

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

1. Bedti-Varda river interlinking project (June 25, 2022)

Two environmental groups in Karnataka have criticised the Bedati and Varada river-linking project, calling it unscientific and a waste of public money.

- **Bedti-Varda Project**

- The Bedati-Varda project was envisaged in the year 1992 for the supply of drinking water.
- The plan aims to connect the Bedati, a west-flowing river towards the Arabian Sea, with the Varada, a tributary of the Tungabhadra River, which joins the Krishna River and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- A huge dam will be built at Hirewadti in Gadag district.
- A second dam will be built on the Pattanahalla river at Menasagoda in Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district.
- Both the dams will carry water through tunnels to Varada.
- The water will reach Kengre and then flow down a 6.88 km tunnel to Hakkalumane, where it will join the Varada.
- Thus, the project envisages carrying water from Sirsi-Yellapur region of Uttara Kannada district to arid regions of Raichur, Gadag and Koppal districts.

- **Project related issues**

- **Difficulty in re-routing** - Redirecting a west-flowing river to east-flowing is a difficult task.
- **Rivers dependent on rainwater** - In early summer, the Bedati and Varda rivers start drying up.
- **Lack of proper project report**

2. Piyush Goyal inaugurates Mango Festival in Belgium (June 25, 2022)

Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the Mango Festival in Brussels, Belgium to raise awareness of mangoes among Europeans and establish a market for Indian mangoes in Europe.

- During the event, Banganapalli from Andhra Pradesh, Malihabadi Dussehri of Uttar Pradesh, Amrapali of Odisha, Lakshman Bhog, Himsagar, Jardalu Mango, Langra Mango as well as 12 GI-tagged items were on display.
- For the first time, the Mango Festival was organised in Belgium, considered the capital of Europe.
- **Other information about Mango** -

- The scientific name of mango is *Mangifera indica*.
- Most of it is produced in India.
- It is considered the national fruit in India, Pakistan and the Philippines.
- Its tree has the status of a national tree in Bangladesh.
- India produces 41 percent of the world's mangoes. Apart from India, China and Thailand are the largest producers of it.
- According to botanical classification, mango is a tree of the family 'Anacardiaceae'.
- The main varieties of mango are Langra Mango, Dussehri Mango, Fazli Mango, Sundari, Malda Mango.
- Raw mango is called kari.
- Mango is rich in vitamins A, B and C along with other antioxidants.
- Mango Revision Centre is located at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and Vengurla in Maharashtra.

3. Delhi airport becomes India's first airport to be fully hydro and solar powered (June 25, 2022)

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has become the first airport in India to be fully hydro and solar powered.

- The move is part of the airport's goal to achieve the goal of 'Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport' by 2030.
- Since June 1, about 6 percent of the airport's electricity requirement is being met from on-site solar power plants, while the remaining 94 percent is coming from a hydroelectric power plant.
- For hydropower, Delhi International Airport Limited has signed a Long Term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a hydroelectric generating company from Himachal Pradesh to supply hydro electricity to the airport by 2036.
- The airport has a 7.84 MW solar power plant, while it recently added another 5.3 MW rooftop solar power plant to the cargo terminal as part of a stakeholder collaboration.
- This transition to renewable energy is expected to help the airport reduce carbon dioxide energy emissions by 2 million tonnes per year.
- In the year 2020, Delhi airport became the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve 'Level 4+' under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation Program.

• ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

- Civil Aviation Minister - Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
- Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport) was adjudged the best regional airport in India and South Asia.

4. Announcement to ban single use plastic (SUP) from July 1 (June 24, 2022)

Recently, the central government has prepared a list of single-use plastic items that will be banned from July 1, 2022.

- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of notified single-use plastics, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, shall be prohibited with effect from July 1, 2022.
- A gazette notification was issued in 2021 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the ban was announced.
- **Single use plastic**
 - Single use plastic refers to plastic items that are used once and are discarded.
 - Single-use plastic products such as plastic bags, straws, coffee bags, soda and water bottles, and plastics used mostly for food packaging.
- **single use plastic parts**
 - According to the Minderoo Foundation's 2021 report, single-use plastics account for a third of global production, with 98% being made up of fossil fuels.
 - Single-use plastics are responsible for most of the 130 million metric tons of plastic waste globally in 2019, all of which is burned, landfilled or released directly into the environment.
- **Single use plastic waste generation in india**
 - The report found that India is among the top 100 countries producing single-use plastic waste - rank 94 (the top three are Singapore, Australia and Oman).
 - With domestic production of 11.8 million metric tonnes annually and imports of 2.9 MMT, India's net production of single use plastic waste is 5.6 MMT and per capita production is 4 kg.
- **Which items will be banned in India?**
 - The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has announced a ban on items like earbuds, candy, balloon sticks and ice cream sticks.
 - Cutlery items including plates, glasses, cups, spoons, knives, forks, trays will also be banned.
 - It has also been reported to ban sweets cans, invitation cards, cigarette packs, PVC banners of less than 100 microns as well as polystyrene for decoration.
- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -**
 - **Plastic ban countries**
 - Bangladesh- Bangladesh became the first country to ban thin plastic bags in the year 2002.

- New Zealand- New Zealand became the latest country to ban plastic bags in July 2019
- China- China issued a ban on plastic bags with a phased implementation in the year 2020
- US - Eight states in the US have banned single-use plastic bags, beginning with California in 2014.

5. India-Nepal India gaurav Tourist Train (June 24, 2022)

The first India-Nepal Bharat Gaurav tourism train has been flagged off from Delhi's Safdarjung Railway Station.

- This tourist train will connect India and Nepal for the first time.
- 500 Indian tourists are on board this train.
- The Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train between India and Nepal will provide an opportunity to people across the country to visit the country's architectural, historical and cultural sites.
- The first journey of this train (Ramayana Circuit) covered the religious destination of Janakpur (in Nepal) apart from other popular destinations like Ayodhya, Nandigram, Varanasi, Sitamarhi, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Hampi, Panchavati (Nashik), Rameshwaram and Bhadrachalam.
- Bharat Gaurav Trains is an attempt to showcase the rich spiritual, cultural and historical heritage of India to its people.
- This unique idea was conceived by the Ministry of Railways.
- This train will return to Delhi after completing an 18 days journey.
- It will cover a distance of about 8000 km in the entire Ramayana tour.
- The theme of Bharat Gaurav Train is 'Dekho Apna Desh'.
- IRCTC has fixed a fee of Rs 62370/- per person for this 18 days journey.
- **About Bharat Gaurav Scheme**
 - In November 2021, Indian Railways introduced Bharat Gaurav trains which will be operated by private operators and will run on theme-based circuits.
 - Through this scheme operators have the "Right of Use" of railway rakes and infrastructure.
 - Under this scheme, private players and tour operators can buy trains on lease from the Railways and operate them on any circuit of their choice and decide the fares, route and quality of services.
 - Till now, railways used to operate the passenger section and goods section but now the tourism section has also been added under this scheme.
 - The scheme has been developed after extensive discussions with several state governments including Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and stakeholders.

- The first train to be operated between Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Shirdi (Maharashtra) by a private operator under the "Bharat Gaurav" scheme was flagged off on June 14.

6. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Centre for Brain Research at IISc Bengaluru (June 24, 2022)

The Centre for Brain Research (CBR) has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

• IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The Centre for Brain Research is a one-of-a-kind research facility focused on conducting groundbreaking research to provide evidence-based public health interventions for the management of age-related brain disorders.
- The Centre for Brain Research was established as a non-profit, autonomous research organisation.
- It was a generous gift from Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sudha Gopalakrishnan which is funded by donations made by them and research grants from several grant agencies to conduct specific projects.
- Gopalakrishnan has provided funds for the construction of a state-of-the-art building.
- During the event, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispecialty Hospital which is an 832 bedded hospital.
- Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispecialty Hospital will be developed at IISc Bengaluru campus.
- This hospital will help in integrating science, medicine and engineering into a prestigious institution.

7. World Bank approves project to promote rainfed farming in Uttarakhand (June 24, 2022)

The World Bank has approved a Rs 1,000 crore project to take rainfed farming to new heights in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand.

- The Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming Project will be implemented by the Watershed Department of Uttarakhand.
- The Uttarakhand government had proposed the project which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for funding by the World Bank.
- The project will be financed by the World Bank.
- Additionally, it will encourage eco-friendly agricultural practices so that youth and farmers have an economically viable option.

• About World Bank

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund were established together in 1944 during the Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, USA.
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is also called the World Bank.
- At present, 189 countries are members of the World Bank.
- Its headquarter is in Washington DC, the capital of America.
- **The World Bank Group is a group of the following five international organisations that provide economic-financial assistance and financial advice to member countries-**
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- International Finance Corporation
- international development association
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- President- David Malpass
- CEO- Anshula Kant

8. India is the fourth largest gold recycling country in the world : World Gold Council (June 23, 2022)

According to the World Gold Council (WGC) report, India has emerged as the fourth largest recycler in the world and the country has recycled 75 tonnes in 2021.

- The report was titled 'Gold Refining and Recycling'.
- According to the WGC's 'Gold Refining and Recycling' report, China tops the global gold recycling chart by recycling 168 tonnes of the yellow metal, followed by Italy with 80 tonnes and the US with 78 tonnes .
- According to the WGC report 'Gold Refining and Recycling' from 300 tonnes in 2013, India's gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500%) in 2021.
- Despite being the fourth largest recycler in the world, India recycles very little of its own gold stock - about 8% of the global scrap supply.
- In the last five years, 11% of the country's gold supply has come from 'old gold'.
- The names of China, America, Australia, South Africa and Russia are included in the 5 largest gold producing countries in the world, while on the other hand, India is far ahead of other countries in terms of gold consumption.
- According to one figure, out of 52 percent of the world's jewellery consumption, most of the consumption is done in India.

About World Gold Council

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- The World Gold Council is a market development organisation for the gold industry.
- It aims to boost the demand for gold and maintain it.
- Most of the world's gold mining companies are involved as its members.
- Its headquarter is in the United Kingdom.

9. Santhals community in spotlight after NDA named Draupadi Murmu as their Presidential candidate (June 23, 2022)

The Santhal community is back in the spotlight after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) named Draupadi Murmu as their Presidential candidate for the upcoming election on July 18.

- Community leaders termed it the 'Golden Age' for the Santhals in the country.
- If elected, Draupadi Murmu will become India's first tribal woman president.
- **Who are the Santhals?**
 - The Santhals are the third largest scheduled tribe community in India after the Gonds and Bhils.
 - Santhal population is found in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
 - Mayurbhanj, the home district of Draupadi Murmu, is one of the districts with the largest concentration of the tribe.
 - In Odisha, apart from Mayurbhanj district, Santhals are found in Keonjhar and Balasore.
 - The literacy rate of this tribe is very high as compared to other tribes of Odisha.
 - Santhal's tribal language is called Santhali, which is written in a script called Ol chiki, developed by Santhal scholar Pandit Raghunath Murmu.
- **Other notable Santhal personalities**
 - Hemant Soren, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand belongs to santhal tribes.
 - Girish Chandra Murmu, the first Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is now Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
 - Mayurbhanj MP, Biseshwar Tudu, is a Santhal who is the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti.

10. PM Modi to attend G-7 summit in Germany (June 23, 2022)

PM Narendra Modi will visit Germany on 26 and 27 June to attend the annual summit of the G-7.

- Modi is attending the G7 summit following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
- Germany currently holds the presidency of the G7, a grouping of the seven richest countries in the world.
- Top leaders attending the summit include US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- During the summit, Prime Minister Modi is expected to address two sessions covering environment, energy, climate, food security, health, gender equality and democracy.
- From Germany, he will travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on June 28 to condole the passing of former Gulf President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

- **The Group of Seven (G-7)**

- It includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The group meets annually to discuss issues of common interest, such as global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- It was formed in 1975 by the top economies of the time as an informal forum to discuss global issues.
- Canada joined the group in 1976, and the European Union began participating in 1977.
- It represents about 70% of the world economy.
- It currently accounts for about 40% of the global GDP.
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- The G-7 became the G8 in 1997 when Russia was invited to join.
- It does not have a fixed headquarters.