

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**Krishi Kisan App**

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched 'Krishi Kisan App for Geo Tagging' in New Delhi.

About:

- The Krishi Kisan App will provide farmers the information of best demonstration of high-yielding crops and seeds in their nearby area.
- Any farmer with high quality of crops can utilise this platform to demonstrate best practices of cultivation to other farmers so that this will help other farmers also to adopt these methods.
- The App will also help in geo-tagging and geo-fencing of crop and give weather forecast message to farmers.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)**

PM Narendra Modi met leaders of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. He announced the allocation of 12 million US Dollar grant towards the implementation of high impact developmental projects in Pacific Island countries.

About Small Island developing states (SIDS):

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are maritime countries that tend to share similar sustainable development challenges.
- These countries are across the globe in the Caribbean, the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean and South China Sea.
- An estimated 60 million people live in small island developing States.
- The UN has never established any criteria to determine an official list of SIDS" but it maintains a shorter, unofficial list for analytical purposes. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs lists 57 small island developing states.
- These are broken down into following three geographic regions, with each region having it's own regional cooperation body.

Article 35 & 51 of UN Charter

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that had India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru taken the matter to the United Nations under Article 51 of the UN Charter, instead of Article 35, the outcome would have been different on the existence of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

About:

- Article 35 of the UN Charter says that any member of the UN may take a dispute to the Security Council or General Assembly, if the parties to a dispute that has the potential for endangering international peace are not able to resolve the matter through negotiations between them.
- Article 51 says that a UN member has the "inherent right of individual or collective self-defence" if attacked, "till such time that the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security".

Recent Events:

- Amit Shah held Jawaharlal Nehru responsible for the existence of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as he had "declared an untimely ceasefire" to the hostilities after Pakistan had invaded Kashmir in October 1947. The ceasefire was brokered by a United Nations Mission.
- He said that had Nehru taken the matter to the United Nations under Article 51 of the UN Charter, instead of Article 35, the outcome would have been different.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**Cane and Bamboo Technology Park, Burnihat**

The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) inaugurated the Cane and Bamboo Technology Park at Burnihat, Assam.

About:

- DoNER Minister inaugurated the Cane and Bamboo Technology Park-cum-Office Premises of Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) at Burnihat, Assam.
- The Bamboo Technology Park has been developed to exclusively deal with Bamboo & Cane, catering to the needs of the industries, entrepreneurs, designers, crafts persons, rural people, teachers, policy makers, technicians and technologists.

Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC)

- The Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) was established in Guwahati as a centre for “Cane and Bamboo Technological Up gradation and Networking Project” implemented by NEDFi under the UNIDO country program for India.
- The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) were the main stake holders.
- After completion of the Project, it was registered as a Society under North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India.
- The CBTC has trained more than 5400 artisans, students, farmers and entrepreneurs of North Eastern Region as well as foreign countries in the field of Cane and Bamboo Technology.

Leadership Group for Industry Transition

A new leadership group was announced at the UN Climate Action Summit to help guide the world's heaviest greenhouse gas emitting industries toward the low-carbon economy.

About:

- This new Leadership Group for Industry Transition is a global public-private effort to ensure heavy industries and mobility companies can find a workable pathway to deliver on the Paris Agreement
- This initiative was announced by India and Sweden together with Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, South Korea and the UK, as well as a group of companies including Dalmia Cement, DSM, Heathrow Airport, Mahindra Group etc.
- This initiative will be supported by the World Economic Forum, the Energy Transitions Commission, Mission Innovation, Stockholm Environment Institute, and the European Climate Foundation among many others.

Significance:

- Industry sector emissions, including those from hard-to-abate and energy-intensive sectors like steel, cement, aluminum, aviation and shipping are expected to be responsible for 15.7Gt by 2050.
- The international collaboration between countries and industry groups is critical to establish workable policy frameworks and incentives, and to enable joint investment into low carbon infrastructure.

The Climate Action Summit

- The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres hosted the Climate Action Summit in New York ahead of the UN General Assembly.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**Coal Gasification contract for Talcher Fertilizer plant**

Odisha's Talcher fertiliser plant has been awarded a contract for starting a coal gasification unit for the production of urea and Ammonia.

Coal gasification

- Coal gasification is the process of converting coal into synthesis gas (also called syngas) which is a mixture of hydrogen (H₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO₂). The syngas can be used in a variety of applications such as in the production of electricity and making chemical products such as fertilisers.

MISC

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

The country's highest film honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke award, will be presented this year to Amitabh Bachchan. The award comes in the year that marks Mr. Bachchan's golden jubilee in cinema. He made his debut in 1969 with Khwaja Ahmad Abbas' Saat Hindustani.

About:

- Dadasaheb Phalke award is India's highest award in cinema.
- It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals (an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting).
- The award prize consists of a golden lotus, a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh and a shawl.
- The award is given to people for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".
- It was first presented in 1969. The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani, "the first lady of Indian cinema."
- Dadasaheb Phalke (1870–1944), was an Indian film-maker who directed India's first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra (1913). He is regarded as "the father of Indian cinema."

India International Science Festival (Iisf) 2019

The 5th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 will be held at Kolkata from 5th to 8th November, 2019 with the theme RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation.

About:

- The IISF 2019 is the fifth edition since its inception in 2015. The first and second IISF were held in New Delhi, the third in Chennai and the fourth IISF was held in Lucknow.
- IISF is an annual event organised jointly by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).
- It is a medium to encourage the young minds towards the field of science and to promote the networking of stakeholders working towards the propagation of science.
- IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

One day, in retrospect, the years of struggle will strike you as the most beautiful days of your life.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns What do you understand by coal gasification? Can it help India reduce its energy import ?

Ans

Coal gasification is the process of converting coal into synthesis gas (also called syngas) which is a mixture of hydrogen (H₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO₂). The syngas can be used in a variety of applications such as in the production of electricity and making chemical products such as fertilisers.

According to the International Energy Agency report, the coal gasification process holds good potential in the future with coal being the most abundantly available fossil fuel across the world and that even low-grade coal can be used in the process.

Significance of coal gasification:

- According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, urea is currently produced using pooled natural gas, which comprises of both domestic natural gas and imported LNG.
- Hence, the usage of locally available coal for making fertilisers would help reduce the import of LNG.
- Further, India currently imports 50 to 70 lakh tonnes of urea every year, and the revival of the units would help increase the availability of domestically produced fertilisers.
- The project would also generate direct and indirect employment of around 4,500 people.

Concerns:

- Coal gasification is one of the more water-intensive forms of energy production.
- There are concerns about water contamination, land subsidence and disposing of waste water safely.

Qns Explain the significance of access to clean energy for developing countries like India.

Ans

Access to affordable and sustainable energy supply is necessary for maintaining a high growth trajectory. India is the sixth largest economy in the world and it is also the third largest consumer of energy in the world. Energy demand is set to double by 2040.

A sustainable energy sector is needed to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 pertaining to access to clean affordable energy. It has undeniable positive spillovers in the achievement of other SDGs, including those pertaining to gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and most importantly, sustainability.

Impacts of access to clean energy supply across different sectors:

- **Manufacturing sector:** Commercial energy access is essential to create income generating opportunities. It enables capital investments in machinery and advanced technology, which exponentially increases operational capacity and output.
- **Agriculture:** Energy access also helps in augmenting farmer income through better irrigation, mechanized ploughing and harvesting and by ensuring a wider market for their output.
- **Women empowerment:** Energy access has the potential to positively influence women's health, finance, and access to information, especially in rural areas.
- For example, Ujjwala Yojana, which provides access to clean cooking gas, replacing firewood or coal, was a game changer for women and ensuring them smoke free healthy lifestyle, and augmenting livelihood opportunities.
- **Steady growth in off grid and decentralized renewable energy systems** has opened up a lot of avenues for women entrepreneurship especially in rural India.
- **Education:** Solar energy powered schools in rural India have given young girls the opportunity to pursue quality modern education, turn digitally literate and brighten their career prospects. Electrified schools do better in recruiting and training qualified teachers, recording higher student attendance, and academic performance.
- **Universal access to clean water and sanitation:** Energy is essential for water extraction, water treatment and water distribution.
- **Health sector:** Decentralized clean energy solutions can greatly enhance the efficiency of Primary Health Services delivery to the marginalized sections of the population residing in remote corners of the country.
- With increased digitization, energy access will accelerate the growth of technology enabled services like telemedicine and mobile health applications.

Conclusion

- A more diverse energy supply with rising share of renewables contributes to a cleaner, healthier future, by helping reduce dependence on fossil fuels that emit harmful greenhouse gases. However, more than just safeguarding the environment, it induces perceptible improvements in socio-economic parameters like health, education, employment opportunities, and gender equality, thus playing a pivotal role in poverty alleviation and improving quality of life.
- Thus, access to universal clean energy is critical for maintaining a high growth trajectory, in a manner that is sustainable and inclusive with its benefits reaching all sections of the society.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS

1. With reference to Krishi Kisan App, consider the following statements:

1. Recently Ministry of Science and Technology launched 'Krishi Kisan App for Geo Tagging'.
2. It will provide farmers the information of best demonstration of high-yielding crops and seeds in their nearby area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) **2 only**
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Recently inaugurated Cane and Bamboo Technology Park is located in which of the following places?

- (a) **Burnihat, Assam**
- (b) Gangtok, Sikkim
- (c) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Dimapur, Nagaland

3. With reference to the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, consider the following statements:

1. It is a global public-private effort to ensure heavy industries and mobility companies can find a workable pathway to deliver on the Paris Agreement.
2. It will be mainly supported by the Greenpeace International.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) **1 only**
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. With reference to India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The theme is RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation.
2. It is an annual event organised jointly by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only

- (c) **Both 1 and 2**

- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 35 of the UN Charter says that a UN member has the “inherent right of individual or collective self-defence” if attacked.
2. Article 51 of the UN Charter says that any member of the UN may take a dispute to the Security Council or General Assembly, if the parties to a dispute that has the potential for endangering international peace.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) **Neither 1 nor 2**

6. With reference to Dadasaheb Phalke award, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's highest award in cinema.
2. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) **Both 1 and 2**
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. With reference to Small Island developing states (SIDS), consider the following statements:

1. SIDS are maritime countries that tend to share similar sustainable development challenges.
2. These countries are across the globe in the Caribbean, the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean and South China Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) **Both 1 and 2**
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2