



17 June 2024

National and 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 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 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**.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

**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:**
 - To **ensure proper collection, segregation, transportation, and disposal of solid waste**.
 - **Promote recycling** and reduce the environmental impact of waste.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Segregation at Source
 - Collection and Disposal
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
 - User Fees
 - Waste Processing and Treatment
 - Prohibition on Burning



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Council of Ministers (COM)

Why in the news?

- The **Union Council of Ministers (COM)** led by the Prime Minister was sworn in on June 9, 2024.
- The current COM includes the Prime Minister, 30 Cabinet Ministers, 5 Ministers of State (MoS) with independent charge, and 36 MoS.

About COM:

- The **Council of Ministers (COM)** in India is a **body of ministers** that includes the **Prime Minister and other appointed ministers**.
- It is **responsible for the executive functions of the government**.
- **Formation:** The Council of Ministers is **formed by the President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister**.
- **Constitutional Provision:** **Article 74** and **Article 75** of the Indian Constitution deal with the Council of Ministers.
- **Article 74** states that there shall be a **Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President**.
- **Types of Ministers:**
 - **Cabinet Ministers:** Senior ministers in charge of major ministries.
 - **Ministers of State (Independent Charge):** Ministers who manage specific portfolios independently without a cabinet minister.
 - **Ministers of State:** Junior ministers who assist cabinet ministers in their portfolios.



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National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

Why in the news?

- NCERT chief says changes in textbook on Ayodhya dispute as per Supreme Court order.

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 bring together statues that were 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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