

50,000 'AMRIT SAROVARS' TO HELP STORE RAINWATER, SUPPLY SOIL FOR INFRA PROJECTS

In News:

- The government is planning to fast track the construction of over 50,000 Amrit Sarovars (ponds), each with a size of over one acre.
 - This will address two concerns — catching the runoff rainwater and meeting the scarcity of soil for infrastructure projects.
- PM Modi has asked all agencies working in the infrastructure sector to map their projects with the water bodies being developed under the Amrit Sarovar scheme.
 - It was instructed during the 40th PRAGATI meeting chaired by PM Modi,

In Focus: PRAGATI

- Launched in 2015, PRAGATI stands for **PR**o-Active **G**overnance **A**nd **T**imely **I**mplementation.
- It is an ICT based multi-purpose, multi-modal platform.
- It uniquely bundles three latest technologies - Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.

Objective:

- Addressing common man's grievances.
- Monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects.
- For monitoring and reviewing purposes, programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments are included.

Key Features

- A three-tier system – It integrates PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States
- PRAGATI Day - Fourth Wednesday of every month is known as PRAGATI Day.
 - On this day, at 3.30 PM, Prime Minister will hold a meeting with relevant officials.
- Issues to be flagged before the PM are picked up from the available database regarding Public Grievances, on-going Programmes and pending Projects.

- The design is such, that when PM reviews the issue he should have on his screen the issue as well as the latest updates and visuals regarding the same.

Mission Amrit Sarovar

- With a view to conserve water for the future, PM Modi launched a new Mission on Amrit Sarovar in April 2022.
- The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- In total, it would lead to creation of 50,000 water bodies of a size of about an Acre or more.

Launched with whole of Government Approach

- This Mission has been launched with a whole of Government Approach which involves 6 Ministries/Department namely:
 - Dept of Rural Development,
 - Department of land resources,
 - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation,
 - Department of Water resources,
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj,
 - Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes.
- Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) has been engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.



Key Features

- The Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be completed by 15th August 2023. Around 50,000 such Amrit Sarovar may be constructed in the country.
- Each of these Amrit Sarovar will have approx. area of 1 acre with a water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic meter.
- People's participation in the Mission is the focal point.

BRICS

Iran has submitted an application to become a member of the BRICS.



About:

- Iran, which holds the world's second-largest gas reserves, wants to join the BRICS group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

- The term BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to describe the startling rise of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. The BRIC powers had their first summit in 2009 in Russia. South Africa joined in 2010.
- Argentina had also applied to join. Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, currently in Europe, has in recent days reiterated his desire for Argentina to join BRICS.

Statistics

- China has by far the largest economy in the BRICS grouping, accounting for more than 70 of the group's collective 27.5 trillion US dollars in economic might. India accounts for about 13 per cent, with Russia and Brazil each accounting for about seven per cent, according to IMF data.
- BRICS account for more than 40 per cent of the world's population and about 26 per cent of the global economy.

ALPHA CENTAURI

NASA has successfully launched a rocket from Australia's remote Northern Territory, making history as the agency's first commercial spaceport launch outside the United States.



About:

- According to Equatorial Launch Australia, the rocket blasted off from the Arnhem Space Centre on the Dhupuma Plateau, near the township of Nhulunbuy.
- The rocket is expected to travel more than 300 kilometres into space on its mission to observe the Alpha Centauri 'A' and 'B' constellations, the nearest star systems to the Earth.

- Australia has a unique connection to Alpha Centauri. The Alpha Centauri can only be seen from the Southern Hemisphere and is one of the “pointers” to the Southern Cross constellation depicted on the nation’s national flag.
 - This Launch also made history for Australia as the first commercial space launch in the country. According to NASA, it was the first of three launches, with a further two planned for 4th and 12th of July.
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WORLD SPORTS JOURNALISTS DAY

World Sports Journalists Day – which is also known as International Sports Journalists Day – is celebrated every year on 2nd of July.



About:

- World Sports Journalist Day was first observed in 1994 when the International Sports Press Association decided to commemorate it in honours of its 70th Anniversary.
- The day is observed to honour all sports journalists around the world and also brings awareness about the sports journalism to the common people.

Timeline of Sports journalism

- Sports journalism developed during the 19th century, but was centered on elitist sports and was more focused on reporting the social context of sports events. In the 1920s, the profession began to take shape as newspapers dedicated more time and space to sports journalism.
 - The 20th century witnessed a massive boom in the popularity of sports journalism. In 1880, only 0.4 percent of space was dedicated to sports in newspapers. This figure rose to 20 percent by the 1920s, as newspapers began hiring reporters exclusively for sports coverage.
 - Today, sports journalism utilizes not only print media but also radio and television along with social media and the Internet.
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14th BRICS SUMMIT

Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing.



About:

- The summit was held in virtual format under the theme of 'Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development'.
- China is the chair of the 14th BRICS Summit happening this year which assumes importance as this was the first BRICS Summit after Russia-Ukraine war began and Russia is currently under severe economic sanction by the west led by the US.
- President Xi Jinping also hosted the High-level Dialogue on Global Development in Beijing. The Dialogue was held in virtual format under the theme of 'Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

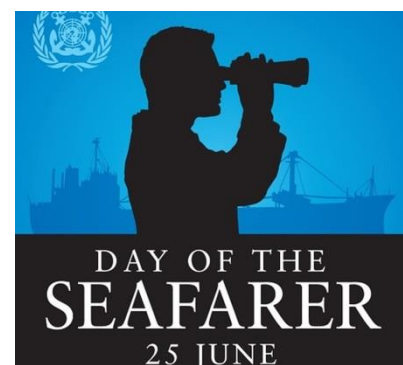
Beijing Declaration

- The two day summit concluded with the Beijing Declaration.
- The declaration says that the BRICS countries support talks between Russia and Ukraine. They discussed concerns over the humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine and expressed support for United Nations, UN agencies and Red Cross to provide humanitarian assistance.
- The BRICS declaration also stated that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group. The summit called for finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework.

SEAFARER DAY

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrated the Seafarer Day recently.

About:





CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- It is celebrated on the 25 of June each year to pay respect to Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.
 - The day was proposed by International Maritime Organization in 2010 to celebrate the contribution of the seafarer to the world economy and civil society.
 - Almost 90 per cent of the world's goods trade are transported by ships and behind these ships are the seafarers who work relentlessly to ensure the smooth flow of trade via water.
 - The theme of this year is 'Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future. The theme seeks to increase the visibility of seafarers by drawing attention to the invaluable role they play now and will continue to play in the future.
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