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Dialy News Pedia*Lakhwar Multipurpose Project*

(GS – Prelims and Mains 3 - Environment)

Shri Nitin Gadkari Signs MoU with Chief Ministers of Uttarakhand, UP, HP, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi for construction of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project on **Yamuna near Dehradun**. The project which will benefit all six states in terms of river flow, drinking water, irrigation and electricity Says, 34 projects under Clean Ganga Mission being taken up on river Yamuna to also ensure pollution free Yamuna.

The Lakhwar project envisages construction of a 204 m high concrete dam across river Yamuna near Lohari village in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand with a live storage capacity of 330.66 MCM. This storage will provide irrigation for 33,780 hectares land and availability of 78.83 MCM water for domestic, drinking and industrial use in the six basin states. The project will also generate 300 MW of power. The project is to be executed by M/s Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (UJVL).

1994 agreement regarding implementation of Lakhwar project

The agreement had recognised the need to create storage facilities in Upper Yamuna Basin to conserve and utilise the monsoon flows of the river in a regulated manner.

The MoU also laid down the interim seasonal allocation of the annual utilisable flow of the river pending creation of the storage facilities.

As per the MoU of 1994, separate agreements will have to be done between the six basin states for each water storage project in the Upper reaches of River Yamuna. Besides Lakhwar Multi-Purpose project, there are two other major projects being envisaged in the Upper Yamuna reaches, these are - Kishau Multi-Purpose project and Renukaji Multi-Purpose project.

Emergency declared in Papua New Guinea over Polio outbreak

(GS prelims and Mains 3 – Health.)

A public health emergency has been declared in three Papua New Guinea (PNG) provinces as the country responds to its first polio outbreak in 18 years when it was declared free of the disease.

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), the virus was detected in a six-year-old boy in April this year. Later, it was found that the same virus stain has been identified in other healthy children in the same locality and community.

That declared an official outbreak. According to the WHO, Polio has no cure and can lead to irreversible paralysis. Polio mainly affects children who are under five. It can only be prevented by giving a multiple vaccine doses to children.

Papua New Guinea was certified as polio-free in 2000 along with the rest of the WHO Western Pacific Region as it has not had a case of wild poliovirus since 1996.

To stop the outbreak of the highly contagious disease immediately, the government needs to strengthen the surveillance systems to detect it in early stage and a large-scale immunisation campaigns. The WHO has come up with some experts and \$500,000, while the PNG government had set aside \$2 million for the response.

Note: Poliomyelitis (Polio) mainly affects children under five years of age. Every one in 200 infections leads to permanent paralysis. Among those paralysed, 5% to 10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.

Cases die to wild poliovirus have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350 000 cases then, to 22 reported cases in 2017. As a result of the global effort to eradicate the disease, more than 16 million people have been saved from paralysis.

Aeolus Satellite.

(GS prelims and mains 3 – Science and Technology)



Earth Explorer Aeolus

The European Space Agency (ESA) has successfully launched a satellite that will measure winds around the globe and help improve weather forecasting.

The Earth Explorer Aeolus satellite was launched into polar orbit on a Vega rocket from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

Using laser technology, it will play a key role in our quest to better understand the workings of our atmosphere.

Named after Aeolus, who in Greek mythology was appointed 'keeper of the winds', the mission is the fifth in the family of ESA's Earth Explorers, which address the most urgent Earth-science questions of our time.

Aeolus carries the first instrument of its kind and uses a completely new approach to measuring the wind from space.

Financial Action Task Force puts Pakistan on 'grey list'.

(GS Prelims and Mains 3 – Security issue)



Pakistan has been placed on the grey list by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for failing to curb anti-terror financing despite its diplomatic efforts to avert the decision. The global financial watchdog Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) plenary session in Paris.

The announcement comes a day after Pakistan submitted a comprehensive 26-point action plan to the FATF to choke the funding of militants groups, including Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led JuD and its affiliates, to avoid being blacklisted by it.

Note: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

The FATF is therefore a "policy-making body" which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

Heritage Circuit and North East Circuit.

(GS prelims and mains 1, 3 – Culture, Tourism)

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of Swadesh Dashan Scheme in **Punjab** and **Tripura**.

Heritage Circuit in the state of **Punjab**, the project covers sites of **Anandpur Sahib – Fatehgarh Sahib – Chamkaur Sahib – Ferozpur – Amritsar – Khatkar Kalan – Kalanour – Patiala**. The project includes development of Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, development of Tourist Infrastructure and Heritage Path at Anandpur Sahib, development of Tourist Infrastructure at Fatehgarh Sahib covering sites of Samadhi of Shahid Uddham Singhji, Jajah Haveli of Divan Todar Mal, Mir Miran Tomb, Sadna Kasai Tomb etc. , Development of Chamkaur Sahib , Development of Hussainiwala Border in Ferozpur, Development of Khatkar Kalan, Kalanaour and Patiala

Under North East Circuit in **Tripura**, the sites of **Surma Cherra- Unakoti- Jampui Hills- Gunabati-Bhunaneshwari- Matabari- Neermahal- Boxanagar- Chotta khola- Pilak- Avangchaarra** are covered

The project envisaged infrastructural development of the sites with special emphasis on developing an Interpretation Centre, Tourist Visitor Centres, Cafeteria, Last Mile Connectivity, Illumination of sites and monuments, Wayside Amenities, Floating Jetties, Camping Grounds, Parking Facilities, Adventure Activities, Ghat Development at above sites.

EDITORIAL.

To read

The time has come to end the stigma and discrimination against the leprosy-affected.

The time has come to end the stigma and discrimination against the leprosy-affected it has long been a blot on Indian society that while leprosy is completely curable, there lingers a social stigma attached to it. Even more shocking is those colonial laws that predate leprosy eradication programmes and medical advancements remain on the statute book. These were unconscionably discriminatory from the beginning, but even in independent India, where the law has been an instrument for social change, the process of removing them has been bafflingly slow. The Lepers Act of 1898 was repealed only two years ago.

It is time for concerted action to end the entrenched discrimination in law and society against those afflicted by it. Two recent developments hold out hope. One was the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to remove leprosy as a ground for seeking divorce or legal separation from one's spouse, and the other was the Supreme Court asking the Centre whether it would bring in a positive law conferring rights and benefits on persons with leprosy and deeming as repealed all Acts and rules that perpetuated the stigma associated with it. The Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018, is only a small step.

An affirmative action law that recognises the rights of those affected and promotes their social inclusion will serve a larger purpose. It may mark the beginning of the end to the culture of ostracisation that most of them face and help remove misconceptions about the disease and dispel the belief that physical segregation of patients is necessary. It is sad that it took so long to get such proposals on the legislative agenda.

Since last year, the Supreme Court has been hearing a writ petition by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy seeking to uphold the fundamental rights of people with leprosy and the repeal of discriminatory laws against them. The court has been approaching the issue with sensitivity and is seeking to find legal means to ensure a life of dignity for them. The 256th Report of the Law Commission came up with a number of suggestions, including the repeal of discriminatory legal provisions. It listed for abolition personal laws and Acts on beggary. The report cited the UN General Assembly resolution of 2010 on the elimination of discrimination against persons with leprosy. The resolution sought the abolition of laws, rules, regulations, customs and practices that amounted to discrimination, and wanted countries to promote the understanding that leprosy is not easily communicable and is curable. The campaign to end discrimination against those afflicted, and combating the stigma associated with it, is decades old. While governments may have to handle the legislative part, society has an even larger role to play. It is possible to end discrimination by law, but stigma tends to survive reform and may require more than legal efforts to eliminate.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

1. Choose the correct statement regarding Lakhwar Multipurpose Project
 - a. Project envisages construction of a 204 m high concrete dam across river Yamuna near Lohari village.
 - b. Delhi, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh are states involved in this project.
 - c. Both are correct.
 - d. None.

2. Earth Explorer Aeolus satellite launched by
 - a. European Space Agency.
 - b. NASA.
 - c. Russian Space Agency.
 - d. ISRO.

3. Choose the correct statement regarding Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- It is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions.
 - It works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms.
 - FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering.
 - All the above.
4. Choose the wrong statement regarding Heritage Circuit and North East Circuit.
- It was launched by Ministry of Tourism.
 - Heritage and North East Circuits of Swadesh Dashan Scheme in Punjab and Tripura.
 - Both.
 - None.

MAINS ANSWER WRITING.

Q: It is alleged that, India, which is home to largest number of leprosy patients in the world has discriminatory policies against these patients. Examine?