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Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme'at Kolkata

Why in News?

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities implements a scheme titled 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)'. A Regional Conference on the scheme was organized at Kolkata, West Bengal today.

About the Scheme:

- Under DDRS, Financial assistanceis provided to about 600 NGOs every year.
- About 26% of total NGOs under DDRS and 46% of Special School for Children with Intellectual Disabilities are from Eastern and North-Eastern States.
- DDRS is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India which is being implemented since 1999 for providing financial assistance to NGOs working for education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- This scheme was revised in 2018 and the revision is effective from 1st April 2018.

Highlights of Conference:

- This Regional Conference was organized in order to disseminate the provisions of the revised scheme and to bring the Department closer to the implementing agencies and other stakeholders.
- This conference provided a wonderful opportunity for interactions with all stakeholders ranging from the Central Government to the implementing agencies.
- An in-depth understanding of the scheme would enable better outreach in terms of better facilities to end beneficiaries, i.e. persons with disabilities.
- The conference was an effective step towards good governance where the functionaries of the Central Govt. Ministries are reaching various parts of the country for creating awareness among the public.
- It leads to the ultimate objective towards ensuring welfare of Divyangjan and the dignity they deserve.

Initiatives on women's safety:

Why in News?

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has conceptualized several initiatives to promote safety of women in their living spaces, working spaces and the public spaces.

Panic Button

- The idea of having a panic button on the mobile phone was conceived way back in 2015 and after a series of deliberations with the Ministry of Telecom, mobile phone manufacturers and mobile telephony service providers.
- Ministry of Telecom mandated a physical panic button on all mobile phones in the country.
- It was also noted that such a panic button must be backed by an emergency response mechanism through the local police when panic button message would alert the specified family members etc. of a woman in distress situation.
- This system was then conceptualized in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and state governments were asked to put in place a dedicated Emergency Response Centre through which the entire system will be operated.

SCIM portal under Safe City Project

- In order to provide safety for women in public spaces, the Government has identified eight cities for implementation of Safe City project.
- The 8 major cities which have been chosen are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai.

- Detailed projects for this have been prepared jointly by the municipal bodies and the local police authorities.
- The projects include creation on ground assets & resources and mindset safety of women.

Key features of the safe city project include:

a. Identification of sensitive hot spots in each city,
b. Installation of CCTV surveillance covering the entire hot spot.
c. Automated number plate reading machines to be deployed in extremely sensitive areas.
d. Intensive patrolling in vulnerable areas beyond the identified hot spots.
e. Improving street lighting and public toilet facilities for women.
f. Others like setting up women help desks in police stations, augmentation of women support centres etc.

DNA Analysis Facilities in States

- In view of the complaints of delay in cases of sexual assault investigations, it was proposed that dedicated DNA analysis facilities should be created in the forensic science laboratories on a mission mode.
- Timely testing of DNA samples from the crime scene is the quickest process of obtaining forensic evidence in cases of sexual assault on women.
- In the initial phase, dedicated DNA analysis facilities have been sanctioned for the forensic science laboratories located at Chennai, Madurai, Agra, Lucknow, Mumbai and Kolkata.
- Expert technicians are also being recruited and trained for the forensic analysis.

India-Saudi Arabia Relation:

Why in News?

India and Saudi Arabia will launch a mechanism for coordinated decisions regarding strategically important issues, sources said on Monday.

The announcement came a day before the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman arrives here as part of his tour of Asia, where he chose Pakistan as his first destination.

Background:

- India and Saudi Arabia have a strong independent strategic partnership and it will be further strengthened with the launching of the Strategic Partnership Council that will cover critical areas of mutual interest.
- Ministry of External Affairs, NITI Aayog and other government agencies are expected to be the constituent units of this council.
- The visit has acquired greater attention here as Prince Mohammed Bin Salman declared himself an "ambassador of Pakistan" during his Islamabad visit.
- The Pakistan visit by Prince Mohammed brought investment of $20 billion, even as India had begun to campaign for international isolation of the country after the Pulwama attack.

Stand on Pulwama Attack:

- Saudi Arabia has displayed greater appreciation of India's concerns regarding cross-border terrorism as recently seen in the Pulwama attack.
- The Saudi understanding of terrorism has evolved and they have a far better understanding of terrorism in Kashmir.

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India Pharma 2019 & India Medical Device 2019:

Why in News?

Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, inaugurated the 4th edition of India's biggest Global Conference on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices, in Bengaluru today.

About the event:

- The event is being organized by Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- This conference is an endeavour of this Government to provide affordable, quality healthcare to citizens of the country and also to encourage 'Make in

India' while promoting the growth and development of Indian Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Industry.

Theme of Event:

The theme of 'India Pharma 2019' is *'Enabling Quality Affordable Healthcare* & that of 'India Medical Device 2019' is *'Accelerating Growth to Achieve Universal Healthcare'*.

India's Pharma Sector:

- India continues to maintain its leadership position in manufacturing and supply of high quality generic medicines.
- With several proactive measures by the Government, exports have improved and the growth in Pharma sector is back on track.
- The Pharma industry is expected to grow at a CAGR of 15% in the near future.
- On the other hand, as per industry estimates, the medical devices market is expected to grow to $50 billion by 2025.

Steps Taken by Govt.:

- Government is taking measures to help Indian pharmaceutical sector become a Rs. 3 lakh crore market, making it a global player.
- Government has taken a number of steps to boost the indigenous API industry growth in India.
- These include constituting a Task Force containing all stakeholders to study the issues of APIs and chart out a strategy to boost their indigenous manufacturing; giving thrust to cluster based development of API industry; in principle approval to 2 API parks, one each in Assam and Andhra Pradesh, among others.
- State Governments plans to set up a special pharmaceuticals SEZ in Hassan and Pharma Parks in Bengaluru and Mangalore.

PCS1X Maritimee-Commerce Portal

Why in News?

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation will launch **PCS1x** at the Regional Maritime Safety Conference in Mumbai tomorrow.

C.A Dated On 19-02-2019

What is it?

- **PCS1x** is an upgraded version of the e-commerce portal **Port Community System**(PCS).
- It has been developed in record time by the Indian Ports Association, based on feedback from stakeholders using PCS.
- PCS Ix is a new generation system with a user-friendly interface that brings together various stakeholders of the maritime sector, and facilitates Government-to-Business, Business –to-Government and Business-to-Business transactions within the required legal framework.
- It ensures extreme levels of cyber security. The architecture of PCS is built on 'open platform' technology to integrate / latch on to any new concept or module available in the industry without disturbing the current ecosystem.
- This is a unique feature which provides unlimited landscape for growth and expansion.

Significance:

- PCS has played a vital role in enhancing 'Ease of Doing Business' in the maritime sector by facilitating a transparent and paperless system for electronic submission of trade document, resulting in faster turnaround time and dwell time.
- Digitization in EXIM trade, of which PCS is a part, has played a major role in improving India's world ranking in 'Ease of Doing Business'.
- In World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index India's position stood at 100in 2017, registering an improvement of 30 points over 2016. It subsequently rose to 77th rank the following year.
- This is primarily due the ranking in Trading Across Border parameter which improved to 80 from 146 last year.
- It provides Single Window platform for maritime industry and authorities, a user-friendly mobile application for stakeholders, event based notification and alerts, interactive dashboard, capability of PCS-to-PCS integration (Indian PCS with other international PCS) and 24/7 helpdesk for location support.
- It also allows better stakeholder coordination.