Prelim Bits 10-12-2019

Human Development Index

- Human Development Report was recently released by UN Development Programme (UNDP).
- It unveils Human Development Index (HDI) which measures average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development,

i. Life expectancy,
ii. Education and
iii. Per capita income.

- According to its recent report, India ranks 129 out of 189 countries on the 2019 HDI, up by one position (130) from last year.
- Norway, Switzerland, Ireland occupied the top 3 positions followed by Germany & Hong Kong in 4th and Australia in 5th ranking.
- Among India's neighbours, Sri Lanka (71) and China (85) are higher up the rank scale.
- Bhutan (134), Bangladesh (135), Myanmar (145), Nepal (147), Pakistan (152) and Afghanistan (170) were ranked lower on the list.
- **Inequality-Adjusted HDI (IHDI)** indicates percentage loss in HDI due to inequalities.
- In IHDI, India’s position drops by one position to 130.
- In the **Gender Inequality Index (GII),** India is at 122 out of 162 countries. Neighbours China (39), Sri Lanka (86), Bhutan (99), Myanmar (106) were placed above India.
- **Report Highlights** - South Asia was the fastest growing region in human development progress followed by East Asia and the Pacific.
- The world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030 as per the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.
- It forecasts that it may take 202 years to close the gender gap in economic opportunity.
- It presents a new index indicating how prejudices and social beliefs obstruct gender equality.
- It shows that only 14% of women and 10% of men worldwide have no gender bias.
- It also highlights that new forms of inequalities will manifest in future through climate change and technological transformation.

126th Constitution Amendment Bill

- The 126th Constitution Amendment Bill was recently introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- The bill intends to extend the reservation of SC/STs in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies by 10 years.
- It **removes** the provision of nominating two members of the Anglo-Indian community to the Lok Sabha.
- The reservation given to SCs, STs and the Anglo-Indian community for the past 70 years is to end on January 25, 2020.
- According to the 2011 census, there are 296 members of the Anglo-Indian community in the entire country.

Click here to know more about the reservation.

White Island Volcano

- The White Island Volcano, also called Whakaari, in New Zealand has recently erupted.
- It is the country's most active volcano situated in the east coast in the Bay of Plenty.
- It has been built up by continuous volcanic activity over the past 1,50,000 years.
- It is a privately owned island and tourist destination. The large eruption resulted in atleast 5 fatalities.

Piped Drinking Water

- Jal Jeevan Mission was launched to provide functional household tap connections to every households by 2024.
- Jal Shakti Ministry is the nodal ministry for this mission.
- Water is the State subject. Thus, the implementation has to be done through the States.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is preparing the ground for enforcement of piped water quality standards with a workshop for State officials.
- The BIS standard is available for bottled water which is mostly produced by private companies.
- But the BIS standard is not yet mandatory for piped water which is largely supplied by government agencies.

Skills Build Platform

- Skills Build is a digital platform developed by IBM along with Ministry of Skill Development.
- India is the 4th country where this Skills Build platform has been launched after in UK, Germany and France.
- The platform enables holistic learning and aligning it with Skills India initiative by Government of India.
- It will be accessible online through bharat skills, a Learning Management System for ITI/NSTI Students and Teachers and free to use.
- It will focus on personalised coaching and experiential learning. It also provides personal assessment for cognitive capabilities.

Source: PIB, The Hindu

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