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‘Awareness Campaign on Single Use plastics’ and ‘India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021’

Why in the News?

- The Union Environment Minister launched a two-month ‘Awareness Campaign on Single Use plastics’ and ‘India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021’.
- The Government of India had set a target to phase out single use plastics by 2022.



Key Points

About Single Use Plastics:

- Plastics that are thrown away after their first use are known as single-use plastics.
- According to the United Nations, much of the plastics produced today are designed to be thrown away after first use.

About ‘Awareness Campaign on Single Use plastics’:

- GIZ (The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) along with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, are organizing the two-month long awareness campaign.
- It will comprise of four on-line regional events and a social media campaign to spread the message of mitigation of plastic pollution to a wider audience.

About ‘India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021’:

- The ‘India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021’ is a unique competition calling upon start-ups /entrepreneurs and students of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to develop innovative solutions to mitigate plastic pollution and develop alternatives to single use plastics.

Initiatives taken by India:

- The Government of India has already banned import of plastic waste in the country.

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for the first time brought out **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**, for handling plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner.
- Under the rules, plastic carry bags below 50 microns have been banned.
- Further, the Ministry has issued a draft notification in March 2021 for amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, with respect to prohibiting identified 12 single use plastic items such as disposable plastic cutlery etc.

Source: PIB

Cabinet approves allotment of 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz band to Indian Railways

Why in the News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for allotment of 5 MHz Spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways for public safety and security services at stations and in trains.

Note: In addition to this, Indian Railways has approved **TCAS (Train Collision Avoidance System)**.



Key Points

- The estimated investment in the project is more than Rs. 25,000 Crore. The project will be completed in the next 5 years.
- The Spectrum charges may be levied based on formula basis as prescribed by Department of Telecommunications for Royalty Charges and License Fee for Captive use as recommended by **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**.
- With this spectrum, Indian Railways has envisaged to provide **LTE (Long Term Evolution)** based **Mobile Train Radio Communication** on its route.

About LTE (Long-Term Evolution):

- It is a 4G wireless standard that provides increased network capacity and speed for cellphones and other cellular devices compared with 3G technologies.

Purpose

- The purpose of the LTE for Indian Railways is to provide secure and reliable voice, video and data communication services for operational, safety and security applications.
- It will also enable **Internet of Things (IoT)** based remote asset monitoring especially of coaches, wagons & locos, and live video feed of CCTV cameras in the train coaches.

About TCAS (Train Collision Avoidance System):

- It, an indigenously developed ATP (Automatic Train Protection) System, which will help in avoiding train collisions thereby reducing accidents and ensuring passenger safety.

About Radio Spectrum:

- The radio spectrum is the part of the electromagnetic spectrum with frequencies from 30 Hz to 300 GHz.
- Electromagnetic waves in this frequency range, called radio waves, are widely used in modern technology, particularly in telecommunication.
- To prevent interference between different users, the generation and transmission of radio waves is strictly regulated by national laws, coordinated by an international body, the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

Source: PIB



'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' launched in 112 Aspirational Districts

Why in the News?

- **NITI Aayog** and **Piramal Foundation** launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' in 112 Aspirational Districts to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to COVID-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.



Key Points

Objective

- The campaign is expected to play a key role in district preparedness for managing nearly 70% of COVID cases at home, reducing pressure on the health system, and stemming the spread of fear amongst the people.

About Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan:

- The Abhiyaan is being part of a special initiative, **Aspirational Districts Collaborative**, in which local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas of the **Aspirational Districts Programme**.
- Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan will be led by district magistrates in partnership with over 1000 local NGOs, which will enlist and train over 1 lakh volunteers to connect with patients through inbound/outbound calls.
- Volunteers will be trained to support 20 affected families each by educating caretakers to follow COVID protocols, provide psycho-social support and timely updates about patients to the administration.
- Piramal Foundation will work with district magistrates to support the training of NGOs and volunteers.

About Aspirational Districts Programme

- The Government of India has launched the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' initiative in January 2018 with a vision of a New India by 2022.
- The focus is to improve India's ranking under Human Development Index, raising living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth of all.
- **Source: PIB**

World Bank: Indian Economy to grow at 8.3% in 2021

Why in the News?

- The World Bank slashed its 2021-22 GDP growth forecast for the Indian economy to 8.3 percent from 10.1 percent estimated in April 2021.



Key Points:

For India:

- The Washington-based global lender, in its latest issue of Global Economic Prospects June 2021 said India's economy is expected to grow at **8.3% for Fiscal Year 2021-22, 7.5% for 2022-23 and 6.5% for 2023-24.**

For World:

- The global economy is set to expand by 5.6 per cent in 2021 - its strongest post-recession pace in 80 years.

Steps Taken by India:

- The government announced that the health-related spending would more than double and set out a revised medium-term fiscal path intended to address the economic legacy of the pandemic.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced further measures to support liquidity provision to micro, small and medium firms, and loosened regulatory requirements on the provisioning for non-performing loans.

About World Bank:

- The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.
- It comprises two institutions: the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, and the **International Development Association (IDA)**.
- The World Bank is a component of the **World Bank Group**.

The World Bank Group's five international organizations

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Development Association (IDA)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Membership

- 189 countries (IBRD)
- 173 countries (IDA)

Major Reports:

- World Development Report
- Ease of Doing Business
- Human Capital Index
- Global Economic Prospects
- Migration and Development Brief

Source: The Hindu

Assam's 7th National Park 'Dehing Patkai'

Why in the News?

- Assam's Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary has been announced as the 7th national park of the state.
- The announcement comes shortly after Raimona reserve forest in western Assam's Kokrajhar district was upgraded to a national park on June 5, 2021.



Key Points

About Dehing Patkai National Park:

- The 111.942-sqkm Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary (notified in 2004) is located inside the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, which spreads across Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar districts of Upper Assam — rich in coal and oil.
- The area is home to hoolock gibbon, leopard, elephant, slow loris, tiger, clouded leopard, golden cat, fishing cat, sambar, hog deer, marble cat, sloth bear, and several bird species including the endangered state bird, the white-winged wood duck.

National Parks in Assam:

- The seven national parks of Assam are **Kaziranga, Nameri, Orang, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Raimona and Dehing Patkai.**
- Assam now is the **state with the second highest** number of national parks in the country, after **Madhya Pradesh's 11.**
- The **Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar** has **nine national parks.**

Note: Kaziranga national park and Manas national park are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Source: PIB

Assam to confer Civilian Honours on lines of Bharat Ratna, Padma Awards

Why in the News?

- The Assam government announced state awards on the lines of Bharat Ratna and Padma annual awards for eminent personalities and achievers in the state, by providing cash rewards and a slew of other benefits.

Key Points

About newly announced awards:

- Assam announced conferring **one Asom Ratna, three Asom Bibhushan, five Asom Bhushan and ten Asom Shree awards** every year.
- The awards will carry ₹ 5 lakh, ₹ 3 lakh, ₹ 2 lakh and ₹ 1 lakh cash respectively.



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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

- The awards will also include benefits like free medical treatment of critical illness, free stay at Asom Bhawans, free travel in ASTC buses etc.
- **Source: NDTV**

National Award-winning director Buddhadeb Dasgupta passes away

Why in the News?

- Bengali filmmaker and poet, Buddhadeb Dasgupta passed away at 77.



- Buddhadeb Dasgupta had won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film a total of five times.
- Some of his best-known works included projects like Bagh Bahadur, Lal Darja, Kaalpurush and Tahader Katha among more.

Source: The Hindu