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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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CONTENTS

RIGHT TO REPAIR PORTAL

This article discusses Government policies and interventions in news in relation to the polity. In GS-2 and following content has relevance for UPSC.

For prelims: Facts about the portal

For mains: GS-2, Polity

Why in news:

- On National Consumer Day, the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister introduced the "right to repair" portal.
- "Effective disposal of cases in consumer commission" was the focus of National Consumer Day in 2022.
- About the Right to repair portal:
- The term "Right to Repair" refers to government law that aims to give consumers the freedom to repair and alter their own consumer electronic products, as opposed to situations where the manufacturer would otherwise force the user to use only the services the manufacturer offers.
- Many nations around the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, have recognized the right to repair.

Background:

- A committee led by Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, was established by the Union government in July 2022 to provide a thorough framework for the right to repair.
- The industries mentioned include Automobiles/Automobile Equipment, Consumer Durables, Mobile Phones/Tablets, and Farming Equipment.
- The framework aims to lessen the barriers put in place by some manufacturers so that

people can fix consumer durables, mobile devices, and cars on their own.

- The framework will "alter the game" in terms of the products' sustainability and act as a driver for the creation of jobs.

About the portal:

- Customers can access product information from the manufacturer on this portal so they can perform their own or third-party repairs rather than relying on the original manufacturers.

- Mobile phones, gadgets, consumer goods, cars, and farm equipment will all be covered initially.

- It protects consumers from manufacturers who might try to force them to utilize their services by limiting access to tools and components or putting up software barriers, preventing them from fixing and customizing their consumer goods.

- From this point forward, India will join a number of nations that provide this facility, including the US and the UK.

- Extending the life of appliances and enhancing their maintenance, repurposing, upgrading, recyclability, and waste management, it will benefit consumers financially and advance the goals of the circular economy.

About Nidhi Khare committee:

- The Department of Consumer Affairs recently formed a committee headed by Nidhi Khare to create a thorough framework for the right to repair.

- The framework's goals include empowering local consumers and product buyers and coordinating commerce between original equipment makers and third-party buyers and sellers.

- Additionally, it strives to reduce e-waste and encourage the development of sustainable consumer habits.

Advantages:

- Increase the amount of business for small repair businesses, which are vital to regional economies.

- Consumers will save money as a result.

- The circular economy will benefit from it.

- The enormous mountain of electrical garbage (e-waste) that amasses on the continent each year will be lessened as a result.

LOSAR FESTIVAL

This article discusses the Losar festival in news in relation to Art and culture. In GS-1 and following content has relevance for UPSC.

For prelims: Facts about the Losar festival
For mains: GS-1, Art and Culture

Why in News:

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister sent his best wishes for the Losar festival.

ABOUT THE LOSAR FESTIVAL

- It is one of the most important festivals in the Tibetan calendar.
- It starts on the day of a new moon, which is also the first day of the first Tibetan calendar month.
- With the primary festivities taking place on the first three days, Losar is observed for 15 days.

Losar Festival

Meaning:

- In Tibetan, the word "Losar" refers to the new year. Both "Lo" and "Sar" refer to the current year.
- Ancient Origins: The winter incense-burning habit of the Bon religion is the source of Losar, which predates the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet.
- Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, and India all celebrate
- Ladakh, Kinnaur, Spiti, and Sikkim are all in India.

ABOUT BON RELIGION

Additional name: Yungdrung Bon

- It is a Tibetan religious tradition containing a lot of Tibetan Buddhism's characteristics as

well as many distinctive ones.

- In the tenth and eleventh centuries, bon first emerged.
- In Tibet, particularly in eastern Tibet, as well as in the neighboring Himalayan regions, Bon continues to be a sizable minority faith.

Losar in Different Areas:

- With only very tiny modifications, the festival is also observed on the same day in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- On several dates with some changes, the Losar festival is observed in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet.

E-SPORTS IN INDIA

This article discusses "Daily current events" about e Sports in India news in relation to Polity and Governance. In GS-2 and following content has relevance for UPSC.

For prelims: Facts about E-sports

For mains: GS-2, Government policies and interventions

Why in news:

- The President of India recently recommended that the Sports Ministry and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology include "eSports in multi-sport events" in the legislation governing eSports.
- According to Article 77(3) of the Constitution, the President has the authority to enact regulations for the government of India's business transactions and for the distribution of said business among Ministers.
- E-Sports will now fall under the "multi-sports event" category in India, according to a gazette notice.

ABOUT E-SPORTS

- In e-sports, often known as "Electronic Sports," players compete in a variety of video games in a virtual, electronic setting by using their physical and mental prowess.
- Counter-Strike, League of Legends, Overwatch, Fortnite, and DOTA 2 are a few examples.
- After being incorporated into the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, there was an increasing demand for e-sports to be covered in the multi-discipline event curriculum.
- However, this gave e-sports fans a boost and gave Indian e-sports fans a shot in the arm.
- In the 2018 Asian Games, which featured e-sports as a demonstration title, India took home a bronze medal.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), the Commonwealth, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which together make up sports' governing bodies, have recognized it as a sport.
- Prior to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the IOC created the Virtual Olympic Series (e-sports Tournament); from 2007, e-sports have been a part of OCA events. e-sports will be a medal sport at the 2022 Asian Games.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that Singapore would host the first Olympic e-sports Week in June 2023 in a similar effort to popularize e-Sport.

Ministry involved:

- E-Sports will be handled by the Department of Sports within the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as the nodal ministry.

- While MEITY will be in charge of "Online Gaming" (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).
- Reorganization of E-Sport as a Sport: At this point, nations including the United States, Finland, and even the cautious Germany have recognized e-sports as a sport.

Reason for law at the central level:

- Even though online gaming has historically been a state issue, state governments have reported having a very difficult time enforcing laws like geo-blocking particular websites or apps within their state's borders.
- The fact that laws passed in one state may not apply in another raises additional concerns and has led to inconsistent regulation of the nation's online gambling market.
- Additionally, unlike the Centre, state governments do not have sufficient blocking authority to impose orders preventing access to offshore betting sites. Several societal issues that may develop as a result of the rise of online gaming in the nation have also been brought up.
- People have reportedly lost significant amounts of money playing online games, which has resulted in suicides across the nation.
- Additionally, there is currently no legal framework in place to control several aspects of online gaming businesses, including the establishment of player protection measures, data and intellectual property rights protection, and the banning of deceptive advertising.

Status in other countries:

- China and South Africa were among the first few countries to recognize e-sports as a sport, along with South Korea. In addition, Nepal, Italy, Denmark, and Russia have joined. In September 2020, Ukraine formally recognized e-sports as a sport.

Way ahead:

- Government and Gaming Industry Collaboration: Gaming companies should also continue to collaborate with the government to promote responsible gaming by instructing players and establishing best practices like performing KYC checks, user authentication, etc. to halt illegal activities and financial dealings on their platforms.
- Strong Policy Framework: For the Indian e-gaming business to reach its full potential, maximize income, and take the lead globally, it needs strong policy frameworks and digital infrastructure.
- It is necessary to have a governing body that controls operations, develops progressive laws to prevent social problems, defines games of skill or chance appropriately, assures consumer protection, and fights crime and illegality.

AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME

This article discusses "Daily current events "Amrit Bharat station scheme "news in relation to the Economy and infrastructure. In GS-3 and following content has relevance for UPSC.

For prelims: Facts about Amrit Bharat station Scheme

For mains: GS-3, Economy and infrastructure

Why in news:

In order to renovate over 1,000 tiny stations over the next few years, the Ministry of Railways developed the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme as part of its station reconstruction initiative.

About Amrit Bharat Station scheme:

The scheme has a long-term vision and calls for the continued development of stations.

These proposed stations' key characteristics are as follows:

- Longer platforms,
- ballastless tracks,
- roof-top plazas, and
- 5G connections are all included.

Redevelopment and upgrade:

- As part of the Scheme, stations will be outfitted with amenities that are modeled after the massive upgrades made to prominent stations like New Delhi and Ahmedabad.
- All prior redevelopment projects that have not yet started will be absorbed into the program.

Facilities:

- Provision for future creation of Roof Plaza.
- Free WiFi and room for 5G cell towers.
- Accessibility is increased through the expansion of roadways, the elimination of obtrusive constructions, appropriately placed signs, designated pedestrian walkways, well-planned parking lots, and better lighting, among other measures.
- All stations with a length of 600 meters have high-level platforms (760–840 mm).
- Disability-specific amenities.
- On Broad

- The program's goal is to create master plans for railroad stations and implement them gradually so as to improve the facilities, both inside and outside the scope of the Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA).

- **Monetary plans:** Only on the basis of considerations like foot traffic and input from stakeholders can plan and subsequent budgets are authorized.

- The task of choosing stations has been delegated to the zonal railroads, which will then have them approved by a committee of top railway officials.

- **Upgrades and new amenities:** The plan will cover both the addition of new amenities as well as the upgrading and replacement of current amenities.

- The ministry aims to use private telecom carriers' involvement in 5G connection to its advantage because all of these stations will feature free Wi-Fi access and escalators for convenient movement.

KALASA BANDURI PROJECT

Why in News:

- Goa and Maharashtra are opposing the Kalasa-Banduri drinking water project that the Union Government just approved for Karnataka.
- The Central Water Commission (CWC) has given its approval for the diversion of 2.18 TMC and 1.72 TMC, respectively, of water from the Bhandara and Kalasa dams.
- This indicates that even from an interstate standpoint, the project is appropriate.
- The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal, established in 2010, approved the project in 2018, however with less water than Karnataka had requested.

ABOUT KALASA BANDURI PROJECT

- It is a dam that is intended to redirect water from the Mhadei basin to the Mala-Prabha river's shortfall basin.
- The initiative aims to provide potable water for 13 towns in northern Karnataka, which is suffering from a drought.
- These places include, among others, Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkote, and Gadag.
- After Rajasthan, these regions make up the nation's second-most dry region.
- Kalasa Banduri project
- Kalasa Banduri project

Issues

- The allocations are made contingent upon the completion of new Detailed Project Reports as instructed by the Tribunal and upon receipt of all necessary clearances from the Union government in accordance with the Forest Conservation Act of 1981, the Environment Protection Act of 1985, and other applicable laws.
- This indicates that there is still much work to be done.
- The project authority is responsible for obtaining all mandatory and legislative permissions as specified in the MWDT award.
- The Supreme Court needs to resolve some cases that are currently pending.

About Mahadayi River :

The Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in the Khanapur taluk of Karnataka's Belagavi district is where the Mahadayi River rises in Karnataka (Western Ghats). It penetrates the north Goa districts as it flows westward. One of the two major rivers that flow through Goa is the Mandovi, which is formed when several streams join the river's flow. At Panaji, it merges with the Arabian Sea.