

## **SHORTNEWS:**

### **1.BIHAR TO ADOPT E-VOTING SYSTEM FOR URBAN POLLS**

**NEWS:** Bihar is going to become India's first state to adopt a mobile based e-voting system for urban polls scheduled on 28th June.

- **Estonia is the only country in the world** who has so far implemented a nationwide mobile-based e-voting system.

#### **About the e-Voting System**

- **Implementing Agency:** The E-voting system will be rolled out by the **Bihar State Election Commission**
- **Aim:** To increase voter turnout and make the electoral process more inclusive and accessible by eliminating logistical or physical barriers to voting.
- **Execution:** The entire e-voting process will be executed through two mobile apps, namely
  - **“e-Voting SECBHR”:** It is developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** and another app developed by the Bihar State Election Commission.
- **Features:** The e-voting system possesses features like,
  - **Digital Security:** A blockchain platform, liveness detection, face match, live face scan, and face comparison
  - **Audit trail:** Like EVMs feature of VVPAT, an audit trail has also been put in place in the e-voting process.
- **Advantages:**
  - **Convenience:** Electorates will be able to exercise their right to vote via e-voting and without visiting polling booths.
  - **Beneficiaries:** The biggest beneficiaries of this initiative will be **migrant labourers, migrant voters, divyang voters, pregnant female voters, elderly and senior citizens, and seriously ill electorates.**
  - The initiative will help to **increase voter turnout and make elections more inclusive**

### **2.BHARATIYA ANTARIKSH HACKATHON 2025**

**NEWS:** ISRO has launched a nationwide innovation challenge called **Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon 2025** in partnership with **Hack2skill** as the innovation partner.

#### **About Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon 2025**

- **Purpose of the Hackathon**
  - Encourages young innovators to contribute to **India's space mission.**
  - Focuses on **problem statements directly from ISRO**, ensuring relevance and real-world impact.
- **Who Can Participate?**

- **Eligible:** Undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD students.
- **Not eligible:** Working professionals.
- **Format & Challenge Areas**
  - Total of **14 problem statements** related to space applications, data, systems, and hardware.
  - Participants select one challenge to develop an innovative solution.

### 3.SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY (SMA)

**NEWS:** A newborn identified with the **SMN1 gene mutation for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)** through **prenatal genetic screening** became the **first in India to receive presymptomatic treatment for SMA (before symptoms appear)**.

- The **Presymptomatic treatment** can **minimise motor neuron damage** and improve motor function.

#### About SMA

- **Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA):** is a **rare genetic neuromuscular disease** that results in the **loss of motor neurons** and **progressive muscle wasting**.
  - Motor neurons are **specialized nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord** that control movement of the body as well as skeletal muscle activity.
- **Cause: Mutation** in a gene known as the **survival motor neuron gene 1 (SMN1)**.
  - The SMN1 gene encodes SMN, a protein necessary for the survival of motor neurons.
- **Treatment:** No cure, but **early therapies (like Risdiplam, one of the rare disease-modifying drugs)** can **delay progression**.
  - The **presymptomatic treatment** offers **no guarantee that the child will not later develop the disease**
- **Challenge in early detection Of SMA:** Most cases of SMA occur **when the affected gene is passed down from the individual's parents**.
- **KARE (Kerala Against Rare Diseases) initiative:** Kerala is providing Risdiplam free of cost to around 100 SMA patients, aiming for early management of rare diseases.

### 4.OPERATION SINDHU

**NEWS:** The Indian Government has launched **Operation Sindhu** to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran.

#### About Operation Sindhu

- **Aim:** To ensure the safe relocation and repatriation of Indian citizens amid escalating geopolitical tensions in the Iran-Israel region.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of External Affairs.
  - Supported by Indian Embassies in Iran and Armenia

- Named after the **Sindhu (Indus) River**, symbolic of India's historical ties with Iran and the broader West Asian region.

#### **Builds upon India's past successful missions such as**

- Operation **Kaveri** (Sudan, 2023)
- Operation **Dost** (Turkey Syria Earthquake, 2023)
- Operation **Ganga** (Ukraine conflict, 2022)
- Operation **Devi Shakti** (Afghanistan, 2021)
- Vande **Bharat Mission** (COVID-19 repatriation, 2020)

### **5.NEW GOLDEN TRUMP CARD**

**NEWS:** Around 70,000 people had already **signed up for the new golden Trump Card** launched this year, as per the United States Secretary of Commerce.

#### **About The Trump Card**

- The Trump Card is a **new visa scheme which would offer permanent residence in the USA for \$5 million.**
- The card is said to **replace the EB-5 immigrant investor visa programme.**
  - **The EB-5 Visa** grants permanent residency to immigrants who **invest around \$1 million in a business that creates jobs**, or \$800,000 in a rural or economically depressed area.
- The Trump Card **would grant wealthy immigrants residency and work rights as well as a path to citizenship** without going through the usual red tape.
- **Objective:** The Card has been launched **to tackle the country's budget deficit and its \$36.2 trillion national debt.**
  - As per estimates **issuing 200,000 visas would help raise \$1 trillion for the Treasury.**