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Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Commerce Ministry announced that the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) would organize Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore.

More About the News

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was launched in May 2022 and currently includes 14 partners – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.



- It provides a platform for countries in the region to collaborate on advancing resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, and aims to contribute to cooperation, stability and prosperity in the region.
- The IPEF comprises four pillars of cooperation namely: Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy and Fair Economy.
- IPEF Forum aims to mobilize investments into sustainable infrastructure, climate technology and renewable energy projects.

- The IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum is one of the initiatives under the IPEF. It brings together the region's top investors, philanthropies, financial institutions, innovative companies, start-ups and entrepreneurs.
- The Forum aims to mobilize investments into sustainable infrastructure, climate technology and renewable energy projects.
- The Department of Commerce is the nodal agency for the IPEF engagements, and the IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum is managed by Invest India, India's National Investment Promotion Agency.

'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative

Why in the News?

- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under its Capacity Building scheme 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative organized 43rd Batch of Chief Information Security Officers' (CISO) Deep Dive Training Programme from April 8-12, 2024.

More About the News

- 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) was conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities.
- The inaugural session of the programme was attended by senior officials from MeitY, NeGD & IIPA.
- The deep-dive training specifically aimed at educating and enabling CISOs to understand cyber-attacks comprehensively and thoroughly, get necessary exposure in latest technologies of safeguard and translate the benefits of a resilient e-infrastructure to individual organizations and citizens at large.

- The training also focussed on providing a holistic view of legal provisions, enabling CISOs to formulate policies in the domain of cyber security and build concrete cyber crisis management plans.
- The aim of the program is to spread awareness, build capacities as well as enable Government departments to take steps to create a cyber resilient eco system.
- The endeavour of the programme is to sensitize and orient participants on cyber safety and security, thus facilitating the Digital India programme for integrated delivery of various Government services to citizens.
- The programme also imparts holistic information and knowledge about cyber security to enable government departments to look after their cyber hygiene, safety and security.
- 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.

About Cyber Security

- Cyber security is the practice of protecting systems, networks, and programs from digital attacks. These cyber attacks are usually aimed at accessing, changing, or destroying sensitive information; extorting money from users via ransomware; or interrupting normal business processes.



- The term "cyber security" applies in a variety of contexts, from business to mobile computing, and can be divided into a few common categories.
- A strong cyber security strategy protects all relevant IT infrastructure layers or domains against cyber threats and cybercrime.

India's GDP Growth

Why in the News?

- Recently, European Parliament think tank expert Angelos Delivorias has predicted that India's GDP growth is exceeding that of China and will continue doing so.

More About the News

- Angelos Delivorias with a specialisation in external policies (including India), is a policy expert at European Parliamentary Research (EPRS), which provides comprehensive research and analytical support to the Members of the European Parliament.
- According to him, India's GDP growth exceeding that of China reflected New Delhi's emergence as a formidable economic powerhouse in the global arena.
- India's GDP growth exceeded China's annually for the past few years, with India's growth averaging over 7.5 per cent in 2023, while China's is 5.2 per cent. India's GDP is also expected to reach 7 per cent by 2026, while China is expected to reach 4.6 per cent.
- The IMF projects China's 2024 growth at 4.6 per cent, declining towards 3.5 per cent in 2028.
- With India's ambitious infrastructure projects and recent strides in space exploration, Delivorias highlighted the nation's comprehensive economic strategy.
- Delivorias also noted India has increased its diplomatic importance as part of its strategy over the last decade.
- He also said that against the backdrop of China's Belt and Road Initiative and increasing assertiveness in global affairs, India's rise holds profound implications for the European Union and the wider international community.

Nepal-India Development Cooperation

Why in the News?

- Recently, in Nepal, the foundation stone for the construction of the Shree Diding Basic School Building was laid at Chichila Rural Municipality-3, Sankhuwasabha District, being built with the Government of India's financial assistance at the tendered cost of NRs.40.29 million under 'Nepal-India Development Cooperation'.

More About the News

- The Government of India grant under 'Nepal-India Development Cooperation', will be utilized for the construction of a double-storied academic and administrative block with other facilities for this school.
- The project is taken up as a High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP), under an Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal being implemented through Chichila Rural Municipality, Sankhuwasabha.
- The project is an important example of the robust development partnership between India and Nepal.
- The new school building would be useful in providing better education facilities to students of Shree Diding Basic School in Chichila Rural Municipality, Sankhuwasabha and would create an improved environment for learning as well as contribute to the development of education in this area.



- Since 2003, the Government of India has taken up over 550 HICDPs in Nepal in various sectors and has completed 488 projects. Amongst these, 85 projects are in Koshi Province in various sectors, which include 2 projects in Sankhuwasabha.
- As close neighbours, India and Nepal share wide-ranging and multi-sectoral cooperation.
- The implementation of HICDPs reflects the continued support of the Government of India in bolstering the efforts of the Government of Nepal in the upliftment of its people and augmenting infrastructure in the priority sector, especially in the education sector in Nepal.

Drying up of Rivers in Bihar

Why in the News?

- Even as summer is yet to peak across the country, over 40 rivers in the second most populous state have already dried, according to officials of the Bihar Water Resources Department (WRD).

More About the News

- The volume of water in other rivers has been decreasing fast. The precious liquid is visible only in certain parts of some of the state's big rivers.
- Water is also vanishing from other sources in the state such as reservoirs and canals. Ground water levels are also dipping.
- Some reservoirs which have dried up have reached dead storage levels (DSL) is a bad sign because it is of no use for irrigation.
- According to a report by the WRD, none of the state's reservoirs has 50 per cent water level. Only the Durgavati reservoir in Kaimur district has 47 per cent water.
- Drying reservoirs in the districts of Banka, Nawada, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Rohtas, Bhagalpur, Munger, Lakhisarai and Jamui mean that farmers and livestock owners, who are fully dependent on the water stored in them, have been having a trying time.



- As of now, 5 of 23 reservoirs in Bihar have dried up and 16 reservoirs have less than 10 per cent water. More than 40 rivers have no water.
- It has decreased drastically in other rivers. There are reports of hand pumps running dry due to plummeting ground water levels. All this will affect the availability of water in the coming days.
- According to data from the Bihar Economic Survey (2022-23), groundwater levels were at least 10 metres (m) below ground in districts like Aurangabad, Nawada, Kaimur and Jamui during the pre-monsoon period in 2021.
- Reservoirs are drying due to heavy rainfall deficiency. Most of reservoirs are rain-fed. Water will increase in reservoirs only in the monsoon, which is more than two months away.

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