

International

PM Modi's going to Ukraine can help end conflict



About News:-

- ❖ To further their bilateral relations, both nations signed four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) or agreements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ukraine.
- ❖ From August 21–23, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Poland and Ukraine.
- ❖ Since the two countries' diplomatic relations were established in January 1992, Prime Minister Modi's visit to Ukraine is the first of its kind by an Indian prime minister.
- ❖ On December 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Poland on a special train known as "Rail Force One" and made a quick seven-hour stopover in Ukraine.

Regarding Rail Force One:

- ❖ Ukrainian Railways, a government-owned company, operates a unique train called Rail Force One. It was constructed to transport tourists to Crimea before the region's annexation by Russia in 2014.
- ❖ With the closure of Ukrainian airspace owing to the conflict, international dignitaries have begun to favor trains as their means of transportation since the commencement of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022.
- ❖ International leaders have used the train to visit Kyiv since the Russia-Ukraine war, including French President Emmanuel Macron, American President Joe Biden, and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
- ❖ Rail Force One is the designation given to the train following Joe Biden's February 2023 visit to Ukraine. The United States President travels aboard a unique aircraft known as Air

Force One, which was renamed Rail Force One after he rode the train across Ukraine in February 2023.

- ❖ The train leaves from Poland's Przemyśl Główny station and takes 10 hours to travel the 700 miles to Kyiv.

During Modi's visit, four memorandums of understanding were signed:

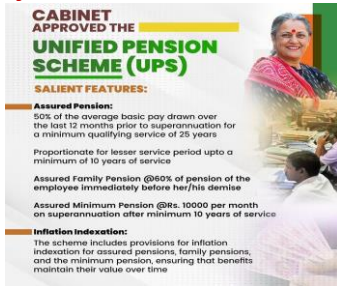
- ❖ During his seven-hour quick visit to Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv. After talking about bilateral relations and the state of the war, the leaders released a joint statement.
- ❖ PM Modi signed four memorandums of understanding during his visit.
- ❖ These are collaborations in the food industry and agriculture;
- ❖ collaboration in the regulation of medical products;
- ❖ India will help Ukraine implement high-impact community development projects by providing humanitarian grant assistance, and
- ❖ cooperation in culture for the years 2024–2028.

Gifts of Four BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine:-

- ❖ Four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) Cubes were given to Ukraine by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ The first portable hospital in history is the BHISHM Cubes, also referred to as the Arogya Maitri Aid Cube. On December 2, 2023, it was originally presented in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Defence and the Health and Family Welfare are working together on the BHISHM project.
- ❖ Within eight minutes of being deployed, the portable hospital may begin treating patients and can be transported by airdrop or land conveyance.
- ❖ The Cube is equipped with an operating room, a tiny intensive care unit, and other medical supplies. It can treat burns, minor operations, fractures, brain, spinal cord, and chest traumas, as well as severe bleeding.

National

Centre approves Unified Pension Scheme for govt employees



About News:-

The Union Cabinet approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) on Saturday, marking a key step toward improving retirement benefits for government employees. This new program would take the place of the current National Pension System (NPS) and benefit some 23 lakh government employees.

History:-

Following a comprehensive analysis of the current pension system, a conclusion was made. A committee headed by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan was formed by the Finance Ministry in 2023 to assess the National Pension System for public servants. With the introduction of the UPS, the NPS, which has been in place since April 1, 2004, will now coexist.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The guaranteed pension is among UPS's most prominent qualities. Employees will be eligible for a pension equal to 50% of the average basic salary drawn during the final 12 months before superannuation if they have fulfilled the requisite qualifying service of 25 years. This clause guarantees retirees a steady and considerable income.
- ❖ A commensurate plan has been implemented for individuals with shorter service durations. Pension benefits are also available to employees who have worked for a minimum of ten years, however at a lower rate based on the number of years of service.
- ❖ Additionally, the UPS offers a guaranteed family pension. If an employee passes away, their family will be entitled to a pension equal to 60% of their total pension. This clause provides the families of dead government employees with much-needed financial support.

- ❖ The UPS sets a minimum pension of Rs. 10,000 per month in order to guarantee a minimal quality of living for all retirees. Employees who have reached superannuation and have worked for a minimum of ten years are eligible for this reward.
- ❖ Given the effect that growing expenses have on retirees, the UPS has provisions for inflation indexation. The guaranteed pension, guaranteed family pension, and minimum pension are all covered by this provision. Furthermore, Dearness Relief—which is comparable to the benefit given to present service employees—will be given according to the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW).
- ❖ In addition to their gratuity, employees will get a lump sum payment upon superannuation. For each completed six-month period of service, this payout shall be computed as one-tenth of the monthly emoluments (pay + Dearness Allowance) as on the date of superannuation. Crucially, the amount of the guaranteed pension will not be lowered by this lump sum payment.

Qualifications and Application

- ❖ April 1, 2025, is when the Unified Pension Scheme is scheduled to go into effect. But with arrears paid, its benefits will be retroactively extended to people who have retired or plan to retire through March 31, 2025.
- ❖ Ashwini Vaishnav, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, emphasized that the program will benefit almost 23 lakh government workers.

Switch from NPS to UPS

Beginning with the upcoming fiscal year, current National Pension System participants will have the choice to transfer to the UPS. Employees are free to select the plan that best meets their needs for retirement planning because to this flexibility.

Maharashtra

PM Modi to release ₹2,500 crore at Lakhpati Didi Sammelan in Maharashtra



About News:-

On August 25, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will go to Maharashtra and Rajasthan to take part in the Lakhpati Didi Sammelan in Jalgaon, Maharashtra, and the event marking the culmination of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Rajasthan High Court's founding in Jodhpur.

PM Modi In Jalgaon, Maharashtra:-

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi will facilitate the 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis, give certificates, and take part in the Lakhpati Didi Sammelan during his visit to Jalgaon. The Indian government claims that one crore women have already been made Lakhpati Didis since the Lakhpati Didi Yojana's launch in 2023.
- ❖ Women who become Lakhpati during the third term of the Modi government would receive assistance at the Jalgaon event. On June 9, 2024, the Modi administration was sworn in for the third time in a row.
- ❖ A Rs 2,500 crore revolving fund that will assist roughly 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will be unveiled by PM Modi in Jalgaon.
- ❖ Additionally, he would distribute bank loans totaling Rs 5,000 crore, which should help about 25.8 lakh SHG members out of the 2.35 lakh total.

Lakhpati Didi Scheme:-

- ❖ In his speech to the nation on August 15, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the Lakhpati Didi initiative from Red Fort.
- ❖ The program's objective is to use the combined strength of women's self-help groups (SHGs) to establish three crore "Lakhpati Didis" in rural areas.
- ❖ Lakhpati Didi are members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) whose annual household income is Rs one lakh or more.
- ❖ The goal of the Lakhpati Didi program is to free impoverished women from the cycle of poverty by giving them financial empowerment.

Head of the Lakhpati Didi Scheme's Nodal Ministry:

The result of the Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) plan is the

Lakhpati Didi scheme, which is being carried out by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

The Lakhpati Didi Scheme's objectives are:

- ❖ The Lakhpati Didi scheme's primary objectives are as follows:
- ❖ granting the designated female beneficiaries access to official banking services, such as savings and lending options.
- ❖ promoting women's financial knowledge and literacy.
- ❖ encouraging women to engage in income-generating ventures and entrepreneurship.

Qualification requirements:

- ❖ Women wishing to apply for the program must be state permanent residents.
- ❖ The woman's family's annual income cannot exceed Rs 3 lakh.
- ❖ The woman's family members are not allowed to work for the government.

Economic

Centre signs USD 500 million loan package with ADB for health infra in Maharashtra

About News:-

- ❖ To increase access to high-quality, reasonably priced tertiary healthcare and medical education in Maharashtra, India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) inked a financing deal worth USD 500 million for the "Maharashtra Tertiary Care and Medical Education Sector Development Program (SDP)."
- ❖ to assist Maharashtra in utilizing the SDP mode to support the comprehensive growth of the state's tertiary care, medical education, and related systems infrastructure.
- ❖ The loan agreement was signed by Dinesh Waghmare, Principal Secretary, Medical Education and Drugs Department, Government of Maharashtra; Mio Oka, Country Director, ADB's India Resident Mission, signed on behalf of ADB; and Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), signed on behalf of the Government of India.



Key Points:-

- ❖ In underserved areas, the program will assist in the establishment of four medical colleges with tertiary care hospitals attached, combining gender-responsive, socially inclusive, climate- and disaster-resilient elements.
- ❖ ADB will assist Maharashtra in setting up a gender section under the Medical Education and Drugs Department (MEDD) of the Maharashtra government to incorporate gender and social inclusion into medical education.
- ❖ It adds 500 new doctors to the four new government medical colleges and expands the number of beds available in government tertiary care facilities.
- ❖ Out-of-pocket (OOP) costs are decreased while medication access is increased.
- ❖ It backs a performance management system for medical colleges as well as effective asset management rules.
- ❖ This program will assist Maharashtra in realizing its goal of offering everyone access to reasonably priced tertiary healthcare by 2030.

Enhancements to Policy:

- ❖ By implementing several policy initiatives, ADB is supporting the state in fostering an enabling environment.
- ❖ putting in place performance-based incentives to draw in and keep talented medical professionals.
- ❖ creating a fresh approach to talent management.
- ❖ establishing the first centers of excellence for state-run healthcare and medical education in India.

About the Asian Development Bank (ADB):-

- ❖ Established:- 1966
- ❖ Headquarters:- Manila, Philippines
- ❖ President :- Masatsugu Asakawa

Science & Technology

India launches its first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI-1'



About News:-

- ❖ The successful launch of RHUMI-1, the first mobile hybrid rocket in history, on August 24, 2024, gave India's space program a boost. The RHUMI-1 rocket launch, which was successful, also represents India's first reusable hybrid rocket launch. In partnership with Martin Group, the Chennai-based firm Space Zone India created the rocket.
- ❖ If RHUMI-1 is successful, rocket launches should become more efficient and less expensive, opening up new avenues for space research.
- ❖ The RHUMI-1 rocket is dubbed reusable because it can be reused after being launched from a mobile launcher, similar to a customized truck.

Where did RHUMI-1 take off from?

- ❖ In the seaside village of Thiruvudandai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, a mobile launcher was used to launch the RHUMI-1 reusable hybrid rocket.
- ❖ The RHUMI-1 Reusable Hybrid Rocket's Payloads
- ❖ Fifty PICO satellites and three CubeSats were launched into a suborbital trajectory by the reusable hybrid rocket RHUMI-1.
- ❖ The satellites will gather information for climate change and global warming research.
- ❖ The sounding rocket RHUMI-1 conducted multiple experiments in a matter of seconds while flying at a height of roughly 35 km before landing back on Earth.

What is a Hybrid Rocket?

- ❖ The characteristics of both liquid-fueled and solid-fueled rocket engines are combined in a hybrid rocket engine.
- ❖ Solid fuel is used as the propellant in hybrid rocket engines, and a liquid or gaseous oxidizer is used to maintain combustion.
- ❖ While the oxidizer is kept in a separate tank and injected into the combustion chamber, the solid fuel is formed into a cylindrical shape and deposited within the rocket engine. Neither of the propellants burns; they only do so when the fuel is turned into a gas and combined with an oxidizer inside the combustion chamber.
- ❖ The RHUMI Rocket is 100% pyrotechnic-free and contains no TNT. It has an electrically activated parachute deployer and a hybrid motor powered by generic fuel.

Education

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases an e-magazine Sapno ki Udaan



About News:-

- ❖ On August 23, 2024, the Union Ministry of Education published the first issue of the online journal Sapno ki Udaan. The e-magazine was released in honor of the nation's first National Space Day, which was marked on August 23, 2023, to mark the soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander on the Moon's south pole.
- ❖ All readers will be able to access Sapno ki Udaan's first and future editions online via the NCERT portal as an e-magazine.

Who released the digital magazine Sapno ki Udaan?

- ❖ At a New Delhi event, Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan virtually inaugurated the e-magazine. Jayant Chaudhary, the Union Minister of State for Education, took part in the event electronically as well.
- ❖ Along with other senior officials from the Education Ministry, the event was attended by the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Ms. Prachi Pandey, Director of NCERT, Prof. D.P. Saklani, Chairperson of the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE), Rahul Singh, Chairperson of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), and Prof. Saroj Sharma.

The theme of the inaugural Sapno ki Udaan'e-magazine:-

- ❖ Space was the theme of the first edition of the Sapno ki Udaan e-magazine.
- ❖ The first edition's essays, poetry, and other works are all about space and the Indian Space Research Organization's Chandrayaan Missions (ISRO).

Regarding the online magazine Sapno ki Udaan:

- ❖ The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the National Council of

Educational Research and Training (NCERT) collaborated to create the e-magazine.

- ❖ The Department of School Education and Literacy's Secretary, Sanjay Kumar, states that the magazine, which is currently published quarterly, will soon be published every month.
- ❖ From throughout India, parents, teachers, and students have contributed to the magazine. In both Hindi and English, the e-magazine features stories, poems, articles, riddles, and anecdotes.

Sport

Shikhar Dhawan announces retirement from international and domestic cricket



About News:-

- ❖ Indian cricket player Shikhar Dhawan, 38, often called "Gabbar," announced his retirement from both local and international cricket on August 24, 2024.
- ❖ He faced Bangladesh in Chattogram, Bangladesh, in December 2022 for his final One-Day International. He played in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 for the Punjab Kings, which was his final competitive outing.

About Shikhar Dhawan's Career:-

- ❖ In October 2010, Shikhar Dhawan made his debut for India in One Day Internationals (ODIs) against Australia, and in March 2013, he made his Test debut.
- ❖ At a strike rate of 91.35 and an average of 44.11, he scored 6793 runs. In 34 Tests, he scored 2315 runs at an average of 40.61, and in 68 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is), he scored 1759 runs with a strike rate of 126.36.
- ❖ Over 269 international encounters, he has scored 24 hundreds (17 in ODIs and 7 in Tests).
- ❖ Along with being the top scorer for India in the Asia Cup 2014, World Cup 2015, Champions Trophy 2017, and Asia Cup 2018, he also led his country in runs scored in the 2015 ODI World Cup.

- ❖ In the IPL, Shikhar played for the Sunrisers Hyderabad, Deccan Chargers, Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians, and Punjab Kings.
- ❖ In the IPL, he also has the second-highest run total after Virat Kohli.
- ❖ He amassed 6769 runs at a strike rate of 127.14 across 222 matches, including two centuries and fifty-one half-centuries.
- ❖ When Delhi defeated Uttar Pradesh in the 2007–08 domestic cricket season, he helped Delhi win the Ranji Trophy.
- ❖ In 2004, he also led the Under-19 World Cup in runs scored.

Miscellaneous

Launch of "Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy Advisory" document



About News:-

- ❖ At the Vigyan Bhawan Annexe in New Delhi, Delhi, on August 21, 2024, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India (GoI), introduced the "Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy Advisory" document.
- ❖ Achieving 100% ZET sales penetration by 2050 is outlined in this guideline, which is essential for India's Net Zero 2070 ambition.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Thirty policy interventions are included in the Bharat ZET Policy Advisory document to hasten ZET adoption throughout India.
- ❖ These interventions fall into five main categories: business and financing, infrastructure, regulations, incentives, and stakeholder-centric initiatives.
- ❖ The responsible agencies, important stakeholders, sectoral impact, and policy formulation technique are identified for each action.
- ❖ Stakeholder consultations and in-depth cost-benefit evaluations conducted by pertinent ministries and institutes will further enhance the paper.

Regarding the Policy Advisory for Bharat ZET:

- ❖ A Policy Advisory Panel (PAP) with input from numerous academic and industry luminaries, led by Prof. Karthick Athmanathan, PSA Fellow, and chaired by Dr.

Preeti Banzal, adviser, Office of PSA, oversaw the development of the advisory.

- ❖ To prepare the policy advice document under the direction of the PAP, a Project Management Unit was established at the Centre of Excellence for Zero Emission Trucking (CoEZET), Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Obituary

Olympic Cyclist Daniela Larreal Chirinos Passed Away



About News:-

- ❖ Five-time Olympian cyclist Daniela Greluis Larreal Chirinos passed away in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, at the age of fifty. On October 2, 1973, she was born in Venezuela.
- ❖ As a representative of Venezuela, Daniela Greluis has participated in five Summer Olympics: 1992 in Barcelona, 1996 in Atlanta, 2000 in Sydney, 2004 in Athens, and 2012 in London. She did not participate in the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

About Daniela Larreal Chirinos Greluis:

- ❖ For more than twenty years, Daniela Greluis Larreal Chirinos was a prominent cyclist in Venezuela and one of the country's most significant athletes.
- ❖ At the 1990 Central American and Caribbean Games, she represented Venezuela as the lone female track cyclist and took home the silver medal in the sprint. It was her very first title.
- ❖ At the 19th Central American and Caribbean Games in San Salvador in 2002, she took home two gold medals.

Important Day

Women's Equality Day – 26 August



About Day:-

Women's Equality Day is observed annually on August 26th to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. This day not only celebrates this historic milestone but also highlights ongoing efforts to achieve gender equality in all spheres of life. As we approach Women's Equality Day 2024, it's essential to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that still lie ahead, particularly in areas like workplace equality and gender parity in India.

Historical Significance of Women's Equality Day

Women's Equality Day was first celebrated in 1973 in the United States, marking the anniversary of the 19th Amendment's certification on August 26, 1920. Check out the complete history of Women's Equality Day:

- ❖ August 26, 1920: Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed the proclamation granting American women the constitutional right to vote.
- ❖ 1971: Congresswoman Bella Abzug introduced a resolution to designate August 26 as Women's Equality Day, following the Women's Strike for Equality.
- ❖ 1972: President Richard Nixon issued Proclamation 4147, marking August 26 as the first official Women's Equality Day.
- ❖ August 16, 1973: Congress officially designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day through H.J. Res. 52, with President Nixon issuing Proclamation 4236.
- ❖ Ongoing Tradition: Since 1972, every U.S. president has issued an annual proclamation designating August 26 as Women's Equality Day, continuing the commitment to advancing women's rights.

Women's Equality in India: Progress and Challenges

India has seen considerable progress in promoting gender equality, particularly in areas such as education and political representation. Government initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) have focused on improving the status of women and girls in society. Additionally, women's participation in the workforce and leadership roles has been gradually increasing.

Challenges:

Despite these advances, significant challenges remain. Gender inequality in India is still pervasive, particularly in rural areas, where women often face barriers to education, employment, and healthcare. Issues such as child marriage, domestic violence, and the gender pay gap continue to hinder progress towards equality.

Women's Equality in the Workplace

Achieving gender equality in the workplace remains a critical goal globally, including in India. Here are some of the key areas of focus:

1. **Equal Pay:** The gender pay gap continues to be a significant issue, with women often earning less than their male counterparts for the same work. Efforts are being made to address this disparity through policies that promote equal pay for equal work.
2. **Representation in Leadership:** Women are underrepresented in leadership positions across various sectors. Encouraging women to pursue leadership roles and providing mentorship opportunities are vital steps toward bridging this gap.
3. **Work-Life Balance:** Many women face challenges in balancing work and family responsibilities. Flexible work arrangements, parental leave policies, and support systems are essential for enabling women to succeed in their careers without sacrificing personal life.
4. **Combating Workplace Harassment:** Creating a safe and supportive work environment is crucial. Organizations need to implement strict policies against harassment and provide avenues for reporting and addressing grievances.

