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Important News: World

United States Trade Representative places India on 'Priority Watch List'



Why in News

- The United States Trade Representative (USTR) placed India on the 'Priority Watch List' along with China, Russia and four others, for lack of adequate Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection and enforcement.
- The other countries that have been put on the list are Argentina, Chile, Indonesia and Venezuela.
- All seven countries on this year's list were on last year's, too.

Key Points

- The USTR said that India remained one of the most challenging economies for IP enforcement and protection and the country's overall IP enforcement was inadequate.
- In its "Special 301 Report" on the adequacy and effectiveness of US trading partners' protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, these countries will be the subject of particularly intense bilateral engagement during the coming year.
- The 'Special 301' Report is an annual review of the global state of IP protection and enforcement
- USTR reviewed more than one hundred trading partners for this year's Special 301 Report.

Source: ET







Important News: India

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 launches National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities



Why in News

• Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has launched the 'National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities'.

Key Points

- National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities shall serve as a guiding document and blueprint for States and Cities to undertake large scale multimedia campaigns along with intensive and focused inter-personal communication campaigns.
- The framework focuses on intensifying messaging around the key focus areas of source segregation, collection, transportation, and processing of waste, plastic waste management, and remediation of legacy dumpsites to truly transform the urban landscape of India.

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0): Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):

- SBM is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management.
- Phase 1 of the SBM lasted till October 2019. Phase 2 is being implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- SBM was split into two: rural and urban.

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0:

• On 1st October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 with the overall vision of creating "Garbage Free Cities".

Source: PIB







PM inaugurates the Semicon India Conference 2022



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Semicon India Conference 2022 in Bengaluru.
- The Semicon India Conference, 2022 was held from April 29 to May 1.

Key Points

• The **theme** of conference was "Design and Manufacture in India, for the World: Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem".

Prime Minister's address:

- PM Modi underlined 6 reasons for India being an attractive investment destination for Semiconductor technologies.
- First, India is building a digital infrastructure to connect over 1.3 billion Indians.
- Second, with steps like connecting six hundred thousand villages with broadband investment in developing capabilities in 5G, IoT and clean energy technologies, India is paving the way to lead the next technology revolution.
- Third, India is headed for robust economic growth with the world's fastest-growing Startup Ecosystem. India's own consumption of Semiconductors is expected to cross 80 billion Dollars by 2026 and 110 Billion Dollars by 2030.
- Fourth, India has undertaken wide-ranging reforms for improving the ease of doing business in India.
- Fifth reason is heavy investment in skilling and training young Indians for the needs of the 21st century.
- Sixth, India has undertaken several measures towards transforming the Indian manufacturing sector.







• Shri Modi also told about the recently announced **Semicon India Programme** with a total outlay of over 10 billion dollars. This program aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystems.

Note: Recently, Qualcomm India and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)'s Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) partnered to support Indian semiconductor startups.

Source: HT

Atal New India Challenge 2.0 (ANIC 2.0)



Why in News

• Atal Innovation Mission launched the phase 1 of the 2nd edition of the Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0).

Key Points

About Atal New India Challenge:

- Atal New India Challenge is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.
- One of the primary goals of the ANIC program is to support innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Application etc.
- Working in collaboration with the different verticals of NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, ISRO and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the 1st phase of **Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0)** will see 18 challenges being thrown open from 7 sectors.
- Sectors are E-mobility, Road Transportation, Space Technology and Application, Sanitation Technology, Medical Devices & Equipment, Waste Management and Agriculture.

Source: PIB







Important News: Appointment

Lieutenant General Manoj Pande takes over as new Chief of Army Staff



Why in News

• General Manoj Pande took over as the new Chief of Army Staff.

Key Points

- General Manoj Pande succeeded General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- General Pande is the 29th Army Chief and the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to get this opportunity.

Note: Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju also took over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

Source: TOI







Important News: Award and Honours

Atal Tunnel receives 'Best Infrastructure Project' award



Why in News

• The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) engineering marvel, **Atal Tunnel**, built in Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh, received the **Indian Building Congress' (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project'** award.

Key Points

- More than thirty state-of-the-art infrastructure projects were nominated for the award.
- The IBC jury selected the strategic tunnel as the 'Best Project for Excellence in Built Environment' in 2021.
- Atal Tunnel, built using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method, was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.

Note: On February 9, 2022, the 9.02 km long, Atal Tunnel, which runs beneath the 'Rohtang Pass' on the Manali – Leh Highway, was officially certified by the World Book of Records as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel over 10,000 Feet.'

Source: India Today







Important News: Important Days

May 01, International Labour Day



Why in News

- International Day of Workers or International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 in most countries.
- It is also known as May Day.

Key Points

- Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement in the United States in the 19th Century. In 1889, the Marxist International Socialist Congress adopted a resolution for a great international demonstration in which they demanded that the workers should not be made to work for more than 8 hours a day.
- May Day was first celebrated on May 1, 1890, after it was declared by the first International Congress of Socialist Parties in Europe on July 14, 1889.

Source: HT



