

## IMPRINT AND SPARC

- IMPacting Research, Innovation, and Technology (IMPRINT) is a unique technology development initiative of the Government of India through the Ministry of Human resource Development (MHRD) for the translation of research knowledge into viable technology (products and processes)
- The maiden version of IMPRINT was launched in November 2015 by the Honourable President and Prime Minister of India.
- Encouraged by the widespread enthusiasm and utility, the next version, called IMPRINT II was launched as a joint effort of MHRD and the Department of Science & Technology (DST) (steered by the Science and Engineering Research Board, SERB) in April 2018.
- among investigators, partners, and collaborators.
- It is also realized and appreciated that IMPRINT II should be more inclusive by expanding the catchment of implementing institutions, by adopting a more demand-driven strategy for evolving solutions, and by incorporating the specific externalities of the states of India so as to make translation and adaptation of technology easier for the end users.
- SERB (Science and Engineering Research Board) in the Department of Science & Technology (DST) is the nodal agency for implementing the IMPRINT II initiative working along with the National Coordinator.

### (SPARC)

- The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) is a Ministry of Human Resource Development initiative that aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
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- IMPRINT has now graduated into the next edition, IMPRINT II, with a wider scope, simpler guidelines for participation, and better synergy

Institutions [overall top-100 or category-wise top-100 in NIRF (including such Private Institutions which are recognized under 12(B) of UGC Act)] and the best institutions in the world.

### **What are the high seas?**

- A set of 5 Thrust Areas (Fundamental Research, Emergent Areas of Impact, Convergence, Action-Oriented Research and Innovation-Driven) and sub-theme areas in each thrust area has been identified for collaboration under SPARC based on emergent relevance and importance for the nation.

### **THE HINDU**

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### **BORDER TOURISM**

- The Government of India has made unprecedented efforts to build border infrastructure.
- It has also announced plans to open villages along the northern border for tourists under the Vibrant Villages Programme
- Apart from the infrastructure deficit, even adventure sports, mountaineering and related commercial activities are subject to cumbersome security procedures and permits, often by multiple agencies.

### **Border Tourism Potential**

- Similarly, the Pangong Lake in Ladakh is a tourist's paradise.
- The area around Pangong Lake and Chushul is a delight for photographers and birdwatchers.
- In the Changthang wildlife sanctuary, there are wetlands and a thriving population of the Kiang, a wild ass. Lhari Peak is sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists.
- In Sikkim, the region around Doka La is ripe for tourism. Pedong, Nathang Valley, Zuluk, Kupup, Baba Harbhajan Mandir, and the Yak Gold Course, the highest golf course in the world, is nearby. Conducted tours, including trekking expeditions up to Batang La, could be a start.
- In the eastern sector, the Bum La Pass in Arunachal Pradesh is already a well-established tourism hub. There is scope to bring in more tourists all the way up to Zero Point, the site of border personnel meetings with China
- The Walong area in Anjaw district is the site of the Battle of Walong. Facilities along the stretch covering Walong, Dong, Kibithu, and Kaho could showcase India's military history and tourism.

### **Steps**

- The military's deployment still remains the mainstay of livelihood

for local residents in many remote places.

- This should change in favor of commercial activity, including tourism.
- The priority should be to build all-weather roads, rest houses, restrooms, fuel pumps, health clinics, electricity (preferably solar and wind energy), telecom towers, and medical facilities in suitable areas.
- While the vast tourism potential of India's border areas need to be tapped, it is equally important to ensure that tourism projects are implemented after conducting feasibility studies. Unbridled construction in violation of norms leads to subsidence in the Himalayan belt.



**THE HINDU**

## Disease Management



- Integrative medicine uses an evidence-based approach to treat the whole person your mind, body, and soul.
- Your physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs are all involved, so integrative medicine uses a combination of therapies
- It “integrates” conventional approaches and complementary therapies to achieve optimal health and healing.

### What type of providers deliver integrative medicine?

- A variety of healthcare providers delivers care through integrative medicine. These providers may include:
  - Physicians.
  - Chiropractic doctors.
  - Holistic mind-body psychotherapists.
  - Acupuncturists.
  - Chinese herbal therapists.
  - Tai chi practitioners.
  - Yoga practitioners.

- Massage therapists.
- Nutritionists.
- Chefs (culinary medicine).

## THE HINDU

### Open Road for Russians

- Russia's Wagner mercenary group claimed to have captured the eastern bank of Bakhmut, the industrial town in east Ukraine where fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces has raged for months.



### What are the Nord Stream pipelines?

- The \$7.1 (€7.4) billion Nord Stream 1 subsea pipeline has been operational since 2011, and is the largest single supply route for Russian gas to Europe.

- The Russian state-owned gas company Gazprom has a majority ownership in the pipeline
- While 40% of Europe's pipeline gas came from Russia before the war, the number now stands at just 9%.
- The construction of the \$11 billion-worth Nord Stream 2 was completed in 2021 but never began commercial operations.

### Nord Stream Pipelines

- The pipelines were unlikely to provide any gas to Europe in the forthcoming winter months, even if the political will to resume supply was found.
- European gas prices spiked after reports of the leaks emerged;
- European Benchmark prices rose 12% on Tuesday, while Dutch and British Prices continued to rise on Wednesday.
- Reuters quoted the commercial methane-measuring satellite firm GHGSat as saying that a "conservative estimate" based on available data suggested that the leaks together were releasing more than 500 metric tonnes of methane per hour when first breached,



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- Methane is the primary contributor to the formation of ground-level ozone, a hazardous air pollutant and greenhouse gas, exposure to which causes 1 million premature deaths every year. Methane is also a powerful greenhouse gas.

**THE HINDU**