



## 1. Digital Public Infrastructure

### Topic: International Relations

**In News:** Member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan have agreed on adopting India's model of building and deploying digital public infrastructure (DPI).

### More on the Topic

- India, through India Stack, became the first country to develop all three foundational DPis: digital identity (Aadhar), real-time fast payment (UPI) and a platform to safely share personal data without compromising privacy (Account Aggregator built on the Data Empowerment Protection Architecture or DEPA).
- Each DPI layer fills a clear need and generates considerable value across sectors.

### Significance of DPI:

- When aggregated, foundational DPis constitute **the backbone of a country's digital infrastructure.**
- These layers interface with each other to create an ecosystem that facilitates **seamless public service delivery** and allows businesses to **design novel solutions on top of the DPI layers.**
- In turn, this enables the creation of **Open Networks as not seen before.**
- India is now developing such open networks for credit (Open Credit Enablement Network), commerce (Open Network for Digital Commerce), Open Health Services Network (UHI) and many more.
- When DPis are integrated, they can generate network effects to create these open networks for various sectors.

### How India has Benefited from Digital Public Infrastructure:

- India's digital infrastructure helped overcome logistical challenges during the Covid-19 vaccination process.
- CoWIN platform allowed India to scale its vaccine delivery quickly.
- Digitalization has also supported formalization of economy, with around 8.8 million new taxpayers registered for GST between July 2017 and March 2022.
- Use of digital payments has expanded customer base of smaller merchants, easier access to financial services for individuals and companies.

**Source: Indian Express**

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## 2. Green Energy Open Access Rules

### Topic: Environment and Ecology

**In News:** Union Power & NRE Minister chaired a meeting with Industry and other stakeholders in New Delhi today on Green Energy Open Access Rules.

#### More on the Topic:

- In order to further accelerate our ambitious renewable energy programmes, with the end goal of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and green energy for all, Green Open Access Rules, 2022 have been notified in June, 2022.
- These rules are notified **for promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants.**
- The notified Rules enable simplified procedure for the open access to green power. It will enable **faster approval of Green OA, Uniform Banking, Voluntary purchase of RE power by commercial & industrial consumers, Applicability of OA charges etc.**
- Commercial and Industrial consumers are allowed to purchase green power on voluntarily basis.
- Captive Consumers can take power under Green Open Access with no minimum limitation.
- Discom Consumers can demand for supply of Green power to them.

#### Salient features of the Rule:

- The Green Open access is allowed to any consumer and the limit of Open Access Transaction has been reduced from 1 MW to 100 kW for green energy, to enable small consumers also to purchase renewable power through open access.
- Consumers may demand supply of Green Power from DISCOMs.
- Commercial and Industrial consumers are allowed to purchase green power on a voluntary basis.
- There shall be a uniform Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO), on all obligated entities in area of a distribution licensees. Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia included for fulfillment of its RPO.

**Source: IE**

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### 3. Maritime Trafficking of Drugs

**Topic: International Relations**



**In News:** The Narcotics Control Bureau seized approximately 2,500 kg contraband drugs worth at around ₹12,000 crore in Indian waters in a special operation.

#### More on the Topic:

- The seizure part of 'Operation Samudragupt' targeted the maritime trafficking of drugs originating from Afghanistan.
- With a long coastline and numerous ports, India is **“sensitive to drug trafficking through maritime routes.”**
- **About Narcotic Drugs:**
- Narcotic drugs refer to any substance that binds with opioid receptors in the central nervous system.
- They are used to treat moderate to severe pain and are capable of producing sleep.
- **Opioid** is an umbrella term which refers to all natural, semisynthetic and synthetic chemicals.
- There has been a significant increase in the seizure of heroin in the Arabian Sea in 2020-21 with major seizures in India from containerised cargo originating from Afghanistan.
- illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) could finance anti-national activities (narcoterrorism).

#### Why India is Vulnerable to Narcotic Problem?

- Proximity to **Golden Crescent** and **Golden Triangle** - India is sandwiched between the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle.
- The Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle are names given to Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production. The Golden Crescent comprises Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan and the Golden Triangle represents the regions of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand.
- India is Surrounded with Log Coast Line: India have a coastline of around 7500km, it aids in safe trade and transfer of drugs.

- Increasing Demand: India has become a hot destination for cocaine, the supply of which is controlled by South American drug cartels.
- The Nature of Borders: India has proud borders which facilitates illegal trade.

Source: Hindu

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## 4.Regional Rural Bank

**Topic: Economy**



**In News:** Review meeting of financial performance of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) was conducted recently.

**More on the Topic:**

- Regional Rural banks are set up in the rural areas with the **special purpose of funding agricultural and other activities in the rural areas**. They give loans to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans.
- Their loans are structured to meet the needs of their customers and they charge rates of interest which are monitored by the Reserve Bank of India, our country's central bank.
- While such banks do keep a small profit as a motive while giving loans, they aim to give out as many loans as possible to deserving borrowers, i.e. those who are likely to be able to repay.
- Some RRBs and Local Area Banks also help their customers to conduct studies on the best way to utilise the funds that they borrow so that both the bank and the borrower benefit.
- RRBs are regulated by **RBI and supervised by NABARD**.
- RRBs' capital is contributed by **Government of India, State Government and Sponsor Bank in proportion of 50:35:15**.

Source: HT

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## 5. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Topic: Polity and Governance



**In News:** CBI director appointed recently.

### More on the Topic:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India.
- **Established in 1963 as a non-statutory body and governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.**
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Originally set up to investigate bribery and governmental corruption, in 1965 it received expanded jurisdiction to investigate breaches of central laws enforceable by the Government of India, multi-state organised crime, multi-agency or international cases.
- CBI is exempted from the provisions of the Right to Information Act.
- CBI is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the Interpol.

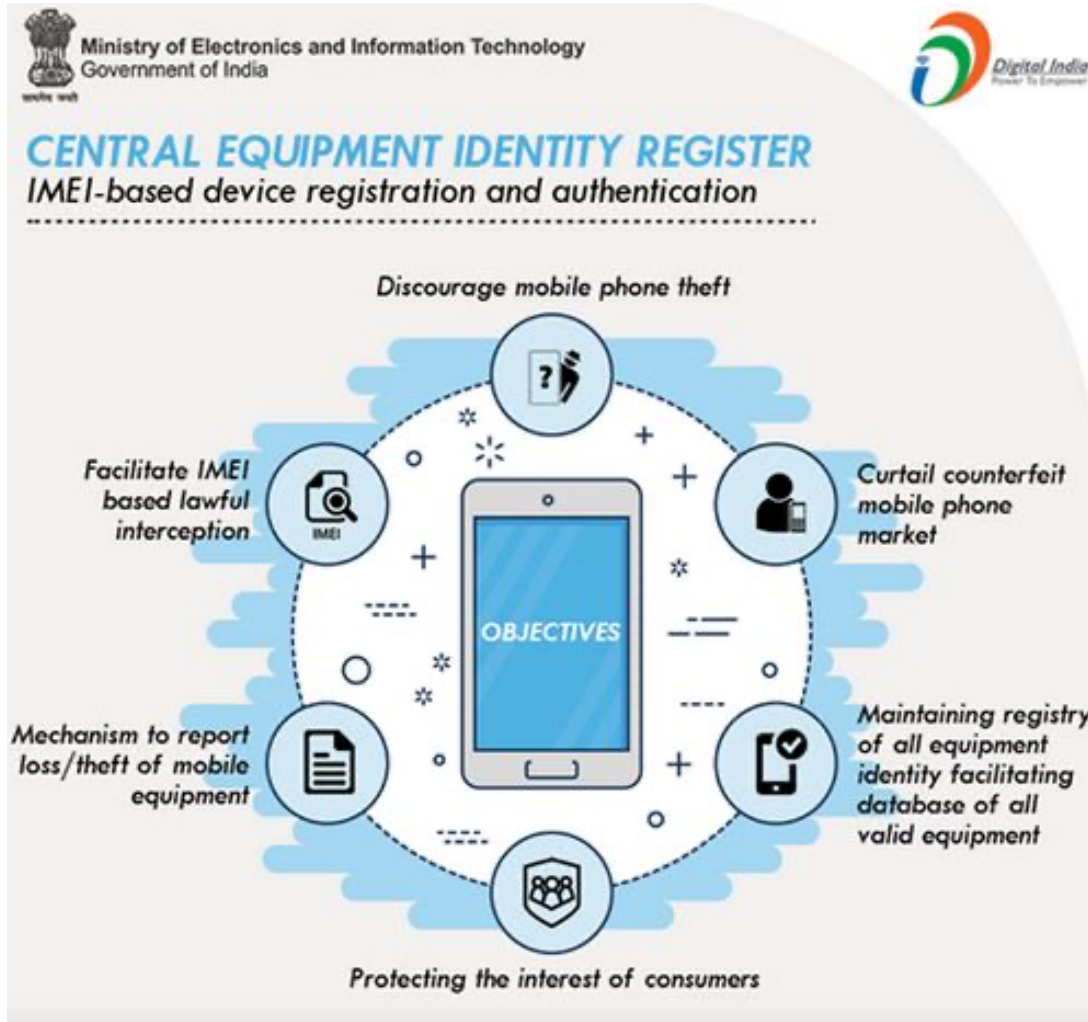
### Appointment of CBI Director:

- CBI director is selected by a high-level committee comprising the **Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, and Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha.**
- CBI director is elected for a for a **fixed tenure of two years**, which can be extended up to five years.

**Source:** Business Standard

## 6. Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)

Topic: e-governance



**In News:** GOI will launch CEIR to combat mobile phone theft, the Indian government is rolling out a tracking system that will enable people to block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones across the country.

### More on the Topic:

- CEIR is the **citizen centric portal of Department of Telecommunications.**
- The CEIR system, which is scheduled for pan-India launch will enable people to block and track their lost mobile phones.
- The system has been **designed to discourage mobile phone theft and facilitate the tracing of lost or stolen mobiles to the police, detection of cloned or counterfeit mobiles, and restriction of the use of such cloned mobiles.**

- Furthermore, the CEIR system will safeguard the interests of consumers by providing them with information related to fake and cloned mobile phones, thereby preventing them from falling prey to fraudulent activities.

**Source: Business Standard**

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## 7. Petermann Glacier

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** A major glacier in northwest Greenland known as Petermann Glacier is interacting with the ocean tides, resulting in previously unaccounted-for melting and potentially faster sea level rise.

**More on the Topic:**

- Glacier is located in the north western Greenland and the glacier's grounding line shifts significantly with the arrival of tides.
- Grounding line is the area where the ice sheet begins to extend out on top of the ocean.
- This revelation is against the common belief of the scientists that the grounding line do not migrate with the tides.
- The phenomenon could worsen in the coming years and decades as ocean temperatures climb.
- Greenland's melting ice is the single largest contributor to sea level rise, according to NASA, which has been accelerating in recent years. But current projections do not account for this newfound contribution from under-ice interactions with warming tides.

**Source: Business Standard**

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