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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.

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