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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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THE HINDU Page 4

SAHIBZADE SHAHADAT DIWAS
(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Sikhs urged to observe Dec. 26 as 'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas'

Press Trust of India
AMRITSAR

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Harjinder Singh Dhami on Sunday asked the Sikh community to observe the martyrdom day of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh as 'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas' instead of 'Veer Bal Diwas.'

"Observing the martyrdom day of 'Sahibzadas' as Veer Bal Diwas by the Government of India is a mischievous conspiracy to undermine the greatest martyrdom in the world's religious history," Mr. Dhami said.

"If the government really wants to pay homage to Sahibzadas, then what is the problem in observing this day as 'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas'," he asked.

Modi had in January this year announced that December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to mark the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's two sons

He said that it's a historic fact that sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh's two sons was important in uprooting the Mughals from north.

But, Mr. Dhami said, the way the government is insisting on marking the day as Veer Bal Diwas, it is clear that it is "playing politics at the behest of anti-Sikh forces". Mr. Modi had in January this year announced that December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to mark the martyrdom of the tenth Sikh guru's two sons - Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.

The SGPC too had earlier objected to the name of the day and asked the government to change it to 'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas'.

Mr. Dhami said that on the order of the Akal Takht, a committee of Sikh scholars had suggested the name 'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas'. He said the SGPC had sent a letter in this matter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of Culture. "But still the government did not change the name."

Context: Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief asked the Sikh community to observe the martyrdom day of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh as **'Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas' instead of Veer Bal Diwas.**

Veer Bal Diwas

- **About**: In January 2022, PM had announced that **December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas'** to mark the martyrdom of the tenth Sikh guru's two sons – **Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.**
  - This sacrifice is seen as the bravest sacrifice for Dharma by any young boys in Indian history.
  - All four of his sons were initiated into the **Khalsa** and all were executed by **Mughal forces** before the age of 19.
- **About Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh:** Sons of **Guru Gobind Singh.**
  - A combination of Mughals soldiers besieged **Anandpur Sahib** on the orders of emperor Aurangzeb (1704) and captured Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.
  - They were **refused to become Muslims**. So they were sentenced to death and were bricked alive.
  - At the time of martyrdom, the ages of **Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh were 9 years and 6 years** respectively.
  - Sikhism honors the illustrious martyred sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji in the prayer of ardas for their valor and sacrifice as **'Char Sahibzade',** that is the four princes of the Khalsa warrior order.
- **Guru Gobind Singh**: 10th Sikh guru.
  - Born at **Patna**, Bihar, India, on December 22, 1666.
  - The annual celebration of the Guru's birthday is based on the **Nanakshahi calendar.**
  - Father, **Guru Tegh Bahadur,** the ninth Sikh Guru.
  - Introduction of the **turban** to cover hair.
  - Founded the **principles of Khalsa or the Five 'K's:** uncut hair, a short sword or knife, a steel wristband, a wooden comb, and shorts worn as an undergarment.
  - Established the **highest order in the Sikh community.**
  - Fought against the Mughals later in the **battle of Muktsar in 1705.**
  - **Named Guru Granth Sahib,** the religious text of the Khalsas and the Sikhs, as the next Guru of the two communities.
  - Killed by a Mughal assassin in 1708, a year **after the death of Aurangzeb.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

DESH BILL, 2022

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

DESH Bill may let firms have obligation of choice

This may ensure no single mandatory export commitment

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 25 December

The Development of Enterprises and Services Hub (DESH) Bill, 2022, may ask companies to commit to only one of the criteria — investments, breakthrough technology, job creation, and exports — that would eventually augur well for the economy and spur growth, people aware of the matter said.

The Bill, which is currently a work in progress under the department of commerce, seeks to replace the existing special economic zone (SEZ) law.



MAKING IT ENTICING

- **The broad categories on which** commitment may be sought are investments, breakthrough technology, job creation, and exports
- **Units to have the 'flexibility' to** opt for any one of the categories
- **Parameters of the commitment and other details** would be firmed up by the commerce department and rolled out as part of the rules
- **Obligation of choice would help** make the proposed law compliant with WTO rules
- **It would allay** the finance ministry's concerns over lack of export obligation under the revamped SEZ law

ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY

A senior government official told *Business Standard* that the government would allow companies the "flexibility" to meet any one of these objectives, according to their choice. It would also ensure that there is no "single" mandatory export obligation for these companies, thereby making the proposed law compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Turn to Page 3

Recalibrating SEZs

Easier exit for loss-making units being mulled

Commerce dept wants units to be able to accept payment in Indian currency

Forex clause to be replaced with new criterion

R&D investment, innovation, job generation likely parameters

SEZ revamp key after India lost WTO dispute to the US

SEZ export sops violate global trade norms

Year	SEZ Export (₹ lakh cr)
FY17	5.23
FY18	5.81
FY19	7.01
FY20	7.97
FY21	7.55



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Context: The **Development of Enterprises and Services Hub (DESH) Bill, 2022,** may ask companies to commit to only one of the criteria - investments, breakthrough technology, job creation, exports - that would eventually well for the economy and people aware of the matter said.

Development (Enterprise and Services) Hub Bill, 2022

- **About:** The new DESH Bill 2022 will replace the existing law governing Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
- **Origin**: The announcement of a new law was made by Finance Minister in the Union Budget in February 2022.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - **Development hubs**: Draft DESH Bill seeks to **set up "development hubs" for promoting economic activity,** generating employment, integrating with global supply and value chains and maintaining manufacturing and export competitiveness, developing infrastructure facilities, promoting investments, including in research and development.
  - **Enterprise and Service Hubs**: Development hubs will be further c**lassified into enterprise and service hubs.**
    - While enterprise hubs will permit both manufacturing and services activities, services hubs will permit only services activities.
  - **Infrastructure Status:** Government plans to give these hubs infrastructure status, **at par with sectors such as road, rail waterways, airports** to improve access to finance and enable long-term borrowing from lenders at easier terms.
  - **Single-Window Portal**: An **online single-window portal** has also been provided under the draft DESH Bill for the grant of time-bound approvals for establishing and operating the hubs.
  - **Simplifying rules**: Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) will be **freed from many of the rules that burden SEZ**s. For instance:
    - They will no longer be required to benet **foreign exchange positive**.
    - They will be allowed to **sell in the domestic market** much more easily.
  - **WTO Compliant DESH**: The units operating within the new hubs will **no longer benefit from direct tax incentives,** which will be scrapped - a move that will make the hubs compliant with World Trade Organization rules.
  - **Promoting Domestic Manufacturing:** Development hubs will be **allowed to sell outside the demarcated area or in the domestic market** with duties only to be paid on the imported inputs and raw materials instead of the final product.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 6

TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: As India pushes the pedal on free trade agreements (FTAs)**, non-tariff issues** such as carbon emission norms, climate action, labour and gender balance standards, that comprise an increasingly substantive part of these new pacts, are weighing on these ongoing negotiations.

Window for FTAs shrinks as India braces for set of non-tariff barriers

Trade talks becoming more about non-trade issues, say govt officials

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

AS INDIA pushes the pedal on free trade agreements (FTAs), non-tariff issues such as carbon emission norms, climate action, labour and gender balance standards, that comprise an increasingly substantive part of these new pacts, are weighing on these ongoing negotiations.

Policymakers in New Delhi have flagged concerns these issues could pose hurdles for India in reaping the gains of its comparative labour advantage, with officials of the view that these incremental issues need to be dealt with "cautiously" in the ongoing FTA negotiations with the UK, the European Union, as well as the India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Co-operation Agreement (CECA).

There is also a considered view in policy circles here that the window for wrapping up these FTA talks could narrow by early next year, given that New Delhi's focus would invariably shift to the series of events linked to India's G20 Presidency and that political lobbying from influential lobby groups such as farmer unions and the auto sector could intensify in the run up to the 2024 national elections.

In much of the negotiations currently under discussion, climate action, carbon emissions and labour issues are taking precedence over pure trade issues. Indian negotiators view

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EXPLAINED

The shadow on FTAs

AS TRADE talks with UK, EU and Australia enter a crucial phase, Indian policymakers realise they are fighting against not just time as India prepares for the G20 Summit next year, and national elections the year after, but also a new set of non-tariff issues that have become substantive now. Recession in the developed world also stokes protectionist tendencies there, to which they respond by erecting walls — not necessarily based on tariff — to stall imports from other countries.

Tariff Barriers Vs Non-Tariff Barriers

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	TARIFF BARRIERS	NON-TARIFF BARRIERS
Meaning	Tariff Barriers implies the taxes or duties imposed by the government on its imports, so as to provide protection to its domestic companies and increase government revenue.	Non-tariff barriers cover all the restrictions other than taxes imposed by the government on its imports, so as to provide protection to the domestic companies and discriminate new entrants.
Permissibility	World Trade Organization allowed the imposition of tariff barriers to its member nation but at a reasonable rate only.	World Trade Organization abolished the imposition of import quotas and voluntary export restraints.
Nature	Explicit	Implicit
Form	Taxes and Duties	Regulations, Conditions, Requirements, Formalities, etc.
Revenue	Government receives revenue	No revenue is received by the government
Affects	It affects the price of imported goods.	It affects the quantity or price or both of the imported goods.
Monopolistic Organizations	As the government charges import duty, monopolistic groups can be controlled.	The monopolistic organization charges high prices through low output.
Profit	High profits made by the importers can be controlled.	Importers can make more profits.

LIVEMINT Page 1

VENTURE CAPITAL
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Amid funding winter, Sequoia, Accel lead VC investments

Priyal Mahtta & Aman Rawat
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Sequoia Capital led venture capital investments in India in 2022, completing 71 deals as of November, although it was 30% fewer than the 103 it struck in the year earlier, data from market analytics platform Venture Intelligence showed.

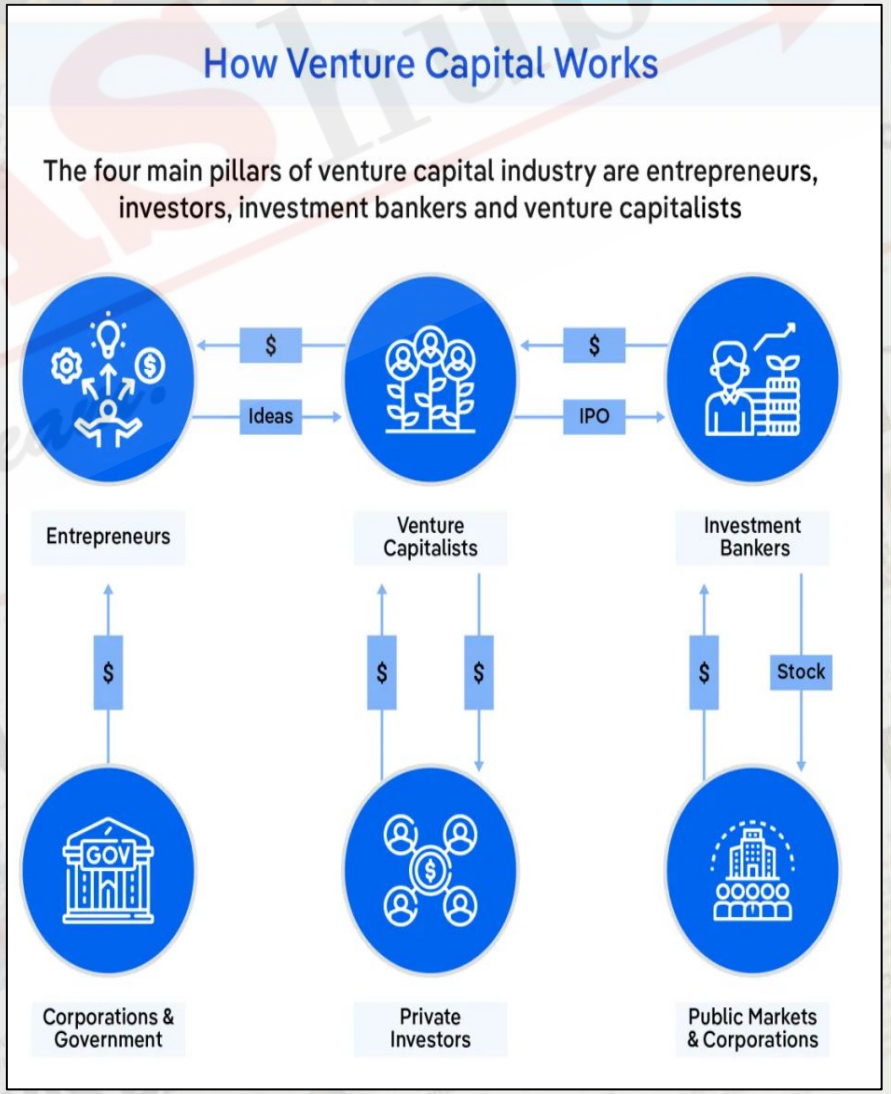
Venture capital firms also faced a funding crunch in 2022, leading them to reduce ambitious bets. VC firms closed 1,075 deals in India in 2022 until the end of November, compared with 1,212 transactions in the same period the previous year.

However, deal sizes saw a significant decrease in 2022 despite a smaller drop in the number of transactions due to a decline in late-stage funding activity. As a result, venture capital investments by size fell about 34% to $23.2 billion in 2022 (as on 30 November) from $35.4 billion in the same period the previous year.

Context: Sequoia Capital led **venture capital investments** in India in 2022, completing 71 deals as of November, although it was 30% fewer than the 103 it struck in the year earlier.

Venture Capital

- **About**: Start up companies with a potential to grow need a certain amount of investment.
  - **Wealthy investors like to invest their capital** in such businesses with a long-term growth perspective.
  - This capital is known as venture capital and the investors are called venture capitalists.
- **Venture Capital (VC) industry has 4 main entities:**
  - **Entrepreneurs** who need funding
  - **Investors** with an objective of securing very high returns.
  - **Investment bankers** who need companies to sell.
  - **Venture Capitalists (VC)** who make money for themselves by creating a market for the above 3 players in the industry.
- **Different from an angel investor**: While both provide money to startup companies, **venture capitalists are typically professional investors** who invest in a broad portfolio of new companies and provide hands-on guidance and leverage their professional networks to help the new firm.
  - Angel investors, on the other hand, tend to be **wealthy individuals who like to invest in new companies** more as a hobby or side-project and may not provide the same expert guidance. Angel investors also tend to invest first and are later followed by VCs.
- **Difference between venture capital and private equity:** Venture capital is a **subset of private equity.**
  - In addition to VC, private equity also includes leveraged buyouts, mezzanine financing, and private placements.



ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 2

CASTE CENSUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Population and Associated Issues)

CENSUS LIKELY TO BE COMPLETED BY MAY-END

Nitish Govt to Begin Bihar Caste Census from Jan 7

Two-phase survey to see 350,000 govt workers complete exercise in 5 months

Kumar.Anshuman
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Bihar government will begin its ambitious caste census project from January 7 and complete it by May-end. The census will be carried out in two phases — the first will go on till January 21. Around 350,000 government employees are being trained at district level to carry out the exercise. For each district, the district magistrate has been made the nodal officer.

In the first phase, enumerators will provide a house number for each house in the state and will identify the number of families. School teachers, Nagar Nigam and Block-level government employees will be the enumerators. Each ward has been divided into two Enumerator Blocks.

Every enumerator, on average, will mark 150 to 160 houses in their area comprising 600 to 700 families.

The first few days will be spent mapping the area, following which the enumerators will start work on identifying the houses. In the second phase, people will be surveyed about details of family members, income, caste, and other aspects.

The district administration has a list of castes and people will be identified under those castes.

If any person's caste is not mentioned in the government list, she will have to present a caste certificate, or present herself before the Block Divisional Officer to clarify her caste.

The data collected will be uploaded to a government app especially developed for this task.

The state Cabinet approved the census in June and ₹500 crore has been earmarked to carry out the task. The government will use funds from the state contingency fund for the purpose.

The government had earlier given time till February 2023 to complete the census, but later revised that to May.

The caste census has been a long pending demand of several states.

The Bihar assembly had in the past unanimously passed a resolution twice for a caste census and sent it to the Centre. In August last year, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar led an all-party delegation to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek a caste census.

However, the central government, responding to a question in Parliament in December last year, said that there was no plan to include caste in the census apart from existing SC and ST communities.

Since then, several state governments have come forward with the idea of conducting such a census.

MONEY-WISE
Nitish govt has earmarked ₹500 crore for the exercise

RAISING DEMAND
In August last year, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar led an all-party delegation to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demanded a caste census



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar pays tributes to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary in Patna on Sunday – PTI

Context: The Bihar government will begin its ambitious **caste census** project from January 7 and complete it by May-end.

Caste Census

- **About**: Caste Census is the **demand to include the caste-wise tabulation of India's population** in the upcoming exercise.
- **Background**: Caste was last included in the Indian Census in **1931 at the time by the Britishers.**
  - From 1951 to 2011, every census in independent India provided data on **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** but not on other castes.
  - The Britishers **ended the practice in the 1941 Census**, citing cost restrictions.
- **Importance of Cast Census:**
  - Equitable representation
  - Enumerating the marginalised
  - Removes caste rigidities
  - Data for Policy Making
  - Judicial support
- **Implications**: In the absence of such a census, there is **no reliable estimate of the number of OBCs,** other categories within OBCs, and others.
- **SECC 2011**: Conducted in 2011 **for the first time since 1931.**
  - It is meant to canvass every Indian family, both in rural and urban India, and ask about their **Economic status and specific caste name.**
- **Government's Stand on Cast Census:** In September 2021 the central government ruled out a Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), claiming that it was **unfeasible, "administratively difficult and cumbersome".**
- **Difference Between Census & SECC:** The Census falls under the **Census Act of 1948,** all data are considered confidential, whereas according to the SECC website, "all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households."

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 5

Schizophrenia: Hope From Magnetic Fields

Non-Invasive Therapy Can Improve Symptoms

Anuja.Jaiswal @timesgroup.com

File photo



Clinical trials conducted at AIIMS showed how magnetic fields can stimulate nerve cells

New Delhi: The high-frequency brain stimulation therapy, which is non-invasive and safe, and uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells, has shown significant improvement in the condition of patients having "negative" symptoms of schizophrenia — apathy and diminished experience — during a clinical trial at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), said researchers.

The study, which was recently published in Pubmed and received the AIIMS excellence research award this September, suggested that Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) "may be worth considering as an adjunct to pharmacological treatment of negative symptoms" of schizophrenia.

The leading author of the study, prof Nand Kumar of the psychiatry department of AIIMS, said the technique had also been approved for treatment of several psychiatric and neuro-psychiatric disorders, including depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and migraine. "We aimed to evaluate the efficacy of high-frequency (20Hz) unilateral rTMS over the left dorso-lateral prefrontal cortex in the improvement of negative symptoms in schizophrenia," he said.

According to the study, 100 patients of schizophrenia with predominantly negative symptoms were enrolled for this randomised, sham-controlled, double-blind trial. "The patients were blinded regarding the treatment being given, also the person who was rating it was blinded for the allocation; only the therapy-trained technicians who administered rTMS were aware of the allocation from the time of randomisation to the time of data analysis," said Kumar.

"Each participant received 20 sessions for four weeks. The assessments were carried out at baseline, post-intervention and one-, two-, three- and four-month followups," according to the study.

Kumar said the condition of patients suffering from negative schizophrenia improved significantly after the therapy. "They started taking initiative on their own, taking care of themselves, started participating in routine work and their hygiene improved along with communication levels," he said.

The study revealed that significant differences were seen in the change in scale for the assessment of negative-symptom domain scores between active and sham groups in anhedonia — reduced ability to experience pleasure, alogia — lack of conversation, avolition — total lack of motivation that makes it hard to get anything done, and attention impairment. The difference was clearly visible at the end of the study, from pre-intervention to the last followup.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Context: The high-frequency **brain stimulation therapy**, which is non-invasive and safe, and uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells, has shown significant improvement in the condition of patients having "negative" symptoms of **schizophrenia** - apathy and diminished experience - during a clinical trial at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Schizophrenia

- **About**: A **descriptive name for a class of psychotic diseases** characterised by disrupted cognitive patterns, odd perceptions, unexpected emotional states, and motor abnormalities that impair personal, social, and occupational functioning.
  - It usually starts in **late adolescence or the beginning of adulthood.**
- **Causes**: Currently **unclear**.
  - Studies have identified links between the disease and certain **Human Leukocyte Antigen alleles (HLA).**
    - HLA is connected to a set of genes on chromosome six and plays a significant role in the immune system.
    - Each group had a **different particular allele.**
- **Symptoms**:
  - **Pathological excesses**: Include delusions, disordered thinking and speech, enhanced perception and hallucinations, and inappropriate feelings.
  - **Pathological deficits**: Lack of linguistic fluency, flattened and muted affect (showing fewer or no emotions), loss of volition (inability to initiate or carry out an activity), and social disengagement.
  - **Psychomotor Symptoms**: Less spontaneous movement or the use of strange grimaces (a highly disfigured and specific facial expression).
- **Treatment**: **Supportive counselling and therapy** can help patients develop social skills, manage stress, spot early warning signs of relapse, and extend periods of remission.

PIB

Dec 26

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Dr. Jitendra Singh lays foundation stone of central PMGSY road from Bakhta to Magloor in Jalota area of district Kathua

Context: Union Minister laid the foundation stone of central **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road** from Bakhta to Magloor in Jalota area of district Kathua.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- **About**: Launched in December 2000 with the objective of **providing unrestricted all-weather road connectivity** to unconnected villages of India.
  - It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** and is part of the poverty reduction strategies of the government.
  - Currently, the scheme is in its **third phase (2019-20 - 2024-25).**
    - The objective of the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is to consolidate the existing rural road network by the up-gradation of the existing **'Through Routes and Major Rural Links'** that connect habitations to:
      - Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)
      - Higher Secondary Schools
      - Hospitals
- **Eligibility for the Scheme**: Rural areas with a **population of 500 and above in plain areas**; and hill states including NE, desert states, tribal areas and other backward areas with a **population of 250 and above.**
- **Key Features:** To provide all-weather roads, the scheme envisages **providing for the draining of roads by adequate cross-drainage structures** such as culverts, minor bridges and causeways.
  - Apart from building new roads, the scheme also has provisions for the **upgrade of existing roads** in these areas, although the primary focus is to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations.
  - The scheme **does not cover repairs to black-topped or cement roads**, even if the surface condition is bad.
- **Nodal ministry**: Ministry of **Rural Development**.
  - The roads developed under this scheme are **maintained by the Panchayati Raj institutions.**
- **Funding**: The share of the **central government's funding is 60%** of the cost with the share increasing to 90% for northeastern and hill states.

PIB

Dec 26

e-HRMS 2.0 PORTAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Polity & Governance)

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh to launch revamped Probity Portal, e-HRMS 2.0 Portal and e-Books on major Initiatives/Achievements of Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions tomorrow to mark Good Governance Day

Context: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space launched revamped **Probity Portal, e-HRMS 2.0 Portal and e-Books on major Initiatives/Achievements** of Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions to mark Good Governance Day at CSOI Auditorium, New Delhi.

Key Points

- **Revamped e-HRMS 2.0 Portal**: It will **provide the following services in a digital mode to the employees** - Transfers (Rotation/Mutual), Deputation, APAR, IPR, iGOT Trainings, Vigilance Status, Deputation Opportunities, Service Book and other basic HR Services like Leave, Tour, Reimbursements etc
  - The revamped e-HRMS 2.0 is the first digital system in Govt. of India to **provide end-to-end HR Services.**
  - Presently, **no other Government Service Cadre System in India** is as advanced in its reach and applications, as the revamped e-HRMS 2.0. would be with the launch of this system, DoP&T will be moving towards total digitization of HR Services.
  - Revamped e-HRMS 2.0 will s**ave several thousand man-hours and tons of printing paper.**
  - This will also go a long way in improving employee satisfaction, **promoting ease of doing/processing HR work** and enhancing productivity and transparency in administrative functioning.
- **Revamped Probity Portal**: In 2017, a dedicated online portal (https://probity-dopt.nic.in) was made **functional for obtaining the data from all the Ministries/Departments/Autonomous Organizations/Public Sector Banks.**
  - The new and revamped Probity Portal and capturing of **real-time information using such platform** will send a clear signal that 'non-performance' and 'inefficiency' of the government employees will not be tolerated and that the right attitude towards public service with 'integrity' and 'probity' are expected from every Government servant.
- **iGOTKarmayogi platform**: The Minister also launched **Mobile Application of iGoTKarmayogi Portal by Karmayogi Bharat (SPV)** with an aim to create professional, well trained and future ready civil service for India, **Mission Karmayogi** was launched by the Govt. of India.
  - The iGOTKarmayogi platform is e**nvisaged as a democratised, competency driven solution space** that all of the government can access to enhance their execution capabilities.
  - Launched in 2020, **Mission Karmayogi** aims to **prepare Indian civil servants for the future** by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, proactive, innovative, progressive, professional, energetic, transparent and technology-enabled so that they remain intact in Indian culture while they learn from best practices across the world.

DST

Dec 26

NIRMAN ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt. Policies & Interventions

15 startups selected in first cohort of NIRMAN accelerator will work towards solutions in healthcare and agriculture

Context: Fifteen startups selected in the first-of-its-kind product accelerator program, NIRMAN, for innovators developing sustainable solutions will soon start working towards solutions in the healthcare and agriculture domains.

NIRMAN Accelerator Program

- **About**: Launched by **Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur.**
- **Supported by:** The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Govt. of India, through its NIDHI scheme portfolio, will help solve challenges in the product development journey of indigenous innovations.
    - The programme takes a leaf out of the best methods and key insights from the **2 very successful national initiatives of SIIC IIT Kanpur:**.
        - **Ventilator Project**: During the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020, SIIC, IIT Kanpur's incubated startup Noccarc Robotics developed **high-quality and affordable ventilators** under the mentorship of leading industry experts.
        - **Mission Bharat O2**: In May 2021, the team developed and **manufactured oxygen plants (500 LPM) & Oxygen concentrators (10 LPM & 30 LPM)** within 90 days.
- **Objective**: The accelerator program will **enable comprehensive nurturing and fostering of the start-ups** through effective mentoring and market access, and with the completion of the training period this month, the start-ups will get launched in their journey towards indigenous innovations.

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) scheme

- **About**: It is an **umbrella programme** conceived and developed by the Inn**ovation & Entrepreneurship division**, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry Of Science And Technology.
- **Aim**: To nurture start-ups through **scouting, supporting and scaling innovations.**
- **Key stakeholders**: Various departments and ministries of the central government, state governments, academic and R & D institutions, mentors, financial institutions, angel investors, venture capitalists and private sectors.
- **Funding**: By the **National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB).**
- **NIDHI Accelerator**: An accelerator is **typically a 3-6 months fast track structured program** helping ideas get accelerated to the next orbit.

DTE

Dec 26

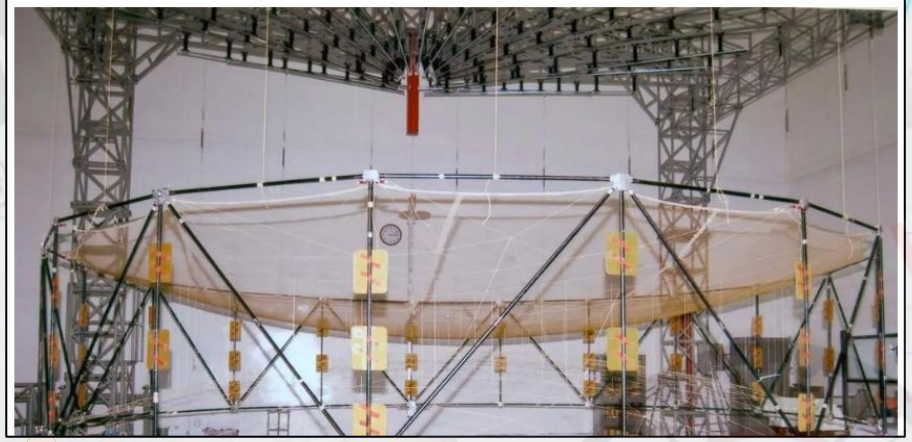
GSAT-6 SATELLITE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

GSAT communication satellite costing Rs 508 crore unused for half its lifetime: CAG report

GSAT-6 was expected to last for 12 years from 2015

By Rohini Krishnamurthy
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Context: A lack of coordination between the Department of Space (DoS) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) led to the **underutilisation of the GSAT-6 satellite**, according to the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report** released December 23, 2022.

- The objective of the GSAT-6 satellite, which was launched in August 2015 after incurring an expenditure of Rs 508 crore, was not fulfilled due to non-completion of the activities to be carried out underground segment as the satellite has remained unutilised since its launch.

GSAT (Geosynchronous Satellite System) - 6 Satellite

- **About**: GSAT-6 is the **twenty fifth geostationary communication satellite of India** built by ISRO and twelfth in the GSAT series.
- **Two main components**: Space segment and ground segment.
  - **DOS** was responsible for realising and launching the satellite, while **DRDO** was responsible for the ground segment.
- **Key Features:** It provides **communication through S-band payload** with five spot beams covering whole India for user links and **C-band with one beam.**
  - The **S and C bands are part of the microwave spectrum**, which includes frequencies ranging from 1 gigahertz to over 100 GHz.
  - The cuboid shaped GSAT-6 has a **lift-off mass of 2117 kg.**
  - One of the advanced features of GSAT-6 satellite is its **S-Band Unfurlable Antenna** of 6 m diameter.
    - This is the **largest satellite antenna** realised by ISRO.
    - This antenna is **utilised for five spot beams** over the Indian mainland.
    - The spot beams exploit the frequency reuse scheme to increase frequency spectrum utilization efficiency.
  - The other advanced feature of the satellite is the **70 V bus**, which is flying first time in an Indian communication satellite.

GSAT (Geosynchronous Satellite System)

- **About**: India's **indigenously developed communications satellites**, used for digital audio, data and video broadcasting.
- **Developed by**: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with an objective to make India self-reliant in broadcasting services.
- **Location**: It is placed in a **high Earth orbit** that allows the satellites to match Earth's rotation.
  - Because the satellite orbits at the same speed that the Earth is turning, the **satellite seems to stay in place over a single longitude**, though it may drift north to south.

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