

1. UN-Energy Plan of Action 2025

Topic: Economy

In News: The UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025 was launched recently.

More on the Topic:

- The UN-Energy Plan of Action **sets out a framework for collective action** that includes **doubling annual clean energy investment globally, and facilitating electricity access** for 500 million people, as well as clean cooking solutions for one billion.
- It **identifies seven areas for work**, ranging from scaling up efforts to close the energy access gap, to leveraging the power of data, digitalisation and visualisation for strengthening monitoring, tracking, accountability and communication of results.
- The plan of action will contribute to **global roadmap for energy access and transition by the end of the decade**, while also contributing to **net zero emissions by 2050**.
- The UN-Energy partnership brings together some **30 organizations working on all aspects of energy and sustainable development**.
- With the launch of a UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025, the UN took a major step towards catalyzing the large-scale action and support needed for **the transition to clean, affordable energy**.



Energy Compact Action Network:

- **An Energy Compact Action Network** was also launched **to match governments seeking support for their clean energy goals** with governments and businesses that have already pledged over \$600 billion in assistance.
- The Network will also **advance or expand coalitions supporting green hydrogen and a stronger role for women** in leading and benefiting from the energy transition.

About UN Energy:

- UN-Energy is an **interagency mechanism within the system of the United Nations** related to energy.
- It was **created after the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development** in Johannesburg, and its purpose is to create a coherent approach towards a sustainable energy system especially in developing countries to meet Sustainable Development Goals.

Source: Indian Express

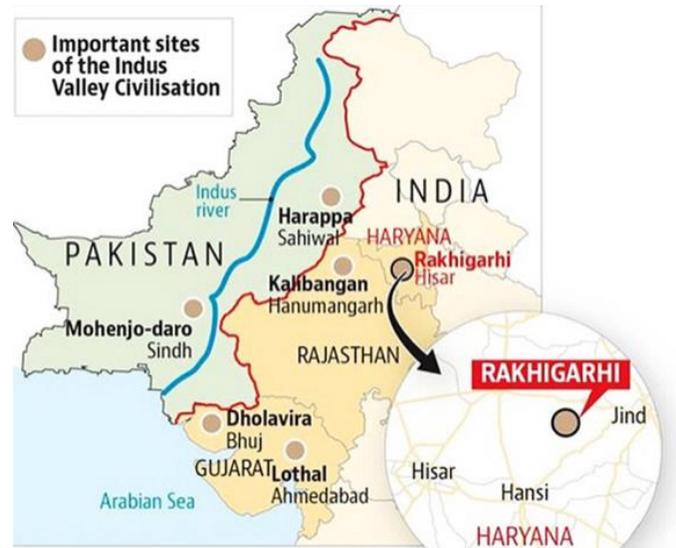
2. Rakhigarhi Excavation

Topic: Culture

In News: ASI's excavation at Harappan site of Rakhigarhi has revealed drainage system, copper and gold jewellery.

More on the Topic:

- Rakhigarhi is a 5,000-years-old Harappan site in Haryana's Hisar district.
- New excavations have revealed the structure of some houses, lanes and drainage system, and what could possibly be a jewellery-making unit.
- The excavation has also revealed pieces of copper and gold jewellery, terracotta toys, besides thousands of earthen pots and seals.
- These evidences suggest suggest that a meticulously planned Harappan city thrived here.
- DNA samples also collected from two human skeletons unearthed at the site and have been sent for scientific examination.
- The outcome of which might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.



About Harappan Civilisation:

- The Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC), also known as the Indus Civilisation, was a Bronze Age civilisation in the northwestern regions of South Asia, lasting from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE, and in its mature form from 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE.
- Together with ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, **it was one of three early civilisations of the Near East and South Asia**, and of the three, the most widespread.
- Its sites spanning an area stretching from today's northeast Afghanistan, through much of Pakistan, and into western and northwestern India.
- **It flourished in the basins of the Indus River.**

Source: Indian Express

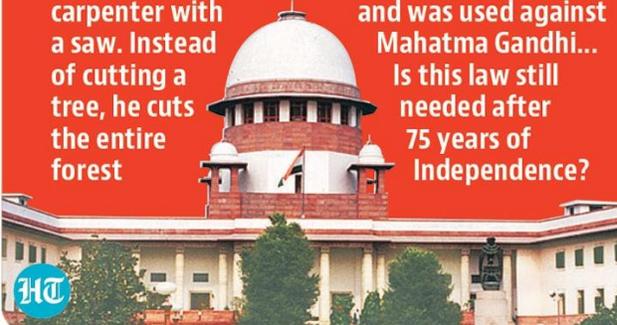
3.Sedition Law

Topic: Polity and Governance

WHAT THE APEX COURT SAID

This government has been scrapping many obsolete laws. We don't know why they are not looking into this law? Continuance of this law is a serious threat to liberty

- The enormous power of misuse of this section can be compared with a carpenter with a saw. Instead of cutting a tree, he cuts the entire forest
- There is no dispute that it is a colonial law and was used by the British to suppress freedom and was used against Mahatma Gandhi... Is this law still needed after 75 years of Independence?



WHAT IS SECTION 124(A)?

Under Section 124A of IPC, the offence of sedition is committed when any person by words or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the govt established by law

- The penal provision is punishable with a jail term ranging between three years to life term

LOW CONVICTION RATE

- Between 2016 and 2019, the number of sedition cases rose by 160% to 93
- But in 2019, the conviction rate was 3.3%
- This means just 2 of the 93 accused were convicted

In News: The Central government has informed Supreme court that it will reexamine the sedition law.

More on the Topic:

- **What is sedition law?**
- The penal law on sedition was drafted by **British historian-politician Thomas Babington Macaulay in 1837.**
- In the provisions of the law, sedition was defined as an act by “whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which a fine may be added; or, with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which a fine may be added; or, with fine.”
- In the 19th and 20th centuries, the colonial British government primarily used the sedition charge, which was included in **Section 124 A of the Indian penal code in 1870,** to suppress the writings and speeches of Indian nationalists and freedom fighters to **crush dissent.**

What Does Section 124 A of IPC say?

- Under section 124A of IPC, **sedition is a non-bailable offence,** punishable with imprisonment from three years up to life, along with a fine.



- If a person is charged under section 124A of IPC, they are barred from all kinds of government jobs and their passport is seized by the government.
- Ironically, the British government abolished the controversial law in United Kingdom in 2010.

Concerns:

- The 2020 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report states that in 2018, 70 seditious cases of sedition were filed, however, not a single person was convicted.
- Similarly, 93 cases were filed in 2019, of them, only two were convicted. In 2020, 73 cases were filed and no one was convicted of sedition.
- This is an indication of inappropriate use of sedition law to crush dissent.
- Justice U.U. Lalit, in his recent judgment, quashed a sedition case against a person for his alleged remarks about the PM and the Union Government.
- Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had flagged the indiscriminate use of the sedition law against people who aired their grievances about the government's COVID management.

What is Law Commission's stance on sedition law?

- The Law Commission has also called for **a reconsideration of the section.**
- **The commission asked for inclusion of safe guards to prevent misuse of the law.**
- It has pointed that Britain abolished it more than a decade ago and raised the question of whether a provision introduced by the British to put down the freedom struggle should continue to be law in India.
- The commission also urged for striking a balance between sedition and the right to freedom of speech.

Source: Indian Express

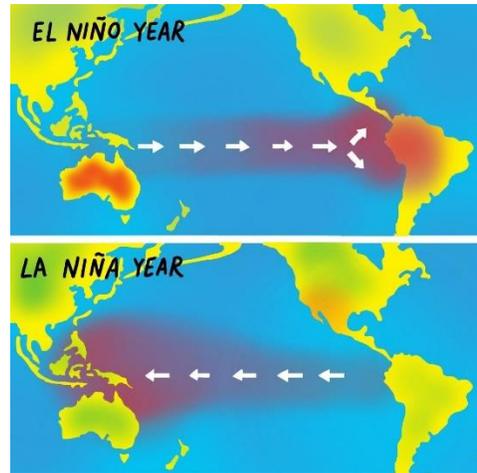
4. La-Nina

Topic: Geography

In News: A new study associated increased events of heat waves in India to LaNina.

More on the Topic:

- The persistence of the heat wave is linked to pressure conditions created by the ongoing La Niña phenomenon, which formed for a second consecutive year in the winter of 2021.
- La Niña is an oceanic phenomenon that moves warm waters from the western Americas towards eastern Asia in the Pacific, and in turn also affects the jet stream.
- Jet streams are bands of powerful winds that circle the globe at different latitudes, affecting the global weather.
- The hot air over land was boxed in from all sides by the jet stream's high pressure, **resulting in the formation of a 'heat dome'.**
- **The resultant overall high-pressure region prevents other winds from being pulled into the subcontinent.**
- Within the heat dome, the jet stream moves air from west to east, but this air sinks back hot, leading to a heat wave.
- Experts believe the anomaly itself was likely triggered by persistent La Niña conditions, which continue to affect weather in parts of the globe.
- All these conditions, combined with the warming Arctic's currents being pulled down, caused heat-wave conditions to persist for nearly two months.



Heat Waves:

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) defines a heat wave as a condition when the average maximum temperature exceeds 45°C, or if the temperature is higher than normal by 4.5°-6.4°C on at least two consecutive days.
- A severe heat wave, meanwhile, is a condition when average temperatures rise to over 47°C, or an increase of more than 6.4°C above the normal is recorded two days in a row.
- Many parts of the country experienced a severe heat wave this season.

El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle:

- El Nino and La Nina are complex weather patterns resulting from variations in ocean temperatures in **the Equatorial Pacific Region**. They are opposite phases of what is known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.
- **The ENSO cycle describes the fluctuations in temperature between the ocean and atmosphere in the east-central Equatorial Pacific.**

- El Nino and La Nina episodes typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for years.
- La Nina, the “cool phase” of ENSO, is a pattern that describes the unusual cooling of the tropical eastern Pacific.
- El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

Source: Indian Express

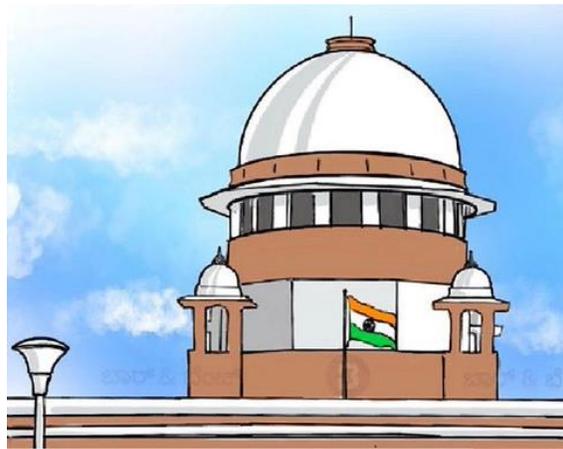
5. Appointment of Supreme Court Judges

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: Union With the new appointments, the Supreme Court will regain its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

More on the Topic:

- The judges of the supreme court are appointed by the president .
- The chief justice is appointed by the president after consultation with such judges of supreme court and the other judges are appointed by president after the consultation with the chief justice and such other judges of the supreme court.
- The consultation with the chief justice is obligatory in case of appointment of a judge other than chief.
- **First judges case:** The court held that consultation does not mean concurrence and it only implies exchange of view.
- **Second judges case:** The court reversed its earlier ruling and changed the meaning of the word consultation .
- Hence ,it ruled that **the advice tendered by the chief justice of India is binding on the president** in matters of appointment of the judges of the supreme court .but , the chief justice would tender his advice on the matter **after consulting two of his senior most colleagues.**
- **Third judges case:** The court held that the consultation process to be adopted by the chief justice of India requires **consultation of plurality judges.**
- Sole opinion of chief justice of India does not constitute the consultation process.
- **He should consult a collegium of four senior most judges of supreme court** and even if two judges give an adverse opinion ,he should not send the recommendation to the government the court held that the recommendation made by the chief justice of India



without complying with the norms and requirements of the consultation process are not binding on the government.

- The constitution has not prescribed a minimum age of appointment as a judge of the Supreme court.

About Supreme Court:

- The Indian constitution has established **an integrated judicial system with the supreme court at top and the high court below it.**
- The supreme court of India was **inaugurated on 28 January 1950.**
- **Article 124 to 147 in part v of the Indian constitution** deal with the organization ,independence ,jurisdiction power ,procedure of supreme court . The parliament also authorized to regulate them.

Source: Business Standard

6. PRAAPTI Portal

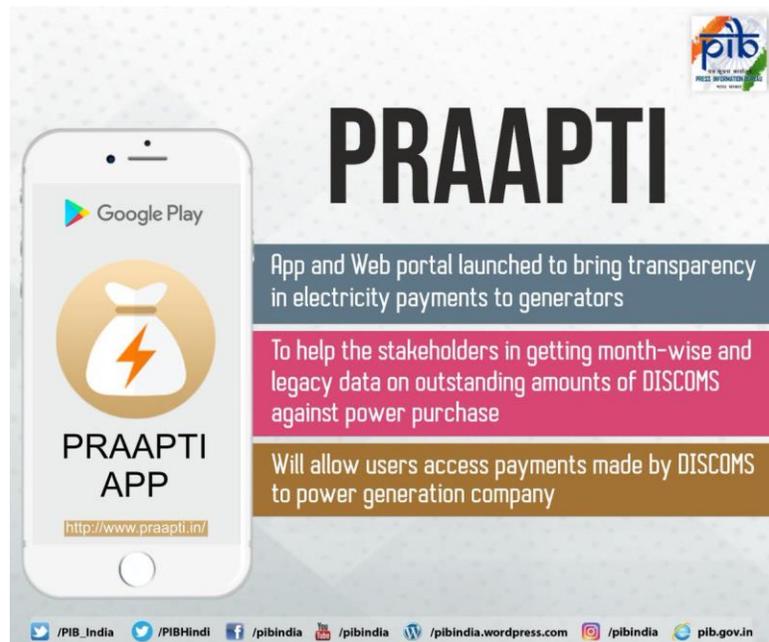
Topic: e Governance

In News: According to PRAAPTI portal Total outstanding dues of electricity distribution companies to power producers rose by 4.04 per cent.

More on the Topic:

- The PRAAPTI portal was launched in May 2018 to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between generators and discoms.
- Its full form is Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators.
- The PRAAPTI app and web Portal will capture invoicing and payment data for various long term Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) from power generation companies (generators).
- This will help stakeholders in getting month-wise and legacy data on outstanding amounts of Discoms against power purchase.

Source: Hindu





RV Educational Institutions®
RV Training Academy
(Sardar Vallabh Bhai Academy)

No 18, B.B.M.P Building
Kanakapura road,
Tata Silk Farm, Jayanagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560028

+91 89710 43904

rvta@rvei.edu.in

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