

Bastille Day

- Marching contingents of the three Services and a military band, making up a total of 242 personnel, will take part in the French Bastille Day parade on July 14 in Paris. Three Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be part of the flypast
- Bastille Day is the common name given in English-speaking countries to the national day of France, which is celebrated on 14 July each year. In French, it is formally called the Fête nationale française (French: [fɛt nasjonal]; "French National Celebration"); legally it is known as le 14 Juillet
- The French National Day is the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789, a major event of the French Revolution, as well as the Fête de la Fédération that celebrated the unity of the French people on 14 July 1790.
- Celebrations are held throughout France. One that has been reported as "the oldest and largest military parade in Europe"[is held on 14 July on the Champs-Élysées in Paris in front of the President of the Republic, along with other French officials and foreign guests
- The Storming of the Bastille occurred in Paris, France, on 14 July 1789, when revolutionary insurgents stormed and seized control of the medieval armory, fortress, and political prison known as the Bastille.
- At the time, the Bastille represented royal authority in the center of Paris. The prison contained only seven inmates at the time of its storming, but was seen by the revolutionaries as a symbol of the monarchy's abuse of power; its fall was the flashpoint of the French Revolution.

THE HINDU

PM PRANAM

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the PM- PRANAM (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth) scheme, a promise made in the last Budget
- The Yojana stands for Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PRANAM).
- The scheme is to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced

use of chemical fertilizers. This scheme seeks to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers in the states.

- The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be financed by the “savings of existing fertilizer subsidy” under schemes run by the Department of Fertilizers,
- 50% subsidy savings will be given as a grant to the state that saves the money.
- Out of the total grant given to the state under the scheme, 70% can be used for asset creation related to the technological adoption of alternative fertilizers and alternative fertilizer production units at village, block, and district levels. ,
- The remaining 30% can be utilized for incentivizing farmers, panchayats, farmer-producer organizations, and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertilizer use and awareness generation.

THE HINDU

‘Green Credit Scheme’

- The Environment Ministry has issued a draft notification detailing a proposed ‘Green Credit Scheme’ that will incentivize a host of

activities including afforestation programs, water conservation, waste management, and remedying air pollution by allowing individuals and organizations to generate ‘green credits’.

- These credits, through a yet-to-be-specified mechanism, can also be traded for money.
- A Green Credit Programme is proposed to be launched at the national level to leverage a competitive market-based approach for Green Credits thereby incentivizing voluntary environmental actions of various stakeholders.
- Apart from incentivizing individual/community behavior, the Green Credit Programme will encourage private sector industries and companies as well as other entities to meet their existing obligations, stemming from other legal frameworks, by taking actions that are able to converge with activities relevant for generating or buying Green Credits
- The government’s immediate priority was to “create supply (of green credits)” via voluntary actions and then “create demand by bringing in laws or rules that will

incentivize companies and organizations to buy credits that can then be traded.”

- The official said that unlike carbon markets, where only greenhouse gas emissions were traded, the Green Credit Scheme was “trickier” as it involved accounting for a wide range of actions.
- The notification for instance lists out eight sectors, or activities, that can qualify for generating credits.
- They include tree plantation based green credit to promote activities for increasing green cover through tree plantation and related activities; water based green credit to promote water conservation, water harvesting, and water use efficiency/savings, including treatment and reuse of wastewater;
- Sustainable agriculture-based green credit to promote natural and regenerative agricultural practices and land restoration to improve productivity, soil health, and nutritional value of food produced; and waste management-based green credit to promote sustainable and improved practices.

THE HINDU

National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023.

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023.
- The legislation aims to establish the NRF as an apex body to provide “high-level strategic direction” to scientific research in the country under the National Education Policy (NEP) at an estimated cost of ₹50,000 crore between 2023 and 2028, a press statement from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said.
- The DST will be the “administrative” department of the NRF, which will have a governing Board of eminent researchers and professionals
- The Prime Minister will be the ex-officio president of the Board and the Union Ministers of Science and Technology and Education ex-officio vice-presidents.
- The NRF’s functioning will be governed by an executive council chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, the statement added.
- The new law will repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board

(SERB) established by Parliament in 2008 and subsumes it into the NRF.

- Union Minister of State for Science Jitendra Singh told presspersons that the NRF was meant to ensure that scientific research was conducted and funded equitably with greater participation from the private sector.
- The government will contribute ₹10,000 crore over five years, he added.
- The DST, the main source of funds for several autonomous research bodies, will continue to get the budget it annually receives.
- “The DST also funds several scholarships and capacity-building programmes. They will continue doing so.

THE HINDU

Cognitive rehabilitation

- Cognitive rehabilitation offers retraining in thinking, using judgment, and making decisions.
- The main focus is to correct deficits in memory, concentration and attention, perception, learning, planning, sequencing, and judgment
- CRT treatment was developed to help individuals struggling with

psychiatric disorders like schizophrenia and other thought disorders, eating disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and traumatic brain injuries.

THE HINDU
