

1. Registered Political Parties

Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: The Election Commission has ordered the deletion of 111 registered unrecognized political parties that it found to be “non-existent”.

More on the Topic:

- The parties in question had violated sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 that required them to submit their address of communication and any change in address to the EC.
- Unrecognised Political Parties are **those newly registered parties which have not secured enough percentage of votes in the assembly or general elections to become a state party, or which have never contested elections since registered.**
- They don't enjoy the benefits extended to the recognised parties.
- A recognised political party shall either be a National party or a State party if it meets certain laid down conditions.
- **To become a recognised political party either at the state or national level, a party has to secure a certain minimum percentage of polled valid votes or certain number of seats in the state legislative assembly or the Lok Sabha during the last election.**
- The recognition granted by the Commission to the parties determines **their right to certain privileges like allocation of the party symbols, provision of time for political broadcasts on the state-owned television and radio stations and access to electoral rolls.**



Why Regulation of Registered Political Parties Are Important?

- Misuse of Income Tax exemption on donations given to registered parties was misused by RUPPS.
- Few RUPPs involved in “**serious financial impropriety**”.
- Regulation of registration of political parties is crucial **to avoid money laundering, corrupt electoral practices and abuse of money power.**
- Thus, the ECI should impose strict norms for the registration of an association of persons as a political party apart from taking the stringent step of de-listing those parties which fail to adhere to the rules.
- IT scrutiny of unrecognized parties should be taken up, especially of those which do not contest in elections but declare receipt of voluntary contributions.

Source: Indian Express

2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: The Ministry Of Food Processing Industries has Invited applications Under Sub-Schemes Of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).

More on the Topic:

- It is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc. and also new schemes like Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.
- The objective of PMKSY is to **supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.**
- MoFPI provides **mostly credit-linked financial assistance (capital subsidy)** in form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing/preservation industries.



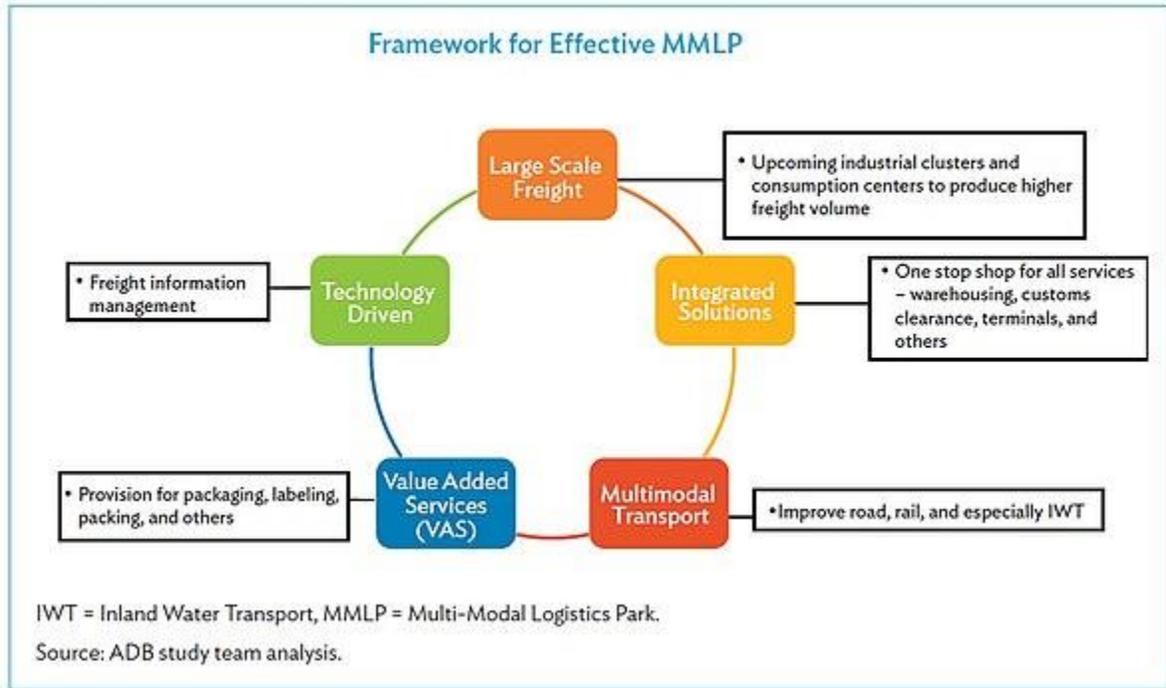
Significance of the Scheme:

- The agriculture sector in India has long been dominated by middlemen who reap profits at the expense of farmers and end consumers.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana can save India from this trend by **creating integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities, without any break, from the farm gate to the consumer.**
- Further PMKSY can play a huge role in ensuring the quality of food products manufactured and sold in the market by supporting **the creation of Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure.**
- Under the scheme the Government also provides **credit linked financial assistance (capital subsidy)** in the form of grants-in-aid to stakeholders for setting up of food processing industries/ units/ projects.
- Besides giving a boost to the food processing industry in India, the PMKSY will also ensure **a better return for farmers and help in doubling their income, creating vast employment opportunities, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, and enhancing exports** of processed foods.

Source: Indian Express

3. Multi-modal logistics parks

Topic: Infra Structure Development



In News: Under the second phase of central scheme Bharatmala Pariyojana, the government has identified 11 locations across the country to set up multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs), taking the total number of such facilities in the country to 53.

More on the Topic:

- The programme focuses on **optimising efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country** by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions such as economic corridors and multi-modal integration through roadways, logistic parks, ports, and ropeways among others.
- Since logistic parks in every state will involve multiple stakeholders, for every MMLP there will be a **special purpose vehicle (SPV) having members from the private operators, the concerned state port authority, roadways, railways, electricity, power utilities and so on.** If a state has more than one MMLP, then the SPV can be the same.
- The MMLPs **will be built under public-private partnership (PPP model).** The government will provide the land and water, electricity, road and railways connectivity to each such park.
- One MMLP will be run by one private operator, who will be concessioned for 45 years during which the entire park will have to be operated and maintained.

Significance of MMLP:

- Through the 35 MMLPs planned in the first phase, **the government aims to reduce logistic costs from the current 14-16% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to about 9%.**
- It also hopes **to create two lakh jobs** with this as mega logistic parks are likely to trigger creation of manufacturing or assembling clusters around these facilities, while massively cutting freight transportation costs and time.

Source: Hindu

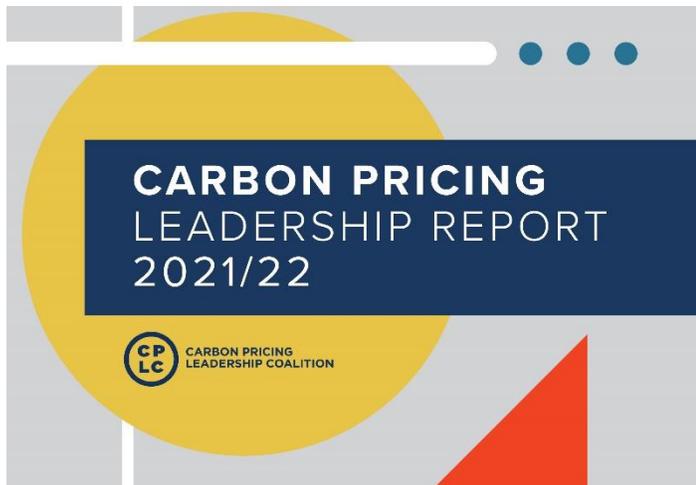
4. Carbon pricing leadership coalition report 2021-2022

Topic: Reports and Indices

In News: Carbon pricing leadership coalition report prepared by the Secretariat of Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) was published recently.

More on the Topic:

- The report intends to review global developments in carbon pricing, implications for carbon market growth and broader limitations to carbon pricing potential.
- Carbon tax is the price that **governments impose on polluters for each metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions generated.** Emission Trading System (cap and trade) is a tradable-permit system for GHG emissions.



Excerpts from the report:

- Less than 4% of global emissions are currently covered by a carbon price within the range needed by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement temperature goals.
- **Emissions trading systems (ETs) were largely resilient to reduced economic activity** as a result of COVID-19.
- **Several countries increased their carbon tax rates and adopted more ambitious trajectories,** and pilot ETs are being considered in a number of countries, including national and regional programs.
- After six years of negotiations, **COP26 in Glasgow finalized the long-awaited Article 6 of the Paris Agreement rulebook** for international cooperation through carbon markets.
- It gives countries **the tools they need for environmental integrity to avoid double counting and paves the way to get private capital flowing to developing countries.**

The Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition:

- The Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition is **the main vehicle for countries, private sector, and stakeholders to collectively share their best practices on carbon pricing policies, disseminate essential research, amplify leadership, and inspire others to follow suit.**

Source: Indian Express

5. GIS mapping of national highways

Topic: Infrastructure Development

In News: The government is going all out to complete GIS mapping of national highways for better planning, execution and monitoring of the road network and timely completion of projects.

More on the Topic:

- Geographic Information System (GIS) technology is expected to come to the aid of road construction agencies as it would provide detailed information on alignments and any obstruction in the path of highways.
- GIS mapping **makes use of satellite images but goes beyond it by analysing satellite data in order to provide authorities with an accurate picture of the project.**
- GIS provides agencies with tools for building resilient infrastructure for the future and supporting strategic repairs and upgrades to existing networks.
- GIS maps contains **a very detailed visual representation of any infrastructure facility** including location, topography, facilities and structures, and images.
- As these maps can easily be assessed even through mobile phones and shared, it makes the process of road construction and finalisation of highway networks easier.

Source: Business Standard



6. Summer solstice 2022

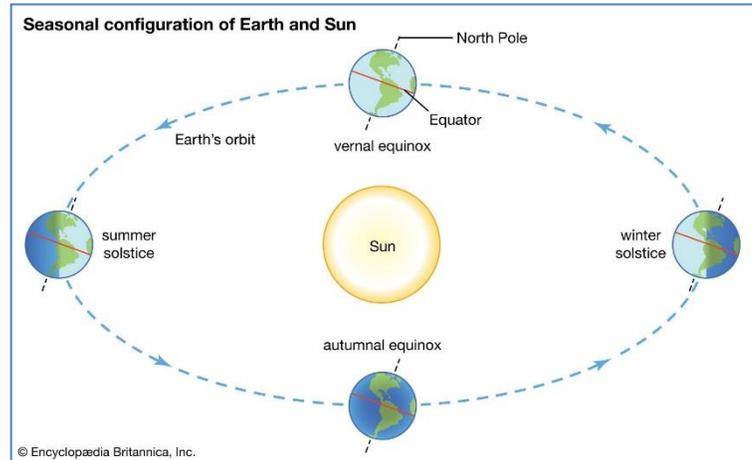
Topic: Geography

In News: People around the world celebrated the summer solstice on June 21.

More on the Topic:

- It happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere (Northern and Southern). For that hemisphere, the summer solstice is the day with **the longest period of daylight and shortest night of the year**, when the Sun is at its highest position in the sky.
- Within the Arctic circle (for the Northern hemisphere) or Antarctic circle (for the Southern), there is continuous daylight around the summer solstice. The opposite event is the winter solstice.
- The summer solstice occurs during summer. This is the June solstice (usually 20 or 21 June) in the Northern hemisphere and the December solstice (usually 21 or 22 December) in the Southern.
- A summer solstice occurs when "Earth arrives at the point in its orbit where the North Pole is at its maximum tilt [**about 23.5 degrees**] **toward the Sun**, resulting in the longest day and shortest night of the calendar year.

Source: Business Standard



7. Seismological observatory at Udhampur

Topic: Geography

In News: Ministry of Earth Science has inaugurated a seismological observatory at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir.

More on the Topic:

- The observatory will help in collecting, collating, and integrating various data sets to provide site-specific risk maps as per user needs.
- It is part of an effort titled "Seismic Microzonation", which aims to generate vital geotechnical and seismological parameters for developing earthquake risk-resilient building design codes for structures and infrastructures.
- It has also initiated action to set up an Earthquake Early Warning System (EWS) on a pilot basis for a small area in the Himalayas.
- Jammu and Kashmir is the westernmost extension of the Himalayas.
- Udhampur district lies between the two major seismogenic faults namely the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT) and the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT) which are among the potential factors for generating earthquakes in the J&K region.
- The new seismological observatory will help further strengthen the region's earthquake monitoring.

Source: Business Standard

