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6 May 2024

West Bengal News

<p>Boosting Paddy Procurement in West Bengal</p>	<p>Context: The Food and Supplies department in West Bengal is enhancing paddy procurement to benefit small farmers.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farmers registered under the Krishak Bandhu scheme can now sell an additional 30 quintals of paddy, totaling 60 kg, regardless of their land size.• This change allows farmers to sell during both Kharif and Rabi seasons, offering them more selling opportunities.• The state has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy to Rs 2183 per quintal, up from Rs 2040 last year, to support small and marginal farmers.• Additionally, farmers will receive an incentive of Rs 20 per quintal above the MSP when selling their paddy.• The department aims to procure 70 lakh metric tonnes of paddy this year, up from 55 lakh MT last year, with 44 lakh MT already procured.• To ensure fair procurement, the department has provided e-pos machines to all purchase centers and set up 2000 purchase centers and 100 mobile CPCs across the state.
<p>All India Chess Federation</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The All India Chess Federation (AICF) has allocated a budget of Rs 65 crore to boost Indian chess.• This decision was made during the AICF's general body meeting held on 04 May.• The meeting focused on strengthening the Indian chess ecosystem through financial and institutional support for players at both professional and grassroots levels. <p>Key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of programs like AICF Pro for national-level players and AICF Popular to promote chess in every household (Har Ghar Chess).• Establishment of a chess development fund.• Implementation of player contracts and coaching at all levels.• Financial support for district and state associations.• Construction of a state-of-the-art National Chess Arena (NCA) for elite-level training.• Development of an AICF Rating system specifically for India.



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- The 'Women In Chess' initiative aims to increase inclusivity and opportunities for women in chess.
- This includes expanding the Smart Girl Programme with a minimum of 50 annual events, each supported by a Rs 100,000 grant.
- Additionally, there will be a **33% reservation for women in key areas such as coach and arbiter certification, participation in AICF-recognized events, and inclusion in the Campus Ambassador Programme.**

Do you know?

AICF was founded in 1951 and is affiliated to Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), the world body for chess.

Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) annual conference

Context:

- The 7th annual conference on Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was held in Kolkata by CII Eastern Region.

Key points:

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) resolved 270 cases in 2023-24, up from 189 the previous year.
- This increase marks the **first time in a year where outputs exceeded inputs, reducing pendency nationwide.**
- Shukla, a full-time member of **IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India)** emphasized that Resolution Applicants (RA) are the fifth crucial pillar of IBC, complementing the existing four pillars.
- He noted that while the four pillars primarily focus on the supply side, the fifth pillar contributes significantly to the resolution process's efficiency.
- **Shukla mentioned the evolution of the law, with 12 amendments and 86 interventions in IBBI during 2023-24.**
- He stated that these changes respond to market needs, aiming to bridge gaps and address sectoral aspects, adopting a sandbox approach.

Desiltation work in Teesta River

Context:

- **Flash floods in Teesta River have led to a significant accumulation of silt, reducing the availability of drinking water from Teesta.**

Key points:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has permitted the Irrigation and Waterways department to start desiltation work in Teesta, beginning fully from May 10.



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ADDAPEDIA

Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

About:

- The Teesta River, a significant right-bank tributary of the **Brahmaputra (known as Jamuna in Bangladesh), flows through India and Bangladesh.**
- It originates in the Himalayas near Tso Lhamo Lake in Sikkim and then flows south through West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.
- Pahunri Glacier, Khangse Glacier, and ChhoLhamo Lake are also considered sources of the Teesta River.
- The river basin is primarily distributed in India, with only 17% of it in Bangladesh.
- **The Teesta River joins the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh before flowing into the Bay of Bengal after merging with the Ganges and the Meghna.**
- Two major barrages, Gajoldoba in West Bengal, India, and Duani in Bangladesh have been constructed on the Teesta River.

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