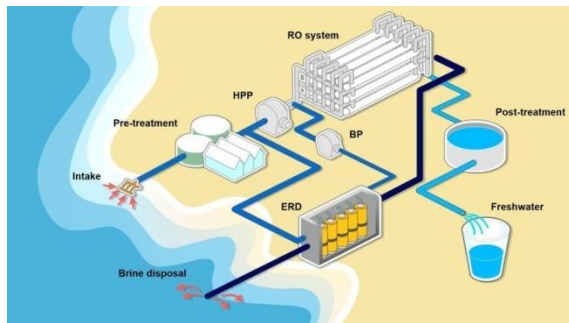


CURRENT AFFAIRS= 25-11-2020

DESALINATION PLANTS

Maharashtra announced the setting up of a desalination plant in Mumbai, becoming the fourth state in the country to experiment with the idea.



Working:

A desalination plant turns salt water into water that is fit to drink.

The most commonly used technology used for the process is reverse osmosis where an external pressure is applied to push solvents from an area of high-solute concentration to

an area of low-solute concentration through a membrane.

- The microscopic pores in the membranes allow water molecules through but leave salt and most other impurities behind, releasing clean water from the other side.

Challenges:

- Desalination is an expensive way of generating drinking water as it requires a high amount of energy.
- The other problem is the disposal of the by-product — highly concentrated brine — of the desalination process. While in most places brine is pumped back into the sea, there have been rising complaints that it ends up severely damaging the local ecology around the plant.

Global and Indian scenario:

Worldwide, desalination is seen as one possible answer to stave off water crisis.

These plants are mostly set up in areas that have access to sea water.

Desalination has largely been limited to affluent countries in the Middle East and has recently started making inroads in parts of the United States and Australia.

In India, Tamil Nadu has been the pioneer in using this technology, setting up two desalination plants near Chennai in 2010 and then 2013.

The other states that have proposed these plants are Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL



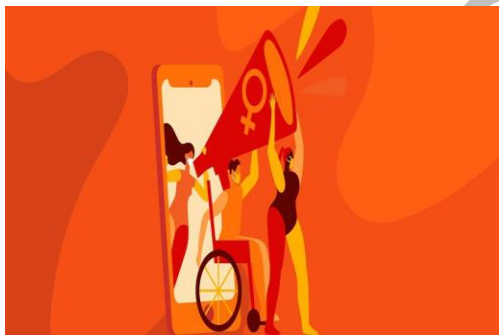
The tenth edition of National Science Film Festival kicked off in a virtual mode.



About:

- Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, has been organizing this festival as a part of its science popularization endeavour.
- The festival offers a unique platform to showcase the science films made by professionals, amateur and student filmmakers under various themes.
- The national science film festival 2020 is being jointly by organized Vigyan Prasar, and the Tripura State Council of Science and Technology, Govt. of Tripura.
- A total of 115 shortlisted films selected by the ten-member jury will be screened during the festival. These include films in Hindi, English, Urdu, Malayalam, Kashmiri, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi and Tamil languages.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



This year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"

About:

The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Resolution 54/134).

- The premise of the day is to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence.
- The date is based on the date of the 1960 assassination of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic; the killings were ordered by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo (1930–1961). On December 17, 1999, the date received its official United Nations (UN) resolution.

SAHAKAR PRAGYA



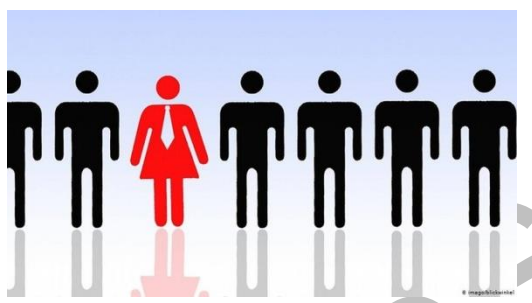
Union Agriculture Minister unveiled 'Sahakar Pragya' to impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas.



About:

- The 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas along with Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy(LINAC).
- Sahakar Pragya embodies enhancing NCDC's training capacity by 18-fold through an elaborate network of 18 Regional Training Centres across the country by the dedicated LINAC set up and fully funded by NCDC.

GERMANY'S NEW BOARDROOM QUOTA FOR WOMEN



Last week, a working group of Germany's ruling coalition parties headed by Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed to impose a mandatory quota for the number of women working in senior management positions in the country's listed firms.

About:

- A final decision on the key points of the legislation, called the Second Management Positions Act, will be made by the cabinet this week.
- As per the agreed-upon provisions, in case executive boards of listed companies have more than three members, one of them must be a woman.
- Further, companies in which the federal government has a stake will require a supervisory board quota of at least 30 per cent and minimum participation in executive boards.