

**COVID- 19 NEWS****Year Of Awareness On Science & Health (Yash)**

National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched a programme on health and risk communication 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)' with focus on COVID-19.

**About:**

- The programme is aimed at minimizing risks at all levels with the help of public communication and outreach activities, promoting public understanding of safety measures like personal sanitation and hygiene, physical distancing, maintaining desired collective behaviour and so on.
- Under the programme, strategies have been worked out to involve academic, research, media, and voluntary organizations to facilitate necessary actions and emergency preparedness of society to address the challenge.
- The programme will encompass development of science, health, and risk communication software, publications, audio-visual, digital platforms, folk performances, communicators, especially in regional languages to cater to various cross-sections of the society.

**Ayuraksha**

Delhi police Commissioner launched Ayuraksha- 'Corona se jung - Delhi Police ke sang', a joint initiative by Delhi Police and All India Institute of Ayurveda, Ministry of AYUSH.

**About:**

- The Ayurveda institute will maintain the health of front line COVID warriors like Delhi Police personnel through Ayurveda Immunity boosting measures.
- It will be implemented in a phase wise manner. The distribution will take place for nearly 80 thousand personnel of Delhi Police across 15 districts.
- The recommended formulations like Chyawanaprasha (Amla as main content), Anu Taila and SanshamaniVati (prepared from Guduchi) have simple herbs which are time tested and scientifically proven for enhancing the immunity.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****May Day**

International Labour Day is being celebrated across the world on May 1.

**About:**

- International Labour Day/international Workers Day is often referred to as May Day.
- The day is celebrated to honour the contribution of working men and women and to pay tribute to workers sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world.
- Date of observance: It is observed on May Day (1st May), an ancient European spring festival. The date was chosen by a pan-national organization of socialist and communist political parties to commemorate the Haymarket affair, which occurred in Chicago on 4 May 1886.
- Indian scenario: In India, the first Labour day or May Day was celebrated in 1923 in Chennai.

**Haymarket affair**

- During industrialization at the beginning of the 19th Century, the industrialists used to exploit the labour class and made them work up to 15 hours a day.
- The workers at Haymarket affair, in Chicago rose against this exploitation and demanded paid leaves, proper wages and breaks for the workforce.
- The day marks the victory of the workers' movement for eight hours of work.

**Mekong River Commission (Mrc)**

A new study released by the Mekong River Commission, highlighting the impact of China's dams on the Mekong river has raised fresh questions on whether dams being built on other rivers that originate in China, such as the Brahmaputra, may similarly impact countries downstream.

**About:**

- The Mekong, or Mekong River, is a trans-boundary river in Southeast Asia. It is the world's twelfth longest river and the seventh longest in Asia.
- The Mekong flows from China to Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

**Mekong River Commission (MRC):**

- **Mandate:** It is inter-governmental organisation to jointly manage the shared water resources and the sustainable development of the Mekong River.
- **Membership:** Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam.
- **Headquarters:** Vientiane, Laos.
- **Established in:** 1995.

**Global Report On Internal Displacement (Grid)**

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) annual report, a record 50.8 million people worldwide were internally displaced in 2019 due to conflict or disaster, with coronavirus posing a new threat.

**About:**

- More than 45 million have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and violence. A further five million have been displaced by natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.
- Around 33.4 million new displacements were recorded in 2019, the highest annual figure since 2012.
- The IDMC calls on governments to work towards solving conflicts like the civil war in Syria, where about a million people have fled their homes since December to escape a government offensive in a conflict that began nine years ago. It also highlights conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen, and Afghanistan.

**Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)**

- The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), based in Geneva, Switzerland, is the world's authoritative source of data and analysis on internal displacement.
- It was established in 1998 as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council, a humanitarian, non-governmental organisation.
- The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) is the annual flagship report of IDMC.

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Bank Of Schemes, Ideas, Innovation & Research Portal On Msmes**

Union Minister of MSME launched Bank of Schemes, Ideas, Innovation and Research portal (<http://ideas.msme.gov.in/>) on MSMEs.

**About:**

- The Portal gives access to all Schemes of Union, State and UT Governments. It has the provision for uploading Ideas, Innovations & Researches in the sector.
- The portal has unique features of not only crowd sourcing of Ideas, but also evaluation and rating the ideas by crowd sourcing. It can also facilitate inflow of venture capital, foreign collaboration etc.
- Users who have idea, innovation or Research with him/her can share it on this platform which will be reviewed by the concerned Officer and publish them for public view. Registered users can rate these ideas (Crowd sourcing) and venture capitalist can connect with user having idea, innovation and research.
- The portal has the facility to indicate the stage of Idea (Concept, Prototype or Commercialized) to make more user friendly. Papers and photo related to Idea and Video and Social Media links can also be uploaded.

**SLF-MF Scheme**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended regulatory benefits to all banks including those deploying their own resources to extend liquidity support to the mutual funds under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds (SLF-MF) scheme.

**About:**

- Earlier in the week, the RBI had announced Rs 50,000-crore SLF-MF scheme to bailout the mutual funds facing redemption pressure.
- The scheme was announced in the backdrop of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund deciding to shut several schemes. RBI said in a release that based on requests received from banks, it has now been decided that
- The regulatory benefits announced under the SLF-MF scheme will now be extended to all banks, irrespective of whether they avail funding from the Reserve Bank or deploy their own resources under the SLF-MF scheme.
- Banks meeting the liquidity requirements of MFs by extending loans and undertaking outright purchase of and/or repos against the collateral of investment grade corporate bonds, commercial paper, debentures and certificates of deposit held by MFs, will be eligible to claim all the regulatory benefits available under the scheme.

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE****Qns. Discuss the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the Tourism and Hospitality industry.**

In the recent past, tourism and hospitality industry has become a crucial sector for the global economy, as it amounts to around 10% of the global GDP. However, extensive travel restrictions and movement regulations due to covid-19 pandemic have crippled the entire tourism and hospitality sector.

Impact of Covid-19 on Tourism and Hospitality Sector

- Due to higher forward and backward linkages, the sector has a multiplier effect on the local economy.
- This sector can be seen as a medium for the creation of jobs, a tool for boosting soft power, and a foreign exchange earner and plays a critical role in ensuring decentralized development.
- Therefore, the collapse of the Tourism and Hospitality sector will certainly hit these areas.
- Further, given its substantial share in global GDP, slump in the sector will have a considerable macroeconomic impact in the form of reduced growth.
- The biggest negative fallout would be on the employment scenario. This, in turn, will further worsen global slowdown.
- Drastic changes in people's social behaviour are evident in the post-pandemic scenario. This will impact the current business model of the tourism and hospitality industry.
- India has been no exception, due to almost zero revenue, the sector is facing major concerns like liquidity crunch, delay in payment of salaries and job losses.

Conclusion

- Global Tourism and Hospitality Sectors have been facing one of its worst crisis. Given the significance of this sector, there is need for a multi-stakeholder approach, where private players need to reevaluate and re-engineer their business models and government needs to promote and ensure the sustainability of this sector, once the crisis gets over.