

20 MAY 2019

CENTRAL DRUGS STANDARD CONTROL ORGANIZATION

Why in news?

- Recently the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has red-flagged three brands of pacemakers from US medical-device maker Medtronic.

More on news:

- The development comes less than a fortnight after a similar safety alert was issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) on these heart implants over concerns that their batteries drain out with no warning to the patient.

About CDSCO:

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- It has six zonal offices, four sub-zonal offices, 13 port offices and seven laboratories under its control.
- Within the CDSCO, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) regulates pharmaceutical and medical devices, under the gamut of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The DCGI is advised by the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) and the Drug Consultative Committee (DCC).
- Its important functions include regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs, clinical trials and approval of certain licenses.



7TH ECONOMIC CENSUS

In news

- The statistics ministry has decided to use mobile phone application for conducting 7th economic census beginning next month, which will speed up the process of data collection and analysis.



In brief

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) partnered with CSC e-Governance services India Ltd (CSC SPV) to conduct the census.
- Economic Census is a complete count of all economic units in the country
- It includes listing of all non-agricultural establishments is undertaken periodically, which forms the basis for conducting detailed socio-economicsurveys.
- The last (61) Economic Census was conducted during January 2013 to April 2014. Government is now aiming to conduct this census once every three years in future.

NOTE



7th Economic census

- The government is introducing geo-tagging to find out the distribution of economic activity in a certain place
- Economic survey fieldwork will begin from June

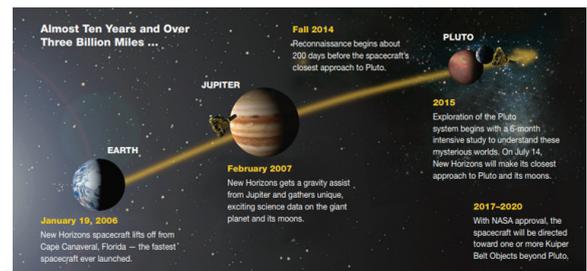
EVIDENCE OF WATER FOUND ON ULTIMA THULE

In news:

NASA has found evidence for a unique mixture of methanol, water ice, and organic molecules on Kuiper Belt object 2014 MU69 - nicknamed Ultima Thule's surface -- the farthest world ever explored by mankind.

About New Horizons mission:

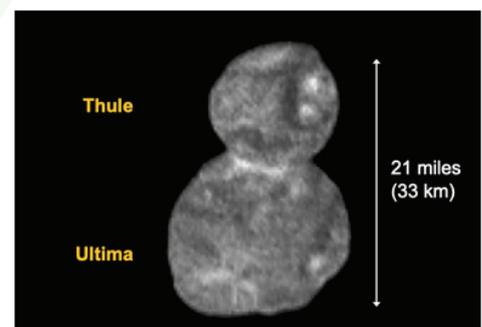
- The New Horizons mission is helping us understand worlds at the edge of our solar system - Pluto and mysterious Kuiper Belt – a relic of solar system formation.
- It was launched on Jan. 19, 2006
- It seeks to understand where Pluto and its moons “fit in” with the other objects in the solar system, such as the inner rocky planets (Earth, Mars, Venus and Mercury) and the outer gas giants (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune).
- Pluto and its largest moon, Charon, belong to a third category known as “ice dwarfs.” They have solid surfaces but, unlike the terrestrial planets, a significant portion of their mass is icy material.
- The New Horizons spacecraft is now 6.6 billion kilometers from Earth and speeding deeper into the Kuiper Belt at nearly 53,000 kilometers per hour.



About Ultima Thule:

NASA's New Horizons spacecraft flew past the most distant object ever visited by a spacecraft - Ultima Thule (4 billion miles from the Sun), which is in the enigmatic Kuiper Belt, a region of primordial objects that holds keys to understanding the origins of the solar system.

At about 36 kilometers long, Ultima Thule consists of a large, strangely flat lobe - nicknamed “Ultima” - connected to a smaller, somewhat rounder lobe - dubbed “Thule” - at a juncture.



MEETINGS OF THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

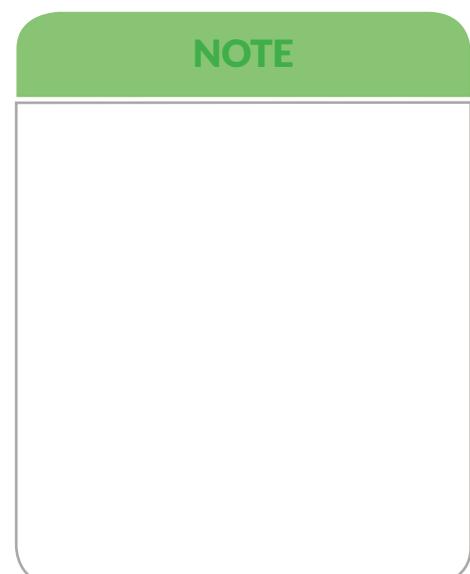
In news:

The joint meetings of three conventions on chemicals and waste held in Geneva. Theme: “**Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste**”

- **Basel Convention** - Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- **Rotterdam Convention** - Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- **Stockholm Convention** - Persistent Organic Pollutants

Important decisions:

- Amended the Basel convention to include unsorted, mixed and contaminated plastic waste under PIC (Prior Informed Consent) procedure and improve the regulation of its transboundary movement.



- Under the Stockholm Convention the COP decided to eliminate two toxic chemical groups—Dicofol and Perfluorooctanoic Acid, plus related compounds.



NOTE

