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Social Issues

Orientation Programme on POSH Act

• **Held in –** Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
• **Aim –** To equip employees with a deeper understanding of not only the legal provisions of the Act but also its broader purpose, to promote a culture of dignity and equality at the workplace.

POSH Act

• **POSH –** Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, 2013.
• **Enacted in line with –** The Supreme Court's landmark *Vishaka judgment* to ensure a safe, secure and dignified workplace for women.
• **Aim –** To provide a comprehensive legal framework to prevent, prohibit and redress incidents of sexual harassment, clearly defining the offence and outlining the responsibilities of employers to ensure compliance.
• **Directives –** The establishment of *Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs)* in organisations with *10 or more employees.*
• It emphasises not only a structured redressal mechanism but also proactive measures such as awareness, sensitisation and capacity-building.
• **Significance –** It seeks to foster a gender-sensitive, respectful and equitable work environment for all employees.

National Haj Conference

• It brought together the Executive Officers of all State and UT Haj Committees for a comprehensive review of preparations for Haj 2026.
• **Conducted by –** Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA).
• **Key agenda –**
  - Accommodation & Logistics
  - Transportation & Baggage Handling
  - Training of Haj Assistants and Inspectors
  - Medical Preparedness
• **Aim –** To identify gaps, streamline processes, and enhance inter-agency collaboration to ensure that Haj 2026 is conducted with the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and care.

Haj Pilgrims

• **HAJ –** In Islam, the pilgrimage to the *holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia*, which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his or her lifetime.
• The hajj is the *5th of the fundamental Muslim practices* and institutions known as the 5 Pillars of Islam.
• **5 pillars of Islam**
  - Shahada (Faith)
  - Salah (Prayer)
  - Zakat (Charity)
  - Sawm (Fasting)
  - Hajj (Pilgrimage)
• **Begins on –** 7th day of Dhū al-Ḥijjah (the last month of the Islamic year) and ends on the 12th day.
• **India –** Our country sends more than 1,75,000 Haj pilgrims every year.
• The Haj Committee of India (HCoI), under the aegis of MoMA, works throughout the year to streamline facilitation, coordination, and service delivery for pilgrims.

Polity & Governance

Digital verification systems

SFIO has instituted the following set of technical and procedural safeguards to prevent impersonation or misuse of Summons/Notices.
• **Summons/Notices –** These are digitally generated and contain a QR code and a unique document identification number (DIN).
• **Issued by –** Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
• **Legal status –** Section 217 of the Companies Act, 2013.
• The officers of SFIO are mandated to issue *only digitally generated Summons/Notices* except in certain rare and exceptional circumstances.
• **Authenticity through 2 options**
  - Option 1 – Verification by scanning QR code.
  - Option 2 – Verification through SFIO's website.
• **Objectives –** To help the receiver to instantly verify the authenticity of the communication received.
• To enhance oversight, a transparent multi-layer review mechanism.

Economy

UPI–TIPS link

Recently, RBI, European Central Bank agree to start realisation phase for UPI–TIPS link.
• **Agreement between –** RBI & NPCI International Payments Ltd on one hand and European Central Bank on the other.
• **Objectives –** To operationalize the UPI–TIPS link, including technical integration, risk management and settlement arrangements.
• To interlink UPI with fast payment systems of other jurisdictions *to promote cross-border payments.*
• **Significance –** It aligns with the *G-20 Roadmap* for enhancing cross-border payments, with a focus on cheaper, efficient, more transparent and more accessible remittances.

TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS)

• **TIPS –** It is a market infrastructure service launched by the Eurosystem in November 2018.
• **Aim –** It enables payment service providers to offer fund transfers to their customers in real time and around the clock, every day of the year.
• **Instant Transfer –** Individuals and firms can transfer money between each other within seconds, irrespective of the opening hours of their local bank.

New Series of National Accounts

MoSPI invites comments/ feedback from experts and users of national accounts data on the discussion paper.

• **Discussion Paper on –** "Methodological Improvements in Compilation of National Accounts Aggregates Using Production/ Income Approach"
• **Base year –** *FY 2022-23* has been chosen as the base year of new series
• **Scheduled to be released on –** 27th February, 2026.
• **Aim –** To improve the estimates of National Accounts and the methodology for compilation and presentation of National Accounts Statistics for purposes of economic analysis and policy formulation.

Security

Comprehensive Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach

• **Conducted by –** Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
• **Held along –** The Maharashtra & Goa coastline.
• **Deployment –** Indian Navy and ICG ships, ICG Dornier aircraft, Chetak helicopters and Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs).
• Marine Police boats, Customs & CISF craft and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) resources.
• **Coverage –** A wide spectrum of *19 central and 13 state agencies*, along with the involvement of *1 major port, 21 minor ports* and district-level coastal authorities.
• It ensured comprehensive coverage of *both sea and shore responses.*
• **Objectives –**
• To assess the preparedness of all participating agencies in handling coastal security emergencies.
• To prevent attacks on vital coastal installations and further strengthening the *multi-layered Coastal Security Network.*
• To enhance synergy among central and state stakeholders responsible for coastal and maritime security.

Annual Meeting of Joint Electro Magnetic Board (JEMB)

• **Conducted by –** Integrated Defence Staff.
• **Aim –** To achieve synergy in Joint Operations by the 3 Services.
• **Coverage to –** The multiple agendas including enforcing Jointness & Integration in the fields of Electronic Warfare, Electromagnetic Interference/Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMI/EMC) and Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations (CUAS Ops), Harnessing Emerging Technologies and Spectrum Management.
• **Highlights –** The demonstration of *Electromagnetic Battlespace Management System* to ensure efficient exploitation of spectrum at the *Tactical Battlefield Area (TBA).*
• **Released –** *Technical News Letter (TNL) 2025*, a vital document which talks about future technologies that have potential to revolutionise the modern warfare.

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