



C.A Dated On 09-Aug-2018

General Studies- 1

Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve

Why in News?

The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

The decision to include Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in WNBR was taken at the 30th Session of International Coordinating Council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang, Indonesia, from July 23-27, 2018.

About Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve

- Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1, 220 metres above sea-level.
- It includes a range of ecolines , varying from sub-tropic to Arctic, as well as natural forests in different biomes, that support an immensely rich diversity of forest types and habitats.
- The core area of the Biosphere Reserve is a major transboundary Wildlife Protected Area.
- The southern and central landscape, which makes up 86% of the core area, is situated in the Greater Himalayas.
- The northern part of the area accounts for 14% is characterized by trans-Himalayan features.

Earlier Categorization:

The core zone – Khangchendzonga National Park was designated a World Heritage Site in 2016 under the 'mixed' category.

India has 18 Biosphere Reserves and with the inclusion of Khangchendzonga, the number of internationally designated WNBR has become 11, with 7 Biosphere Reserves being domestic Biosphere Reserves.



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Niryat Mitra

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched Niryat Mitra – mobile App in New Delhi today.

The app developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) is available both on Android and on IOS platforms.

Benefits of App:

- It provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade right from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures.
- The most interesting part is that all the information is available at tariff line.
- The app works internally to map the ITC HS code of other countries with that of India and provides all the required data without the users bothering about the HS code of any country. Presently the app comes with the data of 87 countries.
- Digital technology is going to play a key role in trade and business and this app is a step towards Digital India.
- The app will provide big opportunity to everybody and help promote export interests in the country.

Government E-Marketplace (Gem)

Why in News?

Government e-Marketplace (GeM), the National Public Procurement Portal, will turn 2 years old tomorrow.

What is it?

GeM is an end-to-end, one stop online marketplace for Central and State Government Ministries and Departments, Central & State Public Sector



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Undertakings (CPSUs & SPSUs), autonomous institutions and local bodies for procurement of common use Goods & Services.

Key Features



Over its short journey, GeM has achieved many ***significant milestones***. Some of these are:

- GeM has grossed over Rs. 10,000 Crores in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) through more than 6.16 Lacs transactions on the platform.
- GeM has made over 4.2 lakh products available on its platform through a network of over 1.3 lakh sellers and service providers.
- These products and services are being bought by over 25,000 government organisations (Central, State Governments and PSUs) registered on the platform
- More than 40% of transactions by volume are done with MSMEs registered on the platform
- Average savings of 25% achieved across transactions on the platform.
- Integration with Quality Council of India (QCI) for ensuring quality compliances of the products and services offered through GeM

Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao Contest



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Context:

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation announced the winners for the first fortnight of the *Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao* contest that was launched on 10th July 2018.

About the Scheme:

Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao contest was launched by the Ministry in collaboration with the MyGov portal of the Government of India.

Objective of Scheme:

Spreading awareness about water conservation.

Who are Eligible?

- Any Indian citizen can participate in the contest. He or she needs to shoot an original video on the theme.
- They are required to upload their entries on YouTube and enter the publicly accessible link on the Video link section of MyGov contest page www.mygov.in.
- Three winners will be chosen every fortnight till the 4th of November this year.

NITI Aayog and CII Launch Partnership on SDGs.

Context:

CII-NITI Aayog have entered into a three-year partnership and an MoU was signed.

This partnership focuses on specific activities that seeks to develop:

- Vision and Action Agenda for businesses and industries to contribute to SDGs;
- Annual Status Reports;
- Sector-specific Best Practise Documents.

CII launched the report—*Indian Solutions for the World to Achieve SDGs.*

The report deep-dives into each of the SDGs, targets and business implications thereof.



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The report cites examples that illustrate how companies have incorporated the SDGs framework into their business strategy and gone about achieving them.

What are SDG's?

