

NAMASTE Scheme

❖ Context

- National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) is an initiative to ensure the safety of sanitation workers.

❖ Key Highlights

- Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- Ensure safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India and providing sustainable livelihood and enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.
- It would bring about a behavior change amongst citizens towards sanitation workers and enhance demand for safe sanitation services.
- NAMASTE aims to achieve the following outcomes:
 - Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
 - All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers.

- No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter.
- Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises
- All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods.
- Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at national, state and ULB levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe sanitation work.
- Increased awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals & institutions) to seek services from registered & skilled sanitation workers.
- **Five hundred cities** (converging with AMRUT cities) will be taken up under this phase of **NAMASTE**.

India buys Petcoke from Venezuela

❖ Context

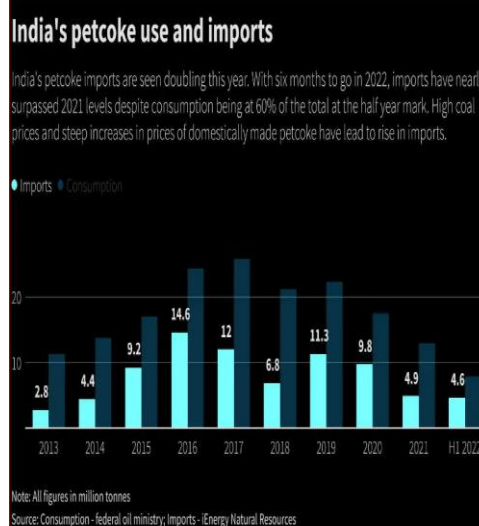
- Indian companies are importing significant volumes of petroleum coke from Venezuela for the first time.

❖ Key Highlights

- India's growing appetite for Venezuela's petcoke - a byproduct from oil upgrading and an alternative to coal - is being driven by a scramble for inexpensive fuel to power industries as global coal prices have surged.
- Venezuelan petcoke is being offered at discounts of 5-10% to petcoke from the United States.

❖ About Petcoke

- Petroleum coke (abbreviated PETCOKE) is a carbonaceous Solid Fuel delivered from refinery coker units or other cracking processes.
- Depending on the petroleum feed stock used, the percentage of carbon in petcoke can be as high as 98-99%.



- This creates a carbon-based compound containing hydrogen in concentrations between 3.0-4.0%. Raw (or green) coke contains between 0.1- 0.5% nitrogen and 0.2- 6.0% sulfur which become emissions when coke is calcined
- A tonne of petcoke is more expensive than coal, but produces more energy when burnt.
- It is generally not used as fuel because of toxic emissions, but is widely used by the cement industry - its largest consumer, as sulphur dioxide emissions are absorbed by limestone.

UDAN scheme

❖ Context

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation's flagship program Regional Connectivity Scheme **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik)** has completed 5 years of success recently.

❖ Key Highlights

- Aimed at connecting small and medium cities with big cities through air service.
- From just 74 operational airports in 2014 the number has jumped up to 141 by now, according to the ministry.
- 68 underserved/unserved destinations which include 58 Airports, 8 Heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes have been connected under the scheme.



- Moreover, the ambitious scheme has provided air connectivity to more than 29 States/UTs with the initiation of 425 new routes.
- The UDAN scheme has benefited over 1 crore passengers as on August 4, 2022 and the government is expecting 40 crore travelers through Civil Aviation in India in next four years.

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SMILE-75 Initiative

❖ Context

➤ Recently the initiative was launched by **Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment**.

❖ Key Highlights

- Under the **SMILE-75** initiative, seventy five (75) Municipal Corporations in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with focus extensively on rehabilitation,
 - provision of medical facilities,
 - counselling,
 - awareness,

- education,
- skill development,
- economic linkages and
- convergence with other Government welfare programmes etc.

- **The objective** of the initiative is to make our cities/town and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.

Navroz

❖ Context

➤ Navroz, which is the **Parsi New Year**, was celebrated this year on August 16 2022.



❖ Key Highlights

- The day is dedicated to the beginning of the spring and to promoting peace, solidarity, and friendship among people and different communities.
- Navroz marks the first day of **Farvardin**, the first month in the Zoroastrian calendar, also known as the **Shahenshahi calendar**.
- For followers of Zoroastrian philosophy, this day represents the time when everything in the universe is completely renewed.

- Jamshed, a monarch of the ancient Sasanian Empire, is credited with introducing the Parsi calendar. Hence, this holiday is also called **Jamshed-i-Nouroz**.
- Though across the world, Navroz is celebrated at the time of the vernal equinox around March 21 however, Parsis in India follow the Shahenshahi calendar which does not recognise leap years.
- This is why the Parsi New Year in India is celebrated almost **200 days** after it is celebrated across the world.

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

❖ Context

➤ The Cabinet has approved the “**Widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices**”.



❖ About TKDL

- The **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001, jointly by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and the **Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H, now Ministry of AYUSH)**.
- The TKDL is a **first of its kind globally** & has been serving as an exemplary model to other nations.
- The TKDL currently contains information from existing literature related to **ISM such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga**.

- The information is documented in a **digitized format in five international languages** which are **English, German, French, Japanese, and Spanish**.
- TKDL provides information in languages and formats **understandable by patent examiners at Patent Offices worldwide, to prevent the erroneous grant of patents**.
- Until now, access to the complete TKDL database is **restricted to 14 Patent Offices worldwide** for search and examination.
- This **defensive protection** through TKDL has **been effective in safeguarding Indian traditional knowledge** from misappropriation and is considered a **global benchmark**.

News in Between the Lines

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

❖ Context

➤ **NTPC Limited**, India's largest integrated energy company achieved 69454 MW of group installed and commercial capacity with the commissioning of 56 MW Kawas Solar PV Project at NTPC Kawas, Gujarat on 15.08.2022.

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❖ Key Highlights

- NTPC is steadily **lowering its carbon footprint** by **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** through the **installation of renewable energy projects** in its existing stations as well as putting up green field RE projects.
- The Company has planned **262 MW floating solar on over 1300 acres** of its reservoir area by installing over 9,50,000 PV modules at its various stations out of which 242 Mega Watt has been commissioned.
- Besides these, the projects would entail a **saving of 5 trillion liters of water per annum**, sufficient to meet the yearly water requirements of 15,000 households.
- NTPC has become the **world's first** energy major to declare its Energy Compact goals. Recently it has **collaborated with Niti Aayog to achieve the 'net zero' targets**. The NTPC Group **plans to achieve 60 GW of RE in by 2032**.

Interest Subvention on Short Term Agriculture Loan



❖ Context

- The Union Cabinet has approved **restoring the Interest Subvention on short-term agriculture loans to 1.5% for all financial institutions**.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Interest Subvention of 1.5%** will be provided to lending institutions (Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Bank, Small Finance Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Banks, and Computerized PACS directly ceded with commercial banks) **for the financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short term Agri-loans up to Rs 3 lakh to the farmers**.

❖ Benefits

- Increase in Interest Subvention will ensure the **sustainability of credit flow** in the agriculture sector as well as **ensure financial health and viability** of the lending institutions.
- Banks will be able to **absorb the increase in the cost of funds** and will be **encouraged to grant loans to farmers for short-term agriculture requirements**. This will also lead to the **generation of employment**.
- Farmers will continue to avail of short-term agriculture credit at an **interest rate of 4% per annum while repaying the loan in time**.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme(ECLGS)



❖ Context

- Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the enhancement in the limit of the **ECLGS by Rs 50,000 crore from Rs. 4.5 Lakh crore to Rs. 5 Lakh crore**.

❖ About ECLGS

- The scheme was launched as part of the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package** announced in May 2020 to **mitigate the distress caused by coronavirus-induced lockdown**.
- This scheme **covers all the sectors of the economy**.
- Under this, a **100% guarantee is provided to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs)** in respect of the **credit facility extended by them to eligible borrowers**.
- **The scheme is valid till 31.03.2023**.

Indian Flag Unfurled 30 Kilometers Above Earth



❖ Context

- **Space Kidz India** unfurled the Indian flag about **30 kilometers above the planet on Independence Day**.

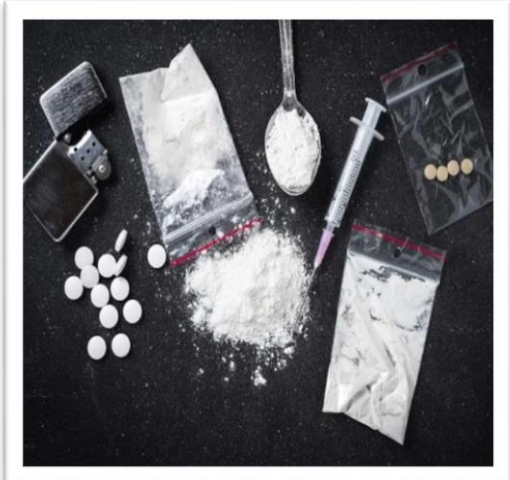
❖ Key Highlights

- The flag was sent to an altitude of **1 lakh 6 thousand feet above the planet** on a balloon that unfurled it. The event was part of the **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav slogan** and under the **Har Ghar Tiranga campaign** launched by Prime Minister to celebrate the **historic anniversary**.
- **Space Kidz India** is an organization creating **'young scientists for the country and spreading awareness among children for a borderless world.'**
- **Space Kidz India** is the **only organization to launch 12 balloon satellites, 2 sub-orbital satellites, and 2 orbital satellites**.

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NIDAN Portal



❖ Context

- Recently, **India's first portal** on arrested narco offenders got operational for use by various central and State prosecution agencies.

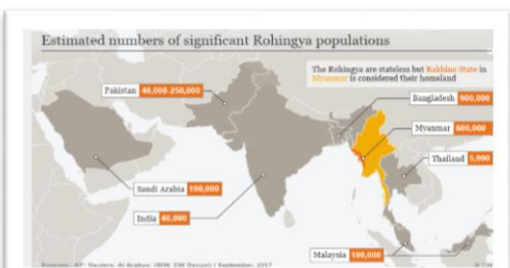
❖ Key Highlights

- **NIDAN (National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders)** is part of the **narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal** that was launched by the Union Home Minister.
- NIDAN has been **developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**.
- NIDAN will work **as a one-stop solution** for all narcotics offenders related data and will help investigative agencies as an effective tool to connect the dots while probing narcotics cases.
- NIDAN **hosts data about those accused** who have been arrested and jailed for drug offences.

❖ Significance

- It will **enhance the capability** of all the law enforcement agencies working against drug crimes.
- Any **agency can search for the crime history**, personal details, fingerprints, court cases and appeals made etc. with regard to a drug offender from any part of the country.

Rohingya Refugees



❖ Context

- Recently there were reports in the media that Rohingya Refugees would be provided homes in Delhi which were refuted by the Ministry of home affairs.

❖ About Rohingyas

- They are an **ethnic group**, representing the **largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar** and predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of **Rakhine**.
- They **speak a dialect of Bengali**, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language. Ethnically they are **much closer to the Indo-Aryan people of India and Bangladesh** than to the Sino-Tibetans of Myanmar.
- They are described by the United Nations (UN) as **one of the most persecuted minorities** in the world.

❖ Indian Scenario

- In India, there are **nearly 40,000 Rohingya refugees**, with **16,500 registered** with the office of the **United Nations Human Rights Commissioner**.
- They are spread over **several cities and states Jammu, New Delhi, Jaipur** and some places in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the north-east.

CERT-In



❖ Context

- Recently, CERT-In **warned of the vulnerabilities in Zimbra**, a collaborative software suite and an email client which exist due to bugs in authentication processes, path traversal and remote code execution.

❖ CERT-In

- **About:**
 - CERT-In is the **national nodal agency** for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
 - It was **established in 2004** and **Headquartered in New Delhi**.
- **Jurisdiction:**
 - It works as a **functional organization** of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeiTy**).
 - The constituency of CERT-In is the Indian Cyber Community.
- **Functions:**
 - It performs **functions as provided by Information Technology (Amendment) Act 2008**.
 - **Collection, analysis, & dissemination** of information on cyber incidents.
 - **Forecast and alerts of cybersecurity** incidents.
 - **Emergency measures** for handling cybersecurity incidents.

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