

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## NPS-Vatsalya Scheme

In pursuance of the announcement in the Union Budget 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will launch the NPS-Vatsalya scheme on September 18 in New Delhi.



### Key Points

- ❖ NPS Vatsalya will be a modified version of the National Pension System (NPS) specifically designed for minors
- ❖ It is part of the government's broader effort to encourage early financial planning and savings, ensuring a secure financial future for the next generation.
- ❖ It will allow parents/guardians to open an NPS account for their children/wards and contribute regularly towards a savings pool until the minor turns 18.
- ❖ When the minor turns 18, the account can be converted into a regular NPS account. Then, the beneficiary will have the autonomy to manage the account and decide on the investment strategy.
- ❖ Parents can start with a modest monthly contribution of Rs. 500 or an annual contribution of Rs. 6,000.
- ❖ PFRDA is a regulatory body of NPS Vatsalya Scheme.

## About Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority

PFRDA is an authority set up by the Government of India through the PFRDA Act 2013

To promote old age income security by establishing, regulating and developing pension funds to protect the interest of subscribers to schemes of pension funds.

## NAVIKA SAGAR PARIKRAMA II

Lt Cdr Roopa A and Lt Cdr Dilna K, two Indian Navy women officers are set to embark on a global circumnavigation aboard INSV Tarini.



### Key Point

- ❖ It is an initiative by the Indian navy to circumnavigate the globe on an all women crewed sailboat.
  - A significant step in India's maritime progress, highlighting the nation's growing role in global maritime activities and promoting gender equality on the high seas.
- ❖ Navika Sagar Parikrama I – 2017 and completed 2018
  - Indian Navy Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini is the sailboat of the Indian navy.

- **Navika Sagar Parikrama II** – This initiative is similar to Navika Sagar Parikrama I.
- **Logo Significance:** The octagonal Navy emblem, sun, compass, and sailboat symbolize Indian Navy's maritime spirit

### Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras in all district hospitals

Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav



inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras in all district hospitals on the first day of *Swachhta Hi Seva Fortnight 2024* starting from 17th September.

#### Key Point

- ❖ This is an important step to provide affordable and quality generic medicines to the citizens. The launch of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in hospitals is a major step towards improving access to health services.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra Project was launched in 2008 to provide affordable and quality generic medicines.
- ❖ The scheme gained momentum after 2015. Its objective was to ensure access to affordable medicines across the country.

- ❖ At present, more than 500 Jan Aushadhi Kendras are operational in Madhya Pradesh. These Kendras have been established in both urban and rural areas

### SUBHADRA Scheme

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched 'SUBHADRA', the flagship Scheme of Government of Odisha, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



#### Key Point

- ❖ Under the SUBHADRA scheme, all eligible beneficiaries between the age of 21-60 years would receive Rs. 50,000/- over a period of 5 years between 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- ❖ An amount of Rs 10,000/- per annum in two equal installments will be credited directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled and DBT-enabled bank account.
- ❖ On this historic occasion, the Prime Minister initiated the fund transfer into the bank accounts of more than 10 lakh women.

### Anmol Kharb Clinches Belgian International Title

India's rising badminton star Anmol Kharb secured her first senior international title by winning the women's singles event at the Belgian International 2024 in Leuven.



### Key Point

- ❖ In a remarkable display of skill and determination, the 17-year-old, overcame Denmark's Amalie Schulz 24-22, 12-21, 21-10 in the final.
- ❖ What makes her achievement even more extraordinary is the fact that she entered the main draw through the qualifiers and was unseeded.
- ❖ Earlier in 2024, Anmol was instrumental in leading India's women's team to a historic gold at the Badminton Asia Team Championships and became the national women's singles champion at 16.

### India's First Namo Bharat Rapid Rail

Pradhan Mantri modi virtually flagged off the Country's first Namo Bharat Rapid Rail between Ahmedabad and Bhuj and six other Vande Bharat Trains.

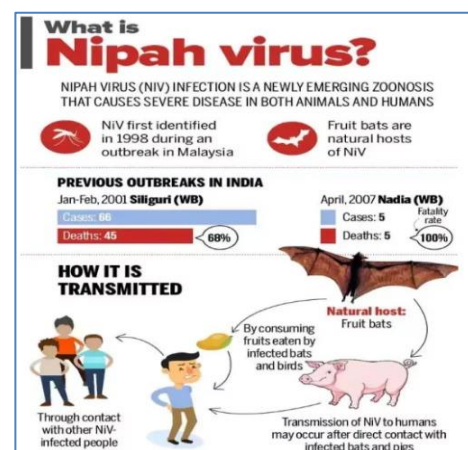


### Key Point

- ❖ The first Vande Metro rake has been produced at ICF, Chennai. It aims to provide a 'world-class' travel experience on Indian Railways.
- ❖ Vande Metro is designed to replace the current mainline EMUs. It offers a metro-like experience with both seating and standing options for passengers.
- ❖ The 12-coach train can accommodate 1,150 sitting passengers. It has space for 2,058 standing passengers.
- ❖ The six Vande Bharat trains which were flagged off today include Nagpur to Secunderabad, Kolhapur to Pune, Agra Cantt to Banaras, Durg to Visakhapatnam, Pune to Hubballi, and the first 20-coach Vande Bharat train from Varanasi to Delhi.

### Nipah Virus

A 24-year-old man in Kerala's Malappuram died due to the Nipah virus.



### Key Point

- ❖ The first outbreaks of the Nipah virus among humans was reported in Malaysia (1998) and Singapore (1999)
- ❖ It is a single-stranded, enclosed, negative-sense RNA virus.
- ❖ It belongs to the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus.
- ❖ **Spread:**
  - It is a zoonotic virus, transmitted from animals to humans.
  - **Reservoir:** The fruit bat, also known as the flying fox, serves as the animal host reservoir for the virus.
  - Indian flying fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) is generally considered a vermin as they raid orchards.
  - Fruit bats transmit the virus to other animals such as pigs, dogs, cats, goats, horses, and sheep.
- ❖ WHO estimates that between 40% and 75% of cases can result in death.
- ❖ Currently, there are no vaccines for both humans and animals.

### Short News

- ❖ The second edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference of 2024 has started in New Delhi.
- ❖ India has won 16 medals and Medallions of Excellence at World Skills 2024 in Lyon, France.
- ❖ Telangana government will celebrate September 17 as Telangana Praja Palana Day, marking Hyderabad's 1948 integration into India.
- ❖ The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) confirmed that Yogasana, the practice of traditional Indian yoga postures, will be featured as a Demonstration Sport at the upcoming 2026 Asian Games which will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ India's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility to be built at the EMC Park in Info Valley in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) with an investment of Rs 620 crore.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer Amrit Mohan Prasad was appointed as the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) on Friday.

Important Daily *Current Affairs* Question

Q1. Which of the following state governments launched the SUBHADRA Scheme?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer -A

Q2. Who won the Belgian Badminton Tournament title by defeating Denmark's Amali Schulz, marking their first international title?

- (a) Ananya Arun
- (b) Anmol kharb
- (c) Muskan Patel
- (d) Mahima Sharma

Answer -B



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PSC Wallah