

NEW LOGISTICS POLICY: 'AIM FOR CHEETAH SPEED'

In News:

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the National Logistics Policy.
- While announcing the new policy, he said that this is an important step towards the making of a developed India, and added that the policy has come with a new energy for every sector.

Logistics market in India:

- Logistics is the process of planning and executing the efficient transportation and storage of goods from the point of origin to the point of consumption.
- The goal of logistics is to meet customer requirements in a timely, cost-effective manner. The worth of Indian logistics market is estimated at over **USD 200 billion**.
- The sector provides livelihood to more than 22 million people.

Need for a wholistic logistics policy in India:

- The need for a national logistics policy was felt since the logistics cost in India is high as compared to other developed economies.
- It is imperative to reduce the logistics cost in India for improving the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export markets.
- The difference between the **logistic cost to GDP**, in India at **14 per cent** and in the developed countries at **8 per cent**, is very significant.
- Reduced logistics cost improves efficiency cutting across various sectors of the economy, encouraging value addition and enterprise.

About the National Logistics Policy:

- The policy had found mention for the first time in the Union Budget of 2020-21.
- **Objective:** To facilitate a seamless flow of goods across India.
- **Benefits** –
 - With the implementation of National Logistics Policy, there will be further boost to the development in an **integrated logistics ecosystem**, reduction in time, wastage & cost, and ensuring sustainability.

- It will further strengthen the warehousing sector by –
 - Improving the quality of storage infrastructure, including specialized warehouses, and
 - Increasing warehousing capacity by identifying areas of standardization and optimization.
- The national logistics policy will ensure great synergy between various Central government departments, agencies, and private players.
- In coordinate on with the states, it will also ensure the issues that inflate logistics costs are swiftly resolved.

Other measures to improve logistics:

- Many efforts have been taken in recent years in regards to improve logistics in India.
- For instance, the government had introduced **PM GATI Shakti Master Plan** in 2021.
- Under the plan, a digital platform is created to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- The government has also approved the development of 35 New Multi-Modal logistics Parks under **Bharat Mala Pariyojana** to reduce logistics cost.
- For promoting export, **40 air cargo terminals** have been constructed. **30 airports** have been provided cold-storage facilities.

News Summary:

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the National Logistics Policy.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister called the launch of the National Logistics Policy a significant step in fulfilling the ‘**Pran**’ of India being a developed country.
- The Prime Minister noted that in India, which has become the **5th largest economy in the world**, things are changing rapidly.
- The Prime Minister underlined that for the products manufactured in India to dominate the world market, it is crucial to have a strong support system.

BLOOD DONATION IN INDIA

India scripted a new world record of maximum number of blood donations in a single day on the occasion of the 72nd birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under 'Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav'.



About:

- This was the largest country-wide Blood Donation Drive. The campaign was aimed at increasing awareness regarding regular non-remunerated voluntary blood donations and ensure that blood or its components are available, accessible, affordable and safe.
- As per 2021 statistics, India's annual requirement is around 1.5 crore units.
- In India, the regulatory framework for blood donation and blood bank management rests with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, while technical bodies like the National Blood Transfusion Council and National AIDS Control Organisation formulate guidelines and recommendations for transfusion medicine and blood bank management.

EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel, attended East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting in Siem Reap City of Cambodia.



About:

- The meeting saw representation from all 10 ASEAN countries as well as eight partner countries including Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the US.
- The East Asia Summit (EAS) is the Indo-Pacific's premier forum for strategic dialogue.
- The EAS has 18 members - the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States. ASEAN leads the forum, and the chair position rotates between ASEAN Member States annually.

- The EAS calendar culminates in the annual Leaders' Summit, which is usually held alongside ASEAN Leaders' meetings in the fourth quarter of every year.
 - In addition to the Leaders' Summit, meetings of EAS Foreign Ministers and Economic Ministers are held annually.
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INDIA'S FIRST SWACHH SUJAL PRADESH

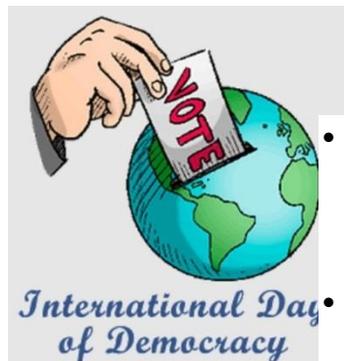
Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has declared Andaman and Nicobar Islands as India's first Swachh Sujal Pradesh.

About:

- Now, all villages of Andaman and Nicobar Island have been certified as Har Ghar Jal and verified as open defecation free - ODF plus.
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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY 2022

International Day of Democracy is celebrated annually on September 15th across the world to strengthen democracies and highlight its values and principles.



About:

- It was established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy.
- This year, the Day will focus on the importance of media freedom to democracy, peace, and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- On the 15th anniversary of the Democracy Day, UN Secretary General António Guterres said that democracy is backsliding across the World.

- **Background:** In September 1997 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a Universal Declaration on Democracy. That Declaration affirms the principles of democracy, the elements and exercise of democratic government, and the international scope of democracy.
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WORLD OZONE DAY

World Ozone Day, also known as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, is observed annually on September 16 to bring attention to the ozone layer and the dangers of ozone depletion.

About:

- This years theme is “**Montreal Protocol@35: Global Cooperation Protecting Life on Earth**” which recognises the wider impact the Montreal Protocol has on climate change.
 - In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
 - **Montreal Protocol** is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.
 - It was agreed in 1987 and entered into force in 1989.
 - Due to its widespread adoption and implementation, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed it as perhaps the single most successful international agreement.
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