

GOVERNANCE**GRAM UJALA**

Recently, the Government has launched the Gram UJALA Programme - an ambitious scheme offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a mere Rs. 10.

Key Points

- **Coverage:** In its first phase launched from Arrah in Bihar, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of 5 districts - Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and villages in western Gujarat.
- The light-emitting diode (LED) is one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing lighting technologies.

Implementation:

- 7 watt and 12-watt LED bulbs with 3 years warranty will be given to rural consumers against submission of working Incandescent bulbs.
- Each household will get up to 5 LEDs.
- Participating rural households will also have metres installed in their houses to account for usage.
- The LED bulbs are offered by state-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd's (EESL's) subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL).
- EESL is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power.

Financing Mechanism:

- The programme will be financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.
- The revenue earned from carbon credits will contribute Rs. 60 per LED bulb piece, with the balance Rs. 10 to be paid by the rural consumer.
- Carbon credit (or "carbon offsets") are certificates generated by projects or activities that reduce, avoid, or destroy greenhouse gases.
- Project owners, such as solar and wind energy developers, or protectors of endangered forestlands can sell these certificates to an individual or a company to earn revenues to keep expanding their projects into the future.
- When one purchases carbon offsets, one is funding the reduction or elimination of carbon.
- Further on, carbon credit documentation will be sent to United Nations (UN) accredited validators for inclusion into the Shine Program of activities.
- Carbon credits will be prepared under the Shine Program of Activities with an option for verifying under the Voluntary Carbon Standard, depending on the needs of buyers.
- Carbon Credit Buyers will also be sought through an open process based on initial discussions with the market.

Significance:

- Help in meeting intended nationally determined contributions under Paris climate accord.
- If all 300 million lights in India were replaced, the total energy savings would be 40,743 million kWh/year, avoiding peak demand of 22,743MW/year and CO2 reductions of 37 million tons per year.
- Through extra carbon credit, India will boost its position in global carbon trade.
- Boost to efforts to ensure 24-hour power supply.
- The Prime Minister of India, in his Independence Day speech of 2015, promised that all villages where electricity was yet to reach, will have power within 1,000 days.
- To create basic power infrastructure and connectivity, the government had announced a scheme - the Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana.

Other Schemes for Encouraging Use of LED Bulbs:

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA).
- Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP).

SOCIAL JUSTICE**Right to Health**

Recently, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced the implementation of the Rajasthan Model of Public Health that would include a Right to Health as well as measures for preventive, primary and curative care as envisioned by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Key Points**Rajasthan Model of Public Health:**

- The Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana will also be launched as a Universal Health Care scheme as part of measures to reinforce health infrastructure and ensure accessibility to all citizens.
- The scheme stipulates cashless health services up to Rs. 5 lakh to every family in the State.
- The Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) has recommended setting of standards in accordance with the resources available in the State to match with the rights of patients as well as the service providers.
- The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) set by the Union government, have also been revised keeping in view the changing protocols of the existing programmes.

Right To Health: The right to health, as with other rights, includes both freedoms and entitlements:

- Freedoms include the right to control one's health and body (for example, sexual and reproductive rights) and to be free from interference (for example, free from torture and non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation).
- Entitlements include the right to a system of health protection that gives everyone an equal opportunity to enjoy the highest attainable level of health.

Provisions Related to Right to Health in India:

- International Conventions: India is a signatory of the Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) by the United Nations that grants the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being to humans including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.
- Fundamental Rights: Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees a fundamental right to life & personal liberty. The right to health is inherent to a life with dignity.
- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): Articles 38, 39, 42, 43, & 47 put the obligation on the state in order to ensure the effective realization of right to health.

Significance of Right to Health for India:

- **Right Based Healthcare Services:** The people are entitled to the right to health and it puts a compulsion for the government to take steps toward this.
- **Wide Access to Health Services:** Enables everyone to access the services and ensures that the quality of those services is good enough to improve the health of the people who receive them.
- **Reduce Out of Pocket Expenditure:** Protects people from the financial consequences of paying for health services out of their own pockets and reduces the risk of people getting pushed into poverty.

Challenges:

- **Lack of Primary Healthcare Services:** The existing public primary health care model in the country is limited in scope.
- **Inadequate Funding:** Expenditure on public health funding has been consistently low in India (approximately 1.3% of GDP).

Way Forward

- More Funding: Public funding on health should be increased to at least 2.5% of GDP as envisaged in the National Health Policy, 2017.
- A comprehensive public health legislation incorporating the right to health may be passed by the Parliament.

ECONOMY**The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021**

The Rajya Sabha passed the Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021 recently.

The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938.

It increases the maximum foreign investment allowed in an insurance company from 49% to 74%.

Key Points

- The Act provides the framework for the functioning of insurance businesses and regulates the relationship between an insurer, its policyholders, its shareholders, and the regulator (the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).
- The Act allows foreign investors to hold up to 49% of the capital in an Indian insurance company, which must be owned and controlled by an Indian entity.
- The Bill also removes restrictions on ownership and control.

- Foreign investment may be subject to additional conditions as prescribed by the central government.
- The Act requires insurers to hold a minimum investment in assets which would be sufficient to clear their insurance claim liabilities.
- If the insurer is incorporated or domiciled outside India, such assets must be held in India in trust and vested with trustees who must be residents of India.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Global Water Crisis: UNICEF

According to a new report released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), one in five children worldwide reside in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability.

The Report was released ahead of **World Water Day** (22nd March).

Key Points

- The new report is part of UNICEF's 'Water security for all' initiative that identifies areas where physical water scarcity risks overlap with poor water service levels.
- The initiative aims to mobilise resources, partnerships, innovation and global response to identified hot spots.
- UNICEF identified 37 hot-spot countries where children faced especially distressing circumstances in terms of absolute numbers, where global resources, support and urgent action had to be mobilised.
- Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Tanzania and Yemen were especially vulnerable.

Findings:

- Children in more than 80 countries live in areas with high or extremely high water vulnerability.
- Eastern and Southern Africa has the highest proportion of children living in such areas, with more than half of children – 58% – facing difficulty accessing sufficient water every day.
- It is followed by West and Central Africa (31%), South Asia (25%), and the Middle East (23%).
- More than 155 million children in South Asia lived in areas with high or even extremely high water vulnerability.

Water Crisis in India:

- India has 4% of the world's freshwater which has to cater to 17% of the world's population.
- As per NITI Aayog report released in June 2018, India is facing the worst-ever water crisis in history. Approximately 600 million people or roughly around 45% of the population in India is facing high to severe water stress.
- The report says that nearly 40% of the population will have absolutely no access to drinking water by 2030 and 6% of India's GDP will be lost by 2050 due to the water crisis.

Measures Taken by the Central Government:

- "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" Campaign:
- The campaign will be implemented during the period 22nd March, 2021 to 30th November, 2021 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.
- The campaign is intended to nudge the State and all stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata to ensure storage of rainwater.
- Rains falling in the four/five months of monsoon are the only source of water for most parts of the country.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM): In the Budget 2021-22, Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) has been announced under the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all statutory towns in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal- 6.

Ministry of Jal Shakti: The Government of India established the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019 to consolidate interrelated functions pertaining to water management.

The Ministry launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan – a campaign for water conservation and water security.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

India to implement GPS-based toll collection system

According to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India will implement a GPS-based toll collection system and remove all toll booths within a year.

GPS-based toll collection system

- Toll collection will happen via GPS.
- The money will be collected based on GPS imaging of vehicles.
- 93% of the vehicles were paying toll using FASTag but the remaining 7% had still not adopted it despite paying double the toll.

Vehicle Scrapping Policy

- The policy was first announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22.
- The automobile industry in India will see a jump in turnover to ₹ 10 lakh crore from ₹ 4.5 lakh crore.
- The new policy provides for fitness tests after the completion of 20 years in the case of privately owned vehicles and 15 years in the case of commercial vehicles.
- Any vehicle that fails the fitness test or does not manage renewal of its registration certificate may be declared as an End of Life Vehicle.
- The policy will kick in for government vehicles from April 1, 2022.
- Mandatory fitness testing for heavy commercial vehicles will start from April 1, 2023.
- For all other categories of vehicles, including personal vehicles, it will start in phases from June 1, 2024.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**Haridwar Kumbh Mela**

The Centre has written to the Uttarakhand government about the need for stringent measures to control the spread of Covid-19 during the ongoing Kumbh Mela in the state (at Haridwar).

Key Points

- Kumbh Mela comes under UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.

It takes place on the banks of the Godavari river in Nashik, the Shipra river in Ujjain, the Ganges in Haridwar, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati river in Prayag. The confluence is referred to as the 'Sangam'.

- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a culturally diverse festival.
- While technically, it is to be held in each of the aforementioned locations once every 12 years, sometimes, the mela can happen only a year apart at the sites.
- It should also be known that in between, around the sixth year, the Ardh Kumbh Mela (also known as the half mela) is held. In addition to that, in Allahabad, every year the Maagh Mela is celebrated in the month of Maagh (mid-January to February, as per the Hindu calendar) at the Sangam.
- This Maagh Mela is also referred to as the Ardh Kumbh Mela and Kumbh Mela when it happens in the sixth and twelfth years, respectively.
- Kumbh Mela in Haridwar is being held after 11 years — not the usual 12 — because of specific auspicious dates. In fact, this is the first time in 80 years that such a phenomenon has happened.
- The event encapsulates the science of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions, and social and cultural customs and practices, making it extremely rich in knowledge.
- The teacher-student relationship of the sadhus in the ashrams and akhadas remains the most important method of imparting and safeguarding knowledge and skills relating to Kumbh Mela.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Discuss what led to the evolution of the Capitalist and the Socialist pattern of industrialization. (250 words)

Ans:

Capitalism is defined as an economic system in which the means of production, trade, and industry are owned and controlled by private individuals or corporations for profit. Also known as the free market economy or laissez-faire economy.

Socialist Economy is defined as an economy in which the resources are owned, managed, and regulated by the State. The central idea of this kind of economy is that all the people have similar rights and in this way, each and every person can reap the fruits of planned production.

Capitalist Pattern of Industrialization

- Capitalism is the first stage in the history of the world to coincide with the phenomenon of industrialization in its full brown form together, the new economic institutions (like banking insurance) and the new technology that transformed the world.
- As a result of the renaissance in Europe in the seventeenth century, the methods of science, philosophy, and trade were being applied for utilitarian purposes.
- This led to the new discoveries of markets, and subsequently the industrial revolution (dominated by heavy machinery which repealed manpower) in European countries.
- The industrial revolution turned production by the masses to mass production.
- However, this capitalist mode of production resulted in inequalities between the classes and imperialism across the globe.
- This led to the development of the antithesis of capitalism by Karl Marx and Frederich Engels. However, socialism gets manifested after the Russian revolution in 1919 and the subsequent establishment of the USSR (now Russia).

Socialist Pattern of Industrialization.

- The Socialist pattern of industrialization emphasizes co-operative enterprise and various forms of community enterprise that would benefit the public as a whole.
- It implied activity to strengthen trade unions, friendly societies, and labor syndicates with or without the assistance of political parties.
- Nationalization was looked upon as a way of constituting an area of activity where the workers had no say.
- Governments evolved with state control of the economy. These governments used public welfare as their reference point.
- Hence the economy as it matured was called a planned economy.
- However, most socialists had an abiding fear of the state and state control as a possible source of intensification of exploitation rather than a solution to it.

Conclusion

Capitalism leads to the creation of wealth but it advocates distinction between the haves and have-nots. Socialism fills the gap between rich and poor, but at the same time it wipes out the encouragement to work hard, due to which the country's Gross Domestic Product falls down and everyone turns out to be poor. Thus, as every coin has two aspects, it is very difficult to say which system is better than the other.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Ranthambhore Tiger Sanctuary:

1. It lies at the junction of Satpura and Vindhya ranges.
2. Kailadevi sanctuary is a part of Ranthambhore Tiger Sanctuary.
3. Chambal river and its tributary Banas drain the Ranthambhore National Park.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) **2 and 3 only**
- d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements about the World Happiness Report 2021:

1. It ranks countries on the basis of GDP, social support and generosity.
2. Norway was the first country to emphasise the importance of national happiness over national income.
3. Finland has been ranked as the happiest country for consecutively four years.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) **2 only**
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Open Market Operations (OMOs) is the buying and selling of bonds issued by the Government in the open market.
2. OMOs is the one of the qualitative tools used by RBI to minimise the impact of liquidity condition on the interest rate and inflation rate levels.

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

4. With reference to the supplementary grant, consider the following statements:

1. The provision for supplementary grant is provided in Article 116 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The supplementary grant is regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. Gluten is naturally found in certain cereal grains.
2. Celiac disease is the severe form of gluten intolerance.

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



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