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India and Japan renew Bilateral Swap Arrangement



- India and Japan renewed their **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)** to the extent of \$75 billion.
- The Bank of Japan, acting as an agent for the Minister of Finance Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed the amendment and restatement agreement of the BSA.
- **BSA** is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for dollars.
- The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Japan in 2018.
- Consequently, the swap arrangement was signed to the tune of \$75 billion in October 2020, to bring greater stability to foreign exchange.

Source: Business Standard

Field assessment of Swachh Survekshan 2022 launched



- The field assessment for the seventh consecutive edition of world's largest urban cleanliness survey, **Swachh Survekshan (SS)**, was launched on 1st March 2022 by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- MoHUA kicked off the SS 2022 survey with around 3,000 assessors of the Assessment Agency - Ipsos Research Pvt. Ltd., ready to go on the field to assess the performance of cities.
- The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years.

About Swachh Survekshan (SS):

- SS was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.

- The journey that started in 2016 with only 73 cities with million plus population, has grown manifold, with 434 cities in 2017, 4,203 cities in 2018, 4,237 cities in 2019, 4,242 cities in SS 2020 and 4,320 cities in SS 2021, including 62 Cantonment Boards.

Source: PIB

Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates



- The Centre Government has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme “**Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates**” for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.
- The approval will ensure that assistance under the Umbrella Scheme, continues to reach beneficiaries through the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The scheme enables migrants and repatriates, who have suffered on account of displacement, to earn a reasonable income and to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.

Source: PIB

MyGov launches “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz”



- In order to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance, MyGov has launched the “**Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz**” series, on 1st March, 2022.
- This is a year-long project and consists of 14 episodes.
- “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz series” aims to sensitise the participants about the various government schemes and initiatives.
- This includes yojanas that resulted in the unprecedented number of houses built (PM Awas Yojana), water connections given (Jal Jeevan Mission), bank accounts (Jan Dhan), direct benefit transfer to farmers (PM KISAN) or free gas connections (Ujjwala) and many more life changing interventions for the poor.

- The first quiz is on Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). PM-GKAY is a pro-poor package intended to reduce the challenges encountered by the poor as a result of disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: PIB

Demand for Rajya Sabha Seat to Chandigarh



- The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation approved a proposal to amend Article 80 of the Constitution so that its councillors could send a representative to the Rajya Sabha.

Private Member Bill – the Constitution (Amendment Bill, 2021) and Amendment of Article 80:

- The Private Member Bill is a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister. MPs sitting in the Opposition mostly bring Private Member Bills in the house.
- Article 80 of the Constitution of India deals with the composition of the council of states also called the Upper House.

Note:

- The union territories of Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir and the National Capital Territory of Delhi have representation in the Rajya Sabha, while Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli – Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are unrepresented in the upper house.

Source: Indian Express

Ujjain enters Guinness Book for Mahashivratri



- In Madhya Pradesh, Ujjain entered the **Guinness Book of World Records** for lighting more than 11 lakh earthen lamps simultaneously on the occasion of Mahashivratri.
- The people of Ujjain have set a new record by lighting more than 11 lakh 71 thousand lamps simultaneously breaking the record of 9 lakh 41 thousand lamps lit in Ayodhya last November.

- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam' festival at Ramghat of Kshipra River.
- Ujjain is home to Mahakaleshwar, one of the 12 jyotirlingas associated with Shiva.

Source: ET

World Wildlife Day



- World Wildlife Day is celebrated on 3rd March every year.
- The **theme** of World Wildlife Day 2022 is “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”.

History:

- On 20 December 2013, the Sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world’s wild fauna and flora.
- The date is the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973, which plays an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species’ survival.
- According to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, over 8,400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, while close to 30,000 more are understood to be endangered or vulnerable.

Source: un.org

World Hearing Day



- World Hearing Day is observed on March 3 every year.
 - The **theme** of World Hearing Day 2022 is “To hear for life, listen with care.”
 - The campaign is held every year by the Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization (WHO).
 - The campaign's objectives are to share information and promote actions towards the prevention of hearing loss and improved hearing care.
 - The first event was held in 2007. Before 2016 it was known as International Ear Care Day.
- Note:** Across the world, 360 million people suffer from disabling hearing loss.

Source: who.int

Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022

- Union Environment Minister has recently released the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022.
- India has slipped three spots from last year's 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015.
- India's rank dropped primarily because of major challenges in 11 SDGs including zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities.

State-wise report

- Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.
- Kerala ranked first, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in the second position.
- Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand shared the third position.

Among the Union Territories



- **Chandigarh was ranked first, followed by Delhi.**
- Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the second place and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the third,

Source: Economics Times

GOES-T: NOAA's launched by NASA



- NASA has recently successfully launched weather satellites Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-T) for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

About GOES-T

- The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-T, was launched on a United Launch Alliance **Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.**
- GOES-T is positioned in a geostationary orbit 22,300 miles above the earth, **it will be renamed GOES-18.**
- The first two of the GOES-R series were launched in GOES-16 launched in 2016 and GOES-17 launched in 2018.

Source: NASA.com

'Stree Manoraksha Project'

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has recently launched the 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS).

About 'Stree Manoraksha Project'

- The project aims to improve the mental health of women in India.

- The project would focus on building on capacity building of OSC (One-Stop Center) functionaries.

Source: AIR

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