

Daily Current Affairs 05.04.2022

Important News: World

India contributes \$500,000 to UN Women



Why in News

- **India** has contributed USD 500,000 to the **UN Women**, the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment.

Key Points

- The amount was handed over by T. S. Tirumurti, India's permanent representative to the UN to Dr. Sima Bahous, UN Women Executive Director.

About UN Women:

- UN Women is a United Nations agency committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, founded in 1976) and other organisations merged to form UN Women, which began operations in January 2011.

Source: **ndtv**

Important News: India

PM Narendra Modi holds talks with Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba held delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 2 April 2022.

Key Points

- This is Prime Minister Deuba's first bilateral visit abroad since assuming office for the fifth time in July last year.

- Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old “Roti Beti” relationship.
- Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Source: Business Standard

Central govt exempts genome edited crops from stringent GM regulations



Why in News

- The Central government has for the first time issued an order exempting certain types of genome edited crops from the stringent regulations applicable on **genetically modified or GM crops** thus giving a big boost to their further research and development.

Key Points

- The Ministry of Environment and Forest in an order issued recently, exempted SDN1 and SDN2 genome edited plants from Rules 7-11 of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) for manufacture, use or import or export and storage of hazardous microorganisms or genetically engineered organisms or cells rules-1989.
- Genome editing or gene editing was discovered back in 2012, but Indian regulators took nearly a decade to comprehend its potential for developing crops resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses and with nutritional superiority.

Genome editing:

- A decade ago, scientists in Germany and the US discovered a technique which allowed them to ‘cut’ DNA strands and edit genes. For agriculture scientists this process allowed them to bring about desired changes in the genome by using site directed nuclease (SDN) or sequence specific nuclease (SSN).

Source: Business Standard

Broadcast Seva Portal for broadcasters launched



Why in News

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur launched the **Broadcast Seva Portal** in New Delhi.

About Broadcast Seva Portal:

- Broadcast Seva Portal is an online portal solution for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licenses, permissions, registrations, etc.
- It will reduce the turnaround time of applications and at the same time will help applicants track the progress.
- It will boost the business environment and empower the entire broadcast sector by directly benefiting more than 900 Satellite TV Channels, 70 Teleport operators, 1700 Multi-service operators, 350 Community Radio Stations (CRS), 380 Private FM Channels and others.

Source: HT

Railway Protection Force: Operation Upalabdh



Why in News

- Recently, **RPF (Railway Protection Force)** conducted a Pan India Drive against the touts under **Operation Upalabdh**.

About Operation Upalabdh:

- The month long drive under Operation Upalabdh has been able to curb the activities of touts substantially and make railway tickets available to the common man.

- Indian Railways advises the common public not to procure tickets from unauthorised persons as it is not only likely to be forfeited once detected, but may also land the buyer in legal trouble.

About Railway Protection Force (RPF):

- RPF is a security force under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.
- In February 2022, the RPF had launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking named **Operation AAHT**.

Source: PIB

Important News: Economy

India's merchandise exports hit a record high \$418 billion in 2021-22



Why in News

- India's merchandise exports spurt to a record high of USD 418 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal on higher shipments of petroleum products, engineering goods, gems and jewellery and chemicals, according to official data released recently.

Key Points

- India's merchandise exports had breached the targeted USD 400 billion mark on March 21 this year.
- Agriculture exports crossed USD 48 billion during April 2021-March 2022.
- The top export destinations are the US, the UAE, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Singapore, Hong Kong, the UK, Belgium and Germany.

Source: India Today

Important News: Science

Indian Antarctic Bill-2022



Why in News

- The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday, with the goal of establishing India's own national measures for conserving the Antarctic environment, as well as its dependent and linked ecosystems, by extending Indian laws to the southern continent.
- Among Bill's various scientific and research-related provisions, it mentions "optimal use of government resources and formation of public partnership structures to promote and harness the full potential of benefits available under the Antarctic Treaty, including Antarctic Tourism."

Aims of the Indian Antarctic Bill 2022

- To establish national policies to conserve the Antarctic environment and ecosystems, as well as to give the Antarctic Treaty effect.
- Through a well-established legislative structure, create a unified policy framework for India's Antarctic initiatives.
- Facilitate Indian Antarctic programme initiatives, such as Antarctic tourism management and sustainable fisheries development.

About Antarctica Treaty:

- Antarctica covers 14 million square kilometres and has no indigenous population (i.e. "Antarcticans" don't exist).
- Throughout the year, though, a few thousand people live there, in some 40 research stations distributed across the continent.
- The 'Antarctic Treaty' was signed in 1959 by 12 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Their goal was to keep the continent from becoming militarized and to make it a hub for peaceful activity.
- Later, more countries, including India, joined the treaty, bringing the total number of signatories to over 54.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Important Days

April 05, National Maritime Day



Why in News

- National Maritime Day is observed on April 5th every year.

Key Points

- The National Maritime Day was first celebrated on April 5, 1964.
- The legacy of Indian shipping first started on April 5th, 1919, when the first ship The SS Loyalty manufactured by The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. sailed from Mumbai to the United Kingdom.

Source: India Today

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