

**May - 2**

## **NATIONAL**

### **Atal New India Challenge**

- The NITI Aayog has launched Atal New India Challenge under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with aim to developing innovations and technologies relevant to the people and bringing them in usage.
- For this initiative, AIM has partnered with Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Ministries of Agriculture and farmers Welfare, Ministries of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministries of health and family welfare.
- The programme will be open to Indian companies registered under Companies Act 1956 and 2013, MSMEs, Start-Ups or private R&D organizations, academic institutions, academicians, or even individual innovators.

### **Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of UNCCD**

- The Asia Pacific Regional Workshop of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in New Delhi.
- It was jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and UNCCD.
- The 4-day workshop aimed at building capacity of Asia-Pacific Region to monitor and report on land degradation.
- The workshop provided UNCCD member countries platform to submit their national report in time and in particular for Target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).
- The participants were trained in use of state-of-the-art tool called 'Trends Earth' developed by Conservation International, an NGO for combating land degradation.

### **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

- UNCCD was adopted in 1994 and entered into force 1996. It is only legally binding international agreement to address problem of desertification and other land issues.
- India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the nodal Ministry for this Convention, as well as other two Rio Conventions

- Those are United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity,
- These two conventions have their genesis in Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

### **UNCCD – Objectives and Implementation Activities**

1. 47.2% of earth's territory is dryland; 1.2 billion inhabitants; many impoverished;
2. UNCCD adopted in 1994 to promote measures for combating desertification and to facilitate international cooperation;
3. UNCCD with 192 members;
4. More than 60 countries have adopted national action programmes;
5. Sub-regional and regional cooperation has been promoted through action programmes;
6. Promoting cooperation on scientific and technical matters through UNCCD Group of Experts and Committee on Science and Technology
7. Global Environment Facility (GEF) designated as a financing mechanism; 250 million USD was allocated

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Peace Mission**

- ❖ For first time, arch rivals India and Pakistan are taking part in Peace Mission, a multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia to be held in September 2018.
- ❖ The decision was taken at SCO Defence Ministers' meeting held in Beijing, China.
- ❖ The military exercise is going to take place under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- ❖ Peace Mission counter-terror military exercise will be held in the Ural Mountains of Russia.

### **About SCO**

- ❖ SCO is a Eurasian economic, political and security organisation headquartered in Beijing, China.
- ❖ It was founded in 2001.
- ❖ The full members of the organization are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan.

- ❖ Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia have observer status at present.
- ❖ India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Earlier India and Pakistan were in the position of Observer Countries in SCO.
- ❖ China had founded this grouping in 1996 and then it was called as Shanghai Five. It comprised of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
- ❖ After Astana Summit Declaration in 2005, SCO has emerged as a regional security organization.
- ❖ The groupings main objective is military cooperation between members.

### **International Buddhist Conference**

- ❖ International Buddhist Conference was held in Lumbini, Nepal to commemorate 2562nd Buddha Jayanti.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was 'Lumbini Nepal: The birthplace of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace'.
- ❖ Lumbini is birth place of Gautama Buddha, founder of Buddhist religion.
- ❖ At end of the conference, 10 point Lumbini Declaration was adopted.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **First-ever Mock Exercise on Bio-Disasters**

- ❖ The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted its first ever mock exercise in Patna Airport aimed at enhancing preparedness of Airport Emergency Handlers (AEHs) to respond to CBRN emergencies at airports.
- ❖ CBRN emergencies pertain to threats emanating due to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear material (CBRN).
- ❖ NDMA jointly with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted its first-ever full-scale Biological Management Emergency Exercise.
- ❖ The training programme was conducted at Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Airport in Patna, Bihar in collaboration with Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS).

### **National Disaster Response Authority (NDMA)**

- ❖ The NDMA is apex statutory body for disaster management in India.

- ❖ National Disaster Management Authority works under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ Its provisions are envisaged in Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ It is governed by a 9-member board chaired by the Prime Minister of India.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

### National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was awarded National Intellectual Property (IP) Award 2018.
- ❖ It was awarded in category “Top R&D Institution/Organization for Patents and Commercialization”.
- ❖ The National IP Award is awarded annually by Indian Intellectual Property Office (under Ministry of Commerce and Industry) in various categories on the occasion of World IP Day - 26 April.



### About CSIR

- ❖ CSIR is an autonomous body and India's premier research and development (R&D) organisation, established in 1942.
- ❖ Prime Minister is the chairman of CSIR.
- ❖ It operates as an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860. It's works under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

### Saraswati Samman

- ❖ Gujarati poet, playwright and academic Sitanshu Yashaschandra was selected for 2017 Saraswati Samman.
- ❖ He was awarded for his collection of verses (poetry) titled “Vakhar” published in 2009. It was 27th edition of the award.



- ❖ He has three poetry collections — Odysseusnu Halesu, Jatayu, and Vakhar to his credit.
- ❖ He is also a recipient of the Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi Award.

### Saraswati Samman

- ❖ The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 Indian language listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India and published during last 10 years.
- ❖ It is named after an Indian goddess of learning and is considered to be among the highest literary awards in India.
- ❖ It was established in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation.
- ❖ KK Birla Foundation also gives Vyas Samman for Hindi, and Bihari Puraskar for Hindi and Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Intellectual Property Day – 26 April

- ❖ Every year April 26 is celebrated as World Intellectual Property Day to create awareness on the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ❖ The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2018 is – Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity.
- ❖ This day was declared by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000.
- ❖ World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on 26 April to mark the date on which the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization came to force in 1970.



**Powering  
change:  
Women in  
innovation  
and creativity**

World Intellectual  
Property Day 2018  
April 26

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