

Digital Banking Units (DBUs)

❖ Context

- Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reiterated her Budget announcement on **setting up 75 digital banking units in 75 districts** of the country this year.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is proposed to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts of the country by **Scheduled Commercial Banks**.
- This is to take forward the government's agenda of **digital financial inclusion**.

❖ About DBUs

- It's a **specialized fixed point business unit** or hub housing a certain minimum digital infrastructure for **delivering digital banking products and services** as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally.
- **Originator:**
 - **Commercial banks** with past digital banking experience are **permitted to open DBUs**.
 - They can open **DBUs in tier 1 to tier 6 centers**, unless otherwise specifically restricted, **without having the need to take permission from the RBI in each case**.
 - **Regional Rural Banks, payment banks and local area banks** are **not allowed** to open DBUs.

❖ Services That Will Be Provided By DBUs

- **Liability Products And Services:**
 - Savings bank accounts under various schemes.
 - Current accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposit accounts.
 - Digital kit for customers, Digital kit for merchants.
 - Mobile banking, Internet banking.
 - Debit cards, credit cards, and mass transit system cards.
 - UPI QR code, BHIM Aadhaar and point of sale (PoS),
- **Asset Products and Services:**
 - Making applications for and onboarding of customer for identified retail, MSME or schematic loans.
 - End-to-end digital processing of loans.
 - Starting from online application to disbursal and identified government sponsored schemes that are covered under the national portal.

Battery Swapping Policy

❖ Context

- Niti Aayog has released a draft battery swapping policy and has invited comments on it until June 5.

❖ Key Highlights

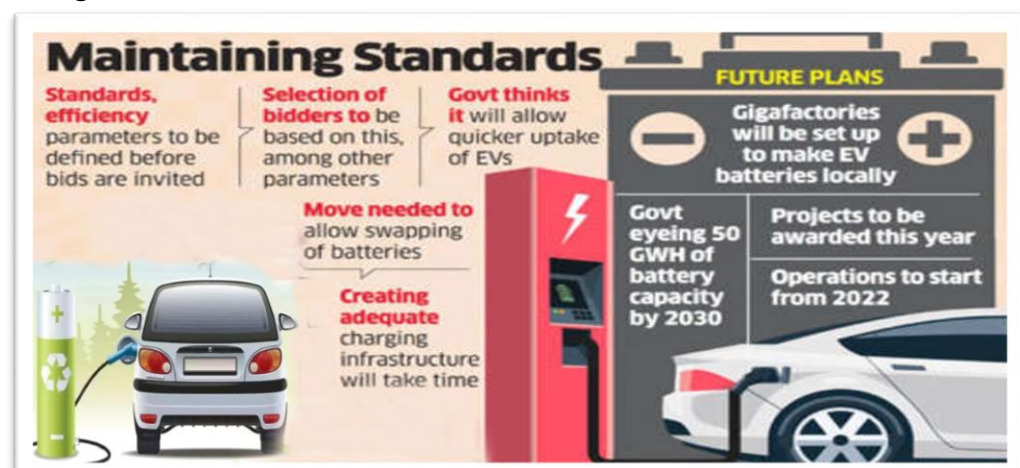
- The policy is **targeted at supporting the adoption of battery-swapping**, primarily for battery swapping systems used in electric scooters and three-wheeler electric rickshaws.
- Niti Aayog has **proposed offering:**
 - **Incentives to electric vehicles (EVs)** with swappable batteries.
 - **Subsidies** to companies manufacturing swappable batteries.
 - A new **battery-as-a-service business model**.
 - **Standards for interoperable batteries**.

❖ About Battery Swapping

- It is a mechanism that **involves exchanging discharged batteries for charged ones**.
- This **provides the flexibility** to charge these batteries separately by de-linking charging and battery usage.
- It **keeps the vehicle in operational mode** with negligible downtime.
- Battery swapping is **generally used for smaller vehicles** such as two-wheelers and three-wheelers with smaller batteries that are easier to swap, compared to four-wheelers and e-buses.

❖ Battery-as-a-service Model

- Niti Aayog said battery swapping will fall under the **battery-as-a-service (BaaS) business model**.
- Such models would have to **ensure interoperability between EVs and batteries** for a successful mainstreaming of battery swapping as an alternative.
- Major battery providers will be encouraged to **sign data-sharing agreements to provide information on battery health and performance**, and to enable more flexibility to consumers through peer-to-peer roaming networks.
- The policy will only support batteries using **Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC)**, with performance that is equivalent or superior to EV batteries supported under the government's FAME-II scheme.



Face to Face Centres



News in Between the Lines

Guru Tegh Bahadur



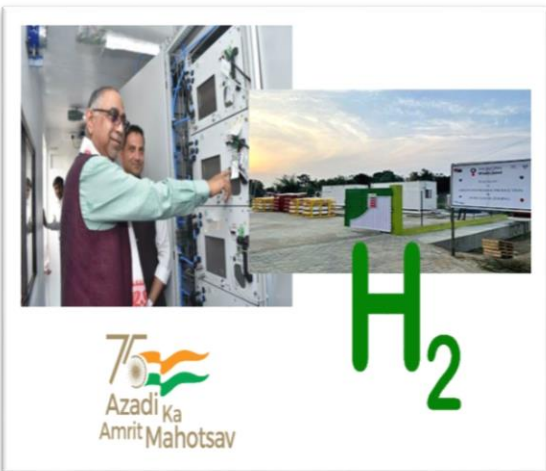
❖ Context

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort to mark the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur.
- PM Modi is the first prime minister to deliver a speech at the Mughal-era monument after sunset.

❖ About Guru Tegh Bahadur

- Born in Amritsar on April 21, 1621.
- He was the ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion. His term as Guru ran from 1665 to 1675.
- Aurangzeb was the ruling Mughal emperor at the time.
- He is often regarded as the 'Protector of Humanity' (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was trained in martial arts, swordsmanship, and horseback riding as a kid.
- Despite being a capable soldier with his father in several battles, he seems to have chosen a life of renunciation and meditation.
- He traveled widely to spread Nanak's teachings.
- One hundred and fifteen of his hymns are in Guru Granth Sahib.
- He founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab, which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib.
- He opposed forcible conversions of non-Muslims to Islam.
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.
- Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi mark the places of execution and cremation of his body.
- Inspired by him, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, finally formed the Sikh group into a separate, formal, symbol-patterned society that became known as Khalsa (Martial).

Pure Green Hydrogen Plant



❖ Context

- Recently, Oil India Limited (OIL) commissioned India's First 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam.
- The plant was commissioned in a record time of 3 months.

❖ Key Highlights

- The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array.
- The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.
- This plant has an installed capacity of 10 kg per day.
- This plant is expected to increase its production of green hydrogen from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in future.
- The company has initiated a detailed study in collaboration with IIT Guwahati on blending of Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas and its effect on the existing infrastructure of OIL.
- Side Note:
 - Nearly all of the hydrogen currently produced in India is gray hydrogen using natural gas and ammonia.
 - The government is aiming to use green hydrogen as a substitute for gray hydrogen which is used by oil refiners and fertilizer manufacturers.

Sarmat Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

❖ Context

- Recently, Russia tested its new Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Sarmat.

❖ Key Highlights

- This was the first test launch of the ICMB Sarmat after having been delayed earlier in 2021.

Face to Face Centres





- The missile will have **at least five more launches in 2022** before being inducted into the Russian military.
- ❖ **About SARMAT ICBM**
- The RS-28 Sarmat (NATO name Satan-II) is **able to carry ten or more warheads and decoys**. Weighing **more than 200 tonnes** and able to transport multiple warheads, Putin says the missile **can hit any target on Earth**.
 - The Sarmat will also be the **first Russian missile** which can **carry smaller hypersonic boost-glide vehicles**. It has the capability of firing over either of the earth's poles with a **range of 11,000 to 18,000 km**.
 - These are maneuverable and **hard to intercept**.
 - The Sarmat is a **liquid fuelled missile** as compared to US ICBMs which have moved on to solid fuel systems. Regardless of the different propulsion system, the Sarmat is supposed to **pose a significant threat to the US Missile Defense Systems** and **ground-and-satellite-based radar tracking systems** of the western powers, particularly the USA.
 - **Older ICBM of Russia-** R-36M Voyevoda ICBMs (NATO name Satan).

Karaga Festival



- ❖ **Context**
- Recently The centuries-old Karaga (temple fair) festival was **held at the Dharmaraya Swamy Temple in Bengaluru**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
- The festival **celebrates and honors Draupadi as the ideal woman and the Goddess of Strength (Shakti)**, as she emerged as a symbol of strong and ideal womanhood after all the trials and tribulations she was put through.
 - The festival is **particularly associated with the Thigala community**, a Tamil social group found in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, particularly in the city of Bengaluru and in Southern Karnataka.
 - The **meaning of 'Karaga' is a mud pot**:
 - Therefore, a **mud pot is carried on the head of a bearer** on which a tall floral pyramid and an idol of the Goddess is balanced.
 - The contents of the pot have remained a secret for centuries.
 - It is one of the **oldest festivals celebrated in the state of Karnataka** with a history of over 300 years. The festival is **celebrated annually in March or April**, or in the Chaitra month according to the Hindu calendar.
 - Every year, the festival **takes place at the Dharmaraya Swamy Temple** in Thigalarpet, Bengaluru.
 - This **night-long procession**, which is said to be the highlight of the festival, is held on the full moon night and starts from the temple around midnight.

Gulf of Gabes



- ❖ **Context**
- Recently, a **commercial oil tanker carrying over 750 tons of fuel** got aground in Southeastern Tunisia's Gulf of Gabès.
- ❖ **Gulf of Gabes**
- It is on the **east coast of Tunisia, northern Africa**. It is also known as **Lesser Syrtis**. It is **60 miles (100 km) long and 60 miles wide** and is bounded by the Qarqannah (Kerkena) Islands on the northeast and by Jarbah (Djerba) Island on the southeast.
 - Except for the Strait of Gibraltar and the Gulf of Venice, it is the **only part of the Mediterranean with a substantial tidal range (about 8 feet [2 1/2 m] at spring tides)**, causing the uncovering of extensive sandbanks at low water.
 - **Oil and natural-gas deposits have been found in the gulf**.

Hunar Haat

- ❖ **Context**
- Recently, the **40th edition of Hunar Haat** was inaugurated in Mumbai.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
- It will **bring together at least 1,000 artisans and craftsmen** from across the country. "Hunar Haat" has **offered employment to over 9 lakh artists and craftsmen** in just six years.

Face to Face Centres





- **Women craftsmen** make up more than **half of the recipients**.
- ❖ **About Hunar Haat**
 - HunarHaat is an **exhibition of handicrafts** and traditional products made by artisans from the minority communities.
 - **Theme: Vocal for Local.**
 - **Organized by: The Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD** (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.
 - **Aims:**
 - To **provide market exposure and employment opportunities** to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.
 - It envisages **boosting the skills of craftsmen, weavers and artisans** who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.

WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM)



- ❖ **Context**
 - Recently, the PM of India laid the **foundation stone of WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)** in Jamnagar.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - It is the **world's first and only Global Center for Traditional Medicine**.
 - It will have its **interim office at the Institute of Training and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) in Gujarat**.
 - This Center will be supported by an **investment of about USD 250 million** from the Government of India.
 - **Goals:**
 - To **create a database of traditional knowledge systems** using technology.
 - It will **create international standards for testing and certification** of traditional medicines so that confidence in these medicines improves.
 - GCTM should **evolve as a platform** where global experts of traditional medicines come together and share experiences.
 - GCTM should **mobilize funding for research** in the field of traditional medicines.
 - GCTM should **develop protocols for holistic treatment of specific diseases** so that patients could benefit from both traditional and modern medicine.
 - **Objective of WHO GCTM:**
 - To **harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology**.
 - To **improve the overall health** of the communities' world over.
 - The Center will highlight the potential of traditional medicine and utilize technological advancements to promote its safe and effective use.

NATPOLREX



- ❖ **Context**
 - Recently, the Union Defense Secretary inaugurated the **eighth edition of National Level Pollution Response Exercise NATPOLREX**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - It was being **conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** off Mormugao harbor in Goa. It was the **two-day marine spill preparedness exercise**.
 - NATPOLREX-VIII **enhances preparedness and response capability** of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills.
 - NATPOLREX VIII aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the **National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP)**.
 - **Side Note:**
 - Presently, as the **third largest importer of crude**, India receives large volumes of oil through ships. Similarly, India stands **sixth in the world as a major chemical importer country**.
 - Both oil and chemicals if spilled **pose inherent risks to the Maritime Zones of India** and the **Marine ecosystem**, industries and various installations along with supporting the tourism industry.

[Daily Current Affairs](#)

[Daily Pre PARE](#) [Daily MCQ Quiz](#)

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | LAXMI NAGAR : 9205212500, 9205962002 | RAJENDRA NAGAR: 9205274743 | UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | GREATER NOIDA: 9205336037, 38 | KANPUR: 7887003962, 7897003962 | GORAKHPUR : 7080847474, 9161947474 | ODISHA BHUBANESWAR: 9818244644/7656949029

