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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

30 July 2024

National and International News

Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Supreme Court recently abolished its 2017 directive that requires a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate for the renewal of third-party insurance policies. <p>About Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory Requirement: The PUC (Pollution Under Control) Certificate is mandatory for all vehicle owners in India.• Purpose: It certifies that the vehicle's emission levels are within permissible limits set by the government.• Legal Requirement: Required under the Central Motor Vehicles Rule 1989.• Penalties:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Failure to produce a valid PUC certificate can result in a fine of up to Rs 10,000, six months imprisonment, or both.○ The vehicle owner may also be disqualified from holding a license for three months.• Invalidation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If a vehicle emits fumes beyond prescribed limits despite having a valid PUC certificate, the certificate will be canceled.○ A new PUC certificate must be obtained within seven days.• Applicable to All Fuels: The PUC certificate rule applies to CNG, petrol, and diesel vehicles.
Indexation	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The withdrawal of the indexation benefit in the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax regime, announced in the Union Budget for 2024-25, has become one of the most contentious decisions. <p>About Indexation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indexation adjusts the original purchase price of an asset or investment to neutralize the impact of inflation.• Function: Indexation helps in adjusting the purchase price of



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	<p>investments to reflect the impact of inflation over the holding period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: To account for inflation, which reduces the value of money over time, when an asset is sold or an investment is redeemed. ● Indexed Cost of Acquisition: The adjusted cost of acquisition after factoring in inflation, used to calculate gains or losses from the sale or redemption. ● Realistic Returns: Returns calculated on the indexed cost of acquisition are seen as more realistic than absolute gains based on the original purchase price. ● Tax Efficiency: Indexation helps in preventing the draining of returns on investments due to taxes. ● Applicability: It is applicable to long-term investments, including debt funds and other asset classes.
<p>NIPUN Bharat Mission</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) was launched four years ago. There are interlinked social and demographic trends which, if leveraged, could boost the NIPUN Bharat Mission. <p>About NIPUN Bharat Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch: By the Ministry of Education under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha. ● Target Age Group: Children aged 3 to 9 years, from preschool to Grade 3. ● Implementation: Five-tier mechanism at National, State, District, Block, and School levels in all States and UTs. ● Goals and Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills by 2026-27. ○ Applicable to all Government, Government-aided, and Private Schools. ● Focus Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access and retention of children in foundational years of schooling. ○ Teacher capacity building. ○ Development of high-quality and diversified Student and Teacher Resources/Learning Materials. ○ Tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes.
<p>Agarwood</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India has successfully prevented the inclusion of Aquilaria



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malaccensis (agarwood) in the Review of Significant Trade (RST) under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

About Agarwood:

- **Scientific Name:** Genus Aquilaria
- **Common Name:** Agarwood or Gaharu
- **Tree Characteristics:**
 - Fast-growing, subtropical forest tree
 - Grows from a few meters to about 1000 meters above sea level (ideal: ~500 meters)
- **Distribution in India:**
 - West Bengal
 - North-Eastern States: Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland
- **Climate:**
 - Tropical tree thriving in high rainfall areas
 - Low temperature variations: 20°C to 28°C
 - High relative humidity: ~80%
- **Applications**
 - **Traditional Uses:**
 - Incense
 - Agarwood oil used in water-based perfumes
 - **Industrial Uses:**
 - Aroma industry
 - Medicine preparations
 - Air fresheners and purifiers
 - **Medicinal Properties:**
 - Anti-inflammatory
 - Anti-rheumatic
 - Analgesic
 - Antioxidant
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN: **Critically Endangered**
 - CITES: Appendix II

Tell Umm Amer

Why in the news?

- During its **46th session in New Delhi**, the **World Heritage Committee (WHC)** decided to include the **Palestinian site of Tell Umm Amer in the UNESCO World Heritage Site List and the List of World Heritage in Danger.**



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About Tell Umm Amer:

- **Location:** Coastal dunes of Nuseirat Municipality, 10 km south of **Gaza city**.
- **Founded:** Fourth century by **Hilarion the Great** (291-371 CE).
- **Also Known As:** Monastery of Saint Hilarion.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - **First monastic community in the Holy Land.**
 - Laid the groundwork for the spread of monastic practices in the region.
- **Strategic Position:** At the crossroads of major trade and communication routes between Asia and Africa.

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