

27th Sept -2nd October Weekly Compilation

(The Hindu+ Indian Express + PIB + Other World Wide News)

❖ Beijing-Lhasa Highway

(Down to Earth)

Why in News: China has completed a Lhasa-Nagqu section of the Beijing-Lhasa expressway.

- Beijing–Lhasa Expressway is part of the Chinese national expressway network.
- It is planned to connect China’s capital Beijing to the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, Lhasa.
- It also connects China’s Central Theatre Command with the Western Theatre Command, which is responsible for the border with India.
- The expressway will pass through seven major cities of China including Beijing, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Gansu, Qinghai and Lhasa with an approximate length of 3,710 km.

Note: In June 2021, China had launched a high-speed bullet train connecting Lhasa with Nyingchi, a strategically located Tibetan town located close to Arunachal Pradesh.

The Beijing–Lhasa Expressway has enormous strategic implications for India.



- Once the expressway gets completed, it would allow the Chinese army to comfortably cover the distance of 3,725 km from Beijing to Lhasa in four days or less during emergencies.
- The expressway would also ensure a very smooth flow of convoy traffic without any bottlenecks or any additional burden on manpower.

❖ **SCALE COMMITTEE**

(Source: PIB)

Why in News: The meeting between the Minister for Commerce and the private Industry soon after the national lockdown was announced in 2020 has led to the setting up of the SCALE Committee.

SCALE Committee

- SCALE Committee stands for Steering Committee for Local Value Addition, Manufacturing and Exports (SCALE)
- It is a joint government-industry panel aimed at navigating Indian manufacturing away from the import-dependence pitfalls exposed by the pandemic.
- The committee is looking at ways to increase localisation, component manufacturing and employment in various industries.
- It is working on such ideas for 17 sectors — from toys, textiles, furniture and e-cycles to drones and even fisheries.

SCALE Committee different from other committees

First, it has no deadlines and drafts and no voluminous reports — all its proposals are laid out in a presentation at best.

Second, it doesn't just gather ideas from various sectoral players and splash them together for the government to consider, as usual, industry representations tend to be.

Third, it follows a rigorous process of consultations to align different factions of the industry with varying agendas at multiple levels and tries to nudge an alignment of interests where differences seem intractable, before it takes up the relevant issues with the government.

❖ **NATIONAL MISSION ON CULTURAL MAPPING**

(The Hindu)

Why in News: Recently, the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) has been handed over to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), which will start a trial run in 75 villages in October 2021.

National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)

- The NMCM was approved by the Ministry of Culture in 2017 to build a comprehensive database of artists, art forms and other resources from organisations under the Ministry.
- **Aim:** To address the necessities of preserving the threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage, converting the vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective Cultural Mapping. It also aims to create a strong “Cultural Vibrancy” throughout the nation.
- It encompasses data mapping, demography building, formalising the processes and bringing all cultural activities under one umbrella for better results.
- The work on creating a database for folk arts and mapping of the heritage of villages would be carried out over five years.
- Teams of volunteers from the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghathan, the National Service Scheme and students of sociology and social work would be deputed to visit villages and collect data on the art forms and heritage of the areas.

IGNCA was established in 1987 as an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, as a centre for research, academic pursuit and dissemination in the field of the arts. IGNCA aims to complete mapping in 5,000 villages by the end of financial year 2021-2022.

Other Schemes Related to Art and Culture:

- Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana.
- Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture.
- Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure.
- Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

❖ SAUBHAGYA SCHEME

(PIB)

Why in News: SAUBHAGYA Scheme has completed four years of successful implementation.

The SAUBHAGYA Scheme was announced by the Prime Minister in 2017.

Objective: To achieve Universal Household Electrification in the country through last-mile connectivity and providing access to electricity to all un-electrified households in rural areas and poor households in urban areas.

Nodal Agency: REC Limited (Rural Electrification Corporation) has been designated as the nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

- All DISCOMs including Private Sector DISCOMs, State Power Departments and RE Cooperative Societies shall be eligible for financial assistance under the scheme in line with Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).
- The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme would be identified using SECC 2011 data.
- However, un-electrified households not covered under SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.
- The electricity connection to households includes the release of electricity connections by drawing a service cable from the nearest pole to the household premise, installation of an energy meter, wiring for a single light point with an LED bulb and a mobile charging point.

Present Status of the Scheme

- As of March 31st, 2021 India has provided electricity access to 2.82 crore households as part of the Saubhagya scheme. Saubhagya Scheme will continue its work of providing a 24x7 quality power supply to all.
- All states have been requested to launch special campaigns in their respective states to identify any left out un-electrified households and subsequently provide electricity connections to them. A dedicated toll-free helpline has also been launched for that p

❖ Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

(Source: Express)

Why in News: Recently, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was launched by the Prime Minister through a video conference.

- The nationwide rollout of the project coincides with the National Health Authority (NHA) celebrating the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- Ayushman Bharat is a flagship scheme of India which was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
 - It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required.
 - The pilot project of the Mission had been announced by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2020.
 - The project is being implemented in the pilot phase in six States & Union Territories.

Features of the Mission:

Health ID

- It will be issued for every citizen that will also work as their health account. This health account will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken and the diagnosis.
- Health ID is free of cost, voluntary. It will help in doing analysis of health data and lead to better planning, budgeting and implementation for health programs.

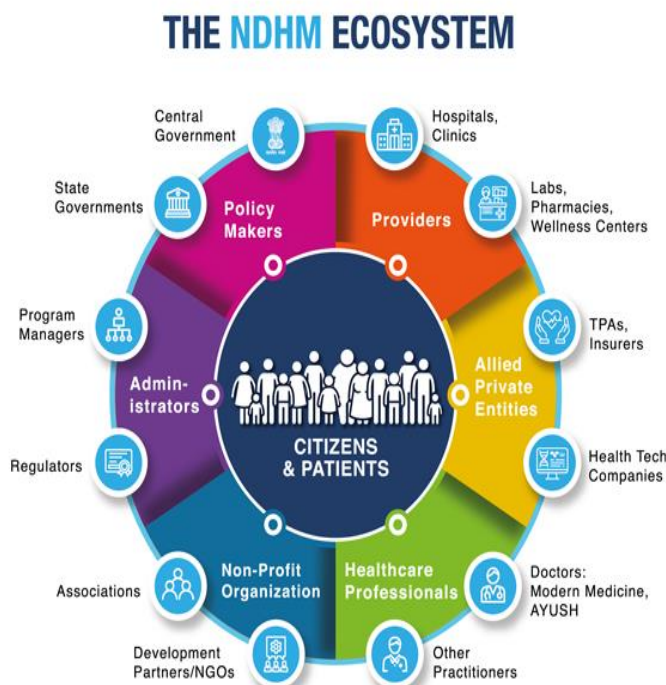
Healthcare Facilities & Professionals' Registry

- The other major component of the program is creating a Healthcare Professionals' Registry (HPR) and Healthcare Facilities Registry (HFR), allowing easy electronic access to medical professionals and health infrastructure.
- The HPR will be a comprehensive repository of all healthcare professionals involved in delivering healthcare services across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.
- The HFR database will have records of all the country's health facilities.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Sandbox

The Sandbox, created as a part of the mission, will act as a framework for technology and product testing that will help organisations, including private players intending to be a part of the national digital health ecosystem become a Health Information Provider or Health Information User or efficiently link with building blocks of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Implementing Agency: National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



❖ Akash Prime

(Express)

Why in News: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested a new version of Akash missile named Akash Prime.

Akash Prime

- Akash Prime is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system developed by the DRDO and produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- It was developed to replace the Russian 2K12 Kub (SA-6 Gainful) missile system, currently in service.
- The missile is equipped with a homegrown Radio Frequency seeker which imparts an improved accuracy while intercepting targets in various conditions.
- The missile will further boost the confidence of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- DRDO has recently also tested the Akash-NG missile. Both Akash Prime and Akash NG are variants of the Akash Missile. Akash Missile is India's first indigenously produced medium-range Surface to Air missile.



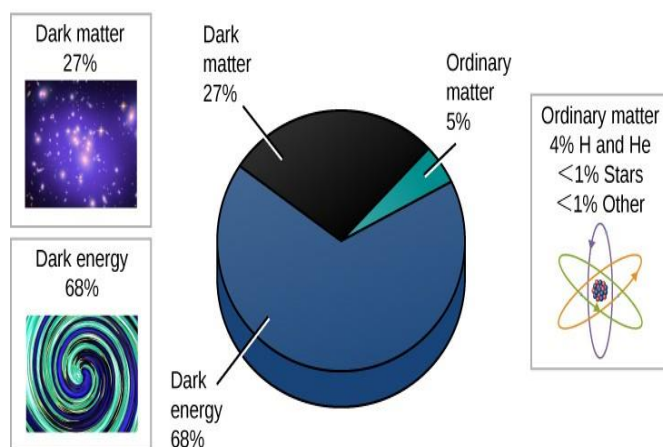
❖ DARK ENERGY

(Express)

Why in News: Recently, an international team of researchers made the first direct detection of dark energy.

The experiment named XENON1T, is the world's most sensitive dark matter experiment and was operated deep underground at the INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.

Dark energy is the mysterious form of energy that makes up about 68% of the universe, and has intrigued physicists and astronomers for decades.



Experiment

- The XENON1T is a dark matter research project, operated at the Italian Gran Sasso National Laboratory.
- It is a deep underground research facility featuring increasingly ambitious experiments aiming to detect dark matter particles.
- The experiments aim to detect particles in the form of Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs) by looking for rare interactions via nuclear recoils in a liquid xenon target chamber.

Dark Matter and Dark Energy

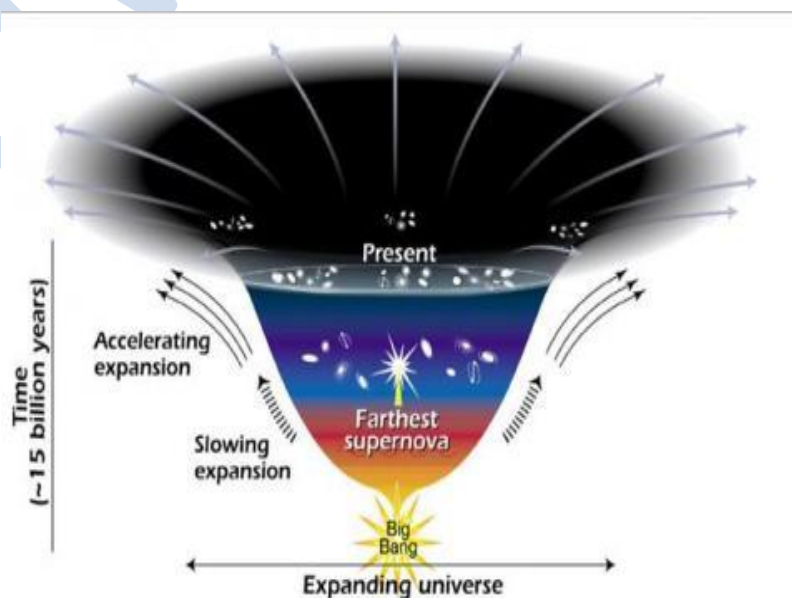
While dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together, dark energy repels and causes the expansion of our universe.

Despite both components being invisible, a lot more is known about dark matter, since its existence was suggested as early as the 1920s, while dark energy wasn't discovered until 1998.

Dark Energy

The Big Bang occurred nearly 15 billion years ago and expanded. Earlier, astronomers believed that eventually the expansion of the Universe will slow down because of gravity and it will re-collapse. However, data from the Hubble Telescope suggested that the Universe's expansion is accelerating. The astronomers theorize that the faster expansion rate is due to a mysterious, dark force or energy that is pulling galaxies apart. The term 'dark' is used to denote the unknown.

The diagram reveals changes in the rate of expansion since the universe's birth 15 billion years ago.



❖ **TRAINING and CAPACITY PROGRAM For WOMEN IN DAIRY FARMING**

Why in News: The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched a countrywide training and capacity building program for women in dairy farming.

Objective of the Program

The program aims to empower women and help them achieve financial independence by training them in the quality enhancement of dairy products.

As part of the program, the NCW is collaborating with agricultural universities all across India to identify and train women associated with dairy farming in different aspects such as value addition, quality enhancement, packaging and marketing of dairy products among others.

NCW

The National Commission for Women was set up as a statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

Aim: To strive towards enabling women to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life by securing their due rights and entitlements through suitable policy formulation, legislative measures, etc.

Composition: The commission consists of a chairperson, a member secretary and five other members. All are nominated by the Central Government.

❖ **PMFME SCHEME SEED CAPITAL MODULE** **(PIB)**

Why in News: Recently, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched the Seed Capital Module under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) to help Self Help Groups (SHGs).

- It was launched on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) MIS (Management Information System) Portal for seed capital assistance to members of urban Self Help Groups working in the food processing sector in India.
- The seed capital portal can be accessed for SHGs to avail the seed capital assistance.

- Seed capital is the money raised to begin developing an idea for a business or a new product. SHGs will be sensitized and motivated about the PMFME scheme to avail the benefits of seed capital for purchasing small tools and working capital.

PMFME Scheme

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that was launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- With an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

Benefits under PMFME Scheme

- Capital assistance of Rs. 40,000 per SHG member.
- Credit linked subsidy for capital investment up to 35% with a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakh.
- Credit linked grant support up to 35% for establishing common infrastructure.
- Handholding support for DPR (Detailed Project Report) preparation.
- Capacity building and training support.

