

Daily Current Affairs 20th July 2022

Important News: International

Millet production in Asia and African countries

Why in News:

- The 'Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices' initiative was launched by NITI Aayog and World Food Program (WFP) India in a hybrid program aimed at mainstreaming millets in Asia and African countries.



key points:

- Under this scheme, NITI Aayog and World Food Program will prepare a collection of good practices to increase the production and consumption of millets in India and abroad.
- International for semi-arid such as ICAR, Central and State Government Departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Industry, Central and State Agricultural Universities, FPOs, NGOs, Start-ups, Academic and Research Institutes, and the International Organization for the Tropics (ICRISAT) Representatives from Crop Research Institute), Food

Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), etc. will also participate in the event.

- According to government data, the production of millet in India in the year 2020-21 has been 17.96 million tonnes.

Source: PIB

Important News: National

NAMASTE SCHEME

Why in News:

- A National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem-Namaste Scheme for cleaning sewers and septic tanks has been prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.



key points:

- The Namaste scheme is a joint effort of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The objective of the Namaste scheme is to achieve results like zero deaths in sanitation works in India,
- Under the Namaste scheme, no sanitation worker comes in direct contact with human excreta.

- The types of machinery and key equipment required for maintenance works, and safety gear for Safai Mitras have been shortlisted by the Ministry under this scheme, and it is available on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for ease of purchase by the States and Urban Local Bodies.
- Under the Namaste scheme, skill development and training of Safai Mitras will also be provided through National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Source: All India Radio

Important News: Agriculture

Minimum Support Price

Why in News:

- The government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of former Union Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal to discuss the issues of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and make it more effective.



key points:

- This committee has been constituted after the decision of the government to repeal three agriculture laws, promote zero budget-based farming,

change the cropping pattern by keeping in mind the changing needs of the country, and make MSP more effective and transparent.

- Representatives of central and state governments, farmers, agricultural scientists, and agricultural economists have been included in the committee constituted by the government.
- The objective of the committee is to draw attention to the agricultural marketing system.
- The committee will also suggest programs and schemes for value chain development, protocol verification, and research for future requirements and area expansion under the Indian natural farming system to the government.
- The main function of the committee is to deliberate on the mapping of existing cropping patterns of agro-ecological zones of producer and consumer states.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Polity

Drugs and Cosmetics Act

Why in News:

- The proposed Drugs, Medical Devices, and Cosmetics Bill, 2022 has been released by the Union Health Ministry to replace the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and several sets of rules.



key points:

- The draft released by the Union Health Ministry focuses on regulating medical devices as a separate entity.
- Presently no provision to regulate the online pharmacies being implemented exists in the 1940 law or any rule, the new amendment issued by the government has included the provision to regulate the online pharmacies.
- The new bill issued by the government provides for compensation to participants or their legal heirs for injury or death caused in clinical trials and investigations for drugs and medical devices.
- It has been provided that if the compensation is not paid, then it will be double the amount of compensation.
- The draft Bill also provides for the prohibition of a clinical trial or clinical examination of drugs and medical devices without the permission of the Central Licensing Authority.
- In order to take decisions on regulating medical devices, the draft Bill provides for the creation of a Medical Devices Technical Advisory Board on the lines of the existing Medicines Technical Advisory Board.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Defence

Sprint challenges unveiled during Swavlamban

Why in News:

- The 'Sprint Challenges' aimed at promoting the use of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy were unveiled by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, during the Naval Innovation and Indigenization Organization (NIIO) symposium Swavlamban in New Delhi.



key points:

- With an aim to achieve 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in Defense and as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', NIIO in collaboration with Defense Innovation Organization (DIO) has undertaken to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy. target has been established.
- The collaborative project, named Sprint, is intended to "support pole-vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defense Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)".
- A self-reliant defense system is important for the economy and also strategically, with the help of which a new impetus can be given to the long pending defense projects.

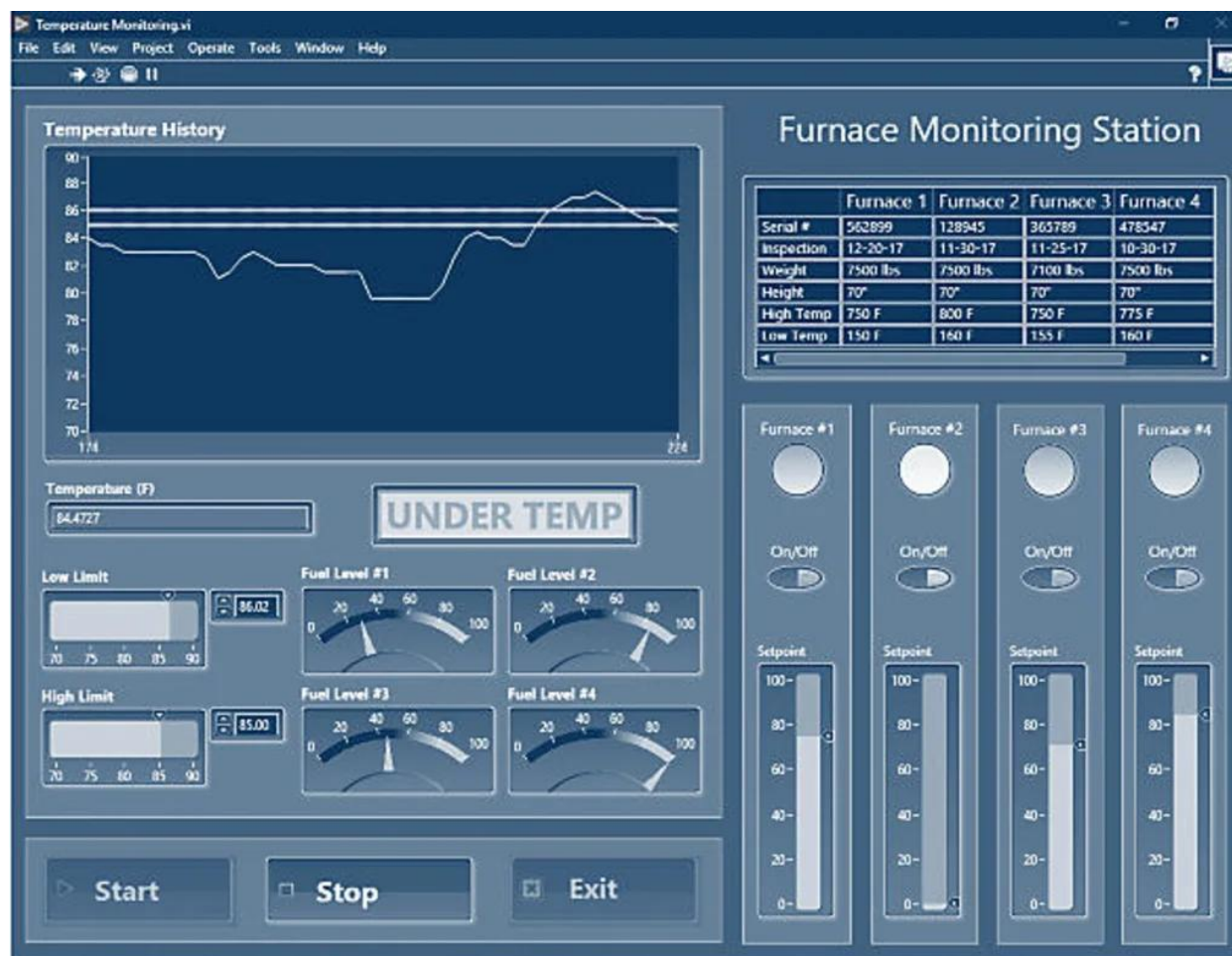
Source: PIB

Important News: Science & Tech

Free LabVIEW Platform

Why in News:

- For the first time in the country, the Free LabVIEW platform was launched through I-STEM for academic researchers in the education sector of India.



key points:

- I-STEM is an initiative supported by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under the PM-STIAC mission by scientists from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- LABVIEW uses a graphic interface that enables various components to be linked together to provide the required speed (flow) and runs on Windows, OS X (Apple), and Linux operating systems, and is supported by most Makes it suitable for popular computing systems.
- This software suite is hosted on a cloud server set up by I-STEM to provide user-friendly access from anywhere in India.

- The portal currently lists over 22,900 instruments from 1520 institutions across the country and has been used by over 16,000 Indian researchers.
- A digital catalog of indigenously developed technologies and products has also been included as a feature of the LabVIEW portal.

Source: PIB

Important News: Sports

Meraj Ahmed Khan



- ISSF in Changwon, South Korea by Meraj Ahmed Khan of India. Won the gold medal in the skeet event in the Shooting World Cup.
- Meraj is the first Indian male shooter to win a gold in the skeet event of the World Cup.
- Meraj won this gold medal by hitting 37 out of 40 accurate targets in the final match of the World Cup.
- In the same competition, the silver medal was won by Minsu Kim of Korea with a score of 36 and the bronze medal by Ben Llewellyn of Britain with a score of 26.
- Earlier, Meraj Ahmed Khan had won the Olympian title twice and the silver medal in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro World Cup.

- India ISSF with Meraj Ahmed Khan's gold medal She has topped the medal tally in the Shooting World Cup with five gold, five silver, and three bronze medals.

Source: News on Air

Important Days

International chess day

Why in News:

- Every year 20 July is celebrated as International Chess Day.



key points:

- The theme for this year's International Chess Day is "Chess is healthy, too".
- On 12 December 2019, July 20 was declared World Chess Day by the United Nations General Assembly with the aim of marking the date of the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924.
- The International Olympic Committee recognized the International Chess Federation (FIDE) as a global sporting organization in 1999.

- The International Chess Federation (FIDE) is the governing body of chess, which regulates all international chess competitions.
- Chess is a popular game that is included in the oldest games of our era.

Source: Indian Expressg

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