



20 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Green Tug Transition Program</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Minister of Port Shipping and Waterways recently launched the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP). <p>About Green Tug Transition Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Date: GTTP (Green Tug Transition Programme) was launched on May 22, 2023, under the ‘Panch Karma Sankalp’ initiative. Objective: To phase out conventional fuel-based harbour tugs operating in Indian Major Ports and replace them with green tugs powered by cleaner and more sustainable alternative fuels. Nodal Agency: National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) will act as the nodal entity for the programme. Long-term Vision: India aims to become a ‘Global Hub for Green Ship’ building by 2030 with the launch of GTTP. Technology: ‘Green Hybrid Tugs’ will be powered by Green Hybrid Propulsion systems, which will eventually transition to non-fossil fuel solutions like Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen.
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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Aarogya Maitri Health Cube

Why in the news?

- The Indian Army and Air Force recently conducted a first-of-its-kind paradrop of the Aarogya Maitri Health Cube, the world's first indigenously-made portable hospital, at an elevation of 15,000 feet.

About Aarogya Maitri Health Cube:

- **World's First Portable Hospital:**
 - Designed indigenously under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).
 - Includes essential medical equipment and supplies such as a mini-ICU, operation theatre, X-ray machine, blood test equipment, cooking station, food, water, and a power generator.
- **Aarogya Maitri Cube Cage Design:**
 - Total of 36 mini-cubes in a single cage, providing survival supplies for 48 hours for 100 survivors.
 - Two cages can be joined (master cube one and master cube two) to include 72 cubes in total, capable of assisting 200 survivors.

Gross Environment Product Index

Why in the news?

- Uttarakhand has become the first state in India and the world to launch a Gross Environment Product Index, focusing not just on ecosystem services but also on ecosystem growth.

About Gross Environment Product Index:

- **GEP Index:** A novel, integrative metric designed to evaluate ecological development caused by human interventions.
- **Constituents:** The index is determined by the condition of four main environmental constituents:
 - Air quality
 - Water quality
 - Number of trees planted in a year
 - Measure of the area of organic soil
- **Formula:** $GEP\ index = (Air-GEP\ index + Water-GEP\ index + Soil-GEP\ index + Forest-GEP\ index)$
- **Purpose:** Provides quantifiable assessments of improvements in air, water, soil, and forest quality.



Hakki Pikki Tribe

Why in the news?

- **Members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community have successfully ventured into the hair oil industry as entrepreneurs.**

About Hakki Pikki Tribe:

- **Tribe Name:** Hakki Pikki (Hakki means 'bird' and Pikki means 'catchers' in Kannada).
- **Traditional Occupation:** **Semi-nomadic tribe**, traditionally involved in bird catching and hunting.
- **Location:**
 - Primarily reside in **Karnataka**.
 - Also found in **Western and Southern states of India**, mostly near forest areas.
- **Migration History:** Migrated from **Northern India**, mainly from **Gujarat and Rajasthan**.
- **Language:**
 - Speak an **Indo-Aryan language** called '**Vaagri**' at home.
 - Use Kannada for daily business interactions.
 - **Endangered Status:** **UNESCO** has listed '**Vaagri**' as one of the endangered languages.

National Coal Index (NCI)

Why in the news?

- The **National Coal Index (NCI)** witnessed a significant **decline of 3.48% in June 2024**, dropping to 142.13 points provisionally, compared to 147.25 points in June 2023.

About National Coal Index (NCI):

- **National Coal Index (NCI):** A price index **reflecting changes in coal prices each month relative to a fixed base year**.
- **Base Year:** FY 2017-18.
- **Purpose:** To provide an **index that accurately reflects the market price of coal**.
- **Release:** Issued monthly by the **Ministry of Coal**.
- **Exclusions:** Washed coal and coal products are not included in the index.



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