

Daily Current Affairs 17.09.2021

Task Force and Expert Committee to prepare road map for Coal based Hydrogen Production



- The Ministry of Coal has constituted a Task Force and Expert Committee to prepare a road map for Coal based Hydrogen Production.
- Chairman of the Task Force- Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary Coal
Note: Task Force is responsible to coordinate with the Coal Gasification Mission and NITI Aayog.
- Chairman of the Expert Committee- R.K. Malhotra, Director General (FIPI)

About Coal based Hydrogen Production:

- Coal is one of the important sources of hydrogen making (Brown Hydrogen) apart from Natural Gas (Grey Hydrogen) and renewable energy (Green Hydrogen) through electrolysis.
- However, Coal has not been encouraged elsewhere because of the fear that while extracting hydrogen via coal there may be carbon emission.
- Almost 100% of Hydrogen produced in India is through Natural Gas.
- Globally, 73 MT Hydrogen is used for refining, ammonia making and other pure use and about 42 MT is used for Methanol, steel making and other mixed uses.
- Cost of Hydrogen produced from coal can be cheaper and less sensitive to imports when compared with hydrogen production through electrolysis and Natural Gas respectively.

Source: PIB

Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue



- India and the United States (USA) launched the “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)”.
- The CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden.
- Earlier, the revamped U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) (first track) was launched.

- The dialogue was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Bhupender Yadav and John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate in New Delhi.
- The dialogue will help to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.

Source: The Hindu

NITI Aayog launches 'Shoonya' Campaign



- NITI Aayog, with RMI and RMI India's support, launched 'Shoonya' Campaign.
- It is an initiative to promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.

About 'Shoonya' Campaign:

- The campaign aims to accelerate adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment.
- As part of the campaign, a corporate branding and certification programme is being launched to recognise and promote industry's efforts towards transitioning to Electric Vehicles for final-mile deliveries.
- An online tracking platform will share the campaign's impact through data such as vehicle kilometers electrified, carbon savings, criteria pollutant savings and other benefits from clean delivery vehicles.

Source: PIB

6th edition of SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise 2021



- The Indian military contingent comprising of an all arms combined force of 200 personnel to include 38 personnel from the Indian Air Force is participating in the 6th edition of SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise 2021.
- The Exercise is being hosted by Russia in the Orenburg Region of South West Russia from 13 to 25 September 2021.

About SCO Peaceful Mission Exercise:

- Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise Peaceful Mission is a Multilateral Exercise, which is conducted biennially as part of military diplomacy between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.
- The aim is to foster close relations between SCO member states and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multi-national military contingents.

Facts about Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
- Formed: 15 June 2001
- Members: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
- Headquarter: Beijing, China

Source: PIB

Guru Ghasidas National Park to become India's 53rd Tiger Reserve



- Guru Ghasidas National Park will become the country's 53rd Tiger Reserve, as soon as it gets approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- It will be the 4th of Chhattisgarh and 53rd of the country's Tiger Reserve.
- In the year 2019 a resolution was passed by Chhattisgarh Forest to make, Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve.
- Before the formation of Chhattisgarh, this was part of Sanjay National Park in United Madhya Pradesh.
- The Tiger Reserve has been formed by combining Guru Ghasidas National Park of Korea and Tamor Pingla Sanctuary of Surguja.
- At present there are 3 tiger reserves, Achanakmar, Udanti Sitanadi and Indravati in the state.

Source: zeenews

UNESCO Literacy Prize awarded to NIOS



- The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) of India won the prestigious UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2021 for Innovation in Education.
- NIOS won this award for 'enabling education of persons with disabilities through technology-enabled inclusive learning materials, with a specific focus on Indian Sign language-based content'.

- Every year, the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes focus on a specific theme. This year, the spotlight was on inclusive distance and digital literacy learning.
- Along with NIOS, this year's UNESCO International Literacy Prizes were awarded to five other outstanding literacy programmes from Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, and South Africa.

Source: India Today

More than one thousand tons of biomedical waste in Pune city



In the last four months, the city of Pune has generated more than a thousand tonnes of biomedical waste, including masks, hand gloves, laboratory waste, failed vaccines and surgical waste.

As the number of corona patients has decreased, other patients are now being treated as well. Therefore, the amount of ordinary biomedical waste is now higher than that of covid biomedical waste.

The amount of general biomedical waste has been observed to increase between June and August as compared to April-May.

From May to August, the city has generated 759 tonnes of various types of biomedical waste and 345 tonnes of covid biomedical waste.

Source: AIR News

Tata Steel opens India's first factory to Capture CO2



Tata Steel has launched India's first carbon capture plant that directly extracts CO₂ from blast furnace gas at Jamshedpur Works. As a result, Tata Steel has become the first steel company in the country to adopt such a carbon capture technology. The CCU plant was inaugurated by Tata Steel CEO and MD TV Narendran in the presence of company officials and other dignitaries.

About the factory:

The factory can take 5 tons of CO₂ (5 tons per day (TPD)) per day. The company will recycle the captured CO₂ on site to boost the global carbon economy.

This Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU) facility uses amine-based technology and makes the captured carbon available for onsite recycling.

The depleted CO₂ gas is sent back to the gas network with an increased calorific value. The project is being implemented with the technical assistance of Carbon Clean, a world leader in low cost CO₂ capture technology.

Important information:

Establishment of Tata Steel: 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur;

Founders of Tata Steel: Jamshetji Tata;

Tata Steel Headquarters: Mumbai.

Source: Tata Steel

byjusexamprep.com