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General Studies-1

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

Why in News?

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur will be inaugurating the project "Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom" implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

The above project is the first project under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme being inaugurated in the country.

About Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

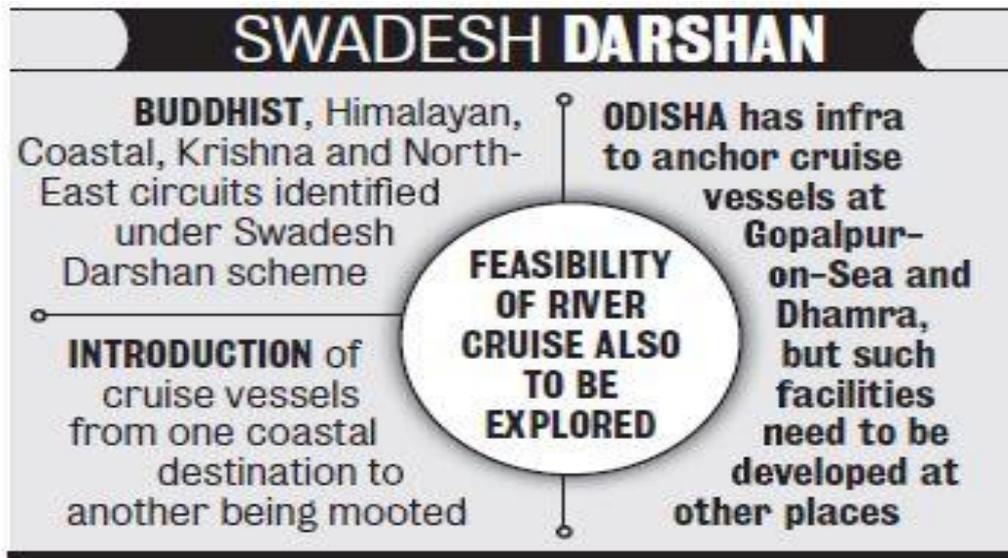
Swadesh Darshan scheme is one of the flagship scheme of Ministry of tourism for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.

The scheme was launched in 2014 -15 and as on date the Ministry has sanctioned 70 projects for Rs.5708.88 Crore to 29 States and UTs under the Scheme.

30 projects / major components of these projects are expected to be completed this year.



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General Studies- 2

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

Why in News?

Higher Education Institutions of Human Resource Development Ministry under its flagship program – Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) 2.0 will participate in Gram Sabhas to be organised on the occasion of Independence Day tomorrow.

688 institutions are selected on a Challenge Mode (426 technical and 262 non-technical) which are reputed Higher Educational Institutes (both public and private) of the country, which have adopted 3555 villages for their development through UBA.

IIT Delhi is also organizing 5 Gram Sabhas in its adopted village Panchayats.

Background:

- Under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) 2.0-a flagship program of MHRD, GOI 688 institutions are selected

on a Challenge Mode (426 technical and 262 non- technical) which are reputed Higher Educational Institutes (both public and private) of the country, which have adopted total no. of 3555 villages for their development through UBA.



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- Also, scope for providing Subject Expert Groups assistance and Regional Coordinating Institutes to handhold and guide the participating institutions have been strengthened.
- IIT Delhi has been designated to function as the National Coordinating Institute for this programme.
- Large number of participating institutes have interacted with villagers, did village & household level surveys and prepared action plans.
- The challenges and issues have been identified through public participation.

UNDER ITS WINGS

<p>➤ Ministry of human resource department launched Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in 2014 under which, state or central government educational institutes are encouraged to adopt gram panchayats</p>	<p>adopted village using innovative technological solutions</p>
<p>➤ These institutions will address the needs of their</p>	<p>that will be addressed</p>
<p>➤ Solutions will be funded by panchayat, govt schemes</p>	<p>➤ Drinking water, sanitation, agriculture, energy and education are some of the areas</p>



General Studies-3

NITI Aayog launches "Pitch to MOVE"

What is It?

NITI Aayog has launched "Pitch to MOVE" - a mobility pitch competition that aims to provide budding entrepreneurs of India a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury.



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Startups working in the various fields of mobility can pitch their ideas to industry leaders and Venture Capitalists for raising investments.

Winners of the event will be felicitated by Hon'ble PM during the Global Mobility Summit.

About "Pitch to MOVE"

- Pitch to MOVE" is organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Invest India and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) as a part of a series of engaging featured events in the run up to the main event.
- Pitch to MOVE aims to:

identify and incentivise the startups, which will help the Government realize its vision of Shared, Connected, Intermodal and Environment Friendly Mobility for India.

The objective is to harness the latest disruption for generating employment and growth in our country.

Benefits:

- The importance of mobility as the potential driver of innovation, job creation, economic growth and social change for the 21st century is highlighted time and again.
- With rapidly evolving technologies and business models for delivering mobility services, our goal of cleaner and more efficient mobility systems will be achieved with the help of the dynamic entrepreneurial class of India.

Compensatory afforestation fund :

Why in News?

CAF Rules were finally published on August 10, 2018, paving the way for smooth transfer of funds worth about Rs. 52, 000 crore to the States.

CAF Act will come into force from September 30, 2018.

Benefits of Fund:



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Release of fund to States will boost the efforts of the Government towards:

- restoration and enhancement of forest wealth,
- enhance bio-richness, water availability and secure ecological security of the country,
- and this effort will help in creating the additional carbon sink to meet the nation's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by the year 2030.

Operation of Funds:

- The fund will be kept in the interest-bearing Public account of the Centre and States, will be safe and will be used only for compensatory afforestation, soil moisture conservation, wildlife management and catchment area treatment.
- These activities will be managed by statutory body called National Authority and State Authority and has a strong monitoring mechanism.
- CAF Act has been enacted to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation and net present value of forest land diverted for non-forestry use under Forest Conservation Act 1980, which had till now been managed by adhoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).
- The release of the fund was restricted to only 10% of principal amount from interest accrued over it.
- Now, the Fund will be managed as per the CAF Act and Rules, unlocking the use of funds collected for the purpose of forest ecosystem restoration and water security.

Lab for conservation of endangered species

Why in News?

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences & Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan today dedicated India's only facility for conservation of endangered species.

The Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES), a dedicated facility of CSIR's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in



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Hyderabad uses modern biotechnologies for conservation of endangered wildlife.

About LaCONES:

- CCMB-LaCONES is the only laboratory in India that has developed methods for collection and cryopreservation of semen and oocytes from wildlife and successfully reproducing endangered blackbuck, spotted deer and Nicobar pigeons.
- Through this work, it has established Genetic Resource Bank for Indian wildlife.
- So far, genetic resources from 23 species of Indian wild animals have been collected and preserved.
- This facility would increase the collection of genetic resources from wildlife through collaboration with zoos in India.
- It would also facilitate exchange of genetic material between the Indian zoos for maintaining genetic diversity and conservation management made accessible to scientists and wildlife managers for implementing conservation programs.

The Parker Solar Probe

Context:

NASA's Parker Solar Probe, mankind's first mission to 'touch' the Sun, has been launched today on a seven-year long journey to unlock the mysteries of our star's fiery outer atmosphere and its effects on space weather.

About the Probe:

- The car-sized spacecraft will travel directly into the Sun's atmosphere, about four million miles from its surface - and more than seven times closer than any spacecraft has come before, thanks to its innovative Thermal Protection System.
- Parker Solar Probe will explore the corona, a region of the Sun only seen from Earth when the Moon blocks out the Sun's bright face during total solar eclipses.
- The corona holds the answers to many of scientists' outstanding questions about the Sun's activity and processes.
- The USD 1.5 billion mission will perform the closest-ever observations of a star when it travels through the Sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona.



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- It will make 24 passes through the corona during its seven-year mission.
- The mission will rely on measurements and imaging to revolutionise our understanding of the corona and how processes there ultimately affect near-Earth space.
- The Parker Solar Probe carries a lineup of instruments to study the Sun both remotely and in situ, or directly.

Together, the data from these instruments should help scientists answer three foundational questions about our star.

Probing the sun

New NASA mission aims to investigate the strange and mysterious star

Parker Solar Probe

Unmanned aircraft

Mission

- ▶ First to fly directly into the sun's atmosphere, called the **corona**
- ▶ Trace the flow of energy and understand the heating of corona, explore solar wind acceleration, capture images of solar structures

Scheduled launch:

August 11, 2018
from Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA

7 flybys of the sun over a 7-year period

Launch Aug 2018

First flyby close to sun Nov 2018

Closest to the sun (Distance: 6.3 million km) Dec 2024

Thermal protection system

- Fitted with 11.5-cm-thick **carbon-composite shield**
- Can withstand nearly 1,400°C around the sun's surface
- Allows instruments to operate at about room temperature

Solar array cooling system

Protects solar arrays from incineration as it moves around the sun

Antenna

The sun's unstable corona produces

- solar wind
- flares
- explosions of magnetic field and plasma

Wide-field imager for solar probe

Telescopes to take images of corona and inner heliosphere

Solar array wings

Keep panel power levels and temperatures from fluctuating

Magnetometers

Speed: Around 700,000 kph
Length: 3 m
Weight: 685 kg

Source - NASA/ParkerSolarProbe/AFP Photo/MASA/SDO: Solar eruption of super-hot plasma captured on Nov, 2012

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