

Daily Current Affairs 15.07.2022

Important News: International

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe honored with Japan's highest honor

Why in News:

- The Government of Japan has decided to honor former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (posthumously) with the 'Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum'.



key points:

- Shinzo Abe has served as the longest-serving prime minister of Japan.
- Shinzo Abe is the fourth former prime minister to receive Japan's highest honor under the constitution.
- The Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum is Japan's highest honor.
- The Grand Cordon of the Order was established in 1876 by Emperor Meiji of Japan and on January 4, 1888, the Collar of the Order was also included in it.
- Shinzo Abe was assassinated on July 8, 2022, while addressing a public meeting in the city of Nara.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: National

Global Gender Gap Index, 2022 released by World Economic Forum

Why in News:

- The Global Gender Gap Index, 2022 for the year 2022 was released by the World Economic Forum.



key points:

- India is ranked 135th out of 146 countries this year in the Global Gender Gap Index, 2022, released by the World Economic Forum.
- The Global Gender Gap Index assigns a score between 0 and 1, where 1 represents complete gender equality and 0 indicates absolute inequality.
- The Global Gender Report, 2022 states that it will now take 132 years to reach gender parity, from 2021 onwards the gap will be reduced by only four years and the gender gap will close at 68.1%.
- The Global Gender Gap Index evaluates countries on their progress towards gender equality in four key dimensions, which include-
 - Economic participation and opportunities,
 - Education opportunity,
 - Health and survival,
 - Political empowerment.
- Under the Global Gender Gap Index 2022, India ranks 146 in health and survival, 143 in economic participation and opportunity, 107 in educational attainment, and 48 in political empowerment.
- According to the Global Gender Gap Index 2022, India's position is even below its neighboring countries.
- Bangladesh (71st), Nepal (96th), Sri Lanka (110th), Maldives (117th), and Bhutan (126th) are ranked in the Global Gender Gap Index 2022.
- India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2021.
- India ranks 146 in health and survival, 143 in economic participation and opportunity, 107 in educational attainment, and 48 in political empowerment.

Source: Indian Express

Detailed Guidelines for Mission Shakti

Why in News:



- The detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme have been issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.



key points:

- The Integrated Women Empowerment Program named 'Mission Shakti' was launched by the Government of India as a specific scheme for the safety, security, and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- 'Mission Shakti' is a scheme in mission mode which aims to strengthen support for women's safety, security, and empowerment.
- Mission Shakti Yojana aims to empower women financially, and to inspire them to make independent decisions about their minds and body in an environment free from violence and danger.
- 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes:
 1. "Sambal" sub-scheme is for women's safety
 2. 'Samarthya' sub-scheme is for women's empowerment.

Source: PIB

Fertilizers Flying Squad formed by the Department of Fertilizers

Why in discussion:

- A dedicated committee named 'Fertilizers Flying Squad' has been constituted by the Department of Fertilizers to check any diversion, black marketing, or adulteration in fertilizers.



key points:



- According to government data, about one million tons of agro-grade Fertilizers are being used for industrial purposes every year.
- The Fertilizers Flying Squad aims to avoid black marketing of subsidized urea by industries.
- Agriculture-grade Fertilizers are neem-coated whereas technical-grade Fertilizers are not neem-coated.
- The neem-coating is removed by the industries through some chemical process and after that Fertilizers is used for industrial purposes.
- India's annual domestic demand for Fertilizers is around 350 lakh tons, of which 2.6 million tons are produced locally while the rest is imported.
- About 13-14 lakh tons of technical-grade Fertilizers are required annually for industrial use, of which only 1.5 lakh tons are produced in the country.
- Fertilizers are used in various industries such as resin/gum, plywood, crockery, molding powder, animal feed, dairy, and industrial mining explosives.

Source: Indian Express

Randomized Controlled Trials in India for Policy Making

Why in News:

- Nobel laureate Michael R. Kramer calls for randomized controlled trials in India for better policy analysis and formulation.



key points:

- Randomized controlled trials are an experimental form of impact assessment in which a population receiving a program or policy intervention is randomly selected from an eligible population, and a control group is selected at random from the same eligible population.
- A detailed study will be done through randomized controlled trials on several questions such as whether providing a mobile vaccination van or a sack of food grains will encourage villagers to vaccinate their children, etc.
- Under the randomized controlled trial, the households in the village will be divided into groups, with the help of which different aspects of it will be studied as well as various experiments will be done.
- Kramer, along with economists Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, was awarded the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Agriculture

The platform of Platforms (POP) launched

Why in discussion:

- The Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) was launched by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, during the Conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



key points:

- The platform of Platforms (POP) aims to enhance digital access of farmers to markets, buyers, and service providers and bring transparency to business transactions by improving price discovery mechanism, and quality commensurate price realization.
- e-NAM integrates the platform of service providers as a "Platform of Platforms" which includes Composite Service Providers (Service Providers who provide holistic services for the trading of agricultural produce.)
- A platform of Platforms (POP) enables farmers, FPOs, traders, and other stakeholders to access a wide variety of goods and services across the agricultural value chain through a single window, thereby giving more options to the stakeholders.
- The POP can be accessed through the e-NAM mobile app which can be downloaded from Google Play Store.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Defence

Artificial Intelligence in Defense (AIDef) Seminar and Exhibition

Why in News:

- The first "Artificial Intelligence in Defense (AIDef) Seminar and Exhibition" was inaugurated by the Defense Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh.





key points:

- Artificial Intelligence in Defense Seminar and Exhibition has been organized by the Department of Defense Production under the Ministry of Defense under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The aim of the Artificial Intelligence in Defense symposium is to promote “Self-reliant India” in the defense sector.
- During the Artificial Intelligence in Defense symposium and exhibition, the department showcased AI-enabled solutions that have been developed by industry, research organizations and startups, and innovators.
- All products included in the exhibition are related to the areas of automation or unmanned or robotics systems, cyber security, human behavior analysis, logistics and supply chain management, surveillance systems, speech analysis, and C4ISR: command, control, communications, computers and intelligence, surveillance.

Source: PIB

Important News: Environment

District Climate Change Mission

Why in News:

- District Climate Change Mission has been launched in all 38 districts by the Government of Tamil Nadu.



key points:

- Under the District Climate Change Mission, the mission will be headed by District Collectors as Mission Director.
- Under the District Climate Change Mission, the District Forest Officer will act as the Climate Officer.
- Under this plan, collectors will have to prepare climate change mitigation and adaptation plans at the district level and provide inputs for low-carbon, climate-resilient development plans.
- Another important distribution is to further strengthen the 'Meendham Manjapai' campaign against the use of single-use plastics under the District Climate Change Mission.
- An amount of ₹ 3.80 crores has been provided initially by the government for 38 district missions which will be used under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

Source: The Hindu