



June - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The UN's International Labour Organization published its flagship report 'World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) 2021'.
 - The theme of the report was, 'The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work.'
- ❖ In Hockey, the Indian men's team maintained their fourth position in the latest International Hockey Federation world rankings.
 - The women's team held the ninth position.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed an agreement for financing road up-gradation project in Sikkim.
 - In 2011, the ADB-funded North Eastern State Roads Investment Program was launched to improve road connectivity in Sikkim.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Sumit Malik has failed his dope test for the Tokyo Olympics.
 - He has bleak chances of participating in the Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Parliament of Denmark has approved plans for an artificial island which will house 35,000 people.
 - This will help in protecting port of Copenhagen from rising sea levels.

TAMIL NADU

International Memory Studies Workshop - IIT Madras

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.
- ❖ This international workshop is the first of its kind in Asia.
- ❖ The launch of the Indian Network for Memory Studies will take place in mid-June 2021 through a virtual event at IIT Madras.

NATIONAL

ASPAGNII

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology - National Institute of Immunology receives ASPAGNII trademark for India's First Indigenous Tumour Antigen SPAG9.
- ❖ SPAG9 was discovered by Dr Anil Suri in 1998.

- ❖ Currently, ASPAGNII is being used in dendritic cell based immunotherapy in cervical, ovarian cancer and will be used in breast cancer.

India slips two spots on achieving SDG

- ❖ India's rank has slipped by two places from last year to 117.
- ❖ It has got this result on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015.
- ❖ India ranks fifth after the four South Asian countries - Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The overall SDG score of India is 61.9 out of 100.
- ❖ The report said Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by 2030.
- ❖ The report also said that India ranked 168 out of 180 countries in terms of Environmental Performance Index.



Norms for employing retired officials

- ❖ The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has laid down a defined procedure for getting vigilance clearance before employing a retired official on a contractual or consultancy basis.

Procedure

- ❖ Before offering employment the vigilance clearance from the employer organisation, from which the officer has retired, should be obtained.
- ❖ In case a retired officer served in more than one organisation, clearance has to be obtained from all of them where the person was posted in the 10 years prior to retirement.
- ❖ A communication seeking clearance should also be sent to the CVC.
- ❖ If the employee is found involved in any vigilance-related matter or not cleared from the vigilance point of view, the erstwhile employer organisation would be responsible for all consequential actions.

INTERNATIONAL

Red tourism

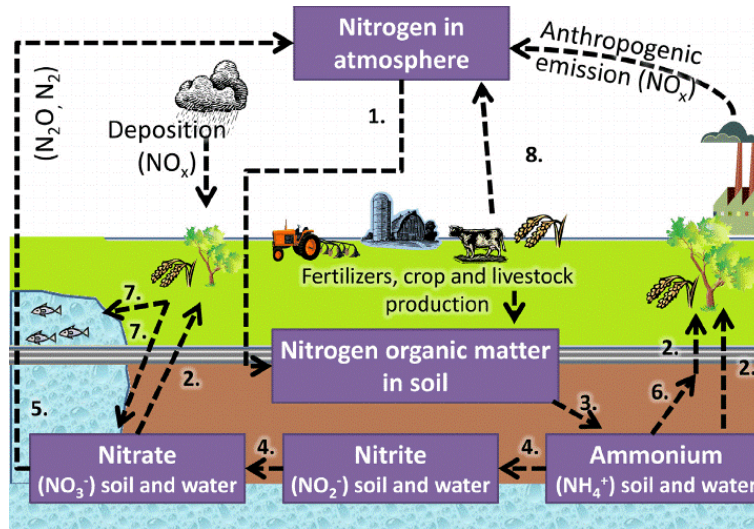
- ❖ As the Chinese Communist Party celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, the popularity of 'red tourism' is at an all-time high in the country.
- ❖ Launched in 2004, Red Tourism involves visiting places that are of historical and cultural importance to the Communist Party's history.
- ❖ It reminds people of the sacrifices made by the leaders of the Communist party to forge a modern China.



International Nitrogen Initiative Conference

- ❖ Recently the 8th International Nitrogen Initiative Conference held virtually.
- ❖ This was set up in 2003 under sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).
- ❖ It is a triennial event.

- ❖ It brings together scientists from around the world dealing with reactive nitrogen compounds in agriculture, industry, traffic, soil, water and air.
- ❖ Its objective is to stimulate an exchange among policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of results, ideas and visions to improve future holistic management of reactive nitrogen.
- ❖ The program is currently a sustained partner of Future Earth.



G7 Health Ministers meet

- ❖ Britain hosted the Health Ministers meet from the Group of Seven (G7) countries in Oxford.
- ❖ A G7 report on progress in efforts to improve health in developing countries was also published.
- ❖ Equitable access to Corona virus vaccines was at the top of the agenda during the meeting.

ECONOMY

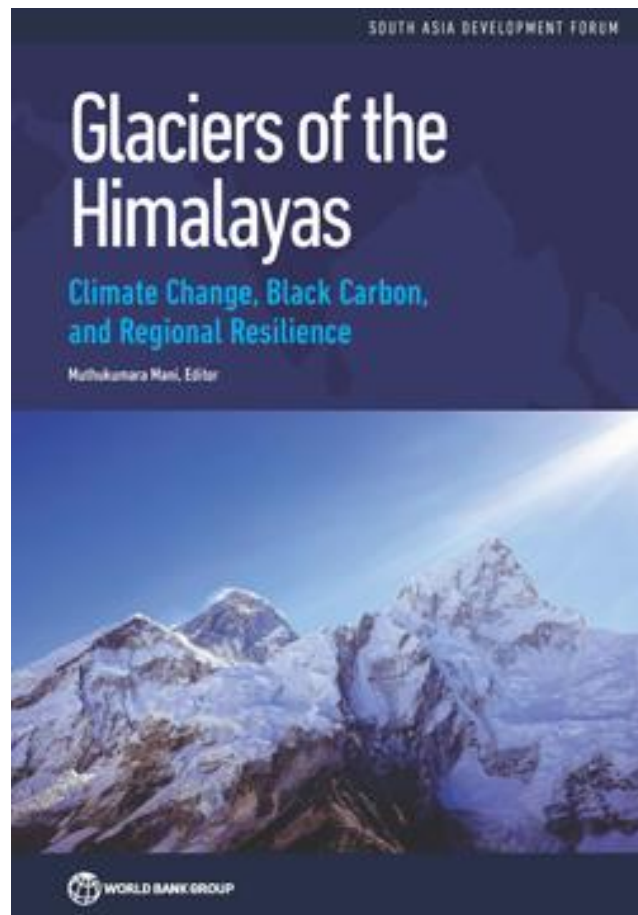
SWIFT gpi Instant facility

- ❖ ICICI Bank has announced has tied up with SWIFT to offer a facility that helps overseas partner banks to send instant remittances on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India.
- ❖ The beneficiary gets the credit to the bank account instantly.
- ❖ This makes ICICI Bank the first bank in Asia-Pacific and the second globally to offer the facility, called 'SWIFT gpi instant', for cross border inward payments.

- ❖ The personal remittances of up to 2 lakhs will be sent through 'SWIFT gpi instant'.
- ❖ This can be processed instantly and credited into the beneficiary account held with any bank in India.
- ❖ It is sent via the IMPS network.

ENVIRONMENT

World Bank study on glacier melt



- ❖ The World Bank had recently conducted a research study on impact of Black Carbon over the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges.
- ❖ In these places the glaciers are melting faster than the global average ice mass.
- ❖ The report is titled "Glaciers of the Himalayas, Climate Change, Black Carbon and Regional Resilience".

Highlights



- ❖ Black carbon (BC) deposits produced by human activity accelerate the pace of glacier and snow melt in the Himalayan region.
- ❖ The rate of retreat of HKHK glaciers is estimated to be 0.3 metres per year in the west to 1.0 metre per year in the east.

CO2-neutral cement plant

- ❖ Heidelberg Cement plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world's first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030.
- ❖ This could be done via carbon capture technology.
- ❖ Heidelberg Cement is the world's second-largest cement maker.

HEIDELBERGCEMENT

STATES

GIFT - Goa

- ❖ Goa government has established the "Goa Institution for Future Transformation (GIFT)"
- ❖ GIFT will function on the lines of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ It will assist, advice and guide government on policy making, its formulation and implementation.
- ❖ It will also help in monitoring sustainable development goals and evaluation of several development plans, programmes and schemes.
- ❖ It will be backed up under Article 309 of Constitution of India to attain autonomy.

