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Important News: International

MoU signed between India and Senegal

Why in News:

- India and Senegal have signed three MoUs on cultural exchange, cooperation in youth affairs, and visa-free arrangements for officers.



key points:

- These agreements have been signed at a time when both the countries are celebrating 60 years of diplomatic relations.
- The agreements signed between India and Senegal are aimed at further strengthening the bilateral partnership between the two countries, in which-
- The first MoU pertains to visa-free arrangements for holders of diplomatic and official passports.

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- The second agreement pertains to the renewal of the Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) for the period 2022-26.
- The third MoU is related to enhancing bilateral cooperation in youth affairs.
- Bilateral trade between India and Senegal is at \$1.5 billion, a growth of 37% during the last year.
- During the program, India has approved Phase II of the upgrade of the Center for Entrepreneurship Training and Development (CEDT) in Dakar.

Source: The Hindu

Bilateral talks between India and Israel were held in New Delhi

Why in News:

- Bilateral talks were held between the Indian Defense Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, and the Defense Minister of Israel, Shri Benjamin Gantz, in New Delhi.



key points:

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- The main objective of the bilateral talks held in New Delhi is to enhance cooperation in all areas related to defense, with a focus on R&D in future technologies and defense co-production.
- During the bilateral talks, the India-Israel vision of defense cooperation has been adopted by both the countries to further strengthen the existing framework of defense cooperation.
- Ahead of the bilateral talks, the Defense Minister of Israel, Mr. Benjamin Gantz, was traditionally presented as a Guard of Honor by the Indian Army.
- This is the first visit of the Defense Minister of Israel to India with an aim to strengthen defense ties between the two countries as well as the 30th anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between India and Israel this year.

Source: PIB

Important News: India

Residential Education Scheme (Shreshtha)

Why in News:

- The Housing Education Scheme (Shreshtha) for high school students in the targeted areas was launched by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar.



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key points:

- In accordance with the Directive Principles of Policy enshrined in the Constitution of India, the Residential Education Scheme (Shreshtha) has been launched for the students in the targeted areas with the objective of providing quality education and opportunities for the poorest students of the Scheduled Castes.
- Under the Awasiya Shiksha Yojana (Shrestha), such meritorious poor students of scheduled caste communities whose parents' annual income is up to Rs 2.5 lakh, will be provided free residential education from class 9th to class 12th.
- Under this scheme, a specified number (about 3000) of meritorious scheduled caste students in the States/UTs each year through a transparent mechanism of National Entrance Test (NETS) for "Shreshtha" by the National Testing Agency (NTA). will be selected.
- In order to ensure the quality of the students in this scheme, the National Testing Agency (NTA) will seek the students on the basis of an all-India entrance test.
- The best performing private residential schools affiliated to CBSE will be selected on the basis of the following parameters-
 - (i) The school should be in existence for at least last 5 years
 - (ii) More than 75% of the school board results in classes 10 and 12 for the last 3 years
 - (iii) The schools should have adequate infrastructure for additional admission of SC students in classes 9th and 11th.

Source: The Hindu

13 Railway Projects under PM-Gati Shakti

Why in News:

- Ministry of Coal has started 13 railway projects under PM-Gati Shakti, in which four rail projects have been included under the higher impact category.

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key points:

- Gati Shakti- National Master Plan for Infrastructure Development was launched in October 2021 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the objective of bringing together various ministries and integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- The main objective of PM-Gati Shakti Yojana is to cover infrastructure projects of various Ministries and State Governments and leverage technology in a broader way including geospatial planning tools.
- In order to meet the target of PM Gati Shakti, 13 railway projects have been taken up by the Ministry of Coal to develop multimodal connectivity as well as identify the missing infrastructure for each project.
- Under this project, four railway projects have been successfully planned in the NMP portal under high impact projects which will be developed in the states of Jharkhand and Odisha with the main objective of faster logistics and wider connectivity for all commercial miners.

Source: Indian Express

"Promotion of MSMEs in Northeast Region and Sikkim"

Why in News:

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- The Central Government has approved the new guidelines for the Central Sector Scheme "Promoting MSMEs in Northeast Region and Sikkim" with an aim to increase production and competitiveness.



key points:

- The "Promotion of MSMEs in Northeastern Region and Sikkim" scheme released by the Central Government will be implemented during the period of the 15th Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- The main objective of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Northeastern Region and Sikkim with a view to enhancing production and competitiveness as well as building their capacity.
- The following components have been included in the plan-
 - **Establishment of new mini technology centers and modernization of existing centers:** Under this scheme, financial assistance will be provided to the state governments for the establishment of new mini technology centers and modernization of existing centers, in which the financial assistance of the central government will be up to 90%.
 - **Development of new and existing industrial estates:** Financial assistance will be provided by the central government to the state governments for the development of new and existing industrial estates and, factory complexes with flats, in which the financial assistance of the central government will be up to 90%.
 - **Development of tourism sector:** Under the scheme, a cluster of homestays would include a kitchen, bakery, laundry, and dry cleaning, refrigeration and cold storage, IT infra, potable

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water, display center for local products, center for cultural activities, etc. Projects related to the construction will be constructed in which the financial assistance of the central government will be up to 90%.

Source: PIB

Important News: State

38th National Police Training Seminar

Why in News:

- The 38th National Police Training Seminar was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.



key points:

- The theme of the two-day 38th National Police Training Seminar organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) is 'Sharing of Best Practices in Police Training'.
- The goal of this seminar is to effectively use this platform to deliberate on the complex issues of police training, with the help of which these issues can be resolved by the government on the basis of empirical parameters.

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- The main objective of this seminar is to realize the Prime Minister's vision of Smart Policing.
- The second edition of the Directory of Police Training Institutes was also released on the occasion which aims at sharing through networking the resources, facilities, and expertise of all Police Training Institutes of States, Union Territories, Central Armed Police Forces, and Central Police Organizations. To facilitate real-time based communication between training institutes.

Source: PIB

Important News: Environment

Integrated Landscape Management Plan for Greater Panna Landscape

Why in News:

- The final report of the Integrated Landscape Management Plan for Greater Panna Landscape has been released by the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti in the presence of the officials of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and other concerned organization.



key points:

- This Integrated Landscape Management Plan has been prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in connection with the Ken-Betwa Link Project.
- The Integrated Landscape Management Plan for the Greater Panna Landscape has provisions for better habitat conservation and management of key species such as tiger, vulture, and gharial.

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- The main objective of the Integrated Landscape Management Plan is to help in integrating the landscape as a whole for biodiversity conservation and human welfare, especially for forest-dependent communities.
- The Integrated Landscape Management Plan aims to increase the tiger keeping capacity in this landscape by strengthening connectivity with Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.

Related Facts

What is Ken Betwa Link Project?

- The Ken-Betwa Link Project is a river-linking project aimed at diverting excess water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region in Betwa, Uttar Pradesh.
- Under this project, 7 meters long and 2 km wide Dhaudhan Dam and 230 km canal will be constructed.
- The Ken-Betwa Link Project is one of the 30 river-linking projects envisaged across the country.

Source: The Hindu

Important Days

World Bicycle Day

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- World Bicycle Day is celebrated every year on 03rd June all over the world.
- World Cycle Day has been organized in Delhi in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Nehru Yuva Kendra, with the aim of promoting fitness and sustainable development in India.
- The concept of World Bicycle Day is rooted in the imperative to be physically fit and physically fit, along with providing an environmentally safe and affordable means of transport.
- On the occasion of World Bicycle Day, cycle rallies have been organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in 35 state/UT capitals and 75 prestigious places in the country.
- Over 9.68 lakh km have been covered by 1.29 lakh young cyclists in a single day through the proposed cycle rallies.
- Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur has called upon the citizens to take a pledge to include at least 30 minutes of physical activities in their life "Dosage of fitness half an hour daily" through the celebration of World Cycle Day.

Source: PIB

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