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‘Desh Ke Mentor’ program

- ecently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) suggested that the Delhi government postpone its flagship ‘Desh Ke Mentor’ program till the time the children are protected. Not all related defects are rectified.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights:



- NCPCR has been constituted in March 2007 as a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It is working under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- The Commission's mandate ensures that all laws, policies, programs and administrative machinery are in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution of India on the Rights of the Child as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It investigates complaints related to the right to free and compulsory education for a child under the Right to Education Act, 2009.
- It oversees the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 [Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012].

About Desh Ke Mentor program:

- It was launched in October 2021, with the aim of connecting students of classes IX to XII with Voluntary Mentors.
- Through an app created by a team from Delhi Technological University, people in the age group of 18 to 35 years can sign up to be mentors, who will engage with students based on mutual interests.
- Mentorship includes regular phone calls for a minimum period of two months, which may alternately extend to the next four months.
- The idea is to motivate young mentors to guide students in matters like higher education and career options, so that they can prepare for higher education entrance exams better and be free from pressure.
- So far 44,000 people have signed up as mentors, working with 1.76 lakh children.

Concerns raised by NCPDR:

- Connecting children with same-sex mentors is not the only way to protect them from abuse.
- Lack of police verification of the mentor.
- The psychometric test is not a full proof assessment of an individual in terms of potential danger to a child.
- Limiting conversations to phone calls also does not ensure the safety of children because "child-related crimes can also be initiated through phone calls."
- It is the responsibility and accountability of the department to protect the children from such situations. Parental consent cannot be used in case of any untoward incident.
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‘National e-Governance Award’

- Recently, ‘Som’ district administration of Nagaland has been awarded the prestigious ‘National e-Governance Award – 2020-21’ under the category ‘Use of ICT in Management of COVID-19’.
- According to the notification issued in this regard, ‘Som’ district administration under the initiative named ‘Technology in aid of administration’ has implemented Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Technology on a large scale to manage the Kovid-19 epidemic and reduce the hardships of the general public. Utilized various emerging technologies like Deep Learning.
- Under this arrangement, many private companies and non-governmental organizations were involved at the regional level for the formulation and implementation of various schemes and initiatives.
- It may be noted that this award was given at the 24th National Conference on e-Governance held in Hyderabad.
- The ‘National e-Governance Awards’ are conferred annually with the objective of recognizing and promoting excellence in the implementation of e-Governance initiatives.
- The award consists of a trophy, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

Delhi’s first electric bus

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has recently launched the state’s first DTC electric bus.
- According to the information released in this regard, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) will buy about 300 more new electric buses by the month of April this year.
- Although the Delhi government aims to introduce a total of 2000 electric buses in the capital, which can be an important step in the direction of combating pollution in the state.
- Electric buses will cover a minimum distance of 120 km and charging points will also be arranged at certain places in the state.

- It is worth noting that earlier in December last year, Karnataka had launched its first electric bus for public transport.
- Presently 25 electric buses are plying on the roads of Karnataka state. These buses include features like Real Time Passenger Information System (PIS), Panic Button for emergency, Automatic Bus Vehicle Location System, CCTV cameras, Public Address System, Stop Request Button etc.

Ravidassia Community

- Recently the Election Commission of India (ECI) has postponed the assembly elections due to the importance of Ravidassia community in Punjab.
- The state government and political parties expressed concern that many devotees would be debarred from voting in Varanasi (at a memorial temple) due to the celebration of Guru Ravidas' birth anniversary on February 16.
- According to the Hindu lunar calendar, the birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas is celebrated on the full moon day in the month of Magha.

Introduction:

- The Ravidasiyas belong to the Dalit community, most of whom live in the Doab region with a population of about 12 lakh.
- Dera Sachkhand Ballan which is his largest dera with two million followers worldwide, was established by Baba Sant Pipal Das in the early 20th century.
- Despite being closely associated with Sikhism in the past, the dera broke off decades-old ties in 2010 and announced that they would follow the Ravidasia religion.
- This announcement was made on the occasion of Ravidas Jayanti in Varanasi.
- From the year 2010, Dera Sachkhand Ballan replaced the Guru Granth Sahib in Ravidasiya temples and gurdwaras with its own scripture, the Amritbani, which contained 200 hymns of Guru Ravidass.

Guru Ravidas:



- Guru Ravidas was a mystic poet saint of the Bhakti movement of the 15th and 16th centuries and founded the Ravidasia religion.
- It is believed that he was born in Varanasi in the family of a cobbler.
- He gained fame for his belief in one God and for composing unbiased religious poems.
- He devoted his whole life to the abolition of caste system and openly condemned the concept of Brahminical society.
- His devotional songs made an instant impact on the Bhakti movement. About 41 of his poems were also included in the Sikh religious text 'Guru Granth Sahib'.
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