

February - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) board has decided to make provision for separation of the roles of chairperson and MD/CEO as 'voluntary' against 'mandatory' earlier.
- ❖ Pasuvula Panduga is a cattle festival that is observed annually during Kanuma (the 3rd day of the Sankranthi Festival), to appease the gods for improving and protecting livestock.
 - This festival was recently held in the Rangampet village of Andhra Pradesh.

NATIONAL

National Maritime Security Coordinator



- ❖ Following the 26/11 terrorist attack (2008 Mumbai Attack), India has been consistently trying to augment the nation's maritime security.
- ❖ In regard to this, the government has appointed Vice Admiral (retd) G Ashok Kumar as the nation's first national maritime security coordinator.
- ❖ This move has been made with the aim of ensuring cohesion among the various defense stakeholders of the nation with the primary aim of securing the country's interest.

- ❖ The National Maritime Security Coordinator works in tandem with the National Security Council which is headed by Ajit Doval (NSA).

India-Australia Energy Dialogue



- ❖ The 4th India-Australia Energy Dialogue was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh, and Australian Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor.
- ❖ Energy Transition was a major area of discussion in the dialogue.
- ❖ Both the Energy Ministers discussed energy transition activities in their respective countries with a focus on renewables, energy efficiency, storage, EVs, critical minerals, mining, etc.
- ❖ The need for Climate Finance was also highlighted by India for meeting the Energy Transition goals of developing countries.
- ❖ Both the countries signed a Letter of Intent for working towards reducing the cost of new and renewable energy technologies and scaling up their deployment to reduce global emissions.

Solar Waste Handling in India

- ❖ While India's solar power capacity is increasing, the country does not have a proper policy on managing the waste that is being generated from solar panels and its manufacturing process.
- ❖ In India, solar waste is sold as scrap.
- ❖ It can lead to the increase of solar e-waste if proper recycling is not done.

- ❖ In Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu, a private firm facility has been set up for the purpose of recovering solar e-waste recycling and recovery.

Power point

India faces a major solar e-waste threat as it plans to tap the sun in a big way using photovoltaic (PV) cells to generate electricity



What constitute solar e-waste?

- Photovoltaic cells that have reached their life cycle and haven't been recycled
- They contain potentially hazardous chromium, silicon tetrachloride, cadmium, selenium, and sulfur hexafluoride

What is the threat perception?

- Globally, limited facilities exist to recycle solar cells
- India's PV waste volume is estimated to grow to 200,000 tonnes by 2030
- The PV volume may rise to as much as 1.8 million tonnes by 2050

Helmet must for children under four

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has notified a new set of rules according to which children under the age of 4 must wear a helmet and safety vest when riding a two-wheeled vehicle.
- ❖ According to the new rules, the speed of motorcycles carrying children under the age of 4 has been limited to 40 km / h.
- ❖ Under the new regulations, the harnesses must be lightweight, durable, made of nylon, and able to support a weight of up to 30 kg.

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

India & UAE
Sign Historic Trade Pact

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

India's **1st comprehensive trade** agreement in a decade

Fastest FTA to be negotiated between any two countries in around 3 months

- ❖ India and the United Arab Emirates are set to firm up a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement during a virtual summit.
- ❖ The virtual Summit will be held between Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Note

- ❖ At a time when UAE is marking the 50th anniversary of its foundation and India is celebrating 75 years of its independence.

Waste to wealth creation



- ❖ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme for women in the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- ❖ In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales.
- ❖ This is a part of mission Swavalamban of SIDBI that aims to support artisans to become sustainable.

Fintech Open Month





- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind initiative that brings together the Fintech professionals & enthusiasts, regulators, industry leaders, start-up community, and developers on a common platform.
- ❖ On this common platform, profession, leaders, and start-up communities collaborate, exchange ideas, and innovate.
- ❖ It was started by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ A key highlight of the Fintech Open Month summit will be India's biggest fintech hackathon ever.
- ❖ It will provide an opportunity to present breakthrough ideas to individual developers and start-up communities with the potential to solve real-world problems.
- ❖ The overarching theme of Fintech Month of NITI Aayog is 'OPEN'.

Extension of INSACOG Network



- ❖ Recently, India announced to extend its "SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium network" (INSACOG) to neighboring countries, to fight against Covid-19.
- ❖ INSACOG is a network of laboratories for genomic sequencing and surveillance.
- ❖ India will also work for the implementation of the "TRIPS waiver".
- ❖ It is co-sponsored with South Africa for diversifying its local manufacturing in regional markets.
- ❖ India has supplied more than 162 million vaccine doses across 97 countries and 2 UN organizations.
- ❖ It also includes humanitarian assistance to Myanmar and Afghanistan.
- ❖ India is also collaborating with Quad partners for the delivery of doses in the Indo-Pacific region in 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

Quit Tobacco App

- ❖ World Health Organization South-East Asia Region has launched a 'Quit Tobacco App'.

- ❖ This application helps people to give up the use of tobacco in all forms, including smokeless and other newer products.
- ❖ The App was launched during WHO's year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign.

STATES

Attukal Pongala

- ❖ Attukal Pongala is one of the famous Malayala festivals, which is celebrated at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala annually.
- ❖ The event starts on the Karthigai star of the Malayalam month of Makaram or Kumbham and ends with the Kuruthitharpanam at night which refers to a sacrificial offering.
- ❖ This event is a 10-day event.
- ❖ As per beliefs, the temple is the incarnation of Kannaki, the central character of the Tamil epic 'Silappathikaaram'.



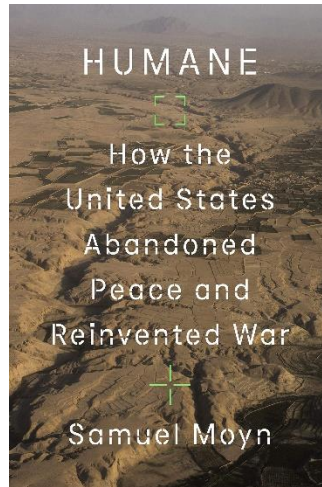
Kunsnyom scheme

- ❖ Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh has launched Kunsnyoms scheme for differently-abled persons.
- ❖ Kunsnyoms meant Equal for All, Fair for All, aims inclusive and accessible Ladakh.

- ❖ Under the new scheme, the Leh Hill council is providing assistive devices, technologies to needy people at a 90 percent subsidy.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Book by Samuel Moyn



- ❖ A new book titled “Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War” authored by Samuel Moyn was released.
- ❖ Samuel Moyn is the Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School and a professor of History at Yale University.
- ❖ The book highlights the United States of America's strategy on fighting wars and how armed combat was transformed from an imperfect tool for resolving disputes into an integral component of the modern condition.

