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Social Issues

Awareness Programme on Cooperatives for Transgender Community

- **Organised by** - Department of Social Justice and Empowerment with Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy of Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC), and National Institute of Social Defence (NISD).

- **Aim** - To highlight how cooperatives can serve as a powerful instrument for economic empowerment, collective growth, and social inclusion.

Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy of Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC)

- **LINAC** - It is the training, research, and consultancy arm of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

- **Established in** - 1985 through a World Bank project.

- **Upgrade from pioneer** - Government of India upgraded the institute with a broader mandate for training, research and consultancy and renamed it as LINAC in 2018.

- **Aim** - To build upon the strength of the training institution and to promote research and development in the cooperative sector.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- It is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Cooperation.

- **Established in** - 1963.

- **Aim** - To promote, strengthen and develop farmer cooperatives for increasing production, productivity and instituting post-harvest facilities across the country.

National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)

- **NISD** - It is the *nodal training and research institute* in the field of Social Defence.

- **Evolution** -

- **Originally as** - Central Bureau of Correctional Services in 1961, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- **Transferred to** - Department of Social Security in 1964.

- **Current status** - Since 1975, it has been a subordinate office under the *Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment*.

- **Aim** - To focus on human resource development in the areas of *drug abuse prevention, welfare of senior citizens, transgender welfare and beggary prevention*.

Economy

New GST System

GST Council, during its 56th meeting, decided to revamp the tax structure into a primarily two-rate system.

- **Objectives** - To simplify India's existing multi-rate tax framework and make taxation simpler and fairer.

- **Categorization of tax** - Under this, instead of the *existing 5 tax slabs*, goods and services will be categorized into 2 main rates.

- **Slab 1** - 5%

- **Slab 2** - 18%

- **Special slab** - 40% (sin goods and luxury item)

- **Classification of good & services** - It classifies goods and services into essential items and standard or luxury items.

- **Essential Goods and Services** - These would attract a *lower tax rate* which includes necessities such as *food items, basic household goods, and essential services*.

- **Standard or Non-Essential Goods and Services** - These would attract a *higher tax rate*, covering *luxury items, discretionary goods, and high-value services*.

Sin Goods

- Sin goods are products considered *harmful to health or society*, which include tobacco, gutka, pan masala, and alcoholic or sugary beverages.

- **Higher taxation** - To discourage consumption while raising revenue for public welfare.

- **Earlier tax rate** - It attracted the steepest GST rates, charged at 28% plus an additional Compensation Cess.

- **Current tax rate** - Cess being phased out, the same burden has now been consolidated under a *single 40% GST slab*.

Science

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Feasibility Study for India

- **Released by** - Ministry of Civil Aviation, with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and with support from the European Union.

- **Prepared under** - ICAO ACT-SAF Programme.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

- **SAF** - It is a biofuel used to power aircraft that has similar properties to conventional jet fuel but with a smaller carbon footprint.

- **Obtained from** - The non-fossil fuel sources called feedstocks, including waste products like used cooking oil, agricultural waste, and municipal solid waste.

ICAO Assistance, Capacity-building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ICAO ACT-SAF)

- **Launched in** - 2022.

- **Aim** - To provide tailored support for States in various stages of SAF *development and deployment, facilitate partnerships and cooperation*.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- **ICAO** - It is a *United Nations agency* which helps *193 countries* to cooperate together and share their skies to their mutual benefit.

- **Established in** - 1944.

- **Objectives** - To achieve the sustainable growth of the *global civil aviation system*.

- To serve as the global forum of States for international civil aviation.

- To develop policies and standards, undertake *compliance audits, perform studies and analyses, and provide assistance* to its member states and stakeholders.