Weekly Current Affairs 4th Week July 2022

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Important News: State

Pulwama Mission Youth IAS Initiative

Why in News:

- The Pulwama Mission Youth IAS initiative was launched by the government in collaboration with the district administration with the aim of engaging the youth and realizing their potential.

key points:

- Under the Pulwama Mission Youth IAS initiative, Become Deputy Commissioner for the day, students of higher secondary level are encouraged to get involved in administrative matters.
- The Pulwama Mission Youth IAS initiative aims to motivate people to take up civil services in Pulwama, the most militancy-hit district of South Kashmir.
- Pulwama Mission Youth IAS Initiative can prove to be helpful in changing the behavior pattern of frustrated youth and students worried about their career
- The Pulwama Mission Youth IAS initiative aims to inspire youth to become agents of social change.

Source: Indian Express

Demand for the tribal area by the Hatti community

Why in News:

- The Hatti community has appealed to the central government to declare the Trans-Giri area of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district as a "tribal area".
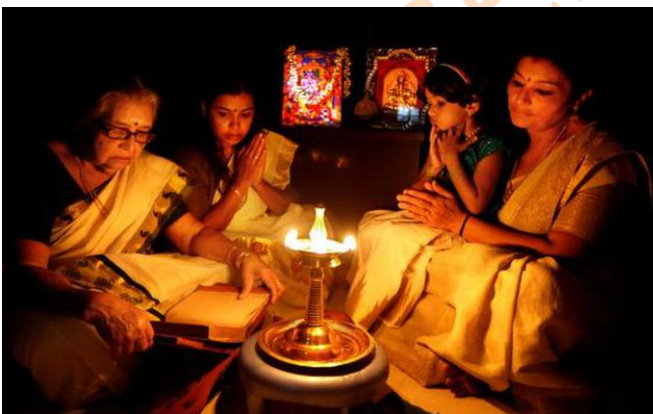
key points:

- There has been a long-standing demand to declare Trans-Giri as a tribal area and this demand is linked with the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Hatti community living in the area.
- The Hatti is a close-knit community, given its name from the tradition of selling domestic vegetables, crops, meat and wool, home-grown crops, etc., in small markets called 'hats' in towns.
- The men of this community traditionally wear a distinctive white cap on ceremonial occasions as a characteristic of the Hatti community.
- The Hatti homeland extends up to the Himachal-Uttarakhand border in the basin of the Giri and Tons rivers, both tributaries of the Yamuna.
- The two Hatti clans in Trans-Giri and JaunsarBawar share similar traditions, and the tradition of intermarriage is prevalent in both communities.

Source: Indian Express

Ramayana Massam of Kerala

Why in News:

- RamayanMasam month has started in Kerala (July 17, 2022, to August 16, 2022).

key points:

- According to the Malayalam calendar, the Ramayana month marks the beginning of Karkidakam, the last month of the year.

- During the month of Ramayana, verses of Ramayana are recited in the Hindu homes of Kerala throughout the month at dusk and Ramayana lessons are organized in temples also.
- Ramayana month is considered favorable for Ayurvedic treatment and pilgrimage.
- The Ramayana Massam ritual takes place before Onam, the famous festival of Kerala.
- A famous pilgrim center in Kerala, the Shabripeeth, located near Pampasar on the way to Sabarimala, attests to the darshan of Rama-Shabari during the exile period.

Source: Indian Express

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 HimantaBiswaSarma 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

Bundelkhand Expressway

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: India

The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery System (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022

Why in News:

- The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Distribution System (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by the government.

key points:

- The new bill has been introduced to amend the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Distribution System (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005.
- Under the 2005 Act, illegal activities such as the manufacture, transportation, or transfer of weapons of mass destruction and their means of distribution are prohibited.
- Whether weapons of mass destruction are biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons, the new bill prohibits the financing of any prohibited activity related to weapons of mass destruction to individuals and their delivery systems.

Source: All India Radio

Renunciation of Indian citizenship

Why in News:

- According to data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), over 1.6 lakh Indians relinquished their citizenship in 2021, the highest since the year 2019.

key points:

- According to the data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the number of Indians who gave up their Indian citizenship in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 are 1,44,017, 85,256, and 1,63,370 respectively.
- Among Indians who renounced Indian citizenship, more than 78,000 Indians acquired US citizenship, the highest among all other countries.

- After US citizenship, 23,533 Indians took citizenship in Australia, followed by 21,597 Indians in Canada followed by 14,637 Indians in the UK.
- The provision of single citizenship has been included in the Indian Constitution. The Indian Constitution does not allow dual citizenship.
- According to the Citizenship Act of 1955, any Indian citizen can renounce his citizenship through the following 3 means-
  - Any citizen of India of full age and capacity can declare to renounce Indian citizenship.
  - If a citizen of India voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country, he loses the citizenship of India.
  - With the announcement of the termination of Indian citizenship by the central government

Source: Times of India

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.
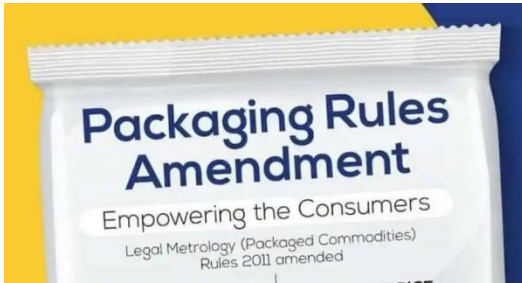

key points:

- 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

The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 amended by the Central Government

Why in News:

- Under the amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), Rules 2022 by the Department of Consumer Affairs, electronic products have been allowed to declare certain mandatory declarations through QR codes for a period of one year.

key points:

- The latest amendment allows the industry to declare detailed information digitally through QR codes.
- Under the amended Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011, other descriptive information can be passed on to the consumer through a QR code.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs aims to enable greater use of technology in this digital age.
- Currently, the industry can provide other information, except telephone numbers and email addresses, to customers through QR codes, such as the size and dimensions of the item and customer service details.
- Earlier, all pre-packaged goods including electronic products were required to declare all mandatory declarations on the package as per the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), Rules 2011 which has been amended at present.

Source: The Hindu

Azadi train and station

Why in News:

- The iconic week celebrations of 'Azadi Ki Train and Station' were inaugurated by Shri Vinay Kumar Tripathi, Chairman, and CEO, of Railway Board.

key points:

- Highlighting the special importance of 75 identified stations/27 trains in the freedom struggle, Indian Railways will organize this Iconic Week Celebrations from 18th July to 23rd July.
- The various programs of this iconic week celebration by Indian Railways have focused on both railway stations and trains with historical importance, for which 75 railway stations have been identified as 'Freedom Stations' and 27 trains for 'Spot Lighting'.
- The objective of the Iconic Week named Azadi Ki Train, and Station is to inculcate a sense of patriotism in the minds of the traveling public as well as the general public.
- In this iconic week, on the day of the 'Milestone Celebration' in Delhi on 23rd July 2022, the families of freedom fighters of the respective local area will be invited to these stations to share their stories.

Source: PIB

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

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

Important News: World

Jeddah Security and Development Summit

Why in News:

- The Jeddah Security and Development Summit held in Jeddah city of Saudi Arabia concluded.

key points:

- The Jeddah Security and Development Summit was attended by the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United States, with leaders of the involved countries discussing the historical ties shared between the countries.
- The aim of the Jeddah Security and Development Summit is to promote the joint cooperation of countries in all fields.
- The leaders involved in the conference reiterated their joint vision for a prosperous and peaceful Middle East and discussed taking all necessary measures to safeguard security and stability in the region.
- The Jeddah Security and Development Summit decided to support the Palestinian economy and UNRWA by all the member states.
- The commitment to build joint projects between countries for sustainable development was also renewed by the participating countries during the summit.
- Joint Task Force 153 and Task Force 59, formed prior to the conference, were set up with the objective of strengthening joint defense coordination, improving joint naval defense, and dealing with maritime security threats.

Source: Times of India

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

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Why in News:

- Iran and Belarus are expected to join the 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: Economy

NITI Aayog report on digital banks

Why in News:

- A report on the status of digital banks was released by NITI Aayog.

key points:

- The report released by NITI Aayog presents a roadmap for the licensing and regulatory regime for digital banks.
- In the report released by NITI Aayog, the recommendations have been presented by including the following steps -
- The report recommended that the issuance of licenses by a restricted digital bank to a given application should be restricted in terms of volume/value of license service customers, etc.
- The report recommended that the provision of enrollment in a regulatory sandbox framework enacted by the Reserve Bank of India should be made mandatory for digital banks.
- A 'full scale' digital bank license should be issued subject to the licensee's satisfactory performance in the regulatory sandbox including core, prudential and technical risk management.

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

Why in News:

- The process to roll out Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in the wholesale and retail sectors in a phased manner has been discussed.

key points:

- The introduction of CBDC was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget year 2022-23 along with the passage of the Finance Bill 2022, making necessary amendments to the relevant section of the RBI Act, 1934.
- The passage of the amended Bill has enabled RBI to issue CBDCs.
- A CBDC is a digital or virtual currency, but it cannot be compared to a private virtual currency or cryptocurrency, which has grown rapidly over the past decade.
- Private virtual currencies do not represent any individual's debts or liabilities as these currencies have no issuer.

Source: The Hindu

Remittance Status in India

Why in News:

- According to RBI, the US has become the top remittance source for India after UAE.

key points:

- Remittance refers to financial or other transfers made by residents residing abroad to friends and relatives in their country of origin.
- According to RBI, economic recovery in the US is one of the important components of India's remittance growth.
- In FY 2011, India received about 87 billion dollars in remittances, the highest in the world.
- According to the RBI, the share of remittances from the GCC sector in India's inward remittances is estimated to decline from over 50 percent in 2016-17 to around 30 percent in 2020-21.
- The share of traditional remittance receiving states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka has come down to half in the year 2020-21, while Maharashtra has emerged as the top remittance receiving state, surpassing Kerala.

Source: The Hindu

Report on Employment in India released by National Statistical Office

Why in News:

- The report on employment status in India on the compilation of minimum gender indicators and labor indicators has been released by the National Statistical Office.

key points:

- According to the report released by the Office of National Statistics, the employment rate of women with at least one child under the age of 3 years is lower than those who do not have any children.
- According to the report, more women work part-time than men across all age groups in both rural and urban areas in India.
- In both rural and urban areas in India, the 60+ age group has the highest number of part-time workers as a total employed ratio between men and urban women.
- The National Statistics Office is a comprehensive body consisting of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the Computer Center, and the Central Statistical Office (CSO).
- The National Statistical Office was conceived by the Rangarajan Commission to implement the statistical standards set by the National Statistical Commission (NSC) and to coordinate the statistical activities of central and state agencies.

Source: PIB

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Why in News:

- The government has changed the rates of Goods and Services Tax.

key points:

- At present, customers will have to pay 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pre-packaged labeled food items such as flour, paneer, and curd, along with hospital rooms renting more than Rs 5,000 as per the new rates.
- 12% GST levied by the government on hotel rooms, maps, and charts including atlases for rent up to Rs 1,000 a day, while cartons and charges (in loose or booked form) by banks for issuance of cheques The limit of GST imposed on it has been increased to 18%.
- Initially, 5% GST was levied on Solar Water Heater which has been increased to 12% at present by the Government.
- Trucks and cargo vehicles that include fuel costs, will have to pay GST at the rate of 12% lower as compared to the current 18% on hires.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Defense

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.
- 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

Science and Technology

vehicle location tracking device

Why in News:

- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to integrate Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).

key points:

- Under this scheme, all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device will be connected to the Emergency Response Support System.
- These vehicles can be tracked anywhere in India with the help of a vehicle location tracking device mechanism.
- The facility of the panic button was also launched by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for the safety of women and children in public vehicles.
- Vehicle Location Tracking Device consisting of Emergency Panic Button System and Command Control Center is connected to Emergency Response Support System Dial 112. The objective of this monitoring center or command control center is to easily detect vehicle thefts and vehicle accidents, as well as this initiative, will also make it easier to monitor the movement of vehicles to ensure the safety of women and children.

Source: PIB

Kerala is the first state in India to start its own internet service.

Why in News:

- The state of Kerala has become the first state in India to launch its own internet service which was named KFON (Kerala Fiber Optic Network).

key points:

- The Internet Service Provider (ISP) license has been granted to KFON Ltd by the Department of Telecommunications with an aim to provide internet facilities to all the residents of the state.
- KFON is an initiative of the Government of Kerala, which aims to bridge the digital gap in the state.
- The Kerala government aims to develop the existing telecom ecosystem infrastructure in Kerala through this project.
- The objective of KFON is to establish a core network infrastructure to provide non-discriminatory access to all service providers in the state with the aim of reducing their connectivity gap.
- Reliable, secure, and scalable internet will be provided to all government offices, hospitals, and educational institutions through KFON, as well as internet service providers, system operators, and internet service providers to provide free internet to economically backward families through this scheme by the state, Partnerships with telecom service providers will also be further strengthened.

Source: Indian Express

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

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) James Webb Space Telescope

Why in News:

- A set of images of five different regions of the sky has been released by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with the help of the James Webb Space Telescope.
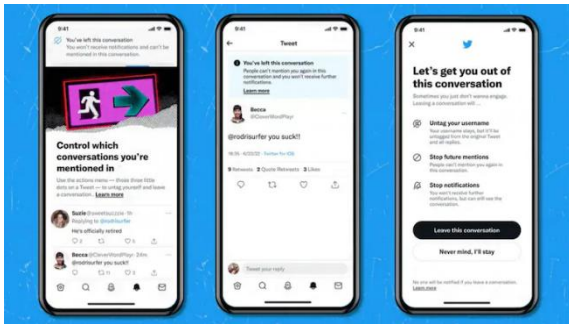

key points:

- The James Webb Space Telescope-assisted image is the deepest and best-infrared image of the most distant and oldest galaxies ever discovered.
- The James Webb Space Telescope established under an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency was launched in December 2021.
- The James Webb Space Telescope is the largest, most powerful infrared space telescope, primarily a successor to the Hubble Telescope.
- The James Webb Space Telescope aims to investigate every phase of the past, from the Big Bang to the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets to the evolution of the Solar System.
- The James Webb Space Telescope provides coverage primarily in the infrared range with observations from 0.6 to 28 μm, plus this telescope does not orbit the Earth but is designed to orbit the Sun 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.
- The James Webb Space Telescope is currently located at the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point which is one of the five points in the orbital plane of the Earth-Sun system.

Source: The Hindu

Twitter launches unmentioned feature

Why in News:

- Twitter has launched the "unmentioned feature", which allows users to remove themselves from any conversation.

key points:

- The unmanaging feature was introduced by Twitter at the time when Elon Musk offered to buy Twitter for US$44 billion.
- Before launching the unmentioned feature, Twitter was testing the unmentioned feature on a limited number of users until now.
- The unmanaging feature allows users to remove themselves from conversations they no longer wish to be a part of.
- Twitter is an American communications company headquartered in San Francisco, California.
- Twitter was created in March 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone, Noah Glass, and Evan Williams, and officially launched in July 2006.

Source: Times of India

Environment

Amendment in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Rules

Why in News:

- The latest amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Rules has been notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

key points:

- Highway projects of strategic and defense importance have been exempted in the new Act, under which any project which is 100 km from the Line of Control, all those projects have been exempted from obtaining environmental clearance before construction.
- The requirement of green clearance for the construction of the controversial Char Dham project has also been dispensed with by amending the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) rules.
- Under the new amendments, thermal power plants up to 15 MW based on biomass or non-hazardous municipal solid waste such as coal, lignite, or petroleum products up to 15 percent of non-hazardous municipal solid waste have also been excluded from this purview.
- Keeping in mind the pace of development in India, other projects have also been exempted in the new rules, such as toll plazas which require more width for setting up of toll collection booths, have also been kept out of this purview.

Source: The Hindu

Schemes

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 SafaiMitras 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 SafaiMitras will also be provided through National SafaiKaramcharis Finance Development Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Source: All India Radio

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.

Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL)

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 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 Express

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 n 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

Murali Sreeshankar

Why in News:

- Murali Sreeshankar became the first Indian to enter the final of the men's long jump at the World Athletics Championships.

key points:

- At the World Athletics Championships, a jump of 8 meters in the qualification round by Murali Sreeshankar took her to the final.
- Murali Sreeshankar, 23, from Kerala finished second in the qualification round Group B and seventh overall.
- The 10-day biennial World Athletics Championships will conclude on 24 July 2022.
- The World Athletics Championships are being held at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field Stadium for the first time in the United States.

Source: All India Radio

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

Reports and Indexes

India Innovation Index 2021

Why in News:

- The third edition of India Innovation Index 2021 was released by NITI Aayog.

NE and Hill states			UT and City states			Major States		
States	III 2021	Rank	States	III 2021	Rank	States	III 2021	Rank
Manipur	19.37	1	Chandigarh	27.88	1	Karnataka	18.01	1
Uttarakhand	17.67	2	Delhi	27.00	2	Telangana	17.66	2
Meghalaya	16.00	3	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17.29	3	Haryana	16.35	3
Arunachal Pradesh	15.46	4				Maharashtra	16.06	4
Himachal Pradesh	14.62	5	Puducherry	15.88	4	Tamil Nadu	15.69	5
			Goa	14.93	5	Punjab	15.35	6
Sikkim	13.85	6	Jammu and Kashmir	12.83	6	Uttar Pradesh	14.22	7
Mizoram	13.41	7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	12.09	7	Kerala	13.67	8
Tripura	11.43	8				Andhra Pradesh	13.32	9
Assam	11.29	9	Lakshadweep	7.86	8	Jharkhand	13.10	10
Nagaland	11.00	10	Ladakh	5.91	9	West Bengal	12.98	11
						Rajasthan	12.88	12
Odisha	11.42	16				Madhya Pradesh	12.74	13
Chhattisgarh	10.97	17				Gujarat	12.41	14
						Bihar	11.58	15
						Odisha	11.42	16
						Chhattisgarh	10.97	17

key points:

- Karnataka, Manipur, and Chandigarh have topped their respective categories in the third edition of NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index.
- Karnataka has topped the 'Major States' category in the India Innovation Index 2021 released by NITI Aayog.
- The state of Manipur has been ranked at the top this year in the category of 'Northeast and Hill States'.
- Chandigarh is the top performer in the category of 'Union Territories and the City States'.
- Prepared by NITI Aayog and Institute for Competitiveness, the India Innovation Index is a comprehensive tool for evaluating and developing the country's innovation ecosystem, ranking states and union territories on their innovation performance to create healthy competition among them.
- In the third edition of India Innovation Index 2021 by NITI Aayog, the number of indicators has been increased from 36 to 66 and the indicators are divided into 16 sub-columns.

Source: PIB

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:
    1. teaching,
    2. learning, and resources (TLR),
    3. research,
    4. graduate outcomes
    5. 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

Important Personality

Draupadi Murmu

Why in News:

- National Democratic Alliance- NDA's presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of the country.

key points:

- Draupadi Murmu won this election by crossing the 50 percent mark of the total valid votes at the end of the third round of counting.
- Draupadi Murmu started her political career by winning the councilor election of Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat in the year 1997 and in the year 2015, Draupadi Murmu took over as the 9th Governor of Jharkhand from the year 2015 to the year 2021.
- Draupadi Murmu is the first woman governor of Jharkhand state and Draupadi Murmu is also the first tribal woman to become the governor of any Indian state.
- The President of India is elected through an electoral college system, in which national and state-level parliamentarians vote.
- In the election of the President of India, the electoral college consists of all the elected members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the states and union territories.
- The election of the Indian President is conducted by the Election Commission of India (EC).
- Article 54 and Article 55 of the Constitution of India describe the procedure for the election of the President and the election of the President respectively.

Source: News on Air

Miscellaneous

National Standard for Civil Services Training Institutes

Why in News:

- The "National Standard for Civil Services Training Institutes" was unveiled by the Central Government with an aim to enhance the quality and competence of civil servants.

key points:

- The National Standard for Civil Services Training Institutes was launched at the Headquarters of the Capacity Building Commission.
- India has become the first country in the world to launch a unique model for creating national-level standards for civil services training institutes.
- Along with the national standards for civil services training institutes, a web portal and approach paper for national standards were also unveiled by the government.
- The National Standard for Civil Services Training Institutes has been created as a part of Mission Karmayogi.
- The main objective of the National Standard for Civil Services Training Institutes is to assist in the preparation and monitoring of capacity-building plans as well as an audit of human resources in the government.
- The National Standard for Civil Services Training Institutes aims to make Indian civil servants a better choice for the future by making them more creative, creative, thoughtful, innovative, dynamic, progressive, energetic, efficient, transparent, and technology enabled.

Source: Times of India

Landlord port model

Why in News:

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) has become the first major 100% Landlord Port in India, with all berths being operated on the PPP model.

key points:

- In the landlord model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and a landowner while private companies conduct all other port operations.
- Earlier, it was proposed by the government to set up a major port at Wadhawan near Dahanu in Maharashtra based on the landlord model.

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Mumbai is one of the leading container ports in the country and is ranked 26th among the top 100 global ports.
- The present TEU capacity of Jawaharlal Nehru Port is 9000 whereas, with the upgrade, its TEU capacity is 12,000.
- At present, there are 12 major ports in India that are
- Deendayal, Mumbai, JNPT, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar, VO Chidambaranar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, and Kolkata Ports.

Source: The Hindu

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

kala-azar disease

Why in News:

- At least 65 more cases of black fever or 'Kala-azar disease' have been reported in eleven districts of Bengal.

key points:

- Kala-azar or Visceral Leishmaniasis is a protozoan parasitic disease, which is transmitted by the bite of sandflies.
- Flies are infected with a parasite called 'Leishmania donovani'.
- According to the WHO, there are 3 main forms of leishmaniasis, of which kala-azar is the most severe.
- The disease affects the poorest and is associated with malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, weakened immune systems, and lack of financial resources.
- According to WHO, leishmaniasis is also associated with environmental changes such as deforestation and urbanization.
- In the year 2020, more than 90 percent of new cases reported to WHO occurred in 10 countries: Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen.
- In India, the Kala-Azar disease is endemic in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Source: Indian Express