

'RHUMI-1'

On 24th Aug 2024, India successfully launched its first reusable hybrid rocket, 'RHUMI-1', from Thiruvudandhai, Chennai using a mobile launcher.

Key Points

- ❖ It has been developed by Tamil Nadu-based start-up Space Zone India in collaboration with the Martin Group.
- ❖ It carried 3 Cube Satellites and 50 PICO Satellites into a suborbital trajectory.
- ❖ The primary mission of these satellites is to gather data for research on global warming and climate change.

National Medical Register (NMR) Portal

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare J.P. Nadda inaugurated the National Medical Register (NMR) Portal of the National Medical Commission (NMC) for registration of all the MBBS doctors who are eligible for registration in India.

Key Features of the NMR Portal

- ❖ **Centralized Database:** The NMR Portal will serve as a dynamic and centralized database for all MBBS doctors in India. This will streamline the registration process and enhance the accuracy of data related to medical practitioners.
- ❖ **Aadhaar Integration:** By linking doctor profiles to Aadhaar IDs, the NMR ensures that the data is both authentic and up-to-date. This integration is designed to reduce fraudulent registrations and discrepancies.
- ❖ **User-Friendly Registration:** The registration process on the NMR Portal is straightforward and conducted entirely online. Doctors will need to submit their MBBS degree certificates, State Medical Council registration certificates and Aadhaar numbers to complete the process.

What is the National Medical Register (NMR)?

- ❖ The National Medical Register (NMR) is an initiative mandated by Section 31 of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019.

- ❖ It aims to create a comprehensive electronic database of all licensed allopathic doctors (MBBS) in India.
- ❖ The NMR will contain crucial details such as names, addresses, and recognized qualifications of medical practitioners, linked directly to their Aadhaar ID to ensure authenticity.

Way Forward

- ❖ The launch of the NMR Portal is a significant step towards achieving a more efficient, transparent, and robust healthcare ecosystem.

Unified Pension Scheme

Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the Unified Pension Scheme.

Key Points

- ❖ The Cabinet approved the UPS, offering 50% of the average basic pay as pension to 23 lakh government employees under the National Pension System (NPS) with 25 years of service.
- ❖ The scheme applies to employees with a **minimum of 10 years of service**, and will be effective from **April 1, 2025**.
- ❖ Employees currently under NPS can opt for UPS starting the next financial year.

BioE3 Policy

The Union Cabinet has approved the **BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing** of the Department of Biotechnology aimed at accelerating India's transition to green growth and a Net Zero carbon economy.

Key Points

- ❖ The salient features of **BioE3 policy** include innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors.

- ❖ This will accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundry.
- ❖ Along with prioritizing regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth, this policy will facilitate expansion of India's skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation.
- ❖ Overall, this Policy will further strengthen Government's initiatives such as 'Net Zero' carbon economy & 'Lifestyle for Environment' and will steer India on the path of accelerated 'Green Growth' by promoting 'Circular Bioeconomy'.
- ❖ The **BioE3 Policy** will foster an advanced future that is more sustainable, innovative, and responsive to global challenges and lays down the Bio-vision for Viksit Bharat.

Schemes/Initiatives

Vigyan Dhara Science Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The cabinet has approved the Unified 'Vigyan Dhara' Science Scheme. ❖ It is a unified scheme merging three science and technology initiatives. ❖ The scheme will be funded with Rs 10,579 crore during 2021-22 to 2025-26. ❖ Aim: The scheme aims to strengthen infrastructure, support basic and translational research, and promote international collaboration. ❖ It will align with national goals and support innovation from schools to industries.
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Important News- Other States

Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Chief Minister of Odisha announced the launch of the Subhadra scheme on August 23, 2024. Financial Assistance for Women. ❖ The scheme will provide ₹50,000 over five years (2024-25 to 2028-29) to one crore women aged between 21 and 60. Each beneficiary will receive ₹10,000 per year, distributed in two installments of ₹5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima and International Women's Day.
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Important News- Worldwide

Afghanistan	<p>For the first time since taking over Afghanistan, the Taliban has appointed Mawlawi Badruddin as an ambassador to the UAE. UAE became the second country after China to accept a Taliban envoy at the ambassador level.</p>
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Miscellaneous

- ❖ The United States holds the largest gold reserves with 8,133 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,351 tonnes, Italy with 2,451 tonnes, France with 2,437 tonnes, and Russia with 2,335 tonnes. China ranks sixth with 2,264 tonnes while India is ninth with 840 tonnes.
- ❖ Italy's Valentina Petrillo is set to become the first ever transgender woman to compete at the Paris Paralympic Games.
- ❖ India booked its first ever spot in the surfing competition for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with both the men and women teams grabbing a spot each.

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