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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 18-09-2024

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CONCERNS OVER SUBTLE GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Context

- The Vice-President of India during his address at the SheShakti2024 event emphasized on paying attention to pervasive subtle gender discrimination in the society.

Different form of subtle gender discrimination

- **Gender Stereotyping in Professional Roles:** Many jobs in India are still viewed as either male or female roles. This stereotyping affects hiring practices, career progression, and even the way tasks are allocated within a professional environment.
  - For instance, **engineering, defense, and construction are often seen as male-dominated** sectors, while **teaching, nursing, and caregiving roles** are generally attributed to women.
- **Decision-Making Positions:** Subtle gender discrimination manifests when women are systematically excluded from key decision-making processes, or when their opinions are not given equal weight.
  - The **"glass ceiling"** persists, making it harder for women to ascend to top management positions.
- **Microaggressions in the Workplace:** Subtle gender discrimination often takes the form of microaggressions—small, everyday verbal or non-verbal slights.
- **Domestic Responsibilities:** Even as more women enter the workforce, they are still expected to shoulder the bulk of domestic work.
  - This **double burden** is often overlooked in formal discussions about gender equality but remains a major hindrance to women's professional growth.
- **Education and Career Guidance:** Girls are encouraged to **choose safe or family-friendly professions**, rather than being pushed toward fields like technology or entrepreneurship, which are perceived as more male-dominated.

Government steps to address the issue

- **Reservation for Women in Local Governance:** The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, which reserve **one-third of seats in Panchayats and Municipalities** for women, have been instrumental in empowering women at the grassroots level.
- **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017:** To reduce workplace discrimination, the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017, increased paid maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks.
- **Women in STEM Initiatives:** Recognizing the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields, the government has initiated various scholarships, mentoring programs, and initiatives like the Women Scientist Scheme to encourage greater participation in science and technology fields.
- **Gender Budgeting:** Gender budgeting is an important tool used by the government to analyze the impact of public expenditure on gender equality.
  - By incorporating gender perspectives into budgetary decisions, India is gradually focusing on addressing gender disparities in various sectors like health, education, and employment.
- **Stand-Up India Scheme:** It encourages entrepreneurship among women by providing easy access to financing. It aims to promote self-employment and business ventures led by women.
- **MUDRA Loans:** It provides credit specifically for women entrepreneurs. It facilitates financial support for women-led businesses and startups.

Way Ahead

- While India has made great strides in formalizing gender equality through laws and policies, the subtle forms of gender discrimination remain pervasive and deeply embedded in societal structures.
- Addressing these biases requires a multi-pronged approach involving not just policy interventions but also societal transformation in how we perceive gender roles.
- Continued government efforts, coupled with increased awareness and proactive initiatives in the private sector, are critical in dismantling these subtle yet significant barriers to true gender equality.

Source: PIB

U.S.-INDIA STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

In News

- The **Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) Ministerial** between the United States and India focused on strengthening cooperation in clean energy innovation, energy security, and the clean energy transition.

About

- The meeting reviewed key achievements and future initiatives across **five core pillars:** Power and Energy Efficiency, Responsible Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy, Emerging Fuels & Technologies, and Sustainable Growth.
- The **US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)** enhances bilateral cooperation on clean energy, focusing on power, energy efficiency, renewable energy, emerging technologies, and sustainable growth.

Key Highlights of SCEP

- **Renewable Energy Technology Action Platform (RETAP)**: Launched in **August 2023**, RETAP focuses on developing actionable roadmaps for **hydrogen**, **long-duration energy storage**, **offshore wind**, and **geothermal** technologies.
- **Energy Storage Task Force**: This public-private initiative aims to address **policy**, **safety**, and **regulatory** issues while exploring **long-duration energy storage** alternatives beyond lithium-ion technologies.
  - Projects like **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** in **Assam** and **Haryana** are already in motion, focusing on grid integration and renewable energy storage.
- **Modernisation of Power Distribution**: The meeting highlighted India's efforts in **smart metering**, power market reforms, and the Indian Railways' **net-zero emissions target by 2030**.
  - India has pioneered the procurement of **1.5 GW** of round-the-clock renewable energy.
- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) & Transport Electrification**: A comprehensive workshop was launched to advance **SAF R&D**, certification, and partnerships.
  - India's **PM eBus Sewa scheme** targets the deployment of **10,000 electric buses**, accelerating electrification in medium- and heavy-duty transport.
- **Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) & Methane Abatement:** Increased cooperation on CCUS technologies and regulatory frameworks, alongside **methane abatement efforts** in the oil and gas sector through collaboration with India's **Directorate General of Hydrocarbons**.
- **Public-Private Collaborations**: The role of **public-private dialogues** was emphasized in shaping policies and reducing clean energy technology costs.

Need For Clean Energy

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions, helping to combat global warming and environmental degradation.
- Decreases dependency on finite fossil fuels.
- Clean energy reduces air and water pollution, improving overall health outcomes.
- Investments in renewable energy create jobs and foster long-term economic stability.
- Help in role in achieving SDGs like clean energy (SDG 7) and climate action (SDG 13)

Initiatives

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** A global coalition led by India, promoting solar energy through collaborative efforts across solar-rich countries.
- **Renewable Energy Technology Action Platform (RETAP):** A US-India initiative focused on hydrogen, energy storage, offshore wind, and geothermal technologies.
- **Green Hydrogen Mission (India):** Launched to promote the use of green hydrogen as a clean energy alternative, particularly in heavy industries and transportation.
- **EU's Green Deal:** A European Union strategy aimed at making Europe climate-neutral by 2050 through clean energy investments and policies.
- **PM KUSUM Scheme (India):** Supports solar power generation for irrigation in agriculture, reducing reliance on fossil fuels in farming operations.

Source: PIB

INDIA'S GOLD IMPORTS HAVE DOUBLED

Context

- **Gold imports more than doubled** in August to a record high of USD 10.06 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry data.
  - It is mainly on account of a **drastic cut in customs duty and ongoing festive demand.**

Gold Import of India

- Gold accounts for **over 5 percent** of the country's total imports.
- India is the **world's second-biggest** gold consumer after China.
- The imports mainly take care of the **demand by the jewellery industry.**

- **Switzerland is the largest source of gold imports,** with about 40 percent share, followed by the UAE (over 16 percent) and South Africa (about 10 percent).
- India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), dipped by 4.23 percent during April-July 2024-25.
  - In the Budget 2024, the government slashed the import duty from **15 percent to 6 percent.**

Factors Influencing Gold prices:

- **Supply and Demand:** The availability of gold and the demand for it, both for investment and industrial use, directly impact prices.
  - Increased mining output can lower prices, while high demand can raise them.
- **Inflation:** Gold is often seen as a hedge against inflation. When inflation rises, investors flock to gold to preserve their purchasing power, driving up prices.
- **Interest Rates:** Lower interest rates decrease the opportunity cost of holding gold, making it more attractive to investors. Conversely, higher rates lead to lower gold prices.
- **Geopolitical Stability:** Political uncertainty or conflict lead investors to seek safety in gold, boosting demand and prices.
- **Currency Strength:** Gold is typically priced in U.S. dollars. A weaker dollar makes gold cheaper for holders of other currencies, potentially increasing demand and prices.
- **Central Bank Policies:** Actions by central banks, such as gold purchases or sales, significantly influence market prices. Central banks often hold gold as part of their reserves.
- **Global Economic Conditions:** Economic downturns or uncertainties lead to increased demand for gold as a safe haven.

Impact of high Gold Imports

- **Trade Balance:** Increased gold imports worsen a country's trade balance, leading to a larger trade deficit if exports do not compensate. This can put pressure on the national currency.
- **Currency Value:** A high level of gold imports can lead to depreciation of the domestic currency, as demand for foreign currency rises to pay for imports.
- **Inflation:** If gold is being imported as a hedge against inflation, its rising demand can contribute to inflationary pressures in the economy.
- **Investment Flow:** High gold imports may indicate strong investor confidence in gold as a safe asset, which can attract more foreign investments in the long run.
- **Resource Allocation:** Large gold imports might divert financial resources from other sectors, impacting overall economic growth.

Gems and Jewellery Industry in India

- In April-June 2024, India's gems and jewellery exports were at **US$ 6.87 billion.**
- **Cut and polished diamonds** accounted for the highest share of exports (53.47%), followed by gold jewellery (32.39%) and silver jewellery (3.36%).
- **The exports of gold jewellery** stood at US$ 608.01 million whereas the imports of gold jewellery stood at US$ 88.61 million in June 2024.
- **Major Hubs for Gems and Jewellery are:** Surat, Mumbai, Jaipur, Thrichor Nellore, Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata.
- India's gems & jewellery exports are expected to **reach US$ 100 billion by 2027.**
- Based on its potential for growth and value addition, the Government declared the **gems and jewellery sector as a focus area for export promotion.**

Source: IE

RELATIVE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN STATES

Context

- **'Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24'** paper has been released by the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).**

About

- It examines the relative economic performance of states **over the past six and a half decades** using two indicators- **Share in India's GDP and Relative per capita income.**
- **The state's share in India's GDP** is calculated by dividing the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the state by the sum of GSDP of all states.
- **Relative per capita income** is calculated as the ratio of the per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of the state as a percentage of the all-India per capita Net National Product.
- The data is taken from the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).**

Key Findings

- **Southern states:** Before 1991, southern states did not show expectational performance. However, since the economic liberalization of 1991, the southern states have emerged as the leading performers.
  - In 2023-24, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu together accounted for approximately **30 percent of India's GDP.**
  - In addition, per capita income of all southern states became **higher than the national average after 1991.**
- **Western states: Maharashtra** has maintained the highest share of India's GDP for almost all of the period.
  - **Gujarat's share** began to increase rapidly- from 6.4 percent in 2000-01 to 8.1 percent in 2022-23.
  - Both Gujarat and Maharashtra have had per capita incomes exceeding the national average since the 1960s.
  - **Goa** has excelled in per capita income terms, with its relative per capita income doubling since 1970-71.
- **Northern States: Delhi and Haryana** have performed notably well, while **Punjab's economy has deteriorated after 1991.**
  - Delhi saw its share of India's GDP increase from **1.4 percent to 3.6 percent** during this period.
  - Haryana's share of India's GDP now exceeds that of Punjab, and its relative per capita income has reached 176.8 percent, compared to Punjab's 106.7 percent in 2023-24.
- **Eastern states: West Bengal,** which held the third-largest share of national GDP at 10.5 percent in 1960-61, now accounts for only **5.6 percent in 2023-24.**
  - West Bengal's per capita income has declined to 83.7 percent in 2023-24 from 127.5 percent.
  - The relative per capita income of undivided Bihar was 70.3 percent in 1960- 61, it declined t**o 31 percent** in 2000-01 for the bifurcated state of Bihar.
  - **Odisha** per capita income increased from 54.3 percent in 1990- 91 to 88.5 percent in 2023-24.
- **Central states:** Uttar Pradesh had a share of 14.4 percent in India's GDP in 1960-61. However, its share started to decline thereafter, which continued even after bifurcation.
  - Madhya Pradesh followed a five-decade period of decline (82.4 percent in 1960-61 to 60.1 percent in 2010-11). Its relative per capita income increased from 60.1 percent in 2010-11 to 77.4 percent in 2023-24.
- **North-eastern states:** In 1980-81, **Sikkim's per capita income** was below the national average. However, it's per capita income surged from around 100 percent of the national average in 2000-01 to **320 percent in 2023-24.**
  - **Assam,** which initially had a per capita income slightly above the national average experienced a decline reaching 73.7 percent in 2023- 24.

Reasons for regional disparities among the states

- **Unequal Resource Distribution:** Natural resources like minerals, fertile land, and water are unevenly distributed, benefiting some states more than others.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** States with better infrastructure (roads, electricity, ports) attract more investment and development, leading to growth disparities.
- **Industrialization:** Industrialized states experience faster economic growth, while states with limited industries remain underdeveloped.
- **Governance and Policy Implementation:** States with efficient governance and policies tend to grow faster compared to those with poor policy execution and governance issues.
- **Human Capital and Education:** States with better educational facilities and skilled labor force attract more businesses, leading to economic growth, while others lag behind due to lower human development indices.

Conclusion

- Overall, the **western and southern regions** of the country are **outperforming** others, with notable success also observed in parts of the north.
- The **eastern part** of the country continues to be a **concern**.
- The **maritime states have clearly outperformed** the other states, with the **exception of West Bengal.**
- Even the **coastal state of Odisha** which was traditionally a laggard state has seen improved performance in the last two decades.

Source: IE

SIGNAL MODULATION

In News

- Signal modulation streamlines the technology needed to transmit information, such as news on TV or music on the radio.

Modulation

- Modulation, in electronics, technique for impressing information (voice, music, pictures, or data) on a radio-frequency carrier wave by varying one or more characteristics of the wave in accordance with the information signal.
- There are various forms of modulation, each designed to alter a particular characteristic of the carrier wave.
- Modulation allows multiple signals to coexist without interference.
    - Digital transmissions are less affected by static noise, enhancing communication technologies.

Modulation Types:

- **Frequency Modulation (FM):** It involves changing the frequency of the waves to convey information (e.g., Morse code with closely spaced waves for dots).
    - FM is widely used in FM radio broadcasting, where the quality of sound is crucial. It provides better resistance to noise and interference compared to AM.
- **Amplitude modulation (AM)** : It involves varying the amplitude of the waves while keeping frequency constant (e.g., using heavy and light stones to represent dots and dashes).
- **Phase Modulation (PM)**: It changes the phase of waves to encode messages, allowing for clearer digital transmission since it's less affected by amplitude fluctuations
    - PM is used in certain digital communication systems and radar applications.

Uses of Modulation:

- **Radio Broadcasting:** Both AM and FM modulation are used for radio transmission. AM covers long distances but is susceptible to interference. FM provides better sound quality and is ideal for music.
- **Television Broadcasting:** TV signals are also modulated (usually using vestigial sideband modulation).
    - This allows us to watch our favorite shows with clear audio and video.
- **Cellular Communication:** Mobile phones use various modulation techniques to transmit voice and data over cellular networks.
- **Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi):** Wi-Fi signals are modulated to carry data wirelessly between devices.
- **Satellite Communication:** Satellites use modulation to relay signals across vast distances.

Do you know ?

- Digital transmission uses discrete signals (0s and 1s), while analog transmission uses continuous signals.
- PM is digital and better for data transmission, whereas AM and FM are used for analog radio and TV broadcasts.

Source :TH

MEASURES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Context

- During an address at the International Research Conference, the RBI Deputy Governor highlighted solutions that could go a long way in addressing the issue of financing sustainable agriculture.

What is Sustainable Agriculture?

- Sustainable agriculture refers to farming practices that **meet today's food needs while preserving resources for future generations.**
- This means adopting methods that protect the environment, reduce reliance on chemical inputs, and use water and land efficiently.
- This approach is designed to maintain a **balance between productivity, environmental health, and socio-economic equity.**

Benefits of sustainable Agriculture

- **Environmental Conservation:** Sustainable farming reduces soil degradation, conserves water, and promotes biodiversity.
- **Economic Stability:** By adopting sustainable practices, farmers can reduce their reliance on expensive chemical inputs, improving profitability.
- **Improved Food Security:** Sustainable agriculture contributes to long-term food security by enhancing soil health, promoting crop diversity, and ensuring that farming systems are resilient to climate change.

- **Social Equity:** FPOs and cooperative models empower small and marginal farmers by providing them access to technology, markets, and financial resources. This enhances their bargaining power and ensures fair distribution of agricultural benefits.

What are the challenges?

- **Low Productivity per Unit of Land:** Small and fragmented landholdings, which predominate in India, make it difficult for farmers to invest in sustainable practices or mechanize their farms.
- **Over-dependence on Rainfall:** Indian agriculture is largely rain-fed, with around 60% of the cultivated area depending on monsoon rains. This makes farmers vulnerable to erratic weather patterns, especially in the face of climate change.
- **Agricultural Price Volatility:** Price volatility forces farmers to sell their produce at low prices during peak harvest seasons.
  - Without sufficient financial buffers or market linkages, farmers are unable to hold on to their produce and wait for better prices.
- **Limited agricultural processing capacity and low levels of mechanization** leads to post-harvest losses. Farmers are also unable to add value to their produce, leading to lower returns.
- **Access to Finance:** Small farmers face difficulties in accessing credit and financial services. The formal banking system usually favors large agribusinesses, leaving smaller farmers without the resources to invest in sustainable practices or technologies.

Initiatives taken for sustainable agriculture

- **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs):** FPOs have emerged as a key tool to support small and marginal farmers by aggregating their produce, providing access to technology, and improving their market presence.
  - By March 2023, over **24,000 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)** were formed, significantly enhancing farmers' access to resources and market opportunities.
- **Warehouse Receipt Financing:** Warehouse receipt financing allows farmers to store their produce and sell it later when prices are more favorable.
  - This model helps stabilize commodity prices and provides farmers with financial flexibility.
- **Priority Sector Lending (PSL):** To boost financing for FPOs, RBI regulations provide that loans up to **Rs 2 crore** for agriculture-related activities qualify as PSL.
  - For FPOs engaged in assured marketing of their produce, loans up to Rs 5 crore fall under PSL, ensuring better financial support for collective farming initiatives.
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA):** India has adopted Climate-Smart Agriculture practices including integrating crop production systems with advanced water management, drought-resistant crops, and sustainable land-use planning.
- **Technology Integration and Mechanization:** Government programs, such as the **"Per Drop More Crop"** initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), focus on promoting efficient water use technologies like micro-irrigation.
  - Additionally, increasing mechanization through initiatives like **Custom Hiring Centre (CHC)** helps reduce labor costs and improve productivity.

Way Ahead

- Climate change and sustainability are two pressing issues that have captured global attention of late. In this context, sustainable agriculture emerges as a crucial solution.
- This will involve transforming conventional farming practices into technology driven systems, enhancing agricultural commodities' processing and preservation techniques, and contributing to value addition at the farm level.
- Also there is a need to align crop production systems with climate-smart agriculture along with adequate finance.

Source: The Print

NEWS IN SHORT

KARMA FESTIVAL

Context

- Tribal populations in various states celebrated the harvest festival of Karma or Karam Parv on September 14-15.

Karma festival

- **Regions:** The festival is celebrated mainly in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and Odisha.
  - The festival is popular especially among the Munda, Ho, Oraon, Baiga, Kharia, and Santhal peoples.

- **It is traditionally celebrated** on the Ekadashi tithi (eleventh day) of the lunar fortnight in the month of Bhado/ Bhadra, which corresponds to August-September in the Gregorian calendar.
- At the heart of the Karma festival is the **Karam tree**, the object from which the festival takes its name.
  - Traditionally it is seen as a symbol of **Karam Devta or Karamsani,** the god of strength, youth, and vitality.
- Towards the end of the festival, branches from sal trees are planted in the fields with the hope that the Karam Raja/ Devta will protect their crops.

Source: IE

PERIYAR EV RAMASAMY

Context

- Rationalist social reformer Periyar EV Ramasamy was remembered on the occasion of his **146th** birth anniversary.

About

- Periyar EV Ramasamy was born in **1879.**
- He was an **Indian social activist and politician** who started the **Self-Respect Movement** to redeem the identity and self-respect of Tamils.
  - He is known as the '**Father of the Dravidian movement'.**

Political Career:

- Periyar started his political career as a **Congress worker** in his hometown Erode.
- However, over the question of separate dining for Brahmin and non-Brahmin students at Gurukkulam, a Congress-sponsored school, Periyar **resigned from the party in 1925.**
- Periyar's fame spread beyond the Tamil region during the **Vaikom Satyagraha** of **1924**, a mass movement to demand that lower caste persons be given the right to use a public path in front of the famous **Vaikom temple.**
- In the 1940s, he envisaged a Dravida homeland of Dravida Nadu, and launched a political party, **Dravidar Kazhagam (DK).**

Legacy of Periyar EV Ramasamy

- As a social reformer, he **focused on social, cultural and gender inequalities,** and his reform agenda questioned matters of faith, gender and tradition.
- The Self Respect Movement promoted **weddings without rituals**, and sanctioned **property as well as divorce rights for women.**
- He instituted inter-dining with food cooked by Dalits in public conferences in the 1930s.

Source: IE

POLAR VORTEX

In News

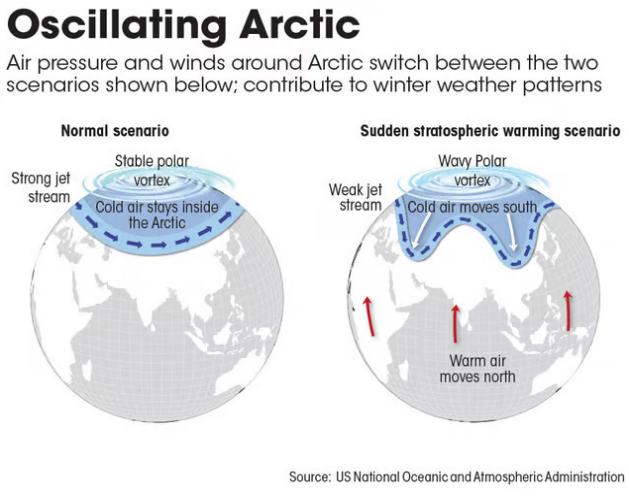
- Antarctic ozone hole formation begins late due to the weak polar vortex.

About Polar Vortex

- The polar vortex is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding both of the Earth's poles.
- It always exists near the poles, but weakens in summer and strengthens in winter.
- The term "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air near the Poles.
- Many times during winter in the northern hemisphere, the polar vortex will expand, sending cold air southward with the jet stream.

Impact

- It develops in late summer as sunlight decreases at the North Pole, causing polar stratospheric air to become colder than tropical stratospheric air.
- It persists through winter until mid to late spring when the North Pole begins to receive more sunlight, warming the polar stratosphere.
- During winter, the vortex can expand, pushing Arctic air southward, which often leads to cold outbreaks in the Northern Hemisphere, including the U.S., Europe, and Asia.



Source :DTE

ACCOUNT AGGREGATOR (AA) FRAMEWORK

In News

- The Account Aggregator (AA) framework has facilitated loans amounting to Rs 42,300 crore till March 2024 since its launch three years back,

About Account Aggregator (AA)

- The Account Aggregator (AA) network, introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through the Master Direction on September 2, 2016
- It serves as a financial data-sharing system.
- It allows Non-Bank Finance Companies (NBFCs) to collect and retrieve customers' financial information only with their explicit consent.
- **Importance :** It enables individuals to securely and digitally access and share their financial information among regulated institutions in the AA network.
    - Importantly, data can only be shared with the individual's consent.
    - It replaces traditional, lengthy terms and conditions with a more transparent and granular permission process, allowing users to control how their data is used step by step.

Source: BS

RANGEEN MACHHLI APP

Context

- The Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the "Rangeen Machhli" mobile app, designed to meet the growing needs of the **ornamental fisheries sector**.

About

- The app is developed by **ICAR-CIFA** (Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture) with support from the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).**
- It provides multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in **eight Indian languages**, making it accessible to a wide audience including **hobbyists, aquarium shop owners, and fish farmers**.
- One of its key features is the **"Find Aquarium Shops"** tool, which allows users to locate nearby aquarium shops through a dynamic directory updated by shop owners, promoting local businesses and connecting users with reliable sources for ornamental fish and aquarium-related products.

Source: PIB

ONLINE INFORMATION AND DATABASE ACCESS OR RETRIEVAL (OIDAR) SERVICES

Context

- According to a report by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), many providers of **Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services**, represent a **"relatively untapped" sector with "tremendous" revenue potential.**

About

- OIDAR services are those **which are delivered over the internet or electronic network** and whose supply is essentially impossible without Information Technology.
    - It includes a **wide array of services** viz cloud services, digital content, online gaming, online advertising etc.
    - When such services are provided by an offshore entity to a non-taxable recipient, the **supplier becomes liable for obtaining registration and discharging GST on the same.**
- The DGGI noted that since the **OIDAR service providers are located abroad** it becomes a challenge in GST enforcement and hence the sector remains relatively untapped.
- **The DGGI suggested steps** like registering with the KODEX platform to receive the data/ information in respect of offshore suppliers, as well as coordination with the Reserve Bank of India to obtain relevant data pertaining to forex transactions.

Source: ET

KLEPTOPARASITISM

In News

- Researchers suggest that **kleptoparasitism** could be a transmission pathway for the **H5N1 avian influenza virus.**

About Kleptoparasitism

- **Kleptoparasitism (or Cleptoparasitism)** is a form of parasitism where one animal steals food or other resources gathered by another animal.
- The kleptoparasite either waits for another animal to capture food or forces the animal to give up its catch through harassment or aggression.

- By engaging in kleptoparasitism, the parasite conserves energy it would have otherwise used in hunting or gathering.
- The animal being parasitized loses the resources it has worked to gather, which may negatively affect its survival.

Source: TH

BATTERY WASTE MANAGEMENT (BWM) RULES, 2022

Context

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has introduced **stringent environmental compensation (EC) guidelines** to penalise violations of the **Battery Waste Management (BWM) Rules, 2022.**

Battery Waste Management (BWM) Rules, 2022

- These rules have been notified by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**
- They are **applicable to all types of batteries** regardless of chemistry, shape, volume, weight, material composition and use.
- **Producer (manufacturers, importers)** shall have the **obligation of Extended Producer Responsibility** for the battery they introduce in the market and the Producer shall meet the **collection and recycling targets.**
- **Producers, Recyclers, and Refurbishers of Battery** shall register through the **online centralized portal** developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
  - The portal will help in **improving accountability, traceability and transparency** of fulfilment of EPR Obligations.
  - This portal would act as the **single point data repository** with respect to orders and guidelines related to implementation of BWM Rules, 2022.
- These measures aim to **promote proper waste management practices and enhance environmental sustainability across the country.**

Source: BS

UNESCO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT

In News

- India hosted the 2nd Formal Meeting of the COP9 Bureau and the 3rd Formal Meeting of the Fund Approval Committee under the **UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.**

About

- The meeting aims to advance global collaboration in the fight against doping, emphasising the importance of integrity, fairness, and inclusivity in sport.
- Doping has widespread implications like it can damage the credibility of the sport, undermines the principle of fair competition, and causes severe short-term and long-term health issues among sportsmen.
- Organizations like WADA enforce anti-doping policies globally.
  - WADA was **established in 1999 and is headquartered in Montreal, Canada**. It was created under the initiative of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
  - The formation of WADA followed the **Lausanne Declaration**, aiming to create an independent international organization to combat doping in sports.

UNESCO International Convention against Doping

- **Adopted:** 2005 in Paris, France.
- **Objective:** To promote the prevention of and fight against doping in sports, with the ultimate goal of eliminating doping entirely.
  - It provides a legal framework to harmonize anti-doping rules and legislation globally, ensuring a fair and level playing field across all sports.
  - This is the only international treaty focused on anti-doping, bringing countries together to fight against doping on a global scale.

Source: PIB

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