

GOVERNANCE**National Energy Conservation Awards**

Recently, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) felicitated various industrial units, institutions and establishments with 31st National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day (14th December) to showcase India's achievements in energy efficiency and conservation. A new award - National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA) is also institutionalized.

Key Points**About:**

- The Ministry of Power had launched a scheme in 1991, to give national recognition through awards to industries and establishments that have taken special efforts to reduce energy consumption while maintaining their production. The awards were given away for the first time on 14th December, 1991, which was declared as the National Energy Conservation Day.
- It recognizes the energy efficiency achievements in 56 sub-sectors across industry, establishments and institutions.

Energy Efficiency in India:

- Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same task – that is, eliminating energy waste. Energy efficiency brings a variety of benefits: reducing GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions, reducing demand for energy imports, and lowering our costs on a household and economy-wide level.
- India's energy sector is set for a transition with recent developmental ambitions of the government e.g. 175 GW of installed capacity of renewable energy by 2022, 24X7 Power for all, Housing for all by 2022, 100 smart cities mission, promotion of e- mobility, electrification of railway sector, 100% electrification of households, Solarization of agricultural pump sets, and promotion of clean cooking.
- India can avoid building 300 GW of new power generation up to 2040 with implementation of ambitious energy efficiency policies.
- Successful implementation of energy efficiency measures contributed to electricity savings of 7.14% of total electricity consumption of the country and emission reduction of 108.28 million tonnes of CO₂ during 2017-18.

Efforts Related to Energy Efficiency and Conservation:**Indian:**

- **Energy Conservation Act, 2001:** The Act provides regulatory mandates for: Standards & labeling of equipment and appliances; Energy conservation building codes for commercial buildings; and Energy consumption norms for energy intensive industries.
- **PAT Scheme:** Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT) is a market based mechanism to enhance the cost-effectiveness in improving the Energy Efficiency in Energy Intensive industries through certification of energy saving which can be traded.
- **Standards and Labeling:** The scheme was launched in 2006 and is currently invoked for equipment/appliances Room Air Conditioner (Fixed/Variable Speed), Ceiling Fan, Colour Television, Computer, Direct Cool Refrigerator etc.
- **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC):** It was developed for new commercial buildings in 2007. It sets minimum energy standards for new commercial buildings having a connected load of 100kW (kilowatt) or contract demand of 120 KVA (kilovolt-ampere) and above.
- **Demand Side Management:** DSM is the selection, planning, and implementation of measures intended to have an influence on the demand or customer-side of the electric meter.

Global:

- **International Energy Agency:** IEA works with countries around the world to shape energy policies for a secure and sustainable future.
- **Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL):** It is an international organization that works in partnership with the United Nations and leaders in government, the private sector, financial institutions and civil society to drive faster action towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).
- **Paris Agreement:** It is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- **Mission Innovation (MI):** It is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union) to accelerate clean energy innovation.

Suggestions to Improve Energy Efficiency:

- **Change in Energy Use Behaviour:**The high ambitions of citizens to live and work in comfortable air conditioned spaces with appliances providing ease of living will lead to a multi fold increase in energy consumption. An approach to change the course of energy use behaviour through energy efficiency programmes is needed to curb future energy demand.
- **Push for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Programme:**It is crucial for India to push for the expansion of the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) programme to all segments of the construction sector. The objective of this programme is to develop a framework for conventional buildings to achieve low energy use per unit area.
- **Amending the Electricity Act:**Also, India's power sector is slated for a revamp with multiple policy level changes through the amendment of the Electricity Act.
- **Installation of Smart Meters:**One of the major initiatives as a solution to issues like low billing efficiencies leading to revenue losses, heavy transmission and distribution losses, monitoring of electricity consumption, etc. is installation of smart meters. The installation of smart meters at a fast pace can help India in facilitating energy efficiency interventions at a large scale.
- **Energy efficiency interventions:**Embracing an energy efficient lifestyle will provide a positive impetus towards transformation of India's energy system for the better. Energy efficiency interventions are one of the most cost-effective means of achieving a low carbon transition.

HISTORY

Indo-Pak War: 1971

Recently, National Cadet Corps (NCC) has announced to conduct 'Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskritiyon ka Mahasangam' event as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75th Anniversary of India's Independence). Under Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla' program, the bravehearts of the Indo-Pakistan 1971 War are being honoured at 75 locations throughout the country.

Sanskritiyon ka Maha Sangam entails a special national integration camp will be conducted in New Delhi wherein candidates from all over the country will participate in cultural exchange.

Key Points

Timeline of India-Pakistan War 1971:

- **Political Imbalance:** In the 1950s the centralised Pakistani state was run undemocratically by a military-bureaucratic oligarchy dominated by West Pakistan. Under this system, Bengalis had no political say. But West Pakistan dominance was challenged in 1970 during general elections.
- **Landslide Victory of Awami League:** East Pakistan's Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League had a clear overall majority, enough to become the prime minister. However, West Pakistan was not willing to let a leader from its eastern provincial wing rule the country.
- **Cultural Differences:** The then West Pakistan (present Pakistan), under the leadership of Yahya Khan, started a brutal assault on the people of East Pakistan (present Bangladesh) who were demanding freedom because of the language and cultural differences between the two regions. After political negotiations failed, the Pakistani army under General Yahya Khan decided to start the crackdown.
- **Operation Searchlight:** West Pakistan kicked in operation searchlight across the whole of East Pakistan on March 26, 1971.
 1. This resulted in millions of Bangladeshis fleeing to India, mainly West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.
 2. West Bengal, in particular, was massively burdened by the onrush of the refugees and the state appealed to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her government for assistance for food and shelter.
- **Indo-Bangla Cooperation:** With the subsequent bravery of the Indian Army coupled with the spirited fight put up by Mukti Bahini — the Bangladeshi guerilla resistance movement consisting of the Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians — defeated the Pakistani forces.
- **Defeat of Pakistani Military:** On December 16, 1971, Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, the Chief Martial Law Administrator of East Pakistan and Commander of Pakistan Army forces located in East Pakistan signed the Instrument of Surrender.
 1. Over 93,000 Pakistani troops surrendered to the Indian forces and Bangladesh Liberation forces making it the largest surrender since World War II.
 2. The intervention brought a conclusion to the war in 13 short days and led to the birth of a new nation.

Significance of Indo-Pakistan War For India:

- **Diminishing the Two-front War Threat:** The East Pakistan uprising provided India with the opportunity to break up Pakistan and eliminate the threat of a two-front war in any future confrontation. Although the eastern front remained largely inactive in 1965, it tied down substantial military resources that could have been deployed to greater effect in the western theatre.
- **Departure from Non-Alignment:** The India-Pakistan war was preceded by the signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty in August 1971, which boosted India diplomatically.
 1. The victory defined India's much broader role in foreign politics.
 2. Many countries in the world, including the United States, realised that the balance of power had shifted to India in South Asia.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

Recently, the US intelligence reports said the tension on the Russia-Ukraine border represents a major security crisis for the region, with the potential to snowball into a broader conflict. Ukraine says that Russia has amassed around 90,000 troops at the border.

Key Points

Background:

- Ukraine and Russia share hundreds of years of cultural, linguistic and familial links. For many in Russia and in the ethnically Russian parts of Ukraine, the shared heritage of the countries is an emotional issue that has been exploited for electoral and military purposes.
- As part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the second-most powerful Soviet republic after Russia, and was crucial strategically, economically and culturally.

Cause of Conflict:

- **Balance of Power:** Ever since Ukraine split from the Soviet Union, both Russia and the West have vied for greater influence in the country in order to keep the balance of power in the region in their favour.
- **Buffer Zone for Western Countries:** For the US and the European Union, Ukraine is a crucial buffer between Russia and the West. As tensions with Russia rise, the US and the EU are increasingly determined to keep Ukraine away from Russian control.
- **Russian Interest in Black Sea:** The unique geography of the Black Sea region confers several geopolitical advantages to Russia.
 1. Firstly, it is an important crossroads and strategic intersection for the entire region.
 2. Access to the Black Sea is vital for all littoral and neighboring states, and greatly enhances the projection of power into several adjacent regions.
 3. Secondly, the region is an important transit corridor for goods and energy.
- **Protests in Ukraine:**
 1. **Euromaidan Movement:** Euromaidan (European Square) was a wave of demonstrations and civil unrest in Ukraine, which began in November 2013 with public protests in Maidan Nezalezhnosti ("Independence Square") in Kyiv, Ukraine. The protests were sparked by the Ukrainian government's decision to suspend the signing of an association agreement with the European Union, instead choosing closer ties to Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union.
- **Separatist Movement:** The Donbass region (the Donetsk and Luhansk regions) of eastern Ukraine has been facing a pro-Russian separatist movement since 2014. According to the Ukrainian government, the movement is actively supported by the Russian government and Russian paramilitaries make up between 15% to 80% of the separatists fighting against the Ukraine government.
- **Invasion of Crimea:**
 1. Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in what was the first time a European country annexed territory from another country since World War-2.
 2. The annexation of Crimea from Ukraine followed a Russian military intervention in Crimea that took place in the aftermath of the 2014 Ukrainian revolution and was part of wider unrest across southern and eastern Ukraine.
 3. The invasion and subsequent annexation of Crimea have given Russia a maritime upperhand in the region.
- **Ukraine's NATO Membership:** Ukraine has urged the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to speed up his country's membership in the alliance.

1. Russia has declared such a move a “red line”, and worried about the consequences of the US-led military alliances expanding right up to its doorstep.
2. The Black Sea is bordered by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. All these countries are NATO countries.
3. Due to this faceoff between NATO countries and Russia, the Black sea is a region of strategic importance & a potential maritime flashpoint.

Minsk Agreements:

- **Minsk I:** Ukraine and the Russian-backed separatists agreed a 12-point ceasefire deal in the capital of Belarus in September 2014.
 1. Its provisions included prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid and the withdrawal of heavy weapons.
 2. The agreement quickly broke down, with violations by both sides.
- **Minsk II:** In 2015, an open conflict was averted after the ‘Minsk II’ peace agreement was signed, under the mediation of France and Germany.
 1. It was designed to end the fighting in the rebel regions and hand over the border to Ukraine’s national troops.
 2. It was signed by Representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the leaders of two pro-Russian separatist regions. OSCE is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organisation. Its mandate includes issues such as arms control, promotion of human rights, freedom of the press, and fair elections.

Current Situation:

- Russia is seeking assurances from the US that Ukraine will not be inducted into NATO. However, the US is not prepared to give any such assurance. This has left the countries in a stand-off, with tens of thousands of Russian troops ready to invade Ukraine.
- Russia is keeping the tensions high at the Ukraine border in order to get sanctions relief and other concessions from the West.
- Any kind of military action by the US or EU against Russia would precipitate a major crisis for the whole world, and has so far not been mooted by any of the parties involved.

India’s Stand:

- India did not join the Western powers’ condemnation of Russia’s intervention in Crimea and kept a low profile on the issue.
- In November 2020, India voted against a Ukraine-sponsored resolution in the United Nations (UN) that condemned alleged human rights violations in Crimea thereby backing old ally Russia on the issue.

Way Forward

A practical solution for the situation is to revive the Minsk peace process. Therefore the West (US and Other western Countries) should push both sides to resume talks and live up to their commitments as per the Minsk agreement to restore relative peace on the border.

PRELIMS FACT

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Recently, the 11th Edition of Joint Military Exercise EKUVERIN between India & Maldives has been started at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives.

- Earlier, the 15th edition of the biennial trilateral Coast Guard Exercise ‘Dosti’ involving India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka was held in the Maldives.



Key Points

- India and Maldives have been conducting Exercise Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' in the Maldivian language since 2009.
- The 14 days Joint Exercise is held alternatively in India and Maldives.
- It focuses on enhancing interoperability between the two forces for carrying out counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in a semi-urban environment under the United Nations mandate.
- This year's exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations. The exercise will go a long way in strengthening India's relations with Maldives amidst emerging security dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Examine the causes that led to the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. What were the reasons behind India's victory in the war? (250 words)

Ans:

Introduction

December 16, 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of Vijay Diwas, the day the Pakistan Army in East Bengal surrendered in 1971 and Bangladesh was born. Bangladesh War of Independence was a revolution and armed conflict sparked by the rise of the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement in East Pakistan. Bangladesh's independence has been considered India's most successful neighbourhood intervention.

Body:**The causes that led to the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971**

- **Economic Prowess of East Pakistan:** Most of the foreign exchange was earned by exports from East Pakistan which was poorly defended when the big war of 1965 with India was fought.
- **Disparity of Governance:** Punjab and the Punjabi-dominated army ruled Pakistan soon after the birth of Pakistan. The services were also dominated by Punjabis through quotas but East Pakistan dominated in literacy and high education. Top seats in the civil services exams always went to East Pakistan.
- **Military Rule:** General Ayub Khan took over Pakistan in 1958, the East Pakistan's needs and demands were completely suppressed. Until 1962, martial law continued and Ayub purged a number of politicians and civil servants from the government and replaced them with army officers.
- **Distance factor:** Pakistan couldn't tackle the strange phenomenon of being divided by a thousand miles of India.
- **Six-Point Program discarded:** The six point program of Mujib-Ur-Rahman in 1966 for economic and political autonomy of East Pakistan was discarded.
- **Imposition of Urdu:** Urdu was made the "National Language" of Pakistan. The requests from East Pakistan and option of Arabic were turned down.
- **Genocides and Refugee Problems:** There was a systematic ethnic slaughter which qualified as genocide. There was clear ethnic or religious targeting of the Hindu minority among the Bengalis. By July-August 1971, 90% of the refugees were Hindus concentrated in the border districts of West Bengal with large Muslim populations. The Response of West Pakistan to 1970 cyclone which ravaged East Pakistan was minimal and lacked compassion.
- **Immediate Cause:** The Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won a landslide victory in the national elections in 1971 and demanded autonomy for East Pakistan. This victory also gave it the right to form a government, but Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party refused to let the Sheikh become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. This initiated the war.

Factors that led to India's victory over Pakistan

- **Timing of war :** India chose to fight against Pakistan in the winter months when the Himalayan passes were snowbound thus cutting China's military support to Pakistan.
- **Decisive Leadership :** Indira Gandhi had been a hawkish leader known for her firm decisions. Her stand didn't collapse even under US pressure by 7th Fleet Naval mobilization threat.
- **Astute Diplomacy :** The then Prime minister Indira Gandhi sought international opinion to the cause of Bangladesh and made aware of India's unbearable burden of refugees. She build a consensus to force a UN resolution condemning the Pakistani atrocities in Bangladesh.
- **Military assistance :** India not only gave sanctuary to the Bangladeshi government-in-exile but also trained and equipped the Mukti Bahini. Large-scale usage of Indian Air Force compared to

1962 War against China. Success of operations conducted by navy on western fronts by attacking Karachi and blockading of eastern front by naval ships.

- **Mutual cooperation** : Mutual cooperation between Indian armies and Bangladeshi local population in the East Pakistan making it difficult for Pakistani armies to survive there.
- **Friendship treaty** : To secure itself against a possible U.S.-China intervention in case events led to war, India signed on August 9 a 20-year Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation.

Conclusion

India played the great role in emergence of independent Bangladesh and was the first country to recognise Bangladesh as separate state. India's humanitarian intervention in Bangladesh has shaped South Asia, made it a responsible power in the region. India's links with Bangladesh are civilisational, cultural, social and economic. The shared colonial legacy, history and socio-cultural bonds demand that the political leadership of the two countries inject momentum into India-Bangladesh relations.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. With reference to National Family and Health Survey (NFHS)-5, which of the following key findings is/are correct?

1. The proportion of women exceeded men in India.
2. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has come down below the replacement fertility rate.
3. All states have seen an increase in the use of family planning methods.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about Lithium:

1. It is a soft, silvery-white metal.
2. It has the highest specific heat capacity of any solid element.
3. It is highly reactive and flammable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about African Swine Fever (ASF):

1. It is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects domestic and wild dogs.
2. It was first detected in Africa in the 1920s.
3. As of now, there is no approved vaccine for ASF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. With reference to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), consider the following statements:

1. India is a key partner but not a member of OECD.
2. Unlike the G20, OECD has a permanent secretariat.

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**

Q5. Tawang monastery is situated in

- a. Ladakh
- b. Sikkim
- c. **Arunachal Pradesh**
- d. Himachal Pradesh