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March 14, 2020

Topic:- Mining.

What is the news?

- ***Government is thinking of decontrolling mining business.***
 - ***To come clean on sand mining business and improve its prospects in business terms, the Congress government is seeking to decontrol the mining business.***
-
- The opposition in Punjab state has alleged that the government is aiding the sand mafia in the state.
 - Even though the sand and gravel prices are stable, the state is thinking of decontrolling the mining business.
 - For decontrolling the business, the government needs to pay off ₹ 300 crores to the contractors.

But there are fears that due to decontrolling of

trade:-

- The prices of sand and gravel may go up.
- Illegal mining activities may go up.
- The state is divided into 7 blocks for mining of minor minerals (sand and gravel).
- Of the 191 quarries auctioned last year, 45 are operational as they got the environment clearance.
- In case, the government decontrols the mining business, several conditions will have to be fulfilled for legal mining of sand and gravels.

The conditions are:-

1. Demarcation of a quarry site.
- 2 Getting the approval of the mining plan.
- 3 Obtaining the environment clearance system from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority.

(Source: The Tribune)

Topic: Illegal mining and environmental damage.

What is the news?

- ***ILLEGAL MINING NEAR SUTLEJ BRIDGE WEAKENS ITS BASE.***
- A km long Agampur bridge seems to be on the verge of collapse.
- The officials have failed to stop this practice.
- The relentless mining has lowered the riverbed.
- Due to this, the flow of river water has increased and it is weakening the main support of the bridge is crumbling.
- ***As per the rules, mining is allowed up to 500 metres on both sides of the bridge.***
- But, due to negligence and poor monitoring, the bridge has weakened.

(Source:- The Tribune)

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