

PLUTUS IAS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO-09AAPCA1478E1ZH)

Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to
Priyagold Building gate, Sector 2, Pocket I, Noida,
Uttar Pradesh 201301, CONTACT NO- 8448440231

CONTENT BY -JITHIN LAL (GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY UPSC)

DEBARUN ROY (ANALYTICS HEAD)
NEETU KUMARI (RESEARCH HEAD)

1.Cyclone Nivar: National Crisis Management Committee reviews preparedness of the states

The cyclone Nivar is to make landfall between Mamallapuram and Karaikal of Tamil Nadu. It is to hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry. The National Crisis Management Committee recently reviewed the status of cyclone held through video conferencing.

National Crisis Management Committee

The committee was set up by Government of India in the wake of natural calamity. It gives instructions to the Crisis Management Group. The Crisis Management Group consists of nodal officers from varied ministries.

Disaster Response Team

Around six National Disaster Response Force are deployed in parts of Tamil Nadu.

National Disaster Response Force

It is a force constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry to manage natural disasters. The force has 12 battalions. It includes three central reserve Police Force, three Border Security Force, two Indo-Tibetan Border Force and two Sahastra Seema Bal.

The NDRF operates under the National Disaster Management Authority.

National Disaster Management Authority

It is an apex body that lays down policies for disaster management. It was constituted in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. As the bodies constituted under an act of Parliament are statutory body, National Disaster Management Authority is a

statutory body. The chairperson of the authority is the Prime Minister of India. The main objective of the authority is to build a safe and disaster resilient India.

Concerns and Challenges in Disaster Management in India

According to CAG report there are delays and completion of projects undertaken by the National Disaster Management Authority. The numbers were higher in border areas such as Assam, eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar. This is mainly because these regions require long term solutions for flood problems.

According to Comptroller and Audit General report 2015, the Kerala floods in 2018 and Chennai floods in 2015 brought in several changes to address disaster situation. This was mainly because these two floods are till date considered as man-made disasters. Therefore, there is need to predict possible disasters that might arise due to climate change and changing lifestyle in the country.

2. International Version of UMANG Application launched in selected countries

The Union Information Technology Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the International version of the UMANG application. UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance. It was launched in UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. The International version was launched on the completion of three years of UMANG. It was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Significance

The application will help to take Indian culture to the world through its services. Also, the Common Services Centres are being integrated with the application.

Key Features of UMANG Application

The application mainly helps to avail several government services.

The application was launched under the Digital India initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It provides integration of services such as Aadhaar and Digi locker. The application can also be used to avail several e-government services such as Employment Provident Fund Organisation services, filing Income Tax, pension, e-land records, epathshala, Crop Insurance, etc.

Integration of IMD services with UMANG

The application has IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) services. This feature will help to check weather forecast of the cities in advance. The application provides forecast of seven weather services such as rainfall information, cyclones, warnings, sunrise, humidity, sunset, etc. This helps farmers to get timely updates about weather conditions.

Achievement of the application

In the last three years application has grown immensely providing 2039 services. This includes 373 from Central departments, 1179 services of utility bill payments and 487 from state departments. There are more than 2.5 crore registered users of the application. Also, the application has crossed more than 3.7 crore downloads.

It is to be noted that in March 2020, the application had only 643 services. Currently, there are more than 2,000 services. Thus the reach of the application is growing largely indicating growth of digital e-government services and their success.

3.Tarun Gogoi, Ex-Chief Minister of Assam passed away

Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam passed away due to post covid-19 complications. Mr Gogoi was diagnosed with COVID-19 in August 2020. He was then administered with the plasma therapy. The blood plasma therapy is a covid-19 treatment where the plasma of recovered covid-19 patient is injected into an active covid-19 patient. The blood plasma of recovered covid-19 patient consists of antibodies against the virus. Thus, the immune system against the virus is made stronger. This helps in speed recovery.

About Tarun Gogoi

Tarun Gogoi served as the Chief minister of Assam between 2001 and 2015. He was a member of the Congress party. Till date he was the longest serving chief minister of Assam. Between 1991 and 1996 Gogoi served as the food and food processing industry minister in the Union Cabinet of India under Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. Gogoi belonged to an Assamese Tai-Ahom family.

Tai Ahom

- They are the ethnic group of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. They are descendants of the Tai people. The kingdom of Ahom was established by Sukaphaa and his 9000 followers. They controlled much of the Brahmaputra valley until 1826. There are more than 1.3 million of Tai group people in Assam.
- They follow a social system called Ban-Mong. It is related to agriculture and irrigation. Ban is a unit of family settled by the side of the river. Ban together forms the Mong which refers to a state.
- Cho Klong is the major marital ritual among the Tai Ahom people.
- The Ahom language is a member of Tai branch of Kra-Dai languages. The Kra-Dai languages are now dead.

What are Kra-Dai languages?

It is a language of the Southeast Asia, North East India and Southern China. They were the national languages of Thailand and Laos. No reconstruction of the language has been published till date.

4.Malaysia hosts APEC Summit

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation was recently hosted by Malaysia. Several leaders of the cooperation joined the summit. The Summit was attended by the US President Donald Trump as well. The next APEC meeting is to be hosted by New Zealand. Earlier on November 17, 2020, the members of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation held ministerial meeting. The members then committed towards free and open trade and investment.

About the Summit

The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 was adopted during the Summit. It envisions an open, resilient peaceful Asia Pacific community by 2040. The Summit also replaced the 1994 Bogor Goals with post 2020 vision. The economies are to achieve the post 2020 vision through three economic drivers such as trade and investment, strong balance secure sustainable and inclusive growth, Innovation and digitalization.

Obstacles

The APEC faced several hardships to conduct the Summit since 2018. In 2018, Chile had cancelled the summit due to violent domestic protests. Later at the Papua New Guinea summit in 2018, the APEC economies failed to arrive at a joint statement due to trade war between the United States and China.

Members of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

The members of the grouping are Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Hongkong, Chile, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea ah, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan and United States of America.

Why is India not a member of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation?

India had requested for a membership at the grouping. However, the members of the grouping had decided not to allow India as the country does not border Pacific Ocean. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation mainly includes countries that are bordering the Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, India has gained support from United States, Papua Guinea on, Japan and Australia to become a full-time member of the grouping. India is currently an observer of the grouping.

It is to be noted that the Indo-Pacific was earlier called as Asia Pacific.

5.NGT directs States to Establish Nodal Agency to protect Water Bodies

The National Green Tribunal recently directed all the states and union territories to designate a nodal agency to protect the water bodies in their regions. The nodal Agencies may hold their meetings under the guidance of chief secretaries of the state. Also, the National Green Tribunal has further directed that the meeting should be held on time.

The Nodal agency will adopt a mechanism to monitor and also address grievances. The National Green Tribunal also asked the central monitoring committee to monitor 351 polluted river structures periodically.

Significance

The protection of water bodies are highly essential for protection of environment. It increases water availability, microclimate, aquatic life, recharge of groundwater and maintaining regular flow of the rivers.

Polluted river stretches in India

The Central Pollution Control Board of India has identified 351 polluted river stretches on 323 rivers during 2018. According to CPCB, these river stretches are located in the states of Gujarat, Assam and Maharashtra. The river stretches in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are less polluted than these three states.

In spite of Clean Ganga Mission of India, several stretches of the mighty Ganges are still polluted. The Biological Oxygen Demand in the stretches of Ganges are in the range of 3.5 to 8.8 milligram per litre. And therefore, Ganges is still put under priority 4 river category.

What is Biological Oxygen Demand?

The Biological Oxygen Demand is the amount of dissolved oxygen required to remove the waste organic matter in the water body. The removal of the waste is done by the aerobic bacteria in the water. Therefore, it is actually the amount of dissolved oxygen consumed by the bacteria in the water in the process of removing the waste, that is in the process of decomposition. It is expressed in milligrams of oxygen per litre.

Indian standards of Biological Oxygen Demand

For drinking water, the Biological Oxygen Demand should be less than five milligram per litre. For treated wastewater to be disposed in water bodies the Biological Oxygen Demand should be 30 milligram per litre.