

SANKALP SE SIDDH




- It is a 100 day drive which was started from April 1, 2021.
- The drive will entail 150 teams visiting ten villages each of which 10 in each region from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies, visiting ten villages each.
- The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in these villages.
- The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for clustering as TRIFOOD, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries- SFURTI units as larger enterprises.
- TRIFOOD aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and value addition to the Minor Forest Produce collected by the tribal forest gatherers.

E-COURTS PROJECT

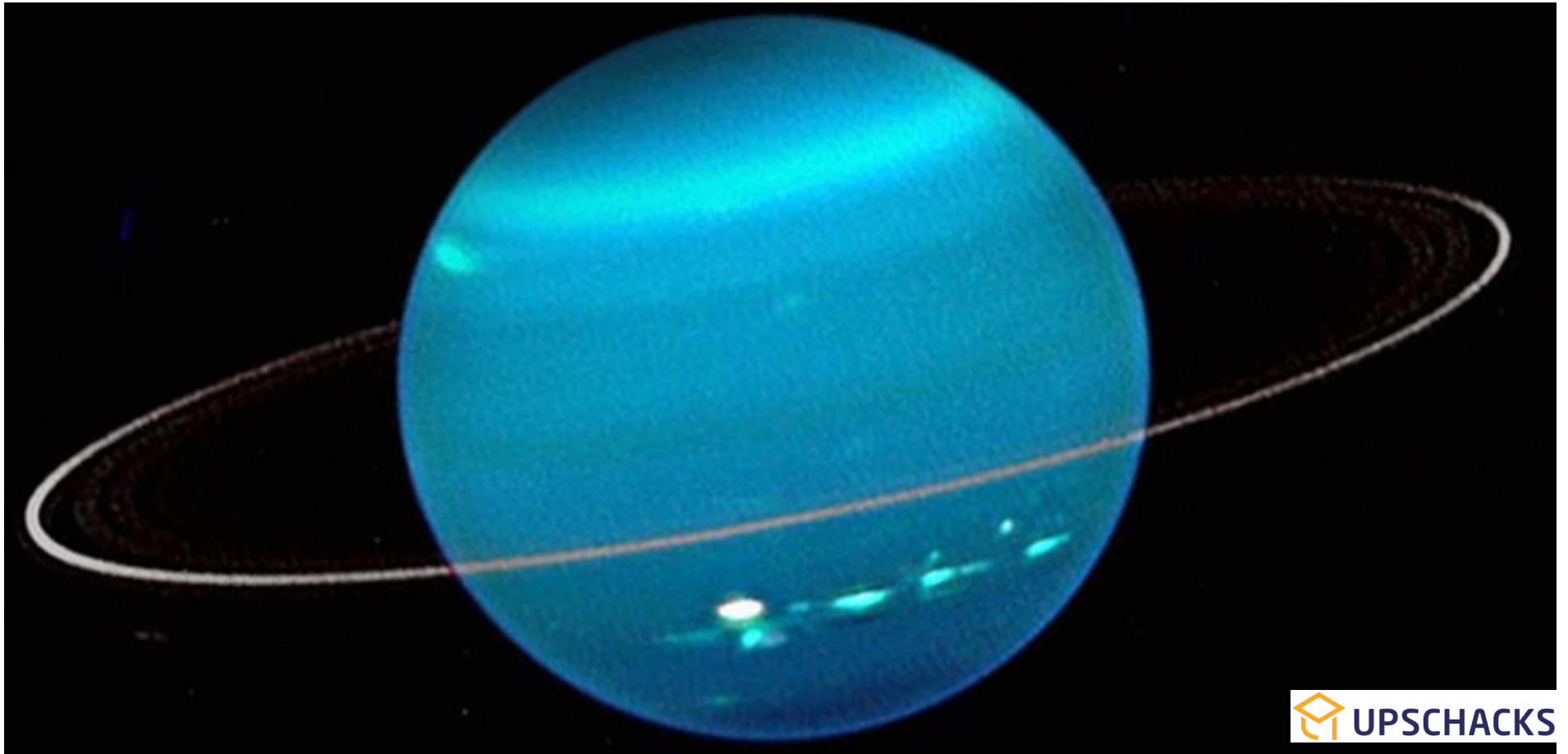


- The eCommittee Supreme Court has prepared the draft vision document for Phase III of the eCourts Project under the auspices of the Supreme court of India.
- E-Courts Project is a mission mode project undertaken by the Department of Justice, Government of India.
- The Chairperson of eCommittee is Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India.
- The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has been overseeing the implementation of the eCourts Project, conceptualized under the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005".


- Phase III of the eCourts Project in India is rooted in two central facets—access and inclusion. 
- Phase III of the eCourts Project envisions a judicial system that is more easily accessible irrespective of geographical distances, efficient and equitable for every individual who seeks justice, makes more efficient use of human and other resources, and absorbs the latest technology for a positive environmental impact.

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URANUS



- Uranus, the seventh planet from the sun is reflecting X-rays, says a new study by scientists.
- This is the first time astronomers have detected X-rays from Uranus, which is also known as the 'sideways planet' because it rotates on its side, unlike any other planet in our solar system.
- As part of this new study, scientists compared observations of the Chandra Space Telescope dating back to 2002 and 2017.

- The Chandra program is managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and is a vital source of information for scientists examining the solar system, along with the Hubble Space Telescope.
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- NASA said the Sun could cause Uranus to emit X-rays
 - This is not entirely uncommon since scientists have already established that both Jupiter and Saturn scatter X-ray light given off by the sun.
 - Uranus has the third-largest planetary radius and fourth-largest planetary mass in the Solar System. Uranus is similar in composition to Neptune, and both have bulk chemical compositions which differ from that of the larger gas giants Jupiter and Saturn.
 - For this reason, scientists often classify Uranus and Neptune as "ice giants" to distinguish them from the other gas giants.
 - It has the coldest planetary atmosphere in the Solar System.
 - Like the other giant planets, Uranus has a ring system, a magnetosphere, and numerous moons.
 - Voyager 2 remains the only spacecraft to visit the planet.

Amendments to the Central Motor Vehicle Rules



- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways released several draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

These include the following amendments:

Concession in tax

- Draft amendments to the 1989 Rules propose giving tax concessions to vehicles registered against a certificate of vehicle scrapping.
- The certificate will be issued by a registered vehicle scrapping facility after the scrapping of a vehicle.
- In case of non-transport vehicles, the concession will be up to 25% of motor vehicle tax, and will be available for up to 15 years from the date of registration.

- For transport vehicles, the concession will be up to 15% of the tax and will be available for up to eight years from the date of registration.



Fees for registration

- The 1989 Rules lay down fees and other documents including letters of ownership and authority required for issuing registration certificates.
- The draft Rules seek to increase fees for issuing and renewing certificates of registration, specify fees for conducting fitness tests and grant renewal of fitness certificates for vehicles older than 15 years.75 Fuel
- The draft amendments propose that the safety requirements for certain vehicles running on anhydrous ethanol or blends of ethanol with gasoline be established in accordance with Automotive Industry Standards.

Forest fires



- Forest areas in states such as Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Nagaland, Manipur Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat have been witnessing the increased forest fire since the beginning of the year 2021 and Uttarakhand is the most recent one to witness.

- Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh (Kullu Valley) witnessed the prolonged fires in January
- The ongoing one in Nainital began in March-end.
- The Simlipal National Park in Odisha saw a major fire between February-end and early March.
- Recent fires include those in Bandhavgarh Forest Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, and in sanctuaries for the Asiatic lion and the great Indian bustard in Gujarat.
- According to the India State of Forest Report 2019 (ISFR) released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, as of 2019, about 21.67% (7,12,249 sq km) of the country's geographical area is identified as forest
- As per FSI, forests of the Northeast and central India regions are the most vulnerable areas to forest fires.
- Forests in Assam, Mizoram and Tripura have been identified as 'extremely prone' to forest fire
- States with large forest areas under the 'very highly prone' category include Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

- According to an annual report of MoEFCC, Western Maharashtra, Southern Chhattisgarh and areas of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, along with central Odisha, are turning into 'extremely prone' forest fire hotspots Areas under the 'highly prone' and 'moderately prone' categories make up about 26.2% of the total forest cover a whopping 1,72,374 sq km.



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Alternative for conventional Li-ion batteries made: IIT Hyderabad



- IIT Hyderabad researchers have developed a dual carbon alternative to conventional lithium-ion batteries.
- They have developed a 5V Dual Carbon Battery utilising self-standing carbon fibre mats as both electrodes.
- The model sets aside the requirement of toxic, costly, and heavy transitional metals lithium-ion batteries require for functioning, the institute said.