments include stories, interviews, and discussions to engage communities on gender equality and empowerment.
- **Mobilization Strategies for Maximum Outreach:**
    - The Government of Haryana adopted a comprehensive approach to extend the programme's reach.
    - **Key stakeholders mobilized communities:**
        - District Programme Officers (DPOs) and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs).
        - **[Anganwadi Workers](#)** and staff from One Stop Centers (OSCs), **[Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)](#)**, and **[POSHAN Abhiyaan](#)**.
        - Listening sessions were organized at Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), involving both men and women in discussions.
- **Digital Accessibility:**
    - Participants were encouraged to download **the "News on AIR" app** for easy access.
    - Guidelines on app usage were shared via WhatsApp, telephone, and email.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- It is a **maternity benefit programme** being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from **1st January, 2017.**
- It is a **[centrally sponsored scheme](#)** being executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- **Cash benefits are provided to pregnant women** in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.

Poshan Abhiyan

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)** was launched by the government on March 8, 2018.
- The Abhiyaan targets to **reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls)** and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
- **POSHAN 2.0:**
    - The government has amalgamated various programmes with similar objectives such as **Supplementary Nutrition Programme** and POSHAN Abhiyaan under one umbrella–Mission POSHAN 2.0—for **creating synergies in operations and adopting an integrated approach** in the nutrition services mechanism.

Maoist killed in Encounter in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, **security forces killed a Maoist** in an encounter in **Chhattisgarh's Kanker district.** The gunfight erupted in a **forest along the Kanker-Narayanpur border** during an **anti-Naxal operation**.

Key Points

- **Anti-Naxal Operation:**
    - A joint team of **District Reserve Guard (DRG)** and **Border Security Force (BSF)** launched the operation based on intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoist cadres from the North Bastar and Maad divisions in the area.
    - **Since January 2025**, **50 Maoists have been killed** in separate encounters across Chhattisgarh.
    - The **Bastar division recorded the highest toll**, with 34 Maoists killed.
- **Annual Maoist Casualties:**
    - In **2024**, **security forces neutralized 219 Maoists** in various encounters across the state.

District Reserve Guard (DRG)

- The District Reserve Guard (DRG) is a **specialized police unit in Chhattisgarh, established in 2008** to combat **Maoist violence.**
- It consists of **specially trained personnel operating** in affected districts, conducting anti-Maoist operations, **search and seizure, and gathering intelligence.**
- The DRG collaborates with other security forces, like the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, to counter the Maoist insurgency.

Border Security Force (BSF)

- The BSF was **raised in 1965, after the [India-Pakistan war.](#)**
- It is one of the **[seven Central Armed Police Forces](#)** of the Union of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
    - Other **Central Armed Police Forces** are: **[Assam Rifles (AR)](#), [Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)](#), [Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)](#), [Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)](#), [National Security Guards (NSG)](#)** and **[Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)](#)**.
- The 2.65-lakh force is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.
    - It is deployed on the Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, and **[Line of Control (LoC)](#) along with the Indian Army and in [Anti-Naxal Operations](#).**
- BSF has been defending **[Sir Creek](#) in the Arabian Sea and [the Sundarbans delta](#) in [the Bay of Bengal](#)** with its state of the art fleet of Water Crafts.
- It contributes dedicated services to the **[UN peacekeeping Mission](#)** by sending a large contingent of its trained manpower every year.

Badrinath Temple | Uttarakhand | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

[The Badrinath temple](#) in **Uttarakhand's Chamoli district** will open its sacred portals for devotees on 4th May 2025.

Key Points

- **Decision on Badrinath Temple Opening:**
    - On the occasion of **[Basant Panchami](#)**, priests decided the auspicious time for opening the Badrinath temple after performing special prayers.
- **Annual Closing and Reopening of Char Dhams:**
    - **After Diwali, authorities close the [Char Dhams](#)—[Badrinath](#), [Kedarnath](#), [Gangotri](#), and [Yamunotri](#)—for devotees.**
        - The **portals reopen in April-May** the following year.

Char Dham Yatra

- **Yamunotri Dham:**
    - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
    - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Yamuna.
    - **[River Yamuna](#)** is the second-most sacred river in India after **[River Ganga](#)**.
- **Gangotri Dham:**
    - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
    - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Ganga.
    - Considered the most sacred of all Indian rivers.
- **Kedarnath Dham:**
    - **Location:** Rudraprayag district.
    - **Dedicated to:** Lord Shiva.
    - Situated on the bank of the **[Mandakini River.](#)**
    - One of the **[12 Jyotirlingas](#)** (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Badrinath Dham:**
    - **Location:** Chamoli district.
    - Home to the sacred Badrinarayan Temple.

- **Dedicated to:** Lord Vishnu.
  - One of the holy shrines for Vaishnavites.

Zero LoC Infiltration | Jammu & Kashmir | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, **the Union Home Minister** conducted an extensive review of **the ongoing anti-terror operations** and the security situation along **the Line of Control (LoC)** in **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).**

Key Points

- **Meeting on Counter-Terrorism:**
  - The Union Home Minister chaired a meeting with top Army and Police officials to strengthen **counter-terrorism operations** in the Valley.
  - The meeting also aimed to secure the Line of Control (LoC), especially during the **monsoon**, when rivulets from **the Himalayas** swell, creating gaps in the fencing along the Pakistan border.
- **Security Challenges Along the LoC and Border:**
  - The LoC spans 749 km, primarily under the Army's jurisdiction, while **India and Pakistan share a 198 km long international border** in the Jammu sector, where **Border Security Force (BSF)** is in charge.
    - In 2024, Jammu experienced a surge in terrorist attacks due to infiltrators from Pakistan.
- **Zero Infiltration Goal and Terrorism Elimination:**
  - The Minister directed security agencies to **intensify efforts with a 'zero infiltration' goal,** instructing forces to adopt a strict approach towards infiltration and **terrorism.**
  - The primary objective emphasized was to eliminate the presence of terrorists in the region.
  - The Minister acknowledged the role of narco-networks in supporting infiltrators and terrorists, urging immediate action against terror funding linked to the narcotics trade.

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Bundelkhand: Center of Solar Energy | Uttar Pradesh | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh is progressing rapidly in the field of **solar energy** and **Bundelkhand** has emerged as **a major centre of energy ,** playing an important role in this progress .

Key Points

- **Development of Solar Energy in UP:**
    - The government has implemented a comprehensive **solar energy policy** , under which various incentives are being provided to solar energy projects.
    - In 2024, **17 solar power plants** with a capacity of about 1100 MW have become operational in the state..
    - These solar plants have created direct employment opportunities, underlining the significant economic impact of **renewable energy** expansion in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Role of Bundelkhand:**
    - Bundelkhand has emerged as a **major region in the field of renewable energy** and is promoting regional development and employment.
    - The **abundant sunlight and climatic conditions** in this region make it **ideal for solar energy production.**
- **Major projects:**
    - Solar power units of 4 thousand MW have been installed in Bundelkhand. Out of the 10 new solar plants installed in this region **, 995 MW** have started operating.
        - **Jhansi Solar Power Project** 600 MW project by TUSCO Limited commissioned in January 2025.
        - Along with this, a 100 MW solar plant by Fourth Partner Energy started in **Babina, Jhansi with an investment of Rs1200 crore in mid-2024.**
        - Another significant development in Bundelkhand **is the Sun Source Energy Solar Open Access Project,** which contributes an additional 135 MW to the state's energy grid.

Bundelkhand

- **Bundelkhand** is a geographical and cultural region located on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a **semi-arid region comprising seven districts** of Uttar Pradesh (Jhansi, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Banda and Chitrakoot).
- It is also a mountain range. Jhansi is **the largest city of Bundelkhand .**
- Bundelkhand was earlier known as **Jejabhukti or Jejakabhukti** , but from the time of the Bundelas in the 14th century it came to be known as Bundelkhand.

New Director of Minority Affairs | Rajasthan | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

On 5ᵗʰ February 2025, Matadeen Meena, an **Indian Administrative Service officer**, took charge as Director of **the Department of Minority Affairs** .

Key Points

- **After assuming charge, the officer** visited the Madrasa Board to observe the functioning of various sections.
- During this, he took feedback from the officers and employees of the Directorate and instructed them to work with honesty, dedication, discipline and spirit of service.

Department of Minority Affairs

- The **Government of Rajasthan established** a new **Minority Department in 2009** for the all-round development and socio-economic and educational upliftment of the minority communities **(Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis) of the state.**
- This department reviews and coordinates policies, schemes and development programmes for the benefit of minority communities. This department is **headed by the Minister of Minority Affairs and Wakf.**

Madhya Pradesh: New Hub for IT Investment | Madhya Pradesh | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

According to the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, the state is emerging as a major investment hub in the **Information Technology (IT), ITES (Information Technology Enabled Services)** and **ESDM (Electronics System Design and Manufacturing)** sectors.

Key Points

- **Attractive Centre:**
  - The state government's **IT and ESDM policy**, development of **data centre parks**, **IT parks and start-ups** have made Madhya Pradesh an attractive destination for technology investments.
  - Madhya Pradesh is a leader in adopting cutting-edge technologies like **Artificial Intelligence**, Machine Learning, Big Data, **Blockchain** and **Cyber Security** under the **Digital India Mission.**
- **Major cities:**
  - Cities like **Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur and Gwalior** have now become the new hubs of IT companies.
  - **Global Investors Summit** will be organized in Bhopal on 24-25 February 2025 , in which **IT and technology investors** are likely to get an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the vast possibilities of the state.

Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES)

- It refers to the **use of information technology to provide various services** to businesses and

organizations.
- It includes services such as **data processing, customer support, technical support, and consulting.**
- Some common examples of ITES include:
    - **KPO** (Knowledge Process Outsourcing)
    - **BPO** (Business Process Outsourcing)
    - **LPO** (Legal Process Outsourcing)
    - **GPO** (Game Process Outsourcing)
    - **EDI** (Electronic Data Interchange)

Electronics System Design and Manufacturing

- ESDM is a **process that covers all aspects of the design, development, and manufacturing** of electronic devices and systems.

Kiul River | Bihar | 06 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar Chief Minister laid the **foundation stone of a bridge** to be built on **the Kiul River** at a cost of Rs 49 crore.

Key Points

- **About the Bridge:**
    - The **length of this bridge** is 390 meters and width is 12 meters.
    - This bridge connecting **Kiul-Lakhisarai** is completely constructed by the **Road Construction Department .**
- **Kiul River:**
    - The Kiul River is a **tributary of the Ganges**, whose origin is the mountain of northern Chhota Nagpur.
    - This river falls from the ranges located in Giridih district of Jharkhand and reaches Lakhisarai through Jamui and merges with **the Haruhar River.**
        - After this it merges with the Ganges in Munger distric

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