Prelim Bits 14-12-2019

Economic Census

- The 7th Economic Census was launched by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) in Delhi.
- The ministry has tied up with Common Service Centre (CSC), an SPV under Ministry of Electronics and IT to carry out the census.
- It is expected to be completed by March 2020.
- One of the main aims of the Economic Census is preparation of a National Business Register which can be linked with existing databases at the central and state government levels.
- The economic census was started in the year 1977 in collaboration with States/UTs.
- The subsequent Censuses were conducted in the years 1980, 1990, 1998, 2005, 2013.
- The 7^{th} economic census is the first one being done using digital platform which has reduced time for survey to 6 months from 2 years earlier.
- It will cover all households/establishments engaged in non-agricultural economic activities including construction.
- But it will not cover public administration, defence and compulsory social security.
- Population Census 2011 will form the primary geographical unit for this.
- It will provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all establishments in the country.

SAANS Initiative

- Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) is an initiative under National Health Mission.
- It is to accelerate action to reduce deaths due to Childhood Pneumonia.
- Under this, the government is targeting a reduction in pneumonia-caused deaths by 2025 to less than 3 deaths out of 1000 live births.
- Under SAANS, health and wellness centres can use pulse oximeter (device to monitor oxygen saturation) to identify low oxygen levels in the blood of a child, and if required, treat him by use of oxygen cylinders.
- A health campaign will be conducted to mobilise people to create awareness.
- As per Health Management Information System (HMIS) data, Madhya

Pradesh has the highest number of pneumonia-caused child deaths, followed by Gujarat.

International Geological Congress

- International Geological Congress (IGC) is the prestigious global platform for advancement of Earth Science.
- It was founded as a non-profit scientific and educational organization in 1878 but came under the aegis of International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in 1961.
- Since 1961, the meetings of IGC are held in collaboration and under scientific sponsorship of IUGS.
- So far 35 congresses have been held throughout the world at 3 to 5-year intervals.
- The last session (35^{th}) was held in Capetown, South Africa in 2016.
- This time (36^{th}) congress is going to be held in Delhi, India with the theme "Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future".
- India had already hosted a congress in 1964 (24^{th} congress). Thus, India becomes the first Asian country to host the event twice.
- The 36th IGC is funded by the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
- It is supported by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the science academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Geological Survey of India is the nodal agency for organizing the event.

International workshop on “Energy Efficient Cooling”

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), as part of “Energy Conservation Week (9 – 14^{th} Dec)”, conducted an International Workshop on “Energy Efficient Cooling” in New Delhi.
- It was organised in association with International Energy Agency (IEA), under SEAD initiative of Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM).
- Its objective was to chart out steps towards accelerating the development and deployment of efficient cooling appliances, equipment and systems.
- The event highlighted action plans, international best policy practices, measures to stimulate innovation and deliberations on steps forward.
- BEE is a statuary body under the Ministry of Power.

SEAD Initiative of CEM

- Clean Energy Ministerial is a high-level global forum to promote policies and programs that advance clean energy technology and to encourage the transition to a global clean energy economy.

- At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference of parties in Copenhagen in December 2009, Clean Energy Ministerial meeting was proposed by U.S. Secretary of Energy.
- It is focused on three global climate and energy policy goals - Improve energy efficiency worldwide, Enhance clean energy supply, Expand clean energy access.
- The framework for the CEM was adopted at the 7th CEM meeting in 2016.
- The 10th CEM meeting was held in Vancouver, Canada in 2019.
- **SEAD initiative -** The Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) of CEM is a voluntary collaboration among governments to promote use of energy efficient appliances worldwide.
- It is a task of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).
- Presently, there are 18 participating governments to this initiative.
- If all SEAD governments were to adopt current policy best practices for product energy efficiency standards, **2,000 TWh of annual electricity could be saved** in 2030, equal to the energy generated by 650 mid-sized power plants.

Virtual Police Station

- The Virtual Police Station is an initiative by the Andhra Pradesh government.
- It is to demystify the police station and acquaint the public with the functioning of a police station electronically without visiting it physically.
- It will set up in the educational institutions as a pilot project and it will educate public about the functioning of police stations and how to file a FIR.

Source: PIB, The Hindu, The Economic Times

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