

### VISIT OF CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY TO INDIA

#### Why in news?

- The Chancellor of Germany, Mr. Olaf Scholz, is on a two-day State visit to India.
- This is the Chancellor Scholz's first visit to India in his current role.
- This is also the first standalone visit of a German Chancellor to India since the biennial **Inter-Governmental Consultation (IGC)** mechanism commenced in 2011.
- IGC is a whole-of-government framework under which Ministers from both countries hold discussions in their respective areas of responsibility and report on the outcome of discussions to the Prime Minister and Chancellor.

#### India-Germany Bilateral Relations: Background

- Germany is one of India's most important partners in Europe, owing to the strength of bilateral relations, as also Germany's key role in the EU.
- India and Germany have a 'Strategic Partnership' since May 2000.
- This has been further strengthened with the launch of Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) in 2011 at the level of Heads of Government.
- On March 7, 2021, India and Germany marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.
- As part of the celebrations, commemorative stamps were issued by both countries.

#### Economic & Commercial Relations:

- Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe and has consistently been among India's top (10-12) global partners.
- Germany was the 11th largest trading partner in FY 2021-22 (12th during FY 2022-23 up to August 2022).
- Bilateral trade in 2021-22 was USD 24.85 billion registering an increase of 14.2% over FY 2020-21.
- Indian exports during this period increased by 21.6% reaching USD 9.88 billion and Indian imports increased by 9.7% to USD 14.97 billion.

- Germany is the 9th largest FDI source for India. The total FDI from Germany to India from April 2000-June 2022 is over USD 13 billion.
- Indian investments in Germany continue to grow, having surpassed the figure of USD 7 billion.

## Development Cooperation

- Germany has committed a total volume of new funding of USD 1,368.02 million for 2021 for Financial & Technical Cooperation.
- Energy, sustainable economic and urban development, environment & management of natural resources are priority areas.

## Security & Defence

- The MoU on Security Cooperation signed at the 3rd IGC held in Delhi in 2015 defines collaboration in this field.
- There are dialogue mechanisms on various aspects of security, including:
  - Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism;
  - Cyber Consultations;
  - Joint Steering Group on Disaster Management in Berlin (2016).

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## EXERCISE DESERT FLAG VIII

**Indian Air Force is participating in Exercise Desert Flag VIII 110 which is hosted by the United Arab Emirates.**



### About Exercise Desert Flag VIII:

- It is an annual **multinational large-force employment warfare** exercise hosted by the UAE Air Force.
- The IAF would be participating with five Light Combat Aircraft, LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- **Participants:** Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, the UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, and the USA would also be participating.
- The exercise is scheduled from the 27th of February to the 17th of March.

## India's Joint Military Exercises with the UAE:

- With the UAE, India has In-UAE BILAT (bilateral naval exercise) as well as Desert Eagle-II (bilateral air force exercise).

## INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IREDA)

IREDA is planning to establish an office in Gujarat's GIFT City to finance Renewable Energy projects in foreign currency.



### About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA):

**Nodal Ministry:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- It was set up as a specialized non-banking finance agency for the renewable energy sector.
- IREDA plays a key role in **renewable energy project financing** which gives confidence to the financial institutions/banks to lend in the sector.

### Key facts about the GIFT City

- The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) is India's first and only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) where banks, stock exchanges and financial services firms have set up their global operations.
- It consists of a multi-service Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which houses India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and an exclusive Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).

### What is IFSCA?

- It is a statutory authority established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- **Mandate:** To develop and regulate the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres ('IFSC').
- Before the establishment of IFSCA, the domestic financial regulators, namely, RBI, SEBI, PFRDA and IRDAI regulated the business in IFSC.
- GIFT-IFSC is the maiden IFSC in India.

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority consists of **nine members**, appointed by the central government.
  - **Term:** All members of the IFSC Authority will have a term of three years, subject to reappointment
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## HIMALAYAN GRIFFON

Recently, the Himalayan Griffon was sighted in the Patrampur and Bail Parao ranges of the Terai forest range after nearly 15 years.



### About Himalayan Griffon:

- It is an Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae. It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors.
- **Distribution:** This species is found along the **Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan**
- **Threat:** Himalayan vultures are also susceptible to toxicity induced by diclofenac, a drug whose residues are in domestic animal carcasses.
- But their population have however not shown signs of rapid decline as witnessed in populations of other Gyps vultures across Asia.
- **Conservation status**
- **IUCN: Near Threatened**

### Other Vulture species found in India

- India is home to 9 species of Vulture namely the Oriental white-backed, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Himalayan, Red-headed, Egyptian, Bearded, Cinereous and Eurasian Griffon.
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## FINANCIAL STABILITY BOARD (FSB)



India recently asked the IMF and Financial Stability Board (FSB) to jointly prepare a technical paper on crypto assets.

About Financial Stability Board (FSB):

- FSB is an **international body** that **monitors and makes recommendations** about the **global financial system**.
- It was **established in April 2009** after the **G20 Summit** in London as the **successor to the Financial Stability Forum**.
- **Mandate:**
  - To **coordinate** at the **international level** the **work of national financial authorities** and **international standard-setting bodies** and to **develop and promote the implementation** of effective regulatory, supervisory, and other **financial sector policies**.
  - The FSB, working through its members, **seeks to strengthen financial systems** and increase the **stability of international financial markets**.
  - **Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland.**
  - The **board includes all G20 major economies**.
  - The FSB consists of **68 member institutions**. It comprises **several central banks, ministries of finance, and supervisory and regulatory authorities** from 25 jurisdictions, as well as **10 international organizations** and six Regional Consultative Groups (RCGs).
- **Framework:**
  - **The Plenary**, which serves as the **sole decision-making body**.
  - **The Steering Committee**, which takes forward operational work in between Plenary meetings.
  - **Three Standing Committees**, each with **specific** but complementary **responsibilities**.
  - The FSB's decisions are **not legally binding on its members**.
- **India and FSB:** India is an **active Member of the FSB**, having **three seats in its Plenary** represented by **Secretary (Dept of Economic Affairs), Deputy Governor-RBI, and Chairman-SEBI**.

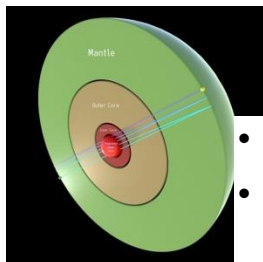
#### About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- It is a **United Nations (UN) specialized agency** founded at the **Bretton Woods Conference in 1944**.
- **Objective:** To **secure international monetary cooperation**, to **stabilize currency exchange rates**, and to **expand international liquidity** (access to hard currencies).
- **Headquarters: Washington D.C, USA.**

- Currently, it has **190 member countries**.
- The IMF's resources mainly come from the money that countries pay as their **capital subscription (quotas)** when they become members.
- **Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota** based broadly on its relative position in the world economy.
- **Functions:**
- The IMF provides loans—including **emergency loans**—to member countries **experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems**.
- It provides **technical assistance and training to governments**, including central banks, finance ministries, revenue administrations, and financial sector supervisory agencies.

## WHAT IS THE EARTH'S INNERMOST INNER CORE?

Seismologists at The Australian National University(ANU) recently documented the evidence of a distinct fifth layer of earth at the centremost part of Earth— the “innermost inner core”.



### About Earth's innermost inner core (IMIC):

- It is a **400-mile-wide (644-kilometer-wide) ball of metal**.
- IMIC exists in a **solid state** as an **alloy of iron and nickel** because of the **extreme pressure at the center** of the Earth.
- Its **temperature is estimated to be about 5,500-6,000 degrees (Celsius/9,930-10,830 Fahrenheit)**, similar to the sun's surface temperature.
- It has a **distinct anisotropy**, which is a property of a substance that allows it to **take on different characteristics depending on the angle from which it's approached**.
- The concept of the innermost part of the inner core was **first proposed in 2002 by seismologists from Harvard University**— Miaki Ishii and Adam Dziewonski.

### About the Inner core of the Earth:

- It is a **solid metallic ball made mainly of iron**.

- The inner core is **solid due to the pressure** caused by the weight put on it by the Earth's other top layers.
- It is **distinct from the outer core, which is a liquid.**
- **Radius:**
- The inner core has an **average radius of 1220 km.**
- The **boundary between the inner and outer core** is located at approximately **5150 km below** the surface of the Earth.
- This boundary is called the **Lehman Seismic Discontinuity.**
- **Temperature:** Inner core temperatures reach extraordinary levels, **estimated to be between 7,200–8,500°F (4,000–4,700°C).**
- **Properties:**
- It is predicted to have very **high thermal and electrical conductivity.**
- The inner core generates **its own magnetic field and spins a bit faster than the rest of the planet.**

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## [AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION: 5 LAKH PATIENTS USED QR CODE IN 365 HOSPITALS FOR FASTER REGISTRATION WITHOUT QUEUING UP](#)

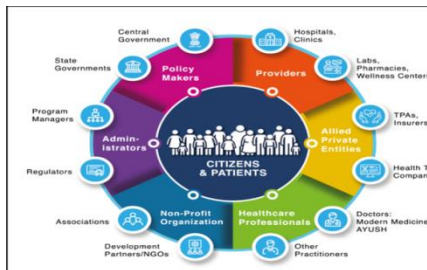
### Why in News?

- The National Health Authority (NHA) under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) introduced the '**Scan and Share**' service for faster outpatient department (OPD) registrations in 2022.
- According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), up to five lakh patients have benefited since last year due to **QR code-enabled registration at hospital counters**, which has helped reduce long queues.

### What is Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)?

- Launched in **2021** during the third anniversary of the Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), ABDM **will connect the digital health solutions** of hospitals across the country with each other.

- The Mission will not only make the processes of hospitals simplified but also will **increase ease of living**.
- **The Digital Ecosystem** will also enable a host of other facilities like **Digital Consultation**, Consent of patients in letting medical practitioners access their records, etc.



- With the implementation of this scheme, **old medical records cannot get lost as every record will be stored digitally**.
- In order to create a National Digital Health Ecosystem, **the NHA acts as the implementing agency of the mission**.
  - An attached office of the MoHFW with full functional autonomy, NHA is constituted for implementing AB PM-JAY.
- **The Health Facility Registry (HFR)** is the core building block of ABDM that aims to serve as a single source for verified information on health facilities across the country.

### What is the Background in which the ABDM was Launched and its Significance?

- In a follow-up of **the National Health Policy's (NHP) 2017** specific goals for adopting digital technologies, the MoHFW constituted a committee headed by **Shri J. Satyanarayana**.
- This committee produced the **National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB)**, laying out the building blocks and an action plan to comprehensively and holistically implement digital health.
- Taking forward the NDHB, a digital ecosystem for healthcare services across the country (ABDM) was launched.

### How has ABDM Performed?

- Since nationwide launch, ABDM has achieved significant growth with over -
  - 23 crore ABHA numbers (earlier known as Health ID),
  - **14 Lakh health facilities registered in the HFR,**
  - 33 thousand healthcare professionals under the Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR),
- With more individuals, healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, paramedics, etc.) joining ABDM, **digitisation of health records at their point of creation is now possible**.



## News Summary Regarding ‘Scan and Share’ Service under the ABDM:

- The service is currently provided in 125 districts across 25 States and UTs and it is a typical example of how technology can be leveraged to provide better services to patients and to improve the system efficiency.
  - The participating hospitals (365), both government and private, display their unique QR codes in patient-registration areas.
  - The patients can scan the QR code using any health application such as ABHA app, Aarogya Setu app, EkaCare, DRiefcase, Bajaj Health or PayTM.
  - The patients then share information like name, age, gender, and unique health ID [ABHA number] to the Health Management Information system [HMIS] of the hospital.
  - This enables paperless registration, instant token generation, saves patients’ time and the health facility is able to optimise resources deployed for registration.
  - This process also leads to the patient’s health records getting digitally linked to their Ayushman Bharat Health Account. Patients can manage and access this from their phone anytime anywhere.
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