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SRFTI to organize ARCUREA 2024

Why in News?

- Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI) in association with NFDC and NFAI is organizing ARCUREA 2024 – an event on archiving, curation and restoration of films.

More About the News

- The event is scheduled to be held over seven days, from March 16 to 22, 2024, on the SRFTI campus.
- The event is a multi-event initiative comprising an international colloquium on archiving and restoration in the global context, a cinema curation workshop for students possessing a foundational understanding about various aspects of curation with an emphasis on Indian cinema.
- The keynote address will be delivered by internationally revered Japanese filmmaker Naomi Kawase. She will also grace the closing ceremony as the guest of honour.
- SRFTI is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It is a premier film institute in India, which has succeeded in articulating and disseminating classical and contemporary theories of praxis to leap into the world of professional practice.
- The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), established in 1975, is an entity under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India; entrusted to create domestic and global appreciation of independent Indian cinema.
- The National Film Archive of India (NFAI) was established as a media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,

Govt. of India, in February 1964. Developed from scratch by P. K. Nair, NFAI's activities related to the dissemination of film culture were manifold with the immense responsibility of archiving Indian cinematic heritage.

High level Committee submits its report on One Nation, One Election

Why in the News?

- The High level Committee on Simultaneous Elections constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, former President of India, met the Hon'ble President of India, Shrimati Droupadi Murmu, and submitted its Report.



More About the News

- The Committee held extensive consultations to understand the views of different stakeholders. 47 political parties submitted their views and suggestions, out of which 32 supported simultaneous elections.
- Apex business organizations like the CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and eminent economists were also consulted to present their views on the economic repercussions of asynchronous elections.
- They advocated the economic imperative of simultaneous elections on account of the

effect of asynchronous elections on fuelling inflation and slowing down the economy.

- The Committee was briefed by these bodies that intermittent elections had adverse consequences on economic growth, quality of public expenditure, educational and other outcomes, besides upsetting social harmony.
- After careful consideration of all suggestions and viewpoints, the Committee recommends a two-step approach to lead to the simultaneous elections.
- As the first step, simultaneous elections will be held for the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies.
- In the second step, elections to the Municipalities and the Panchayats will be synchronized with the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies in such a way that Municipalities and Panchayats elections are held within hundred days of holding elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies.
- The Committee also recommends that there should be a single electoral roll and Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) for use in elections to all the three tiers of Government.
- In tune with its mandate to explore the mechanism for simultaneous elections, and keeping in view the existing framework of the Constitution, the Committee has crafted its recommendations in such a way that they are in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of India and would require bare minimum amendments to the Constitution.
- Upon all-inclusive deliberations, the Committee concludes that its recommendations will significantly enhance transparency, inclusivity, ease and confidence of the voters.
- Overwhelming support for holding simultaneous elections will spur development process and social cohesion, deepen the foundations of our democratic

rubric, and realize the aspirations of India, that is Bharat.

Design Challenge : Eco-Friendly Cutlery and Crockery to Substitute Single Use Plastic

Why in the News?

- The Ministry of Tourism hosted an award ceremony for the winners of the 'Design Challenge : Eco-Friendly Cutlery and Crockery to Substitute Single Use Plastic' along with an exhibition of edible crockery and cutlery on 14th March, 2024, New Delhi.

More About the News

- The Ministry of Tourism, in coordination with National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Technology (NCHMCT) had organized the 'Design Challenge : Eco-Friendly Cutlery and Crockery to Substitute Single Use Plastic' on pan India basis.
- The top-ranked institutions in the list were IHM Mumbai, followed by SIHM Raipur in second place, and IHM Lucknow in third place.
- This initiative was held in line with Travel for LiFE, a specialized program within Mission LiFE, designed to inspire widespread changes in behaviour among tourists, tourism businesses, and related stakeholders.
- One of the major objectives of the Travel for LiFE initiative is the advocacy to 'Say no to single-use plastic', which is a step forward towards sustainable tourism practices.
- The Design Challenge was conceptualized with the aim to safeguard the environment from the effects of climatic changes and



encourage the development of innovative and eco friendly solutions in the field of cutlery and crockery as an alternative of single use plastic.

- This initiative will not only benefit in ensuring implementation of sustainable practices but would also generate employment opportunities for associated stakeholders.

The Gender Inequality Index 2022

Why in the News?

- The Gender Inequality Index 2022 has been released on the 13th March 2024 by UNDP in their Human Development Report 2023/2024.

More About the News

- On the Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022, India stands at rank 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437. India stood at rank 122 out of 191 countries with a score of 0.490 in the Gender Inequality Index 2021.
- This shows a significant jump of 14 ranks on GII 2022 vis-à-vis GII 2021.
- Over the last 10 years, India's rank in GII has become consistently better, indicating progressive improvement in achieving gender equality in the country. In 2014, this rank was 127, which now has become 108.
- This is an outcome of the decisive agenda set by the Government for ensuring women's empowerment through policy initiatives aimed at their long-term socio-economic and political development.
- Government's initiatives have spanned across women's lifecycle including large scale initiatives for girls' education, skill development, entrepreneurship facilitation and safety in the workplace.

A Decade of Science - Technology Panorama for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Why in the News?

- "A Decade of Science - Technology Panorama for Aatmanirbhar Bharat" report was unveiled by the Union Minister Jitendra Singh in the event held on 14th March 2024 at Vigyan Bhavan.

More About the News

- The report is prepared by the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India (OPSA) under the leadership of Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood (PSA), in collaboration with the Foundation of Advancing Science and Technology (FAST) India with contributions from 22 Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government of India.
- The Technology Panorama report captures the glimpse of technological advancements made by various Ministries and Departments of Government of India.
- The report captures key missions and initiatives by the Government of India through the lens of (a) systematic capability building, (b) pushing frontiers of research for future preparedness, (c) enabling research and development in areas of national priorities, and (d) ensuring citizen impact through scientific improvement.
- The advancements in science, technology, and innovation are powerful drivers for progress and it shapes economies, enhances quality of life, and propel nations toward a brighter future.

India's Techade : Chips for Viksit Bharat

Why in the News?

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed 'India's Techade : Chips for Viksit Bharat' program and laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects worth about Rs 1.25 lakh crores recently.

More About the News

- It has been the Prime Minister's vision to position India as a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and technology development, fostering the



creation of employment opportunities for the nation's youth.

- In line with this vision, foundation stones were laid for the Semiconductor fabrication facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR), Gujarat; Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Morigaon, Assam; and the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Sanand, Gujarat.
- The Semiconductor fabrication facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) under the Modified Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India. With a total investment of over Rs. 91,000 crore, this will be the first commercial semiconductor fab in the country.
- The Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam will be set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) under the Modified Scheme for Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP), and with a total investment of about Rs 27,000 crore.
- The Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Sanand, will be set up by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited under the Modified Scheme for Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP), and with a total investment of about Rs 7,500 crore.
- Through these facilities, the semiconductor ecosystem will be strengthened and will get a firm footing in India. These units will also provide employment to thousands of youth in the semiconductor industry as well as catalyze employment generation in related sectors like electronics, telecom etc.

President Appoints two Election Commissioners

Why in the News?

- President Droupadi Murmu on 14th March 2024 appointed retired IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as the new Election Commissioners (Ecs). The two

names were picked by a panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that met in the national capital.

More About the News

- In exercise of powers conferred by section 4 of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, the President appointed Shri Gyanesh Kumar, IAS (Retd.) and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IAS (Retd.) as Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India, with effect from the date they assume charge of their office.
- Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu assumed charge as Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India on 15th March 2024.
- This is the first time that ECs have been appointed in accordance with the new Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.
- According to the Act, a selection committee headed by the Prime Minister and comprising a Union Minister nominated by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha will select members of the Election Commission.

Appointment & Tenure Of Commissioners

- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.

