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1. 35th Inception Day Of NCRB

Why in News?

The Crime Multi-Agency Centre and National Cybercrime Training Centre have been launched on the occasion of 35th Inception Day of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Key Points

- Crime Multi-Agency Centre (Cri-MAC) aims to share information on heinous crime and other issues related to inter-state coordination.
- National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC) aims for professional-quality eLearning services on cybercrime investigation on a large scale to police officers, judges, prosecutors and other stakeholders.
- Few important initiatives/roles of NCRB:
 - Coordination and networking among the police stations and police offices across India.
 - National Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)
 - Provides a huge database of fingerprints helping in solving crimes faster.
 - A network-based pan India system for recording and sharing of fingerprints of criminals in various crimes.
 - It organised the CCTNS Hackathon & Cyber Challenge 2020 which helped in gathering innovative ideas for improving CCTNS.

National Crime Records Bureau

- NCRB was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- Aims: to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- Headquartered: New Delhi.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Taskforce (1985).

2. BhoomiRashi Portal

- The BhoomiRashi Portal is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and National Informatics Centre.
- It is a single point platform for online processing of land acquisition notifications to accelerate highway infrastructure development projects in India.
 - It aims to ensure land acquisition processes are error-free & transparent with notifications at every stage being processed on a real time basis.
- The portal has been integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for depositing the compensation affected/ interested persons on a real-time basis.
 - The **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)**, is a web-based

- online software application developed and implemented by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance.
- It tracks funds released under all Plan schemes of the Government of India, and monitors real time reporting of expenditure at all levels of Programme implementation.
 - PFMS is integrated with the core banking system in the country.

3. Epidemic Diseases Act

Why in News?

In the wake of the COVID -19 pandemic, the States and Union Territories have been asked to invoke provisions of Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

- Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act allows the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to enforce its advisories and directions.
- This is not possible otherwise as health is a state subject.

Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897

- The Act was introduced to tackle the epidemic of bubonic plague that broke out in the then state of Bombay.
- This law aims to prevent the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases.
- Thus, temporary provisions or regulations can be made under this Act, to tackle or prevent the outbreak of a disease.
- Section 2A of the Act empowers the central government to take steps to prevent the spread of an epidemic.
 - It allows the government to inspect any ship arriving or leaving any port and the power to detain any person intending to sail or arriving in the country.
- The State Government may take measures and prescribe regulations for:
 - The inspection of persons travelling by railway or otherwise
 - Segregation in hospital, temporary accommodation or otherwise, of persons suspected by the inspecting officer of being infected with any such disease.
- The Act also provides penalties for disobeying any regulation or order made under the Act.
- The Epidemics Diseases Act is routinely enforced across the country for dealing with outbreaks of diseases such as Swine Flu, Dengue.
 - For Example in 2009, to tackle the swine flu outbreak in Pune, Section 2 powers were used to open screening centres in civic hospitals across the city, and swine flu was declared a notifiable disease.

4. Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Why in News?

The Parliament has recently passed the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

- The bill amends the Mines & Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.
- The Bill is expected to promote Ease of Doing Business in the coal & mining sector.

Key Points

- **Removal of restriction on end-use of coal:**
 - Companies will be allowed to carry on coal mining operations for their own consumption, sale or for any other purposes, as may be specified by the central government.
 - Currently, companies acquiring Schedule II and Schedule III coal mines through auctions can use the coal produced only for specific end-uses (power generation and steel production).
- **Eligibility for auction of coal and lignite blocks:**
 - Companies need not possess any prior coal mining experience in order to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks.
- **Composite license for prospecting and mining:**
 - Companies will be issued a composite license covering both prospecting and mining activities.
 - Currently, separate licenses are provided for prospecting and mining of coal and lignite.
 - Prospecting includes exploring, locating, or finding mineral deposits.
- **Advance auction:**
 - The Bill allows the State governments to take advance action for auction of a mining lease before its expiry.
 - Currently, mining leases for specified minerals (minerals other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) are auctioned on the expiry of the lease period.
- **Transfer of statutory clearances to new bidders:**
 - The Bill provides that the various approvals, licenses, and clearances given to the previous lessee will be extended to the successful bidder for a period of two years.
 - During this period, the new lessee will be allowed to continue mining operations. The new lessee must obtain all the required clearances within the two year period.
 - Currently, the new lessee is required to obtain statutory clearances before starting mining operations.
- **Prior approval from the Central government:**
 - Prior approval of the Central government will not be necessary for

the State governments to issue licenses for coal and lignite, in certain cases.

- a) Where the allocation has been done by the central government.
- b) The mining block has been reserved to conserve a mineral.
- Currently, state governments require prior approval of the central government for granting permits, licenses and leases for coal and lignite.

5. Report on Status of Women in Media in South Asia

Why in News?

The Minister of Women and Child Development has released a report on the Status of Women in Media in South Asia.

- The report is prepared by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and is sponsored by UNESCO.

Highlights of the Report

- Countries covered: It covers 9 countries
 1. Afghanistan
 2. Bangladesh
 3. Bhutan
 4. India
 5. Maldives
 6. Myanmar
 7. Nepal
 8. Pakistan
 9. Sri Lank
- **Concerns:**
 - The women working in media do not have wage parity, nor are they adequately represented at decision-making levels in management.
 - There is sharp gender inequality in media coverage about women, with high focus on sexual crimes and harassment in the news media content relating to women.
 - The patriarchal mind-set prevalent in traditional societies, including across South Asia, is reflected in the media discourse and coverage about women.
 - The portrayal of women in advertising and entertainment media was found to be retrograde.
- **Situation in India:**
 - In India, more than 300 universities teach mass communication, but less than 10% of these had any module or course on gender.
 - The positive aspect is that probably India is the only country in the region that has a number of laws concerning women.
 - Eg: Law on ensuring maternity leave for working women, a law against the sexual harassment of women at the work place, and on setting up complaints committees within each organization.

- India has proposed a Multimedia Tool Kit for the gender sensitivity test.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Serious efforts are necessary to overcome poor implementation and the lack of effective legal frameworks and policies that optimally addresses issues related to gender and women.
 - Women professionals must be assured a healthy, non-discriminatory work environment with equal opportunity.
 - Stronger initiatives by the Governments in partnership with all stakeholders is vital to rigorously implement existing legal frameworks or update outdated policies.
 - Governments and industry self-regulatory bodies need to engage with advertisement teams for ensuring portrayal of women based on reality and addressing objectification of women.

Significance of Gender Equality

- Gender equality is central to the idea of a pluralistic and inclusive media ecosystem.
- It is a pre-condition for genuine freedom of expression.
- Media plays a critical role as a reflection of society and an agent of change, through media freedom with responsibility.
- The media is an important partner, both in the promotion of gender equality as well as in removing negative gender stereotypes embedded in individual and community mindsets.
- Getting it right on gender and media is essential for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5) on the empowerment of women and girls.

6. Foreigners Tribunals

Why in News?

A report by Amnesty International has claimed that the Assam government decides tribunal member's term on the basis of their rate of declaring foreigners.

Key Points

- Foreigners Tribunals have been established via Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964, under section 3 of Foreigners Act, 1946.
- These are quasi-judicial bodies, constituted by the Central government.
- The Tribunals consist of persons having judicial experience as the Central government may think fit to appoint.
- Their mandate is to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not within the meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- It has powers of a civil court while trying a suit under code of civil procedure, 1908.

- It includes the power of summoning any person, requiring any document and issuing commissions for examination of any witness.
- Individuals can also approach these Tribunals. Earlier only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

7. National Creche Scheme

Why in News?

The Ministry of Women and Child Development recently gave a written reply in the Lok Sabha stating that currently 6453 creches are functional across the country under the National Creche Scheme.

Key Points

- The National Creche Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented with effect from 2017.
- It aims at providing day care facilities to children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women. It also provides:
 - Supplementary nutrition
 - Immunisation
 - Basic health monitoring
 - Sleeping facilities
 - Early stimulation (for children below 3 years)
 - Pre-school education for children aged between 3-6 yrs
- NITI Aayog conducts the third party evaluation of the scheme.

8. National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)

Why in News?

Recently, the 43rd annual day of the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW) was organised.

National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)

- NIHFW was established in 1977 by the merger of two national level institutions, viz.
 - National Institute of Health Administration and Education (NIHAE)
 - National Institute of Family Planning (NIFP)
- The NIHFW is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It acts as an 'apex technical institute' as well as a 'think tank' for the promotion of health and family welfare programmes in the country.
- The Institute addresses a wide range of issues on health and family welfare from a variety of perspectives through the various departments

like Communication, Community Health Administration, Education and Training.

9. Rail Development Authority

- Government approved the constitution of the Rail Development Authority (RDA) in April, 2017.
- **Mandate:**
 - Pricing of services commensurate with costs;
 - Measures for enhancement of non-fare Revenue;
 - Protection of consumer interests;
 - Promoting competition, efficiency and economy;
 - Encouraging market development;
 - Creating positive environment for investment;
 - Promoting efficient allocation of resources in the Sector;
 - Providing framework for non-discriminatory open access to the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) infrastructure and others in future;
 - Suggesting measures to absorb new technologies; and
 - Suggesting measures for human resource development.

10. Masks and Hand Sanitizers Under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA Act) 1955

Why in News?

- The Centre has declared mask and hand sanitisers as essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 till June 30, 2020.
 - This decision has been taken in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Centre has also issued an advisory under the Legal Metrology Act, so that States can ensure these items are not sold for more than the Maximum Retail Price (MRP).

Key Points

- Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- ECA act, 1955 intends to regulate the production, supply and distribution in certain commodities declared as essential.
- ECA , 1955 intends to regulate the production, supply and distribution in certain commodities declared as essential.
 - Under the ECA Act, the States and Union Territories can ensure that manufacturers enhance their production capacity so that masks and hand sanitizers are widely available to consumers.
- The list of items under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.

- The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises, and take them off the list once the situation improves.
- The ECA gives consumers protection against irrational spikes in prices of essential commodities.
- The Legal Metrology Act, 2009: It aims to establish and enforce standards of weights and measures, regulate trade and commerce in weights, measures and other goods which are sold or distributed by weight, measure or number and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

11. Divya Kala Shakti: Witnessing the Abilities in Disabilities

Why in News?

Recently, Tamil Nadu government has organised the first ever regional event Divya Kala Shakti in Chennai (Tamil Nadu).

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had organized the event at national level on 18th April and 23rd July 2019.

Key Points

- Divya Kala Shakti is a cultural event which provides a platform to showcase the potential of Persons with Differently Abled in the field of performing art, music, dance, acrobatics etc.
 - This event also includes for the first time Yoga and Acrobatics.
- The event is being organized by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (Divyangjan), Chennai in collaboration with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)

- It was established in the year 2005 in Chennai under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- It serves as a national resource center for empowerment of persons with Multiple Disabilities.