19.8.23

1) Drones to monitor MGNREGA scheme worksites: Union Ministry of Rural Development is pressing drones into service to monitor both the progress and quality of assets produced under Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme.

* As per Standard operating procedure, drones will be used for four types of monitoring: Surveying the ongoing works, inspecting the completed works, impact assessment, and special inspection in case of complaints.
* Benefits: Curb corruption by real-time monitoring and by garnering evidence.
* Earlier National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App was introduced for mandatory attendance capture at all worksites using the NMMS app

2) UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) Portal: RBI has launched a centralized web portal – UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information).

* Objective: It will enable bank customers to find their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks in one place.
* Unclaimed deposits: Balances in savings/current accounts that are not operated for 10 years, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from the date of maturity.
* It will promote financial inclusivity, using digital advances to deliver banking services to its customers efficiently

3) Mobile User Protection reforms: Ministry of Communications introduced two Mobile User Protection reforms which will supplement the Sanchar Saathi portal.

* Reforms:
  + Mandatory registration of franchisees, Agents, and Distributors (PoS) by Licensees, thus eliminating the rogue PoS who by fraudulent practices issue SIMs to anti-social/anti-national elements
  + KYC Reforms- demographic details will mandatorily be captured by scanning QR code of printed Aadhaar.
* Sanchar Saathi’s portal empowers mobile subscribers to: Find out mobile connections registered in their name, and report stolen/lost mobile handsets & block them etc.

4) FloodWatch Mobile Application: Central Water Commission (CWC) has launched the mobile application, FloodWatch.

* FloodWatch provides real-time flood situations in the country and flood forecasts to the public.
* It will provide State-wise/Basin-wise Flood Forecast.
* FloodWatch app utilises advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts

Places in news:

1) Gaganachukki waterfalls: Gaganachukki waterfalls are formed by the River Kaveri in the Mandya district of Karnataka.

* It is shaped like a huge horsetail and has of height of 90 mts

2) Lithuania (Capital: Vilnius)

* Lithuania will temporarily close two checkpoints with Belarus amid tensions on border.
* Political Boundaries
  + Located in north-eastern Europe, the southernmost and largest of the three Baltic states (other two Estonia, Latvia)
  + Lithuania is bounded by Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland and the detached Russian oblast of Kaliningrad to the southwest, and the Baltic Sea to the west.
* Geographical Boundaries:
  + Important Rivers: Nemunas river
  + Largest lake: Lake Drūkšiai
  + Highest Point: Mount Juozapinė
  + Language: Lithuanian is the oldest surviving Indo-European language in the world

