

NEWS TODAY

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting declares Self-declaration certificate (SDC) mandatory for all new advertisements

As per the Supreme Court (SC) directive, no advertisement will be permitted to run on television, print media, or the internet without a valid SDC.

- SDC, signed by an authorized representative of the advertiser/advertising agency, needs to be submitted through these portals.
 - ⊖ **Broadcast Seva Portal** for TV and Radio Advertisements.
 - ⊖ **The Press Council of India's portal** for print and digital/internet advertisements.
- SDC will certify that the advertisement:
 - ⊖ Does not contain misleading claims.
 - ⊖ Complies with all relevant regulatory guidelines, including:
 - ◆ Those stipulated in **Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.**
 - ◆ **The Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India.**

Press Council of India (PCI), 1979

- A statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority, set up under the **Press Council Act, 1978.**
- **Role:** Preserving the freedom of the press by maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India.
- **Council consists:** Chairman and 28 members.
- **Chairman** has, by convention, been a retired judge of the SC who is nominated by a Committee of:
 - ⊖ **Chairman** of Rajya Sabha
 - ⊖ **Speaker** of the Lok Sabha
 - ⊖ A person elected amongst themselves by the 28 members of the Council.

Significance of the step

- **Ensure transparency and accountability:** By preventing misleading advertisements being published with no accountability on the part of the manufacturers, promoters and advertisers.
- **Ensure consumer protection:** By preventing violation of the rights of the consumers, unfair trade practices and false advertisements which are prejudicial to the interest of the public.
- **Ensure better implementation of Legislations and Rules:** Like complaints registered under Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements of Misleading Advertisements, 2022.

State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2024: World Bank report

Key finding of the report

- **Carbon Pricing (CP) revenues** in 2023 exceeded **USD 100 billion for the first time.**
- There are **75 global CP instruments in operation**, covering around **24% of global greenhouse gas emissions.**
 - ⊖ **Brazil, India, and Türkiye** have made notable progress towards CP implementation.
- **China and India** are largest host countries in terms of issuances of Carbon Credits.

Carbon pricing (CP) is an instrument that attaches a cost to greenhouse gas emissions, typically through CO₂ pricing mechanisms.

Main types of CP

- **An emissions trading system (ETS):** It is a system where emitters can trade emission units to meet their emission targets.
 - ⊖ **Types of ETSs are:** Cap-and-trade systems and Baseline-and-credit systems
- **Carbon tax:** It directly sets a price per unit of greenhouse gas emissions or carbon content.

Benefits of CP

- **Place the burden** of emissions damage on polluters.
- **Spur investment** and innovation in clean technology.
- **Facilitate Paris Agreement** emissions pathways for below 2°C/1.5°C warming.

CP at national level

- In 2023, India introduced the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).**
- **Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme** implemented by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- **Clean Energy Cess** of Rs.400/- per tonne of coal.

CP at Global Level

- Carbon pricing took off under the **Kyoto Protocol (1997)** with three market-based mechanisms:
 - ⊖ **International emissions trading (IET)**, the **clean development mechanism (CDM)** and **joint implementation (JI).**
- **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** allows countries to **transfer carbon credits** earned from the reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) records 8.9 million transactions in May

It also hit a new peak of 5 million retail orders in a month and saw a **single-day record** of 200,000 retail transactions.

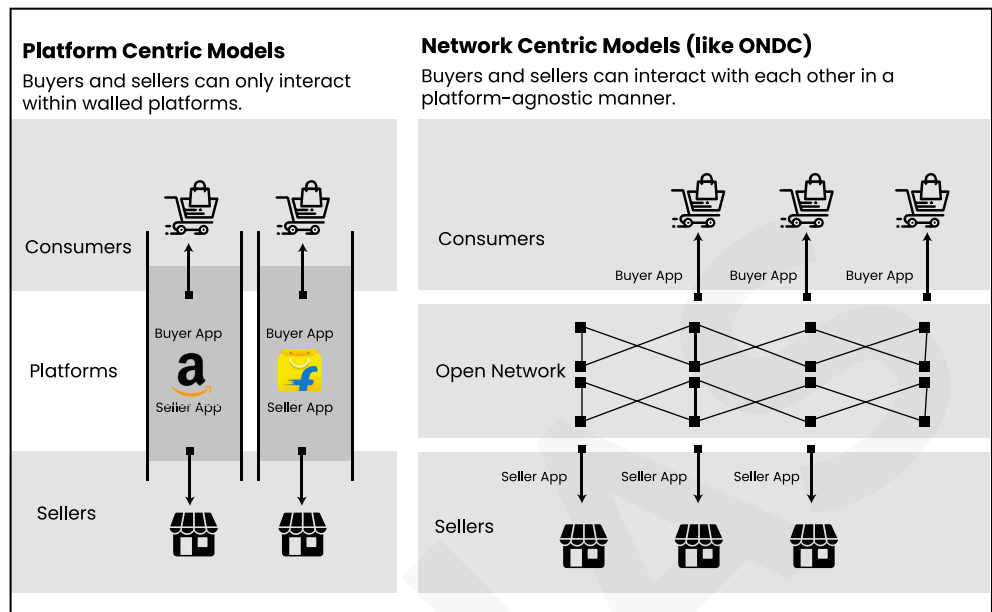
About ONDC

- It is a **Section 8 company**, under the initiative of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- It is based on **open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols** independent of any specific platform.
- Its mission is to **increase e-commerce penetration in the country** by enabling population-scale inclusion of all types and sizes of sellers.

Benefits of ONDC

- Sellers:** Get an equal opportunity to **compete with large market players** and become discoverable online.
- Buyers:** Enjoy a seamless shopping experience from a wide range of products across categories in a single checkout experience.
- Tech Companies:** Rapid adoption of products and services and **improving scalability**.
- FinTech:** Provide **credit and financing solutions** to all entities engaged in e-commerce.

Challenges associated with ONDC: Resistance from incumbent players, **transitioning of** offline businesses to online mode, etc.



In Indore, NOTA (None of the Above) emerged runner-up with more than 200,000 votes

NOTA was introduced in 2013 after a Supreme Court (SC) direction in a public Interest litigation filed by the **Peoples Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)**.

About NOTA

- It provides voters an option to **reject all running candidates**, signaling their disapproval of the available choices.
- Even if NOTA gets the majority of votes**, the candidate with the second-highest number of votes is declared the winner.
 - SC held that NOTA option is meant only for **universal adult suffrage and direct elections**.
- Globally**, It is also practiced in countries such as France, Belgium, Brazil, Finland and Sweden.

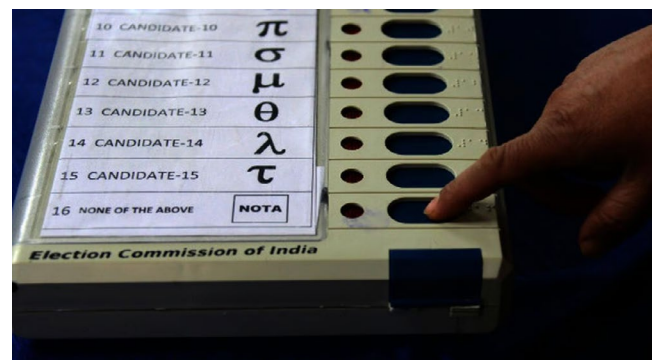
Benefits of NOTA

- Avenue to express dissatisfaction** by Citizens
- Incentivises greater participation** in the democratic process of voting.
- Aims to encourage **high moral and ethical values** among citizens as well as politicians
- Indirectly compels political parties to **nominate better candidates**.

Challenges of NOTA: Symbolic significance as it does not have an impact on the result of election, Meager amount of votes polled on NOTA, etc.

NOTA option can be further strengthen as done in **local body election of Maharashtra**.

- In Maharashtra local body election, **re-election may be conducted** when majority votes are NOTA.



The Coal Ministry has released a report titled "Greening Initiative in Coal & Lignite PSUs"

The report highlights efforts of PSUs to minimize the environmental footprints of coal mining through sustained reclamation and afforestation activities across areas in and around mining areas

Key Findings

- **Coal Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** have undertaken extensive **afforestation and ecological restoration projects**.
- They have adopted innovative techniques, such as **seed ball plantation, seed casting via drones, and Miyawaki plantation**, to increase green cover in coal regions.
 - ⊕ **Miyawaki plantation** involves planting native trees, shrubs, and groundcover plants within every square meter.

Other Greening Initiatives In the Mining Sector

- **Mine closure guidelines** issued by the Ministry of Coal require reclamation and rehabilitation of mined-out land.
- **Environment Impact Assessment** and Environment Management Plan for Mining.
- **Forest Clearance (FC)** must be obtained from the MoEF&CC to diverge forest land for non-forest purposes.
- India's **NDC commitment to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes** of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Environmental Consequences of Coal Mining

- **Large amounts of fertile land** are wiped out yearly due to opencast coal mining.
- **Harmful toxic metals settled down in agricultural fields** affecting the productivity of crops and causing a decline in soil fertility
- **Change in land profile, land degradation, impact on flora & fauna, etc.**
- **Displacement of the people, Loss of livelihood**
- **Air pollution, Water pollution, Acid rock drainage, etc.**

CBIC Invites Suggestions on Draft 'Central Excise Bill, 2024'

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), has prepared a draft 'Central Excise Bill, 2024.' Once enacted, the Bill shall replace the Central Excise Act, of 1944.

- The Bill aims to enact a **comprehensive modern central excise law** repealing old and redundant provisions and promote ease of doing business.

About excise duty

- The excise duty is an **indirect tax collected** from a customer by a retailer or an intermediary.
 - ⊕ It is paid when goods are **transferred from the manufacturing unit to a warehouse**.
- **The excise duty is governed by two sets of acts:**
 - ⊕ **Central Excise Act, 1944:** It governs the **levy and collection of excise duties** on goods manufactured/produced in the country.
 - ⊕ **Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985:** It classifies the goods on which central excise duty is levied and the **rates of duty payable**.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST),** subsumed many types of **excise duty**. Today, **excise duty applies only on petroleum and liquor**.
 - ⊕ Excise duty was **replaced by central GST**.
 - ⊕ Excise duty on alcohol, alcoholic preparations, and narcotic substances is **collected by the State Government and is called "State Excise" duty**.



Also in News



Depreciation of Rupee

Depreciation of Rupee means fall in the value of rupee as compared to another currency due to **market forces such as supply and demand**

- **Reasons:** Political instability, outflow of capital
- **Benefits:** Boosts exports, discourages imports
- **Issues:** May give rise to inflation, expose companies to foreign exchange risks.
- **Measures to control:** RBI can Sell forex reserves, encourage capital flows in NRI deposits
- Devaluation is the **deliberate downward adjustment in the official exchange rate by reducing the currency's value**
 - ⊕ It is done either by the government or a central bank



Hawking Radiation

A research group found that Hawking radiation should be observable by existing telescopes.

About Hawking Radiation (HR)

- It is named after the **physicist Stephen Hawking**, who hypothesized HR in 1974.
- It has never **been directly observed**.
- In the Universe **pairs of particles come into existence** only to rapidly recombine and disappear.
- However, If **one particle (of the pair of particles) crosses the event horizon (the outer edge of black holes)** then it is **forever separated** from its companion.
 - ⊕ The particles that are **left outside the event horizon** are called **'Hawking radiation'**.

Five Eyes Alliance

Australia decides to allow **non-citizen residents from the Five Eyes Alliance to join its armed forces.**

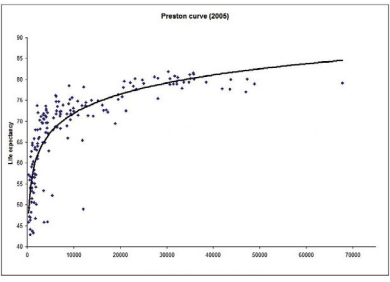
Five Eyes alliance

- It's a multilateral intelligence-sharing network between **US, UK, Canada, Australia, & New Zealand.**
 - ⊕ These partner countries **share a broad range of intelligence with one another.**
 - ⊕ They have established **Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council** to increase cooperation.
 - ⊕ It includes the **non-political intelligence oversight, review, and security entities** of the Five Eyes countries.

Preston Curve

It was first proposed by **American sociologist Samuel H. Preston in 1975.**

- It highlights that an **increase in per capita income of a country does not cause much of a rise in the life expectancy of its population beyond a point.**
 - ⊕ **When a poor country begins to grow,** its per capita income rises and causes increase in life expectancy initially due to nutrition, sanitation and access better healthcare.
 - ⊕ However, it begins to flatten out after a certain point.



Lunar sample

China's Chang'e-6 spacecraft takes off from the moon to bring back samples from the far side of the Moon.

Benefits of lunar sample

- Useful information about the **early history of the Moon and the Earth.**
- Help in understanding **continued development of planetary bodies.**
- Help in understanding **interaction of planetary surfaces with radiations and particles.**

Challenges associated

- Collection of samples from **challenging locations** on the moon.
- Problems related to **sample preservation and contamination.**

Hydroxyurea

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) seeks to provide oral formulation of Hydroxyurea to treat sickle cell disease (SCD) in children.

About Hydroxyurea

- It is in a class of medications called **antimetabolites.**
- It treats sickle cell anemia by helping to **prevent formation of sickle-shaped Red blood cells(RBCs).**

About SCD

- It's a group of **inherited disorders** that **changes the shapes of RBCs** from round to a C-shaped farm tool called sickle.
- India has the **highest prevalence of SCD** in South Asia.(over 20 million).

FSSAI issues directives to Food Business Operators (FBOs)

FSSAI directs FBOs to remove claims of '100% fruit juice' from labels and ads.

- As per FSSAI, there is no provision of such claims as per **Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018.**
- The directive states that products must be labelled in accordance with the **Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.**
 - ⊕ In the ingredient list, the word **"reconstituted"** must be **mentioned** against the name of the juice.
 - ⊕ If added nutritive sweeteners **exceed 15 gm/kg,** product must be labelled as **'Sweetened juice'.**

Reverse transcriptase (RTs)

Researchers found that when infected by viruses, **bacteria (Klebsiella pneumoniae)** use **Ribonucleic acid (RNA)** to bind **Reverse transcriptase.**

About RT

- They are **RNA-dependent Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) polymerases,** a group of enzymes that play a unique role in the flow of genetic information.
- These enzymes enable the **reverse transcription reaction.**
 - ⊕ Reverse transcription is the **synthesis of DNA from an RNA template.**

Places in News **Mexico (Capital: Mexico City)**

Claudia Sheinbaum elected as the first woman president of Mexico.

Political Features

- **Territorial Boundaries:** The USA (north), Guatemala and Belize (south-east).
- **Maritimes Boundaries:** Pacific Ocean (west & south), Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea (East).

Geographical Features

- It is a part of the **circum-Pacific "Ring of Fire"**—a region of active volcanism and frequent seismic activity.
- **Major Rivers:** Rio Grande, Yaqui, etc.
- **Mountain range:** Sierra Madre
- **Major mountain peak:** Pico de Orizaba, Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl etc.

