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Important News: World

European Union (EU) Digital Services Act (DSA)



Why in News

- The European Parliament and European Union (EU) Member States announced that they had reached a political agreement on the **Digital Services Act (DSA)**.

Key Points

- **Digital Services Act (DSA)** is a landmark legislation to force big Internet companies to act against disinformation and illegal and harmful content, and to “provide better protection for Internet users and their fundamental rights”.
- It seeks to end the era of self-regulation by tech companies, and give ‘practical effect to the principle that what is illegal offline, should be illegal online’.
- It will apply to a “large category of online services, from simple websites to Internet infrastructure services and online platforms.”

Background:

- The Commission made its proposal on the **Digital Services Act** on 15 December 2020, together with the proposal for the **Digital Markets Act**, on which the European Parliament and Council reached a political agreement on 22 March 2022.
- The political agreements on these two files will work together to ensure a safe, open and fair online environment in the EU.

Note: In India, a bill (Data Protection Bill 2019) on similar issue is pending in Parliament.

Source: Indian Express

Border Haat at India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya opens after two years



Why in News

- The **Border Haat** at India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya was opened after a gap of two years.

Key Points

- The decision to open the Border Haat between Balat in East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya and Lauwaghar at Dalora in Sunamganj District of Bangladesh was taken by the Joint Border Haat Management Committee.
- At present, India and Bangladesh have seven established Border Haats and nine more new Border Haats are in the pipeline.
- **Border Haats** enable local residents on both sides of the border to trade the local produce.

Note: As of 2021, India has border Haats only with 4 of its BIMSTEC neighbours, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal.

Source: newsonair

Important News: India

MoU between CSIR and iCreate to harness India's tech strength



Why in News

- The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel presided over the MoU signing between the Government of Gujarat's flagship technology incubator - **iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology)** and the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

Key Points

- Under the MoU, CSIR and iCreate intend to establish a collaborative support system for promising tech start-ups by making combined resources available for entrepreneurs and innovators in the country.
- Such start-ups will access CSIR's equipment, facilities, and scientific manpower.
- CSIR will provide intellectual property support and explore methods of financially supporting innovative start-ups from India to boost emerging entrepreneurs.

About **iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology)**:

- It is an autonomous centre of excellence of the Government of Gujarat and is India's largest institution for transforming start-ups based on tech innovation into successful businesses.
- To date it has supported over 412 innovations and 30+ patents with a high-touch, entrepreneur first model, connecting them with mentors, markets and money.

- It is home to Cisco's largest Innovation Lab in India and has partnerships with leading institutions in the US, Israel and other countries.

Startup Ecosystem in India:

- India has the 2nd largest startup ecosystem in the world.
- Around 20,000 startups in India; around 4,750 of these are technology led startups.

Other Related Initiatives:

- Startup India Seed Fund Scheme
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum
- Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge

Source: PIB

Centre scraps MP quota in Kendriya Vidyalayas, revises admission guidelines



Why in News

- The central government has scrapped the discretionary Member of Parliament (MP) quota for admissions to **Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)**, and issued revised admission guidelines.

Key Points

- Under the KVS Special Dispensation Admission Scheme, or MP quota, a Member of Parliament had the power to recommend a maximum of 10 students from their respective constituencies in every academic year for admissions in classes 1 to 9.
- Other than the MP quota, the KVS has also removed other reservations, including 100 children of education ministry employees, children and dependent grandchildren of MPs and retired KV employees, and discretionary quota of school management committee chairman, among others.

- The new quotas included 50 seats for the wards of group B and C central police organisations such as the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, CISF, NDRF, and Assam Rifles under the Union ministry of home affairs, posted for internal security, border postings.
- Besides, the KVS has also officially included children covered under the PM CARES scheme under the provisions.

Source: HT

Covaxin, Corbevax get emergency use nod for children below 12 years



Why in News

- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** grants Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) to Corbevax for those aged 5-12, Covaxin for 6-12 age group and Zycov-D for those above 12 years.

Key Points

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given Bharat Biotech's COVID vaccine Covaxin restricted emergency use authorisation for children between the age of 6-12 years.
- Further DCGI also granted emergency use authorisation to Corbevax for children between the age of 5-12 years.
- Cadila Health's ZyCoV-D has received restricted emergency use authorisation for children above the age of 12 years of age.

Note: World Immunization Week 2022 is being celebrated from 24th to 30th April 2022. The theme of 2022 is 'Long Life for All'.

Source: ET

Important News: State

Tamil Nadu passes 2 bills to take away governor's powers to name VCs



Why in News

- The Tamil Nadu assembly passed two bills to amend the laws of 13 universities to transfer the power to appoint their vice-chancellors from the governor to the state government.

Key Points

- Chief Minister M K Stalin said the state government's lack of power to appoint vice-chancellors had a huge impact on higher education.
- He pointed out that in Gujarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state government had been appointing vice-chancellors from three names recommended by a search committee.
- The proposed bills stress that “every appointment of the Vice-Chancellor shall be made by the Government from out of a panel of three names” recommended by a search-cum-selection committee.
- According to the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018, the “Visitor/Chancellor” — mostly the Governor in states — shall appoint the VC out of the panel of names recommended by search-cum-selection committees.
- Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, the President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.
- Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor.

- The Vice Chancellor too is appointed by the Visitor from panels of names picked by search and selection committees formed by the Union government.

Note: Moreover, the Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi Commission constituted by the Centre in 2007 to look into Centre-state relations had recommended that governors should not be vested with the powers to appoint the VCs since "there would be a clash of functions and powers". Nineteen states offered their remarks endorsing the commission's report.

Source: TOI

Important News: Defence

Govt amends Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 to promote 'Make in India' in military procurement



Why in News

- To further promote 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and enable Ease of Doing Business, Defence **Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** has been amended based on the approvals accorded by **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**.

Key Points

- Import of defence equipment/sourcing from Foreign Industry of capital acquisitions should only be an exception and undertaken with specific approval of DAC/Defence Minister.
- As advised by Ministry of Finance and to reduce financial burden on the Indian Defence Industry whilst maintaining financial safeguards, requirement of Integrity Pact Bank Guarantee (IPBG) has been dispensed with.

- Further, as per extant Government of India policy, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is not required from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- To create an ecosystem which fosters innovation and encourages technology development in Defence by engaging R&D institutes, academia, industries, startups and individual innovators, the **iDEX framework** was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2018.
- To enable the budding startup talent pool of the country to contribute towards the twin mantras of self-sufficiency and indigenization, the procurement process under iDEX procedure of DAP 2020 has been simplified.
- Make-II procedure of DAP-2020, involving indigenisation of defence equipment through industry funded projects at prototype development stage, has been simplified by incorporating Single Stage Composite Trials of prototypes and dispensing off with quantity vetting and scaling for initial procurements in the delegated cases.

Source: India Today

Important News: Important Days

April 28, World Day for Safety and Health at Work



Why in News

- World Day for Safety and Health at Work is a UN international day that is celebrated every April 28.

Key Points

- The World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2022 focuses on enhancing social dialogue towards a culture of safety and health.

- It is concerned about safe work and awareness of the dimensions and consequences of work-related accidents and diseases; to place **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)** on the international and national agendas.
- World Day for Safety and Health at Work was first celebrated by the **International Labour Organization(ILO)** in 2003.

Source: un.org

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