



1. Indian Space Policy

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: The new Indian Space Policy has been released by ISRO.

More on the Topic

- **Key Highlights:**
- **ISRO:** Indian Space Research Organisation shall transition out from manufacturing operational space systems and focus its energies on research and development in advanced technologies.
- **NGEs:** The policy permits **non-government entities (NGEs) to offer national and international space-based communication services**, through self-owned, procured or leased geostationary orbit (GSO) and non-geostationary satellite orbit (NGSO) satellite systems.
- NGSO is a reference to low earth orbit or medium earth orbits that are home to satellites providing broadband internet services from space.
- The policy also encourages **NGEs to establish and operate ground facilities for space objects operations**, such as telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) Earth Stations and Satellite Control Centres (SCCs).
- It also allows NGEs to undertake **end-to-end activities in the space sector** through the establishment and operation of space objects, ground-based assets and related services such as communication, remote sensing and navigation.
- It encouraged NGEs **to use Indian orbital resources and/or non-Indian orbital resources** to establish space objects for communication services over India and outside.
- The policy encouraged NGEs **to manufacture and operate space transportation systems**, including launch vehicles, shuttles, as well as design and develop reusable, recoverable and reconfigurable technologies and systems for space transportation.
- It also encouraged NGEs **to engage in the commercial recovery of an asteroid resource** or a space resource.

- **IN-SPACE:** IN-SPACE Shall function as an autonomous Government organization, mandated to promote, hand-hold, guide and authorize space activities.
- Promote industry clusters / zones/ manufacturing hubs/ incubation Centres/ accelerators / technical centres etc., for the space sector.
- Ensure a level playing field for the utilization of all facilities created using public expenditure.

Source: Indian Express

2. Biomass Pellets

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) revised the financial grants for biomass pellet manufacturing units.

More on the Topic:

- It has earmarked a maximum allocation of Rs 28 lakhs per tonne per hour (TPH) of production capacity for manufacturing biomass pellets or 40 per cent of the capital cost of the plant and machinery — whichever is lower.
- These allocations, however, are grossly insufficient to meet the current requirements of the pellet manufacturing industry.
- **It is mandatory to use biomass or agricultural residue as combustion fuel along with coal** in coal-fired thermal power plants.
- The biomass used for co-combustion in the power plants is processed and refined into pellets with a calorific value comparable to coal.

About Biomass Pellets:



- These are a **type of solid fuel made from compressed organic material (biomass)** such as industrial waste and co-products, food waste, agricultural residues, energy crops, and untreated lumber.
- Biomass pellets are of two kinds; **torrefied and non-torrefied**. Biomass, if processed at 250-350°C in the absence of oxygen, leads to the formation of torrefied biomass.
- Whereas, in the case of non-torrefied pellets, biomass is shredded, grinded and sent to a pellet reactor, where it is compressed into pellet form with the help of binders such as sawdust, bagasse, molasses, starch and others.
- Pellets are **extremely dense and can be produced with a low moisture content (below 10%) which allows them to be burned with a very high combustion efficiency**.
- Emissions such as **NO_x, SO_x and volatile organic compounds from pellet burning equipment are in general very low**.
- Pelletised biomass can potentially produce 6% of India's total electricity in 2030/31, in addition to direct biomass co-firing for electricity production.

Source: PIB

3. Green Strategic Partnership.

Topic: International Relations



In News: India and Denmark has agreed to further strengthen the Green Strategic Partnership.

More on the Topic:

- The focus will be on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management.
- Main aim of of GSP is on an implementation of Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- GSP intends to advance political cooperation, expand economic relations and green growth, create jobs and strengthen cooperation on addressing global challenges and opportunities.

Source: Indian Express



4. Satkosia wildlife sanctuary

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Breeding of Indian Skimmers has been recorded for the first time in Satkosia wildlife sanctuary.

More on the Topic:

- The Indian Skimmer is native to India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam.
- Indian Skimmer's IUCN status is Endangered.
- Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Bhubaneswar comprises two adjoining sanctuaries of central Odisha named as Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Baisipalli Sanctuary.
- Lying in a transitional zone extending between the Chhota Nagpur Plateau and the Deccan Plateau, the tiger reserve exhibits endemic life forms of both biotic provinces.
- In March 1974, the Forest Department of the Government of Orissa with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) started a breeding programme of crocodiles.
- In March 1975, the Gharial Research and Conservation Unit (GRACU) was started, which has done pioneering work in crocodile conservation in India.

Source: Indian Express



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5.Abhilekh patal

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: PM praised “Abhilekh patal” a portal with over 1 Crore Pages of Historical Records of the National Archives.

More on the Topic:

- It is a full-featured web-portal to access the National Archives of India’s reference media and its digitized collections through the internet.
- The National Archives of India is the repository of the non-current records of the Government of India and is holding them in trust for the use of records creators and general users.
- It is an Attached Office of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Source: Business Standard



6. Hakki Pikkis Tribe

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: More than 181 members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community from Karnataka are stuck in violence-hit Sudan.

More on the Topic:

- The Hakki Pikkis is a tribe that lives in several states in west and south India, especially near forest areas.
- Hakki Pikkis (Hakki in Kannada means 'bird' and Pikkis means 'catchers') are a semi-nomadic tribe, traditionally of bird catchers and hunters.
- They are **well-known for their traditional medicines**. For a long time, the group lived in the deep woods and developed its plant and herb-based medicinal systems.
- Traditional medicinal knowledge of the Hakki-Pikkis is in high demand in numerous African countries. As a result, for many years, community members have travelled to the continent.

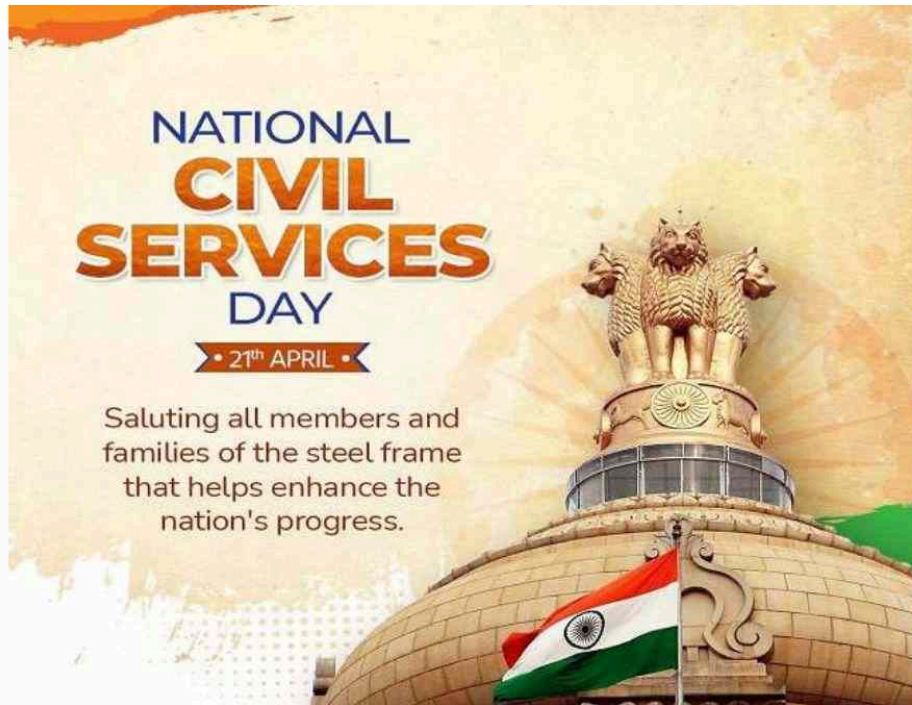
Source: Business Standard



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7. Civil Services Day

Topic: Polity and Governance



In News: The Vice President of India inaugurated the 16th Civil Services Day celebrations.

More on the Topic:

- The first National Civil Services Day was celebrated at a function held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on April 21, 2006.
- The date, April 21, chosen for the celebration of National Civil Service Day, commemorates **the day when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Independent India's first home minister, addressed the probationers of the Administrative Services Officers in 1947.**

Source: Business Standard
