NEWS TODAY

CENTRE APPROVES AUTO CHARGING STATIONS UNDER FAME INDIA

- **Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises** has sanctioned 2636 charging stations in 62 cities across 24 States/UTs under FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme phase II.
  - > These will include both **fast and slow Charging stations.**
  - > In future at least one charging station will be available in most of selected cities in a grid of 4 Km X 4 km.
  - > It will **boost the confidence of users of Electric Vehicles and also encourage the OEMs** (Original Equipment Manufacturers) to launch the new electric vehicle models.

- **As part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020,** Department of Heavy Industry formulated FAME India Scheme in the year 2015 to promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.
  - > Phase-I of the scheme ended on 31st March 2019 and **Phase-II has commenced from 1st April 2019** with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years.

REPORT ON ALL INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICES

- Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy released a report on All India Judicial Service (AIJS) highlighting challenges associated with creation of AIJS.
- The idea of AIJS was **first introduced in 14th Report of the Law Commission in 1958.**
- The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 amended **Article 312** to enable the **creation of the AIJS,** for the cadre of **district judges.**
- The reports argues against some of the main reasons advanced in favour of its creation as these arguments emanate from outdated or incomplete information. Some of these arguments include:
  - > **Judicial vacancies–** Most of judicial vacancies lie at the subordinate judiciary and not at the level of district judges. An AIJS if conceived only for the district judges will not be the solution for vacancies.
  - > **Local language and customs–** A person who is not from the state will not be well versed with the local language nor would understand the customs, practices and traditions.
  - > **Federalism and independence–** Introduction of a centralized examination may adversely affect the federal structure of the judicial administration of recruitment.

I-STEM WEB PORTAL LAUNCHED AT 107th INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

- **I-STEM Web Portal** is a gateway for researcher to locate the specific facility they need for their R&D work and identify the one that is either located closest to them.
  - > All academic institutions, national research labs etc funded by the government, will be required to list them on the I-STEM portal.
- **About Indian Science Congress**
  - > It aims to promote cause of science in India by holding annual congress, publishing such proceedings, journals and securing and managing funds for promotion of science.
  - > The theme of the congress for **2020 is Science & Technology: Rural Development.**
  - > The first meeting of the Congress was held in 1914 at Calcutta.

U.S. KILLS TOP IRANIAN GENERAL IN AIR STRIKE

- The killing of General Soleimani, marks an **escalation in the regional "shadow war" between Iran and the U.S. and its allies,** principally Israel and Saudi Arabia.
- General Soleimani was considered the architect of Iran's spreading military influence in West Asia.
  - > He was **in charge of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC),** which was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by US.
- **Probable challenges to India**
  - > Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran and UAE are the top crude suppliers to India and considering tensions in the region, **India is considering diversification measures to reduce oil dependence from this region.**
  - > With Iran vowing revenge, a possible widening of the US-Iran conflict will affect India and India has to **balance its interests with both the US and Iran.**
  - > **Current Situation-** India's oil ties with Iran have been stalled by US sanctions. However, during 2+2 dialogue, India had reportedly got waiver from US sanction to develop the strategic Chabahar port with Iran which may get impacted now.

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AROGYA SANJEEVANI POLICY

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority** has mandated all general and health insurance companies to offer a **Standard Health Insurance Product (SHIP) named Arogya Sanjeevani.**
- The health insurance market has a number of individual health insurance products at the moment.
  - > It may be challenging for the customers to choose an appropriate product as each of the products has unique features.
  - > Arogya Sanjeevani aims to address this challenge.
- SHIP is aimed at taking care of basic health needs, and enabling seamless portability among the insurers.
- **Important features:**
  - > Minimum and maximum sum insured will be Rs 1 lakh and Rs 5 lakh respectively.
  - > Minimum and maximum entry age will be 18 and 65 years with **lifelong renewability** and there is **no exit age.**
  - > The standard product should have the **basic mandatory covers.** Some common mandatory coverage will be hospitalization expenses, pre-post hospitalization, Ayush treatment.
  - > The **premium under this product** will be the same across India, and no geographic location or zone pricing will be allowed.

ALSO IN NEWS

Savitribai Phule	• She was a **social reformer of the 19th century.** • She is especially remembered for being India's first female teacher who worked for the **upliftment of women and untouchables in the field of education and literacy.** • She started **Mahila Seva Mandal (1852)** to raise awareness about women's rights and **campaigned against child marriage, while supporting widow remarriage.**
Red brittle star (Ophiocoma wendtii)	• It becomes only the second creature, after a sea urchin species, known to have **extraocular vision** (ability to see without eyes). • The researchers suggest that a brittle star sees with the **help of light-sensing cells that cover its entire body.** • Another feature of the red brittle star is its signature colour change. While the creature is deep red during the day, it chan es its colour to beige at night.
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	• NHRC has taken **suo motu cognizance of media reports about the death of children** at a hospital in Kota, Rajasthan. • It is a **statutory body** established in 1993. • As a watchdog of human rights it takes the responsibility of protecting the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual.
Rajasthan's IMR higher than national average	• According to recent assessment by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Rajasthan's infant mortality rate **(IMR) of 38 deaths per 1000 live births,** as of 2017, is higher than the **national average of 33.** • IMR is the number of deaths per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age. • Madhya Pradesh has highest IMR (47), followed by Assam (44). • Under National Health Policy, 2017, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) target for the year 2019 is 28 per 1000 live births.

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