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1. First National Conference on Sustainable Coastal Management in India inaugurated (Sept. 10, 2022)

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the first National Conference on Sustainable Coastal Management in India in Bhubaneswar on 10 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The conference focused on increasing the **climate resilience of India's coastal communities** and discussing steps to be taken towards coastal management.

Organiser of the Conference :

- The conference is being organised by the **Green Climate Fund Supported Project - Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities.**

The objective of the Conference :

- Bringing officials from all 13 coastal states of India under one roof to focus on three interrelated themes of coastal and marine biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation and coastal pollution.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

Enhancing climate resilience of India's coastal communities :

- '**Enhancing the Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities' (2019-2024)** is a 6-year project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with the support of UNDP.
- The project aims to enhance the climate resilience of the most vulnerable populations, especially women, in the coastal regions of India.
- The project is supported by the Green Climate Fund.

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3. NITI Aayog, WRI launches e-FAST - India's first national electric freight platform (Sept. 10, 2022)

NITI Aayog, in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), India, launched the country's first national electric freight platform - e-FAST India (Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport - India) on 8 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This will help strengthen partnerships and identify and support innovative freight shipping solutions.
- The platform aims to raise awareness on freight electrification, driven by on-ground pilots and evidence-based research.
- It will also support scalable pilots and help formulate policies aimed at accelerating goods electrification in India.
- The freight sector plays a vital role in India's economy in enabling the delivery of goods and vital resources.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

World Resources Institute (WRI) :

- It is a global research organisation with over **1,000 experts** and other staff around the world.
- It was started in **1982 in Washington, DC** to address global environmental and development challenges.
- It spans over **60 countries** with offices in Brazil, China, Europe, Mexico, India, Indonesia and the United States.
- India Resource Trust holds a license from WRI to use the "**WRI India**" trademark.

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5. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announces commencement of the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav (Sept. 10, 2022)

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will launch the 15-day Swachh Amrit Mahotsav from September 17 to mark the completion of eight years of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The Swachh Amrit Mahotsav will focus on motivating citizens to take steps towards building garbage free cities.
- It will start on September 17, the **birthday of Prime Minister** Narendra Modi. September 17 will be celebrated as **Service Day**.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri released the official logo for '**Swachh Amrit Mahotsav**' - '**Ek Aur Kadam Swachhta ki Ore**'.
- It shows the resolve to intensify and strengthen the '**Jan Andolan**' in the world's largest cleanliness programme.
- The Minister announced for the first time the launch of '**Indian Swachhata League (ISL)**', an inter-city competition to be held among the youth of cities on September 17, 2022.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Swachh Bharat Mission :

- Launched - on **2nd October 2014**
- Launched by - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**
- Aims - to achieve the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019.
- Slogan - **One step towards cleanliness**
- It is a restructured version of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2009.
- The first phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission lasted till **October 2019**.
- Phase 2 is being implemented between **2020-21 and 2024-25**.

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7. Vande Bharat 2 : Railways to introduce new avatar of high-speed train (Sept. 10, 2022)

Indian Railways is going to introduce Vande Bharat-2, the new avatar of the high-speed train Vande Bharat.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Features of Vande Bharat 2 :

- It will be equipped with more advancements and improved features like 0 to **100 Kmpl speed in just 52 seconds**, maximum speed up to **180 Kmph**, lesser **weight of 392 tons** instead of **430 tons**, and WI-FI facility.
- The new Vande Bharat will also have **32-inch LCD TVs** which were 24 inches in the earlier versions.
- The 15 percent more energy efficient AC with the dust free clean air cooling of the traction motor will make travel more comfortable.
- The facility of side recliner seats which is being provided to the executive class passengers will now be made available for all classes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Vande Bharat Express :

- The first Vande Bharat Express was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **15 February 2019**.
- These trains have a self-propelled engine which can save diesel and reduce electricity usage by up to **30%**.
- The first Vande Bharat Express was manufactured by **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- It was manufactured under the **'Make in India' programme**, at a cost of about Rs 100 crore.
- Currently, two Vande Bharat Expresses are operational - first between **New Delhi and Varanasi** and the second from **New Delhi to Katra**.
- These trains can achieve a maximum speed of **160 kmph**.
- In the Union Budget for 2022-2023 the government has proposed the development and manufacture of **400 new** Vande Bharat trains in the next three years.

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9. NITI Aayog approves 32 beneficiaries under PLI scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing (Sept. 10, 2022)

The Empowered Committee headed by CEO, NITI Aayog Parameswaran Iyer on 9 September approved the first ever disbursement of incentive for mobile manufacturing under the large-scale electronics manufacturing' sector.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This is the first time that a **mobile manufacturing unit** has also been selected under the PLI scheme.
- **32 beneficiaries** have been approved under the **PLI scheme** operated for large size electronics manufacturing units.
- Of these, 10 companies are related to mobile manufacturing in which **five are domestic** and **five are foreign companies**.

- **Paget Electronics Pvt Ltd**, a domestic company, is the **first beneficiary** company approved by the Empowered Committee to receive the incentive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About PLI scheme :

- It is an initiative that provides incentives to domestic industries to promote production at the local level.
- Through this scheme, the government aims to incentivize companies to increase the sales of manufactured products in domestic units.
- The objective of the scheme is to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and to become a global champion in manufacturing.
- The government has launched this scheme with an outlay of around **Rs 2 lakh crore** for **14 sectors** including Automobiles and Auto Components, White Goods, Pharma, Textiles, Advanced Chemistry Cell and Specialty Steel.

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