

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

Idea of Converging Jal Jeevan and Swachh Bharat Missions

CONTEXT : The **Jal Jeevan and Swachh Bharat Missions** are combining to improve people's well-being.

Why does the Concept of convergence come in ?

- The **Jal Jeevan Mission** faces a **challenge** similar to that faced by the **Swachh Bharat Mission — managing grey water discharge.**
 - **About 70 per cent** of all household water turns into grey water, which if **untreated leads to undesirable consequences.**
 - This is where the concept of convergence comes in.
 - The Jal Jeevan Mission converged with the Swachh Bharat Mission to achieve holistic sanitation in which the treatment of grey water became a vital component.
 - It will plug gaps in delivery and take the benefits to the last man in line.

About

- **Swachh Bharat Mission**
 - It was launched on 2nd October 2014 to accelerate the **efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage** and to put the focus on sanitation,
 - Under the mission, all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States and Union Territories in India declared themselves "open-defecation free" (ODF) by 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing over 100 million toilets in rural India.
 - **Phase II-**
 - The government has launched Swachh Bharat Mission Phase 2 with a focus on **plastic waste management, biodegradable solid waste management, grey water management and faecal sludge management.**
 - ODF Plus activities under Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) will reinforce ODF behaviours and focus on providing interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste in villages.

**Under Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen, Phase 2
Villages are progressing towards achieving ODF Plus status**

Biodegradable
Waste Management

Plastic Waste
Management

Greywater
Management

Faecal Sludge
Management

- **Jal Jeevan Mission:**
 - It is envisioned to **provide safe and adequate drinking water** through individual household tap connections by **2024 to all households in rural India.**
 - It will also **implement source sustainability measures** as mandatory elements, such as **recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting.**
 - It will be based on a **community approach to water** and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.
 - It intends to relieve women of the drudgery of travelling long distances to fetch water.
 - The Swachh Bharat Mission too is centred around the dignity of women.

PRELIMS
1. Energy Progress Report 2022

- The Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report,
 - (a) Provides the most comprehensive look available at the world's progress towards global energy targets on access to electricity, clean cooking, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and
 - (b) Gives the international community the latest global dashboard to register progress on the SDG7 targets.
- The **annual** report is prepared by the **SDG7 Indicator Custodian Agencies**,
 - (a) The International Energy Agency (IEA),
 - (b) The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA),
 - (c) The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) at UN DESA,
 - (d) The World Bank, and
 - (e) The World Health Organization (WHO).
- The SDG 7 tracking report includes the official dashboard of global, regional and national progress on 4 key energy targets:
 - (a) 7.1: Ensuring universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions;
 - (b) 7.2: Substantially increasing the share of renewable energy;
 - (c) 7.3: Doubling progress on energy efficiency;
 - (d) 7.A: Increasing international collaboration in support of clean and renewable energy.
- **Findings** - This 2022 edition of the Energy Progress Report assesses achievements in the global quest for universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy by 2030.
- At today's rate of progress, the world is still not on track to achieve the SDG 7 goals by 2030.
- Advances have been impeded, particularly in the most vulnerable countries and those that were already lagging.
- Some degree of economic recovery has taken place, but there may be slow down as of new challenges from evolving COVID variants and an energy crisis provoked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- The report considers the consequences of the evolving pandemic, along with results from global modeling, to determine whether current policy ambitions can meet the SDG 7 targets.
- It also aims to identify the additional actions that may be needed. It also examines the investments required to achieve the goals.
- It presents scenarios drawn from the International Energy Agency's (IEA) World Energy Outlook 2021, and the International Renewable Energy Agency's World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway.

2. Election of President

The Election Commission has notified the election of India's 15th President.

- Under **Article 62(1)** of the Constitution, an election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.
- The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of **electoral college** consisting of:
 1. The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;

2. The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
3. The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.
 - This Electoral College doesn't consist of nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, and members of state Legislative Councils.
 - **Value of Vote** - The votes are weighted, their value determined by the population of each state as per **Census 1971**.
 - The value of each MLA's vote varies from a high of 208 in Uttar Pradesh to a low of 7 in Sikkim.
 - This means that UP's 403 MLAs contribute $208 \times 403 = 83,824$ votes to the electoral pool, while Sikkim's 32 MLAs contribute $32 \times 7 = 224$ votes.
 - The weighted votes from all the Assemblies add up to 5.43 lakh.
 - The process demands that all the 776 MPs should contribute the same total of votes as the MLAs.
 - Thus, the value of each MP's vote is 5.43 lakh divided by 776, rounded off to 700. The combined electoral pool from the Assemblies and Parliament adds up to 10.86 lakh.

History

- **1952 and 1957:** In both the first and the second election, Rajendra Prasad won without a no-contest.
- **1969:** This election, necessitated by the sudden passing of President Hussain, was the most controversial of them all.
- Under Article 65(1) of the Constitution, Vice-President V V Giri assumed office as acting President, but resigned in 1969 as Vice President and also as acting President.
- There were tensions within the Congress between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and a group of veterans known as the Syndicate.
- These tensions came to a head when the party officially fielded Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy while Gandhi threw her weight behind Giri, contesting as an independent.

3. Aegean Sea

Turkish President warned Greece - which has been building a military presence in violation of treaties that guarantee the unarmed status of the Aegean islands - to demilitarise islands in the Aegean Sea.

About

- The ancient name of the Aegean Sea, *Archipelago*, was later applied to the islands it contains and is now used to refer to any island group.
- The Aegean Sea, an **arm of the Mediterranean Sea**, is located between the Greek peninsula on the west and Asia Minor on the east.
- It is located between the southern Balkan and the Anatolian peninsulas, between the mainlands of Greece and Turkey, respectively.
- It is connected through the straits of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, and the Bosphorus to the Black Sea.
- It also has a good connection to the Ionian Sea to the west, through the strait lying between the Peloponnese peninsula of Greece and Crete.
- The island of Crete can be taken as marking its boundary on the south.
- **Significance** - The Aegean Sea is the **cradle of the two great early civilizations**, those of Crete and Greece, from which much of modern Western culture is derived.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Does Corporate Social Responsibility suffice for everything that is needed is corporate ethics? Critically analyze? (150 words)

- In 2014, India became the first country in the world with legislated Corporate Social Responsibility. Under this business specified criteria, companies are required to invest 2% of their net profits in areas such as education, poverty, gender equality and hunger as their social responsibility. It is because businesses host their operations within society, and in return, society expects business to show responsibility as they experience economic prosperity within its immediate as well as the wider environment.
- Although many companies have dutifully tried to transform the social sector through CSR projects such as Mahindra Pride Schools which provides livelihood training to youth from marginalized sections of the society, significant steps remains to be taken. CSR could not be treated as the sole standard for good corporate ethics.
- Corporate ethics is a broader idea dealing with the way in which a company behaves towards its internal and external stakeholders including employees, investors, customers, and regulators. A company may have good CSR records but may still espouse many unethical practices like tax evasion, greenwashing etc. Thus, Corporate Social Responsibility is just a legal conformity, not an ethical touchstone.
- Companies professing corporate ethics generate favourable public perception and helps in marketing their products. Corporations can establish their ethical credentials in ways over and above CSR such as Tata did at its headquarters in Mumbai, for years stray dogs walked into the building for shelter and food but instead of shutting them out the company built a kennel for them.
- CSR in India is rooted in Gandhian thought of “trusteeship” where commercial success should honour ethical values and respect people, communities and the natural environment.

QUIZ

1) Consider the following statements:

1. Narrow patent claims are specific to one particular invention in a product and consist of more elements or limitations than broader claims.
2. Section 3 of the Indian Patent Act excludes the discovery of a new form of a known substance that does not result in the enhancement of the known efficacy of that substance.
3. Section 3 of the Indian Patent Act prevents ever greening of patents and allows for generic competition by patenting only novel and genuine inventions.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements:

1. Candidates of a particular party can be elected to the Lower House based on their party's strength in the State Legislative Assembly.
2. A candidate requires a specified number of first preference votes to win and each vote has a value of 100.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

3) Consider the following statements:

1. Vale do Javari is the western section of the Brazilian Amazon located in the Javari River, forming the country's border with Peru.
2. The Himba and Kayapo are the Indigenous tribal groups found in the region and the Itaquai River runs through this region.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) **1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

4) Consider the following statements regarding the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health:

1. It recognizes the public health problems such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria affecting the developed, developing, and least-developed countries.
2. Each member of WTO has the right to grant compulsory licenses and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licenses are granted.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) **2 only**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

5) Consider the following statements regarding the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe):

1. It will act as an autonomous body, under DOS, as a single-window nodal agency for enabling and regulating space activities and usage of ISRO facilities.
2. The decision of IN-SPACe shall be final and binding on all stakeholders including ISRO.
3. The non-government private entities (NGPEs) will not be required to seek separate permission from ISRO.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

6) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

1. It is an ad-hoc intergovernmental body established by the UN with headquarters at Addis Ababa.
2. It is part of the UN Secretariat and United Nations Development Group and reports to both the UN General Assembly and the Economic & Social Council.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) **2 only**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

7) Consider the following statements regarding startups in India:

1. Indian startups have been steadily growing since 2015, owing to large funding from global and domestic private equities.
2. The top sector with the maximum number of startups is IT services, followed by Healthcare and education respectively.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

8) Arrange the following countries (highest to lowest) based on the recipients of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2021:

- 1. United States
- 2. Hong Kong
- 3. China
- 4. India
- 5. Russia

Choose the correct option.

- a) 1-2-3-4-5
- b) 3-1-4-5-2
- c) 4-3-1-5-2
- d) 1-3-2-4-5**

9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Indian patents are governed by the Indian Patent Act of 1996 and are given to ideas that have industrial application capacity only.
- 2. The original Indian Patents Act did not grant patent protection to pharmaceutical products.
- 3. India is a party to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and Berne Convention on copyright.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

10) According to the Indian Patents Act, which of the following are the criteria for granting patents?

- 1. It should be novel.
- 2. It should have inventive steps or must be non-obvious.
- 3. It should be capable of Industrial application.

Choose the correct option.

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