

ADITYA L1 SET TO BE PLACED IN FINAL ORBIT

Why in news?

- Aditya L1, India's first mission to study the Sun, is inching closer to its destination, and would be injected into its final orbit on January 6 evening.
- The spacecraft was launched on September 2 and it would get into what is known as a 'halo orbit' around the Lagrange Point 1 (L1)
 - L1 is one of the five spots in the moving Sun-Earth system, where the gravitational effects of the two bodies roughly balance each other.

Aditya-L1 Mission

- **About**
 - Aditya (in Sanskrit means Sun) is a planned coronagraphy spacecraft to study solar atmosphere (solar corona - outermost part).
 - It has been designed and developed by ISRO and various other Indian research institutes.
 - It is the first dedicated Indian mission to observe the Sun. It was launched aboard a PSLV-XL launch vehicle on September 2, 2023.
- **Objective**
 - The suits of Aditya L1's payloads are expected to provide crucial information for understanding the phenomenon of:
 - coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics,
 - the dynamics of space weather, propagation of particles and fields etc.
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Significance of Aditya L1 Mission

- **India in the big league**
 - It is the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.

- So far, **only two other space agencies** have had their spacecraft reach L1 or the Lagrange point: USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- **Need to study sun from space**
 - Studying the Sun from space is essential because the Sun emits various forms of radiation, energetic particles, and magnetic fields in all wavelengths.
- **Understanding space weather**
 - Every planet, including Earth and the exoplanets beyond the Solar System, evolves — and this evolution is governed by its parent star.
 - The solar weather and environment affect the weather of the entire system.

Lagrange points

- A Lagrange point is a position in space where the gravitational pull of two large masses precisely equals the centripetal force required for a small object to move with them.
 - e., at that point, the gravitational attraction and repulsion between two heavenly bodies is such that an object placed between them will effectively stay in the same relative position while moving with them.
- These points in space can be used by spacecraft to **reduce fuel consumption needed to remain in position.**
- The Lagrange points are named in honour of Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange, and there are five of them: **L1, L2, L3, L4, and L5.**
 - The L1 point of the Earth-Sun system affords an uninterrupted view of the Sun.
 - It is currently home to the **Solar and Heliospheric Observatory Satellite SOHO.**
 - NASA's James Webb Space Telescope is at L2.

[RULES FOR ALLOCATION OF SYMBOLS TO UNRECOGNISED POLITICAL PARTIES](#)

Why in news?

- The Election Commission of India introduced new regulations for allocating symbols to Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs).
- Now, these parties must provide:
 - audited accounts from the last three financial years,
 - expenditure statements from the last two elections, and
 - the signature of the authorized party official along with their symbol application.

Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs)

- **Registration of political parties**
 - Article 324 of the Indian Constitution grants the ECI the authority to register political parties.
 - The registration of all political parties is governed by the provisions of **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**.
 - According to the ECI, any party seeking registration must file an application (to the Secretary to the ECI) within 30 days of its formation.

Rules for allocation of symbols to unrecognised political parties

- **Existing practice**
 - Common symbols are provided to RUPPs based upon an undertaking that they would put up at least 5% of total candidates with regard to said Legislative Assembly election of a State.
- **Steps taken in 2014 to bring more transparency**
 - In order to ensure transparency, the EC had in 2014 given directions that RUPPs wanting to avail the benefits of having a common symbol have to submit:
 - the proof of having filed up-to-date contribution reports,
 - audited annual accounts,
 - update of election expenditure statements, and
 - their latest organisation details.

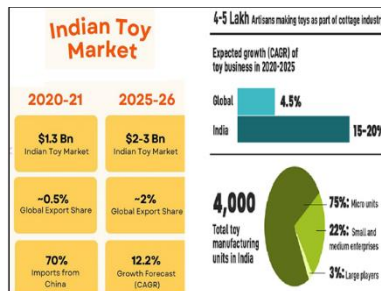
- **What changes now**
 - Earlier the RUPPs were giving the above-mentioned details separately.
 - Now these details are being made part of the format of application for common symbol.
 - The new rules would come into effect from January 11 this year.

TOY INDUSTRY IN INDIA: REGISTERS 239% INCREASE IN TOY EXPORTS IN 2022-2023

Why in News?

- According to a case study on “Success Story of Made in India Toys” released by the DPIIT, the Indian Toy industry witnessed a rise of 239% in exports (and decline in imports by 52%) in 2022-23 as compared to 2014-15.

Toy Industry in India:



• Evolution:

- Asia’s successful industrialising nations [**Japan** (a century ago), **China** (since 1980s) and currently **Vietnam**] promoted toy exports for job creation.

○ However, **toy manufacturing remained stagnant, archaic and fragmented in India**, which followed an **inward-oriented industrial policy** (import tariffs and reservation policy) in the Planning-era, affecting domestic production.

- With the introduction of **LPG reforms** in India in the 1990s, new enterprises entered the organised toy manufacturing sector, and productivity growth increased.
- Despite early encouraging signs, industry de-reservation was unable to sustain output, investment and productivity development beyond 2007-08.

Steps Taken by the Government of India to Promote Toy Sector:

- Make in India initiative (2014).
- **National Action Plan for Toys (NAPT)** to promote the designing of toys, using toys as a learning resource, monitoring the quality of toys and promoting indigenous toy clusters.
- Basic custom duty on toys (tripled from 20% to 60% in 2020).
- **The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has mandated sample testing of each import consignment to curb the import of sub-standards toys.
- Numerous non-tariff barriers [a **Quality Control Order (QCO)** for Toys was issued in 2020] were imposed.
- The Ministry of MSME is supporting 19 Toy clusters under the Scheme of Funds for the Regeneration of Traditional Industries (**SFURTI**).
- The Ministry of Textiles is providing designing and tooling support to 13 Toy clusters.
- Several promotional initiatives have also been undertaken to promote indigenous toys and encourage innovation, including the **Indian Toy Fair 2021, Toycathon**, etc.

Highlights of the Case Study on “Success Story of Made in India Toys”:

- The case study has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow at the behest of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The Central Government has enabled a **more conducive manufacturing ecosystem** for the Indian Toy industry.
- **In a span of 6 years (2014 to 2020)**, these dedicated efforts have led to the doubling of the number of manufacturing units.
- **It helped in the reduction in dependence on imported inputs** from 33 to 12% and increase in gross sales value by a CAGR of 10%, and overall rise in labour productivity.
- India is also emerging as a top exporting nation due to the **country's integration into the global toy value chain**, along with **zero-duty market access for domestically manufactured toys** in countries including **UAE and Australia**.

SIMILIPAL KAI CHUTNEY

Recently, the Similipal kai chutney made with red weaver ants by the tribal people of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district (Odisha) received the geographical identity tag.



About Similipal Kai Chutney:

- The savoury chutney is popular in Mayurbhanj region for its healing properties and also deemed important for nutritional security of the tribal people.
- Many indigenous people from **Mayurbhanj district** venture into nearby forest to collect **kai pimpudi (red weaver ant)**.
- Around 500 tribal families have been eking out a living by collecting and selling these insects and a chutney made with them.

Health benefits:

- The scientists analysed the red weaver ants and found it contains **valuable proteins**, calcium, zinc, vitamin B-12, iron, magnesium, potassium, sodium, copper, amino acids, among others. Consuming the species can help **boost the immune system and prevent diseases**.
- The tribal healers also **prepare a medicinal oil** in which they dip the ants along with pure mustard oil.
- After a month, this concoction is **used as body oil** for babies and to cure **rheumatism, gout, ringworm and other diseases by the tribes**.
- The local people also consume this to stay fit and strong.

Key facts about Red Weaver Ants:

- These are indigenous to Mayurbhanj and are found in abundance in the jungles of every block area of the district, including in the **Similipal Tiger Reserve, throughout the year**.

- They form colonies with multiple nests in trees. Each nest is made of leaves stitched together with the silk produced by their larvae.
- They mostly lodge in trees like mango, sal, jambu and jackfruit. The nests are strong enough against wind and impermeable to water.
- Kai's nests are usually elliptical in shape and range in size from single small leaf folded and bound onto itself to large nest consisting of many leaves.
- The Kai families consist of **three categories of members** — **workers, major workers and queens**. Workers and major workers are mostly orange coloured.

WHAT IS SOUTH KOREA'S WORKATION VISA?

South Korea recently introduced a new visa for foreigners allowing them to visit the country on a working holiday or workation.



About 'Workation' Visa:

- The "workation" or "**digital nomad**" visa allows foreign nationals to visit South Korea on a working holiday.

Eligibility:

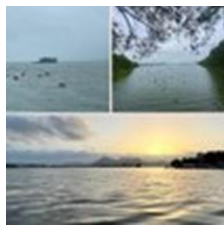
- Foreign nationals with an **annual income twice as much as South Korea's** per capita gross national income will be eligible to apply for the visa.
- It will be given to those having a **work experience of over a year** in one industry **and are eligible for remote work**.
- Moreover, the applicants must also have **medical insurance of over 100 million won (₹63,62,655.45)** and **must cover medical treatment and repatriation fees**.
- The visa will also be **allowed to the families of these employees**.
- The visa, which is **valid for a year and renewable for up to two years**, can be issued at South Korean embassies, and **those currently residing in the country** under a temporary visa **can also apply** for it if they meet the requirements. (Currently, foreign

nationals interested in working and travelling in Korea need a tourist visa, which is limited to stays of less than 90 days).

- The people who are awarded this visa **cannot be hired by any company in South Korea to work or undertake any profit-making activity.**

WETLAND CITY ACCREDITATION

Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has submitted three nominations from India for Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) of Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) & Udaipur (Rajasthan) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



About Wetland City Accreditation:

- The Ramsar Convention **during COP12** held in the year 2015 approved a voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system.
- It recognizes cities which have taken exceptional steps to **safeguard their urban wetlands.**
- It also recognizes the importance of wetlands in **urban and peri-urban environments** and to take appropriate measures to conserve and protect these wetlands.
- This voluntary scheme provides an opportunity for cities that value their **natural or human-made wetlands** to gain international recognition and positive publicity for their efforts.
- This scheme aims to further promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as **sustainable socio-economic benefits** for local populations.
- To be formally accredited, a candidate for WCA should satisfy the standards used to implement each of the **six international criteria** mentioned in Operational Guidance for WCA of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- Since Ramsar COP13, **43 cities from 17 countries** have been officially recognized as “Wetland Cities”.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



The three nominated cities include:

- **Indore:** Founded by Holkars. **Sirpur Lake**, a **Ramsar Site** in the city has been recognised as an important site for water bird congregation and is being developed as a Bird Sanctuary. A strong network of wetland mitras is engaged in bird conservation and sensitising the local community to **protect Sarus Crane**.
 - **Bhopal:** **Bhoj Wetland**, Ramsar Site is the city's lifeline, equipped with the world-class wetlands interpretation centre, **Jal Tarang**. Additionally, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation has a **dedicated Lake Conservation Cell**.
 - **Udaipur:** Located in Rajasthan, the city is surrounded by **five major wetlands**, namely, **Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai**. These wetlands are an integral part of the city's culture and identity, help maintain the city's microclimate, and provide a buffer from extreme events.
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