

## Digital Bharat Nidhi

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has released the draft **Telecommunications (Digital Bharat Nidhi) Rules, 2024** under **Sections 26 and 56** of the **Telecommunication Act, 2023**.
- **About Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)**
  - **Creation and Replacement:** DBN is established under the Telecommunication Act, 2023, replacing the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) created under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
  - **USOF Background:** USOF was funded by a Universal Access Levy of 5% of the Adjusted Gross Revenue from DoT licensees.
  - **Non-Lapsable Funds:** Any remaining funds in DBN at the end of the financial year will not lapse.
- **Objectives**
  - **Service Access:** Promote telecommunication services in underserved rural, remote, and urban areas.
  - **R&D Support:** Support research and development of new telecommunication services and technologies.
- **Key Highlights of the Draft Rules**
  1. **Fund Allocation:**
    - **Bidding:** Funds can be allocated to service providers through bidding to enhance access and delivery of telecommunication services in underserved areas.
    - **Nomination:** Funds can be allocated by nomination to support research and development of new or emerging telecommunication technologies and services.
  2. **Network Sharing:**
    - **Open Access:** DBN implementers must share their telecommunication network and services on an open and non-discriminatory basis.

## Primary Agriculture Credit Societies(PACS)

- During a speech at the **102nd International Day of Cooperatives**, the Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation urged stakeholders in cooperative societies to help establish **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in all villages and blocks across India**.
  - The **International Day of Cooperatives** has been celebrated annually on the first **Saturday of July since 1923** by the **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)**.
- **About PACS**
  - **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** are grassroots level entities in the short-term cooperative credit structure. They act as the final link between rural borrowers and higher financing agencies like Scheduled Commercial Banks, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, and the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.
  - PACS directly serve rural agricultural borrowers and also handle distribution and marketing functions.
  - Currently, there are around 65,000 functional PACS in India. The government aims to have a PACS in every Panchayat by 2029.
- **Significance of PACS**
  - **Foundation of Cooperative Banking:** PACS are the first building block of India's cooperative banking system.
  - **Access to Resources:** They bring farmer communities closer to credit, inputs, markets, and value addition.
  - **Role in Supply Chain:** PACS can integrate their warehouses with the physical and financial supply chain of agro-commodities in Gramin Agriculture Markets (GrAMs) or large private sector warehouses.
- **Initiatives to Promote Cooperatives in India**
  - **Constitution (Ninety-Seventh) (Amendment) Act, 2011:** This act granted constitutional status to Cooperative Societies.
  - **Union Ministry of Cooperation:** Established in 2021 to realize the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhi' (Cooperation to Prosperity).
  - **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023:** This act aims to strengthen governance, enhance transparency, increase accountability, and reform the electoral process in Multi-State Cooperative Societies.

## Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)

➤ India participated in the **33rd PMNCH Board Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland.**

### ➤ About PMNCH

- **Established:** 2005
- **Purpose:** The world's largest alliance dedicated to the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents.
- **Funding:** Supported by inter-governmental organizations and UN agencies.
- **Aim:** To create a world where every woman, child, and adolescent can realize their right to health and well-being, ensuring no one is left behind.
- **Governance:** PMNCH is overseen by a Board and managed by a Secretariat hosted by the **World Health Organization (WHO).**

## Right to Repair Portal

➤ The Central Government has requested automobile companies to join the unified **Right to Repair Portal in India.**

### ➤ About the Portal

- **Launch:** The portal was introduced by the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **Purpose:** It aims to empower consumers by providing easy access to repair information, promoting a circular economy, and reducing e-waste.
- **Features:**
  - Provides manuals, repair guides, and videos for various products, helping consumers understand the repair process.
  - Discloses information on the price and warranty of spare parts, allowing consumers to make informed decisions about repairs.
- **Focus Areas:** Initially targets key sectors such as farming equipment, electronic items, and automobile items.

## Union Cabinet Approves India's Signing of the BBNJ Agreement

➤ The Union Cabinet has approved India's signing of the **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.** This is a major step toward conserving and sustainably using marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

### ➤ About the BBNJ Agreement

- **Full Name:** Agreement under the **United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** on **Conservation of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.**
  - **Also Known As:** High Seas Treaty.
- **High Seas:** These are areas beyond any country's jurisdiction, open for activities like navigation, overflight, and laying submarine cables and pipelines.
- **Adoption:** The agreement was adopted in 2023 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
- **Becoming International Law:** It will become international law once signed and ratified by at least 60 countries.
- **Relation to UNCLOS:** This is the third implementing agreement to UNCLOS, following the 1994 Agreement on the implementation of UNCLOS and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
- **Implementation in India:** The Ministry of Earth Sciences will implement the agreement.

### ➤ Key Issues Addressed by the Agreement

1. **Marine Genetic Resources:** Ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
2. **Area-Based Management Tools:** Includes marine protected areas.
3. **Environmental Impact Assessments:** Evaluates the potential environmental impacts of activities.
4. **Capacity-Building and Technology Transfer:** Enhances capabilities and shares marine technology.

## Indian Navy's P-8I Aircraft Joins RIMPAC 2024

### ➤ About RIMPAC

- **Full Name:** Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC)
- **Nature:** World's largest multinational naval exercise, held every two years.
- **Aim of RIMPAC 2024:** To strengthen multilateral relationships and enhance operational readiness across the Indo-Pacific region, thereby reinforcing stability and security.
- The Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft is participating in **RIMPAC 2024 in Hawaii, USA.**