




19 November 2024

National and International News

<p>'One Day One Genome' initiative</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) introduced the 'One Day One Genome' initiative to showcase the enormous microbial potential of India. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'One Day One Genome' initiative will highlight the unique bacterial species found in our country and emphasize their critical roles in environment, agriculture and human health. They play an important role in all biogeochemical cycles, soil formation, mineral purification, degradation of organic wastes and toxic pollutants along with methane production. In agriculture, they help in nutrient cycling, nitrogen fixation, maintaining soil fertility, controlling pests and weeds and stress responses. All infectious diseases are mainly caused by pathogenic microorganisms. On the other hand, non-pathogenic microorganisms are indispensable for our defense against infectious diseases.
<p>Stubble Burning</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts call for more efficient methods to monitor stubble burning. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also called as parali burning, stubble burning is a method of removing paddy crop residues from the field to sow wheat. It is usually done in the last week of September to November. It is usually required in areas that use the combined harvesting method which leaves crop residue behind. It is practised by the farmers to prepare the land for the next cultivation. It is practiced mainly in the Indo-Gangetic plains of Punjab, Haryana, and UP to clear the fields for rabi crop sowing.



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Person in news: K. Sanjay Murthy



Why in news?

- President Droupadi Murmu appointed **K. Sanjay Murthy**, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, as the new Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Key Points:

- Under **Article 148**, The Constitution of India provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- CAG is the **head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department**.
- He is the **guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country** at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
- His/Her duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
- He is one of the **bulwarks of the democratic system of government in India**.
- **The duties and functions of the CAG as laid down by the Parliament and the Constitution are as follows:**
 - He audits the accounts related to **all expenditures from the Consolidated Fund of India, the consolidated fund of each state, and the consolidated fund of each union territory** having a Legislative Assembly.
 - He audits **all expenditures from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India** as well as the contingency fund of each state and the public account of each state.
 - He audits **all trading, manufacturing, profit, and loss accounts, balance sheets, and other subsidiary accounts** kept by any department of the Central Government and state governments.
 - He audits the **receipts and expenditures of the Centre and each state to satisfy himself that the rules and procedures on that behalf are designed to secure an effective check** on the assessment, collection, and proper allocation of revenue.

Chennai-Vladivostok eastern maritime corridor

Why in news?

- The Chennai-Vladivostok eastern maritime corridor is now operational, transporting oil, food, and machinery, according to the Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

Key Points:



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- It is a proposed sea route between the **Indian port of Chennai and the Russian port of Vladivostok**.
- The corridor is estimated to bring down transportation time between Indian and Russian ports in the **Far East Region by up to 16 days**.
- Once complete, it will take 24 days, down from presently over 40 days, to transport goods from India to Far East Russia.
- The present trade route between **Mumbai and St. Petersburg covers a distance of 8,675 nautical miles**.
- The EMC will cover a distance of about **5,600 nautical miles**, which is significantly shorter than the current route via the **Suez Canal**.
- For India, it will provide a shorter and more efficient route to access the markets of the Far East, such as China and Japan.

Commission for Air Quality Management

Why in news?

- SC orders all curbs to stay till it lifts them, takes CAQM to task for delayed action

Key Points:

- The CAQM is a **statutory body established under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas, Act 2021**.
- **Mandate:** Better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It undertakes action for the **prevention and control of Air pollution in Delhi-NCR & Adjoining Areas which impacts the air quality of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi**.
- The Commission is required to coordinate its actions on monitoring of air quality with the government of Delhi and the adjoining states, which includes Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Powers:**
 - **Restricting activities** influencing air quality.
 - **Investigating and conducting research** related to environmental pollution impacting air quality, preparing codes and guidelines to prevent and control air pollution,
 - **Issuing directions on matters including inspections, or regulations**, which will be binding on the concerned person or authority.
 - **All the directions and orders by the Commission are of binding nature**, and any person, officer, or authority shall be bound to comply with the same.



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- The commission is directly accountable to the parliament.

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