

DAILY PT POINTERS

3nd July, 2024



The Hindu:_GS 3/Environment -Page 6

District Panchayat constitutes technical committee to address water hyacinth issue in Kottayam

The committee has been tasked with submitting a report within a month.

Updated - July 02, 2024 09:16 pm IST Published - July 02, 2024 07:09 pm IST - KOTTAYAM

THE HINDU BUREAU













- Water hyacinth is a fast-growing, aquatic plant
- A native of Brazil, the weed has spread to other parts of the world
- Water hyacinth can form dense mats that spread out across water surfaces eventually choking the entire water body.
- Water hyacinth grows from seed and through vegetative reproduction.

The Hindu:GS2-IR(Page -12)

Jaishankar to represent India in place of Modi at SCO summit in Kazakhstan

 Qutin, and Sharif are expected to attend: Modis decision to skip Eurasian grouping meet could disappoint Central Asian countries as interactions with them have been cancelled twice in the past: meeting is expected to see discussions on multilateral cooperation in trade and fight against terror

uhasini Haida

nister S. Jaishankar lazakhstan on Tuesday to ead the Indian delegation t the SCO Council of teads of State in place of rime Minister Narendra fodi on July 3 and 4, the finistry of External Affairs

Leaders of other counries in the Eurasian group, rewly expanded to include bussian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan PM Shehlents of Uzbekistan, Kvranded in Astana for a state

oreign Minister Murat of regional and internation- tries. Mr. Modi is due to



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Kazakhstan Deputy Prime Minister Murat Nortleu in Astana on Tuesday, x/9005145F98648

Nurtleu. In a social media al importance are also ex-meet the Russian President post, he said that he had pected to be discussed at next week in Moscow for a is due to be held in Pakis-"discussed our expanding the meeting," the MEA said bilateral visit strategic partnership and in a press release on Tuese hosted by Kazakh Presi- India's increasing engage- day, which did not give any Mr. Modi in Astana could hosted by China in 2025, it ment with Central Asia in reason for Mr. Modi's deci- disappoint the Central remains to be seen wheth-

sion not to attend the sum-

ed to address the grouping during the plenary session address the Eurasian been cancelled twice in re-

"At the summit, the lead—sion to drop out of the sum—were invited to India for Re—Council will adopt the Astaers are expected to review mit in Kazakhstan will public Day in 2022 (the visit ry is in the middle of elec- the organisation's activities avoid awkward moments was cancelled due to the pected to focus on strengover the past two decades from sharing the stage with COVID-19 pandemic), and thening ties between SCO Shortly after landing, and discuss the state and the Chinese President and when India turned the SCO countries on economic is-Deputy Prime Minister and cooperation. Topical issues tense ties with both coun-

No topic off-limits: Russia

Given the "very trusting nature" of the relationship hetween Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, no topic is off-limits for the two leaders when they meet

announced a bit later but using the International preparations for it are already at their final

said on Tuesday. The dates

Asian leadership, given er Mr. Modi will attend fu-While Mr. Modi may still ments with them have

Given that the next SCO velopments.

However, the absence of next SCO Summit will be

Astana Declaration

na Declaration, which is ex-

Pakistan PM Mr. Sharif is

closely with the Taliban re-



- The 24th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State (SCO Summit) will be held on 04 July 2024 in Astana, under the presidency of Kazakhstan.
- External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation to Astana for the Summit.
- At the Summit, the leaders are expected to review the organization's activities over the past two decades and discuss the state and prospects of multilateral cooperation. Topical issues of regional and international importance are also expected to be discussed at the meeting.
- India's priorities in SCO are shaped by Prime Minister's vision of a 'SECURE' SCO. SECURE stands for Security, Economic cooperation, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection. India, under its first-ever presidency of SCO, hosted the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State on 04 July 2023 in virtual format.

The Hindu: GS 3/Economy

RBI proposes rationalising norms on EXIM deals

Press Trust of India MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday proposed rationalising regulations that cover export and import transactions to promote ease of doing business and empower banks to provide more efficient service to their foreign exchange customers.

The central bank has issued 'Regulation of Foreign Trade under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 - Draft Regulations and Directions'.

As per the draft, every exporter should furnish to the specified authority a declaration specifying the amount representing the full export value of the goods or services.



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Indian Express-Defense(GSIII)-Page 9

Who was Abdul Hamid, hero of Asal Uttar battle?

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA

CHANDIGARH, JULY 2

RSS supremo Mohan Bhagwat, on Monday, released 'Mere Papa Paramvir', a book which tells the tale of Abdul Hamid, one of India's greatest war heroes. Bhagwat travelled to Uttar Pradesh's Dhampur, Hamid's ancestral village, to release the book authored by journalistfilmmaker S Ramachandran.

Born on July 1, 1933, Company Quarter Master Havildar (CQMH) Abdul Hamid laid down his life fighting the

Pakistan Army's Patton anks in the Battle of Asal Uttar during the 1965 Indo-Pak War. He was posthunously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest gallantry award.

Epic tank battle

Asal Uttar, in Punjab's Farn Taran district, is situated close to the India-Pakistan border. It is around seven kilometres away from the town of Khem Karan.

In September 1965 — almost a month after the War broke out — Pakistan Army's 1 Armoured Division aunched an offensive, crossing the border and capturing many parts of Khem Karan. It reached the bridge over the Beas River, and cut off large parts of Puniab. inA fierce tank battle, one of the largest since World War II, took place between September 8 and September 10. Ultimately, Pakistan's offence was decimated. The Pakistan Army lost 97 US-made Patton Tanks, as well as a few Shermans and Chaffees, during the battle, and one entire armoured regiment and its commanding officer surrendered to the Indian Army.

The town of Khem Karan remained under Pakistani occupation till the ceasefire was announced on September 23. It was returned to India in exchange for India-occupied areas in Pakistan.

Hamid's heroism

During the battle, Hamid was serving with the 4th Grenadiers Battalion of the Indian Army, and was deployed on the outskirts of Chima village, located on the Amritsar-Khem Karan road. He was leading a detachment of jeep-mounted recoilless guns, which was hunting for enemy tanks in the fields around Asal Uttar.

On September 10, Hamid spotted a detachment of four

Pakistani Patton tanks. He fired at them from near point-blank range, destroying three of the tanks and disabling one. However, he came under heavy fire from a nearby Pakistani tank, and ultimately lost his life.



Abdul Hamid, National War Memorial

, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief **Mohan Bhagwat** visited the native village of Hamid, Dhamupur, where he released a book on Hamid titled 'Mere Papa Paramvir' and another book titled 'Bharat ka Musalman'.

Born on July 1, 1933, Company Quarter Master Havildar (CQMH) Abdul Hamid laid his life down while fighting Pakistan Army's Patton tanks in the Battle of Asal Uttar — one of the largest tank battles fought during the 1965 India-Pakistan War. Hamid was awarded Param Vir Chakra — India's highest gallantry award — posthumously.

- Situated in Punjab, Asal Uttar is quite close to the India-Pakistan border and around seven kilometres away from the town of Khem Karan.
- The Battle of Asal Uttar was fought from 8 to 10
 September 1965. The Indian resistance near Khem Karan is considered as one of the key turning points of 1965
 India-Pakistan war, one which tilted the balance in favour of India.

Indian Express –Art and Culture(GSI)-Page 9

ı mudra, Buddhist & Hindu cultural symbol conveyin

ARJUNSENGUPTA

NEW DELHI, JULY 2

that we defend is the idea of confronting 6th or 5th Century BCE, the person of the entered Buddhisticonography. our fear and never being scared," Rahul said. great teacher was not depicted in the form The abhayo mudro, he said, was a common of an image or sculpture. At Sanchi, for in-dras came to be associated with dynamic thread in the depictions of Lord Shiva, Guru stance, the Buddha is symbolised by a va-nitual hand movements, where they "sym-Nanak, and Jesus Christ, and also figured in cant throne or a footprint Islam, Buddhism, and Jainism.

Mudras in Buddhism

a seal, mark, sign, or currency, but in the the northwestern edge of the Indian sub-

physical form date to roughly around the sualised deities" (Buswell and Lopez). turn of the first millennium, Depictions In Sanskrit, the term mudro could mean started appearing in the Gandhara art from

Buddhist context, it refers to "hand and arm" continent (present day Pakistan and gestures made during the course of ritual Afghanistan), which drew on Hellenistic inpractice or depicted in images of buddhas. fluences, and later in the art of the Gupta bodhisattvas, tantric deities, and other period, in the Gangetic plains.

signifying the subtle manifes- mudro, or "gesture of meditation

Vehicle and Vajrayana (Thunderbolt Vehicle For about 500 years after Buddhism, and the proliferation of Buddhist Kushana-period Buddha sculpture.

The earliest depictions of the Buddha in worship, or signified relationships with vi-



currently preserved in Mathura

ously be raised in this posture in a "double

In Buddhist tradition, the abhaya mudra of granting refuge"

tifies the moment when Shakyamuni (the Puranic god Vishnu.

not being granted the special treatment he (400-500 CE). expected, plotted to harm the Enlightened bolised material offerings, enacted forms of Buswell and Lopez as one "typically formed One. He fed a wild elephant intoxicants and ward at shoulder height and the fingers plesscattered before the charging animal, the

In some cases, both hands may simultane- on her knees, and bowed to the Buddha.

This is why the abhaya mudra is also seen as a "gesture of protection" or "gesture

Over time, the abhaya mudra appeared compassion that derive from enlighten- in depictions of Hindu deities, and the Buddha himself was absorbed into the The "gesture of fearlessness [also] iden-Hindu pantheon as the ninth avotar of the

trating the Buddha's ability to grant fear- an avotor of Vishnu between AD 450 and According to Buddhist legend, Devadatta, Alternative History. The first mention of the a cousin and a disciple of the Buddha, upon Buddha avatar came in the Vishnu Purana

with the palm of the right hand facing out- drove her on the Buddha's path. As the disci- melting pot of the Hindu religion, manifespointing up... Occasionally, the index, sec-Buddha raised his hand in the abhovo mudro tion of gods. The abhovo mudro was seen in The abhaya mudra is described by the remaining fingers extended upward", have calmed down immediately, gone down. Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Canesha



- In Sanskrit, the term mudra could mean a seal, mark, sign, or currency, but in the Buddhist context, it refers to "hand and arm gestures made during the course of ritual practice or depicted in images of buddhas, bodhisattvas, tantric deities, and other Buddhist images
- Mudras are most commonly associated with visual depictions of the Buddha (or Buddharupa), with different gestures conveying different moods and meanings, signifying the subtle manifestations of the Buddha's states of realisation.
- abhaya mudra, the gesture of the raised open palm that is commonly understood as conveying reassurance and a freedom from fear.

Indian Express - Economy (GSIII) - Page 13

FOLLOWS NITI AAYOG RECOMMENDATIONS

Critical mineral recycling: Govt plans PLI scheme to boost circular economy

AGGAM WALIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 2

THE MINISTRY of Mines is in the initial stages of designing a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to boost the recycling of critical minerals in India, The Indian Express has learnt. This move aims to foster a circular economy and bolster domestic supply chains, following a lacklustre response to recent auctions of critical mineral blocks.

The proposed PLI scheme aligns with policy recommendations from NITI Aayog, the government's apex think tank, and Heavy Industries (MHI), for opment of the EV ecosystem. Management Rules (BWMR). 2022, which mandate phased re- MNRE and MHI. cycling of used electric vehicle

erals, people familiar with the ergy technologies like solar PV recycled. developments said. The note modules, wind turbines, energy was shared with key govern- storage systems, and EVs, as well ment stakeholders, including as consumer electronics. New and Renewable Energy and wind energy policies and for a wider scope that includes (MNRE), and the Ministry of MHI's involvement in the devel- the production of black mass, mended the consideration of key credits with recyclers,

SCHEME TO TARGET E-WASTE RECYCLING

THE PLI scheme will target THE PROPOSED scheme e-waste recycling- often referred to as "urban mining"-to recover critical minerals such as lithium, copper, cobalt, graphite, chromium, and silicon. These minerals are crucial for clean energy tech like solar PV modules, wind turbines, energy storage systems, and EVs

aligns with policy recommendations from NITI Aayog, the government's apex think tank, and complements the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, which mandate phased recycling of used EV lithium-ion batteries from

comments and feedback. The ministry is yet to hear back from the one under consideration by

Similar to other PLI schemes,

the Mines Ministry will incen-

and nickel, since most Indian reals from black mass.

poised to surge, driven by rapid growth in solar and wind energy ing years, Research indicates that recycling critical minerals can significantly reduce the need for virgin ores and new mines.

In a report released in July, The PLI scheme, while yet to tivise production of recycled 2023, NITI Aayog also pushed for In an office memorandum "urban mining"- to recover crit- advanced recycling technologies incentives from states, a producnote on a PLI scheme envisaged chromium, and silicon. These centive is likely to vary based on of India in line with the ACC PLI for the recycling of critical min- minerals are crucial for clean en- the type and value of minerals scheme given to cell manufacturers. This will not only help the do-Some recyclers argue the mestic recyclers but also serve scheme should benefit only the cell manufacturers selected

e-waste rich in minerals includ- an incentive, including the cell ing lithium, manganese, cobalt, chemistry or minerals and metals being recovered, recovery efcyclers currently lack capacities ficiency of recycled minerals and to extract battery-grade miner- metals, and benchmarks for domestic utilisation of recovered India's e-waste generation is minerals and metals.

The need to incentivise the growth of critical mineral recyinfrastructure and EV adoption. cling has become all the more Industry estimates project solar urgent after most critical mineral PV module waste to jump from blocks offered by the Mines 100 kilotonnes (kt) in FY23 to 340 Ministry failed to pass the techkt by 2030. Additionally, 500 kt nical bids stage, which requires of EV batteries are expected to at least three eligible bidders. reach recycling units in the com- This indicates a lack of investor interest in domestic mining of

build on the Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR) no-(EV) lithium-ion batteries from be finalised, will target e-waste critical minerals for secondary a PLI scheme for critical mineral Pollution Control Board. These recycling- often referred to as use and promote investment in recycling, "Apart from non-fiscal rules mandate that producers of batteries containing lithium. dated May 1, 2024, the Mines ical minerals such as lithium, and infrastructure, industry tion linked incentive can also be nickel, cobalt, and lead ensure Ministry circulated a concept copper, cobalt, graphite, sources said. The quantum of in-introduced by the Government environmentally sound management of waste batteries those extracting high-purity crit- under the ACC PLI scheme," the producers accountable for manthe Department of Science & Feedback from MNRE and MHI is ical minerals suitable for reuse as report, co-authored with the aging the waste generated by Technology, the Ministry of vital, given MNRE's role in solar primary inputs. Others advocate Green Growth Equity Fund, said. their products. Producers can The think tank also recom- meet compliance by trading



- The Ministry of Mines is in the initial stages of designing a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to boost the recycling of critical minerals in India, The Indian Express has learnt. This move aims to foster a circular economy and bolster domestic supply chains, following a lacklustre response to recent auctions of critical mineral blocks.
- The proposed PLI scheme aligns with policy recommendations from NITI Aayog, the government's apex think tank, and complements the Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR), 2022, which mandate phased recycling of used electric vehicle (EV) lithium-ion batteries from 2026 onwards.

Indian Express—IR(GSII)/Economy(GSIII)-Page 13

UNCTAD REPORT

'Moderating inflation aiding goods trade recovery in India, China'

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA NEW DELHI, JULY 2

INDIA AND China exhibited "very strong" quarter-overquarter export performance as the decline in goods trade among major economies reversed during the first quarter of 2024, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in its report released on Tuesday.

In the first quarter of 2024, global trade continued its modest and gradual increase that began in the second half of 2023, fuelled by positive trade dynamics for the US amid moderating inflation and improving economic growth forecast.

"Overall, moderating global inflation and improving economic growth forecasts suggest a reversal of the downward macroeconomic trends that have characterised most of 2023. Additionally, rising demand for products related to energy transition and artificial intelligence should contribute to trade growth through 2024," UNCTAD said. However, the global trade outlook for 2024 remains subject to downside risks. Persistent geopolitical tensions, rising shipping costs, and emerging industrial policies



UNCTAD in its report said that by providing heavy subsidies to their own industries, developed countries and major emerging economies are expected to enhance their global competitiveness in these sectors. This will impact not only their domestic markets but also global trade, potentially marginalising smaller economies from entering these lucrative markets.

are becoming uneven as global supply is becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few major exporters on the back of heavy subsidies which is hurting global trade and marginalising smaller economies, UNCTAD said.

In what could fuel inflation further, the report said that the prices for traded goods have remained constant in Q1 2024 but are expected to increase in Q2 2024 with trade growing faster

in 2023 reversed in O1 2024, but only for some. Specifically, imports increased for Brazil, the Russian Federation, and the United States. On the export side. China and India exhibited very strong quarter-over-quarter export performance. Exports also grew for the Russian Federation and the United States, In contrast, trade continued to decline for Japan and South Africa," the report read. UNCTAD said that a subsidy race could lead to trade fragmentation among major suppliers seeking to gain trade dominance within their major trade relationships.

"By providing heavy subsidies to their own industries, developed countries and major emerging economies are expected to enhance their global competitiveness in these sectors. This will impact not only their domestic markets but also global trade, potentially marginalising smaller economies from entering these lucrative markets." the report said.

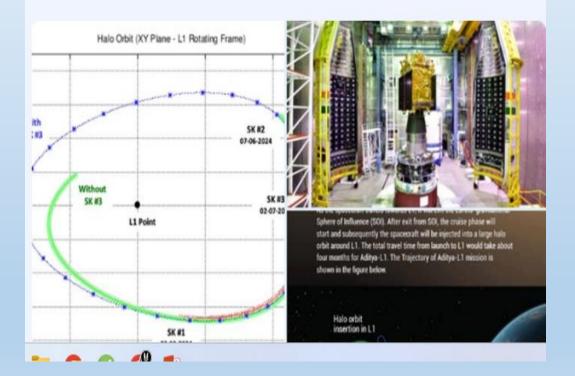
Unilateral actions in the form of industrial policies often distort trade and trading partners may respond with trade restrictions, escalating protections and notentially triggering retal-



- According to the latest Global Trade Update released by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 2 July, the growth was primarily driven by increased exports from China (9%), India (7%) and the US (3%).
- Conversely, Europe's exports showed no growth and Africa's decreased by 5%.
- Trade in developing countries and South-South trade increased by about 2% in both imports and exports during the first quarter of 2024.
- Global trade resumes growth in first quarter of 2024
- The growth was fueled by positive trade dynamics for the United States and developing countries, and in sectors related to green energy and artificial intelligence.
- The report highlights that trade growth varied significantly across sectors, with green energy and artificial intelligence-related products experiencing stronger increases.

Air—Science and Tech(GSIII)

Indian Solar Mission Aditya-L1 Completes Its First Halo Orbit Around The Sun-Earth L1 Point





• India's first solar mission, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, has completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point. ISRO said its station-keeping manoeuvre yesterday ensured its seamless transition into the second halo orbit. The Aditya-L1 mission, which is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1, was launched on September 2, 2023, and was inserted in its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024. According to ISRO, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft in the halo orbit takes 178 days to complete a revolution around the L1 point.

PIB-Defense(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR INDIA- THAILAND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE MAITREE

Posted On: 02 JUL 2024 10:32AM by PIB Delhi



- The Indian Army contingent departed yesterday for the 13th edition of India- Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 1st to 15th July 2024 at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2019.
- Aim of Exercise MAITREE is to foster Military Cooperation between India and Thailand. The Exercise will enhance combined capabilities in executing Joint Counter Insurgency/ Terrorist Operations in Jungle and Urban Environment under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. The Exercise will focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical drills.
 Exercise MAITREE will enable the two sides to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for conduct of joint operations. The Exercise will facilitate developing inter-operability, bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of both the countries.

Air—Science and Tech(GSIII)

Number Of HFMD Infections Exceed Warning Level In Japan For First Time In Nearly Five Years





- In Japan, the number of hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) infections has exceeded the warning level nationwide in Japan for the first time in nearly five years.
- HFMD, a viral infection causing blister-like rashes on the hands, feet, and inside the mouth, primarily affects children under the age of four.
- Symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, feeling unwell, skin rashes and sore throat. Mouth sores and ulcers on the tongue, gums and the inside of the cheeks can also indicate HFMD infection. Children are at higher risk of contracting the illness which may lead to serious complications such as encephalitis or dehydration.