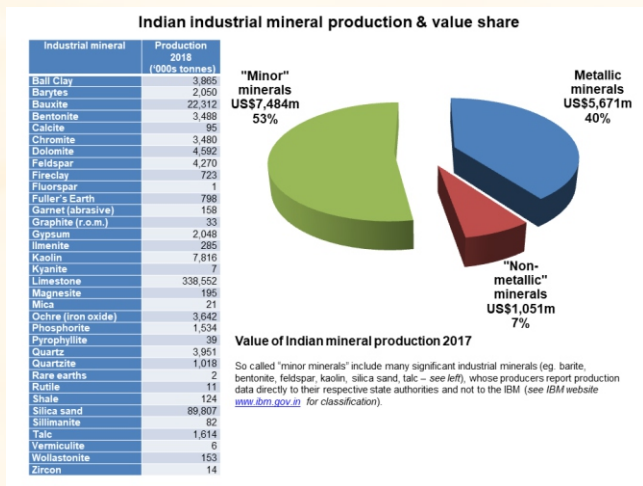


21-03-2024

Mineral Production in the India

Why in News?

- As per the provisional statistics of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the cumulative growth of Mineral Production for the period April- January, 2023-24 over the corresponding period of previous year is 8.3 % percent.



More About the News

- The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of January, 2024 at 144.1 is 5.9 % higher as compared to the level in the month of January, 2023.
- Production level of important minerals in January, 2024 were: Coal 998 lakh tonne, Lignite 41 lakh tonne, Natural gas (utilized) 3073 million cu. m., Petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonne, Bauxite 2426 thousand tonne, Chromite 251 thousand tonne, Copper conc. 12.6 thousand tonne, Gold 134 kg, Iron ore 252 lakh tonne, Lead conc. 34 thousand tonne, Manganese ore 304 thousand tonne, Zinc conc. 152 thousand tonne, Limestone 394 lakh tonne, Phosphorite 109 thousand tonne, and Magnesite 13 thousand tonne.

- Important minerals showing positive growth during January, 2024 over JANUARY, 2023 include: Magnesite (90.1%), Copper Conc.(34.2%), Coal (10.3%), Limestone(10%), Bauxite (9.8%), Manganese Ore (7.8%), Natural gas (U) (5.5%), Lead Conc.(5.2%), Iron Ore (4.3%), Lignite(3.6%), Zinc Conc.(1.3%), and Petroleum(crude) (0.7%). Other important minerals showing negative growth include Gold (-23.4%), Chromite (-35.2%) and Phosphorite (-44.4%).

41st Steering Committee of International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells

Why in the News?

- The 41st Steering Committee Meeting of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE), being hosted by India in New Delhi during March 18 – 22, 2024, began its formal proceedings on March 19, 2024.



- IPHE delegates from Austria, Chile, France, European Commission, Japan, Germany, Netherlands, UAE, UK, US, Singapore and South Korea, besides delegates from host country India, participated in the Steering Committee meeting and discussed a wide

range of issues concerning deployment of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

- The committee touched upon initiatives being taken for Green Hydrogen at international level, including in Glasgow Breakthrough Agenda, Hydrogen Energy Ministerial, Clean Energy Ministerial, H2 Initiative, Clean Hydrogen Mission Innovation, G7 Hydrogen Action Pact, G20, COP28, International Energy Agency, etc., and discussed opportunities to collaborate with these international initiatives to meet IPHE goals and objectives.
- The mission of IPHE is to facilitate and accelerate the transition to clean and efficient energy and mobility systems using hydrogen and fuel cell technologies across applications and sectors.
- The proceedings of the committee also included review of IPHE vision and roadmap of work in the short and medium term.

47th Meeting of National Committee of Archivists

Why in the News?

- The two-days' 47th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists (NCA) was concluded on 19 March 2024 at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.



More About the News

- The delegates deliberated on various aspects that are required for revitalizing the archives administration and records management system in their respective State/UTs, and underscored the need for

leveraging full potential of the digital and AI technologies for this purpose.

- They agreed on adopting a focused and concerted approach for preserving and sharing the rich documentary heritage of the nation, and for making their archival resources easily accessible through Web-Portal.
- The Chairman and Convener of NCA emphasized on the need for democratization of the valuable information contained in public and private records held in various State and Union Territory archives across India by making it easily accessible to the users through the Internet.
- He added that collaboration amongst the archival institutions in India is vital to provide unified search results on any given topic, on which archival material might be available in different repositories.

UN Sounds 'Red Alert' As World Smashes Heat Records In 2023

Why in the News?

- According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) every major global climate record was broken last year and 2024 could be worse. The U.N. weather agency said in its annual State of the Global Climate report that average temperatures hit the highest level in 174 years of record-keeping by a clear margin, reaching 1.45 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

More About the News

- Ocean temperatures also reached the warmest in 65 years of data with over 90% of the seas having experienced heat wave conditions during the year, harming food systems.
- Climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, coupled with the emergence of the natural El Nino climate pattern, pushed the world into record territory in 2023.
- There is a "high probability" that 2024 would set new heat records, as the year after an El Nino was typically warmer still.



- The trend combined with ocean warming which causes water to expand, has contributed to a more than doubling of the rate of sea-level rise over the past decade compared with the 1993-2002 period.
- Ocean heat was concentrated in the North Atlantic with temperatures an average 3 degrees Celsius above average in late 2023.
- Warmer ocean temperatures affect delicate marine ecosystems and many fish species have fled north from this area seeking cooler temperatures.

About World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the WMO began operations in 1951.
- The World Meteorological Congress, which consists of representatives of all 185 members, meets at least every four years to set general policy and adopt regulations.

Direct Tax Collections Surge By 18.74% In Financial Year 2023-24

Why in the News?

- The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24



indicate a significant rise compared to the previous fiscal year. According to reports, net collections have reached Rs. 18,90,259 crore, marking a substantial increase of 19.88% from the corresponding period in FY 2022-23, which stood at Rs. 15,76,776 crore.

More About the News

- This surge includes Corporation Tax (CIT) amounting to Rs. 9,14,469 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs. 9,72,224 crore (net of refund).
- The provisional figures of Gross collection of Direct Taxes for FY 2023-24 reveal a total of Rs. 22,27,067 crore before adjusting for refunds.
- This represents a substantial growth of 18.74% over the collections of FY 2022-23, which stood at Rs. 18,75,535 crore. The Gross collection includes CIT at Rs. 10,98,183 crore and PIT including STT at Rs. 11,25,228 crore.
- The figures also highlight a notable increase in Advance Tax collections for FY 2023-24, which amount to Rs. 9,11,534 crore compared to Rs. 7,45,246 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, showing a growth of 22.31%.

About Direct Tax

- Direct taxes are levied on individuals and companies by the country's supreme tax body.
- Direct taxes are directly paid by those on whom it is imposed. For instance, taxpayers

directly pay income tax, property tax, tax on assets and gifts to the government.

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Department of Revenue (DOR) in the Ministry of Finance provides essential inputs for policy and planning in respect of direct taxes in India. At the same time, it is also responsible for administration of direct taxes laws through Income Tax Department (ITD).
- Income Tax and Corporation Tax are the examples of the Direct Tax.

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber Honored For Sustainable Energy Leadership

Why in the News?

- Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President of COP28, was awarded the prestigious 'CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future' at the CERAWeek by S&P Global conference at Houston.

More About the News

- Over the last decade, CERAWeek by S&P Global has honoured Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; and Enrique Peña Nieto, former President of Mexico.
- Dr. Al Jaber's pivotal role in shaping the UAE Consensus, a significant framework for global climate action, was highlighted.
- This consensus provides clear directives for nations to limit global warming to 1.5°C and emphasizes collaboration between governments and industries.
- The award underscores Dr. Al Jaber's extraordinary leadership and its potential impact on a global scale. Dr. Al Jaber expressed gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing the UAE's commitment to sustainable development.
- The UAE Consensus, a product of COP28, prioritizes multilateralism, inclusivity, and partnership. It includes commitments to

transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and ambitious targets for renewable energy capacity by 2030.

- Dr. Sultan Al Jaber's recognition serves as a testament to his efforts in advancing sustainable energy initiatives, offering hope for a more environmentally conscious future.

About COP-28

- COP 28 refers to the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November until 12 December 2023.
- UN Climate Change conferences (or COPs) take place every year, and are the world's only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change with almost complete membership of every country in the world.
- To put it simply, the COP is where the world comes together to agree on ways to address the climate crisis, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) will convene in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

