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1. Union Cabinet approves inclusion of tribes of five States in ST category (Sept. 15, 2022)

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to include about 15 tribal communities in the Scheduled Tribes list in five states namely Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh on 14 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The **Hatti community** of Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh has been given ST status in the latest cabinet decision.
- The cabinet approved the proposal to bring the Gond community living in **13 districts** of Uttar Pradesh from the Scheduled Castes list to the Scheduled Tribes list. It consists of five subcategories (Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathri and Rajgond) of the Gond community.
- **Chhattisgarh** has 12 castes out of the five states whose decision has been taken to include them in the Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- In these, Bhuyan, Bhuyan, Bhuyan, Bhariya have been included in ST as synonyms of Bhariyabhumiya.
- With this decision, the number of Scheduled Tribes in the country has increased from **705** to **720**.
- According to the 2011 census, the Scheduled Tribe population in the country is **10.43 crore,** which is **8.6**% of the total population of the country.

2. Bhutan ratifies International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (Sept. 15, 2022)

Bhutan on 14 September ratified the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

• Bhutan's Ambassador to India Major General Wetsop Namgyal handed over the ratification document to Secretary ER Dammu Ravi in the presence of DG International Solar Alliance.

International Solar Alliance:

• It is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization whose primary function is to promote solar development by reducing the cost of financing and technology.

- It is the nodal agency to implement 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'.
- It aims to transfer the solar energy generated in a specific region to meet the electricity demand of another region.
- It was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30 November 2015 at the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) to the UNFCCC in France (Paris) along with 121 solar resource rich nations.
- Its key objectives include achieving a global potential of over 1000 GW of solar power generation capacity and mobilising about \$1000 billion to invest in solar energy by 2030.
- Member-**106 countries** have signed this Framework Agreement. 86 out of 106 countries have signed and ratified this Framework Agreement.
- Headquarters Gurugram, India

3. MoU signed between Power PSU and National Sports Development Fund (Sept. 14, 2022)

The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two Public Sector Undertakings, NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) and REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) on 14 September in New Delhi for the development of sports in India.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Financial assistance of **Rs.115 crore** will be provided by NTPC over the next 5 years and this will support Archery in India.
- REC Foundation has also committed an amount of Rs 100 crore over 3 years to support **women's hockey, athletics and boxin**g.
- NSDF has received this support through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- With this support from NTPC and REC Foundation, there will be grassroots development of sports, training for identified talent, training of elite talent, development of coaches, sports science support, advance training etc.

National Sports Development Fund (NSDF):

- It was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowment Act 1890.
- It was notified by the Government of India in November 1998.
- It helps sportspersons to excel by providing various opportunities for training from coaches of international repute, development of infrastructure to promote the sport and providing financial assistance for other activities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports - Anurag Singh Thakur

Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy - R K Singh

4. President Murmu to attend Queen Elizabeth Funeral (Sept. 14, 2022)

According to a statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs on 14 September 2022, President Droupadi Murmu will represent the government of India at the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

She will be visiting London, United Kingdom on 17-19 September 2022.

The 96 year old <u>Queen Elizabeth II</u> of the United Kingdom died at her remote Highlands residence, Balmoral, in Scotland on 8 September 2022.

5. Bhupendra Yadav advocates improving the conditions workers at G20 Labour minister meeting (Sept. 14, 2022)

Union Minister of Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav attended the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting at Bali, Indonesia. The G-20 Labour and Employment Ministers meeting was held on 13-14 September 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Speaking on the occasion the minister emphasized the need to focus on improving the employment conditions of the workers for a strong and resilient economic recovery.
- Indonesia is currently the chairman of the G-20 group and it will host the G-20 summit meeting on **15-16 November 2022 at Bali, Indonesia.**
- India will take over the chairmanship of G-20 from Indonesia at the Bali Summit.
- The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises 19 countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, UK, USA and the European Union (EU).

6. Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya to launch Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav (Sept. 14, 2022)

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will launch Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav, a countrywide mega drive for voluntary blood donation from 17th September to 1st October this year. 1st October is observed as the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day.

According to the Union Health Minister **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya**, Government plans to set up a database of eligible voluntary blood donors in the country through the nationwide voluntary blood donation drive.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Aim of the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav:

- According to the Minister the campaign is aimed at increasing awareness about the need for regular non-remunerated voluntary blood donations.
- It would also ensure that different components of blood including packed red cells, plasma and platelets are available, accessible, affordable and safe.
- Along with filling the current capacity of blood banks in the country, the campaign would also help create a repository of blood donors in the country,
- As per the government, in the year 2021, India had 1.25 crore units of blood against the demand of 1.46 crore units. One unit comprises 350 millilitre of blood.

7. Chinese President Xi Jinping on a first trip outside China in over two years (Sept. 14, 2022)

China has announced that the Chinese President Xi Jinping will be on an official visit to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan from Sep 14 - 16 and attend the summit meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the Uzbek city of Samarkand.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- India will take over the SCO Presidency from Uzbekistan at the summit.
- It is for the first time that President Xi is leaving China for abroad in the last two years since the onset of covid in China.
- It is not clear whether he will meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Uzbekistan on September 15-16 to attend the SCO Summit.
- Samarkand Summit would be the first in-person SCO summit since 2019.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization came into existence on June 15, 2001 after the expansion of the 'Shanghai Five'.
- The Shanghai Five was formed in 1996 by Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- After the entry of Uzbekistan into the organization in the year 2001, 'Shanghai-5' was named SCO.
- In the year 2017, India and Pakistan got the status of its member.
- SCO has four observer states ;Iran, Mongolia, Belarus and Afghanistan
- It has six dialogue partner states; Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

Full From:

SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organization

8. NITI Aayog hosts first Shoonya Forum (Sept. 14, 2022)

NITI Aayog on 14 September hosted the first Shoonya Forum to commemorate the first anniversary of India's zero pollution e-mobility campaign in Delhi.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- On the occasion, over 25 zero partners announced their commitment.
- The partners pledged to accelerate India's clean mobility story with electric vehicles to improve air quality for Indian citizens.
- A three-report series highlighting the economic opportunities presented to India by an indigenous battery industry was released during the event.
- Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa and former CEO of NITI Aayog, said that the Zero campaign is an effective collaboration between industry, government and citizens that is helping electric mobility in India.

Shoonya initiative:

- NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India launched the Shoonya Campaign in September 2021.
- It promotes zero-pollution delivery vehicles by working with consumers and industry.
- The campaign aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in the urban delivery segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-pollution.
- Urban freight vehicles account for 10 percent of freight-related carbon dioxide emissions in India, and these emissions are expected to increase to 114 percent by 2030.

9. William Ruto sworn in as Kenya's president (Sept. 14, 2022)

William Ruto was sworn in as president on September 13, following the elections held on August 9 in Kenya, which has been facing political instability for the past few years.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Ruto defeated longtime Leader of the Opposition **Raila Odinga** by a narrow margin in the election held on 9 August.
- Odinga is a very popular leader in Kenya and he has contested the presidential election 5 times and this time he has to face defeat.
- Odinga was the Prime Minister of Kenya from 2008 to 2013.

- Ruto was the Vice President during the tenure of outgoing President **Uhuru Kenyatta.**
- Ruto takes power in a debt-ridden country that will challenge his efforts to fulfill promises made to Kenya's poor.

About Kenya:

- President William Ruto
- Capital Nairobi
- Official Languages Swahili, English
- Currency Kenyan shilling

10. Digital Quality of Life Global Index - 2022 (Sept. 14, 2022)

The British Virgin Islands' based VPN service company released its Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2022 on 12 September which included 110 countries.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- **Denmark** topped the index for the second year in a row while the five worst-ranked countries are Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala and Angola.
- Of the ten countries with the highest scores in the index, six are European countries.
- **India ranks 59th** in the overall parameters of the index.
- China has jumped 16 places to 22nd. Pakistan is at 97th position while Bangladesh is at 103rd position.

Five digital parameters :

- Internet affordability It measures how much time people have to spend to buy an internet connection. India has ranked 47th on this parameter.
- Internet quality The survey measures the speed and stability of mobile and broadband internet connectivity in a country. The report places India at 67th rank.
- **Electronic infrastructure** The survey measures the development and inclusion of electronic infrastructure in a country. India ranks **91st** on this parameter.
- **Electronic security** This parameter assesses how prepared a country is to combat cyber crimes and protect one's online privacy. India is on the **36th** spot on this parameter.
- **Electronic government** It seeks to gauge how modern and digitized a country's government services are by measuring the government's online presence and the use of

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artificial intelligence technology for the public good. India has ranked $\bf 33rd$ on this parameter.