



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Heli Summit 2023 and UDAN 5.2

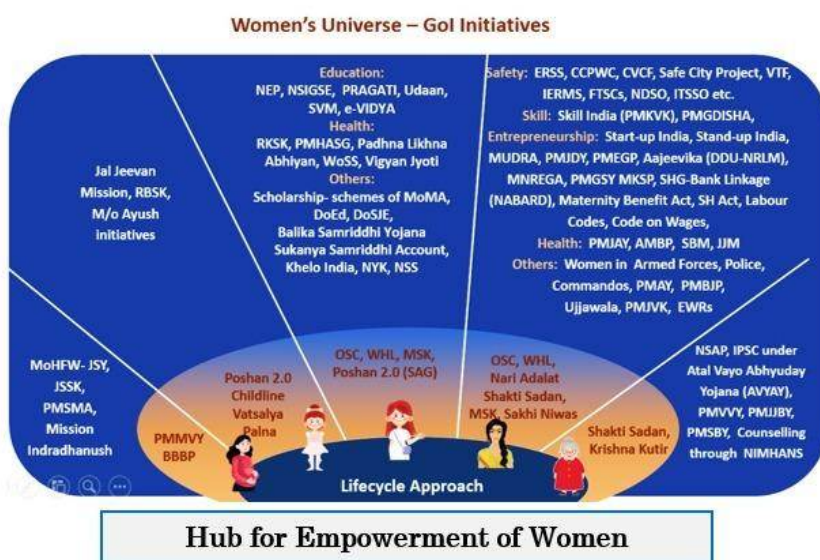
Recently, the Ministry of Civil Aviation inaugurated the **Heli Summit 2023** and **UDAN 5.2** in **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**, focusing on **regional connectivity through helicopters and small aircraft**.

- Heli Summit 2023, jointly organized by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Pawan Hans Ltd., and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**, emphasizes regional connectivity through helicopters and small aircraft.
- UDAN 5.2 aims to **achieve last-mile connectivity** with **small aircraft (Category 1A <9 seats and Category 1 <20 seats)** in remote and regional areas.
- UDAN 5.2 increases the **viability gap funding (VGF)** and reduces **fare caps to enhance accessibility**.
- **HeliSewa mobile application** is launched to create an **ecosystem between helicopter operators and district authorities for seamless operations**.

Read more: [UDAN 5.0 Scheme](#)

Mission Shakti- Hub for Empowerment of Women

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Recently, **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)** under Ministry of Women and Child Development organised the **First Capacity Building Programme** on **'Mission Shakti- Hub for Empowerment of Women'** for State Nodal Officers and State Mission Coordinators.

- NIPCCD is **an autonomous Institute** under the Ministry of Women and Child Development that

works to **promote voluntary action, research, training and documentation in the field of women and child welfare.**

- It was **established in 1966** and has its **headquarters in Delhi** and four regional centres in **Bangalore, Guwahati, Indore and Lucknow.**
- **Mission Shakti** scheme focuses on making women **economically empowered, ensuring their safety from violence, and increasing their participation in the labor force.**
 - 'Mission Shakti' comprises two sub-schemes - '**Sambal**' for safety and security of women and '**Samarthya**' for their empowerment.
 - Sambal includes components like **One Stop Centre, Women Helpline, [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao](#), and Nari Adalats for gender justice.**
 - Samarthya incorporates schemes like **Swadhar Greh, Working Women Hostel, National Creche Scheme, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**, along with a new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment.
 - **Hub for Empowerment of Women** It is an **initiative under the Samarthya sub-scheme.**

Batagaika Crater: A Disturbing Symbol of Accelerating Permafrost Thaw



Russia's Batagaika crater, the world's largest **1km-long permafrost crater**, expands due to [global warming](#) and thawing permafrost.

- Deforestation triggered underground permafrost melting, causing the crater's growth in the **Sakha Republic, Russia**. It also holds dangerous organic carbon, **exacerbating global warming.**
- Russia is warming is occurring at an alarming rate, **approximately 2.5 times faster than the global average.**
- As a result, large areas of the country's long-frozen tundra, **covering about 65% of its landmass**, are experiencing significant thawing, releasing **potent [greenhouse gases](#) like methane.**
- Permafrost is **any ground that remains completely frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder—for at least two years straight.**
 - These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes: **near the North and South Poles.**

Read more: [Permafrost](#), [Global warming](#)

WHO's Updated HIV and Mpox Guidelines

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) presented updated guidance on [human immunodeficiency virus \(HIV\)](#) during the **12th International AIDS Society Conference.**

- The guidelines stress the **significance of HIV viral suppression and undetectable virus levels** in improving individual health and curbing virus transmission.
- Additionally, the **WHO urged countries to integrate [mpox \(monkeypox\)](#) detection,**

prevention, and care with existing HIV and sexually transmitted infection programs.

- Mpox is a viral illness caused by the **monkeypox virus, a species of the genus Orthopoxvirus.**
 - It can be transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials, or with infected animals.
 - A multi-country outbreak of mpox in **2022-2023 reported over 82,000 cases, with around 32,000 linked to HIV.**
- The guidelines highlighted the **effectiveness of [antiretroviral therapy \(ART\)](#) in preventing HIV transmission** when achieving undetectable virus levels.

Read more: [World Health Organization, HIV](#), [Monkeypox](#)

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