

1. G20's Resource Efficiency, Circular Economy Industry Coalition

Topic: Economy



In News: The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister has launched a Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC), conceptualised under India's G20 Presidency.

More on the Topic

- This industry-driven initiative was launched at the G20 fourth Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting.
- The coalition is envisioned to be a self-sustaining entity that will continue to operate beyond India's G20 Presidency, making a lasting impact on environmental sustainability.

The mission of RECEIC:

- The mission of RECEIC is **to leverage diverse and global experiences, unlock private sector action to enhance resource efficiency, and contribute towards progress on key global goals and priorities set by the G20.**

Pillars of RECEIC:

- **Partnerships for Impact:** Fostering collaborations and alliances with various stakeholders to achieve meaningful and lasting results in enhancing resource efficiency.
- **Technology Cooperation:** Promoting the exchange and collaboration on technological innovations and solutions to address resource challenges and drive sustainable development.
- Resource efficiency and Circular Economy (RECE) are strategic approaches that play a vital role in minimizing our reliance on natural resources and ensuring sustainable development.



Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy (RECE):

- The circular economy focuses on the **"reduce-reuse-regenerate" model**, aiming to minimize waste by designing products and systems that enable multiple cycles of use and regeneration.
- On the other hand, resource efficiency concentrates on maximizing the value obtained from resources while minimizing their environmental impacts.

Both RECE strategies are crucial for achieving various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as:

- **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being):** By reducing waste and optimizing resource use, RECE contributes to a healthier environment, which, in turn, promotes better health and well-being for people.
- **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Resource efficiency and circular economy practices can help in reducing water pollution and conserving water resources, thereby supporting clean water and sanitation goals.
- **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** These strategies can create new economic opportunities and green jobs, driving sustainable economic growth and decent work conditions.
- By adopting resource efficiency and circular economy principles, **societies can move towards a more sustainable and resilient future**, aligning with various SDGs and paving the way for a more prosperous and harmonious world.

Source: The Hindu

2. Suspension of MLA from the Rajya Sabha

Topic: Polity and Governance





In News: One of the Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Rajya Sabha was suspended recently for "violating" the chair's directives.

More on the Topic:

- The general principle is that it is **the role and duty of the Presiding Officer Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha to maintain order** so that the House can function smoothly.
- In order to ensure that proceedings are conducted in the proper manner, the Speaker/Chairman is empowered to force a Member to withdraw from the House.

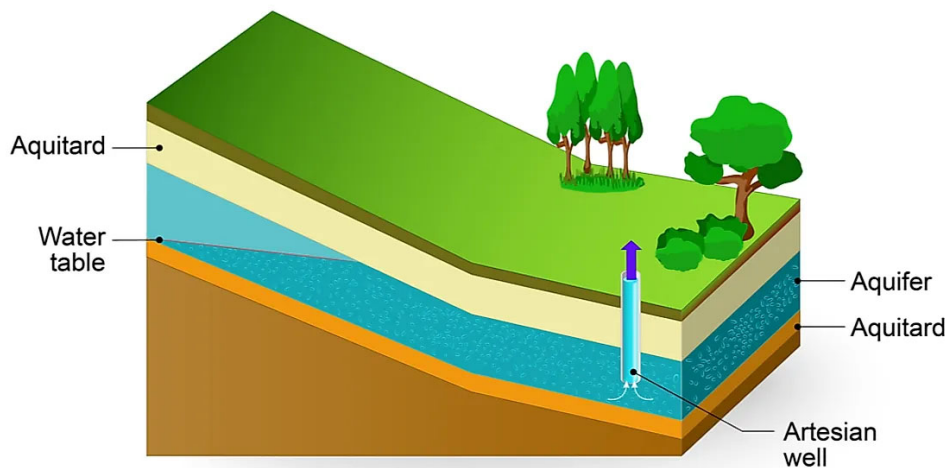
What are the Rules under which the Presiding Officer acts?

- According to **Rule Number 373** of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business "The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is **grossly disorderly**, may direct such Member to **withdraw immediately from the House**, and any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so **forthwith and shall remain absent** during the rest of the day's sitting.
- To deal with more obstinate or recalcitrant Members, the Speaker makes recourse to **Rules 374 and 374A**.
- **Rule 374A was introduced in the Rule Book in December 2001.**
- If a Member is named by the Speaker for a serious breach of conduct or severe charges, they will be automatically suspended from the House's service for five consecutive sittings or for the remaining duration of the session, whichever is less.
- **Rule 255:** Similar to the Speaker's authority in the Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha holds the power under Rule Number 255 to direct any Member whose behaviour is deemed grossly disorderly to immediately withdraw from the House.
- However, unlike the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, **the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha lacks the authority to suspend a member directly.**
- In cases where a member disregards the Chair's authority or persistently and willfully obstructs the business of the Council, **the Chairman has the right to "name" that member.**
- Subsequently, the House can adopt a motion to suspend the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.
- **Rule 256** empowers the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to suspend members from **the service of the Council** for a duration that does not exceed the remaining period of the ongoing session.

Source: The Indian Express

3. The National Aquifer Mapping and Management Program

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: The National Aquifer Mapping and Management programme, which is aimed at delineating aquifer and water availability, is set to be completed in one year.

More on the Topic:

- Since 2012, the **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** has undertaken the **National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM)** with the aim of mapping aquifers across the country.
- NAQUIM was initiated as a part of the Ground Water Management and Regulation scheme to delineate and characterize the aquifers to develop plans for groundwater management.
- The primary objective of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) is to offer **comprehensive and accurate data on the geological structure, hydrological properties, water levels, and the presence of both natural and human-induced contaminants in aquifers.**



- Aquifers are underground layers of permeable rock, sand, or gravel that contain and transmit groundwater. They are essential sources of freshwater for various human activities and ecological needs.

Source: The Hindu

4. HERVH Gene

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: A newly discovered mechanism quietly eliminates unsuitable cells that fail to express a specific gene before embryo development initiates.

More on the Topic:

- HERVH, a virus-like gene, plays a crucial role in **preserving pluripotency**.
- Human embryonic stem cells contain the HERVH gene, which functions as **a transposon but lacks the ability to transpose**, serving a protective function.
- Transposons, also known as jumping genes, **are small segments of DNA that pose a potential risk as they can insert themselves into various regions of the genome, causing damage and potentially leading to cell death**.
- Research findings indicate that the inner cell mass expresses HERVH, while the non-committed cells lack this expression, resulting in their elimination during development.
- HERVH plays **a protective role in shielding the cells within the inner cell mass from damage caused by transposons**.
- On the other hand, the non-committed cells, which do not express HERVH, are susceptible to uncontrolled transposon activity, leading to their death and elimination during the developmental process.

Pluripotency:

- Pluripotency refers to **the ability of a cell to differentiate into various cell types of the body**.
- Pluripotent cells have the potential to give rise to all three germ layers: ectoderm, mesoderm, and endoderm, which subsequently give rise to different tissues and organs in the developing embryo.
- Embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells are examples of pluripotent cells.
- These cells are **essential in early development and hold great promise in regenerative medicine and tissue engineering** due to their ability to differentiate into a wide range of specialized cell types.

Source: Indian Express



5. Global Education Monitoring Report 2023

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: The U.N. body's Global Education Monitoring Report 2023, titled 'Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms' has endorsed banning smartphones in schools.

More on the Topic:

- The report highlighted that **mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students** and to have a negative impact on learning in 14 countries, yet less than one in four have banned smartphone use in schools.
- It also cited research studies to point out that “banning mobile phones from schools improves academic performance, especially for low-performing students”.
- The report highlighted that in regions relying on the establishment of digital infrastructure, the expenses associated with providing fundamental education are elevated.
- **This could exacerbate the issue of unequal accessibility in economically disadvantaged nations.**
- Additionally, a significant concern surrounding the widespread adoption of digital technology in education is the lack of **children's privacy protection.**



- Alarmingly, only 16% of countries have **explicit legal provisions to safeguard children's data privacy** in the educational context.

Source: The Indian Express

6. Markarian 421

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: NASA's IXPE mission has observed the supermassive black hole Markarian 421 emitting a high-energy jet directed toward Earth.

More on the Topic:

- The helical magnetic field structure of Markarian 421's jet suggests an environment where particles are being accelerated.
- Markarian 421 is a **supermassive black hole in the constellation Ursa Major**, situated approximately 400 million light-years away from Earth.
- Supermassive black holes possess a **mass exceeding approximately 50,000 times that of our sun.**
- Their immense size makes them unfeasible to have originated solely from the gravitational collapse of a single star.

- Remarkably, these cosmic entities are consistently located at the heart of galaxies, and nearly all galaxies are known to harbour a supermassive black hole at their centre.

The Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE):

- The Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) represents a joint effort between **NASA and the Italian Space Agency**, aiming to investigate the universe's most enigmatic and extreme entities, including supernova remnants, supermassive black holes, and numerous other high-energy phenomena.
- This pioneering satellite holds the distinction of being the **first dedicated mission designed explicitly for measuring polarized X-rays emitted by objects like neutron stars and supermassive black holes**, unveiling previously concealed aspects of the cosmos.

Source: Hindustan Times

7. Janjatiya Darpan

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: The President has inaugurated a gallery titled 'Janjatiya Darpan' in the Marble Hall Museum of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

More on the Topic:

- It is a gallery to showcase the common and connecting cultural traits of various tribal communities.
- **The aim of this gallery is to provide a glimpse of rich art, culture and the contributions of tribal communities in building this nation.**
- The gallery consists of different themes such as unsung Tribal Freedom Fighters, **Traditional Natural Resource management practices like Halma**, Dokra Art, Musical Instruments, Gunjala Gondi Script, Agricultural and Household implements, Bamboo Baskets, Textiles, **Paintings such as Warli, Gondi and Mud Art**, Scroll, Masks and



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Jewellery, Metalwork, Weapons, Contemporary Photographs depicting the Tattoos, Diorama depicting an ecological setting and sceptres.

- This gallery is established by Rashtrapati Bhavan in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA).

Source: PIB

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