CURRENT AFFAIRS

31 MARCH 2023

Taxation

Drugs for rare diseases get customs duty relief

Centre issues waiver to offer substantial cost savings for those in need of such treatments; pembrolizumab (Keytruda) used in treatment of various cancers also gets the same concession

- The government has also fully exempted Pembrolizumab (Keytruda) used in the treatment of various types of cancer from basic customs duty.

- Imported drugs/medicines generally attract basic customs duty of 10 per cent.

Tribes

Bountiful beginnings

Hailing the harvest: Tiwa tribesmen taking part in a dance to celebrate the Yangli festival at Gobha village in Morigaon district of Assam on Thursday. Yangli, an occasion to celebrate a bountiful harvest, is an important festival of the Tiwas as agriculture is the mainstay of their economy. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tiwa

- ➡ **Tiwa community**

- Tiwa (Lalung) is an ethnic group mainly inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya in north-eastern India.

- They are also found in some areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

- They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam.

- They were known as Lalungs in the Assamese Buranjis and in Colonial literature and in the Constitution of India, though members of the group prefer to call themselves Tiwa (meaning "the people who were lifted from below").

Government Departments

Dahi goes, curd returns in FSSAI's revised order

➡ What is FSSAI?

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).

- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,** Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.

- **Headquarters:** Delhi.

➡ How did it come into Being?

- FSS Act, 2006 consolidates various acts & orders that had earlier handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments, such as–

  - Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

  - Fruit Products Order, 1955

  - Meat Food Products Order, 1973

  - Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947

  - Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1988

  - Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992

- These were repealed after commencement of FSS Act, 2006.

- FSSAI was consequently established in 2008 but work within the Food Authority effectively began in 2011 after its Rules and key Regulations were notified.

- This marked a shift from a multi-level to a single line of control with focus on self-compliance rather than a pure regulatory regime.

Socio Religious Movement

Vaikom, a satyagraha, and the fight for social justice

- Vaikom Satyagraha, from 30 March 1924 to 23 November 1925, was a nonviolent agitation for access to the prohibited public environs of the Vaikom Temple in the Kingdom of Travancore.

- Most of the great temples in the princely state of Travancore had for years forbidden lower castes (untouchables) not just from entering, but also from walking on the surrounding roads.

- The agitation was conceived by the Ezhava Congress leader and a follower of Sri Narayana Guru, T. K. Madhavan. It demanded the right of the Ezhavas and 'untouchables' to use roads around the Vaikom Temple.

- Mahatma Gandhi himself visited Vaikom in March, 1925.

Science and Technology

The piezoelectric effect in liquids

THE GIST

▾ For the first time, scientists have reported evidence of the piezoelectric effect in liquids. The effect has been known for 143 years and in this time has been observed only in solids.

▾ In the piezoelectric effect, a body develops an electric current when it is squeezed. Quartz is the most famous piezoelectric crystal; it is used in analog wristwatches and clocks.

▾ The reason the piezoelectric effect has only been expected in solids thus far is that the body being squeezed needs to have an organised structure. Liquids don't have such structure as they take the shape of the container.

THANK YOU