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G7 Trade Ministers Meeting

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on 28th October 2023 participated in **G7 Trade Ministers Meeting in Osaka, Japan**.
- During the session, he encouraged **Public-Private partnership**, investment in critical infrastructure, and the need for innovation.
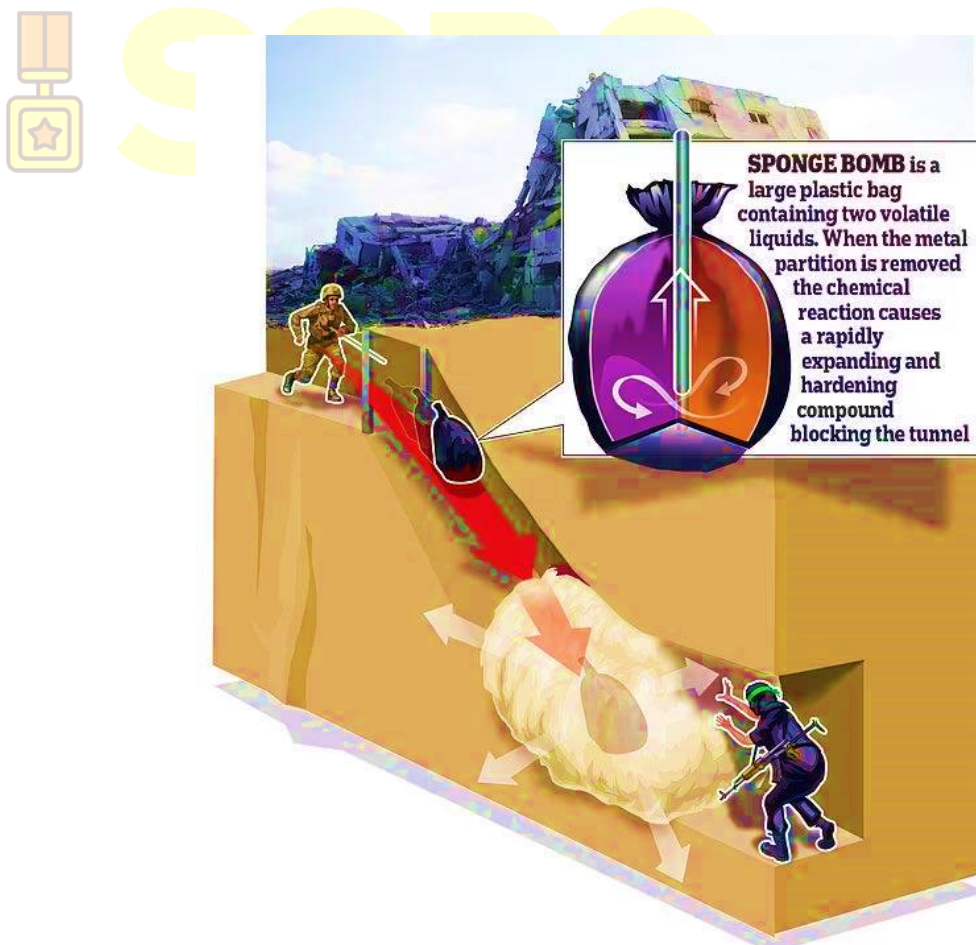

- Mr Goyal also focused on digitalization of the supply chains. The Minister urged participating governments to collaborate on a regulatory framework to facilitate cross-border trade and supply chains.
- **G7 is an intergovernmental political forum** consisting of seven countries including United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Japan, Canada, and Germany. India is participating in the meeting as an invitee country.

Sponge Bombs

- The Israeli military is preparing to utilize a novel type of bomb known as **'sponge bombs'** in order to seal off the intricate labyrinth of tunnels beneath Gaza, all without causing any explosive damage.
- These innovative sponge bombs possess the unique capability to effectively seal the complex tunnel network beneath Gaza without the need for any explosions.
- Amir Avivi, a former Israeli military brigadier general, highlighted that Gaza harbors a vast **subterranean infrastructure** that delves as deep as 40-50 meters.
- This extensive network encompasses bunkers, command centers, storage facilities, and is interlinked with over a thousand rocket launch sites.
- The **'sponge bombs' are designed as explosive devices** that trigger a rapid discharge of expanding foam, which subsequently solidifies.
- Enclosed within protective plastic, these devices feature a metal partition that separates two distinct liquids. Upon activation, these liquids amalgamate and advance towards their designated target.

SPONGE BOMB is a large plastic bag containing two volatile liquids. When the metal partition is removed the chemical reaction causes a rapidly expanding and hardening compound blocking the tunnel

Malaysia Picks Ruler Of Johor State As Country's King

- Malaysia's royal families have elected **Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor state** as the country's new king.
- This decision, made within Malaysia's distinctive rotating monarchy system, marks a significant transition for the nation.
- Since gaining independence from Britain in 1957, Malaysia has upheld a distinctive monarchy system where nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns serving as the king for five-year terms.
- This unique tradition provides stability to the nation and showcases Malaysia's cultural richness.

RBI Approves Mobikwik's Zaakpay

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted preliminary approval to **Zaakpay,** the secure payment gateway division of MobiKwik, allowing it to function as a payment aggregator.
- This green light from the RBI empowers Zaakpay to bring new merchants on board its platform. With a repertoire of more than **100 different payment methods**, including UPI, debit and credit cards, net banking, and mobile wallets, Zaakpay caters to the ever-changing requirements of both consumers and businesses.

- Collaborating with a variety of brands in e-commerce, mobility, and bill payments, **Zaakpay serves as a versatile solution** for businesses operating across various sectors.
- Emphasizing the utmost importance of secure online transactions, Zaakpay implements multiple layers of encryption, system-level firewalls, and rigorous adherence to global standards, ensuring the safety and confidentiality of users' financial information.

India's 1st Satellite Based Gigabit Broadband Service

- Reliance Jio introduces **'JioSpaceFiber',** India's first satellite-based gigabit broadband service to extend high-speed internet access to remote regions in India for nationwide coverage.
- This groundbreaking initiative was officially unveiled at the India Mobile Congress and represents the nation's **first satellite-driven giga fiber service**.
- The primary goal of this satellite broadband service is to extend high-speed internet access to previously underserved and remote regions in India.

- To showcase the extensive reach of **JioSpaceFiber,** the Mukesh Ambani-backed telecom giant successfully connected four distant and diverse locations: Gir in Gujarat, Korba in Chattisgarh, Nabarangpur in Odisha, and ONGC in Jorhat, Assam.
- By enabling this connectivity, Jio aims to bring millions of homes and businesses in India online, many of which are experiencing broadband internet for the first time. In an effort to enhance the availability of Jio True5G, even in far-flung areas, the satellite network is set to add mobile backhaul capacity. Jio has

entered into a **collaboration with SES**, a global satellite operator, to tap into the latest medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite technology.

- This partnership provides Jio with access to SES's O3b and O3b mPOWER satellites, positioning the company uniquely in offering reliable and scalable broadband at competitive rates across India.

HAL & Safran To Make Aircraft Engine Parts

- In a significant development for the aviation industry, **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** (HAL) and **Safran Aircraft Engines**, a leading French aero engine design, development, and manufacturing company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering industrial cooperation and collaboration.
- This strategic partnership encompasses various key areas within the aviation sector and marks a pivotal moment in India's aerospace landscape.

- One of the central aspects of this collaboration involves **HAL's production of LEAP** (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engine forgings at its state-of-the-art Foundry and Forge facility located in Bengaluru.
- These LEAP engines power prominent aircraft models such as the Airbus A320 Neo family and the Boeing 737 Max.

- HAL's role in manufacturing these critical components underlines India's expertise in aerospace engineering and manufacturing.
- HAL and Safran Aircraft Engines are set to collaborate on the co-design and production of the next-generation **Indian Multi-Role Helicopter**.
- Safran Aircraft Engines, known for its technological prowess, already boasts three production facilities in key Indian cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru.
- Moreover, a collaborative initiative is underway to establish another facility in **Goa**, which is anticipated to be operational by **2025**.

ICAR & Thünen Institute

- The **Indian Council of Agriculture Research** in collaboration with the Thünen Institute is organizing International Workshop on **Food Loss and Waste Prevention in South Asian Region** at National Agricultural Science Centre Complex, New Delhi.
- The workshop **aims to address issues** like Assessment and Impact of Postharvest Losses and Food Waste; Prevention of Postharvest Losses in the Supply Chain; Prevention of Food Waste in Households and Community Activities and Role of Food Bank Networks and Circular Economy.

- Participants in the workshop would be different types of stakeholders from the South Asian Countries viz. India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, etc.
- Further the knowledge on technologies, approaches, and strategies to prevent food loss and waste would also be shared along with success stories and case studies from different countries in the region.
- The programme will include presentations from various stakeholders coming from **South Asian Countries** as well from Germany, USA and UN organizations. Besides there would be panel discussions on various issues and available

solutions followed by visits to some organizations which have successfully addressed the issue of post-harvest losses and food wastage.

- During the **G20-MACS held in Varanasi**, India during April 2023; a bilateral meeting was held between India and Germany in which both the countries decided to organize a regional workshop to address the challenges of Food Loss and Waste understanding that despite the abundant agricultural production, a substantial amount of food is lost or wasted throughout the food supply chain, from production to consumption, and impacts food security and availability, environment, economy and the society; this hold higher significance for South Asian Region, which is a major food producer as well as consumer of food.

"Silent Conversation: From Margins To The Centre"

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority** (NTCA) **Ministry for Environment**, Forest & Climate Change in collaboration with the **Sankala Foundation** is organising an art exhibition titled, "**Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre**", at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

- NTCA along with Sankala Foundation through this art exhibition is paying a tribute to the **successful completion of 50 years of Project Tiger**.
- Project Tiger is a wildlife conservation initiative in India that was launched in **1973** with the primary objective of protecting and preserving the Bengal Tiger, India's national animal and restoring its habitat so as to reverse the animal's alarming decline in previous decades.
- The project focuses on the selection and preservation of areas which are specially managed to conserve the tiger population and their associated ecosystems.
- Over the years, the number of Tiger Reserves has increased, and there are now 54 reserves across the country. An essential aspect of Project Tiger is **involving local communities** in conservation efforts by providing livelihood opportunities and reducing human-wildlife conflicts.
- The art work displayed will be in the form of paintings and reflect the age-old bonds of various tribal communities such as the Gond, Bhil, and many others. The paintings will be available for purchase, with the proceeds flowing directly into the bank accounts of the artists.
- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in 2006**. It has been at the forefront of tiger conservation work in India. Its work domain extends from on the ground protection initiatives to science based monitoring of tigers and their habitat using latest technological tools, independent assessment of tiger reserves, financial and technical support to tiger reserves, creating inviolate space for wildlife while ensuring community development to international co-operation are the few thrust areas of NTCA.

CCI Becomes Member Of ICN

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has achieved a significant milestone by becoming a **part of the prestigious 18-member steering committee** of the International Competition Network (ICN).
- This accomplishment is the result of consistent efforts and dedication on the part of the Indian regulator.
- The ICN, which comprises 140 competition agencies from around the world, is a unique global body dedicated exclusively to competition law enforcement.
- Its primary purpose is to provide antitrust authorities with a specialized and informal platform for maintaining regular contacts and addressing practical competition concerns.
- The ICN facilitates cooperation and collaboration among competition authorities, fostering a global network of knowledge and expertise.
- The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) was established in **March 2009** by the Government of India. The CCI is a statutory body that is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act of 2002. The CCI is under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Has Been Elected As Malaysia's New King

A. Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar

B. Sultan Abdullah of Pahang

C. Sultan Nazrin Shah

D. Sultan Muhammad V

   ANSWER: A

2. Name Of India's First Satellite-based Gigabit Broadband Service

A. JioConnectFiber

B. JioFastFiber

C. JioSpaceFiber

D. JioGigaFiber

   ANSWER: C

3. Reliance Jio Has Partnered With For Its Satellite-driven Broadband Service

A. One Web

B. SpaceX

C. SES

D. Intelsat

   ANSWER: C

4. Which Organization Collaborates With Thünen Institute For Food Loss & Waste Prevention In South Asian Region

A. WTO

B. ICAR

C. WHO

D. FAO

   ANSWER: B

5. "Silent Conversation: From Margins To The Centre" Is Inaugurated By

A. Animal Welfare Board

B. IUCN

C. World Wide Fund

D. NTCA

   ANSWER: D

6. G7 Was Established In

A. 1970

B. 1972

C. 1975

D. 1980

ANSWER: C

7. Which City Hosted The G7 Trade Ministers Meeting

A. Tokyo

B. Osaka

C. Kyoto

D. Hiroshima

ANSWER: B

8. Name Of Payment Gateway Division Recently Launched By Mobikwik

A. Zaaksecure

B. ZaakCash

C. Zaaksafe

D. Zaakpay

ANSWER: D

9. Which Company MoU With HAL For Production Of LEAP Engine Forgings

A. GE Aviation

B. Safran

C. Boeing

D. Lockheed Martin

ANSWER: B

10.Competition Commission Of India Comes Under Which Ministry

A. Ministry of External Affairs

B. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

C. Ministry of Finance

D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ANSWER: B

11. Indian Army's 1st Vertical Wind Tunnel Constructed In

A. Sikkim

B. Punjab

C. Himachal Pradesh

D. Jammu and Kashmir

   ANSWER: C

12. Which Country Is The Host Of The 'Three Basins Summit'

A. USA

B. India

C. Indonesia

D. Republic of Congo

   ANSWER: D

13. Arattu Festival, Is A Famous Festival Of Which State

A. Kerala

B. Karnataka

C. Odisha

D. Bihar

   ANSWER: A

14. Ashok Vaswani Appointed As MD & CEO Of Which Bank

A. State Bank of India

B. Kotak Mahindra Bank

C. HDFC Bank

D. ICICI Bank

   ANSWER: B

15. Which Organisation Released 'International Migration Outlook 2023'

A. IMF

B. OECD

C. WEF

D. World Bank

   ANSWER: B

16.When Is The World Development Information Day Celebrated

A. October 22

B. October 24

C. October 27

D. October 30

ANSWER: B

17.Which Company Has Initiated The Production Of 'Reference' Petrol And Diesel

A. BPCL

B. HPCL

C. IOC

D. REC

ANSWER: C

18.Which Institution Released The 'Commodity Markets Outlook Report

A. International Monetary Fund

B. World Bank

C. World Economic Forum

D. Reserve Bank of India

ANSWER: B

19.Which Institution Organises 'Project Udbhav'

A. NITI Aayog

B. Indian Army

C. RBI

D. SEBI

ANSWER: B

20.Which City Is The Host Of 'IEA Critical Minerals And Clean Energy Summit In 2023'

A. London

B. Paris

C. Rome

D. Vienna

ANSWER: B