

GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC**Coal India Arm Western Coalfields (WCL) Opens 3 New Coal Mines**

Coal India Subsidiary Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) opened 3 new coal mines in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh having combined annual production capacity of 2.9 million tonnes (MT).

About:

- The three mines which WCL has opened, are
 - Adasa Mine, an underground to open cast mine, in Nagpur Area of Maharashtra,
 - Sharda underground Mine in Kanhan Area and
 - Dhankasa underground mine in Pench Area of Madhya Pradesh.
- The company launched a surveillance System named 'WCL EYE' to monitor operations of 15 major mines of the company round the clock. It will also help monitor coal stocks.
- It also launched an App named SAMVAAD to connect with its employees and stakeholders on this occasion.

163348 (2002 NN4)

NASA has announced that 163348 (2002 NN4), a giant asteroid is expected to pass Earth (at a safe distance) in June. The asteroid is a Near-Earth Object (NEO) and is classified as a Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (PHA).

Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)

- NASA defines NEOs as comets and asteroids nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits which allows them to enter the Earth's neighbourhood.
- NEOs occasionally approach close to the Earth as they orbit the Sun. These objects are composed mostly of water ice with embedded dust particles.
- The scientific interest in comets and asteroids is largely due to their status as relatively unchanged remnant debris from the solar system formation process over 4.6 billion years ago.
- Significantly, among all the causes that will eventually cause the extinction of life on Earth, an asteroid hit is widely acknowledged as one of the likeliest.

Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (PHA)

- This asteroid 163348 (2002 NN4) is classified as a PHA, which means the asteroid has the potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.
- Asteroids with a minimum orbit intersection distance (MOID) of about 0.05 (AU is the distance between the Earth and the Sun and is roughly 150 million km), which is about 7,480,000 km or less and an absolute magnitude (H) of 22 (smaller than about 150 m or 500 feet in diameter) or less are considered PHAs.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)**

Union Minister of Personnel & Public Grievances inaugurated the 18th Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

About:

Setting up of CAT Bench of Jammu to deal exclusively with service matters of government employees would reduce the burden of various Courts.

Earlier, in a notification issued under section 5(7) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, the Central Government has specified Jammu and Srinagar as the places at which the benches of the CAT shall ordinarily sit for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh.

Related Info :

- Constitutional backing: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) had been established under Article 323 - A of the Constitution.
- Mandate: To adjudicate disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
- Under Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985, the Tribunal has been conferred with the power to exercise the same jurisdiction and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court.
- The Tribunal is guided by the principles of natural justice in deciding cases and is not bound by the procedure, prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code.

- Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of the officers and other employees of the Tribunal are specified by the Central Government.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Inter-Parliamentary Alliance On China

A group of senior lawmakers from eight democracies including the US have launched the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China to counter China.

About:

- It is a new cross-parliamentary alliance to help counter what the threat posed by China's growing influence to global trade, security and human rights.
- The group aims to "construct appropriate and coordinated responses, and to help craft a proactive and strategic approach on issues related to China."
- The list of participating nations includes the US, Germany, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, as well as members of the European parliament.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

World Oceans Day

World oceans day is being celebrated on June 8, 2020 under the theme "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean."

About:

- The United Nations celebrates World Oceans Day every year on 8 June.
- In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided that, as of 2009, 8 June would be designated by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day".
- World Oceans Day is uniting conservation action to grow the global movement calling on world leaders to protect 30% of our blue planet by 2030. This critical need is called 30x30.

State Of India's Environment Report

The State of India's Environment, 2020 report was released by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a research and advocacy organisation. CSE also publishes the environment magazine Down to Earth.

Key findings:

- 19 major extreme weather events claimed 1,357 lives last year.
- Internal displacement:
 - There were more than 50 lakh internal displacements in India in 2019, the highest in the world. India had one in five of all internal displacements caused by disasters across the world in 2019, mostly caused by floods, cyclones and drought.
 - Flooding caused by the southwest monsoon led to 26 lakh displacements, while Cyclone Fani alone led to 18 lakh displacements, followed by cyclones Vayu and Bulbul. On the other hand, drought conditions in 19 States led to another 63,000 displacements.
- Migrants: The report also broke down 2011 census data on migrant populations.
 - There were over 45 crore migrants in the country at the time, with the vast majority migrating within their own State.
 - In 2011, over 1.7 crore new migrants had moved for employment purposes, mostly from rural to urban areas.

Waste Management

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched three advisories on the occasion of World Environment Day.

About:

- These advisories are: (1) Advisory on Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), (2) Advisory on Landfill Reclamation and (3) a Draft advisory on On-site and Off-site Sewage Management Practices.
- These advisories have been prepared by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).
- The documents released are part of an effort to find and facilitate sustainable solutions to some of the key problems hindering holistic sanitation and solid waste management. He said, when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- On the occasion a toolkit for a communication campaign on faecal sludge management titled 'Malasur- The Demon of Defeca' was also released. It aims at heightening the risk perception of faecal sludge.

Important Info :

Due to the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) in 2014, scientific processing of solid waste, which stood at a mere 18 per cent in 2014, has more than tripled and now stands at 65 per cent.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC

COVID BEEP

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched COVID BEEP, India's first physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.

About:

- COVID BEEP (Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod) is India's first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.
- It has been developed by ESIC Medical College Hyderabad in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and Department Of Atomic Energy.
- COVID BEEP would emerge as an effective antidote to the original COVID. COVID BEEP will greatly reduce the transmission risk as well as help save resources like PPEs.

ADITYA

India's first solar-powered ferry, Aditya, which became an icon on the Vaikom-Thavanakadavu route in Kerala, is among 12 such ferries that have been shortlisted for the Gustave Trouvé Award. It is the sole entrant from Asia.

About

- Operated by the Kerala State Water Transport Department (KSWTD), the vessel was built by Naval Solar and Electric Boats, Kochi.
- The per km energy cost of Aditya is low, and the ferry normally operates 22 trips a day, covering a total of 66 km, carrying 75 passengers per trip. It needs just ₹180 per day in energy cost, compared to about ₹8,000 for a diesel-run ferry of similar size.
- Gussies Electric Boat Awards
- Gussies Electric Boat Awards were instituted in memory of Gustave Trouvé, a French electrical engineer and pioneer in electric cars and boats. Trouvé was a prolific inventor with over 75 patents. Back in 1881, he developed a 5-m-long prototype electric boat.
- There are three award categories: one for electric boats up to 8m in length, electric boats more than 8 m long and electric ferry boats (passenger boats), the category in which Aditya is in the fray.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Airborne Rescue Pod For Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)

The Indian Air Force has designed, developed and manufactured an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT).

About:

- This pod will be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places.
- The system has been developed as a lightweight isolation system made from aviation certified material. The isolation system caters for suitable number of air exchanges, integration of medical monitoring instruments, and ventilation to an intubated patient.
- The ARPIT utilises High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) H-13 class filters and supports invasive ventilation using Transport Ventilator.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q. What do you understand by ethical dilemmas? Give examples of some of the ethical dilemmas faced by the civil servants in present times.

Ans

Ethical dilemma is a complex decision making situation in which all the available options are in conflict, making it difficult for the decision maker to follow any one course of action in the given situation.

- Ethical dilemmas largely emerge in situations where conscience of an individual comes into the conflict with the stated rule or norm.
- For example, a migrant worker breaks the rule of lockdown in the wake of a pandemic to reach his/her hometown on foot. While the breach of rule calls for punishment, there arises a dilemma of punishing a human being who has already been deprived of the basic amenities.

For civil servants, ethical dilemmas arise when they have to choose between competing considerations of ethical values and rules, in order to determine the right thing to do. Some of the dilemmas faced are-

- Situations in which compliance with ethical conduct results in a significant personal cost (e.g jeopardising held position, injuring valued relationship) to the Public Servant.
- Situations of two or more conflicting sets of ethical values (public servants responsibility of being open and accountable to Citizens versus that of adhering to oath of secrecy/confidentiality etc).
- Situations in which a conscientious public servant is exposed to a combination of personal or other conflicting ethical values in order to decide the right thing to do.

Ethical Dilemmas in Present Times

- Individual obligations and organizations' obligations: Conflict between an individual's privately held convictions and publicly held obligations as determined by her organization.
- Interpretation of government policies: Should a public servant interpret government policies and programmes according to her personal sense of right and wrong?
- Sense of loyalty: When a public servant feels that there is a clear-cut conflict between what he/she is required (by her senior officials) to do and what she really thinks is right, where should her loyalty lie?
- Information sharing: Is a public servant committed to keeping information secret that might be embarrassing to the government of the day?
- Accountability towards public vs service obligation: What should an employee do when he/she finds certain indications of deliberate inefficiency, protection of incompetence, extravagant and unreasonable use of public funds, deployment of government equipment and machinery for personal use, subjective criteria used in recruitment or in the award of government grants or licenses?
- Conflict in conscience and prevailing political ideology: To what extent should a public servant support the political ideology practised by the current government?
- Private life vs public life: When a person accepts public service employment, how much should he/she subordinate or abdicate his/her claims to private life, property and values?

Conclusion

A code of conduct cannot cover all such situations. Thus, in addition to having a code of conduct or ethical guidelines, a public servant needs to develop an inner sense of professional responsibility. A strong emphasis should be laid on values like empathy, compassion, integrity and will to serve humanity at large. Encouraging a sense of responsibility and focusing on greater good for larger interest can guide the actions of a public servant and can resolve most of the dilemmas.