

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH JULY 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

India has achieved replacement level fertility, with 31 States and Union Territories reaching a Total Fertility Rate (an average number of children per woman) of 2.1 or less, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar said.

15,631 tonnes, the uranium ore deposits found in Rajasthan, according to Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh. The Minister said that the government was considering setting up an exploratory mining centre in Sikar district of Rajasthan where 14,471 tonnes of uranium ore deposits were discovered. He added that pre-project activities required for obtaining statutory clearances have been initiated by the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL).

The Supreme Court upheld the core amendments made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which gives the government and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) virtually unbridled powers of summons, arrest, and raids, and makes bail nearly impossible while shifting the burden of proof of innocence on to the accused rather than the prosecution. The top court called the PMLA a law against the "scourge of money laundering" and not a hatchet wielded against rival politicians and dissenters.

In yet another effort to turnaround the state owned telecom firm, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹1.64 lakh crore package for its revival. The package, which has a cash component of ₹43,964 crore and a non-cash component of ₹1.2 lakh crore spread over four years, will include administrative allotment of 4G spectrum worth ₹44,993 crore. In addition, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) that was set up to implement the ambitious BharatNet project, will be merged with BSNL.

Google on Wednesday announced the launch of its popular 'Street View' feature in India — after failing to bring the experience to India at least twice in the past decade, following security concerns raised by government agencies over collection of data.

22.05 crore, the number of candidates who applied for central

FREEBIES CULTURE

1.Context: SC has a direct union government to consult the finance commission on whether it is possible to regulate the distribution of freebies by political parties using public money. 'Freebies' are important for this year's exam, do have a pre-prepared note on this topic, if you are giving Mains this time.

2. **Stand of ECI on freebies: It said it has no power to regulate the same or take action against parties making such poll promises. ECI cannot regulate policy decisions: "offering/distribution of any freebies either before or after the election is a policy decision of the party concerned.**

3.The 'revdi' culture-Freebies like free power and a monthly stipend to women are among promises made by parties and this is common in elections in state after state. Earlier this month, the PM said it's time to stop this practice and called it the 'revdi' culture hurting the country, its development and well-being.

4.Impact of such freebies on state budgets: Expenditure side: Huge drain on state resources: farm loan waiver in Maharashtra resulted in an outgo of Rs 45,000-51,000 crore during the financial year 2020-21. Lack of specific outcome targets: No responsibility for the money spent. Telangana has committed 35% of revenue receipts, almost 63% of the state's own tax revenue, to finance populist schemes which are cantered on freebies.

5.**Revenue side: Negative impact on state-owned enterprises: leading loss-making PSU's. March report from ICRA, subsidy payments by governments were estimated to comprise 16% of Discom revenues at an all -India level in 2021-22.** Low tax collections: due to Free electricity, free water, free rides etc., there is no realization of tax on these.

6.Issues with Freebies culture: Huge debt burden: The debt-to-GDP ratio of Punjab reached 53.3% in 2021-22 due to the high-subsidy burden. Creates a never-ending cycle of freebies: as populist schemes are countered with more populist measures. Social inequalities: With the Rajasthan government's decision to revert to the old pension scheme for its employees, just 6% of the population captures benefits as high as 56% of the pension and salary expenditure.

7.Measures to mitigate the negative impacts: Role of Finance Commission: Finance Commission (an independent body) when it makes allocations to various states, can take into account the debt of the state and in the context of that find out whether the state's economy will be sustainable over the years in the context of the freebies. Strengthening Election Commission: bringing freebies under MCC and regulating manifestos by ECI. Demand-based freebies: with priority to DPSPs based on merit goods such as PDS system, education, health etc. for greater prosperity. Improving transparency: to ensure it reaches real beneficiaries. E.g., a farm loan waiver reaches only actual farmers.

UN LAYS DOWN GUIDELINES TO PROTECT CHILDREN DISPLACED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

1.United Nations-backed agencies have issued guidelines to provide the first-ever global policy framework to protect children displaced due to climate change. (Just go through the points and note down 2-3 points under 'UN guidelines for children'- to be incorporated into your main answer writing).

2.The Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change contain a set of nine principles that address the unique vulnerabilities of children who have been uprooted. The guidelines cover both internal as well cross-border migrations. The landmark guidelines were launched by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Georgetown University and the United Nations University.

3.**The Guiding Principles have been developed to safeguard the rights and well-being of children moving in the context of climate change, and are as follows: Principle 1: Rights-based approach Principle. 2: Best interests of the child Principle. 3: Accountability Principle. 4: Awareness and participation in decision-making Principle. 5: Family unity**

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government jobs during 2014 and 2022, out of which 7.22 lakh were recommended to be appointed by the recruiting agencies, according to Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh. Of these 38,850 were recruited during 2021-22, while 78,555 were recruited in 2020-21. Production Linked Incentive schemes were set up with an outlay of ₹1.97 lakh crore to create jobs, the Minister said.

\$ 279 million, the amount earned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in foreign exchange by launching satellites for global clients, according to Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh. Mr. Singh said that the ISRO in association with its commercial arms has successfully launched 345 foreign satellites from 34 countries onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs). The PSLV-C53 mission successfully launched three Singapore customer satellites namely DSEO, NeuSAR and SCOOB1.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a project for providing 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of ₹26,316 crore. Under the project, 4G mobile services, which provide highspeed data, will be provided in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas. Additionally, 6,279 villages that currently have only 2G/3G connectivity will also be upgraded to receive 4G connectivity.

The Union Food and Public Distribution Ministry has suggested major amendments to the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act of 2007. While the Ministry says that the aim is to help farmers get access to the services of quality warehouses, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) fears that the amendments are for bringing back certain provisions of the repealed Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act through the backdoors.

Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar on Wednesday unveiled a centre in Istanbul to oversee the export of Ukrainian food grains after a landmark UN deal last week, with the first shipment expected to depart from the Black Sea ports within days.

Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R.K. Singh on

Principle. 6: Protection, safety and security Principle. 7: Access to education, health care and social services. Principle 8: Non-discrimination Principle 9: Nationality.

4. These Guiding Principles are intended to be used by local and national governments, international organizations and civil society groups working with children on the move in the context of climate change. They are based on existing international law as well as operational guidelines or frameworks which have been developed by a variety of stakeholders. The Principles are derived from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and do not create new international legal obligations.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT ON E-COMMERCE

1. Context: Recent report of the committee "Promotion and Regulation of E-commerce in India" (Note down 2-3 suggestions from the report and understand the difference between various models of e-commerce) Issues highlighted by the report: Few platforms control a large part of the e-commerce market (which may lead to monopoly). Lack of platform neutrality, i.e., providing preferential treatment to selected sellers. Deep discounting, e., discounts of preferred sellers are selectively funded by the platform. Non-transparent search rankings Misuse of data.

2. Recommendations: Formulate a policy which clearly defines marketplace and inventory-based models of e-commerce. It recommended that marketplace-commerce entities should: not sell goods that it owns or controls. not have any direct or indirect relationship with sellers who sell on the platform. be prohibited from licensing their brand to third-party sellers on the platform.

3. Gatekeeper entities: Certain e-commerce platforms need greater scrutiny (as is applicable in other countries): It recommends India should select "gatekeeper" platforms of a specific scale that require more stringent supervision. Mandatory registration of e-commerce companies with DPIIT. Create Digital Market Division to overcome regulatory gaps. Implement the Personal Data protection bill (2019).

4. DPIIT should address issues such as maintaining a level playing field between small businesses and e-commerce giants and provide technical support to small and local businesses. Obligations put on e-commerce entities through Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 (such as the appointment of the chief compliance officer, and setting up a grievance redressal mechanism) should be applicable to those entities above a certain threshold. It puts a compliance burden on new e-commerce entities.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE EFFICIENT AUTO VEHICLES

1. Context: Nudged by tough BS6 emission norms, automakers are offering mild and strong hybrid options in their vehicles and using technology to make vehicles efficient. (Just remember a few names to be written in the mains answer and some basic terminology of engine for prelims, no need to get into details unless you are an auto-enthusiast).

2. Diesel's Engine Working: In a compression-ignited system, the diesel fuel is injected into the combustion chamber of the engine and ignited by the high temperatures achieved when the gas is compressed by the engine piston. Because they use compressed air with no spark plug for the ignition process, diesel engines use 15%-20% per cent less fuel compared to a petrol engine vehicle. Higher cost: Diesel engines entailed higher upfront costs, and their servicing and maintenance costs tended to be more. It produces much more toxic gases and so shifts towards petrol variants.

3. Petrol tech innovations-Two fuel injectors PER cylinder: In Maruti Suzuki's new DualJet technology, two injectors are placed close to the engine inlet valves, which enables finer atomisation of fuel, resulting in more complete combustion and higher efficiency. Gasoline direct injection (GDI): GDI is a sophisticated engine that injects fuel precisely and at very high pressure directly into the combustion chamber of the engine. This leads to higher fuel efficiency, higher power output, and significantly

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Wednesday said the country's electricity generation capacity will reach 820GW by 2030, including more than 500GW from non-fossil fuel sources.

lower emissions.