

Daily Current Affairs 23/07/2021

1. Geospatial Technologies for the Water Sector in India



Why in News

- **Rajeev Ranjan Mishra, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga** released a detailed report on the opportunities created by the use of geospatial technology in the water sector.
- **The Association of Geospatial Industries** – a geospatial technology industry body, has prepared this report titled, **“Potential of Geospatial Technologies for the Water Sector in India”**.
- Given the population density and requirement of water for agriculture, India is heavily dependent on groundwater and is one of the worst hit countries as far as the water crisis is concerned.

Key Points

Findings of the Report:

- Outlining key water sector programmes and projects in the country, the report provides an overview of how each of these programmes is currently using geospatial technologies, and how to improve technology adoption in the future.
- As per the report a plethora of Geospatial and Digital technologies, like Satellite based Remote Sensing, Surveying and Mapping, GPS based equipment and sensors, GIS and Spatial Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, Internet of Things, 5G, Robotics and Digital Twin, can be effectively used to combat the water crisis.

Water Projects in India:

- National River Linking Project
- Jal Jeevan Mission
- Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project
- Namami Gange Mission
- National Hydrology Programme
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme



- River Basin Management
- National Water Mission
- Atal Bhujal Yojana

About Geospatial Technology:

- It is a term used to describe the range of modern tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the Earth and human societies.
- It can also be defined as a technology used to collect, analyze, and store geographic information.

Most common geospatial technologies:

- Remote Sensing
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Internet Mapping Technologies

Source: PIB

2. Cabinet approves Extension of term of the Commission constituted to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes in the Central List



Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **11th Extension** of the term of the Commission constituted under **Article 340** of the Constitution to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** in the Central List by 6 months beyond 31st July 2021 and upto 31st January 2022.

Key Points

Benefit

- The proposed extension of tenure and addition in its terms of reference shall enable the “Commission” to submit a comprehensive report on the issue of sub-categorization of OBCs, after consultation with various stakeholders.

Commission (Rohini Commission):

- The Commission was constituted under article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of the President on 2nd October, 2017.

- The commission is headed by retired Delhi High Court Chief Justice Smt. G Rohini.
- It was set up to examine the possibility of creating categories within OBCs for the reservation to ensure “equitable distribution” of representation among all OBC communities.

Note:

- Currently, OBCs are granted 27% reservation in government jobs and educational institutes.
- There are 2,633 Other Backward Castes in the Central List and earlier this year the commission proposed to divide them into four subcategories numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and split the 27% into 2, 6, 9 and 10%, respectively.
- The commission had also recommended complete digitisation of all OBC records and a standardised system of issuing OBC certificates.

Article 340 of the Indian Constitution:

- The President can appoint a commission through an order to inquire into the conditions of the **socially and educationally backward classes** and to make recommendations regarding the improvement of their conditions.

Note: The **First Backward Classes Commission** was set up by a presidential order on 29 January 1953 under the **chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar**. It is also known as the **First Backward Classes Commission, 1955** or the **Kaka Kalelkar Commission**.

Source: PIB

3. Maharashtra to be first state to issue educational documents using blockchain technology



Why in News

- Maharashtra will be the first state in the country to issue educational documents using blockchain technology.
- **India became the 4th Country** to roll out blockchain-powered educational documents after **Singapore, Malta and Bahrain**.

Key Points

- Maharashtra’s Skill Development Minister informed that one million diploma certificates will be issued using this technology.
- This technology will be provided by **LegitDoc**.

About LegitDoc:

- LegitDoc is the flagship product of Crossforge Solutions, a Bangalore-based technology company specializing in blockchain DApp development.
- LegitDoc is an Ethereum-based software application for issuing and verifying tamper-proof digital documents.

About Blockchain:

- Blockchain is a system of recording information in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system.

Source: **Business Standard**

4. Government formalises registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles



Why in News

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has amended **Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) 1989**, formalising the registration process of vintage motor vehicles.
- This is aimed at preserving and promoting the heritage of old vehicles in India.

Key Points

About Vintage Motor Vehicles:

- The draft rules define vintage motor vehicles as all those vehicles that are two-wheelers and four-wheelers and are more than 50 years old from the date of their first registration (including imported vehicle).
- Vintage motor vehicles shall not be driven on roads for regular/commercial purposes.

Source: **Economictimes**

5. Gujarat HC became the first high court in the country to start live streaming of court proceedings



Why in News

- The **High Court of Gujarat** became the first high court in the country to start live streaming of court proceedings.

Key Points

- **Chief Justice of India NV Ramana** inaugurated the live streaming of the Gujarat High

Court proceedings.

- The chief justice also released **“The High Court of Gujarat (Live Streaming of Court Proceedings) Rules, 2021”**.

About High Court of Gujarat:

- It was established on 1 May 1960 under the Bombay Re-organisation Act, 1960 after the state of Gujarat split from Bombay State.
- **Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court:** Vikram Nath

Source: **TOI**



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6. Government of India launches National Logistics Excellence Awards



Why in News

- The **National Logistics Excellence Awards** are in **two categories**; the **first** includes **logistics infrastructure/service providers** and **second** is for **various user industries**.
- Awards will give due recognition to various players involved in the logistics supply chain.

Key Points

About the Awards:

- Through these awards, the government aims to turn the spotlight on **logistics service providers** who have attained operational excellence, adopted digitisation and technology, improved customer service and pursued sustainable practices, among other achievements.
- For **user industries**, the awards will showcase efforts towards supply chain transformation, supplier ecosystem development, skill development, automation, and other similar endeavours.

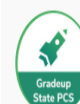
Note:

- While the Indian logistics sector has been growing at a CAGR of 10.5%, reaching approximately USD 215 billion in value in 2020, there are systemic, interconnected problems that must be addressed to enhance its efficiency.
- Comprehensive logistics costs amount to almost 14% of India's GDP. Closing India's competitiveness gap vis-à-vis the global average of 8 percent, would make the Indian logistics sector advanced, organised and efficient, on par with global peers with the ambition of being amongst the top 25 countries in the global Logistics Performance Index (LPI).

Source: PIB



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