

8. Short News

1. Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS)

DRDO successfully tested MCPS from 32,000 feet.

Purpose - High-altitude military parachute system for combat freefall by special forces.

Developed by - DRDO's Aerial Delivery R&D Establishment (Agra) & Defence Bioengineering & Electromedical Lab (Bengaluru).

Key Features -

1. Operates above 25,000 feet; tested at 32,000 feet.
2. Lower descent rate, superior steering for stable landings.
3. Integrated with NavIC for precise navigation without foreign satellites.
4. Pre-determined altitude deployment for accurate combat zone landing.
5. Easy maintenance and repair; longer operational life than imported systems.

2. Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)

Union Minister interacted with interns in Hampi, Karnataka.

Purpose - 12-month internships in India's top 500 companies to enhance employability.

Launch - 3 October 2024; Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Target - One crore youth aged 21-24 over five years.

Eligibility - Age 21-24, not in full-time academic program, low-income families (<₹8 lakh/year), minimum secondary education.

Benefits -

1. Financial assistance ₹5,000 + one-time ₹6,000.
2. Insurance under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana & PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.

3. Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS)

FSSAI prohibits food brands from misusing 'ORS' label.

Reason - Many products misled consumers and did not meet WHO standards.

Composition (WHO-UNICEF low-osmolarity ORS per 1 litre water) -

1. Sodium chloride - 2.6 g
2. Glucose - 13.5 g
3. Potassium chloride - 1.5 g
4. Trisodium citrate - 2.9 g

Mechanism - Glucose-sodium co-transport enhances water and sodium absorption.

Global Recognition - WHO Essential Medicine; major 20th-century medical advance.

4. 8th Session of Codex Committee on Spices & Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8)

Concluded in Guwahati, India.

Purpose - Harmonize global spice standards; subsidiary of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

Participation - ~30 countries & observers.

Key Outcomes -

1. Finalized standards for large cardamom, vanilla, coriander.
2. Total spice standards now 19 (including pepper, turmeric, cumin, nutmeg, saffron).

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) - Established by FAO & WHO in 1963; 189 members; HQ - Rome. Promotes food safety, consumer protection, fair trade.

Spices Board of India - Established under Spices Board Act, 1986; HQ - Kochi. Focus on development and export of 52 spices.

5. Tejas Mk1A & HTT-40 Aircraft

HAL inaugurated 3rd Tejas Mk1A line & 2nd HTT-40 line at Nashik.

Tejas LCA Mk1A

Purpose - Multi-role, single-engine supersonic light combat aircraft for IAF & Navy.

Developed by - ADA under DRDO; produced by HAL.

Features -

1. 4.5-generation fighter, Mach 1.8 (~2,200 km/h), combat range 500 km.
2. Weapons - Air-to-air/ground missiles, bombs, precision munitions.
3. Fly-by-wire system for enhanced manoeuvrability.

HTT-40 -

Purpose - Basic turboprop trainer for IAF pilots.

Developed by - HAL.

Use - Prepares pilots for advanced jet trainers.

