

SHORTNEWS:

1.GÖDEL PRIZE

Context: Indian-origin professor **Eshan Chattopadhyay**, along with **David Zuckerman**, won the 2025 Gödel Prize for their 2016 paper, ‘**Explicit Two-Source Extractors and Resilient Functions**’.

- The paper presents a major breakthrough in **randomness extraction**.
 - It is a process that **converts unreliable or weak random sources into strong, usable random numbers**—critical for secure computing, including cryptography and communications.

About the Godel Prize

- The prize is named in honor of contribution made by **Kurt Gödel** for his key contributions to mathematical logic, including the famous “**P vs NP**” **question**.
- Recognises outstanding papers in the area of **theoretical computer science**.
- **Sponsored by:** The European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS) and the Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM SIGACT).
- The Prize includes an award of **\$5000 (US)**.
- **Eligibility:** The research work nominated for the award should be in the area of theoretical computer science.

2.‘NAVYA’ – A JOINT PILOT INITIATIVE FOR SKILLING ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Context: The Centre to Launch ‘NAVYA’ – **Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls**.

- **Pilot initiative:** A joint pilot initiative by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** and **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- **Target Group:** Adolescent girls aged **16–18 years** with **minimum Class 10 qualification**.
- **Focus:** Skill training in **non-traditional job roles** to promote **women-led development**.
- **Coverage:** 27 districts across **19 States**, including **Aspirational districts** and those in the **North-eastern region**.

Objective

- Empower adolescent girls with **skills, confidence, and job opportunities**.

- Enable them to be **change agents** in India's **inclusive and self-reliant growth journey** towards **Viksit Bharat@2047**.

3. TRIPURA ACHIEVED FULL FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

Context: Tripura was declared fully literate under the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme)**

- Ladakh was **the first administrative unit to declare full literacy on 24th June 2024** followed by Goa and Mizoram
- **Literacy Rate of Tripura : 95.6%** (up from 20.24% in 1961).

About Functional Literacy

- Functional literacy means **having basic skills in reading, writing, and math to handle everyday tasks**.
- **Importance:** It helps people read signs, fill forms, manage money, understand health-related information, and participate in society.

About ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram

- **ULLAS**, also known as the **New India Literacy Programme (NILP)**, is a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- **Aligned with NEP (2020):** It is aligned with the goals of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- **Volunteer Driven:** This scheme is volunteer-driven and promotes the spirit of Jan Jan Saakshar (Literacy for All) and is based on the spirit of Kartavya Bodh.
- **Target Group:** The scheme focuses on educating **adults aged 15 years and above** who missed out on formal schooling.

4. INDIA TO LINK RARE DONOR REGISTRY WITH E-RAKT KOSH

Context: The Health Ministry plans to link **India's Rare Donor Registry (RDRI)** with **e-Rakt Kosh**—the national online system for blood banks and blood availability.

What is e-Rakt Kosh?

- e-Rakt Kosh is a **centralized digital platform developed under the National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- It helps manage and monitor blood bank operations across India.
- Available as both a **web portal and mobile app**, it connects citizens, blood banks, and health authorities.

- **key features:** Real-time blood availability, Blood bank directory, Blood donation camps, and Donor services.

Rare Donor Registry (RDRI)

- Developed by **Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of Immunohaematology (ICMR-NIIH)**.
- Contains 4,000+ screened donors tested against **300+ rare blood markers**.
 - Rare Blood Groups lack common antigen combinations **usually found in most people's blood**.
- Includes **ultra-rare groups like Bombay blood group, P-Null, and Rh-null**.
- To support patients with rare blood types—especially those with conditions like thalassemia and sickle cell disease—by maintaining **a national database of carefully screened donors**.

Benefits of the Integration

- **Central Access:** One-stop search for blood banks, blood availability, and donation camps.
- **Improved Management:** Blood banks can track **rare donors and stock levels more effectively**.
- **Life-saving Reach:** Aims to prevent deaths due to lack of rare blood types.

5. ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Context: Recently, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the National Conference of **Estimates Committees** of Parliament and State/UT Legislative Bodies in Mumbai during its **75th anniversary**, emphasizing its role in **budgetary reforms**.

Estimates Committee of the Parliament

- **The Estimates Committee** was constituted in **1950**.
- **Composition:** Composed of **30 members**, elected **annually** by the **Lok Sabha** from among its members.
- **Chairperson:** Appointed by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** from among its members.
- A **Minister** cannot be a member of this committee.
 - If a member is appointed a minister, they **cease to be part of the committee**.
- **Term of Office:** **One year**.
- **Functions of the Committee**

- **Examine and Suggest Economies:** Recommends **economies, organizational improvements**, and administrative reforms to enhance efficiency while staying within the policy of the estimates.
- **Policy Suggestions for Efficiency:** Suggests alternative policies for improving **efficiency** and **economy** in administration.
- **Evaluation of Expenditure:** Assesses whether the allocated funds are being **well-utilized** according to the policy framework indicated by the estimates.
- **Suggestions for Presentation of Estimates:** Recommends the **format** in which the estimates should be presented to Parliament.
- **Exclusions:** The Committee does not work on **Public Undertakings** that are assigned to the Committee on Public Undertakings as per the **Rules of Procedure**.