

International

India- Poland Joint Statement “Establishment of Strategic Partnership”



About News :-

- ❖ A Strategic Partnership will replace the bilateral relationship between Poland and India, as agreed upon by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his official visit to Poland. Prime Minister Modi will visit Poland and Ukraine on August 21–23, 2024.
- ❖ He first traveled to Poland, and on August 23, 2024, he will take a 10-hour train ride to Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, to become the first Indian prime minister to visit the country.
- ❖ In 1979, Prime Minister Morarji Desai traveled to Poland; forty-five years later, the Indian Prime Minister returned to the country.
- ❖ It has been forty-five years since an Indian prime minister visited Poland, and Prime Minister Modi's visit is the first in that history. In 1979, Prime Minister Morarji Desai paid a visit to Poland.
- ❖ India and Poland will commemorate their 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2024.

Results of the visit by Prime Minister Modi to Poland :-

- ❖ On August 21–22, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Poland for two days. He had meetings with President Andrzej Sebastian Duda and Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland.
- ❖ On August 22, at their meeting in the Polish capital of Warsaw, Prime Minister Modi and President Donald Tusk decided to upgrade their alliance to a Strategic Partnership.

- ❖ A five-year Action Plan was reached upon, which will direct bilateral cooperation in designated areas of cooperation between 2024 and 2028.
- ❖ Annual political conversations between the two nations' deputy ministers in charge of international affairs will take place.
- ❖ To enhance cooperation in the areas of high-tech, agriculture, smart cities, defense, healthcare, agritech, food tech, energy, climate, green technologies, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and mining, the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) must meet at least twice a year.
- ❖ The two nations will work together to develop environmentally sound and sustainable technical solutions for wastewater management and the circular economy.
- ❖ Both sides will host cultural events in each other's nations in 2029, which marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

PM Modi Pays a Visit to Three Polish Memorials:

- ❖ PM Modi traveled to Warsaw and stopped at the Kolhapur family memorial, the Monte Casino Memorial, and Good Maharaja Square.

Excellent Maharaja Square

- ❖ Approximately one thousand Jewish Polish children, ages two to seventeen, who had fled Siberia, Russia, during World War II found refuge in India thanks to the generosity of Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar -Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhj. Following the Soviet Union's 1939 invasion of Nazi-occupied Poland, they fled to India.
- ❖ Later, in 2014, the Maharaja—known as the Good Maharaja in Poland—was honored with the construction of a memorial in Warsaw.
- ❖ Jam Saheb is the namesake of about eight primary and secondary schools in Poland.

Kolhapur Memorial

- ❖ Beside the Good Maharaja Square is the Kolhapur Memorial.
- ❖ The Polish children were housed in Kolhapur's Valivade village by Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar because of the area's favorable climate (Maharashtra).

The Monte Cassino Memorial

The monument was erected in memory of the more than 900 Polish troops from the Second Polish Corps who lost their lives in the Battle of Monte Cassino in 1944 during World War II.

Poland-Indian Relations :-

- ❖ India and Poland established diplomatic ties in 1954, and in 1957 the Indian Embassy was opened in Warsaw. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, traveled to Poland in 1955.
- ❖ Poland has a significant tradition of indology, which is the study of Indian philosophy, history, and culture.
- ❖ The 600-year-old Jagiellonian University in Krakow offered Sanskrit courses in 1860-1861, and in 1893 it established a Sanskrit Chair.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi met prominent Polish indologists Prof. Maria Christopher Byrski, a Padam Shri recipient, Prof. Monika Browarczyk, Prof. Halina Marlewicz, Prof. Danuta Stasik, and Prof. Przemyslaw Szurek while in Poland.

About Poland :-

- ❖ President :- Andrzej Sebastian Duda
- ❖ Prime Minister :- Donald Tusk
- ❖ Capital :- Warsaw
- ❖ Currency :- Polish zloty

National

Government Plans to Expand Ayushman Bharat Beneficiaries and Increase Insurance Coverage to ₹10 Lakh



About News :-

- ❖ Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the country's premier health insurance program, may be significantly expanded by the Indian government.
- ❖ The number of beneficiaries would be doubled, and the yearly insurance coverage maximum will rise from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh per family, according to the proposed revisions.

Key Points:-

Growth of the Beneficiary Base:

- ❖ Over the following three years, the government wants to treble the AB-PMJAY beneficiary base. The first priority would be to include everyone who is older than 70 years old, which might result in an additional 4-5 crore beneficiaries.
- ❖ More than two-thirds of Indians would be covered by this extension, addressing the pressing problem of medical costs, which frequently push families into debt.

Expanded Protection under Insurance:

The insurance coverage cap would be increased from the present ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh annually under the proposed plan. In addition to increased financial protection for expensive treatments like organ transplants and cancer care, this increase is meant to account for inflation.

The financial ramifications:

The National Health Authority estimates that the additional ₹12,076 crore a year that the increased coverage would cost if authorized.

Announcement of Union Budget:

It seems probable that these plans, or portions of them, will be revealed in the next Union Budget.

Present Situation with AB-PMJAY:

In the interim Budget 2024, the present funding for AB-PMJAY was raised to ₹7,200 crore. Currently, 12 crore families are covered by the policy for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization, up to ₹5 lakh per family annually.

How to Handle the "Missing Middle"

About 30% of Indians do not have health insurance, according to the NITI Aayog report "Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle"

from 2021. This gap is intended to be closed by the government's growth strategy, particularly for workers in the informal and self-employed sectors.

Goal of Universal Health Coverage:

The expansion of AB-PMJAY is in line with India's larger objective of attaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which aims to cover the "missing middle" of the uninsured population as well as the bottom 50% of the population.

State

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chairs meeting to review performance of nine Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, in Udaipur

About News :-

On August 22, 2024, a gathering of the Regional Rural Bank (RRB) spanning five states took place in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Senior officials were present at the conference, which examined the performance of these regional rural banks and was facilitated by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.



Key Points :-

- ❖ Nine regional rural banks that operate in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra were evaluated for performance at the Udaipur summit.
- ❖ The meeting was presided over by Nirmala Sitharaman, and M. Nagaraju, the secretary of the Union Ministry of Finance's Department of Financial Services, was present. Along with the Chief Executive Officers of the sponsoring banks, the Reserve Bank of India, the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), and senior officers from these five states, there were also the Chairpersons of these nine Regional Rural Banks present at the meeting.

- ❖ The financial performance of these banks, the state of digital technology service upgrades, company expansion in MSME clusters, and expanding financial inclusion in rural areas were also topics of discussion during the meeting.
- ❖ Nirmala Sitharaman pushed these banks to promote MUDRA programs in Madhya Pradesh's Bundelkhand region and other strategically important districts. She also gave RRBs instructions on how to work better and be friendlier to customers.

Concerning Regional Rural Bank

- ❖ In order to give people in rural regions access to affordable credit and financial services, the Working Group on Rural Banks, led by M. Narasimham, recommended that Regional Rural Banks (RRB) be founded in India in 1975.
- ❖ These RRBs are governed by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ On October 2, 1975, the first five RRBs were established.
- ❖ Syndicate Bank supported the establishment of Prathama Bank, the first RRB, in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The 1976 enactment of the Regional Rural Bank Act was followed by another amendment in 2015.
- ❖ The federal government, state governments, and sponsored banks are the owners of the Regional Rural Banks.
- ❖ Operating in 26 states and 3 Union Territories, there are 43 Regional Rural Banks across the nation, supported by 12 commercial banks.
- ❖ Regional Rural Banks are absent from Goa and Sikkim.
- ❖ The first bank in the private sector to sponsor an RRB is Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

Economic

Bandhan Bank announces launch of exclusive savings account for women 'Avni'



About News :-

- ❖ On August 22, 2023, women's clients could open the Avni savings account, which was exclusively offered by Kolkata-based Indian private sector bank Bandhan Bank. On the eve of its ninth foundation day, which falls on August 23, the bank introduced the product.
- ❖ The bank has introduced Bandhan Banks Delight, a client loyalty program.
- ❖ The bank caters primarily to women; out of its 3.4 clients, 73% are female.

Significance of Avni Account :-

- ❖ The Bandhan Bank is attempting to mobilize public deposits through its Avni product.
- ❖ Shaktikanta Das, the governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has advised banks to mobilize household savings by providing creative and alluring products.
- ❖ Bank deposits in India's Current Account Saving Accounts (CASAs) have been trending downward recently as Indian consumers are more inclined to invest in share markets, gold, and other financial market instruments in order to maximize their profits.
- ❖ Because CASA pays an average of 3 to 4 percent interest on savings accounts and does not pay interest on current accounts, it is the least expensive funding source for banks.
- ❖ But as CASA deposits drop, banks are compelled to raise capital at a higher interest rate, which raises lending rates.
- ❖ In order to accelerate economic growth by giving low-cost loans to businesses and other sectors, the RBI wants banks to lower their lending rates.

Concerning the Avni Savings Account and Delights from Bandhan Bank

- ❖ Since the Avni savings account requires a minimum average quarterly balance of Rs 25,000, it is aimed primarily at women who are quite well-off. An special debit card with personal accident insurance coverage of Rs. 10 lakhs, free access to airport lounges, and Rs. 3.5 lakh lost card liability are all provided by the Avni account.
- ❖ Additionally, it provides a 50% reduction on processing fees for gold loans and a 25% discount on locker rents.

- ❖ The bank introduced Bandhan Bank Delights, a reward program in which users can earn points for creating accounts, using cards, transferring money, and doing other banking operations. Delight Points, the loyalty points, can be redeemed for products and services.

About Bandhan Bank :-

- ❖ Headquarters:- Kolkata, West Bengal
- ❖ MD and CEO (interim):- Ratan Kumar Kesh
- ❖ Tagline:- Aapka Bhala. Sabki Bhalai

Appointment

M Suresh becomes interim AAI Chairman, succeeding Sanjeev Kumar

About News :-

- ❖ As an extra duty, M Suresh was named as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) acting chairman on August 20, 2024. He is taking over for Sanjeev Kumar as AAI Chairman, following the government's decision to step down.
- ❖ Sanjeev Kumar has been named Secretary of the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) Department of Defence Production (DPP). He is a Maharashtra cadre IAS officer from the 1993 batch.
- ❖ The leadership transition highlights how critical it is to continue overseeing India's airport infrastructure at this critical time.

About M Suresh:-

- ❖ M. Suresh, from Tenkasi district in Tamil Nadu, holds the position of interim Chairman for three months or until a regular incumbent joins or until further orders.
- ❖ He is currently serving as the Member of Air Navigation Services (ANS) at the AAI.
- ❖ His diverse background might influence his approach to addressing the different needs of airports across India, considering the unique challenges and opportunities in various regions.



About Airports Authority of India (AAI):

- ❖ Establishment - 1995
- ❖ Headquarters - New Delhi, Delhi
- ❖ Chairman - M Suresh

Award

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Ranked As Top Central Banker For 2nd Straight Year

About News :-

- ❖ Global Finance magazine, published in the United States of America (USA), has awarded Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das a "A+" rating in their "Central Banker Report Cards 2024" for the second year in a row.
- ❖ Aside from Shaktikanta Das, the "A+" rating has been given to Thomas Jordan, the Chairperson of the Swiss National Bank (Switzerland), and Christian Kettel Thomson, the Royal Governor of the Bank of Denmark (Denmark).



About Report Cards for Central Bankers:

- ❖ Published annually since 1994, the report is a product of the Global Finance magazine.
- ❖ Four criteria are used to evaluate the effectiveness of central bank governors: regulating interest rates, fostering economic expansion, preventing inflation, and preserving the stability of the exchange rate between the home currency and foreign currency.
- ❖ The European Union (EU), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Bank of Central African States (BEAC), and the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) are among the almost 100 significant nations, territories, and districts whose central bank governors are evaluated in this research.
- ❖ The grades are assigned on a "A+" to "F" scale, where an A stands for "outstanding performance" and a F for "poor performance."
- ❖ The grades evaluate the success of the central bank governors' in areas such as inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability and interest rate management.

About Global Finance:-

- ❖ Founder- Joseph D. Giarraputo
- ❖ Managing Director (MD)- Richard Scholtz
- ❖ Headquarters- New York, the United States of America (USA)
- ❖ Established- 1987

Sport

Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Lausanne Diamond League with 89.49m throw



About News :-

At the Lausanne Diamond League tournament, India's top javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra, displayed his tenacity and talent. In spite of obstacles, Chopra managed an impressive second place result, which is another noteworthy accomplishment in his remarkable career.

The Contest: A Significant Reversal

First Challenges

Early in the competition, the 26-year-old Chopra found himself in a difficult situation. His form and fitness were questionable since he was lagging behind in fourth place after four rounds.

The Return

- ❖ In the last two rounds, Chopra's luck took a sharp turn for the worse:
- ❖ Fifth Round: With a throw of 85.58 meters, he was able to raise himself high enough to try one last toss.
- ❖ Sixth Round: In a thrilling finale, Chopra threw 89.49 meters, which was a season's best throw and better than his recent Olympic achievement in Paris.
- ❖ With this last throw, Chopra not only sealed second place but also proved he could execute well under duress.

The Finishers of the Podium

- ❖ Gold: 90.61 meters, Anderson Peters, Grenada
- ❖ twice crowned global champion
- ❖ bronze medallist at the Paris Olympics
- ❖ threw the distance that won in the second round.

- ❖ Silver: 89.49 meters, Neeraj Chopra, India
- ❖ On his last try, he made his greatest throw.
- ❖ Bronze: 87.08 meters, Julian Weber, Germany

Chopra's Latest Exhibitions

2024 Summer Olympics in Paris

Chopra had won a silver medal with a throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics just a few weeks prior to the Lausanne event. This throw in Lausanne (89.49m) was just a little bit better than his Olympic effort.

Persistent Health Issues

Chopra has been dealing with a chronic groin issue, which makes his consistently excellent performances all the more noteworthy. Since he won the gold medal in the 2023 Budapest World Championships, there has been concern about this ailment.

Diamond League Tables

Present Status

- ❖ Chopra gained seven points for finishing in second place in Lausanne, increasing his total in the Diamond League standings to fifteen. He and Julian Weber are now tied for third place.

Path to the Championship Round

- ❖ To be eligible for the season finale in Brussels on September 14, 2024, Chopra must place among the top six players in the Diamond League series standings.
- ❖ Chopra may compete in one more Diamond League javelin throw meet, which is scheduled for September 5, 2024, in Zurich.

Context of History

- ❖ Past Performances in the Diamond League
- ❖ In 2022, Chopra won the Diamond League.
- ❖ In the Diamond League final held in Eugene, USA in 2023, he came in second.
- ❖ In 2022 and 2023, he had emerged victorious in the Diamond League's Lausanne leg.

Present Year

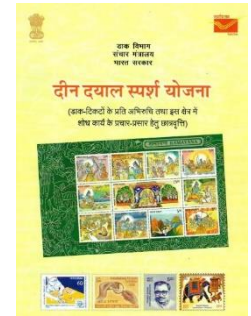
- ❖ In the 2024 season, Chopra has yet to prevail in a Diamond League match.
- ❖ Before Lausanne, on May 10, 2024, in Doha, he had finished in second place, which was his best result of the season.

Miscellaneous

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana scholarship by India Post to inculcate the hobby of Philately among the students

About News :-

- ❖ The Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana was started by the Department of Post, which is part of the Union Ministry of Communication, to encourage student research and scholarship in stamps throughout the nation.
- ❖ The goal of this scholarship, according to Krishna Kumar Yadav, the Postmaster General of North Gujarat Region, Ahmedabad, is to instill philately in youngsters from an early age.
- ❖ 'The Ideal and Great Stamps' Paintings exhibition, which took place in Ahmedabad from August 21 to 23, 2024, featured a speech by Krishna Kumar Yadav during its closing ceremony.
- ❖ Philately is the study and collection of postal stamps and associated items. Philately is the pastime of collecting stamps and the related objects that are acquired, arranged, cataloged, stored, displayed, and maintained in themed spaces.



In reference to the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana:

- ❖ Students in classes VI, VII, VIII, and IX of an accredited school are eligible to apply for the Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana, which is an all-India program.
- ❖ The scholarship will only be awarded to students who have a Philately Deposit Account or who belong to a Philately group.
- ❖ 920 scholarships for students who pursue philately as a pastime will be given out at all India levels.
- ❖ A maximum of 40 scholarships may be given to 10 students from each of Standard VI, VII, VIII, and IX by each postal circle in the nation.

- ❖ The scholarship will be awarded quarterly and is worth Rs 6000 annually.
- ❖ Students who meet the Yojana's requirements can apply again the following year. Scholarship selections will be granted for a period of one year.
- ❖ Every chosen student will have a Philately Mentor assigned to the school to provide guidance.
- ❖ The Philately Mentor's additional responsibilities will include starting a Philately Club at the school level, encouraging young people who want to continue the activity, and giving advice to aspiring Philatelists.
- ❖ Union Communication Minister: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

Obituary

National Award-winning Bengali filmmaker Utpalendu Chakraborty passes away at 76 after cardiac arrest

About News :-

- ❖ Renowned Indian filmmaker Utpalendu Chakraborty went yesterday in Kolkata, West Bengal, at the age of 76. (WB). In 1948, he was born in East Pakistan's Pabna District (now Bangladesh).
- ❖ For his work on the Bengali film "Chokh," he was awarded the 1983 National Film Award for Best Feature Film and Best Direction. 'Music of Satyajit Ray' was the 1985 Best Non-Feature Film winner, which he also received.



Considering Utpalendu Chakraborty:

- ❖ Writer and Bengali director Utpalendu Chakraborty is well-known for his work on the movies Debshishu (1987), Chandaneer (1989), Moynatadanto (1980), and Phaansi (1988).
- ❖ In addition, he has produced documentaries on Rabindra Sangeet exponent Debabrata Biswas and Satyajit Ray's music.

- ❖ In 1981, he was given the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Director's Debut Picture.
- ❖ In addition, he received the President's Award and the National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC) award.

Important Day

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - August 23

About Day :-

- ❖ Every year on August 23, people worldwide observe the United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition to commemorate the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade during the period of colonial authority, in the remembrance of all peoples.
- ❖ The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is in charge of organizing the day's yearly celebration.



History :-

- ❖ UNESCO General Conference resolution 29 C/40, which established August 23 as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, was adopted at the 29th session in 1997.
- ❖ The Director-General (DG) of UNESCO published Circular CL/3494 on July 29, 1998, inviting Ministers of Culture of all member states to support the day.
- ❖ On August 23, 1998, the Day was first marked in Haiti; on August 23, 1999, it was commemorated on Gorée Island in Senegal.

Significance:-

- ❖ The Day honors the equal and unalienable dignity of every person while bringing attention to the need to abolish the slave trade and related activities.
- ❖ The Day offers a chance for everyone to acknowledge and consider the historical reasons, practices, and effects of slavery.

