Country's First Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine launched

NATIONAL NEWS

Country's First Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine launched

- Country's First Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine was launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.
- The vaccine "Pneumosil" was developed by the Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIIPL) in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- A conjugate vaccine is a type of vaccine which combines a weak antigen with a strong antigen as a carrier so that the immune system has a stronger response to the weak antigen.

7th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices inaugurated

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare digitally inaugurated the 7th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices on 28th December 2020.
- During the event he also launched New Health Management Information System (HMIS) along with the Operational Guidelines for TB services at AB-HWCs and the Operational Guidelines 2020 on Active Case Detection and Regular Surveillance for Leprosy.
- The previous National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices was held in 2013 in Srinagar.

PM Flagged off the 100th Kisan Rail

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 100th Kisan Rail from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal.
- The first Kisan Rail was introduced from Devlali to Danapur on 7th August, 2020,
- Kisan Rail was aimed to provide priority to the farming sector and facilitate transportation of perishable agricultural products to various market places across the country.

India's first-ever driverless train – Delhi Metro

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the India's first-ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line
- The driverless trains will be fully automated, which will eliminate the possibility of human error.

- The National Common Mobility Card, which will be fully operationalised on the Airport Express Line, will enable anyone carrying a RuPay-Debit Card issued from any part of the country to travel on the Airport Express Line using that card.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Blue Flag hoisted in 8 beaches in India

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar virtually hoisted the International Blue Flag in 8 beaches across the nation on 28th December 2020.
- The beaches where the International Blue Flags were hoisted are: Kappad (Kerala), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
- The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
- Spain has the highest number of Blue Flag beaches at 578

BUSINESS NEWS

New Bhaupur- New Khurja section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor inaugurated

- New Bhaupur- New Khurja section' of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) was inaugurated by PM virtually.
- The project has a stretch of 351 km established at a cost of Rs 5,750 crores.
- The EDFC (1856 route km) starts from Sahnewal near Ludhiana (Punjab) and will pass through the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal.
- It is being constructed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL)