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Gevra Mine Set to Become The Largest Coal Mine in Asia

Why in News?

- Chhattisgarh-based Coal India subsidiary South Eastern Coalfield Limited's (SECL) Gevra mine is set to become the largest coal mine in Asia. The mine has been granted environmental clearance to expand production capacity to 70 million tons per annum from the current 52.5 million tons.

More About the News

- The development has been made possible with the rigorous efforts of the Ministry of Coal by coordinating with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in achieving the environment clearance of 70 million tons in record time, keeping in mind the role of Gevra as one of the megaprojects of SECL, in meeting the energy needs of the nation.



About Gevra Mine

- Gevra is one of the megaprojects of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and became the largest coal mine in the country last year with annual production for FY 22-23 reaching 52.5 million tons and has been contributing towards energy security of the country for more than 40 years.

- The mine has a strike length of around 10 KM and a breadth of 4 KM. Eco-friendly blast-free mining technology in the form of Surface Miner, Ripper Mining have been deployed in the mine and one of the highest capacity HEMM machines like 42 Cum shovel and 240-ton dumper combination are used for overburden removal in the mine.
- It also has first-mile connectivity equipped with a conveyer belt, Silos and Rapid Loading System for swift and eco-friendly coal evacuation.

Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Devasthanam, Telangana

Why in the News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited and offered prayers at the Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Devasthanam in Telangana.

More About Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Devasthanam

- Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Devasthanam, Secunderabad is a part of a very busy location in the heart of the city. There are two main Goddess residing in the Garbha Gudi, namely Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Matha, Sri Manikyalama Matha. Chandi Devi, Bala Devi, Shiva Lingam.
- In the year 1813, a Military Battalion in which one Suriti Appaiah, a Doli Bearer was transferred to Ujjaini. At the time Cholera broke out in a virulent form, and thousands of people died. Suriti Appaiah and his associates went to Mahakali Devasthanam at Ujjaini and prayed that if the people are saved from the epidemic, they would install the idol of Mahakali, Secunderabad.
- Accordingly after return from Ujjaini, Sr



Suriti Appaiah and his associates have installed the idol of Goddess Mahakali made of wood at Secunderabad in July 1815. During construction of sanctum sanctorum a stone idol named as Manikyamma was found and that the said idol was also installed besides Sri Mahakali Ammavaru.

- In the year 1964, a stone idol of Goddess Mahakali was installed. Later on Sri Suriti Appaiah with the help of Philanthropic persons has developed the Devasthanam. Subsequently Endowments Department has taken over the Management of the Devasthanam.

9th edition of National Conference on Economics of Competition Law

Why in the News?

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) organised the 9th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law in New Delhi on 5th March 2024.

More About the News

- The Conference, which brought together scholars, practitioners, and experts working in the area of economics of competition law, is being organised by the CCI every year since 2016.
- In his Keynote Address, Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog, elucidated the role of competitive markets in fostering inclusive growth and said, the vital elements of the Bharatiya Model of Inclusive Development were the Indic market economy, antodaya empowerment and a holistic approach.

- In view of the growing importance of artificial intelligence (AI), the CCI will soon commence a Market Study on AI to develop a comprehensive understanding of the evolving landscape of AI and AI use cases in markets in India, which could inform the strategies of the CCI aimed at fostering innovation and fair competition.

About CCI

- A fair competition in market is essential to achieve this objective. The goal of CCI is to create and sustain fair competition in the economy that will provide a 'level playing field' to the producers and make the markets work for the welfare of the consumers.
- The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws.
- The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.



- The objectives of the Act are sought to be achieved through the Competition Commission of India, which has been established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003. CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
- It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on

competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

Why in the News?

- The enrolment under the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PM FBY) has increased by 27% in the current fiscal year 2023-24.

More About the PMFBY

- The third largest insurance scheme globally in terms of premium, the PM Fasal Bima Yojana launched in 2016, shields farmers from crop loss or damage arising out of unforeseen events.



- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a demand driven scheme and is voluntary for the States as well as farmers.
- The PMFBY is successfully fulfilling the objectives of the scheme including providing financial support to stabilize income of farmers especially in natural calamity hit seasons/years/areas.
- PMBFY is a Central Sector Scheme, therefore, no State/UT-wise allocation and release is made under the scheme.
- The Department of Agriculture & Family welfare is regularly monitoring the implementation of PMFBY including timely settlement of claims through weekly video conference of stakeholders, one to one meeting with insurance companies / States etc.
- In past 8 Years of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) – 56.80 crore farmer applications have been enrolled and over 23.22 crore farmer applicants received claims.

- During this period, nearly Rs. 31,139 crore were paid by farmers as their share of premium against which claims of over Rs. 1,55,977 crore have been paid to them. Thus, for every 100 rupees of premium paid by farmers, they have received about Rs. 500 as claims.
- The number of farmer applications has grown 33.4% and 41% year-on-year during 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively.
- Further, during the year 2023-24, there in an increase of 27% in terms of farmers enrolled under the scheme so far. Also 42% of total farmers insured under the scheme in FY 2023-24 are non-loanee farmers.
- Based on the experience gained, views of various stakeholders and with a view to ensure better transparency, accountability, timely payment of claims to the farmers and to make the scheme more farmer friendly, Government has periodically revised the Operational Guidelines of the PMFBY comprehensively to ensure that the eligible benefits under the scheme reach the farmers timely and transparently.

APEDA facilitates agriculture exports to New Markets

Why in the News?

- APEDA is spearheading the initiation of participation in new fairs across emerging markets such as Turkey, South Korea, Kenya, South Africa, and Japan. This proactive approach aims to facilitate greater market access and foster sustainable growth opportunities for Indian exporters.



- During April-November 2023, APEDA facilitated exports to major markets like Iraq, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and the UK experienced substantial growth compared to the previous year. Surging by 110%, 46%, 18%, and 47%, respectively, this remarkable expansion underscores the increasing global demand for Indian agricultural products in key markets.

More About the News

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is undertaking various initiatives to promote agricultural exports from India.
- APEDA's forward-looking strategy involves a paradigm shift towards expanding the export basket with focused initiative on priority products like fresh fruits, vegetables, processed foods and animal products to reduce the reliance on a few products and to move up the value chain.
- APEDA's concerted efforts to promote Shree Anna-Millet's resonate with the government's vision for cultivating a healthier and more diversified food landscape.
- Over the past year, with a particular focus during the International Year of Millets-2023, APEDA has diligently worked towards the development and integration of a wide array of value-added products under the Shree Anna brand.

About APEDA

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.
- The headquarter of the APEDA is in New Delhi and it has marked its presence in almost all agro potential states of India and has been providing services to agro-export community through its head office, 16 Regional offices.

India's first Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL

Why in the News?

- Union Minister Hardeep S Puri inaugurates 201 CNG stations and India's first Small Scale LNG Unit of GAIL at Vijaipur LPG Plant in Madhya Pradesh.

More About the News

- The 201 CNG stations dedicated to the Nation today have been set up by 15 City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities of GAIL group in 52 Geographical Areas (Gas) across 17 states while India's first small-scale LNG unit has been set up by GAIL at its Vijaipur LPG plant.
- The country will have around 17,500 CNG stations and around 120 million PNG (Domestic) connections by 2030. It will help in development of ancillary industries in various segments (CGD meters, Compressors, Dispensers etc) for fulfilling the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The inauguration of these CNG stations is a testament to our collective efforts to reduce carbon footprint and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.



About GAIL

- The Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is a Maharatna Company of the Government of India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- GAIL (India) Ltd. was incorporated in August, 1984 as a Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG), with the mission of "accelerating and optimizing

the effective and economic use of Natural Gas and its fractions for the benefit of the national economy”.

- GAIL has installed India's 2nd largest solar roof top of 5.76 MW grid connected captive solar power plant at Pata Petrochemical complex.
- GAIL is a pioneer in city gas distribution (CGD) business in India. It has presence in 67 Geographical Areas across India with 8 JVs and three wholly owned subsidiaries.

NITI Aayog and Meta join hands to establish Frontier Technology Labs

Why in the News?

- In an effort to democratize future technologies and empower youth to innovate, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and Meta have announced the launch of Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs).

More About the News

- Atal Innovation Mission and Meta will partner to set up FTLs in schools of strategic importance to ensure that students from diverse backgrounds across India will have equal opportunities to learn and engage with frontier technologies.
- Till date, AIM has established 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools across 722 districts in India.
- The objective of ATLs is to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, physical computing etc.

About Frontier Technology Labs (FTL)

- The FTL is an advanced version of Atal Tinkering Lab equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, including all components of the Tinkering Lab to empower students to innovate using technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Augmented & Virtual Reality, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Robotics, 3D Printing, and Internet of Things.
- The labs support the Government's focus on equipping youth with digital skills to succeed in the evolving landscape of technology and the global economy.
- The FTLs will be funded by Meta and Atal Innovation Mission will be the knowledge partner.
- The FTLs are a part of Meta's Education to Entrepreneurship initiative, launched in September 2023, to seamlessly connect students, youth, workforce, and micro-entrepreneurs with futuristic technologies, taking digital skilling to the grassroots. The initiative aims to advance the government's agenda of digital inclusion, skilling and growth.
- Establishing these labs aligns with the vision of the Atal Innovation Mission to create a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in schools across India, marking a significant step forward in building a skilled workforce to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. Meanwhile, these labs will be managed by Meta's partner 1M1B (One Million for One Billion).

