



19 November 2024

### National and International News

<p><b>'One Day One Genome' initiative</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'One Day One Genome' initiative will highlight the unique <b>bacterial species found in our country and emphasize their critical roles in environment, agriculture and human health.</b></li> <li>They play an important role in all <b>biogeochemical cycles, soil formation, mineral purification, degradation of organic wastes and toxic pollutants</b> along with methane production.</li> <li>In agriculture, they help in <b>nutrient cycling, nitrogen fixation, maintaining soil fertility, controlling pests and weeds and stress responses.</b></li> <li>All infectious diseases are mainly caused by pathogenic microorganisms.</li> <li>On the other hand, <b>non-pathogenic microorganisms are indispensable for our defense against infectious diseases.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Stubble Burning</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experts call for more efficient methods to monitor stubble burning.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also called as <b>parali burning</b>, stubble burning is a <b>method of removing paddy crop residues</b> from the field to sow wheat.</li> <li>It is usually done in the <b>last week of September to November.</b></li> <li>It is usually required in areas that use the combined harvesting method which leaves crop residue behind.</li> <li>It is practised by the farmers to prepare the land for the next cultivation.</li> <li>It is practiced mainly in the <b>Indo-Gangetic plains of Punjab, Haryana, and UP</b> to clear the fields for rabi crop sowing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Person in news: K. Sanjay Murthy</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President Droupadi Murmu appointed <b>K. Sanjay Murthy</b>, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service</li> </ul>



(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:

- 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.
  - **The commission is directly accountable to the parliament.**

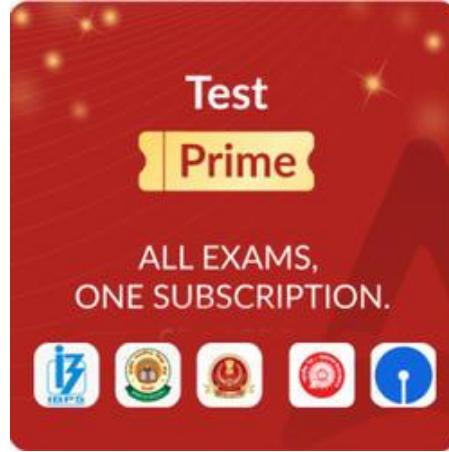


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