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NITI Aayog Unveils GROW Initiative

- **NITI Aayog**, India's premier policy think tank, has taken a significant stride towards **environmental conservation and sustainable land management** with the launch of the **Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)** report and portal.
- This pioneering endeavor aims to revitalize India's underutilized wastelands by transforming them into productive agroforestry zones.
- Leveraging cutting-edge remote sensing and **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** technologies, the initiative conducts a comprehensive analysis at both state and district levels.



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- The GROW initiative **employs advanced remote sensing and GIS techniques** to evaluate the suitability of agroforestry practices across all Indian districts.
- Introducing an **Agroforestry Suitability Index (ASI)** signifies a significant step in national-level prioritization, utilizing thematic datasets to guide greening and restoration endeavors.
- This analytical framework **furnishes vital insights to governmental** departments and industries, enabling targeted and efficient environmental conservation strategies.

- Central to the GROW initiative is the inauguration of the "**Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping**" portal on 'Bhuvan.'
- This portal serves as a **crucial resource, granting universal access** to state and district-level data, poised to catalyze agroforestry initiatives by governmental bodies.
- By facilitating easy access to this data, the portal facilitates informed decision-making and strategy formulation for the conversion of wastelands into fertile ground.

Bharat Mart

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and the Ruler of Dubai, laid the foundation stone of **Bharat Mart, situated within the Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai.**
- 'Bharat Mart', a **hybrid marketplace** for Indian businesses, will provide them access to global markets by leveraging the strategic location and strength in logistics of Jebel Ali port.
- This initiative, to be **constructed by DP World**, marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between India and the UAE.



- During the virtual event, both leaders emphasized the potential of '**Bharat Mart**' to **boost the bilateral trade** between India and the UAE.
- Leveraging the strategic location and robust logistical infrastructure of Jebel Ali Port, Bharat Mart aims to provide a **platform for micro, small, and medium**

enterprises from India to expand their reach to international markets in the Gulf, West Asia, Africa, and Eurasia.

- Discussions encompassed various areas of bilateral cooperation, spanning trade, investment, technology, space, education, and cultural exchanges. Both leaders expressed satisfaction underscoring the pivotal role played by the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**.

National Conference On APAAR

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, **inaugurated the National Conference on APAAR: One Nation One Student ID Card** in New Delhi.
- This conference aimed to emphasize the **importance of the APAAR ID** as a universally recognized document for students across the nation.
- Pradhan highlighted the significance of **Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs)** and their proliferation, both globally and within India, with 19 established DPIs in the country.



- Dharmendra Pradhan stressed the significance of the **APAAR ID as a prestigious and internationally recognized** document for students nationwide.
- The **APAAR ID aims to streamline student** identification processes and enhance accessibility to educational services.
- Pradhan highlighted the proliferation of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) globally, with 53 such infrastructures across 16 countries.
- India has established 19 DPIs, reflecting the country's commitment to leveraging digital technologies in education.

- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** was lauded for its facilitation of seamless integration and migration provisions within the education system.
- NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of competency attainment through skill development alongside traditional knowledge acquisition.
- Pradhan emphasized the aspirational aspect of competency attainment through skill development, aligning with the **goals set forth in NEP 2020**.
- The statement highlighted the need to foster a holistic approach to education that combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills.

National Emergency

- **Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister** has officially declared a "**national emergency**" in response to a significant oil spill in the eastern Caribbean.
- Originating from a capsized vessel near Tobago, the spill has caused extensive environmental damage along the coastline, raising concerns about its impact on the nation's economy, particularly its tourism sector.
- **Prime Minister Rowley stressed** the seriousness of the situation, noting that addressing the oil spill will necessitate exceptional funding due to its uncertain scale and severity.



- The **full extent of required resources** remains unclear, highlighting the need for urgent assessment and action to mitigate both environmental and economic consequences.
- Authorities are currently investigating the cause of the **oil spill, aiming to uncover the circumstances** surrounding the vessel's overturning.

- The vessel, of **unknown origin and purpose**, did not issue any distress signals, and there are no signs of its crew, raising suspicions of potential illicit activities. Despite ongoing efforts to identify the responsible vessel, challenges persist due to its submerged condition and lack of visible identifying markers.
- Prime Minister Rowley has suggested the possibility of the vessel's involvement in illicit activities, pointing to the discovery of a towing cable attached to it as a potential indicator of clandestine operations.



World's First Green Hydrogen Plant In Airport

- **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)** in Kerala has entered into an MOU with **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** to set up a green hydrogen plant in its premises to produce **1000 KW of power**.
- The project is said to be the **first Green Hydrogen plant in an airport** in the world. As per the agreement, BPCL will oversee the establishment of the integrated **Green Hydrogen plant** and fueling station at the Kochi airport, while CIAL will contribute land, water and green energy resources.



- CIAL said, the project is expected to be completed early next year, and the initial output will be utilized for powering vehicles within the airport.



- The MOU was signed at Thiruvananthapuram, in the presence of State Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is also the Chairman of CIAL.
- The **Cochin International Airport is in the forefront of deploying green energy** and is the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy. It has a cumulative installed capacity of **50 MW producing two lakh units** of power per day through big solar power plants and a hydel station.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala launched a renewed portal of the **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)** and also released its Radio Jingle at a function in New Delhi.
- The AHIDF is a **Credit Guarantee Scheme** to support the livestock sector's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises without the need of collateral.



- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rupala said the government has approved the continuation of AHIDF with an outlay of around **30 thousand crore rupees** for another three years up to 2025-26.
- He said that several measures have been taken to boost the production in the animal husbandry sector and due to this India's animal husbandry sector is performing well.
- He also highlighted initiatives including **vaccination drive against foot and mouth disease** for cattle and buffaloes across the country.

National Football Championship

- Arunachal Pradesh is set to host the **final rounds of 77th edition of National Football Championship of Santosh Trophy, 2024**.
- The championship is scheduled from **February 21-March 9 at Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, Yupia, Itanagar**.



- Chief Minister Pema Khandu today visited the stadium and inspected the preparation for the tournament. In a social media post the Chief Minister informed about his visit and met the Arunachal football team and unveiled the official jersey of the team.
- Mr. Khandu, who is the President of the Arunachal Pradesh Football Association, held a meeting with the **honorary members of the Association** on the occasion.
- He also held deliberations with local administration, departments concerned and police for smooth conduct of the grand football fest.

Watan Ko Jano Programme

- **250 specially abled children of Jammu and Kashmir** visited Delhi and Agra under 'Watan Ko Jano Programme organized by Social Welfare Department of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in coordination with **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Government of Jammu and Kashmir have been conducting **Youth Exchange programme** with the objective to give an **exposure of the social and cultural diversity** of our country to the youth and children of Jammu and Kashmir.



- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, MHA is committed to such initiatives for development and progress of the youth and children of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Under the initiative of Watan Ko Jano, **children of terrorism affected families and/or weaker sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir** identified by Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Council are taken for exposure trip.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Trinidad Seen In News Is

- A. Caribbean Country
- B. European Country
- C. Asian Country
- D. African Country

ANSWER: A

2. 77th Edition Of National Football Championship Of Santosh Trophy Will Be Hosted In

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: C

3. Watan Ko Jano Programme Is Hosted By

- A. Ministry Of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry Of Defence
- C. Ministry Of Culture
- D. Ministry Of External Affairs

ANSWER: A

4. Nazool Land, Is Associated With Which State

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: A

5. Kawal Tiger Reserve Is Located In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Telangana
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. What Is Alaskapox , Recently Seen In The News

- A. Bacterial Infection
- B. DNA virus
- C. Fungus
- D. Helminths

ANSWER: B

7. Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: A

8. Which State Government Suspended Five Officers For Negligence In Implementing The IEDSS Scheme

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: A

9. Which Album Won 'Best Global Music Album' Award At Grammy Awards 2024

- A. This Moment
- B. Endless Summer Vacation
- C. The Record
- D. World Music Radio

ANSWER: A

10. Umiam Lake Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

ANSWER: D

11. 390 Year Old Deepastambham (Lamp Post) Found On Edge Of Which River

- A. Krishna River
- B. Kaveri River
- C. Godavari River
- D. Pranhita River

ANSWER: A

12. Kyasanur Forest Disease, Has Emerged In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

13. Dhokra Shipkala Is Associated With Which One Of The Following

- A. Ancient painting
- B. Metal casting
- C. Wood carving
- D. Embroidery

ANSWER: B

14. Which Of The Following Is Best Description Of Term 'Forever Chemicals

- A. Highly Persistent Man Made Chemicals That Hardly Degrade In Natural Environment
- B. Naturally Occurring Chemicals Found In The Environment
- C. Chemicals That Are Used In Textile Industries
- D. Low Persistent Naturally Occuring Chemicals

ANSWER: A

15. GROW Report & Portal Is Launched By Which One Of Following

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Textiles

ANSWER: C

16. Madhu Babu Pension Yojana Is Associated With Which State

- A. Odisha
- B. Bihar
- C. Mizoram
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: A

17. Hastal Minar, Seen In News, Is Located In Which State/UT

- A. Jammu & Kashmir
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Delhi

ANSWER: D

18. Statue Of India's First Chief Of Defence Staff, Late Gen Bipin Rawat, Unveiled

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Dehradun
- C. Shimla
- D. Chandigarh

ANSWER: B

19. Ten Cities Development Concept (Doh Shaheer- Ek Rupayan), Launched By Which State Government

- A. Manipur
- B. Assam
- C. Sikkim
- D. Mizoram

ANSWER: B

20. Brahmaputra River When It Flows Out Of India Into Bangladesh Is Called As

- A. Bangshi River
- B. Dihang River
- C. Jamuna River
- D. Yamuna River

ANSWER: C