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Polity & Governance

Fresh Application Module for Notary Appointments

Union law minister launched online fresh application module for notary appointments recently.

- A ***notary*** *is a state-appointed official* who witnesses important document signings and verifies signers' identities to deter fraud.
- **Developed by** – Department of Legal Affairs in association with National Informatics Centre.
- **Launched under** –
  - Notaries Act, 1952.
  - Notaries Rules, 1956.
- **Application** – *Through Notary Portal*.
- **Objectives** –
  - To seamlessly integrate with existing portal.
  - To incorporate automated workflows
  - To ensure smooth and efficient processing of applications.
  - To promote a paperless, transparent and citizen-centric system of governance.
- **Significance** – It help realizing the *vision of Digital India*.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

Cabinet approves ₹30,000 crore additional investment in NIIF for new fund creation recently.

- NIIF is India's *sovereign-anchored alternative asset manager*.
- **Established in** – 2015.
- **Ownership** – Government *holds a 49% equity*.
- *Other 51% is held by marquee global and domestic investors.*
  - These include the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Temasek, Australian Super, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- **Type** – Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) registered with SEBI.
- **Assets managed by** – National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL).
- **Objective** – To *channel long-term domestic and international institutional capital* into the country's growth sectors.

Model State Cinema Regulations

Recently, Information & Broadcasting Minister has set up a high-level study group taking structural measures to bolster film industry.

- **Group composition** –
  - **Chaired by** – Information & Broadcasting Minister
  - **Members** – Industry experts and technology partners.
- **Objectives** –
  - To identify best practices.
  - To recommend policy framework for the long-term growth of Indian cinema.
  - To strengthen production, distribution, and technological integration.
- **Significance** – It contributes to growth of cinema infrastructure *especially in small towns and rural areas*.
- **Note** – *Regulation of cinemas and theatres are under the **State list***.
  - States follow different rules for various permissions required.

Agriculture

Expansion of Lavender Cultivation

- **Location in –** Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Part of –** Purple Revolution, supported under *CSIR-Aroma Mission.*
- **Key Highlights**
  - It provides farmers with an *alternative high-value cash crop.*
  - Essential oils produced are used in *perfumes, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and aromatherapy.*
  - It generates employment opportunities through value addition, processing, and tourism linked to lavender fields.

CSIR-Aroma Mission.

- **Launched by –** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- **Focus on –** Cultivation, processing, and value addition of aromatic crops.
- **Objectives**
  - To promote scientific cultivation of aromatic plants.
  - To strengthen market linkages for farmers.
  - To enhance livelihoods and rural entrepreneurship through aromatic crop value chains.
- **Significance**
  - It generates employment, rural livelihood opportunities, and agri-tourism.
  - It forms the backbone of the Purple Revolution in Jammu & Kashmir.

Economy

Second National Seafood Skill Olympiad

The Second National Seafood Skill Olympiad to be organised during Seafood Expo Bharat 2026.

- **Part of –** *Seafood Expo Bharat 2026*
- **Organised by** – *Marine Products Export Development Authority*.
- **Nodal ministry** – *Ministry of Commerce and Industry*.
- **Highlights** – 50 nationwide seafood value addition training programmes has been conducted.
- **Programme structure** –
  - *State-Level Skill Olympiads conducted across the coastal states.*
  - Top 10 performers from regional competitions qualified for the grand finale.
- **Prize** –
  - First Prize – Rs.1,00,000
  - Second Prize – Rs.75,000
  - Third Prize – Rs.50,000
- **Significance** – It bring together 5,000 global stakeholders for business and technology exchange.

Seafood Expo Bharat 2026

- **Venue –** Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Showcases** –
  - India’s capabilities in sustainable seafood production *for both domestic and international markets*.
  - Exhibitors, delegates, and trade visitors – offering a unique opportunity to experience seafood sector.
- **Objectives** –
  - To showcase their expertise in preparing value-added seafood products.
  - To promote innovation, recognise industry talent.
  - To strengthen workforce development in India's seafood processing sector.
  - To encourage greater value addition in marine exports.
- **Significance** – It fosters progress in key areas like
  - Traceability.
  - quality improvement.
  - Stronger value chain linkages.
  - Seafood exports.

Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

- It is an Indian statutory body *under MPEDA Act 1971.*
- **Headquarters** – Kochi, Kerala.
- **Nodal ministry** – *Ministry of Commerce and Industry.*
- **Objective** – *To regulate and promote the export of marine products*.
- **Significance** – It acts as the nodal agency for the holistic growth of the country’s seafood industry.

Security

"Baaz Battalions"

The recent developments in 'Baaz Battalions' enhances security in remote areas.

- **"Baaz Battalions"** – It is a *Specialised drone unit*.
- **Established by** – ***Indian Army***.
- **Objectives** –
  - To strengthen battlefield surveillance.
  - To improve intelligence gathering.
  - To enhance rapid response through a specialised drone force.
- **Significance** – This initiative *fosters complete Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) capability.*

Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Programme (WASP)

Recently the 5th edition of WASP has been held.

- It is an intensive Professional Military Education (PME) initiative by the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- **Launched in** – 2022
- **Organizers** –
  - Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)
  - College of Air Warfare (CAW).
- **Designed to** –
  - To cultivate critical thinking.
  - To develop strategic planning.
  - To improve intellectual depth across the armed forces.
  - To focuses on analytical reading, intensive discourse with subject matter experts.
- **Objectives –**
  - To *prepare mid-ranking officers* through politico-military layers.
  - *To fosters* "*Scholar Warriors*" understanding modern warfare concepts (including AI).
  - To produce leaders capable of moving across domains and linking strategic intent to executable plans

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