

08-05-2024

Border Road Organization (BRO)

Why in News?

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024.

More About the News

- To mark the day, an event was organised in New Delhi, which was presided over by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane.
- Raised with just two projects in 1960 - Project Tusker (now Vartak) in the East and Project Beacon in the North, the BRO has today become a vibrant organisation with 18 projects operating in 11 States and three Union Territories.



- It has now established its credentials as the leading infra construction agency in the high-altitude and difficult snow-bound areas.
- The BRO executes road construction and maintenance works at altitude ranging from 9,000 ft up to 19,000 ft along the Northern and Western frontiers, primarily to meet the strategic requirements of the Armed Forces.
- In over six decades, it has constructed over 62,214 kms of roads, 1,005 bridges, seven

tunnels and 21 airfields in adverse climatic and geographical conditions along India's borders as well as in friendly countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan & Tajikistan, thus contributing towards the nation's strategic objectives.

About BRO

- The Border Roads Organization was officially formed on May 7, 1960, under the Ministry of Defense in India.
- Its primary objective was to build and maintain road infrastructure in border areas, which were often remote and difficult to access due to challenging terrains.
- The Border Roads Organisation is a statutory body under the ownership of the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.
- BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.

India's revised National Forest Policy

Why in the News?

- India shared its revised National Forest Policy during the 19th United Nations Forum on Forests held in New York, United States from May 6-10, 2024.

More About the News

- India recommended adopting an integrated approach to forest fire prevention and management, along with post-fire landscape restoration through policy interventions.
- It shared its experience with technology adoption, including the use of remote sensing for near-real-time fire monitoring, online geoportals for forest fire reporting,



and ecosystem-based approaches for post-fire restoration.

- India also suggested creating universally accepted global standards for forest certification and highlighted the need to evaluate current certification programmes against universal standards.
- India noted the growing role of communities in addressing forest fires and emphasised the rising scale and duration of such incidents in recent years, with significant impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services, economies, livelihoods, and human well-being.
- The increased frequency and intensity of forest fires underscore the need for comprehensive long-term strategies for prevention and restoration.
- India also proposed operationalisation of the Global Fire Management Hub by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO, which aims to create a platform for sharing knowledge and experience in mitigating forest fires.

Meditech Stackathon 2024

Why in the News?

- Department of Pharmaceuticals launched the MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024 in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at New Delhi, recently.

More About the News

- India's MedTech industry holds immense potential, with projections estimating a growth rate of 28% annually, reaching a size of USD 50 billion by 2030.
- India is the 4th largest market for medical

devices in Asia and among the top 20 globally. Net imports for 2022-23 stands at USD 4101 Million with import coverage ratio of 0.45.

- The STACKATHON would deliberate in eight focused groups namely Cancer Therapy, Imaging, Critical Care, Assistive Medical Devices, Body Implants, Surgical instruments and Hospital Equipment, Consumables & Disposables, and IVD Instruments and reagents, each tasked with specific objectives including segment-wise identification of important medical devices, assessment of import-export dynamics, examination of duty structures, and their implications across the entire value chain.
- India's MedTech landscape is brimming with promise, poised to capture 10% of the global market share over the next decade.
- Endowed with a robust ecosystem comprising world-class hospitals, skilled manpower, and cutting-edge resources, India is primed to emerge as a frontrunner in the global MedTech arena.
- He further underscored the importance of fostering industry-friendly policies, streamlining regulatory frameworks, and extending support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through targeted incentives and technology funds.
- The MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024 seeks to harness the collective expertise of stakeholders to propel the industry towards unprecedented heights of innovation and self-reliance.

5th India-Bhutan Joint Group of Customs Meetings

Why in the News?

- The 5th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bhutan was held on 6th-7th May, 2024 in Leh, Ladakh.

More About the News

- The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Surjit Bhujabal, Special Secretary and Member (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Government of India, and Mr. Sonam Jamtsho, Director General, Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan.
- The 5th JGC meeting discussed a host of bilateral issues such as opening of new Land Customs Stations and notifying new trade routes, development of infrastructure, automation and digitisation of transit processes, prevention of smuggling, coordinated cross-border management, pre-arrival exchange of Customs data, bilateral agreement on Customs cooperation and movement of transit cargo under electronic cargo system among others.
- The India-Bhutan Joint Group of Customs meetings are held annually to discuss issues relating to re-defining and re-engineering of Customs procedures, promote Customs cooperation and cross-border trade facilitation with alignment to global best practices.

- These meetings play a vital role in enhancing connectivity and developing trade infrastructure for smooth customs clearance at land borders. There are 10 Land Customs Stations along the India-Bhutan Border in the States of West Bengal (6) and Assam (4).
- India is Bhutan's top trade partner both as an import source and as an export destination. Since 2014, India's trade with Bhutan has more than tripled from \$484 million in 2014-15 to \$1,615 million in 2022-23, accounting for about 80% of Bhutan's overall trade.
- Trade with Bhutan through the land Customs Stations is significant as Bhutan is a land-locked country. Enhancing connectivity with Bhutan is pivotal to India's 'Neighbourhood First' and the 'Act East' Policy.

World Red Cross And Red Crescent Day

Why in the News?

- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is being observed on 8th May 2024 to pay tribute to the millions of volunteers and staff working alongside people in need of protection, assistance, healthcare, social aid, and solidarity.

More About the News

- It is observed every year on the 8th of May to honour the humanitarian work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



- Henry Dunant, the pioneering Swiss volunteer, founded the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement about 160 years ago.
- The movement has a global humanitarian network of 80 million people who aid those facing disaster, conflict, health, and social problems.
- The theme for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2024 is "I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward."
- The day serves as a reminder to people about the importance of compassion, love, affection, support and treatment.
- It also upholds the organisation's principles, mission, values and activities.

DAILY ONE LINERS:

1. The theme for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2024 is
- **"I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward."**
2. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 65th Raising Day on
- **7th May 2024**
3. As Per Gregorian Calendar, the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore is celebrated on
- **7th May**
4. The World Red Cross Day is celebrated on
- **8th May**
5. Who sworn in as the President of Russia for a new six-year term, recently? - **Vladimir Putin**
6. Sri Lanka has sealed a 20-year power deal with
- **Adani Green Energy Ltd of India**



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