

Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter MK III squadron commissioned

(GS Paper 3, Defence)

Why in news?

- Recently, **835 Squadron (CG)**, an indigenous **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III squadron**, was commissioned into Indian Coast Guard at its Air Enclave in Porbandar, Gujarat.
- The commissioning of this squadron marks a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of Search and Rescue (SAR) and maritime surveillance, in line with Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.



Key features of ALH MK III helicopters:

- The ALH MK III helicopters have been **indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- They feature state-of-the-art equipment including **advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors**, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as SAR homer.
- The features enable them to undertake maritime reconnaissance as well as carry out SAR at extended ranges even while operating from ships during both day and night.
- The aircraft has the **ability to switch roles from an offensive platform with heavy machine gun** to that of a benign one **carrying a Medical Intensive Care Unit** to facilitate transfer of critically ill patients.

Background:

- So far, 13 ALH MK-III aircraft have been inducted in the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned at Porbandar.

Telangana got world's largest innovation Campus T-Hub 2.0

(GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)

Why in news?

- Recently, Telangana Chief Minister inaugurated the new T-Hub 2.0, an incubation facility to boost business and innovation in the state.

- The business incubator facility has been developed to boost the technology innovation ecosystem in the state and attract new investments.
- The first T-Hub was launched on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, under the name of Catalyst on an area of 70,000 square feet.



What is T-hub 2.0?

- T-Hub 2.0 has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 276 crore in an area covering 5.82 lakh square feet and the building has been designed by a Korean company.
- The multi-storied building being inaugurated at Raidurg in Hitec City has been divided into 10 floors that will house different centers to promote an innovation ecosystem.
- The new facility is on its way to becoming the world's largest innovation campus.
- While one of the floors will be dedicated solely to venture capitalists, other floors will house a state innovation cell to promote rural talent, a center of excellence in cyber security, a center for innovation and entrepreneurship, along with representation from the Dept of Science and Technology, Atal Innovative Mission on Artificial Intelligence.

Focus:

- T-Hub 2.0 will focus on Incubation and acceleration while also providing support to startups, giving mentorship, and bringing in a global pool of experts.
- T-Hub has supported nearly 1100 startups since 2015 and raised 10,000 crores through funding. 215 startup companies will be shifting their base of operations from the old building to T-Hub 2.0.

Way Forward:

- The government has indicated that in the coming time, the T-Hub will have five regional centers spread out in Warangal, Khammam, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, and Mahabubnagar.

China to set up first solar power plant in space by 2028

(GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- After successfully returning samples from the Moon, landing, and roving on Mars in their first attempt, China is set to launch the first solar-powered plant in space.
- The project is already in its initial stages and the agency aims to launch it by 2028.

Significance:

- The solar space station aims at converting solar energy into electricity and microwaves.
- They can be used to power the moving satellites in orbit and may direct the energy beams to Earth at fixed locations through a wireless power transmission.



Key Highlights:

- The solar station will be **capable of transporting solar energy to Earth**.
- The Space Solar Power Station is likely to be a **hotspot technology** that will be used in the ongoing project of the expedition to Space for power generation.
- The power plant will have a capacity of 10 kilowatts.

Component of OMEGA:

- A look-alike plant is set up at Xidian University by university students and researchers. The tall structure, about 75 meters in height, constitutes five subsystems that look into the solar power arrays.
- The project is a component of OMEGA (Orb-Shape Membrane Energy Gathering Array), a plan for solar energy generation from space that was unveiled in 2014.
- After successfully establishing itself in geostationary orbit, OMEGA's ultimate objective is to store solar energy.
- Its conversion to electrical energy is the following process. The final stage is to send it to Earth.

'Dak Karmayogi' portal

(GS Paper 2, Governance)

Why in news?

- Recently, 'Dak Karmayogi', an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts was launched.

'Minimum Government' and 'Maximum Governance':

- This portal has been developed 'In-House' under vision of 'Mission Karmayogi', which was conceptualized by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with a view to bring efficiency in actions of all the employees of Government of India and transforming efficiency of bureaucracy with 'Minimum Government' and 'Maximum Governance'.



Functions:

- 'Dak Karmayogi' portal will enhance the competencies of about 4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks & Departmental employees by enabling the trainees to access the uniform standardized training content online or in blended campus mode to enable them to effectively deliver a number of G2C services for enhanced customer satisfaction.
- On successful completion of final summative assessment, a system generated course completion certificate will be sent on trainee's registered email ID automatically.
- Trainees can give their feedback, ratings and suggestions for each and every video and other learning content so that necessary enrichment can be ensured.

'Any-time, Any-where' training:

- Department of Posts has been imparting training to its employees through its network of 10 Postal Training Centres/Regional Training Centre and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy (RAKNPA), a Central Training Institute.
- However, with the launch of this portal, Departmental employees and Gramin Dak Sevaks will be able to **avail training 'Any-time, Any-where'** and upgrade their Attitude, Skill and Knowledge (ASK), as per their convenience.

Meghdoot Awards:

- To recognise the good performance of employees of Department of Posts and motivate them to maintain or improve their good work, Meghdoot Awards were also conferred in eight different categories.

- Meghdoot Award was introduced in the year 1984. This is the highest award of Department of Posts at National level for overall performance and excellence. This award is conferred in eight categories. Awardees are conferred with medallion, certificate and cash award of Rs. 21,000/-.

PADMA, the Centralised Pay System for Indian Coast Guard launched

(GS Paper 3, Defence)

Why in news?

- Recently, **Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA)**, an automated Pay & Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard was inaugurated by Ministry of Defence.



What is PADMA?

- PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursal of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- This module has been **developed under the aegis of Defense Accounts Department** and will be operated by Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.

Promoting E-Governance:

- The Government has campaigned for Digital India to ensure dedicated services and reduce manual intervention at every level & to promote E-Governance in a big way.
- Launch of PADMA will strengthen the Digital India concept.
- Also, it is an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative as the entire module has been designed and developed by Indian entrepreneurs assisted by domain experts.