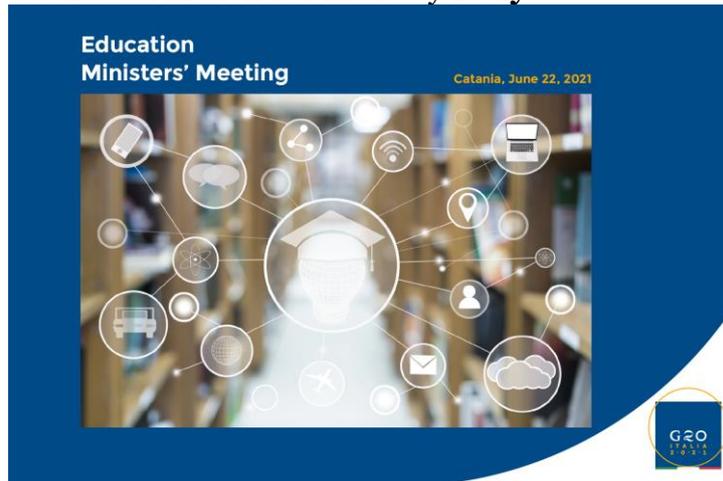


Daily Current Affairs: 24.06.2021

G20 Education Ministers' Meeting

Why in the News?

- The Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre addressed the meeting of the G20 Education Ministers on 22nd June 2021.
- The meeting was hosted in blended mode by **Italy**.



Key Points

- G20 Education Ministers exchanged views on how to progress on the fight against educational poverty and inequalities, especially in context of the COVID-19.
- The Education Ministers also resolved to share innovative experiences implemented during the COVID-19 to ensure the continuity and quality of learning pathways through **blended education**.
- **Blended learning** is an approach that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional place-based classroom methods.

Education in India:

- **India's Efforts:** Increasing intake capacity of schools; tracking out-of-school children; monitoring the learning outcomes of vulnerable students; mid-day meals to ensure health of children; ensuring physical safety & zero tolerance to breach of child rights; enabling mechanisms for Children with Special Needs; promoting multiple pathways to learning and strengthening open and distance learning programmes.
- **Digital educational** content has been made available on various e-learning platforms like **SWAYAM, DIKSHA** and several others which can be accessed by Anyone, Anytime, and Anywhere free of cost.
- Permissible **online component** in conventional education has been increased from 20% to 40%.
- A **National Education Technology Forum** is being set up under **NEP 2020** to aid technology led education.
- The Government also took special care to address mental health issues of students through counseling programmes like **Manodarpan** and others.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** aims that **by 2025, at least 50%** of

learners in the school and higher education system would have exposure to **vocational education**.

- Vertical mobility for students from the vocational stream is being ensured through a **National Skills Qualifications Framework**.
- Standards under this framework will be aligned with the **International Standard Classification of Occupations** maintained by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.

Facts about G20:



Formation: 26 September 1999

Members:

(Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and European Union)

20

Source: PIB

Biotech KISAN Programme for improving agriculture productivity in the NER

Why in the News?

- Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** has issued a special call for **North East Region (NER)** as a part of its Mission Programme **“Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)”**.
- Biotech KISAN Programme aims to understand the local problems of the **NER farmers** and provide scientific solutions to those problems.



DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Government of India

DBT's BIOTECH-KISAN ANNOUNCES
Special Call for North East Region of India

The Programme aims to link science with farms by establishing Biotech-KISAN Hubs in NER and creating network with scientific institutions and SAUs / KVKs etc. for :

- Understanding the problems of local farmers
- Scouting for available technologies to address these problems
- Demonstration of scientific solutions in farms
- Creation of strong Scientists-Farmers Interaction Platform
- Training programmes for the farmers & immersion programmes for scientists

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Key Points

About Biotech-KISAN:

- It is a scientist-farmer partnership scheme launched in 2017 for agriculture innovation with an objective to connect science laboratories with the farmers to find out innovative solutions and technologies to be applied at farm level.
- Under this scheme, so far 146 Biotech-KISAN Hubs have been established covering all 15 agro climatic zones and 110 Aspirational Districts in the country.

About Department of Biotechnology (DBT):

- Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) enhances and improves the development of biotechnology in India, via its growth and application in agriculture, animal sciences, healthcare, environment, and industry.

About the Present Call:

- The present call specifically focuses on the Northeast Region as it is predominantly agrarian with 70% of its workforce engaged in agriculture and allied sector for livelihood.
- The region produces merely 1.5 percent of the country's food grain and continues to be a net importer of food grains even for its domestic consumption.

About Agricultural biotechnology:

- Agricultural biotechnology, also known as agri-tech, is an area of agricultural science involving the use of scientific tools and techniques, including genetic engineering, molecular diagnostics, molecular markers, vaccines, and tissue culture, to modify living organisms: plants, animals, and microorganisms.

Source: PIB

Assam government signs MoU with Survey of India for implementing the SVAMITVA scheme

Why in the News?

- The Assam government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Survey of India** for implementing the **SVAMITVA scheme** in the state.
- It aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural areas.



Key Points

- The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Assam Government's Department of Revenue and Disaster Management will implement the scheme with the support of the Panchayat and Rural Development.

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- Survey of India, as the technology partner, will take steps for survey of inhabited rural land by drone as well as establishment of ground based control stations to enable a detailed spatial database of properties in rural areas.
- It is expected to reduce property related disputes in rural areas and legal cases.

About SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme:

- It is a Central Sector scheme launched by the Prime Minister of India on **National Panchayat Day i.e. 24th April 2020.**
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the scheme.
- **Survey of India** shall work as the technology partner for implementation.
- It aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

About Survey of India:

- It is India's central engineering agency in charge of mapping and surveying. Set up in 1767, it is one of the oldest Engineering Departments of the Government of India.

Source: TOI

Delhi government's 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana'

Why in the News?

- The Delhi government's Social Welfare Department launched the 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana'.
- The scheme to provide financial assistance to families of those who died of COVID-19 was notified.



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of the National
Capital Territory of Delhi

Key Points

- The scheme will offer a monthly financial assistance of ₹2,500 to the families of those who have lost their earning member and also a one-time compensation of ₹50,000 if a member has died due to COVID-19.

Note: Children who lost their both parents or single parent to COVID-19 will also be provided Rs 2,500 per month till they achieve 25 years of age. The government will also provide free education to them.

Source: TOI

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Indian American Sumita Mitra wins European Inventor Award 2021

Why in the News?

- Indian American chemist Sumita Mitra has won the **European Inventor Award 2021** in the '**Non-EPO countries**' category.



Key Points

- Sumita Mitra was honoured with the European Inventor Award 2021 for her application of nanotechnology in dentistry.
- Mitra was the first to successfully integrate nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and more aesthetically pleasing fillings, which are now used by dentists around the world.

About the Award:

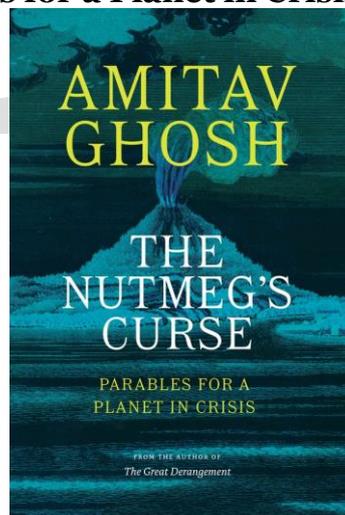
- The Award, one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes, is presented annually by the **EPO (European Patent Office)** to distinguish outstanding inventors from Europe and beyond who have made an exceptional contribution to society, technological progress and economic growth.

Source: Economic Times

Amitav Ghosh's new book 'The Nutmeg's Curse'

Why in the News?

- Jnanpith awardee and renowned author Amitav Ghosh's new book '**The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis**' is all set to release soon.



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Key Points

- In 'The Nutmeg's Curse', Ghosh discusses that the nutmeg's journey from its native Banda islands sheds light on a widespread colonial mindset of exploitation of human life and the environment, which is present even today.
- The book has been published by John Murray.

Source: TOI

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