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## National Steel Policy



- National Steel Policy enshrines the long term vision of the government to give impetus to the steel sector.
  - The policy envisages to create a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry that promotes self-sufficiency in steel production as well as economic growth.
- Steel being a de-regulated sector, government acts a facilitator, by creating enabling environment for development of steel sector. Various initiatives taken by the Government are as following:-
    - 1) Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products (DMI&SP) Policy with an objective to encourage production and consumption of domestically produced steel.
    - 2) Steel Scrap Policy to enhance the availability of domestically generated scrap
    - 3) Issuance of Steel Quality Control Orders to prevent manufacturing and import of non-standardized steel.
    - 4) Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) for advanced registration of steel imports.
    - 5) Engagement with various stakeholders including industry associations and leaders of domestic steel industry to identify their issues required to be addressed by the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and State Governments.
    - 6) Engagement with relevant stakeholders including those from the Ministry/ Department of Railways, Defence, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Housing, Civil Aviation, Road Transport and Highways, Agriculture and Rural Development sectors to enhance the overall demand for steel in the country.
    - 7) Inclusion of 'Specialty Steel' under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme recently announced by the Government
    - 8) Various schemes as notified from time to time to refund or exempt taxes and duties levied on inputs used in export production like Duty Drawback Scheme and Advanced Authorization Scheme etc. to improve the cost competitiveness of exported items.

## World Consumer Rights Day



### World Consumer Rights Day

- This day is celebrated on the 15th of March every year to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs
- The day was inspired by the former President of the US John F Kennedy. On 15th March 1962, he sent a message to US Congress by formally addressing the issue of consumer rights.
- He became the first world leader to do such a thing. The movement for consumer rights was first marked in 1983 and since then the day is celebrated every year to mobilize action on important consumers' campaigns and issues.
- The theme of National Consumer Rights Day 2021 is "Tackling Plastic Pollution".
- The aim of the theme is to encourage sustainable practices for clean surroundings and respecting the rights of 'Grahak'/ consumer.
- 'Jago Grahak Jago' campaign is already running by the Consumer Rights ministry.
- "The campaign will raise awareness and engage consumers to globally adopt more sustainable practises..." Consumer Affairs Ministry tweeted.

## Whale shark



- Recently a study published in Nature states that the global population of sharks and rays have crashed by over 70% in the past five decades.
- Scuba drivers photograph majestic Whale Shark at Kovalam reef
- Kovalam is emerging as an ideal destination for scuba diving, all thanks to artificial reefs deployed in the region by Central Marine Research Institute (CMFRI).
- whale Shark is a slow-moving, filter-feeding carpet shark and the largest known extant fish species
- They feed on plankton and travel large distances to find enough food to sustain their huge size, and to reproduce.
- The whale shark is a 'filter feeder shark' which means it does not eat meat like other sharks.
- They filter sea water and feed on tiny planktons.
- The whale shark forages for food at or near the surface of the ocean. Its large mouth is well adapted to filter feeding and contains more than 300 rows of small, pointed teeth in each jaw.

- They are found in all the tropical oceans (warm waters) of the world. Adults are often found feeding at the surface, but may dive to 1000m
- IUCN: Endangered since 2016
- Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 : A protected species
- CITES listing: Appendix II

## Equine Herpes virus



- Due to the outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus, International Equestrian Federation (FEI) announced cancellation of World Cup finals recently. Its outbreak has also disrupted India's lone Tokyo-bound equestrian Fouaad Mirza's Olympic preparations
- It is a virus of the family Herpesviridae that causes abortion, respiratory disease and occasionally neonatal mortality in horses.
- But it does not affect humans. The virus varies in severity from subclinical to very severe.
- In other words, EHV are DNA viruses that are found in most horses all over the world. EHV stands for equine herpes virus.
- This is a family of viruses which are named by numbers such as EHV 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- There are more viruses in this family, but EHV 1, 3, and 4 pose the most serious health risks for domestic horses.

### Signs & Symptoms:

- It includes things such as decreased coordination, urine dribbling, fever, hind limb weakness, leaning against things to maintain balance, lethargy and the inability to get off the ground.
- More signs of the infection of this virus include depression, anorexia, nasal and ocular discharges.
- Fever is the most common clinical sign of EHV-1, some horses that appear perfectly healthy can still spread the virus from nostril secretions and also from secretions from coughing.



## Pench Tiger Reserve



- the three year old tigress PTRF-84 cub of Pandharkawada tigress Avni died during treatment in an enclosure at Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)
- Pench alone has over 53 tigers living in the reserve and an additional 80 tigers (approximately) utilising the reserve.
- The reserve was the muse behind Rudyard Kipling's iconic character 'Mowgli' from The Jungle Book.
- Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni (Madhya Pradesh) is one of the major Protected Areas of Satpura-Maikal ranges of the Central Highland
- Location: It is one of the premier tiger reserves of India and the first one to straddle across two states i.e., Madhya Pradesh(districts of Seoni and Chhindwara ) and Maharashtra.
- Pench Tiger Reserve comprises the Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park, the Pench Mowgli Sanctuary and a buffer.
- The Pench national park is named after the river- Pench(tributary of Kanhan river), which while flowing from north to south, divides the national park in almost equal halves namely eastern and western halves.

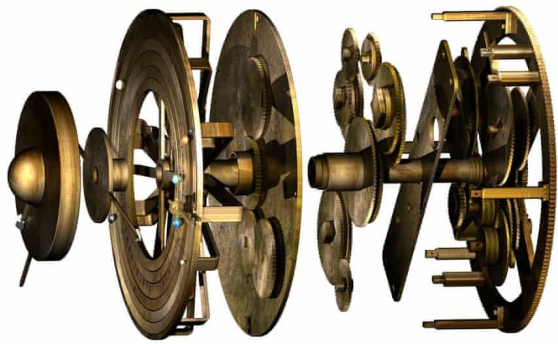
## UDAN 4.1



- It focused on connecting smaller airports, along with special helicopter and seaplane routes.
- It has proposed some new routes under the Sagarmala Seaplane Services in consultation with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.
- This bidding round also includes routes specially requested by the State governments / UT administrations and earlier cancelled/terminated routes.
- Under UDAN 4.1 one of the operational flexibilities are extended to Airlines to ensure suitable operation models to connect smaller cities/ airstrips
- Operations under Non Scheduled Operator Permit(NSOP) will be allowed for seaplane, fixed-wing aircraft, Helicopters for Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) Routes awarded under this round
- UDAN 1.0: Phase 1 of the scheme was launched in 2017. Six airports of North-east were opened under UDAN; the airports of North-east include- Shillong, Dimarpur, Imphal, Silchar, Aizawl and Agartala were connected.

- UDAN 2.0: It aimed to connect 43 airports and helipads with priority to the North-East and the hill states. States with maximum number of airports and helipads could see activation under UDAN 2 scheme.
- UDAN 3.0: The priority in this phase is connecting tourist destinations. Routes for auction in this phase will include popular tourist destinations such as Mahabodhi temple in Bihar, Ajanta and Ellora in Aurangabad and Hampi in Karnataka and others.
- UDAN 4.0: The focus of this round would be mainly on connecting north-eastern states, hilly states, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and islands

## Scientists claim breakthrough in solving mystery of 'world's first computer'



- Scientists at the University College London have claimed a major breakthrough in solving the mystery of the Antikythera Mechanism, an ancient Greek hand-powered mechanical device referred to as the 'world's first analogue computer'.
- Only a third of the device had survived when it was found in Greece in 1901. Using 3D computer modelling, the scientists recreated the entire front panel.

## Why the EU has been declared an 'LGBTIQ Freedom Zone'



- In a resolution adopted Thursday, the European Parliament symbolically declared the entire 27-member bloc as an "LGBTIQ Freedom Zone" – the acronym meaning lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer.
- The move comes as a response against member state Poland's controversial move to create more than 100 "LGBTIQ ideology-free zones" around the country since 2019, and more generally against the backsliding of LGBTIQ rights in some EU countries, particularly in Poland and Hungary.
- The declaration is the latest flare-up between Poland and Hungary on one side and the rest of the EU on the other.
- The two former Communist states, now run by conservative nationalist governments, have in recent years been criticised by the bloc for deteriorating democratic standards.

- In December last year, the two central European nations threatened to veto the EU's budget and recovery fund after Brussels said that it would make the money conditional on respect of rule of law and democratic norms.

## Places of Worship Act:



- The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on August 15, 1947.
- It says no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section.
- It declares that all suits, appeals or any other proceedings regarding converting the character of a place of worship, which are pending before any court or authority on August 15, 1947, will abate as soon as the law comes into force. No further legal proceedings can be instituted.

These provisions will not apply to:

- Ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- A suit that has been finally settled or disposed of; and any dispute that has been settled by the parties or conversion of any place that took place by acquiescence before the Act commenced.
- The Act also does not apply to the place of worship commonly referred to as Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. This law will have overriding effect over any other law in force.

## What ELSS?



- An equity-linked savings scheme or ELSS is a tax-saving investment under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- By investing in ELSS, you can claim a tax rebate of up to Rs 1,50,000 a year and save up to Rs 46,800 a year in taxes.
- An ELSS is the only kind of mutual fund eligible for tax benefits under Section 80C.
- The portfolio of these funds is dominated by equity-linked instruments such as shares.