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UNGCNI's 18th National Convention

Why in News?

- UNGCI's 18th National Convention was inaugurated by the Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at the New Delhi.
- This year the theme is "Advancing Sustainable India: Driving Change with Forward Faster 2030", guiding companies on where they can make the biggest and fastest impact before 2030.
- Key Objectives of the UNGCNI's 18th National Convention
 - Understanding the correlation between the bold action on the faster forward themes and corporate value creation.
 - Exchange of best practices, innovations championed by stakeholders for Fast forwarding the actions on global goals.
- Enhancing the Target 2030 lens to craft effective solutions for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- Providing a solitary platform to guide companies on where they can make the biggest, fastest impact for 2030.
- Promoting Collective learning & fostering collaborations for Inclusive & Sustainable Develop more sustainable future for all.
- The Convention will focus on the thematic areas surrounding the subject of Climate Change, Gender Equality, Living Wage, Finance and Investment and Water Resilience. In addition to addressing the underlying issues, the discussions shall also pave the way for clear and credible roadways for approaching the midpoint of the Decade of Action thereby accelerating the transition towards sustainable, equitable, inclusive and just development models.



SJVN commissions 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

- SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule 'A' Central public sector enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of Power, Government of India, has begun the successful commercial operation of its 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh today, February 23, 2024.

More About the News

- The 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station has been executed by SJVN through its renewable arm, SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL) at a cost of Rs. 281 crores.
- The annual revenue from energy generated is expected to be approximately Rs. 32 crores.
- The project will generate 107 million units in the first year and the cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years is estimated to be 2,477 million units.



- With this milestone, the total installed power capacity of SJVN stands at 2,277 MW, with ten power stations currently operational.
- SJVN has commissioned multiple renewable projects in recent times, thus paving the path for achieving its shared vision of attaining an installed capacity of 25 GW by the year 2030 and 50 GW by the year 2040.

- SJVN, formerly known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in hydroelectric power generation and transmission.

India's First Gati Shakti Research Chair established at IIM Shillong

Why in News?

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal attended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the MoPSW and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'.
- The Chair will spearhead high-quality academic research on multimodal logistics with a North-East focus: building knowledge on multimodal logistics development strategies and practice in the North-Eastern region, facilitate knowledge and innovation for logistical capacity building in the region.

More About PM Gati Shakti Scheme

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) was launched on 13th October 2021 for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones.
- PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by 7 engines, namely: Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport, Logistics and Infrastructure.
- The scope of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan will encompass the 7 engines for economic transformation, seamless multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency. It will also include the infrastructure developed by the State Governments, as per the GatiShakti Master Plan. The focus will be on planning, financing including through innovative ways, use of technology and speedier implementation.



- PM Gati Shakti was aimed to incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.
 - It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).
- PM Gati Shakti is based on six pillars:**
- Comprehensiveness: It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal. Each and every Department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & execution of projects in a comprehensive manner.
 - Prioritization: Through this, different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross-sectoral interactions.
 - Optimization : The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after identification of critical gaps. For the transportation of the goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.
 - Synchronization : Individual Ministries and

Departments often work in silos. There is lack of coordination in planning and implementation of the project resulting in delays. PM Gati Shakti will help in synchronizing the activities of each department, as well as of different layers of governance, in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.

- Analytical : The plan will provide the entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.
- Dynamic : All Ministries and Departments will now be able to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects, through the GIS platform, as the satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and progress of the projects will be updated on a regular basis on the portal. It will help in identifying the vital interventions for enhancing and updating the master plan.
- PM GatiShakti is the result of Prime Minister’s constant endeavour to build Next Generation Infrastructure which improves Ease of Living as well as Ease of Doing Business. The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)

Why in News?

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 24th February 2024 said that the Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) payload on-board the Aditya-L1 has detected the impact of coronal mass ejections (CMEs). Its advanced sensors have successfully detected the impact of CMEs, including those that occurred during

February 10-11, 2024.

- More About the Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)
- PAPA is an energy and mass analyser designed for in-situ measurements of solar wind electrons and ions in the low energy range.
- It has two sensors: the Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe (SWEEP, measuring electrons in the energy range of 10 eV to 3keV) and the Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser (SWICAR, measuring ions in the energy range of 10 eV to 25 keV and mass range of 1-60 amu).
- The sensors are also equipped to measure the direction of arrival of solar wind particles. The payload has been operational since December 12, 2023.
- The SWEEP and SWICAR sensors on PAPA-Aditya-L1 are currently making continuous observations of solar wind electrons and ions in the default mode, demonstrating that they are performing as per the design in all modes of operations.
- The operations made by PAPA emphasize its effectiveness in monitoring space weather conditions and its capability to detect and analyze solar phenomena.

Surrogacy Rules in India

Why in News?

- The Centre amended the surrogacy rules on 21st February 2024 to allow couples to use donor eggs or donor sperm for surrogacy. This overturned a previous amendment

BILL EXCLUDES MANY

- Women must either be divorced or widow to be able to opt for surrogacy
- Women only between 23-50 years can go in for IVF or surrogacy
- Overseas Citizens of India or foreigners cannot go in for this procedure
- Only married Indian couples and NRIs can opt for surrogacy

COST DISPARITY

- Surrogacy procedure in India costs ₹15-18 lakh
- In other countries like US, South America, Russia \$50,000- \$1,50,000

It is very unfortunate that the bill is not inclusive. While we understand the need for regulation, it should have considered people from all sections of society. It is likely that many people will now travel abroad to have a child through surrogacy – **Nayana Patel** | RENOWNED IVF AND SURROGACY SPECIALIST FROM ANAND, GUJARAT

made in March 2023 that banned the use of donor gametes. As per the amended Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 the District Medical Board has to certify that either the husband or wife is suffering from a medical condition, necessitating the use of donor gamete.

Implications of this Amendment

- Prior to the March 2023 notification - which insisted on the use of both eggs and sperm from the intending couple- surrogacy rules allowed the use of donor eggs, but not sperm.
- The March 2023 notification was challenged in the Supreme Court by a woman with Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) Syndrome, a rare congenital disorder that affects the reproductive system and can cause infertility.
- The women who opt for surrogacy are likely to be older, having tried other methods of getting pregnant before considering surrogacy. This is the reason some of them would need a donor egg. This is a very positive decision.

- Surrogacy with donor egg will be required only for women who do not have a uterus - or have conditions that affect the functioning of the uterus - along with certain conditions affecting their ability to produce eggs.
- Contentions with Surrogacy for Single Women
The Act allows access to surrogacy only to two categories of single women - those who are widowed or divorced. Even in these cases, the regulations stipulate that the woman's own eggs have to be used; this was underlined by the recent notification as well.
- Surrogacy is mainly intended for women who have a missing or abnormal uterus, or have had the uterus surgically removed due to a medical condition. It can also be availed by women who have failed to conceive after multiple rounds of IVF, or women living with conditions that make it impossible for them to carry the pregnancy to term, or which make a pregnancy life-threatening.



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