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Right Against Adverse Effects of Climate Change

Why in News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court, in a significant ruling, has expanded the scope of Articles 14 and 21 to include the "right against the adverse effects of climate change".

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- THE SUPREME Court has, from time to time, expanded the fundamental rights chapter to include various facets of a dignified existence. However, this is the first time that it has included the "right against the adverse effects of climate change".



- The court noted in its order that despite governmental policy and rules and regulations recognizing the adverse effects of climate change and seeking to combat it, there is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns.
- Article 21 recognizes the right to life and personal liberty while Article 14 indicates that all persons shall have equality before law and the equal protection of laws. These Articles are important sources of the right to a clean environment and the right against the adverse effects of climate change.
- Article 48A of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. Clause (g) of Article 51A stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.
- Although these are not justiciable provisions of the Constitution, they are indications that the Constitution recognises the importance of the natural world," a three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has said.
- The importance of the environment, as indicated by these provisions, becomes a right in other parts of the Constitution. Article 21 recognises the right to life and personal liberty while Article 14 indicates that all persons shall have equality before law and the equal protection of laws. These Articles are important sources of the right to a clean environment and the right against the adverse effects of climate change.
- "Despite governmental policy and rules and regulations recognizing the adverse effects of climate change and seeking to combat it, there is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns," the court noted.
- On the right to a clean environment, the court said : "Without a clean environment which is stable and unimpacted by the vagaries of climate change, the right to life is not fully realized. The right to health (which is a part of the right to life under Article 21) is impacted due to factors such as air pollution, shifts in vector-borne diseases,

rising temperatures, droughts, shortages in food supplies due to crop failure, storms and flooding. The inability of underserved communities to adapt to climate change or cope with its effects violates the right to life (Article 21) as well as the right to equality (Article 14)."

- The promotion of renewable energy sources plays a crucial role in promoting social equity by ensuring access to clean and affordable energy for all segments of society, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- This contributes to poverty alleviation, enhances quality of life, and fosters inclusive growth and development across the nation. Therefore, transitioning to renewable energy is not just an environmental imperative but also a strategic investment in India's future prosperity, resilience and sustainability.
- Therefore, States are compelled to take effective measures to mitigate climate change and ensure that all individuals have the necessary capacity to adapt to the climate crisis.

World Health Day 2024

Why in the News?

- The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated on 7 April every year, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other

related organizations. The First World Health Assembly decided to celebrate World Health Day on April 7 of each year, with effect from 1950.

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- The World Health Day is held to mark WHO's founding, and is seen as an opportunity by the organization to drive worldwide attention to a subject of major importance for global health each year.
- The World Health Day is one of eight official global health annual campaigns marked by WHO, along with World Tuberculosis Day, World Immunization Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World AIDS Day, World Blood Donor Day, and World Hepatitis Day.
- The year 2024 marks the 76th anniversary of WHO and as a part of celebration WHO has chosen 'My Health, My Right' as the theme of World Health Day 2024 which focuses on the fundamental human right: access to quality health care, education and information.
- This year's theme was chosen to champion the right of everyone, everywhere to have access to quality health services, education, and information, as well as safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition, quality housing, decent working and environmental conditions, and freedom from discrimination.

About World Health Organization (WHO)

- World Health Organization (WHO) is the



United Nations' specialized agency for Health. It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.

- The World Health Organization is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- India became a party to the WHO Constitution on 12 January 1948. India is a Member State of the WHO South East Asia Region.
- The objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health, as defined in the WHO Constitution, is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Parivartan Chintan

Why in the News?

- Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new and



fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts is being held in New Delhi on 8th April 2024.

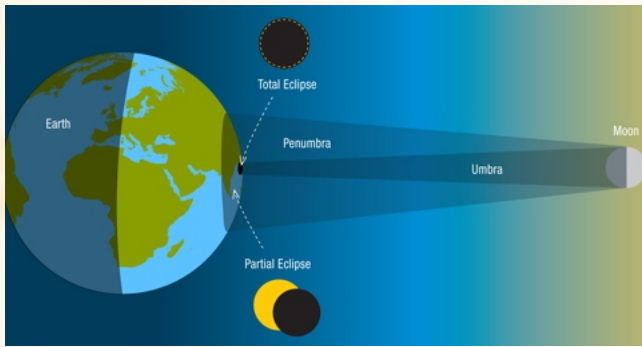
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- The heads of all tri-service military institutions will gather in New Delhi on April 8, for the first-ever tri-service planning conference called the 'Parivartan Chintan'.
- The conference takes place on the backdrop of the three services combining to set up integrated theatre commands, containing elements of the army, navy, and air force.
- This pioneering tri-service conference is aimed at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel jointness and integration efforts.
- The 'Chintan' will be the first-ever conference of the heads of all tri-services institutions, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the three services, with officers from varied service brackets, through their diverse understanding and experience, recommending measures to achieve the desired 'joint and integrated' end state with swiftness.
- With the Indian armed forces having embarked on a transformative change in their quest to be ready for future wars, initiatives are being undertaken to promote jointness and integration as structures are modified to enable tri-service, multi-domain operations.
- Traditionally, tri-services commanders' conferences (TSCC) are held every year at one of the services' command headquarters. The commanders review the geopolitical situation and deliberate on enhancing operational preparedness and synergy.

Total Solar Eclipse

Why in the News?

- North America will witness a rare astronomical phenomenon – a total solar eclipse on 8th April. Beginning over the Pacific Ocean, this celestial event will



traverse Mexico, United States and Canada. As per Indian Standard Time (IST), the total solar eclipse will begin at 9:12 pm on 8th April and will end at 2:22 am early morning next day.

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- According to the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), "a total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk".
- People in the path of a total solar eclipse can see the Sun's corona, the outer atmosphere, which is otherwise usually obscured by the bright face of the Sun.
- As the eclipse enters Texas, totality will last about 4 minutes, 26 seconds at the center of the eclipse's path. Durations longer than 4 minutes stretch as far north as Economy, Indiana.
- The continental US has not seen a total solar eclipse of such duration since June 16, 1806 - almost 218 years ago. It was a very different time and setting. And the eclipse of 1806, known as 'Tecumseh's Eclipse', has gone down in the history of the US as a major event - astronomically, and more importantly, politically.

'Turning 18' Campaign

Why in the News?

- As the country gears up for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has embarked on an innovative journey to engage citizens through unique campaigns like 'Turning 18' and 'You are the One' on social media platforms, employing a tailored messaging strategy within the overarching theme of 'Chunav Ka Parv, Desh Ka Garv'.

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- The Commission has on various occasions identified urban apathy and youth apathy as a cause for concern in its quest to improve voter turnout. ECI campaign 'Turning 18,' in the run-up to the 18th Lok Sabha Elections, specifically targets young and first-time voters.
- The primary objective is to galvanize youngsters to participate in the upcoming elections and address the critical issues of urban and youth apathy noticed in previous elections.
- The 'Turning 18' campaign employs various compelling themes and strategies to capture the attention of its audience.
- The strategy involves branding of individual series with thematic logos for easy identification and association. Additionally, the campaign portrays a comparison of past and recent elections, as 'then vs. now' to underscore the progress made over time.
- By emphasizing the significance of voting immediately upon turning 18, the campaign seeks to inspire a sense of civic responsibility among young voters.
- Building on 'Turning 18' campaign, ECI launched another impactful campaign titled 'You Are The One.'
- This initiative aims to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of various stakeholders involved in the electoral process.
- Through engaging storytelling and captivating visuals (like 'Whatever it takes - we walk the extra mile, so you don't have to') the campaign highlights the dedication and commitment of these individuals, inspiring pride in their roles and responsibilities within the democratic framework.
- It involves highlighting the key stakeholders, interesting anecdotes, and stories from the elections of the past, and videos/reels that unravel the tireless efforts of polling teams working behind the scenes, navigating challenging terrains to ensure every voter is reached.