

February - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Ajay Malhotra became the first Indian to be elected as the Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council.
- ❖ Union Minister of Mines Prahalad Joshi and the state Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik, jointly inaugurated the production of iron ore in two mines in Odisha.

TAMIL NADU

Helpline No '1100'

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched a helpline service for expeditious redressal of people's grievances.
- ❖ Under this, the public may register their complaints by calling a toll-free number '1100.'
- ❖ Under this plan, people may also use a dedicated portal (CMHelpline.tnega.org).
- ❖ Alternatively, they may send complaints through e-mail at cmhelpline@tn.gov.in.
- ❖ Also, they can file by using a mobile app 'CMHelpline Citizen' on their smart phones and lodge their complaints.

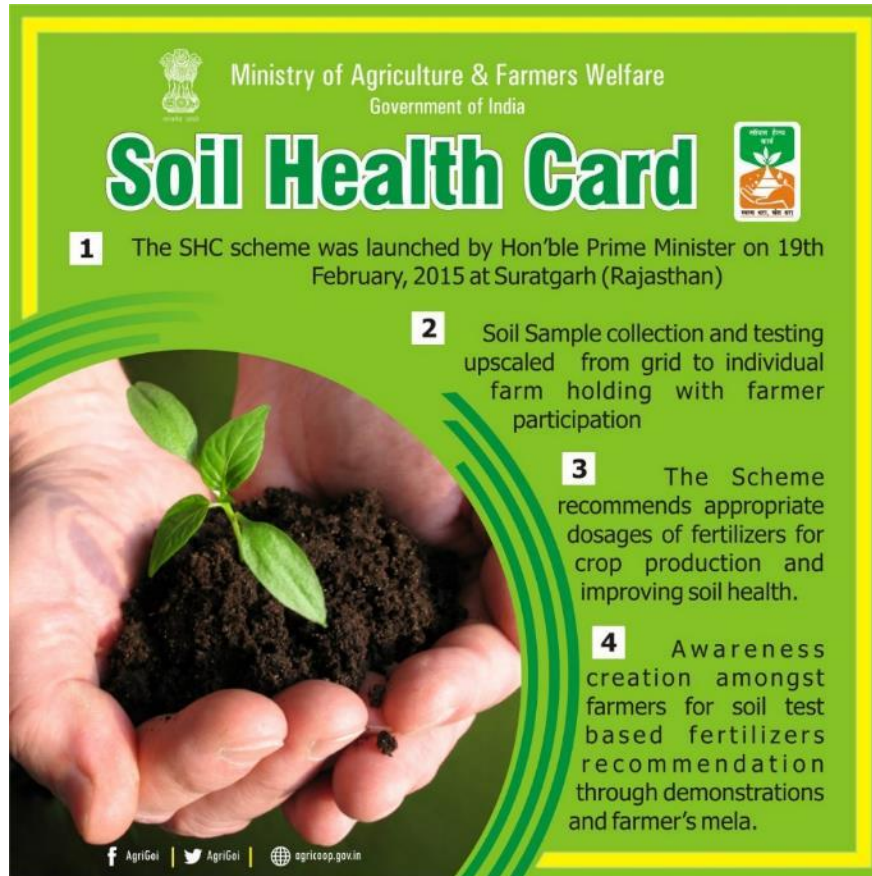


NATIONAL

6th Soil Health Card Day

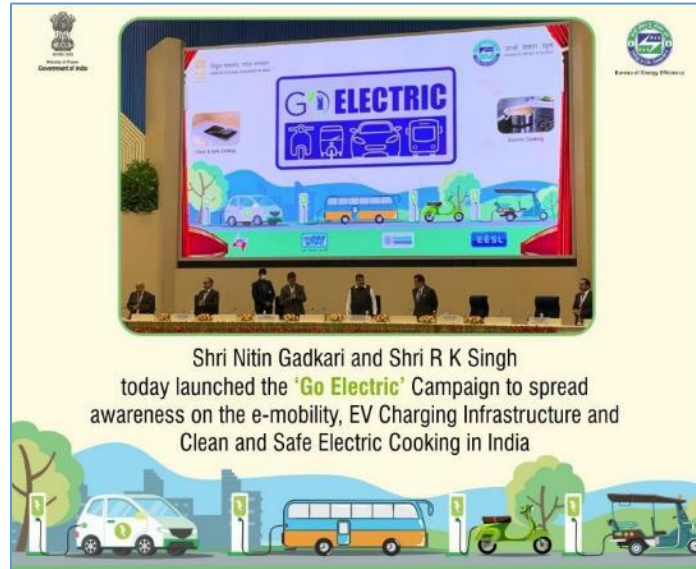
- ❖ Every year, India observes the Soil Health Card Day on 19 February.

- ❖ It aims to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme.
- ❖ 2021 marks the sixth year of the launch of the SHC Scheme.
- ❖ Prime Minister launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.



Go Electric Campaign

- ❖ The Union Minister of Road, Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, had launched the 'Go Electric Campaign'.
- ❖ This campaign was launched in order to spread awareness with respect to the benefits of Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure.
- ❖ The campaign would also raise awareness regarding e-mobility and electric cooking across India.



Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has announced the names of the 25 cities selected for the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge
- ❖ It will be under the Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ It is a 3-year initiative.
- ❖ It aims to work with Indian cities and their partners to pilot and scale ways to improve public space, mobility, neighbourhood planning,
- ❖ It also aims to access to early childhood services and amenities, and data management across city agencies.
- ❖ It propagates an early childhood centric approach among Indian cities.

100 percent Cashless Toll Collection

- ❖ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has successfully achieved 100 percent cashless toll collection at the National Highway fee plazas in the entire country.
- ❖ All lanes across the fee plazas on National Highways have been declared as FASTag lanes in effect from February 16, 2021.
- ❖ The total penetration of FASTag has reached to 87 percent in the country till date.



INTERNATIONAL

NASSCOM Technology and Leadership Forum 2021

- ❖ The 29th edition of Nasscom Technology and Leadership Forum (NTLF) was organized recently.
- ❖ It is the flagship event of the National Association of Software and Service Companies.
- ❖ NTLF 2021 was organized with the overarching theme 'Shaping the future towards a better normal'.
- ❖ February 2021 marks the 29th year of NASSCOM Technology & Leadership Forum.

India-Australia circular Economy Hackathon

- ❖ The Prime Minister addressed the valedictory function of the India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE).
- ❖ The I-ACE was jointly organized by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia.
- ❖ More than 200 participants in 39 teams from India and 33 teams from Australia took part in this.

Cairn Energy - Arbitration award

- ❖ The Indian government has decided to appeal against the international arbitration award of worth \$1.2 billion.
- ❖ It was won by Cairn Energy Plc in the tax dispute.
- ❖ The Cairn Energy Plc had made transactions in 2006-07 that involved the entities in Jersey of USA.
- ❖ It led to capital gains for Cairn UK Holdings.
- ❖ This gain is taxable in India.
- ❖ So, the government alleges the company that the offshore transaction that was executed by Cairn was done with the aim of evading taxes.
- ❖ India had a tax demand of some Rs.104 billion.
- ❖ It also demanded an equal amount in penalty and interest accrued.

A taxing journey

A timeline of the conflict

January 2014: Income Tax Department seeks information from Cairn Energy about group reorganisation done in 2006

March 2015: Cairn Energy receives draft assessment order from I-T Department, citing **retrospective legislation to seek ₹10,247 crore** in taxes. Cairn reacts by filing a notice of dispute

May 2018: Pending arbitration proceedings, I-T Department begins selling Cairn shares to recover tax dues

2018: Three-member international arbitration tribunal concludes hearings in tax dispute

December 23, 2020: Cairn Energy wins arbitration

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Arka Shubha variety

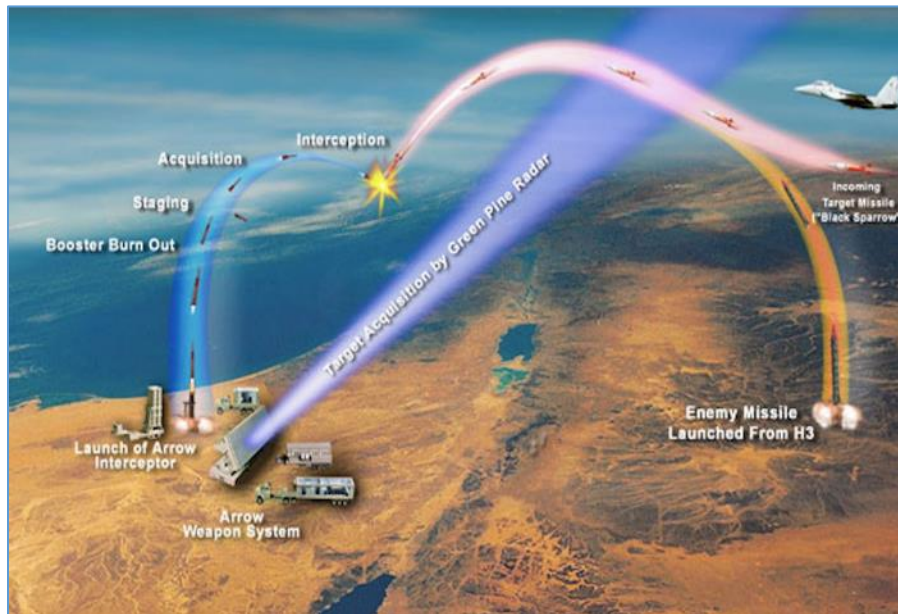
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) has developed a new marigold variety called Arka Shubha.
- ❖ It is known to have the highest carotene content of 2.8%.
- ❖ Thus, these marigolds hold value even if spoiled due to the extraction of crude carotene.
- ❖ Crude carotene is often in high demand in the pharmaceutical sector.
- ❖ This marigold variety can also be used in poultry sector as feed for getting quality yolk.



Arrow-4 missile shield

- ❖ Israel is developing a new ballistic missile shield named “Arrow-4” in collaboration with the United States.
- ❖ This missile is being developed as another layer in the defensive system by keeping an eye towards Iran.
- ❖ The Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 interceptors of Israel are already operational under the multi-layered system.

- ❖ This system can destroy the incoming missiles in the atmosphere and in space.
- ❖ It is a family of anti-ballistic missiles.



SPORTS

National Table Tennis Title

- ❖ Manika Batra has won the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championship.
- ❖ It is a popular indoor recreation sport in the country.
- ❖ It is mostly played in the states of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
- ❖ In 2018, she was the only Indian who received “The Breakthrough Star Award” by ITTF.
- ❖ In 2020, she also received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day of Social Justice - February 20

- ❖ The day is dedicated to advantages and issues which can be tackled by Social Justice.
- ❖ This year, the day was celebrated under Theme: “A call for social justice in the Digital Economy”.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) started gave its approval to observe this day on November 26, 2007.

