

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**Jal Jeevan Mission**

Recently, Union Ministry for Jal Shakti, conducted a conference of State Ministers on Jal Jeevan Mission in New Delhi.

- Indian Prime Minister on independence day announced that the government will launch a Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households and resolved to spend more than Rs.3.5 lakh crore in the coming years.
- India has 16% of the world population, but only 4% of freshwater resources.
 - Depleting groundwater level, overexploitation and deteriorating water quality, climate change, etc. are major challenges to provide potable drinking water.
- Therefore, ensuring India's water security and providing access to safe and adequate drinking water to all Indians is a priority of the Government.
- Under Jal Jeevan Mission, the government envisages renewed efforts to provide water supply to every household by 2024.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission is set to be based on various water conservation efforts like point recharge, desilting of minor irrigation tanks, use of greywater for agriculture and source sustainability.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.
- The Prime Minister appealed to all states to generate maximum community participation in the form of 'Jan Andolan' to achieve the target of functional household tap connection by 2024.

INDIAN ECONOMY**Transfer of Surplus from RBI**

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to transfer Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the Central government, which may help the government in dealing with the economic slowdown.

- The Rs 1.76 lakh crore includes the central bank's 2018-19 surplus of Rs.1.23 lakh crore and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (recommended by Bimal Jalan Committee).
- The government already had revised downward the fiscal deficit target to 3.4% from 3.3% and initiated a slew of measures that are being dubbed as mini-budget.
- Economic Capital Framework
 - The RBI had formed a committee chaired by former Governor Bimal Jalan to review its economic capital framework and suggest the quantum of excess provision to be transferred to the government.
 - The panel recommended a clear distinction between the two components of the economic capital of RBI i.e. Realized equity and Revaluation balances.
 - Revaluation reserves comprise of periodic marked-to-market unrealized/notional gains/losses in values of foreign currencies and gold, foreign securities and rupee securities, and a contingency fund.
 - Realized equity, which is a form of a contingency fund for meeting all risks/losses primarily built up from retained earnings. It is also called the Contingent Risk Buffer (CBR).
 - The Surplus Distribution Policy of RBI that was finalized is in line with the recommendations of the Bimal Jalan committee.
 - The Jalan committee has given a range of 5.5-6.5% of RBI's balance sheet for Contingent Risk Buffer.
 - Adhering to the recommendations, the RBI has decided to set the CBR level at 5.5% of the balance sheet, while transferring the remaining excess reserves worth Rs.52,637 crore to the government.
 - If CBR is below the lower bound of requirement, risk provisioning will be made to the extent necessary and only the residual net income (if any) transferred to the Government.
 - However keeping CBR at a lower range of 5.5%, will reduce RBI's space to manoeuvre monetary policy.

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**Left-Wing Extremism in India**

In the review meeting on LWE, the Union Home Minister has termed Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) as one of the major internal security threats faced by the nation. However, events of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence came down from 2258 in 2009 to 833 in 2018.

Left-Wing Extremism

LWE organizations are the groups that try to bring change through violent revolution. They are against democratic institutions and use violence to subvert the democratic processes at ground level.

These groups prevent the developmental processes in the least developed regions of the country & try to misguide the people by keeping them ignorant of current happenings.

Government Strategy to Curb LWE

- SAMADHAN doctrine is the one-stop solution for the LWE problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels. SAMADHAN stands for-
 - S- Smart Leadership,
 - A-Aggressive Strategy,
 - M- Motivation and Training,
 - A-Actionable Intelligence,
 - D- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas),
 - H- Harnessing Technology,
 - A-Action plan for each Theatre,
 - N- No access to Financing.
- The national strategy to counter LWE was formed in 2015 as a multipronged approach to combat LWE. Its main aim was to ensure participatory governance and protection of the rights of local tribals, inter alia.
- Intelligence sharing and raising of a separate 66 Indian Reserved Battalion (IRBs) was done by the government to curb the menace of LWE organizations.

Development of LWE Affected Areas

Few schemes being implemented by the government for LWE affected areas are:

- Special Central Assistance (SCA)- for filling critical gaps in public infrastructure and services of emergent nature.
- Road Connectivity Project- for construction of 5,412 km roads.
- Skill Development- for construction of 47 ITIs (01 ITI per district) and 68 Skill Development Centers (02 SDCs per district) by 2018-19.
- Education Initiatives- for building new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) & Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) where they are not present. It is also planned to open more schools under the Eklavya model.
- Installation of Mobile Towers- for endless telecom connectivity.
- Financial inclusion- for ensuring the presence of banking facilities within 5 km to all citizens residing in LWE affected areas.

Way Forward

- Though the number of incidents of LWE violence has come down in the recent past, continued efforts and focus are needed in eliminating such groups.
- Innovative measures are required to be employed in preventing IED (Improvised Explosive Device) related incidents which have caused significant casualties in recent years.
- States play a vital role in maintaining law and order. So, emphasis should be laid on the capacity-building and modernization of the local police forces. Local forces can efficiently and effectively neutralize the LWE organizations.
- States should rationalize their surrender policy in order to bring innocent individuals caught in the trap of LWE in the mainstream.
- States also need to adopt a focused time-bound approach to completely eliminate LWE groups and ensure all-round development of the affected regions.
- For the holistic last-mile development of "New India", it is necessary to get rid of the menace of such radicalized groups, & the synergized efforts of the Centre and the States are crucial in achieving the same.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**City Gas Distribution Network**

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel has launched the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution (CGD) bidding round which will cover 50 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 124 districts.

- After the completion of the 10th round, over 70% of the country's population and 52.73% of the area will be covered under the CGD.
- The development of CGD networks will increase the availability of clean cooking fuel or Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and transportation fuel Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for consumers.

India's Clean Energy Mix

- India is the 3rd largest energy consumer of the world and is expected to become top consumer in a decade.
- The present share of gas in the energy mix in the country is 6.2% compared to 24% globally.
- Domestic gas production was 32.87 billion cubic metre in 2018-19, and is likely to go up to 39.3 billion cubic metre in 2020-21.
- According to the government, present LNG terminal capacity of 38.8 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA) will be augmented to 52.5 MMTPA in next 3-4 years.
- The National Gas Grid presently is 16,788 km, and work is in progress for additional 14,788 km.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**GramNet to Connect All Villages through Wi-Fi**

The Government has reiterated its commitment to provide Wi-Fi in all the villages through GramNet with connectivity between 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps speed. During the 36th Foundation Day celebrations of Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Minister of State for Communications announced that BharatNet also plans to provide 1 GBPS connectivity, which can be expanded up to 10 GBPS.

C-DOT also launched three latest innovations during Foundation Day Celebration, which are as follows:

- XGSPON (10 G Symmetrical Passive Optical Network)
 - It can fulfil the increasing demands of high network speeds emanating from the new dimensions of user applications like IPTV, HD Video Streaming, Online Gaming.
 - It can also be a host of other cloud-based services that necessitate the seamless availability of high bandwidth.
- C-Sat-Fi (C-DOT Satellite WiFi)
 - It is based on the optimal utilization of wireless and satellite communication to extend connectivity.
 - It offers the ease of deployment, which is ideally suited to addressing disasters and emergencies when no other means of communication are available.
 - It does not require the expensive Satellite Phones and can work on any WiFi-enabled phone.
- CiSTB (C-DOT's Interoperable Set-Top Box)
 - Based on a portable smart card like a mobile SIM, this solution will revolutionize the experience of the Cable TV operators by offering them a high degree of choice, ease and convenience without having to replace the once installed STB.
 - The above innovations seek to address the challenges in the Telecom Sector and empower Indian people especially in rural and remote areas as connectivity will bind people from all corners of the country.

GramNet: GramNet is a part of National Broadband Mission (Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan) to secure universal broadband access. Apart from this, there are other initiatives being taken under the same. Few being:

- BharatNet– Providing 1 Gbps to Gram Panchayats upgradeable to 10 Gbps
- NagarNet– Establishing 1 Million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas
- JanWiFi– Establishing 2 Million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: Highlight the features of the Anti-Naxal doctrine of the Central government.

Answer:

Government has formulated an anti-Naxal policy that will place greater weight on achieving “short-term goals” in the fight against left-wing extremism, marking a sharp departure from the previous approach to the red corridor.

- The new policy focuses on the 23 worst-hit districts among the 88 left-wing extremism-affected areas.
- The state governments will post the most competent District Collectors, SPs and sub-divisional officers and Station House Officers for fixed terms of three years and as an incentive, they will be assured of a posting of their choice and given extra allowances, exposure visits abroad and central deputation.
- Another key change being made by the Government is on implementing the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), a major anti-Naxal initiative that was being run by the erstwhile Planning Commission. The new plan does away with the earlier district-wise approach to development, instead focusing on lower-level blocks to implement schemes. This is aimed at reversing a trend wherein large swathes of worst-affected zones remained undeveloped.
- A strategy of giving more recognition to adivasi icons, for instance, by naming airports and roads after them and celebrating their anniversaries is being employed.
- Increased monetary support from state governments for celebrating adivasi festivals and the setting up of dedicated museums and cultural centres.
- Opening up recruitment in central police forces for Tribals, declaring that “tribal youths who meet the eligibility criteria should not be barred from being recruited in the general category provided they meet the other prescribed benchmarks.
- The new doctrine also envisages the setting up of a core group of ministers at the central level as an oversight mechanism. The group will have Home Minister as the chairperson, with Finance, Tribal, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Environment and Forest Ministers as members. Chief Ministers of 10 left-wing extremism affected states will be special invitees.

Some measures suggested by experts

- Unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, equipped with cameras, data and video links should be deployed against Naxals in India, which has started but not extensively used to tackle the movements of the naxals.
- Mobilising the support of the people is also absolutely essential to weaken the support base of the Naxals.
- To get Naxals into the political mainstream, the political mainstream has to make the first move. And to do that, the government has to take the first step to reconciliation. Undivided AP and now Telangana have successfully used this method which could be replicated by other states too.

Conclusion:

- As Dr. Manmohan Singh as PM once quoted Naxalism is the biggest security threat that India faces. The Naxalism's roots lie deep and in the discontent that apathy of government. Whenever naxals indulge in violence, and obstruct development works being implemented, government must deal with sternly but without violating standard operation methods.
- There are still many challenges that have to be overcome first. Security personnel in affected areas say police stations remain ill-equipped. Even the most basic intelligence, such as dossiers on Maoist cadres active in a particular area, is not made available in many stations. In some districts, the police-to-population ratio is below the desired level. The police forces are also not adequately trained.
- Let us hope the new doctrine of the central government which implements a coherent national strategy to finish Naxalism comes to use and the threat is wiped out of India.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Operation 'SAMADHAN' was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to tackle the issue of Left Wing Extremism (LWE).
2. 'Greyhounds' is a special force raised by the Indian Army to deal with LWE in India.
3. Cases of LWE violence have increased significantly from 2009 to 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

(a) 2 only

(b) 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 2

(d) 3 only

2. With reference to Economic Capital Framework, consider the following statements:

1. Usha Thorat committee was set up to review the economic capital framework of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The transfer of surplus from RBI can make it difficult for the Government to meet its fiscal deficit target.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following pairs:

Missions

Objective

1. BharatNet -Connecting all key rural development institutions with 10 Mbps upgradeable to 100 Mbps.
2. GramNet- Provide 10 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2022.
3. JanWiFi- Establishing Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas

Which of the pairs given above is/are matched correctly?

(a) 1 and 2

(b) 2 and 3

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

4. With reference to Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, the government aims to provide water supply to every household by 2022.
2. Recently, all subjects related to 'water' were transferred to the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. What are C-Sat-Fi, XGSPON and CiSTB, recently seen in news?

- (a) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT's) latest innovations, recently launched by the Union Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.**
- (b) Real-time business network delivering Live Business and Technology News.
- (c) A unique experience satellite design labs launched by ISRO.
- (d) Oceanographic research vessels of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).