

1. World Soil Day



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: December 5 is observed as the World Soil Day (WSD), to highlight the value of healthy soil and to promote the sustainable management of soil resources.

More on the Topic

- World Soil Day enjoins individuals to consider **sustainably managing soil resources**.
- The main goal of the day is **to increase public awareness of the significant environmental issues that soil degradation can lead to**, such as erosion, the loss of organic matter, and a drop in soil fertility.



- Since the first World Soil Day in 2014 through **Global Soil Partnership (GSP)** more people are connecting and working together to preserve soils with each passing year.
- **"Soils: Where food begins"** is the theme of World Soil Day this year.
- By addressing the rising issues with soil management, raising soil awareness, and encouraging societies to enhance soil health, the day seeks to increase understanding of the value of preserving healthy ecosystems and human well-being.

Soil Degradation in India:

- Soil degradation in India is estimated to be occurring on 147 million hectares (Mha) of land.
- This is extremely serious because India supports 18% of the world's human population and 15% of the world's livestock population, but has only 2.4% of the world's land area.

Causes of soil degradation

- The causes are **both natural and human-induced**.
- **Natural causes** include earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, avalanches, landslides, volcanic eruptions, floods, tornadoes, and wildfires.
- **Human-induced soil degradation** results from land clearing and deforestation, inappropriate agricultural practices, improper management of industrial effluents and wastes, over-grazing, careless management of forests, surface mining, urban sprawl, and commercial/industrial development.
- **Inappropriate agricultural practices include** excessive tillage and use of heavy machinery, excessive and unbalanced use of inorganic fertilizers, poor irrigation and water management techniques, pesticide overuse, inadequate crop residue and/or organic carbon inputs, and poor crop cycle planning.
- **Social causes of soil degradation in India** are land shortage, decline in per capita land availability, economic pressure on land, land tenancy, poverty, and population increase.

Government Initiatives:

- Soil Health Card Scheme
- Zero budget Natural Farming
- India's pledge to achieve land degradation neutrality by 20230.

Source: Indian Express

2. Engaging Lusophone World



Topic: International Relations

In News: In a novel diplomatic step, India is moving in to strategically engage with a new geopolitical grouping: the Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking countries) as Delhi wants to leverage the untapped potential and the historical connect.

More on the Topic:

- The Lusophone world is spread in nine countries across four continents, and Portuguese is the most widely-spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.
- From Vasco da Gama onwards, India's Portuguese connection has not been diplomatically leveraged.
- With this realisation, to further India's engagement with the Lusophone world, India is hosting a four-day cultural extravaganza in Goa.



- More than 265-million speakers worldwide; most widely spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere; regarded as the language of the first globalisation in the modern era.

Possible Cooperation Avenues:

- India's engagement could be a substantial force multiplier for expanded cooperation in **cutting-edge fields of technology**, such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, and materials science for post-Covid recovery and resilience.
- The future of CPLP cooperation lies in **strategic areas like the blue economy, renewable energy, defence, connectivity, mobility and trade**, which are also focus areas for the Indian economy.
- Other areas for possible cooperation includes food security, infrastructure and energy (including bio-energy, solar and other renewable).

Source: PIB

3. International Labour Organisation

Topic:



International
Labour
Organization

International Relations



In News: 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is organised recently.

More on the Topic:

- “Integrated policy agenda for a human-centred recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient” is the theme.
- In his report on the theme, ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Hounbo has called for strengthening **tripartism and social dialogue to address issues in employment in the region.**
- He has also pitched for **strong and effective gender-responsive policies and institutions of work** that are oriented towards a human-centred recovery after the pandemic and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
- The report also mentioned “the Russian aggression” against Ukraine has led to “major new **disruptions to energy and food supply chains as well as inflation, with impacts that are filtering down to the Asia and the Pacific and the Arab States regions,** adversely impacting the prospects for labour market recovery.”

International Labour Organisation:

- The International Labour Organization is a **United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice by setting international labour standards.**
- Founded in October 1919 under the League of Nations, it is **the first and oldest specialised agency of the UN.**
- It is the only **tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919.** It brings together **governments, employers and workers of 187 member States,** to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

What is the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work?

- It was adopted in 1998, the Declaration commits member states to respect and promote **eight fundamental principles and rights** in four categories, whether or not they have ratified the relevant conventions. **They are:**
- Freedom of Association and The Right to collective bargaining (Conventions 87 and 98)
- Elimination of forced or compulsory labour (Conventions No. 29 and No. 105)
- Abolition of child labour (Conventions No. 138 and No. 182)
- Elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (Conventions No. 100 and No. 111)

The eight-core conventions of the ILO are:

- Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
- Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)
- Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)



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

- Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
- Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)
- Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98)

Source: Hindu

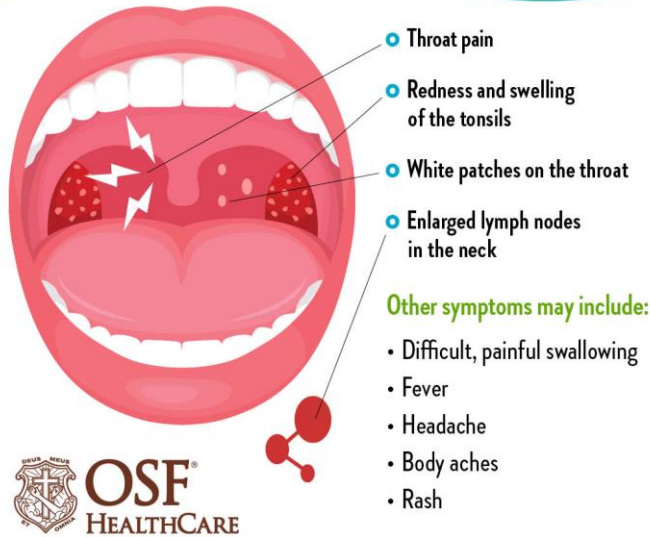
4. Strep A infections

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

+91 89710 43904 | rvta@rvei.edu.in

Go, change the world

strep throat symptoms



Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: UK has reported death of students infected with Strep A infection.

More on the Topic:

- Group A streptococcal (GAS) infection is caused by bacteria known as Group A (beta-haemolytic) Streptococcus, the most common type of which is Streptococcus pyogenes.
- Strep A - or Group A streptococcus (GAS) - is a type of **bacterium found in the throat and on the skin** and in most people does not cause any symptoms - known as being "colonised".
- It can be spread through coughs, sneezes and skin-to-skin contact.
- Those carrying the bacteria may have no symptoms, but are just as likely to pass on Strep A as those who have fallen ill.
- Strep A is **treated with antibiotics**. After at least 24 hours of antibiotics, it is generally thought to no longer be contagious.

Source: Indian Express

5. Powerless Heating System



Topic: Science and Technology

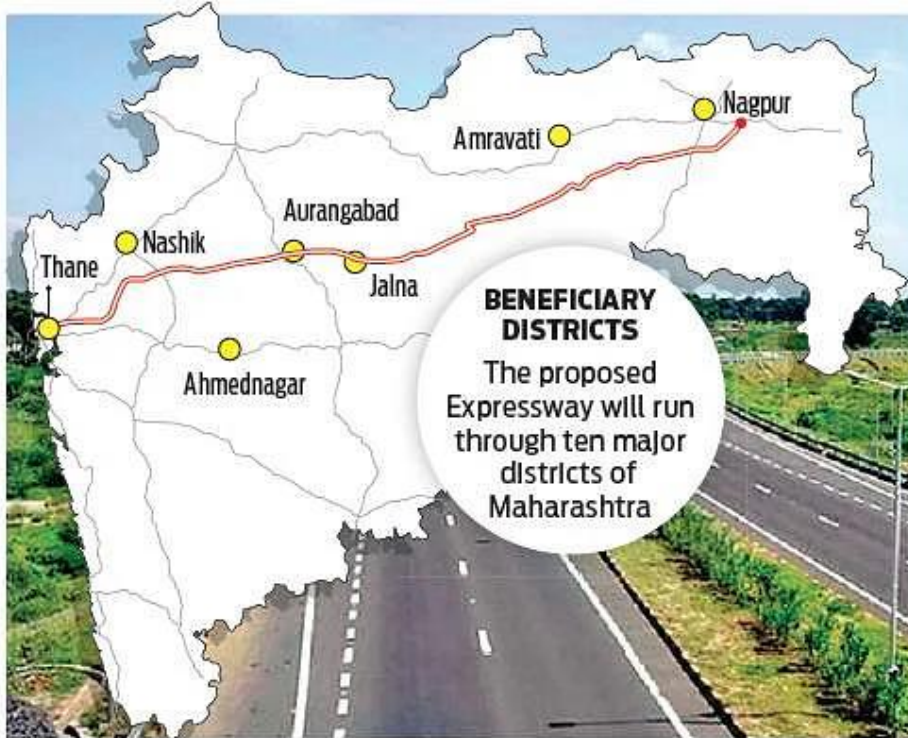
In News: IIT Delhi has innovated powerless heating system.

More on the Topic:

- The new low-cost heating system can be **activated by plain water anytime anywhere and does not require any fuel or electricity to heat or power.** it can act as a heating solution in any location.
- Lack of heating sources at remote places with no access or uncertain access to power sources is an inconvenience faced by many, especially in remote areas like the North East.
- **The active heating element consists of a mixture of eco friendly minerals and salts,** which generates exothermic energy resulting in heat on contact with water.
- This provides **enough energy to raise the temperature of any food or beverage** by 60 to 70 degree Celsius.
- The weight of the heater is only 50 grams, and after every heating, the by-product (natural mineral rock) inside the heating pad can be disposed of. T
- he rock helps in improving the fertility of the soil and is 100 % biodegradable.
- With this technology, users can heat ready-to-eat food, make instant noodles, and any beverage like tea, coffee, etc.
- The by-product of the heating process is **a natural mineral that easily integrates into the soil without any toxic effects.**

Source: Business Standard

6. Samruddhi Corridor



Topic: Economy

In News: PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate Samruddhi Corridor in December.

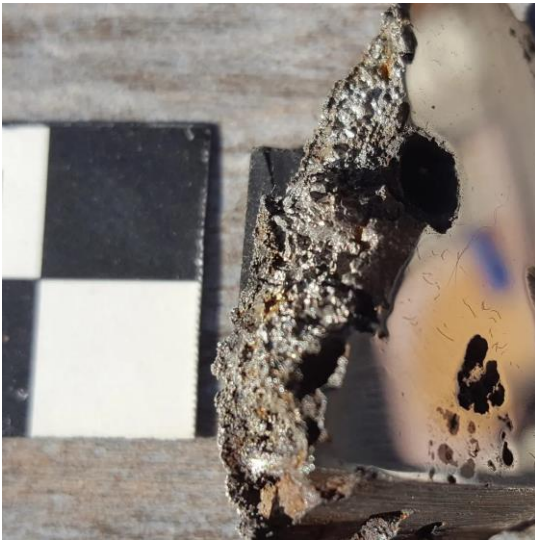
More on the Topic:

- The **Samruddhi Mahamarg** or Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway is an under-construction 701-km long access-controlled expressway in Maharashtra.
- It is considered one amongst the country's longest greenfield road projects, which will connect the two capital cities of the state, its capital, **Mumbai**, and its **third-largest and vice-capital city, Nagpur**.
- It is designed under **the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) model**.
- Ecologists have expressed concerns that the express way is less animal friendly.
- **It passes through three wildlife sanctuaries**
- **Katepurna** wildlife sanctuary in Akola;
- **Karanja-Sohol Black Buck** sanctuary in Washim; and
- **Tansa** wildlife sanctuary in Thane.

Source: Business Standard



7. Elaliite, and Elkinstantonite



Topic: Science and Technology

In News: A team of researchers has discovered at least two new minerals that have never before been seen on Earth in a 15 tonne meteorite found in Somalia.

More on the Topic:

- A meteorite is a solid piece of debris from an object, such as a comet, asteroid, or meteoroid, that originates in outer space and survives its passage through the atmosphere to reach the surface of a planet or moon.
- The study of meteorites has **helped us understand the beginnings of our solar system**, how planets and asteroids formed and how impacts of large meteorites have altered Earth's history and life on our planet.

Source: Business Standard
