

Daily Current Affairs 18th July 2022

Important News: International

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Why in News:

- Iran and Belarus are expected to join the China and Russia-backed Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) grouping as two new members.



key points:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was first expanded after India and Pakistan joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2017.
- China, Russia, and four Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan - were founding members of the SCO, while India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2017.
- Iran agreed to participate in the 2021 summit held in Dushanbe, while the membership process has also been started by Belarus.
- India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit next year, with Varanasi selected as the first "tourism and cultural capital" of the SCO region.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: National

National Institute Ranking (NIRF) 2022

Why in News:

- According to the National Institutional Ranking of the Ministry of Education, the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), is once again the top higher educational institution in the country, followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and IIT Bombay.



key points:

- This year it is the seventh edition of the National Institute Rankings.
- NIRF ranks colleges, universities, and research institutes and also provides a combined ranking of all institutions.
- This year, a total of 4,786 institutions have been assessed on five parameters – teaching, learning, and resources (TLR), research, graduate outcomes, and inclusivity and perception.

- IISc, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jadavpur University, and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham are among the top five universities this year according to NIRF.
- According to the report released this year, the top five medical institutions are the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Christian Medical College, Vellore, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru, and Banaras Hindu University.
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIM Kolkata, IIT Delhi, and IIM Kozhikode have been included in the top five management institutes in India this year as per the National Institute Rankings.

Source: The Hindu

The JAGRITI MASCOT for consumer rights

Why in News:

- The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched a mascot “JAGRITI” with an aim to empower consumers and create awareness about their rights.



key points:

- JAGRITI is projected as an empowered consumer whose main goal is to spread awareness about consumer rights and solve the problems of consumers.
- The "JAGRITI" mascot will also be used to inform the consumers about various topics of the department.
- The ongoing theme of JAGRITI Mascot covers the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, Hallmarking, National Consumer Helpline toll-free number 1915, provisions of Weights and Measures Act, and decisions of Central Consumer Protection Authority, and testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal.
- The JAGRITI mascot will be featured in all its media campaigns with the tagline "JagoGrahakJago".

Source: PIB

Scheme for Remission of State and Central Taxes and Duties (ROSCTL)

why in News:

- With a view to boosting exports and job creation in the textile sector, the Central Government has extended the Scheme for Remission of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL) till March 2024.



key points:

- The rates for the export of apparel and clothing under the RoSCTL scheme will remain the same as notified earlier by the ministry.
- The RoSCTL scheme aims to help improve cost efficiency and export competitiveness in the international market.
- The scheme has ensured a stable and predictable policy regime, which has helped in boosting exports and employment.
- With the help of this scheme, the incubation of start-ups and entrepreneurs in the domain has also been promoted, due to which a large number of MSMEs have been involved in the apparel export business.

Source: All India Radio

Important News: State

Namsai declaration between Assam, Arunachal Pradesh

Why in News:

- The boundary line demarcated by a committee in 1960 has formed the basis for the realignment of the Assam and Arunachal Pradesh inter-state boundary.



key points:

- Due to the geographical location of the Northeast, there is a problem in the demarcation between many states, due to which there are disputes between the states regarding their boundaries, to resolve such disputes an agreement has been reached by Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, The agreement has been named the Namsai Declaration.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu have signed the Namsai Declaration to resolve the inter-state border dispute involving 123 villages.
- Under the Namsai Declaration, the number of disputed villages has been reduced from 123 to 86 by the two states.
- A list of these villages was placed before a local commission by Arunachal Pradesh on 26 December 2007.
- As per the Namsai Declaration, all boundary issues between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh will be confined to the issues raised before the local commission in 2007.

Source: The Hindu

Inauguration of Bundelkhand Expressway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Why in News:

- Bundelkhand Expressway was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kaithari village in Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh.



key points:

- The Bundelkhand Expressway, built at a cost of about Rs.14,850 crore, is currently a 297 km long and four-lane expressway, which can be expanded to 6 lanes later.
- Bundelkhand Expressway is extended from National Highway 35 at Gonda village near Bharatkup in Chitrakoot district to Kudrail village in Etawah district which is later connected by Agra-Lucknow Expressway.
- Bundelkhand Expressway passes through 7 districts- Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya, and Etawah.
- There is also a proposal to build an industrial corridor in Banda and Jalaun districts near Bundelkhand Expressway, work on which has already been started.
- The foundation stone for the construction of the Bundelkhand Expressway was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 29, 2020, the construction work of which has been completed in 28 months.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Polity

Registration of Press and Journals Bill, 2019

Why in News:

- The Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019 has been amended by the government with a view to establishing a new registration regime for newspapers, which also includes digital media.



key points:

- The new bill will replace the Press and Books Registration Act, of 1867.
- The Registration of Press and Magazines Bill, 2019 allows the Central and State Governments to make suitable rules or regulations for the issue of official advertisements in newspapers, recognition of newspapers, and such other facilities for newspapers.
- The Registration of Presses and Journals Bill, 2019 lays down a simple system for the registration of e-papers and also provides for the creation of a Press Registrar General.
- It is mandatory for the editor of the magazine to be an Indian citizen in the prescribed eligibility for registration under the new act.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Sports

Singapore Open Badminton Tournament

Why in News:

- PV Sindhu won the Singapore Open Badminton tournament title.



key points:

- Indian badminton star PV Sindhu won the title by defeating world number 11 Wang Ji Yi of China in the final of the Singapore Open.
- PV Sindhu defeated Wang Ji Yi 21-9, 11-21, 21-15 in the final that lasted three sets.
- PV Sindhu is the third Indian woman to win the Singapore Open badminton tournament title, having been won by Saina Nehwal in 2010 and Sai Praneeth in 2017.
- This year it is PV. This is Sindhu's third title, before that she had won the Korea Open and Swiss Open titles.

Source: News on Air