

1. See Weed Park

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: In conjunction with the Central government, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to establish a seaweed park.

More on the Topic:

- The Fisheries Department is taking steps to encourage seaweed farming as an alternative source of income for fishermen in Tamil Nadu.
- The demand for seaweed is increasing as it is used in production of fertilizers and medicines.
- Many seaweeds contain **anti-inflammatory & anti-microbial agents**.
- Certain seaweeds possess **powerful cancer-fighting agents**.
- They are effective **binding agents (emulsifiers)** & are used commercial goods as toothpaste & fruit jelly, & popular **softeners (emollients)** in organic cosmetics & skin-care products.



What is Seaweed?

- It is the name given to the many species of marine algae and plants. These species grow in water bodies such as rivers, seas and oceans.
- The practice of cultivating and harvesting seaweed is known as Seaweed Farming. They are **macrophytic** which mean they live in water or moist land surfaces.
- They generally grow in the shallow waters in the tidal zone.
- Some seaweeds are microscopic, such as the phytoplankton that live suspended in the water column.
- The commercially exploited seaweed species in India mainly include Kappaphycus alvarezii, Gracilaria edulis, Gelidiella acerosa, Sargassum spp. and Turbinaria spp.

Importance of Sea Weed Farming:

- The Indian coastline, with its different coastal ecosystems, supports luxuriant growth of diverse seaweed populations, having considerable economic importance.
- Sea weed farming would provide occupation for the coastal people.
- Seaweed farming is eco-friendly.
- It has the potential to reduce coastal pollution in the sea & reduce CO2 in global warming.

Source: Indian Express

2. Al-Aqsa Mosque-Israel

Topic: International Affairs

In News: Tensions flared at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque compound leading to clashes.

More on the Topic:

- The al-Aqsa Mosque is **one of Jerusalem's most recognised monuments**. The mosque's complex is one of Islam's most revered locations, and the Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism.
- The Temple Mount is a walled compound inside the Old City in Jerusalem, and is the site of two structures: the Dome of the Rock to the north and the Al-Aqsa Mosque to the south.



Source: Indian Express

3. Skill India

Topic: Government Programs

In News: Skill India, in association with the Directorate General of Training (DGT), is organising a day-long 'Apprenticeship Mela' across the country in more than over 700 locations.

More on the Topic:

- Under the initiative, the aim is to support the hiring of nearly one lakh apprentices and assist employers in tapping the right talent and develop it further with training and providing practical skillsets.
- The event is expected to witness participation from more than 4000 organisations operating in more than 30 sectors such as Power, Retail, Telecom, IT/ITeS, Electronics, Automotive and more.
- The aspiring youth will have the opportunity to engage and select from more than 500+trades including Welder, Electrician, Housekeeper, Beautician, Mechanic etc.

Significance of Apprenticeship:

- The National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015 launched by the 15, in 2015, **recognises apprenticeship as a means to provide gainful employment to skilled workforce with adequate compensation**.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has also taken several efforts to increase the number of apprentices hired by enterprises in the country.



- The aim is to **fill the gap in supply and demand for skilled workforce** and meet the aspirations of the Indian youth through gaining on-the-job training and securing better opportunities for employment.
- Establishments participating in the Apprenticeship Melas get an opportunity to meet the potential apprentices at a common platform and select the candidates on-the-spot.

Qualification:

- Students who have cleared at least Class 5 to those who graduated Class 12, skill training certificate holders, ITI students, diploma holders and graduates are eligible to apply at the Apprenticeship Mela.
- The candidates will get certificates, recognized by **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)**, increasing the chances of their employability after the training.
- In addition, even small-scale industries with minimum four working members can also hire apprentices at the event.

Skill India Mission:

- It is an umbrella scheme that has many skilling schemes and programmes under it. The chief objective is to empower the youth of the country with adequate skill sets that will enable their employment in relevant sectors and also improve productivity.

Source: PIB

3. WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Prime Minister along with World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the first-of-its-kind WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

More on the Topic:

- The Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) has been set up by Ministry of Ayush and the WHO.
- The New Centre will focus on data, innovation and sustainability and will optimize the use of traditional medicine.
- Through this center India will be able to take its knowledge of traditional medicine to the world and similarly world will come to India.
- It will promote **education and research in Ayurveda, yoga, Unani, Siddha, and homoeopathy** and spread these medical systems to the public.



About Traditional Medicine:

- Traditional medicine refers to the knowledge, skills and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures, used in the maintenance of health and in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.

Government initiatives to promote Traditional Medicine:

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and IIT (Indian Institute of Technology)-Delhi have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance research in the field of Ayurveda.
- Government of India is implementing **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM)** in the country through State and UT governments for promotion and development of AYUSH systems.
- Under **Central Sector Scheme for promotion of International Cooperation, (IC Scheme)**, the Ministry of AYUSH undertakes various steps to promote and publicize AYUSH systems of medicine including Ayurveda across the globe.
- 33 AYUSH Information Cell have been set up in 31 countries to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH systems.

Source: Indian Express

4. National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India)

Topic: Internal Security

In News: The National Security Council Secretariat is organising National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India) for government officials and critical sector organisations to strengthen India’s cyber posture.

More on the Topic:

- More than 140 officials will be trained through training sessions, Live Fire and Strategic exercises.
- The participants will be trained on various key cyber security areas such as Intrusion Detection Techniques, Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), Vulnerability Handling & Penetration Testing, Network Protocols & Data Flows, Digital Forensics, among others.
- It is being conducted by **National Security Council Secretariat.**



Background:

- In recent months, a couple of failed attempts were made to hack networks of despatch centres responsible for carrying out real-time operations for grid control and electricity despatch.

- The Twitter handle of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) was hacked briefly.

Source: Business Standard

5. Hero Stones of Tamil Nadu

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: Archaeologists have recently discovered three hero stones from the 11th or 12th Century CE, during the rule of Kongu Cholas, in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu.



More on the Topic:

- Historically, in Tamil society, there was a tradition to worship heroes who died for the welfare of others.
- People erected stones depicting these heroes and worshipped the stones as a mark of respect.
- Sangam literature describes such hero stones as objects of worship. **Tholkappiyam** describes the procedures for erecting hero stones.
- **Kongu Cholas:** The Kongu Cholas were believed to be the descendants of Kandaraditya (950-947 A.D.) the son of Parintaka Chola I of the Imperial Chola line.
- The first Kongu Chola ruler was Vira Chola 1 (942-980 A.D.).

Source: Hindu

6. Guru Tegh Bahadur

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: Prime Minister will participate in the celebrations of the 400th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at Red Fort.



More on the Topic:

- The programme is focussed on highlighting the teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Sikh Guru, who sacrificed his life to protect religion and human values, ideals and principles in world history.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru, often venerated as the 'Protector of Humanity' (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.

- His writings are housed in the sacred text, '**Guru Granth Sahib,**' in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
- He founded the town of **Chak-Nanki in Punjab,** which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib.
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

Source: PIB

7. Poison Pill Strategy

Topic: Economy

In News: Twitter is trying to fend off a hostile takeover bid by one of its shareholders and world's richest man, Elon Musk through poison pill strategy.



More on the Topic:

- A poison pill strategy gives existing shareholders the right to purchase additional stock at a significant discount, thus diluting the holdings of a new, hostile investor.
- It is officially known as a shareholder rights plan. Twitter's poison will stay in place for a limited duration of one year.
- The shareholder who triggers the poison pill will be blocked from making these discounted stock purchases.
- Poison pill strategy has been quite effective in checking hostile takeover attempts which have reduced considerably since the 1980s when most companies didn't have the provision in place.

Source: PIB
