



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10-12-2024

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Tikhir Tribe

Syllabus: GS-1; Tribes of India

Context

- Tikhir community performs Log drum pulling ceremony.



About

- **Location**
The Tikhir tribe is primarily found in Nagaland, a northeastern state of India.
- **Recognition**
In 2022, the Government of Nagaland recognized the Tikhir as a distinct tribe. This decision separated them from the Yimkiung tribe, with whom they were earlier grouped.

Cultural Aspects

- The Tikhirs have a rich tradition of folk songs, dances, and oral literature.
- They celebrate festivals rooted in agricultural practices and animistic beliefs, similar to other Naga tribes.
- Traditional attires, ornaments, and handicrafts play a significant role in their cultural identity.

Language

- The Tikhir tribe has its own dialect, part of the **Tibeto-Burman language family**.

Occupation

- Primarily engaged in subsistence agriculture.
- Practice shifting cultivation, locally known as Jhum cultivation, common among tribes in the region.

Significance of Recognition

- The recognition of Tikhirs as a separate tribe resolved long-standing issues related to identity and representation.
- It provides them access to distinct tribal benefits and recognition under **the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**.

Challenges

- Like other tribal groups, they face challenges such as underdevelopment, lack of access to modern education, and healthcare.
- Need for preservation of their unique cultural heritage in the face of modernization.

National Council for Vocational Education and Training

Syllabus: GS-2: Social Justice – Education and Skill development.

Context:

- National Council for Vocational Education and Training recognizes Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center as Awarding Body.

Background

- **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET):**
 - Operates under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India.
 - Founded InDecember 5, 2018 (Operational from August 1, 2020).
 - National regulator for vocational education and training.
 - Responsible for setting standards, developing regulations, and improving skilling outcomes.

- Recognizes and regulates awarding bodies and assessment agencies to ensure industry-aligned skill development.
- **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE):**
 - Autonomous agency under the Department of Space (DOS).
 - Promotes and facilitates space activities such as launch vehicle development, satellite manufacturing, and space-based services.

Key Development

- **Recognition as an Awarding Body (Dual):**
 - IN-SPACE now officially recognized by NCVET.
 - Aims to standardize and accredit space-related vocational training.
 - Aligns training programs with national and global frameworks.

Importance of Collaboration

- **Focus Areas for Training:**
 - Satellite Manufacturing.
 - Space Technology in Agriculture.
 - Mission Design for Launch Vehicles.
 - Orbital Mechanics.
 - Advances in Space Propulsion Systems.
- **Approved National Occupational Standards (NoS):**
 - Essentials of Space Technology in Agriculture Sector.
 - Fundamentals of Orbital Mechanics, Attitude Dynamics, and Space-Based Navigation.
 - Foundations of Mission Design and Avionics Development for Launch Vehicles.
 - Essentials of Satellite Manufacturing.
 - Essentials of Space Data Products and Services.
 - Introduction to Advances in Propulsion Systems for Launch Vehicles, Satellites, and Landing Missions.

Strategic Benefits

- **Skill Development:**
 - Cultivates a skilled workforce for India's growing space sector.

- Aligns with the **Skill India Mission** to enhance employability and global competitiveness.
- **Global Competitiveness:**
 - Prepares workforce to meet international standards amid increasing private sector participation in space ventures.

Additional Initiatives

- **ISRO Technical Training Program:**
 - Launched under an MoU between MSDE and ISRO.
 - Conducted at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) in Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Trivandrum.
 - Aims to upskill over 4,000 technical employees of the Department of Space (ISRO).

Conclusion

- The collaboration between NCVET and IN-SPACe marks a critical milestone in India's space sector.
- It ensures the creation of a skilled workforce capable of supporting the nation's ambitious space endeavors and competing on a global scale.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Syllabus: GS-2; Government Policies and Interventions, GS-3; Sustainability Goals

Context

- The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Besco) recently held a day-long workshop in Bengaluru to promote the adoption of the PM-Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana, with participation from solar rooftop vendors and the city's Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs).

About

- The **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** is a government initiative aimed at promoting the use of solar energy in households across India. This scheme supports India's commitment to clean energy, sustainable development, and reducing dependence on non-renewable energy sources.

Objectives

- **Promote Solar Energy:** Encourage the adoption of rooftop solar panels in residential areas.
- **Reduce Electricity Bills:** Provide households with free or subsidized electricity through solar power.
- **Sustainability:** Reduce carbon emissions and contribute to India's renewable energy goals.
- **Energy Self-Sufficiency:** Empower households to produce their own electricity and reduce dependency on the grid.

Key Features

- **Free Solar Panel Installation:**
 - Eligible households will receive solar panels either free or at a highly subsidized rate.
- **Net Metering System:**
 - Surplus electricity generated by the household can be fed back to the grid in exchange for monetary credits.
- **Subsidies:**
 - Up to **40% subsidy** on the installation cost for solar systems below 3 kW.
 - Subsidies for systems up to 10 kW are also available.
- **Focus on Rural and Urban Areas:**
 - Priority is given to rural households, particularly in areas with frequent power cuts or inadequate grid connectivity.
- **Implementation:**
 - Implemented through state nodal agencies in collaboration with DISCOMs (power distribution companies).

Benefits

- **Financial Savings:** Reduction in electricity costs for households.
- **Environment-Friendly:** Promotes the use of clean energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Energy Independence:** Enables households to become self-reliant in energy production.
- **Employment Generation:** Boosts local manufacturing and installation jobs in the solar energy sector.

Eligibility

- Indian citizens owning residential properties.
- Households with adequate roof space for solar panel installation.
- Compliance with state and central guidelines.

Challenges

- **Awareness and Accessibility:** Limited awareness about the scheme in remote areas.
- **Initial Costs:** Despite subsidies, the upfront installation costs may deter some users.
- **Grid Connectivity Issues:** Some rural areas lack proper infrastructure for grid interconnection.

Importance

- Aligns with India's **National Solar Mission** under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.
- Supports the **Paris Agreement goals** for clean energy adoption.
- Reflects India's steps toward achieving its **renewable energy target of 500 GW by 2030**.

Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions, GS-3; Minerals Resources

Context

- To encourage domestic production of petroleum and other mineral oils, along with private investment in these sectors to reduce import dependence, the Rajya Sabha passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.

About

- The **Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024** amends the **Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948** to modernize governance in petroleum exploration and production.



Background

- **Separation of Jurisdictions:** The 1948 Act initially regulated oilfields, mines, and minerals, but after the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, the 1948 law was renamed and confined to "mineral oils" while removing the general term "minerals."
- **Objective of Amendment:** To clearly define "mineral oil," streamline petroleum leases, and encourage private investment.

Major Provisions

- **Expanded Definition of Mineral Oils:**
 - Includes naturally occurring hydrocarbons such as crude oil, natural gas, and shale oil.
 - Excludes coal, lignite, and helium associated with petroleum.
- **Petroleum Leases:**
 - Replaces "mining leases" with "petroleum leases," which include activities like exploration, production, and disposal.
 - Ensures existing mining leases remain valid without alterations disadvantaging lessees.
- **Decriminalization of Offenses:**
 - Replaces imprisonment with financial penalties. For violations:
 - ₹25 lakh initial fine.
 - ₹10 lakh/day for continued violations.

- **Private Sector Involvement:**
 - Encourages private investment while retaining environmental safeguards and emissions controls.
- **Environmental Provisions:**
 - Expands central rules to promote renewable energy projects and carbon capture technologies at oilfields.

Controversies and Criticisms

- **Impact on States' Rights:**
 - **DMK's Opposition:** Argues the replacement of "mining leases" with "petroleum leases" potentially undermines states' rights to tax and regulate mineral activities under Entry 50 of the State List.
 - **Supreme Court Ruling:** Recent judgments affirmed states' rights to collect royalties and tax mining activities.
- **Environmental Concerns:**
 - Critics fear privatization might dilute environmental protections and prioritize profit over sustainability.
- **Union vs. State Power:**
 - Proponents argue the bill's focus on petroleum aligns with Entry 53 of the Union List, ensuring federal governance for oilfield development.

Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands

Syllabus: GS-3: Environmental Conservation.

Context:

Global strategy to revolutionise dryland farming unveiled in Riyadh.

- **Significance of Drylands:**
 - Home to 1 in 3 of the world's population.
 - Account for nearly 50% of global livestock and 44% of food systems.
 - Face degradation in 20-35% of their area.

CGIAR's 2030 Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands (GSRD)

- **Objective:** Transform agriculture in the world's most arid regions to ensure food security, biodiversity conservation, and resilient livelihoods.

➤ **Key Organisations:**

- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

➤ **Launch Context:**

- Unveiled at COP16 to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Riyadh.
- Builds on 50 years of research in dryland regions.

Innovations Under GSRD

➤ **Technological Solutions:**

- **Agrivoltaics:** Solar-powered systems for agriculture.
- **Agroforestry:** Advanced tree-crop-livestock integration.
- **Climate-resilient Crops:** Barley, lentils, chickpeas, cacti.
- **Improved Livestock Practices:** Advanced feeding techniques.

➤ **Focus Areas:**

- Water scarcity, land degradation, and desertification, exacerbated by climate change.

Strategic Importance of Drylands

➤ **Climate Frontlines:**

- Warming at 20-40% higher rates than other regions.
- 70% of the world's hungry live in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

➤ **Potential for Innovation:**

- Reframed as hubs of untapped resilience and opportunity.
- Models developed in drylands offer scalable solutions for vulnerable communities.

Five Pillars of GSRD

1. **Adaptation of Agrifood Systems:** Climate-resilient approaches for sustainable agriculture.
2. **Biodiversity Conservation:** Protecting and enhancing dryland ecosystems.
3. **Soil and Water Management:** Sustainable practices for long-term productivity.
4. **Promoting Healthy Diets:** Improved nutritional outcomes for communities.
5. **Inclusive Development:** Empowering marginalized groups and fostering equity.

Collaboration and Vision

➤ **Stakeholders Involved:**

- National research organisations, governments, and private sector partners.

➤ **Vision:**

- Transform drylands into resilient ecosystems that support global food security.
- Serve as a lifeline for communities facing the impacts of climate change.

Broader Implications

➤ **Global Relevance:**

- Solutions offer sustainable agricultural practices not only for drylands but also for broader environmental challenges.

➤ **Call to Action:**

- GSRD seeks cohesive global efforts to address agriculture's pressing challenges in a changing climate.