

Policies, Programmes, Institutions in news: 12/09/2024

1. Novel method of controlling defects in MOF-Based Supercapacitors can improve energy storage

A new method of introducing controlled defects in MOF-Based supercapacitors through laser irradiation, can help enhance performance of existing energy storage technologies.

In recent years, several methods have been investigated for creating defects, such as thermal annealing, chemical exposure, high-energy ball milling, e-beam, and chemical vapor deposition. However, the extent of defects could not be controlled in the materials using these methods. Traditional methods lack the precision needed for fine-tuning of defects.

In order to enhance the activity of the pristine MOF (Metal Organic Framework) without transforming it into other materials or creating a composite out of it, scientists at **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology** carefully adjusted laser power to systematically regulate defects and porosity. Resulting in a significant increase in the electrode's surface area and activity.

2. Department of Economic Affairs notifies Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2024 in pursuance of Union Budget 2024-25 announcement

In pursuance of the Union Budget 2024-25 announcement by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to simplify rules and regulations for Foreign Investments, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, has today notified the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2024 under powers given under section 46 read with section 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. The amended Rules will supersede the existing Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, which were issued in 2000.

As part of a broader initiative to streamline and rationalize existing rules and regulations to further facilitate ease of doing business, the compounding proceeding rules were comprehensively reviewed in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

The emphasis has been on enabling provisions to expedite and streamline the processing of compounding applications, introduction of digital payment options for application fees and compounding amounts, and a focus on simplification and rationalization of the provisions to eliminate ambiguity and clarify the process.

3. Ayushman Bharat Becomes Bigger

World's largest health insurance scheme extends free health cover to all senior citizens above 70 years. **In a significant move, the Union Cabinet approved a major expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) on September 11, 2024. Under this decision, all senior citizens aged 70 and above will receive health coverage, regardless of their income.**

Ayushman Bharat

Launched in 2018, Ayushman Bharat is a landmark health initiative designed to provide universal health coverage, particularly for rural and vulnerable populations. The mission aims to implement transformative interventions that address health needs comprehensively across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.

Ayushman Bharat is designed to implement transformative interventions that address the entire spectrum of healthcare across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. It follows a continuum-of-care approach and consists of two interrelated components:

Ayushman Bharat represents a groundbreaking shift in India's healthcare landscape by seamlessly integrating comprehensive care across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Through its umbrella features, the scheme not only addresses immediate health needs but also emphasizes preventive care and health promotion, making healthcare more accessible and equitable.



As Ayushman Bharat continues to evolve, it is set to further transform India's health sector by expanding access to quality healthcare services, reducing the financial burden on families, and improving overall health outcomes. This comprehensive approach will likely lead to a more inclusive and efficient healthcare system, setting a precedent for health reforms and driving long-term improvements in public health across the country.

