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Goods and Services Tax Committees



- The Union Finance Ministry has set up two committees comprising state finance ministers to review the current tax phase of goods and services tax (GST) and GST-free goods.
- These committees will suggest possible sources of tax evasion and necessary changes in the GST system to prevent revenue leakage. In the process of simplification of tax structure, the issue of merger of special rates and tax stages will also be considered by these committees by reviewing the existing tax stages.
- The decision to set up the two ministerial committees was taken at a meeting of the GST Council on September 17 chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- One of the **seven-member** committee will be headed by Karnataka Chief Minister **Basavaraj Bommai**.
- Objective: This committee will review the list of goods and services exempted under GST in various tax phases. This is expected to help increase the overall collection by keeping the tax return to a minimum. The committee has been asked to submit the report within the next two months.
- The other **eight-member** committee will be headed by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister **Ajit Pawar**.
- Objective: The committee will review the information technology tools and platforms available to taxpayers. The committee will suggest ways to make GST's technology system more effective. It will also be analyzed based on available information to increase tax compliance. It will also suggest ways for better coordination between central and state government tax officials.

Source: Loksatta

Quad Leaders' Summit 2021



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** along with his counterparts from **Australia and Japan** on September 24, 2021 attended the **first in-person meeting of Quad leaders** hosted by **US President Joe Biden**.

Major Highlights of the Quad Summit:

- Discussed Afghanistan and agreed to deepen their cooperation in South Asia
- Building on the G7's announcement of Build Back Better World (B3W)
- Launch the Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group
- Form a Green-Shipping Network

Launch the Quad Fellowship: The Fellowship will sponsor 100 students per year—25 from each Quad country—to pursue masters and doctoral degrees at leading STEM graduate universities in the United States.

About Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad):

- It is a strategic dialogue between the United States, India, Japan and Australia.
- It was initiated in 2007 by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Source: Indian Express

GI tag



- **Judima, a home-made rice wine of Assam's Dimasa tribe** has become the first traditional brew in all of northeast to bag a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- This is the second product from the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao to get GI tag. Back in 2007, the ginger of Karbi Anglong was awarded the GI tag.
- Made from sticky rice, which is steamed and mixed with traditional herbs, the wine has a distinct sweet taste and takes around one week to prepare.

Naga Cucumber:



- **Nagaland's Naga Cucumber** was awarded a **Geographical Identification (GI) tag**.
- Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft and sweet and are grown completely organically.

Geographical Indication (GI) Certification:

- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- The Geographical Indications Registry is located at Chennai.

Note: Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–2005.

Source: HT

Planetarium Innovation Challenge



- **MyGov India**, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has launched the **Planetarium Innovation Challenge** for Indian start-ups and tech entrepreneurs.
- The challenge aims to bring together the tech firms and Start-ups (based out of India) with the potential to build an indigenous planetarium system software using latest technologies including Augmented Reality (A.R.), Virtual Reality (V.R.) and Merged Reality (M.R.).
- **About MyGov:** It is a citizen engagement platform launched by the Government of India on 26th July 2014 to promote the active participation of Indian citizens in their country's governance and development.

Source: PIB

'Ek Pahal' Campaign



- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** has launched a Pan-India Special Campaign '**Ek Pahal**' for Justice Delivery at doorstep.
- The **Department of Justice** and **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** launched it across the country from 17th September 2021 till 2nd October 2021 to encourage mass registration under Tele-Law.
- The medium of Tele Law effectively provides pre-litigation advice / consultation to beneficiaries by Panel Lawyers through a huge network covering 51,434 Common Service Centres in 50,000 Gram Panchayats in 633 districts across 34 States and UTs.

Source: PIB

'Blue Planet Prize' 2021

- **NHPC's 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station, Sikkim** has been conferred with the '**Blue Planet Prize**' 2021.



About 'Blue Planet Prize':

- It was presented by the **International Hydropower Association (IHA)**, a London based non-profit membership association operating in 120 countries.
- It is awarded to hydropower projects that demonstrate excellence in sustainable development.

Note: 510 MW Teesta-V Power Station has been built, owned and being operated by NHPC Limited and is located on Teesta River.

Source: PIB

UNESCO World Book Capital



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

World Book Capital

- The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named **Accra (Ghana)** as UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023.

Key Points

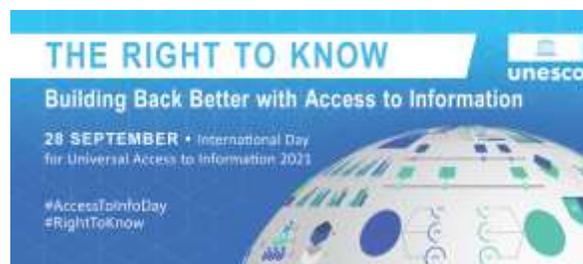
- Accra is the 23rd city to be named UNESCO World Book Capital for 2023.
- The year of celebrations will start on 23 April 2023, on World Book and Copyright Day.

Note:

- UNESCO World Book Capital for 2021: Tbilisi (Georgia)
- UNESCO World Book Capital for 2022: Guadalajara (Mexico)

Source: UNESCO

September 28, International Day for Universal Access to Information



- The International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) is observed globally on 28th September every year.
- The **theme** for 2021 is '**Building back better with access to information**'.

Background:

- On 17 November 2015, the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** declared 28 September as International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- The **UN General Assembly** also adopted 28 September 2019 as the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

Source: un.org

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