

# NEWS TODAY

## UNION HOME MINISTER HIGHLIGHTED WAYS FOR ENHANCING EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-TERRORISM AGENCIES (ATAs)

• Minister while addressing the **anti-terror conference** organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) calls for measures to ensure **new terrorist organisations cannot be formed**.

### • Key suggestion

➤ **Model anti-terrorism structure:** It should be established **under the NIA for all the states**

- At present, **different ATAs** are working at the **central and State level**

➤ **Uniformity in State ATAs:** State ATAs should have a uniform hierarchy, and standard operating procedure **to ensure better coordination** between Central and State agencies.

➤ **Use of Data:** All ATAs should make multidimensional and Artificial Intelligence-based use of the database in order to make the fight against terrorism more successful.

### • Key Anti-terrorism agencies (ATAs) in India

➤ **Centre:** ATAs under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** are:

- **NIA** is the **Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency** constituted under the **NIA Act, 2008** (after the Mumbai terror attack).

○ Its operation extends to the **whole of India and also applies to Indian in foreign territories**.

- **National Security Guard (NSG):** Also known as **Balck Cats**. NSG is a **special force** to deal with anti-terrorist activities.

➤ **State:**

- **Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS):** Specialized **counterterrorism units** in various state police
- **Special Task Force (STF):** Constituted by states to deal with **organized crime, terror financing, etc.**

## INDIA'S EFFORT FOR COUNTERTERRORISM

• **NATGRID** is conceptualised as a **seamless and secure database** for **information on terrorists**, economic crimes and similar incidents.

### • Global Level

➤ Proposed a draft document on the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)** at the **UN** in 1986.

➤ India is a **member of The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**.

➤ India is a member of The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** which is the **global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog**.

## 500<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF VEERANGANA RANI DURGAVATI CELEBRATED

• **Rani Durgavati** was **born in Chandel Dynasty of Mahoba** in Banda, UP and was married to **Dalpatshah of Gond Dynasty of Garha-Katanga** in 1542.

• She took reins of the **Gond Dynasty** in **1550** after Dalpatshah's death as the guardian of her son Veer Narayan.

### • Contributions:

➤ She constructed **reservoirs** such as Ranital, Cherital and Adhartal and **moved the Capital to Chauragarh** (from Singaugarh) on the strategic Satpura Hill Range.

➤ She allowed **Acharya Bitthalnath** to establish a seat of the **Pushtimarg Cult** at Garha.

➤ **Tarikh-i-Firishta** mentions Durgavati **defeated Baz Bahadur, the ruler of Malwa**.

• During her reign, **Akbar** attacked the Gond Empire under the leadership of **Asaf Khan**.

• Story of Durgavati was chronicled by **Abul Fazl (Akbar's chronicler)** and **British Colonel, Sleeman**.

### • Chandela dynasty

➤ Chandel were an **Indian Rajput clan** of Central India (**Jejakabhukti dynasty**) founded by **Nanuka** in **835 CE**.

➤ The capital city was **Khajuraho** (later changed to **Mahoba**)

### ➤ Contributions:

- **Temples of Khajuraho** were built in the mid-10th century.

- Contributed to the **rich heritage of Bundelkhand** and buildings of public use like **Sun temple in Mahoba** and multiple temples inside of Kalinjar Fort.



• 24th of June each year is celebrated as 'Balidan Divas' in honour of the Rani.

# US BASED FREEDOM HOUSE RELEASES ITS ANNUAL REPORT TITLED FREEDOM ON THE NET 2023: THE REPRESSIVE POWER OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

## ● Key findings of the report:

- Generative AI tools (that can generate text, audio, and imagery) threaten to **supercharge online disinformation campaigns**.
  - Such tools have quickly grown more sophisticated, accessible, and easy to use.
  - At least **47 governments deployed commentators to manipulate online discussions** in their favor during the coverage period, double the number from a decade ago.
- AI has allowed governments to **enhance and refine their online censorship**.
  - Legal frameworks in at least 21 countries mandate or incentivize digital platforms to deploy machine **learning to remove disfavored political, social, and religious speech**.

## ● Recommendations for protecting internet freedom

- **Regulate AI** with a roadmap based on learned experiences from the past (see infographic).
- Establish **strong human rights based standards** for both state and non-state actors that deploy AI tools.
- Need for **addressing long-standing threats** to privacy, free expression.
- **Strengthening legal requirements** for transparency, data privacy and platform responsibility.
- Government surveillance must be **legal, necessary, and proportionate**.



# CAPTURING THE RESILIENCE DIVIDEND REPORT RELEASED BY THE COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI)

## ● Key highlight of the report

- **Climate change may lead to an estimated global average annual loss (AAL) in infrastructure sectors of about 14 % of GDP.**
- **Half of this contingent liability is held by** low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).
- India's **central and state governments currently finance over 75 percent of urban infrastructure** with very low private participation.

● **Importance of risk estimation:** To clarify the economic case for investing in resilience, help identify the most effective strategies, etc.

- **The Global Infrastructure Risk Model and Resilience Index (GIRI)** is used to estimate risk for infrastructure assets with respect to most major geological and climate-related hazards.

## ● Challenges to Mobilizing Finance for Resilient Infrastructure

- Building resilience often requires higher upfront costs.
- There is no common agreed way to measure resilience.

## ● Way forward

- **Private capital investment** in infrastructure should be increased.
- **Standardization and certifications** of resilient infrastructure.
- **Integrating Nature-based Infrastructure Solutions** into national and local planning.
  - In India, the **integration of NbIS can be targeted through the State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC)**.



**Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**

**Secretariat:** New Delhi.

**Genesis:** India launched CDRI at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.



**Members:** 31 countries and 8 organisations.



**About:** It is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, etc.



**Aim:** To promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

# MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS RELEASED ANNUAL CAPACITY BUILDING PLANS (ACBP) FOR 6 PILOT URBAN LOCAL BODIES (ULBs)

● The ACBP was launched for ULBs of **Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru, Rajkot, Nagpur, and Pune**.

- ACBP is a **comprehensive document** detailing all the **interventions required to develop and enhance the competencies of officials** within that organization.

▪ **Capacity Building Commission** under the **Mission Karmayogi** aims to build the capacity of **government officials across Centre, States, and local bodies**.

● The ministry also launched a **Comprehensive Toolkit for preparing the Capacity Building Plans** for ULBs.

## ● Need for capacity building of ULBs

- Increasing **complexities** of urban administration.
- **Quick depletion** of knowledge and skills due to innovations
- **Lack of appropriate institutional framework** for capacity building
- **Lack of specialization** among ULBs

● Under the **74th Constitution Amendment Act**, of 1992 **ULBs are instituted as the third tier of governance**. However, they **suffer from:**

- **Lack of autonomy** from states.
- Excessive **dependence on states for funding**.
  - Securities and Exchange Board of India has urged ULBs to **raise money through issuance of municipal bonds** (debt instruments with fixed maturity period).
- **Lack of necessary manpower and accountability** among functionaries.



# MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS DECLARED 'JAMMU AND KASHMIR DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM PARTY' AS AN 'UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATION' UNDER UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT (UAPA) 1967

• UAPA was enacted **for effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations, for dealing with terrorist activities**, and for matters connected therewith

## • Key provisions

- Offences are **cognizable** (arrest could be made without a warrant).
- **Penalty: Death or imprisonment for life**, and shall also be liable to a **fine** if such act has resulted in the death of any person
- **Unlawful Association**

- **Declaration of an association unlawful:** By the Centre through an official gazette notification, **by specifying the grounds**.
- **Reference to Tribunal:** On the declaration of being unlawful, the notification should be **referred to Tribunal** within **30 days**.
  - Tribunal consists of **one person (a Judge of a High Court)**.
- **Other powers to centre**
  - to **prohibit the use of** funds of an unlawful association
  - To **notify places** used for the purpose of an unlawful association.

## ➤ Terrorist act:

- **Definition:** It includes any act **intended to threaten** the **unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India** or **strike terror people in India or in any foreign country** among others.
- **Forfeiture of proceeds of terrorism:** By the Investigating officer with the prior approval of the **designated authority**.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995

- **The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has notified amendments in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994
  - It provides the operational mechanism for implementation of the **decriminalized provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995**.
- **Aim:** to make the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, of 1995 more business-friendly and to boost investor confidence and ease of doing business.
- Sections of the act were re-examined and were decriminalized through **the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provision) Act, 2023**.
  - **The imprisonment provisions** have been now replaced with monetary penalties and other non-monetary measures like Advisory, Warning, etc.



### Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group

- India supports **OSCE Minsk Group** for a peaceful resolution of the **conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh region**.
  - **OSCE** is the **world's largest regional security organization** with **57 participating states**.
- **About OSCE Minsk Group:**
  - Established in **1994**, it is co-chaired by **France, Russia, and the United States**.
  - Its **permanent members** are **Belarus, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Finland, and Turkey**, as well as **Armenia and Azerbaijan**.



### India-UAE agreements






- Agreement signed during a meeting of the **UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force (JTF) on Investments** include:
  - MoU for cooperation in the fields of **Industry and Advanced Technology** with focus on **seven key areas**.
  - Agreement between Al Etihad Payments and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) to develop the **UAE's Domestic Card Scheme (DCS)**.
    - DCS solution provided by NIPL consists of a **RuPay stack** and value-added services like fraud monitoring services and analytics.
- **JTF** was established in **2013** to promote **trade, investment and economic ties** between both countries.



### Services Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

- Services PMI, grew to 13 year high in September according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.
  - The growth in services in September was due to **effective marketing, favorable demand, and improved new businesses**.
- The PMI is a **survey-based indicator based** on the responses of around 400 service companies released by S&P global.



 <p><b>Over The Top (OTT) Platform</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)</b> held that OTT streaming platforms do not fall under the <b>jurisdiction of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reason for the order is that the OTT platform <b>does not require any permission or a license from the Union</b> government.</li> <li>They are governed under the <b>Information Technology Rules, 2021</b>, notified by the IT Ministry.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>TDSAT</b> was formed in <b>2000 by amending the TRAI Act of 1997</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It adjudicates disputes and appeals with a view to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabinet <b>increased subsidy</b> under the PMUY to <b>300</b> from the current 200.</li> <li><b>About PMUY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched in:</b> 2016</li> <li><b>Ministry:</b> Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To make <b>clean cooking fuel such as LPG available</b> to the rural and deprived households.</li> <li><b>Ujjwala 2.0:</b> Additional allocation of <b>1.6 Crore LPG Connections</b> under PMUY Scheme with <b>special facility to migrant households</b>.</li> <li>Recently PMUY was extended to <b>add new 75 lakh LPG connections</b> from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Protein binders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FSSAI has clarified addition of <b>protein binders</b> or any other additives in dairy products is not permitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protein binders are <b>biological research reagents</b> which bind to a specific target protein to manufacture a wide range of new food products.</li> <li>Protein binding can enhance or detract performance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Protein binding is known to <b>affect the digestibility of the protein-bond</b> and thus can <b>affect the biological and nutritive value of milk protein</b>.</li> <li><b>Milk Protein</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a good source for <b>essential amino acids</b>.</li> <li><b>Milk proteins are easily digestible and do not contain any anti-nutritional factors</b> unlike many plant based proteins.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Nobel for literature</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Norway's Jon Fosse</b> won the Nobel Prize for Literature "for his <b>innovative plays and prose</b> which give <b>voice to the unsayable</b>."</li> <li>His works include the <b>Septology series of novels</b> (a semi-biography), <b>Aliss at the Fire</b>, <b>Melancholy</b> and <b>A Shining</b>.</li> <li>The <b>Nobel Prize in Literature</b> is awarded by the <b>Swedish Academy, Stockholm</b>.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Places in news</b></p>	<p><b>Pangong Tso lake</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pangong Lake (at 4,350m height) is an <b>endorheic (landlocked) lake in Leh Ladakh</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the <b>world's highest saltwater lake</b>.</li> <li>It falls in the <b>Eastern Ladakh and West Tibet (1/3rd of the lake lies in India and remaining 2/3rd in China)</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>It is also known to <b>change colors</b> (appears blue, green and red at different times).</li> <li>It is <b>not a part of the Indus River basin</b>.</li> <li>Formerly, Pangong lake had an <b>outlet to Shyok River</b> (tributary of Indus) but it was closed off due to natural damming.</li> </ul>