Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products

Context: The government has decided to extend its support for the Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) until June 30, 2024.

- The RoDTEP support, originally set to expire on September 30, 2023, has been extended until June 30, 2024, with no change in rates for existing export items.
- This extension aims to assist exporters in securing better international contract terms and is compatible with WTO guidelines, utilizing an end-to-end IT system.
- The RoDTEP Committee, part of the Department of Revenue, has been reconstituted to review and recommend ceiling rates for various export sectors under the RoDTEP Scheme.
- Export Promotion Councils and Chambers of Commerce have emphasized the need for increased budget allocation and higher rates to enhance market access for all export items.
- The RoDTEP Scheme, initiated on January 1, 2021, provides reimbursement for taxes, duties, and levies not refundable through other mechanisms, incurred during the manufacturing and distribution of exported products.

RoDTEP

- **Aim:**
  - Boost exports, particularly those with low volumes.
  - Enhance competitiveness of domestic industries in global markets.
  - Reform export-centric industries for growth.
  - Generate employment opportunities.
  - Contribute to India's vision of self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat).
- **About:**
  - RoDTEP, short for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products, commenced implementation on January 1, 2021, replacing the MEIS scheme.
  - RoDTEP is grounded in the globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should not be exported. Instead, taxes and levies incurred on exported products should either be exempted or refunded to exporters.
  - The scheme refunds embedded Central, State, and local duties/taxes that were previously not rebated/refunded to exporters.
  - The rebate is provided in the form of a transferable electronic scrip by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) within a comprehensive IT framework.
  - Digitization facilitates swift and precise verification of exporter records through an IT-based risk management system, ensuring efficient transaction processing.
  - The ICEGATE portal (Indian Customs Electronic Gateway) maintains exporter credit details.

Duty Credit Scrips

- Duty Credit Scrips (DCS) are an export promotion benefit under India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20, aimed at incentivizing exporters and boosting foreign exchange inflow.
- DCS provides tax incentives on exports and can be used to offset import duties. It's issued under MEIS, SEIS, and Export Capital Goods Scheme.
- Implemented by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), FTP 2015-20 outlines DCS features and provisions.
- **Uses of Duty Credit Scrips (DCS):**
  - Offset tax liabilities, including basic customs duty, additional customs duty, safeguard duty, transitional specific safeguard duty, and anti-dumping duty.
  - Transfer DCS to others for their tax liabilities.
  - Not applicable for GST, compensation cess, and education cess offset.
  - Validity of DCS is 24 months from the date of issue.
  - DCS can be revalidated by DGFT under exigent circumstances.

National Commission of Schedule Castes

Context: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has presented its Annual Reports for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 to the President of India.

- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes, as mandated by Article 338 of the Constitution, annually reports to the President on the status of Constitutional Safeguards for Scheduled Castes.
- This includes recommendations for actions by the Union and States to ensure the effective implementation of these safeguards and the socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes.
- These reports contain recommendations addressing the protection of Constitutional Safeguards for Scheduled Castes as prescribed in the Indian Constitution.

Evolution of Formation of NCSC

- Initially, the Constitution of India established a Special Officer, known as the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, under Article 338.
- In response to parliamentary pressure in 1987, the government decided to replace the one-member commission with a multi-member commission for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The 65th Amendment to the Constitution in 1990, known as the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, amended Article 338, creating the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with 5 members, in addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- Subsequently, the 89th Amendment in 2003 led to the establishment of separate entities:
  - National Commission for Scheduled Castes
  - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- The first National Commission for Scheduled Castes was formed in 2004, with Suraj Bhan serving as its Chairman.

NCSC

- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) was established under Article 338 of the Indian Constitution, with a commitment to fully implement various acts, including the SC ST (POA) Act 1989 and PCR Act 1955.
- The recognition of certain castes as 'depressed classes' occurred after the 1937 Census, acknowledging the social disadvantages faced by these communities. Castes, races, or tribes listed under Article 341(1) are referred to as scheduled castes.
- **Composition of National Commission for Scheduled Castes:**
  - Chairman
  - Vice-Chairman
  - Three other members
  - All members are appointed by the President, with the Chairman holding the status of a cabinet minister and the Vice-Chairman akin to a state minister.
- **Powers vested with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes:**
  - The NCSC can regulate its own procedures.
  - It can summon individuals for examination under oath.
  - The commission can receive evidence through affidavits.
  - It has the authority to issue a commission for the examination of witnesses and documents.
  - The NCSC can compel the production of documents and has powers of Civil Court.
- **Functions of National Commission for Scheduled Castes:**
  - NCSC investigates and monitors all safeguard provisions for scheduled castes as stipulated in the Constitution.
  - It handles complaints related to the deprivation of safeguards and rights of scheduled castes.
  - Regularly reports to the President on the implementation of these safeguards.
  - Recommends plans for the socio-economic development of scheduled castes and suggests measures for their welfare, protection, and advancement.
  - Until 2018, the NCSC also served the same functions for other backward classes (OBCs), but this responsibility was relieved by the 102nd Amendment Act of 2018.
  - The NCSC also discharges similar functions for the Anglo-Indian community.
  - The commission establishes special courts to oversee the enforcement of the Civil Rights Act and the Atrocities Act, monitoring their disposal rates and conducting on-spot inquiries into complaints of atrocities.

CE20 E13 Engine

Context: ISRO has successfully completed the CE20 E13 engine hot test, achieving Gaganyaan qualification and a 22-tonne thrust qualification.

- CE20 engine by LPSC Valiamala tested at IPRC Mahendragiri on Sep 22, 2023.
- It powers Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) for LVM3's C25.
- Proven reliability in 19-tonne thrust LVM3 missions, including Chandrayaan missions and OneWeb launches.
- Upgraded for higher payload capacity, becoming C32 with 22-tonne thrust.
- Series of ground hot tests conducted for mission readiness.
- E13 HT-01 initiated engine tuning, a 50-second test.
- E13 HT-02, a significant 720-second test on Aug 30, 2023, displayed reliability.
- E13 HT-03 on Sep 22, 2023, at IPRC, Mahendragiri, confirmed 22-tonne thrust capability for Gaganyaan.
- Successful E13 HT-03 marks readiness for Gaganyaan and future missions.

Gaganyaan Mission

- Gaganyaan is an ISRO mission consisting of three flights.
- The schedule includes two unmanned flights and one human spaceflight.
- The Orbital Module, part of the Gaganyaan system, will carry three Indian astronauts, including a woman.

- It will orbit Earth at an altitude of 300-400 km for 5-7 days.
- **Payloads:**
  - Payload includes a Crew module for carrying humans.
  - A Service module powered by two liquid propellant engines with emergency escape and mission abort capabilities.
- **Launch Vehicle:**
  - GSLV Mk III, also known as LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), will launch Gaganyaan due to its sufficient payload capacity.
- **Training in Russia:**
  - ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre and Russia's Glavkosmos signed a contract in June 2019.
  - Training involves candidate selection, medical exams, and space training.
  - Candidates will study Soyuz spacecraft systems and experience short-term weightlessness aboard the Il-76MDK aircraft.
  - Soyuz is a Russian spacecraft for transporting people and supplies to/from space stations.
  - Il-76MDK is a military transport plane designed for parabolic flights for astronaut training.

Cryogenic Engine

- Cryogenic rocket engines use liquefied gases as both fuel and oxidizer, stored at extremely low temperatures, offering high efficiency.
- These engines played a crucial role in NASA's Moon landing success via the Saturn V rocket and were first used on the US Atlas-Centaur.
- Cryogenic engines are still used today in high-performance upper stages and boosters.
- Operational cryogenic rocket engines are found in rockets from countries including the United States, Russia, Japan, India, France, and China.
- **Cryogenic Propellants:**
  - Rocket engines require high mass flow rates of fuel and oxidizer for thrust.
  - Storing propellants as pressurized gases would necessitate large, heavy tanks.
  - Cryogenic temperatures allow propellants to exist in the liquid phase at higher density and lower pressure, simplifying storage.
  - Examples of cryogenic temperatures include liquid oxygen below -183°C and liquid hydrogen below -253°C.
  - Cryogenic rocket engines are always liquid-propellant engines.
- **Common Fuel-Oxidizer Combination:**
  - Liquid hydrogen (LH2) and liquid oxygen (LOX) are commonly used due to availability and high enthalpy release.
  - This combination can produce a specific impulse of up to 450 seconds at an effective exhaust velocity of 4.4 kilometers per second (2.7 mi/s; Mach 13).
- **Components and Combustion Cycles:**
  - Key components of cryogenic rocket engines include the combustion chamber, pyrotechnic initiator, fuel injector, fuel and oxidizer turbopumps, cryo valves, regulators, fuel tanks, and rocket engine nozzle.
  - Cryogenic engines are primarily pump-fed and operate in gas-generator cycles, staged-combustion cycles, or expander cycles.
  - Gas-generator engines are used on boosters, staged-combustion engines can serve both roles but are more complex, and expander engines are exclusive to upper stages due to their low thrust.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Asola Bhatti wildlife Sanctuary

Recently, the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun**, has proposed to conduct a study on the biodiversity of the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary.
Location: Asola Bhatti Sanctuary is situated in the **northeastern part of the Aravalli range** in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
Geographical Classification: It is classified as a **tropical desert** thorny forest.
Size: The sanctuary covers an **area of 32.71 square kilometers** in the southeastern part of the **Delhi Ridge**.
Fauna: The sanctuary is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including **Sambar**, **Spotted deer**, **Hog deer, Nilgai, Black Buck**, **Indian Boar, leopards**, **Striped hyenas** and **rhesus macaques**, among other animals.
Wildlife Corridor: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the **Sariska-Delhi Wildlife Corridor**, facilitating the movement of wildlife between different regions.
Man-made Lake: The sanctuary features **Neeli Jheel**, a man-made lake that has become one of its main attractions.
Camera-trap Study: A previous study based on camera traps reported the **presence of eight leopards** and **two to four striped hyenas** in the sanctuary.

DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003

DAILY pre PARE
Current affairs summary for prelims

27 September, 2023

Balsam Plant

Balsam Plant: Balsam Plant belongs to the **genus Impatiens**, known for its **vibrant** and **attractive flowers**.
Local Names: In **Munnar**, **Kerala**, it is locally known as **Kasithumba** or **Onappovu**.
'Touch-Me-Not' Characteristic: A balsam plant is often referred to as 'touch-me-not' due to its unique characteristic of **bursting mature seeds upon touch**, facilitating seed distribution.
Habitat and Life Cycle: A balsam plant typically has a life cycle from **June to December**.
It thrives in forested areas, often in **pockets**.
Climate Change Indicator: A balsam plant is considered an important indicator species for climate change, as changes in its population **reflect alterations in local climate conditions**.
Unique Diversity: Munnar is home to a unique diversity of balsam plants, with **over 40** different species found in the **Eravikulam National Park** alone.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Recently, **Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry** has announced that veteran Bollywood actor **Waheeda Rehman** would be given the **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021**.
What is Dadasaheb Phalke Award?
The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is **India's most prestigious award** in the field of **cinema**, recognizing exceptional contributions to Indian cinema.
Award Components: Recipients receive a **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion**, a **shawl** and a **cash prize of ₹10 lakh**.
Inception: The award was instituted in **1969** and was first presented to **Devika Rani**.
Dadasaheb Phalke: The award is named after **Dhundiraj Govind Phalke**, who is widely regarded as the **"Father of Indian Cinema."** He directed India's first full-length feature film, **"Raja Harishchandra," in 1913**.
Notable Recipients: The award has been conferred upon legendary figures in Indian cinema, including **Satyajit Ray**, **Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar**, **Amitabh Bachchan**, **Rajnikanth**, and others.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

About China-Pakistan Economic Corridor:
- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a **3,000-km** infrastructure network connecting **China's Xinjiang** to **Pakistan's Gwadar Port**, featuring highways, railways and development projects.
- It's a bilateral initiative between **Pakistan** and **China**, designed to enhance connectivity through highways, railways, pipelines and various infrastructure projects.
- It provides China a **shorter trade route** to the **Indian Ocean**, impacting **global trade dynamics**.
- It is a component of China's ambitious **Belt** and **Road** Initiative, **launched in 2013**, aimed at creating a global network of land and sea routes.
- **India opposes CPEC** due to its route through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, raising sovereignty and regional stability concerns.
- It aligns with China's **"String of Pearls"** strategy, expanding its presence in the Indian Ocean.

ISRO's Aditya-L1 Mission

About Aditya-L1 Mission:
- The Aditya-L1 spacecraft, India's inaugural sun-focused mission, was launched by ISRO on **September 2** to study the sun.
- Aditya-L1 commenced its journey towards **Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1** (L1) on **September 18,** with an expected arrival at **L1 by January 2024**.

Halo Orbit Around L1: Aditya-L1 will operate in a halo orbit around the **Sun-Earth L1 point**.
Halo Orbits Explanation:
- Halo orbits are **three-dimensional orbits** around a Lagrange Point (**L1, L2 or L3**).
- They include an **out-of-plane motion** component relative to the primary celestial bodies.

Operational Spacecraft at L1: Currently, there are **four operational spacecrafts** located at **Lagrange Point 1 (L1)**: **WIND**, **Solar** and **Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE)** and **Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVER)**.
Role of Spacecraft at L1: Spacecraft stationed at L1 provide crucial early warnings regarding **adverse space weather events**.

Polyethylene Terephthalate

What is Polyethylene Terephthalate?
- Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) is a widely-used **thermoplastic polymer**.
- It belongs to the **polyester** family.

Production:
- PET is produced by **polymerizing ethylene glycol** and **terephthalic acid**.
- The chemical reaction results in a molten, **viscous mass** that can be processed into **fibers** or solidified for later use as plastic.

Properties:
- PET is highly **flexible**, **colorless** and **semi-crystalline** in its natural state.
- It exhibits **good dimensional stability**, **impact resistance** and **resistance to moisture**, **alcohols** and **solvents**.
- It is an excellent **electrical insulator**.

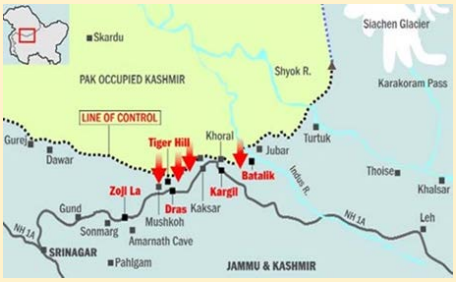
Applications:
- It is widely used for **packaging foods** and **beverages**, including **soft drinks**, **juices** and water.

It is utilized in the **textile industry** for **fabrics**.

Place in News

Kaobal Gali-Mushkoh Valley

Recently, the **Kaobal Gali-Mushkoh Valley**, previously a **Kargil War battlefield**, has become accessible to **tourists**.



Location:

- The Kaobal Gali-Mushkoh Valley is situated in **Kargil's Drass** Sector in **Jammu and Kashmir**, India.
- It played a significant role as a **battlefield** during the **1999 Kargil War** between **India** and **Pakistan**.

Geographic Features:

- Kaobal Gali, the **highest pass** at an **elevation of 4,167 meters** in **Gurez**, connects **Gurez Valley to the Mushkoh Valley**.

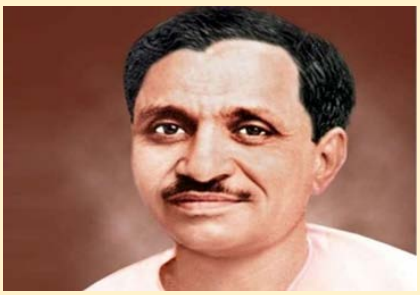
Wildlife: It is a home to a variety of wildlife, including **ibex**, **musk deer**, **marmots**, **Himalayan** brown bears and snow leopards.

River: **Kishanganga**

Personality in News

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (1916-1968)



Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was a **prominent thinker** associated with the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** and one of the **co-founders of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh**.

Contributions:

In the **1940s**, he initiated the publication of the monthly magazine **"Rashtra Dharma"** and launched the weekly magazine **"Panchjanya"** and the daily newspaper **"Swadesh."**

He authored several books, including **"Samrat Chandragupta**," **"Jagatguru Sankaracharya," "Akhand Bharat Kyon?"** and **"Rashtra Chintan."**

He developed the philosophy of Integral Humanism, known as **"Ekatma Manawvad,"** which was rooted in the **non-dualistic philosophy of Advaita Vedanta**.

Ethical Values:

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was known for his strong emphasis on ethical values, including **integrity**, **objectivity**, **diligence** and a deep sense of **nationalism**.

POINTS TO PONDER

- **Which bank has started 'NEO for business", a distinct one stop Transaction Banking platform for MSMEs?** - Axis Bank
- **Who has been honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, 2023?** - Waheeda Rehman
- **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) approves to conduct Truenat test to detect which infection? -** Nipah
- **India has partnered with which country to deploy 10,000 made-in-India electric buses across Indian cities? -** USA
- **X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) and Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) were successfully launched by which country?** - Japan