

05th August 2024**MoU for UPDIC**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up three testing facilities under the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC).

Key Points-

- ❖ Under this agreement, one centre in the Mechanical & Materials (M&M) sector will be set up in Lucknow and two centres in Kanpur. These include one facility centre each in the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) and Communication sector.
- ❖ The MoU was exchanged between senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) in New Delhi under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS).

About Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

- ❖ Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh had launched the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme in May, 2020 with an outlay of ₹ 400 crore.

Objective:

- ❖ It aims to set up state-of-the-art testing facilities in collaboration with private industry and the Central/State Government, promote indigenous defence production, reduce imports and enhance self-reliance.
- ❖ With the aim of providing a boost to the defence and aerospace sector, seven testing facilities have been approved under Defence Industrial Corridors, four of which are in Tamil Nadu and three in Uttar Pradesh.

Structure:

- ❖ Up to 75% of the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme is provided by Government funding as 'Grant-in-Aid', with the remaining 25% funded by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) comprising Indian private entities and State/Central Governments.

Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)

Indian Naval Ship Tabar conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with Russian Naval Ship Subrazhitelny.

Key Points-

- ❖ Indian Navy's leading warship, **INS Tabar** arrived St Petersburg, Russia on 25 July, 2024 on a four-day visit to participate in the 328th Russian Navy Day Parade celebrations.
- ❖ The visit of INS Tabar is aimed at reinforcing this long-standing friendship and exploring new avenues to strengthen the ties between the two countries.
- ❖ The MPX involved a wide range of complex naval manoeuvres including communication exercises, search and rescue tactics and replenishment at sea. Ships of both navies demonstrated a high level of professionalism and interoperability.

India - second largest Aluminium producer in the world

- ❖ Primary aluminium production in Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 (April-June) registered a growth of 1.2 per cent over the same period last year. It increased to 10.43 lakh tonnes in FY 2024-25 (April-June) from 10.28 lakh tonnes (LT) in FY 2023-24 (April-June).

Key Points -



- ❖ After reaching record production levels in FY 2023-24, the production of key minerals such as iron ore and limestone in the country has continued to grow significantly in the first quarter of FY 2024-25.
- ❖ Iron ore and limestone contribute to nearly 80 per cent of total MCDR mineral production in terms of value.
- ❖ Iron ore production in FY 2023-24 was 275 million metric tonnes (MMT) and limestone production was 450 MMT.

- ❖ With this, India is the third largest lime producer and the fourth largest iron ore producer in the world.

Person in News – Sports

Kabilan Sai Ashok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok, a distinguished officer of the Indian Army, has created history by becoming India's youngest Olympic referee in boxing at the Paris Olympics 2024. ❖ Sai Ashok, 32, is only the fourth Indian to officiate at an Olympic Games since 1904. 	
Swapnil Kusale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shooter Swapnil Kusale secured India's third medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics by finishing third in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at the National Shooting Centre in Chateauroux. ❖ Swapnil has become the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event. 	
Lakshya Sen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lakshya Sen created history by becoming the first Indian male shuttler to reach the Olympic men's singles semi-finals. ❖ Sen defeated Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei in a 75-minute three-game match. 	

Person in News – Appointment

<p>Lieutenant General Sadhana Saxena Nair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ She has been appointed as Director General, Medical Services (Army), becoming the first woman to be appointed to this prestigious post. ❖ Earlier, she was the first woman to hold the post of Director General, Hospital Services (Armed Forces) on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. 	
<p>Captain Shubhanshu Shukla</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Captain Shukla has been selected for the joint space mission of ISRO and American space agency NASA. ❖ If Captain Shukla goes to space under this mission, he will be the second Indian astronaut to do so in the last 40 years, before Rakesh Sharma had gone to space with the Soviet mission in 1984. 	

Report/Index

<p>Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 countries. ❖ In the previous index published in 2021, India was ranked 54th. However, due to revisions in WEF's methodology, India's 2021 rank was adjusted to 38th. <p>As per TTDI report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Out of the mentioned pillars of TTDI, India's score has improved in three areas: Priority of Travel and Tourism, Safety and Security, and Health and Hygiene.
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	❖ As per the UNWTO Barometer for May 2024, there were 975 million international tourist arrivals worldwide in 2022, with India recording 14.3 million international tourist arrivals, accounting for 1.47% of the international inbound tourism market share.
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Miscellaneous

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) in New Delhi on 3 August.
- ❖ The Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs launched version 4.0 of the Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile App.
 - The Department of Consumer Affairs has included 16 additional items under-price monitoring from August 1, 2024. There are already 22 items under daily price monitoring. Now the prices of a total of 38 items will be monitored.
 - The 16 newly added items include bajra, jowar, ragi, semolina (wheat), maida (wheat), gram flour, ghee, butter, brinjal, egg, black pepper, coriander, cumin, red chilli, turmeric powder and banana.

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