



30 July 2024

National and International News

<p>Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court recently abolished its 2017 directive that requires a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate for the renewal of third-party insurance policies. <p>About Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory Requirement: The PUC (Pollution Under Control) Certificate is mandatory for all vehicle owners in India. Purpose: It certifies that the vehicle's emission levels are within permissible limits set by the government. Legal Requirement: Required under the Central Motor Vehicles Rule 1989. Penalties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to produce a valid PUC certificate can result in a fine of up to Rs 10,000, six months imprisonment, or both. The vehicle owner may also be disqualified from holding a license for three months. Invalidation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a vehicle emits fumes beyond prescribed limits despite having a valid PUC certificate, the certificate will be canceled. A new PUC certificate must be obtained within seven days. Applicable to All Fuels: The PUC certificate rule applies to CNG, petrol, and diesel vehicles.
<p>Indexation</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The withdrawal of the indexation benefit in the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax regime, announced in the Union Budget for 2024-25, has become one of the most contentious decisions. <p>About Indexation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indexation adjusts the original purchase price of an asset or investment to neutralize the impact of inflation. Function: Indexation helps in adjusting the purchase price of investments to reflect the impact of inflation over the holding period. Purpose: To account for inflation, which reduces the value of money over time, when an asset is sold or an investment is redeemed.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indexed Cost of Acquisition: The adjusted cost of acquisition after factoring in inflation, used to calculate gains or losses from the sale or redemption. ● Realistic Returns: Returns calculated on the indexed cost of acquisition are seen as more realistic than absolute gains based on the original purchase price. ● Tax Efficiency: Indexation helps in preventing the draining of returns on investments due to taxes. ● Applicability: It is applicable to long-term investments, including debt funds and other asset classes.
NIPUN Bharat Mission	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) was launched four years ago. There are interlinked social and demographic trends which, if leveraged, could boost the NIPUN Bharat Mission. <p>About NIPUN Bharat Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch: By the Ministry of Education under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha. ● Target Age Group: Children aged 3 to 9 years, from preschool to Grade 3. ● Implementation: Five-tier mechanism at National, State, District, Block, and School levels in all States and UTs. ● Goals and Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills by 2026-27. ○ Applicable to all Government, Government-aided, and Private Schools. ● Focus Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access and retention of children in foundational years of schooling. ○ Teacher capacity building. ○ Development of high-quality and diversified Student and Teacher Resources/Learning Materials. ○ Tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes.
Agarwood	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India has successfully prevented the inclusion of Aquilaria malaccensis (agarwood) in the Review of Significant Trade (RST) under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). <p>About Agarwood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scientific Name: Genus Aquilaria ● Common Name: Agarwood or Gaharu



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- **Tree Characteristics:**
 - Fast-growing, subtropical forest tree
 - Grows from a few meters to about 1000 meters above sea level (ideal: ~500 meters)
- **Distribution in India:**
 - West Bengal
 - North-Eastern States: Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland
- **Climate:**
 - Tropical tree thriving in high rainfall areas
 - Low temperature variations: 20°C to 28°C
 - High relative humidity: ~80%
- **Applications**
 - **Traditional Uses:**
 - Incense
 - Agarwood oil used in water-based perfumes
 - **Industrial Uses:**
 - Aroma industry
 - Medicine preparations
 - Air fresheners and purifiers
 - **Medicinal Properties:**
 - Anti-inflammatory
 - Anti-rheumatic
 - Analgesic
 - Antioxidant
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN: **Critically Endangered**
 - CITES: Appendix II

Tell Umm Amer

Why in the news?

- During its **46th session in New Delhi**, the **World Heritage Committee (WHC)** decided to **include the Palestinian site of Tell Umm Amer in the UNESCO World Heritage Site List** and the **List of World Heritage in Danger**.

About Tell Umm Amer:

- **Location:** Coastal dunes of Nuseirat Municipality, 10 km south of **Gaza city**.
- **Founded:** Fourth century by **Hilarion the Great** (291-371 CE).
- **Also Known As:** Monastery of Saint Hilarion.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - **First monastic community in the Holy Land.**
 - Laid the groundwork for the spread of monastic practices in the region.
- **Strategic Position:** At the crossroads of major trade and communication routes between Asia and Africa.



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