

04 – 07 – 2022

News: Kai Chutney

- In Odisha, scientists are making a presentation for the Geographical Indications (GI) registry of Kai Chutney.

Kai Chutney

- The Kai Chutney is prepared from the Weaver ants and is popular in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district among the people, mostly tribals.
- When required, leafy nests of ants are plucked from their host trees and collected in a bucket of water before sorting and separation from leaves and debris.
- The chutney is prepared by mixing and grinding salt, ginger, garlic and chilly and is sold by tribal people in rural markets.

Significance

- The Kai Chutney is rich in proteins, calcium, zinc, vitamin B12, iron, magnesium, potassium, sodium, copper, fibre and 18 amino acids.
- It also helps in getting rid of flu, common cold, whooping cough, to increase appetite, enhance vision and eyesight naturally.

- The tribal healers also prepare medicinal oil, which is used as **baby oil and externally used to cure rheumatism, gout, ringworm and other skin diseases.**
- So it is the only panacea for the tribes.

Weaver Ants

- Kai (Red Weaver Ant) Ants, **scientifically called *Oecophylla smaragdina*, are abundantly found in Mayurbhanj (Odisha) throughout the year.**
- They **construct nests with leaves of host trees.**
- The nests are strong enough to **withstand wind and are impermeable to water.**
- Kai's nests are **usually elliptical in shape and range in size from a single small leaf folded and bound onto it to large nests consisting of many leaves and which measure over half a meter in length.**
- The family consists of **three category members – workers, major workers and queens.** Workers and major workers are mostly orange-colored.
- They **feed on small insects and other invertebrates,** their prey being mainly **beetles, flies and hymenopterans.**
- Kais are **bio-control agents.** They are **aggressive and prey on most arthropods entering their territory.**
- Due to their predatory habit, Kais are recognized as biological control agents in tropical crops as they are **able to protect a variety of crops against many**

different insect pests. In this way, they are utilized indirectly as an alternative to the chemical insecticides.

News: Vice President

- Recently, the Election Commission announced the Vice-Presidential election to be held in August, 2022.

Vice President

- The Vice President is the second highest constitutional office in India.
- He / She serve for a five-year term, but can continue to be in office, irrespective of the expiry of the term, until the successor assumes office.
- The Vice President may resign his office by submitting his resignation to the President of India. The resignation becomes effective from the day it is accepted.
- The Vice President can be removed from office by a resolution of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), passed by a majority of its members at that time and agreed to by the House of the People (Lok Sabha).
- A resolution for this purpose may be moved only after a notice of at least a minimum of 14 days has been given of such an intention.

- The Vice President is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and does not hold any other office of profit.

Eligibility

- Should be a citizen of India.
- Should have completed 35 years of age.
- Should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- Should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.

Electoral College

- As per Article 66 of the Constitution of India, the Vice-President is elected by the members of the Electoral College.
- Electoral College consists of elected members of Rajya Sabha, Nominated members of Rajya Sabha and Elected members of Lok Sabha.

Procedure of Election to the post of Vice President

- As per Article 68 of the Constitution, the election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing vice-president is required to be completed before the expiration of the term.

- Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, vests the superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of election to the office of the Vice-President of India in the Election Commission of India.
- The notification for election shall be issued on or after the sixtieth day before the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing Vice-President.
- Since all the electors are members of both Houses of Parliament, the value of the vote of each Member of Parliament would be the same i.e.1 (one).
- The Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, appoints the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by rotation, as the Returning Officer.
- Accordingly, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha will be appointed as the Returning Officer for the present election to the Office of the Vice-President of India.
- The Commission also decides to appoint Assistant Returning Officers in Parliament House (Lok Sabha) to assist Returning Officers.
- As per Rule 8 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, polls for the election are taken in the Parliament House.