

GOVERNANCE**International Mother Language Day**

Every year, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrates 21st February as International Mother Language Day to promote mother tongue-based multilingual education.

The theme of the 2021 celebrations, “**Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society,**” recognizes that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the Sustainable Development Goals focus on leaving no one behind.

The world has over 7,000 languages whereas India alone has about 22 officially recognized languages, 1635 mother tongues, and 234 identifiable mother tongues.

Key Points

- UNESCO declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day in 1999 and World has been celebrating the same since 2000. The day also commemorates a long struggle by Bangladesh to protect its mother language Bangla.
- The resolution to mark 21st February as the International Mother Language Day was suggested by Rafiqul Islam, a Bangladeshi living in Canada. He proposed the said date to commemorate the 1952 killings in Dhaka during the Bangla Language Movement.
- The initiative is aimed at preserving and promoting mother languages. The aim is to protect the diverse culture and intellectual heritage of different regions of the world.

Global Efforts for Protection of Languages:

- The UN has designated the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- Earlier, the United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL).
- The Yuelu Proclamation, made by UNESCO at Changsha (China) in 2018, plays a central role in guiding the efforts of countries and regions around the world to protect linguistic resources and diversity.

India's Initiatives:

- The recently announced National Education Policy 2020 has given maximum attention to the development of mother tongues.
- The policy recommends that as far as possible, the medium of instruction shall be, at least till class 5, (preferably up to grade 8 and beyond) mother tongue / vernacular / regional language.
- Instructions in mother tongue empowers students with the subject and language of their choice. It will help in building a truly multilingual society in India, improve attendance and learning outcomes, and the ability to learn new languages.
- **The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)** is providing publication grants towards the publications of University Level Books in regional languages.
- **The National Translation Mission (NTM)** is being implemented through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore under which the text books of various subjects prescribed in Universities and Colleges are being translated in all languages of the Eighth Schedule.
- “Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages” scheme for conservation of threatened languages.
- Google's Project Navlekha uses technology to protect mother language. The project is aimed at increasing the online content in Indian local languages.

INDIAN ECONOMY**Greenpeace Analysis Of Cost To The Economy Due To Air Pollution**

Greenpeace Southeast Asia recently carried out analysis of cost to the economy due to air pollution. According to the report, Air pollution claimed approximately 54,000 lives in Delhi in 2020.

Key Points

- Six Indian cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Lucknow — feature in the global analysis.
- Globally, approximately 1,60,000 deaths have been attributed to PM (particulate matter) 2.5 air pollution.
- These deaths have occurred in the five most populous cities — Delhi, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Shanghai and Tokyo.
- The ‘Cost Estimator’ tool was used for the study.

- It is an online tool that estimates the real-time health impact and economic cost from fine PM 2.5 air pollution in major world cities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)**

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted conditional exemption for Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) usage to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW).

Key Points

- RPAS can now be used for remote sensing data collection in agricultural areas under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- The exemption shall be valid from the one year from the date of issue of the permission

DEFENCE AND SECURITY**Trials for Helina & Dhruvastra carried out**

Joint User Trials for the 'Helina', and 'Dhruvastra' have been carried out from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) platform in desert ranges.

Helina is helicopter-launched version of the Nag anti-tank guided missile.

'Dhruvastra' is its Air Force variant.

Key Points**Helina**

- Helina is a third-generation, Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system.
- It has all- weather day and night operational capabilities.
- It can defeat battle tanks with conventional and explosive reactive armour (ERA).
- It can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode.
- Dhruvastra has similar properties as well.
- However, it is developed by the DRDO

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**Conclusive Land Titling**

Recently, as many States have failed to send in their feedback on a Model Bill on Conclusive Land Titling, the Centre has warned that their agreement would be presumed. The Bill was prepared by the NITI Aayog.

Key Points

- **Land Titling:** It is the generic term used to describe the programs implemented by the government to enable individuals and government to efficiently trade in rights in land and property.
- Recently, the Supreme Court held that a citizen's right to own private property is a human right.

Current System in India/Presumptive Land Titling:

- India currently follows a system of presumptive land titling. It means that land records are maintained, with information on possession, which is determined through details of past transactions.

Ownership: It is established on the basis of current possession.

Registration: Registration of land is actually a registration of transactions, such as sale deeds, records of inheritance, mortgage and lease.

Conclusive Land Titling: Under a conclusive land titling system, land records designate actual ownership.

Ownership: The title is granted by the government, which takes the responsibility for accuracy.

Dispute Settlement: Once a title is granted, any other claimant will have to settle disputes with the government, not the title holder.

Compensation: The government may provide compensation to claimants in case of disputes, but the title holder is not in any danger of losing ownership.

Need and Benefits of Conclusive Land Titling:

- **Reduce Litigations:** The conclusive system will drastically lower litigation related to land.
- **Reduced Risk:** Once conclusive titling is in place, investors who want to purchase land for business activities will be able to do so without facing the constant risk that their ownership may be questioned and their entire investment may go to waste.
- **Reduction in Black Marketing**

- **Speeding up Development**
- **Facilitation of Easy Credit**
- **Model Bill on Conclusive Land Titling**

Power to State Governments: It will provide state governments power to order for establishment, administration and management of a system of title registration of immovable properties.

Land Authorities: Land Authorities to be set up by each State government, which will appoint a Title Registration Officer (TRO) to prepare and publish a draft list of land titles based on existing records and documents.

Land Titling Appellate Tribunals:

- Over a three-year period, these titles and the decisions of the TRO and the LDRO can be challenged before Land Titling Appellate Tribunals, which will be set up under the law.
- After a three-year period, entries in the Record of Titles will be considered conclusive proof of ownership.

Challenge:

- The biggest challenge is that land records have not been updated for decades, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.
- Land records are often in the name of the grandparents of the current owner, with no proof of inheritance.
- Unless they are based on updated records, conclusive land titles could create even more problems.

Way Forward

Comprehensive village-level surveys with community involvement are a necessary precursor to the land titling process. Relying on current records or even satellite imagery will not provide the same accuracy as actual, on-the-ground, local surveys.

BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT

'Go Electric' Campaign launched

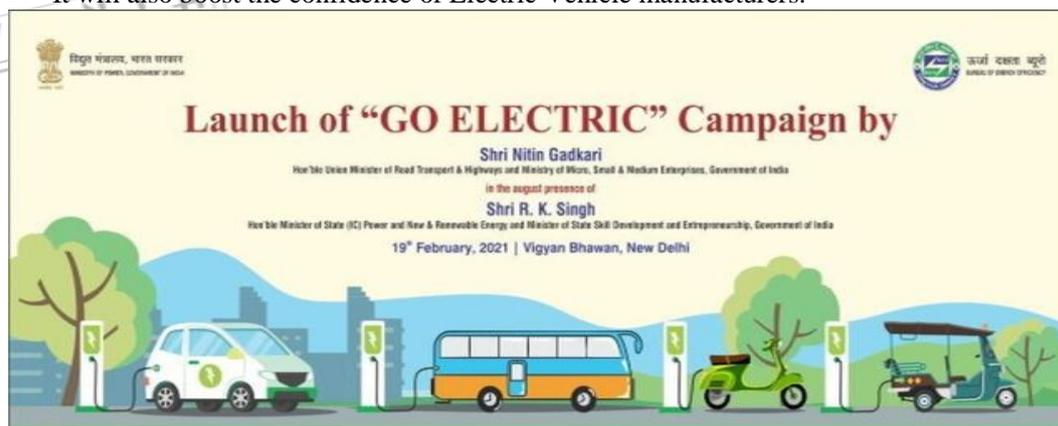
"Go Electric" Campaign was launched recently.

Ministry: Union Ministry for Road Transport & Highways

Objective: To spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure and electric cooking in India.

Key Points

- The campaign would help in reducing the import dependence.
- It would be an important step towards a cleaner and greener future.
- It will also boost the confidence of Electric Vehicle manufacturers.



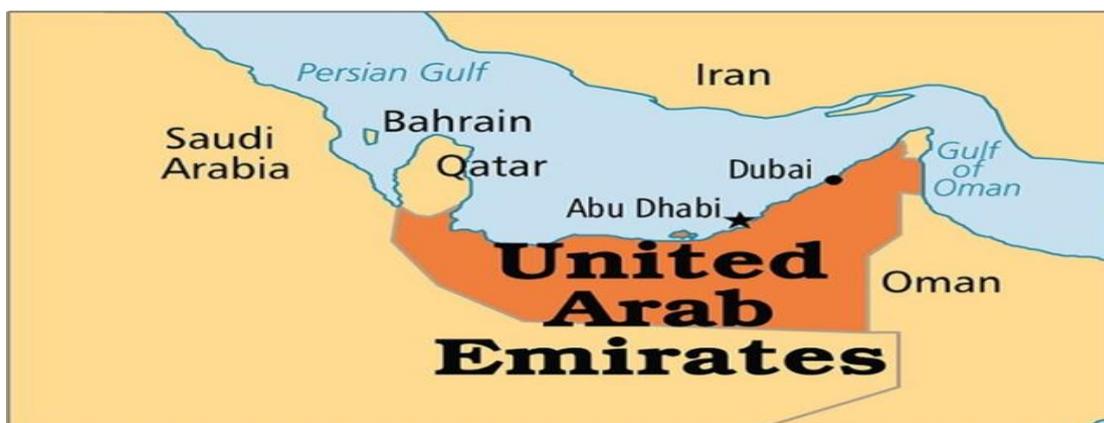
- Electric fuel is a major alternative for fossil fuels.
- These fuels have an import bill of Rs. 8 lakh Crore.
- The electric fuel has low cost, reduced emissions.
- It is also indigenous.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

INS Pralaya

Indian Naval Ship Pralaya arrived at Abu Dhabi, UAE.

It shall participate in the NAVDEX 21 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 21 (International Defence Exhibition), scheduled from 20 to 25 February 2021.



- INS Pralaya is the second ship of the indigenously built Prabal Class Missile Vessels.
- The ship was built indigenously Important Info :
- Inaugural edition of Indian Navy – UAE Navy bilateral exercise GULF STAR – 1 was conducted in March 2018.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (UPSC GS-1 Mains 2020)

Ans:

Raw material and power resources are key components of the establishment, development, and concentration of the Iron and steel industry. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, due to the high amount of weight loss during processing, early steel plants were mostly located where coal was available.

- However, with the passage of time, the depletion of raw material, emergence of new technologies (like electric furnaces), and fuel-saving transportation, promoted the Iron and Steel industry to locate away from the raw material sources.

Apart from the availability of raw materials, capital and market are also important factors in the localization of industries, including the iron and steel industry.

Market-based location is generally found in countries where coal and iron ore deposits are rare.

- For example, Japan is deficient in both iron ore and coal and almost all raw materials are to be imported from overseas countries.
- This makes Japanese steel plants mostly market-based.
- The great ‘Tokyo-Yokohama’ and ‘Osaka – Kobe – Heemeji’ iron steel regions are market-based.

Transportation is another controlling factor of the location of iron and steel industry.

- The intermediate location, in some cases, gets distinct advantages in terms of the accessibility with raw materials, market and transportation. Its port location is of advantage.
- For example, the Vizag Steel Plant, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, is the first port-based plant that started operating in 1992.

The raw material-based industries are now facing disadvantages because of depleting reserves of raw material.

- Apart from this, the drastic reduction of coal use and development of fuel economy also attracted industries to the areas where transport is cheaper.
- For example, a cheap water route or break of bulk location, where due to loading and unloading facilities, raw materials are available at a much cheaper rate.

Conclusion

Nowadays, the localization of steel plants, each of the three factors, i.e., coal, iron ore, and the market, have equal importance. The geographic coincidence of any two factors, however, determines the steel plant site.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Which of the following are correct about rainfall in Cherrapunji?

1. It is caused by the orography favouring a monsoon wind regime.
2. The changes in the Indian Ocean temperature have a huge effect on it.
3. The decrease in vegetation cover and increase in the areas of cropland has caused decline in rainfall here.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3**

2. With reference to Indian WASH strategy, consider the following statements:

- 1. WASH stands for the interrelated areas of Water and Sanitation.
- 2. The Strategy has been developed by the World Health Organisation.

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

3. With reference to the Thermo-electric effect, consider the following statements:

- 1. It involves the process by which heat is transformed to electrical energy.
- 2. Being a good conductor of electricity but a bad conductor of heat is important property for thermo-electric effect.

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. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The report 'Making Peace with Nature' is released by UNEP.
- 2. The UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

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. The 'Yuelu Proclamation', is related to?

- a) Addressing future epidemics
- b) Protecting linguistic resources and diversity**
- c) Climate Change
- d) Peaceful uses of outer space