

8. Short News

1. Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

Definition- Banks considered "Too Big To Fail" because their failure would severely disrupt the national economy due to their massive size and reach.

Current D-SIBs in India- SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank.

Identification Criteria-

Size- Total assets/exposure.

Interconnectedness- Links with other financial institutions.

Substitutability- Difficulty in replacing their services.

Complexity- Intricate nature of operations.

Regulatory Requirements- Placed in 5 buckets of systemic importance. Must maintain additional capital (CET1 surcharge ranging from 0.20% to 1.00%) over and above the standard Basel III requirements. Foreign Global SIBs operating in India must also hold proportionate additional capital.

2. New Criteria for "Small Company"

Objective- To improve "ease of doing business" and reduce the compliance burden for startups and smaller firms.

Revised Thresholds-

Paid-up Capital- Limit increased to ₹4 crore (previously ₹2 crore).

Turnover- Limit increased to ₹40 crore (previously ₹20 crore).

Benefits for Small Companies-

Simplified Reporting- No need to prepare a Cash Flow Statement; can file abridged annual returns.

Fewer Meetings- Requirement to hold only two board meetings per year.

Reduced Rigour- No mandatory rotation of auditors; auditors are exempted from reporting on internal financial controls.

Lower Penalties- Reduced fines for non-compliance.

3. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) – Navratna Status

Status Update- NRL has been granted Navratna Status (becoming the 27th CPSE to receive it).

About NRL- Located in Golaghat, Assam. Majority stake held by Oil India Limited (69.63%), followed by the Assam Government and Engineers India Limited. It is a profitable entity (Net profit > ₹1,600 crore).

Navratna Benefits- Financial Autonomy- Can invest up to ₹1,000 crore (or 15% of net worth) in a single project without needing government approval. **Operational Freedom-** Can independently form Joint Ventures (JVs), subsidiaries, and pursue mergers/acquisitions.

Key Projects- Implementing a major expansion and a bamboo-based 2G bioethanol plant.

4. Alaknanda Galaxy

Discovery- A spiral galaxy discovered by Indian astronomers named "Alaknanda."

Age & Distance- Located nearly 12 billion light-years away, existing just 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang.

Key Findings

Structure- It has a well-defined spiral structure with arms and a central bulge, which is unexpectedly mature for such an early cosmic age.

Significance- It challenges the theory that early galaxies were chaotic and clumpy, proving that organized disk galaxies formed much earlier than previously thought.

5. Malaria Parasites Movement

Organism- *Plasmodium* sporozoites (the infective stage transmitted by mosquitoes).

Movement Mechanism- They use a "Cork-Screw" / Helical motion (specifically a right-handed spiral).

Stability- Helps maintain orientation against biological fluctuations.

Efficiency- Allows them to travel farther effectively compared to straight-line movement.

Targeting- The dimensions of their spiral match the size of blood capillaries, allowing them to loop

around and enter blood vessels to reach the liver.

Application- Studying this motion helps in designing medical micro-robots for targeted drug delivery.

6. Cyber Slavery

Trafficking individuals to foreign countries and coercing them into committing online crimes.

Hotspots- Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.

Modus Operandi- Victims are lured by fake job offers (IT, Data Entry) with high salaries. Passports are confiscated, and victims are confined in guarded compounds. They are forced to conduct crypto scams, phishing, and investment fraud under threat of violence.

Causes- Weak governance in border regions, economic distress post-COVID, and lax visa-on-arrival norms facilitating trafficking.

7. Jiyo Parsi Scheme

Objective- To arrest the population decline of the Parsi Community in India.

Nature- Central Sector Scheme (100% funded by the Central Government).

Key Components

Medical Assistance- Financial support for IVF, ART, and Surrogacy.

Health of Community- Monthly cash assistance for childcare (up to 18 years) and elderly care (60+ years).

Advocacy- Counseling and workshops on early marriage and family planning.

New Features-

Digital App- For biometric authentication and tracking.

Livelihood- Linking beneficiaries to soft loans for entrepreneurship via the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

