



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 10-May-2018

General Studies-1

Second oldest Rock on earth found in Orissa:

A rock sample recovered nearly eight years ago from Champua in Odisha's Kendujhar district has put India at the forefront of geological research in the world.

Scientists have found in the rock a grain of magmatic zircon (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) that is an estimated 4,240 million years old — a discovery of great promise to study the earth's early years.

The only instance of zircon older than this discovery was the one found in Jack Hill, Western Australia, which was 4,400 million years old and is the oldest known rock sample. But the zircon in this case was from metamorphosed sedimentary rock, unlike the Singhbhum one, which was formed from magma.

Thus, the Singhbhum rock from where the zircon was recovered is the second oldest and its zircon, the oldest magmatic zircon on earth.

Benefits of Findings:

Their study will add valuable information about the presence of water in the first few hundred million years of the Earth's history.

It will also give us clues to when plate tectonics began.

General Studies-2

Fifteenth Finance Commission

Why in News?

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted an Advisory Council to advise and assist the Commission. The role and functions of the Advisory Council will be:

- To advise the Commission on any issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission, which may be of relevance;
- To assist in the preparation of any paper or research study which would enhance the Commission's understanding on the issues contained in its ToR; and
- To help in broadening the Commission's ambit and understanding to seek best national and international practices on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution and improving the quality and reach and enforcement of its recommendations.



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About the Campaign:

Swachh Bharat Summer Internship – 100 Hours of Swachhata'- was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in association with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to engage youth across the country for sanitation related work and village level development.

The program from 1st May to 31st July 2018 is aimed to develop the skill and orientation of youth for sanitation related work, bring youth across the country to make a significant contribution to the swachhta revolution and integrate youth in the community service in rural areas in the run up to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Who can Participate?

Students enrolled in Colleges and Universities may apply in 'Swachh Bharat Summer Internship' through the enrolment form.

Candidates may participate individually or in teams also.

The location and team size may be decided in consultation with Nodal Officers.

After enrollment for the internship through the website, candidates will be accepted as valid only once approved by the Nodal Officer at the Parent Institution.

Candidates are to devote at least 100 hours conducting Swachhata-related activities in rural areas selected by them and approved by the parent institution. The last date of registration is 15th May, 2018.

Benefits of Participation:

All participants will be given a Swachh Bharat Internship Certificate on completion of their internship and its approval by the parent institution.

2 curriculum credits will be given to interns whose internship reports are found eligible to get credits by parent institution.

The Best 3 interns/ teams will be recognized at college, university, state and national levels.



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General Studies-3

National Clean Ganga Mission (NCGM)

Why in News?

Only about a fifth of the Rs. 20,000 crore allotted for the National Clean Ganga Mission (NCGM) has been utilised till March 2018.

That is roughly the same proportion of the sanctioned money utilised the same time last year.

Sewage infrastructure

About half the money, or Rs. 2,814 crore, had been spent on establishing sewage infrastructure. Only 24 of the 65 'entry-level' projects — meant for cleaning the ghats and establishing new ones and cleaning the river front and the river surface — had been completed. They had been allotted Rs. 492 crore.

Ministry officials said that while delays characterised several major projects, there had been an uptick in the tenders being awarded in the last few months. Because of this, several of these projects would be rapidly completed in the year ahead.

Major Sources of Pollution:

About 12,000 MLD of sewage is emptied into the Ganga across 11 States, from Uttarakhand to West Bengal.

At present, the capacity for sewage treatment is just 4,000 MLD; of this, 1,000 MLD is functional.

Coursing 2,500 km, the Ganga is the longest river within India's borders.

Its basin constitutes 26% of the country's land mass (8,61,404 sq. km.) and supports 43% of its population. Even as the basin spreads across 11 States, five are located along the river's main stem: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

Much of its pollution load — chemical effluents, sewage, dead bodies, and excreta — comes from these States.

Though the industrial pollution, volume-wise, accounts for about 20%, its toxic and non-biodegradable nature has a disproportionate impact.



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The industrial pollutants largely emanate from tanneries in Kanpur and distilleries, paper mills and sugar mills in the Kosi, Ramganga and Kali river catchments.

The municipal sewage, at a billion litres a day, accounts for 80% of the pollution load.

About NMCG:

National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority(NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA),1986.

NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).

The Act envisages five tier structure at national, state and district level to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga as below;

1. National Ganga Council under chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
2. Empowered Task Force (ETF) on river Ganga under chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
3. National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG).
4. State Ganga Committees and
5. District Ganga Committees in every specified district abutting river Ganga and its tributaries in the states.



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NMCG has a two tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.

Both of them are headed by Director General, NMCG. Executive Committee has been authorized to accord approval for all projects up to Rs.1000 crore.

Similar to structure at national level, State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) acts as implementing arm of State Ganga Committees.

Thus the newly created structure attempts to bring all stakeholders on one platform to take a holistic approach towards the task of Ganga cleaning and rejuvenation.