

International

India and New Zealand sign customs co-operation arrangement to ease trade between the two countries



About News :-

- ❖ India and New Zealand inked a bilateral Customs Cooperation Arrangement agreement to facilitate trade between them. On August 8, 2024, during President Droupadi Murmu's two-day official visit to New Zealand, the agreement was signed in Wellington.
- ❖ Three countries are on President Murmu's tour: Timor Leste, New Zealand, and Fiji. She traveled to Fiji on the first leg of her trip then, on August 8 and 9, New Zealand on the second.

Key Points :-

- ❖ The last Indian president to visit New Zealand before President Droupadi Murmu was President Pranab Mukherjee. In May 2016, President Pranab Mukherjee paid a visit to New Zealand.
- ❖ Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, hosted a traditional Maori ceremonial welcome for President Murmu.
- ❖ Before European settlers arrived, the Maoris, who are the indigenous inhabitants of New Zealand, made up the majority of the nation's population.
- ❖ Dame Cindy Kiro, the governor general of New Zealand, gave her an official welcome in Wellington.
- ❖ Winston Peters, the foreign minister and deputy prime minister of New Zealand, also had a meeting with the president.

- ❖ Through the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, both leaders agreed to share best practices in traditional medicine after talking about matters of common interest.
- ❖ This year, India was the guest of honor at the New Zealand International Education Conference in Wellington, where the president gave a speech.

Relations between New Zealand and India:-

- ❖ India and New Zealand have friendly relations. India opened a Trade Mission in New Zealand in 1950, and it eventually became a High Commission.
- ❖ With a value of US\$1.56 billion as of June 2023, India is New Zealand's fifteenth-largest trading partner, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❖ New Zealand is the primary source of wool, edible fruits and nuts, and forestry goods for India.
- ❖ The primary products that India exports to New Zealand include automobiles, textiles, jewelry, non-knitted clothing and accessories, and pharmaceuticals.

National

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission Launches Million Designers, Billion Dreams with LEAP



About News :-

- ❖ In partnership with Leap Designs, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) initiated the 'Million Designers, Billion Dreams' campaign. The objective of this effort is to equip people with systems design expertise to address intricate societal issues throughout India.

- ❖ Charanjit Singh, Additional Secretary, Rural Livelihoods (RL), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), presided over the launch event.

Key Points :-

- ❖ "Million Designers, Billion Dreams" aims to provide systems design skills to village businesses, frontline change agents, and rural leaders.
- ❖ The program's objectives are to increase participants' competence with design frameworks, encourage stakeholder engagement, and develop their confidence and sense of agency in order to spark creativity and address difficult problems.
- ❖ Anticipated results encompass a rise in the quantity of people possessing expertise in systems design, promoting creativity in many fields, establishing India as a worldwide leader in design and innovation, and fostering sustainable development throughout the country, among other things.
- ❖ With initial funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), LEAP grew out of the multidisciplinary work of the Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF) and the Design Laboratory at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (D-Lab).

Maharashtra

Maharashtra government approves Logistic Policy to generate five lakhs job opportunities



About News :-

The Maharashtra Logistics Policy 2024 was approved by the Maharashtra Cabinet, which is headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Over the course of the following five years, this program is expected to generate approximately ₹30,573 crore in income and create roughly 500,000 employment, hence augmenting the state's economy. The State Economic Advisory Council's suggestions served as the foundation for these strategies.

Key Points :-

- ❖ Cutting Expenses: The objective is to reduce logistical expenses from the existing 14–15% by 4–5%.
- ❖ Time Saving: The goal of the policy is to expedite logistics procedures.
- ❖ Going Green: Its goal is to lower carbon emissions through the use of eco-friendly methods.
- ❖ Utilizing Technology: Cutting-edge technology like as blockchain, AI, and intelligent logistics management systems will be integrated into the policy.

Development of Logistics Hubs :-

- ❖ Global Mega Logistics Hub: In the Navi Mumbai-Pune region, next to the recently constructed international airport, a sizable logistics hub spanning 2,000 acres is planned. A total of ₹1,500 crore would be invested in this project.
- ❖ National Mega Logistics Hub in Nagpur-Wardha: At a cost of ₹1,500 crore, a second large hub will be constructed on 1,500 acres with access to important transportation corridors.
- ❖ State Logistics centers: At a total cost of ₹2,500 crore, five 500-acre logistics centers will be built in different places.
- ❖ Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar-Jalna, Thane-Bhiwandi, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Pune-Purandar, and Palghar-Wadhawan would all host five logistics hubs.
- ❖ Regional Hubs: At a total cost of ₹1,500 crore, five smaller hubs will be built on 300 acres each in key locations.

Regarding the 2024 Maharashtra Logistics Policy:-

- ❖ This policy also emphasizes using technology and better infrastructure to grow the state's logistics industry.
- ❖ Its objectives are to create logistics parks, advance multimodal transportation (which combines land, air, and sea transportation), and foster skill development. The goal of the policy is to lower logistics expenses from 13–14% of the state GDP to 8–9%.

- ❖ It highlights environmental responsibility by promoting eco-friendly logistics methods. The government also intends to deploy digital technologies for data analysis and real-time tracking.
- ❖ In order to boost productivity and spur innovation in the logistics sector, the policy also places a high priority on establishing important alliances with key industry players.

Appointment

Central Government appoints Shri Harish Dudani as Member in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

About News :-

- ❖ On August 6, the Power Ministry declared that Harish Dudani has been appointed to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. On August 6, 2024, the Minister for Power administered to Dudani the Oath of Office and Secrecy as a Member of the CERC.
- ❖ At the Delhi High Court, Shri. Harish Dudani served as Principal Judge of the Family Court. Before that, he served as the High Court of Delhi's District Judge (Commercial Court), Additional Session Judge, Special Judge (PC Act), and CBI.

About the Commission for Electricity Regulation (CERC):-

- ❖ Under the terms of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, the Indian government formed the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
- ❖ For the purposes of the Electricity Act of 2003, which repealed the ERC Act of 1998, CERC stands for Central Commission.
- ❖ Three additional members and the chairperson make up the Commission. Furthermore, the Central Electricity Authority Chairperson serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission.
- ❖ According to the power Act of 2003, among other things, the CERC's main



responsibilities are to regulate the tariffs of generating businesses that are either owned or controlled by the Central Government and other generating corporations that generate and sell power in many States.

- ❖ The CERC also sets the tariff for the interstate transfer of power. The issuance of licenses for interstate transmission and commerce is required by CERC.
- ❖ Other duties performed by CERC include resolving disputes in order to encourage investment in the electricity sector as well as competition, economy, and efficiency in industry operations.

Economic

RBI extends interest subvention scheme for agri loans up to Rs 3 lakhs

About News :-

- ❖ The Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for short-term loans obtained through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for agricultural and related operations has been extended for the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), according to an announcement made by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 7, 2024.
- ❖ Following the Government of India's (GoI) consent to extend the interest subvention plan for short-term loans up to Rs 3 lakh, this statement was made.



Key Points :-

- ❖ Loan Limit and Interest Rates: At a 7% concessional interest rate, farmers are eligible to borrow up to Rs 3 lakh.
- ❖ Farmers that make timely loan repayments receive an additional 3% annual interest subvention, bringing the effective interest rate down to 4%.
- ❖ Loan Scope: The program offers short-term loans for agricultural purposes as well as short-term loans for related industries such

as dairy, fishery, beekeeping, and animal husbandry.

- ❖ Interest Subvention to Lending Institutions: In 2024–2025, lending institutions will receive an interest subvention of 1.5%.
- ❖ Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Private Sector Banks (exclusively for loans provided by their rural and semi-urban branches), and computerized Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) partnered with Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) are among the lending institutions.
- ❖ Priority and Sub-Limit: In order to provide interest subvention and timely repayment incentives, the limit for crop loan components will be given precedence.
- ❖ Within the total maximum of Rs 3 lakh, there is a sub-limit of Rs 2 lakh specifically for farmers who are only engaged in related businesses.
- ❖ Aadhaar connecting: In 2024–2025, application for these short-term loans would require Aadhaar connecting.

- ❖ Growth in Rural lending: According to data released by State Minister of Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, ground-level lending in rural regions has increased significantly, from Rs 7.3 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 25.46 lakh crore in 2024.

Award

Government announces Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024

About News :-

- ❖ Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar has been reinstated by the Indian government, making it the first national award for scientists since it was cut in 2022.
- ❖ Thirty-three awards would be presented on August 23, which is also National Space Day, it was announced on August 7, 2024. The successful Chandrayaan-3 lunar landing is commemorated on this day.

Award Winners :-

Award Category	Award Recipients	Associated Field
Vigyan Ratna	Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan	Biochemistry
Vigyan Shri	Dr. Annapurini Subramanian	Astrophysics
	Dr. Anandharamakrishnan C	Agriculture Science
	Dr. Avesh Kumar Tyagi	Atomic Energy
	Prof. Umesh Varshney, Prof. Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar	Biological Sciences
	Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi	Earth Sciences
	Prof. Bhim Singh	Engineering Sciences
	Prof. Adimurthi Adi, Prof. Rahul Mukherjee	Mathematics and Computer Science
	Prof. Dr. Sanjay Behari	Medicine
	Prof. Lakshmanan Muthusamy, Prof. Naba Kumar Mondal	Physics
	Prof. Rohit Srivastava	Technology and Innovation
Vigyan Yuva	Krishna Murthy SL, Swarup Kumar Parida	Agricultural Science
	Radhakrishnan Mahalakshmi, Prof. Aravind Penmatsa	Biological Sciences
	Vivek Polshettiwar, Vishal Rai	Chemistry
	Roxy Mathew Koll	Earth Sciences
	Abhilash, Radha Krishna Ganti	Engineering Sciences
	Purabi Saikia, Bappi Paul	Environmental Science
	Mahesh Ramesh Kakde	Mathematics and Computer Science
	Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Pragya Dhruv Yadav	Medicine
Vigyan Team	Urbasi Sinha	Physics
	Digendranath Swain, Prashant Kumar	Space Science and Technology
	Prabhu Rajagopal	Technology and Innovation
	Team Chandrayaan-3	Space Science

About Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar :-

- ❖ The Indian government created the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar to honour exceptional contributions to science and technology.
- ❖ Since 1999, it has been given out with the goal of encouraging scientific innovation and communication.
- ❖ The awards come with cash prizes and certificates, and they include a number of categories, including grassroots ideas.
- ❖ Every year on February 28, National Science Day, they are given.
- ❖ The objective of this effort is to raise public knowledge of scientific accomplishments in India and to encourage young people to seek careers in science.
- ❖ Leading scientists from a variety of scientific domains are among the honorees.

Sport

India Men's Hockey Team Wins Bronze at Paris 2024

About News :-

- ❖ India's men's hockey team defeated Spain 2-1 to win the bronze medal at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.
- ❖ This accomplishment is noteworthy since it is the first successive Olympic hockey medal for India since the Munich Games of 1972.
- ❖ The bronze medal match took place in Paris at the Yves du Manoir Stadium.

Key Points :-



- ❖ Marc Miralles' penalty kick in the second quarter gave Spain the early advantage in the match. India's captain, Harmanpreet Singh, tied the score just before the half with a drag flick goal.
- ❖ After trailing the entire game, India rallied to win behind a brace from Harmanpreet Singh, giving them their record-tying 13th Olympic hockey medal.
- ❖ India has now won bronze at the Olympics twice in a row.
- ❖ India lost to Belgium in the semifinals before defeating Germany 5-4 to take home the bronze medal at Tokyo 2020.
- ❖ The Indian men's hockey team won its 13th medal at the Summer Olympics in Paris with the bronze medal.

Defence

INS Shivalik wins Naval Gunfire Support Competition at RIMPAC 2024

About News :-

- ❖ At the Naval Gunfire Support Competition at the Rim of the Pacific Exercise-2024 (RIMPAC-2024), held in Hawaii, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Shivalik of the Eastern Fleet emerged victorious and received the coveted RODEO trophy.
- ❖ At the event, which included 25 partner nations, INS Shivalik showed off its remarkable firepower and accuracy when dropping bombs on target.
- ❖ 29 countries participated in this biennial event, which is referred to as the greatest international maritime exercise in the world.
- ❖ The remarkable achievement of INS Shivalik in winning the highly sought-after RODEO trophy demonstrates the accuracy and professionalism of the Indian Navy and represents a critical turning point in India's maritime history.
- ❖ The P-8I and INS Shivalik's cutting-edge capabilities served as a highlight of the Indian Navy's participation in RIMPAC 2024.



About RIMPAC :-

- ❖ Since its founding in 1971, RIMPAC has developed into a preeminent forum for global maritime collaboration.

- ❖ RIMPAC 2024 was the pinnacle of international cooperation, with over 150 aircraft, 40 surface ships, three submarines, and 29 participating nations.
- ❖ Partners: Integrated and Prepared," the 2024 theme, placed a strong emphasis on cooperation and readiness while handling maritime issues.

About Ministry of Defence :-

- ❖ Defence Minister :- Rajnath Singh
- ❖ Minister of State :- Sanjay Seth

Miscellaneous

Indian Railways to roll out Kavach 4.0 by March 2025



About News :-

- ❖ The most recent iteration of Indian Railways' in-house automatic train protection system, known as Kavach 4.0, is scheduled to go live in October.
- ❖ With this project, the nation's vast railway network's train safety will be significantly improved.

Key Points :-

- ❖ First Rollout and Coverage: Over the course of the next few years, 10,000 locomotives (engines) and 9,000 route kilometers (RKMs) will be deployed as part of Kavach 4.0's initial rollout.
- ❖ It is anticipated that 3,000 RKMs will have Kavach coverage by the conclusion of current fiscal year.
- ❖ High-Density Routes: The Delhi – Howrah and Delhi – Mumbai routes, which span 3,000 RKMs and have been designated as high-density corridors, would be the first to be implemented.
- ❖ Following the upgrade to Kavach 4.0, section-by-section commissioning of the system will begin right away.
- ❖ Future Expansion: After the initial deployment, Kavach will also be installed on the 3,300 RKM Delhi-Chenna and Mumbai-Chenna routes.
- ❖ Furthermore, the entire autonomous signaling section—5,000 RKMs—will be brought under the system's purview.

Important day

International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples – 9 August



About Day :-

- ❖ International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples 2024: Every year on August 9th, the world observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. This day aims to raise awareness about the rights and needs of indigenous populations around the globe. In 2024, this important day also known as 'विश्व आदिवासी दिवस' falls on a Friday, August 9th.
- ❖ The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2024 is crucial for promoting and protecting the rights of Indigenous people, who make up 6% of the world's population. Let's mark this Global Indigenous Peoples Day 2024 with respect for their rich cultures and traditions while advocating for their rights and autonomy.
- ❖ The theme for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in 2024 is "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact." This theme focuses on the rights and needs of indigenous groups who have chosen to remain isolated from the rest of society.

History :-

- ❖ The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples has its roots in the United Nations' efforts to recognize and support Indigenous communities. It was initiated after the first conference of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (UNWGIP) held on August 9, 1982.
- ❖ Twelve years later, on December 23, 1994, the UN General Assembly officially designated August 9 as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples through resolution 49/214. Since then, this day has been observed annually to raise awareness about the rights, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples worldwide.

