



Current Affairs of the Day

GS Paper - II

- Nepal set to face fresh election
- India to bring more nations into coastal radar network
- India, U.S. mull over unfinished work

Prelims

- Ministry's move to give a fillip to indigenous sports



New irrigation model to help desert villagers



Highlights:

1. A new model of minor irrigation through subsurface porous vessels (SSPV) being developed here is set to benefit the farmers with small land holdings in the villages of the Thar desert.
2. Experiments have indicated a higher yield of farm produce and improvement in the nutrient value of soil after the installation of frustum-shaped vessels at the mounds formed on land.
3. The initiative, supported by Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi's Rural Technology Action Group, was taken up earlier this year, after the COVID-19 lockdown was announced, to address the issues of non-availability of food material, malnutrition among children and the villagers' inability to earn livelihood in the cities. The model has effectively modified watering by pitchers and competes with drip irrigation.
4. The local villagers have created heaped piles of earth and are growing vegetables such as brinjal, tomato, spinach and lady's fingers with the new model.
5. A SSPV is made of location-specific clay and sawdust, mixed in a proportion to suit the desert sand, press-formed to the frustum shape and baked at a temperature of 750-800 degree Celsius with the addition of a carbon layer in its structure.



What is behind PM Oli's move to call for snap polls?

Reasons for Nepal Crisis

1. One of the main issues was the growing dissatisfaction over Mr. Oli's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and Kalapani dispute, which drew relentless criticism from his party colleagues.
2. Critics pointed at a hint of scandal in the health sector because of the government's allegedly non-transparent purchases to deal with the pandemic requirements. Nepal is yet to zero in on a viable vaccine as a result of the disorder in this crucial matter.
3. The breakdown in the political dialogue within Nepal is largely because of Mr. Oli's hunger for power.
4. It's a suicidal move for PM Oli to call for election as there is no scope for such a move under the Constitution. At least eight writ petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court already and there is no way that he can win a case in the court.