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The Road Map to Mussoorie...



Prelims EDGE – 05/10/2024

NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS – OIL PALM

Context: Union Cabinet approved the continuation of NMEO-Oilseeds, which aims to boost domestic oil-seed production and achieving self-reliance - from 2024-25 to 2030-31.



About National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):

- NMEO-OP is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched in 2021 with the following objectives:
 - Expand oil palm acreage by an **extra 6.5 lakh hectares** by 2025-26
 - Increase palm oil production to **11.2 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 & 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.**
 - Increase consumer awareness to maintain a **consumption level of 19 kg per person** per annum till 2025-26.

- Farmers will be provided financial assistance and will get remuneration under a **price and viability formula.**
- The **Viability Formula is a Minimum Support Price-type mechanism** and the govt will fix this in relation to the Crude Palm Oil (CPO) price.
- Special assistance of Rs. 250 per plant will be given to **replant old gardens for their rejuvenation.**
- It will have a special **emphasis on India's North-Eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands** due to conducive weather conditions.

Edible Oil Sector in India:

- ✓ India is the **3rd largest producer, 2nd largest consumer, and the largest importer** of edible oilseeds.
- ✓ India imports vegetable oil **worth more than USD 14 billion** to meet chronic domestic shortages - palm oil (57%), soybean oil (22%), sunflower oil (15%) and small quantity of mustard oil.
- ✓ In 2022-23, **15.53 million tonnes (55.76%) of total edible oil demand** was met through import - likely to reach 15.6 million tonnes in 2023/24 due to falling global prices.
 - **Palm oil** - mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia,
 - **Soyabean oil** – Argentina, Brazil

- **Sunflower oil** – Ukraine, Russia.
- ✓ Around **half of all imports are from Indonesia**.
- ✓ **Demand in India was 24.6 million tonnes (MT)** in 2020-21 with domestic availability of 11.1 MT (2020-21).
- ✓ Major oil palm-growing states: **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala** (together account of 98% of India's production).

Source: Cabinet Approves National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) for 2024-25 to 2030-31 (PIB)

AMRUT SCHEME

Context: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs approved the Jal Hi AMRIT Scheme under AMRUT 2.0 to improve sewage treatment.



About Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):

- AMRUT is a **centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2015 to provide basic civic amenities** like water supply, sewerage, urban transport, parks as to improve the quality of life for all especially the poor and the disadvantaged.
- Its focus is on **creation of infra that has a direct link to provision of better services** to the citizens.
- It covers **500 cities that includes all cities and towns with a population more than 1 lakh and having notified Municipalities**.
- Concerned Ministry: **Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**
- **State Annual Action Plan (SAAP):** States are equal partners in planning and implementation. **Approval of SAAP is done once a year by MoHUA and states must give project sanctions and approval at their end.**
- **Supervision will be done by an Apex Committee chaired by Secretary, MoHUA** and with representatives of related Ministries.
- **Aims of the Mission:**
 - Ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured water and a sewage connection.
 - Increase amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well-maintained open spaces.
 - Reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport.

About Jal Hi AMRIT Scheme:

- It is being **launched under AMRUT 2.0 reforms**. It incentivises states and UTs to **manage sewage treatment plants (STPs) efficiently**, ensuring production of good-quality, recyclable treated water.
- **Clean Water Credits will be awarded** in terms of Star-rating between 3 stars to 5 stars certificate valid for six months. STPs with Clean Water Credits of 3-star and above in different groups as below will be **given financial incentives**.
- As per Central Pollution Control Board (2021), India's **water treatment capacity is 27.3% & sewage treatment capacity is 18.6 %** (with another 5.2 % in development).

AMRUT 2.0:

- ✓ Union Govt. launched the AMRUT 2.0 scheme on **1 October 2021**. It aims to:
 - Improve sewage management,
 - Make cities water secure
 - Ensure that no sewage drains anywhere into rivers
- ✓ AMRUT 2.0 aims to **improve sewage management to make all Indian cities water secure**. Goals of AMRUT 2.0:
 - Provide **100% coverage of water supply** to all households via **2.68 crore tap connections**.
 - **100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities** by providing around 2.64 crore sewer or septage connections
 - Amrut 2.0 extends coverage from 500 cities under the first phase to **4,700 cities and towns**.



AMRUT has created 1.1 crore household water tap connections and 85 lakh sewer connections, thus benefiting more than 4 crore people.

Source: Centre to incentivize states to promote efficient reuse of water (Hindustan Times)

E-OFFICE PLATFORM

Context: Across the last week, administrative works in Indian Railways has been hampered due to issues with the e-Office platform.



About e-Office Platform:

- The e-office system in India, **initiated by the National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, is an integral part of the **Digital India Programme**.
- It aims to achieve a **Simplified, Responsive, Effective, Accountable and Transparent (SMART)** working in govt. offices by transitioning them from traditional paper-based processes to a **modern, digitized, & paperless system**.
- Nodal agency for

implementation: **Dept. of Administrative Reform and Public Grievances (DARPG)** under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

It has 4 components:

- **File Management System (eFile):**
 - **Workflow-based system** that extends the features of existing manual handling of files in addition to a more efficient electronic system.
 - It comprises different sub-modules that are interlinked to **manage the official workflow of the entire life cycle of a document** from the moment it is received till the time it is disposed of.
- **Knowledge Management System (KMS):**
 - It aims to create a **central repository of documents** in an organization.

- It helps users create & manage electronic documents in the workflow, **along with versions (tracking history)** that can be easily viewed, searched, shared, and published.
- It logically **organizes content & standardizes content creation and presentation** across the entire organization.
- **Work from Anywhere (WAW) Portal:**
 - It is a one stop-portal for office functions and connects officials to securely access their office from anywhere.
- **Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW):**
 - It helps in processing of **Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) of employees.**
 - Employees can fill in their APAR, which is further reported and reviewed by the official hierarchy.
 - It helps in **reducing delays** in submission and processing of APARs & **ensures transparency** by tracking its movement.
 - The system **also provides a dashboard facility** that enables the govt. to monitor status such as, pendency at various levels, APARs processed/closed, etc.

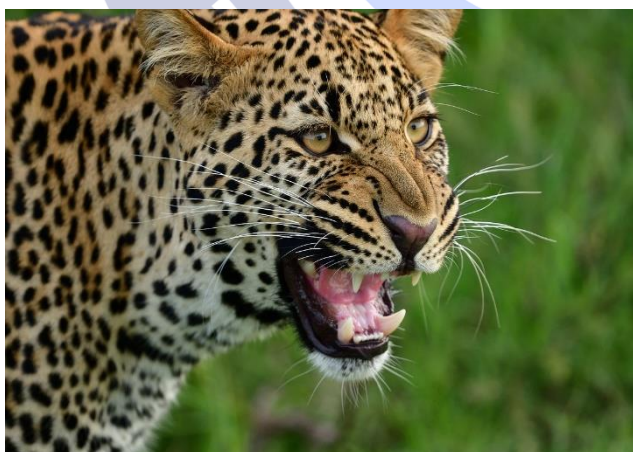
Implementation:

- **Nodal officers:** Each ministry and department will coordinate with their respective attached, subordinate offices, and autonomous bodies to appoint nodal officers who will oversee the implementation process.
- **Data centres:** Ministries and departments are tasked with setting up necessary data centres to support the e-office infrastructure.
- **Offices will submit requisitions to NIC detailing the number of users & licenses required,** ensuring a smooth and timely onboarding process.

Source: e-Office system shutdown derails administrative work in Railways (The Hindu)

SPECIES IN NEWS

Leopard



- There have been increased instances of leopard attacks on humans and cattle in parts of Central and Eastern India.
 - In March 2024, the **5th cycle leopard population estimation** was done by **National Tiger Conservation Authority & Wildlife Institute of India**, in collaboration with states.
 - India's leopard population is estimated at **13,874 individuals.**
 - Central India shows a slight growth population. But regions like Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains have shown a decline. Overall, there's a **1.08% per annum growth since 2018.**
- Highest concentration of population:**
- Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (AP)

- Panna National Park (MP)
- Satpura National Park (MP)

State-wise Distribution:

- Madhya Pradesh: 3907
- Maharashtra: 1985
- Karnataka: 1,879

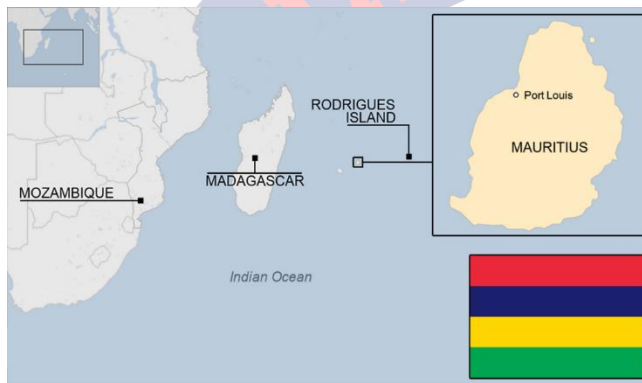
Conservation Status:

- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

PLACES IN NEWS

Mauritius



- Mauritius is about to hold its legislative assembly elections.
- Mauritius is an island country in the Indian Ocean, about 2,000 km off the coast of Africa, east of Madagascar.
- It comprises a main island, Agaléga, Rodrigues, and St. Brandon, forming part of the Mascarene Islands.
- Mauritius was a British colony

until its independence in 1968.

- The capital is Port Louis.
- Mauritius is ethnically diverse, with Hinduism being a predominant religion. It follows a Westminster parliamentary system, boasts high economic and political freedom, and is a high-income economy.
- Known for its biodiversity, Mauritius is home to many endemic species and, historically, the do.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following species of 'big cats' found in India and their conservation status under IUCN Red List:

1. Tiger: Endangered
2. Asiatic Lion: Critically Endangered
3. Snow Leopard: Vulnerable
4. Leopard: Near Threatened

How many of the afore mentioned pairs are correctly matched ?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only two pairs
- C. Only three pairs
- D. All four pairs

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the AMRUT Scheme, which was launched in 2015:

1. It covers 500 cities that includes all cities and towns with a population more than 1 lakh and having notified Municipalities.
2. Its implementation is done via State Annual Action Plans prepared by individual states and approved by the union govt.
3. AMRUT 2.0, launched in 2021, is primarily aimed at increasing the adoption of green/non-motorized transport in cities.

How many of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q3. Which of the following statements regarding the e-Office project, recently seen in the news, **IS INCORRECT** ?

- A. The e-Office project is being implemented under the Digital India Mission.
- B. It aims to create a centralized repository of documents across various ministries.
- C. e-Office project also helps in carrying out annual performance appraisal of public servants.
- D. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the edible oil sector in India:

1. More than half of India's domestic consumption of edible oil is met via imports.

2. Soyabean Oil and Sunflower Oil account for the majority of India's edible oil imports.
3. The majority of India's edible oil imports are from nations in East Asia.

How many of the afore mentioned statements are correct ?

- A. None of the statements
- B. Only one statement
- C. Only two statements
- D. All three statements

Q5. Consider the following islands located in the Indian Ocean, which were all recently in news:

1. Mauritius
2. Zanzibar
3. Seychelles
4. Diego Garcia

Arrange these islands in a West to East orientation:

- A. 2-1-4-3
- B. 3-1-2-4
- C. 2-3-1-4
- D. 3-4-1-2

Answers:

1. **B**
2. **A**
3. **D**
4. **C**
5. **C**