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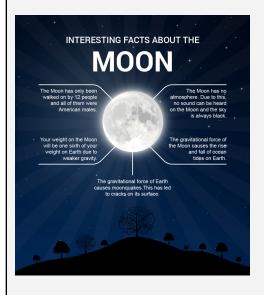


Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

20 September 2023

International & National News

Moonquakes



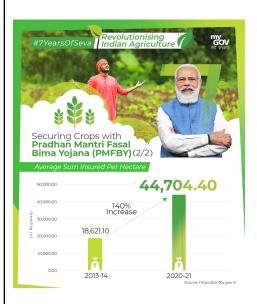
Key points about Moonquakes

- It is seismic tremors or vibrations that occur on the Moon's surface.
- It is less intense than earthquakes on Earth.
- The strongest moonquakes can reach magnitudes of up to 5.5 on the Richter scale, but most are much weaker.
- It is measured using seismometers placed on the Moon's surface by Apollo missions.
- It has helped scientists learn about the Moon's internal structure, composition, and history.

Did you know?

- The Moon has quakes too. They're not called earthquakes but moonquakes. They are caused by the gravitational influence of the Earth.
- Unlike quakes on Earth that last only a few minutes at most, moonquakes can last up to half an hour. They are much weaker than earthquakes though.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana



In news:

 According to data, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana enrolments highest in 6 years.

Key points about the Scheme:

- Launched in 2016.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- Administered by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- It replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).

Eligibility: Farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.

Objectives:

 To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.



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- To stabilize the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
- To ensure the flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Premium:

- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.

Evasive nutritional support for TB patients



Context

According to recent report -

- Undernutrition is the leading risk factor for TB disease.
- Undernutrition contributes to 55% of annual TB incidence in India
- 45% of people in India are undernourished, accounting for nearly 1.2 million TB cases each year.

Nikshay Poshan Yojna

- The NPY was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It aims to support every Tuberculosis (TB) Patient by providing a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 500 per month for nutritional needs.

Nikshay Mitra Initiative

- It is an initiative under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.
- Aimed to provide aid to TB-afflicted patients on three levels of nutritional, additional diagnostic, and vocational support.

Objective:

- It aims to eradicate the existing societal stigma and discrimination against TB patients and provide them with much-needed nutritional and social support, and help them lead a normal life.
- It also aims to encourage elected representatives, corporates, NGOs, and individuals to come forward as donors/sponsors to help the patients complete their journey toward recovery.



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Ni-kshay 2.0 portal



About Ni-kshay 2.0 portal

The Ni-kshay 2.0 portal provides a digital platform for extending community support to persons with TB and leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities.

'Differentiated TB Care' as a part of the initiative is aimed at assessing and triaging patients to decide whether people with TB need ambulatory care or admission in a health facility.

Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)

Key points

- GBA is an India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations and Industry to facilitate the adoption of biofuels.
- Founding members India, Brazil and the US are the founding members of the alliance.
- This Alliance will be aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels, including in the transportation sector.

Did you know?

India, the US and Brazil account for a total of 85 percent of the global ethanol production with the US holding 55 per cent share followed by Brazil 27 per cent and India 3 per cent.



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Establishing Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)

India is looking to ramp up biofuel production capability in view of growing energy demand.



India's ethanol production capacity:

12.4 bn litres

Molasses-based distilleries' capacity:

8.1 bn litres

India 27 (in %) Brazil

India, US and Brazil account for 85% global ethanol production

State-run oil marketing companies paid ₹82,000 cr to distillers in the past eight years, of which ₹48,000 cr went to farmers

India's E20 fuel is available at **1,350** outlets. nationwide coverage by 2025

India to contribute **25%** to global energy demand growth till 2040.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

Context

• A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to establish the 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor' (IMEC) recently.

IMEC

- IMEC is envisioned as a network of transport corridors comprising railway lines and sea lanes to promote economic integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe.
- This initiative is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII).
- It aims to fund infrastructure projects in developing countries through public and private investments, offering an alternative to the BRI.



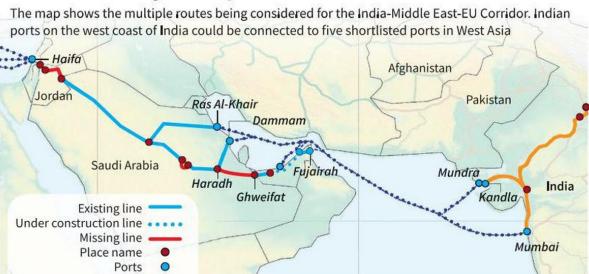


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Corridor trajectory



Significance of Middle East Economic Corridor

Sea links .

Countries Involved - India, Saudi Arabia, UAE Countries, USA, European Union, Germany, Italy and France and Israel through port .

Key Facts:

- 1. Currently all trade between India and Europe happens via sea route through the Suez Canal.
- 2. Due to the corridor, Indian goods can reach Europe in 10 days - 40% faster than the Suez Canal.
- 3. Ports involved:
 - o India Kandla , Mundhra and Javaharlal Nehru port
 - Saudi Arabia: Damman and Ras Al Khair
 - UAE Countries Fujairah , Jebel Ali and Abu Dhabi .
 - o Israel Haifa
 - European Messina (Italy) , Masseille(France) and Piraeus(Greece).

Did you know?

Though Israel and the UAE are part of this corridor, they were rivals for a long time. And have signed the **Abraham** Accord to conclude peace.

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