

1. 'Mother Nature' as a 'living being' having the status of a legal entity

Topic: Governance

In News: Madras High Court has invoked the 'parens patriae jurisdiction', and declared 'Mother Nature' as a 'living being' having the status of a legal entity.

More on the Topic:

- 'Mother Nature' was accorded **the rights akin to fundamental rights, legal rights, constitutional rights for its survival, safety, sustenance and resurgence** in order to maintain its status and also to promote its health and well-being.
- The State and Central governments are directed to protect 'Mother Nature' and take appropriate steps in this regard in all possible ways.
- The natural environment is part of basic human rights, of 'right to life'.



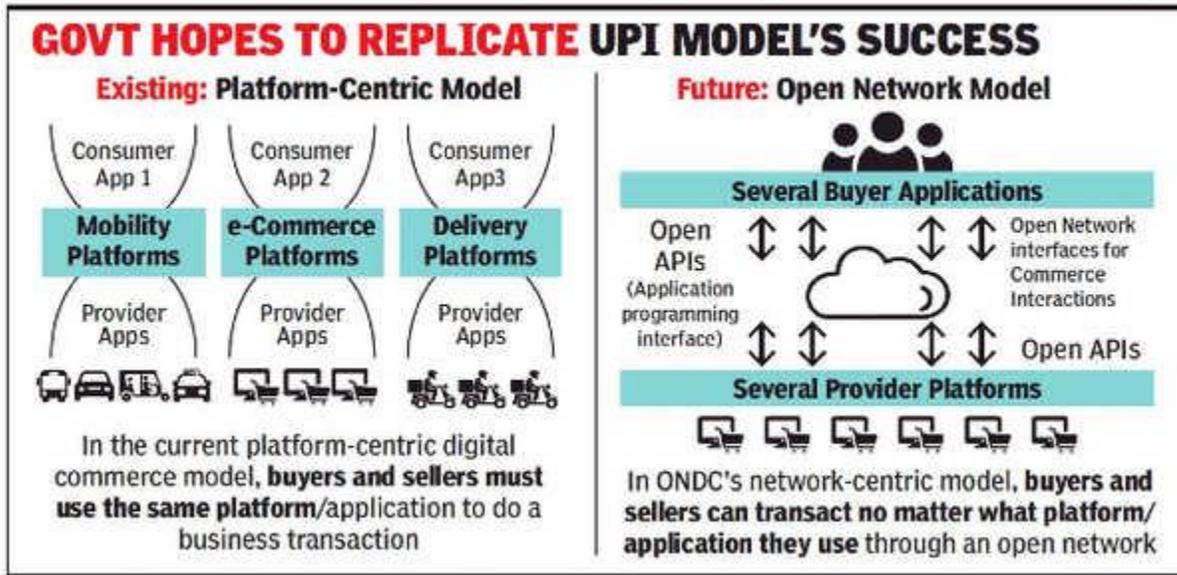
The Parent Patriae Jurisdiction:

- 'Parens patriae' is a Latin term meaning '**parent of his or her country**'.
- It describes the power of the state to act as a guardian for those who are can't care for themselves — such as animals, children or the disabled.
- Examples: Supreme Court in '**Animal Welfare Board of India vs A Nagaraja & Ors**', held that the Court has a duty under the doctrine of parens patriae to take care of animal's rights.
- In '**Bhopal gas leak disaster case**', the SC stated that the parens patriae theory makes it imperative for the State to protect rights of the citizens when they are not in a position to do so.

Source: Indian Express

2. Open Network For Digital Commerce

Topic: Economy



In News: The Indian government would launch an Open Network for Digital Commerce to end the dominance of the US-based e-commerce companies like Amazon and Walmart in India.

More on the Topic:

- The ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open-sourced methodology.
- The project to integrate e-commerce platforms through a network based on open-source technology has been tasked to the **Quality Council of India**.
- Implementation of ONDC, which is **expected to be on the lines of Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** could bring various operational aspects put in place by e-commerce platforms to the same level.
- Various operational aspects include on boarding of sellers, vendor discovery, price discovery and product cataloguing etc.
- On ONDC, buyers and sellers may transact irrespective of the fact that they are attached to one specific e-commerce portal.

Significance:

- ONDC is **expected to make e-Commerce more inclusive and accessible for consumers**.
- Consumers can **potentially discover any seller, product or service** by using any compatible application or platform, thus increasing freedom of choice for consumers.
- It will **enable the consumers to match demand with the nearest available supply**.
- This would also give consumers the liberty to choose their **preferred local businesses**.

- Thus, ONDC would **standardize operations, promote inclusion of local suppliers, drive efficiencies in logistics and lead to enhancement of value for consumers.**

About Open Source Methodology:

- A software for which the original source code is made freely available and may be redistributed and modified according to the requirement of the user.

Source: Indian Express

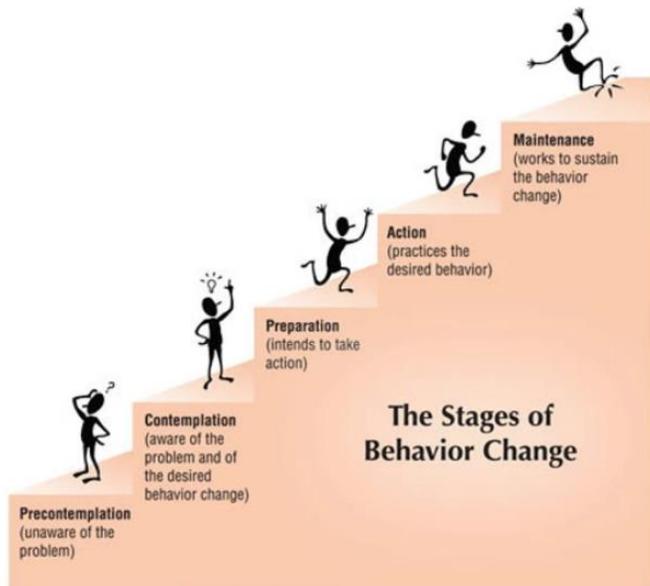
3. National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the ‘National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities’.

More on the Topic:

- It will help to **strengthen the ongoing jan andolan for ‘Garbage Free Cities’.**
- It shall serve as a **guiding document and blueprint for States and Cities** to undertake large scale **multimedia campaigns** along with intensive and focused inter-personal communication campaigns.
- The framework focuses on intensifying messaging around the key focus areas of source segregation, collection, transportation, and processing of waste, plastic waste management, and remediation of legacy dumpsites to truly transform the urban landscape of India.



About Swachh Bharat Mission -Urban:

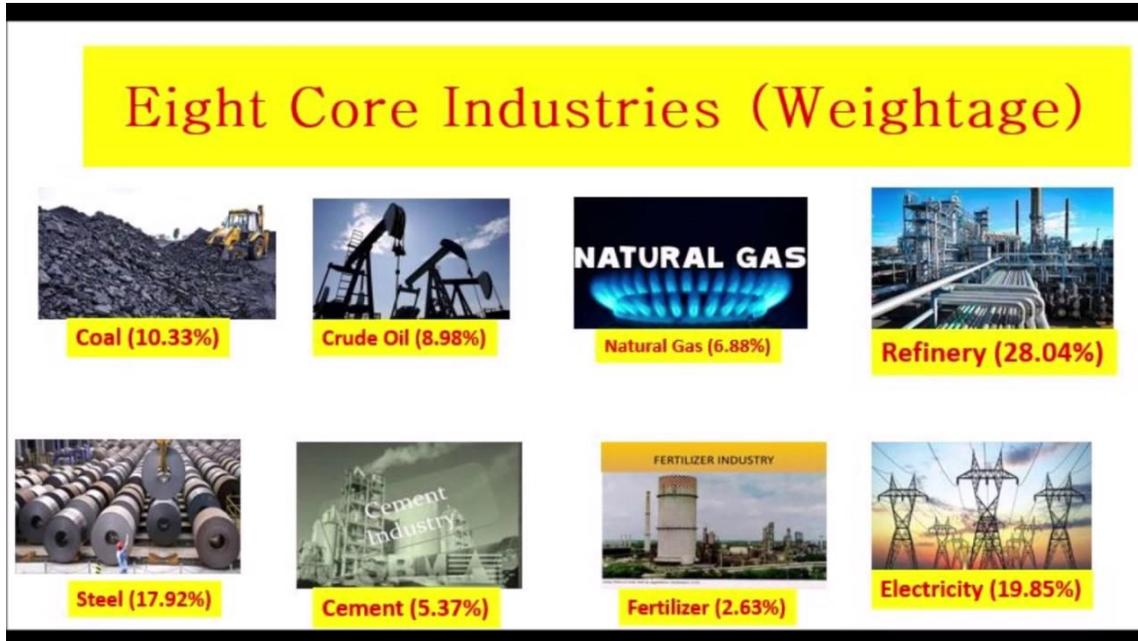
- SBM-U has set an objective to achieve Clean India by October 2, 2019.
- In the first two years of the SBM-U was focused on bringing about necessary regulatory and policy changes to facilitate the scientific processing of waste
- In the third year, the mission shifted its focus on bringing about behaviour change among citizens and encouraging them to segregate waste at source.
- **SBM-U 2.0, announced in Budget 2021-22**, is the continuation of SBM-U first phase. The government is trying to tap safe containment, transportation, disposal of faecal sludge, and septage from toilets.

- SBM-U first phase was launched on 2nd October 2014 aiming at making urban India Open Defecation Free (ODF) and achieving 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste. It lasted till October 2019.

Source: Indian Express

4. Core Industries

Topic: Economy



In News: India's combined Index of Eight Core Industries grew by 4.3 per cent In March 2022 compared to the Index of March 2021.

More on the Topic:

- From April 2021 to March 2022, the cumulative growth of the index was 10.4 per cent compared to the previous fiscal.
- The eight core sectors measured as part of the index are - Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
- The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

- The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: **Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.**

Source: Indian Express

5. Blue Blob

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: 'Blue Blob' near Iceland could slow glacial melting.

More on the Topic:

- A region of cooling water in the North Atlantic Ocean near Iceland is nick named as the "Blue Blob."
- It has likely slowed the melting of the island's glaciers since 2011 and may continue to stymie ice loss until about 2050.
- However, the study has also stated that the effects of climate change will catch up to the massive ice chunks if temperatures are not kept in check.



Source: Business Standard

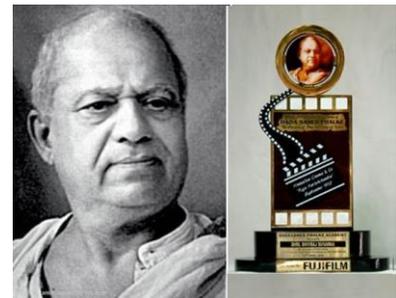
6. Dada Saheb Phalke

Topic: Personalities in News

In News: Birth anniversary of Dada Saheb Phalke was celebrated recently.

More on the Topic:

- He is known as "Father of Indian Cinema".
- Dadasaheb Phalke directed India's first feature film Raja Harishchandra (1913).
- He was an Indian producer, director, and screenwriter.
- Dada Saheb Phalke Award was instituted by the Government of India in 1969 in his honour for a lifetime contribution to Indian cinema.



Source: PIB

7. State of (un)employment in India

Topic: Reports and Indices

In News: The Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that India's labour force participation rate (LFPR) has fallen to just 40% from an already low 47% in 2016.

More on the Topic:

- An LPR of 40 per cent means that over 60 per cent of the employable workforce are not even looking for work.
- Labour participation rate is a measure of the country's working-age population, which is either working or actively seeking work.
- **What are the reasons Sighted?**
- Closure of micro and small enterprises like tailoring, beauty parlours, stationary shops, among others during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in people quitting the labour force.
- Millions of Indians, especially women, are dropping out of the labour force, tired and disappointed with their failure to find jobs because there are no jobs available.

What the Government Data Says?

- The authentic data source of employment / unemployment indicators in India are released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), according to which LPR has increased steadily from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 53.5 per cent in 2019-20.
- The data is, however, from the most recent PLFS which was done in the period of July 2019 to June 2020. It does not capture the increase in unemployment in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Source: Hindu



8. World Coal Association

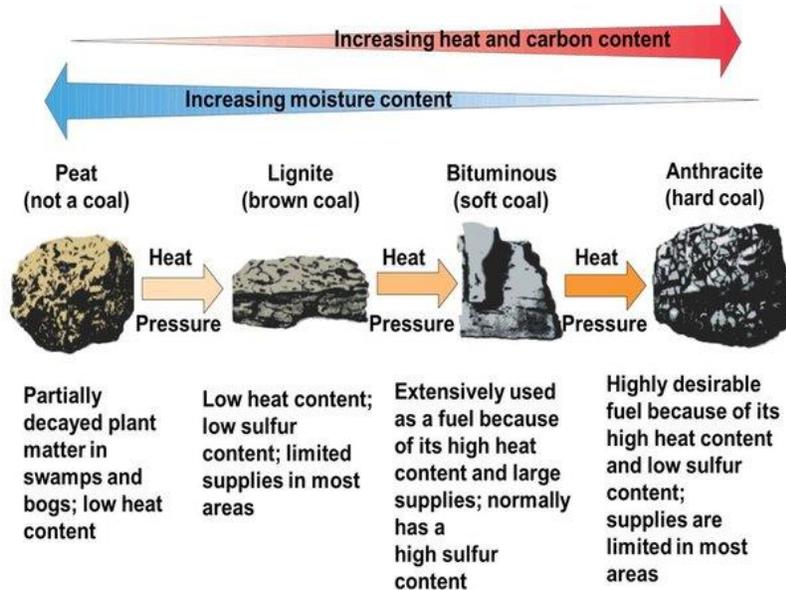
Topic: Organisations in News

In News: World Coal Association will promote sustainable coal mining in India

More on the Topic:

- The World Coal Association (WCA) is an international non-profit, non-governmental association based in London, United Kingdom.
- The association represents Global Coal Industry.
- Coal is a combustible black sedimentary rock, formed as rock strata called coal seams.
- Coal is mostly carbon with variable amounts of other elements; chiefly hydrogen, sulfur, oxygen, and nitrogen.
- Coal supplies about a quarter of the world's primary energy and two-fifths of its electricity.
- India has the fifth largest coal reserves in the world. It is the second largest producer of coal in the world, after China.

Source: Hindu





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