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17 June 2024

### National & International News

#### South China Sea



#### Why in the news?

- A **Chinese vessel** and a **Philippine supply ship** collided near the **disputed Spratly Islands** in the **South China Sea**.
- The incident occurred when a Philippine supply ship entered waters near the **Second Thomas Shoal**, a submerged reef in the **Spratly Islands**, which is claimed by multiple nations.

#### About the South China Sea:

- **Location:** The South China Sea is a **marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean**, bordered by **China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam**.
- **Trade Routes:** It is one of the **world's busiest sea lanes**, with over **one-third of global maritime trade** passing through it, including vital oil and gas shipments.
- **Territorial Disputes:**
  - **Claimants:** The **South China Sea is subject to overlapping territorial claims** by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan.
  - **Nine-Dash Line:** China's extensive claim is marked by the "nine-dash line," which covers most of the South China Sea.
  - **Key Areas:** Disputed regions include the **Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Scarborough Shoal, and the Second Thomas Shoal**.

#### Solid Waste Management (SWM) Cess

#### Why in the news?

- The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahangara Palike (BBMP) proposes a **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Cess** of **₹100 per month per household**.

#### Key points:

- **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** in India **levy user fees or SWM cess** as per the provisions of **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**.
- SWM cess is usually **collected along with property tax**.

#### About Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016:

- **Objective:**



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ To ensure proper collection, segregation, transportation, and disposal of solid waste.</li><li>○ Promote recycling and reduce the environmental impact of waste.</li><li>● <b>Key Provisions:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Segregation at Source</li><li>○ Collection and Disposal</li><li>○ Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)</li><li>○ User Fees</li><li>○ Waste Processing and Treatment</li><li>○ Prohibition on Burning</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Council of Ministers (COM)</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The <b>Union Council of Ministers (COM)</b> led by the Prime Minister was sworn in on June 9, 2024.</li><li>● The <b>current COM</b> includes the Prime Minister, 30 Cabinet Ministers, 5 Ministers of State (MoS) with independent charge, and 36 MoS.</li></ul> <p><b>About COM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The <b>Council of Ministers (COM)</b> in India is a <b>body of ministers</b> that includes the <b>Prime Minister and other appointed ministers</b>.</li><li>● It is <b>responsible for the executive functions of the government</b>.</li><li>● <b>Formation:</b> The Council of Ministers is <b>formed by the President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister</b>.</li><li>● <b>Constitutional Provision:</b> <b>Article 74</b> and <b>Article 75</b> of the Indian Constitution deal with the Council of Ministers.</li><li>● <b>Article 74</b> states that there shall be a <b>Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President</b>.</li><li>● <b>Types of Ministers:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Cabinet Ministers:</b> Senior ministers in charge of major ministries.</li><li>○ <b>Ministers of State (Independent Charge):</b> Ministers who manage specific portfolios independently without a cabinet minister.</li><li>○ <b>Ministers of State:</b> Junior ministers who assist cabinet ministers in their portfolios.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>NCERT</b> chief says changes in textbook on Ayodhya dispute as per Supreme Court order.</li></ul>



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### About NCERT:

- **Establishment:** NCERT was established in **1961** by the Government of India.
- **Objective:** The primary aim of NCERT is **to assist and advise the central and state governments on academic matters** related to school education.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Key Initiatives:**
  - **National Curriculum Framework (NCF):** Guides the development of syllabi and textbooks.
  - **National Talent Search Examination (NTSE):** Identifies and nurtures talented students.
  - **All India School Education Survey (AISES):** Provides comprehensive data on school education in India.
  - **NCERT Online Textbooks:** Offers free access to NCERT textbooks online.

### Prerna Sthal



### Why in the news?

- The Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar inaugurates **Prerna Sthal**.

### About Prerna Sthal:

- 'Prerna Sthal' is a newly **inaugurated area within the Parliament House Complex** in India.
- It **serves as a place of inspiration, housing statues of eminent leaders and freedom fighters** who played pivotal roles in India's history, cultural renaissance, and the struggle for independence.
- The initiative **aims to unite statues previously scattered across the Parliament premises to a single dedicated space**.
- The **statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar** were situated in prominent locations and of **other major leaders**.

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