

# 1. Steel Recycling Policy

Topic: Economy

## Plan of action

Rising factory output, urbanization and population are putting pressure on the country's existing resources.



### CURRENT STATUS

- **20-25% of recycling rate, much lower compared to 70% in developed countries**
- 1,580 tonnes/acre is India's resource extraction. (World average is 450 tonnes/acre)
- **Third highest CO2 emitter, responsible for 6.9% of global CO2 emissions**
- Highest water withdrawal globally for agriculture
- **30% of land undergoing degradation**



### TARGETS

- **50% recycling rate to be achieved by 2025 for aluminium, and 90% by 2030**
- By 2030, domestic scrap to fulfil 50% of the total aluminium scrap requirement
- **40% is the targeted rate of utilization of dross by 2025 and 80% by 2030**
- Zero import of steel scrap for recycled steel production by 2030
- **By 2020 penalty mechanism for violation of e-waste management rules**



### POLICY STEPS

- **Setting up solar panel recycling infrastructure**
- Transition to 'zero waste' by converting solid waste to value added products
- **Promotion of aluminium scrapping and recycling**
- Creation of zonal scrap collection, segregation and treatment facilities
- **Quality standards for recycled products, develop codes and standards**

**In News:** Union Steel Ministry will push primary steel producers to use 50 per cent of their input from scrapped/recycled steel by 2047 to help achieve the government target of moving into a circular economy.

### More on the Topic

- Currently, the level of recycled steel usage in primary steel production is only around 10 per cent even though recycled steel contributes to 22.5 per cent of the domestic total steel production of 140 million tonnes.
- Indian government is committed to reducing CO2 emissions in the steel sector by 5 per cent by 2030 from the current 2.85 to 1.4 CO2/tonne of crude steel, and to achieve this recycling scrap steel is an extremely important source.

### Significance of Steel recycling:

- **A tonne of steel today emits 2.55 tonnes of carbon dioxide.**



- Steel production using scrap as the primary raw material **helps to conserve vital natural resources, among other advantages.**
- According to the steel scrap recycling policy of Ministry of Steel, each tonne of scrap saves 1.1 tonne of iron ore, 630 kg of coking coal, and 55 kg of limestone.
- It **reduces energy consumption by 16-17%.**
- Additionally, it **cuts water consumption and GHG emissions** by 40% and 58%, respectively.

#### Challenges in reuse of steel scrap:

- It is **difficult to ensure that scrap steel meets the necessary quality criteria for reuse** because it may have deteriorated over time or been contaminated, which is a major barrier to output quality control.
- Because of its volume and mass, **moving and storing large amounts of steel scrap can be difficult.**
- Depending on its intended use, steel scrap may necessitate a variety of processing steps that can be **extremely energy-intensive and potentially harmful to the environment.**
- India relies heavily **on imports of high-grade steel scrap to meet its demand.** However, several countries, including the UAE and the EU, have restricted exports, making raw materials scarce.

#### About Steel Scrap Recycling Policy:

- The Policy will work on the **Principles of 6Rs:** Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Redesign and Remanufacture.
- It aims to **reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.**
- It also aims to create a mechanism for treating waste streams and residues produced from dismantling and shredding facilities in compliance with Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC).

**Source: Indian Express**

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## 2. Great Indian Bustard

Topic: Environment and Ecology



**In News:** Supreme Court appointed-committee recommendation on protection of GIB has been published.

### More on the Topic:

- **Highlights From the report:**
- In order to protect the endangered Great Indian Bustard, close to 800 km, or about 10% of the length of proposed power lines in the Thar and Kutch deserts of Rajasthan and Gujarat should be **re-routed or made to go underground**.
- Committee recommended **to install bird diverters** which are flaps installed on power lines that work like reflectors and are visible to flying birds from about 50 metres away.
- According to the report, despite a Supreme Court order directing that low-voltage power lines go underground, no significant steps appear to have been taken by power companies and State governments to comply with them.
- The nearly 7,200 km of overhead lines are meant to transfer solar power into the grid but existing lines have been harming Great Indian Bustards, which have been dying by colliding into them or getting electrocuted.

### About GIB:

- The Great Indian bustard or GIB is **the State bird of Rajasthan**.
- It is also considered India's **most critically endangered bird** and is protected under the **Wildlife Protection Act**.
- Its population of **about 150 in Rajasthan accounts for 95% of its total world population**.
- But GIBs have been facing a threat to their survival because of intensive agricultural practices, laying of power lines and industrialisation.



- The GIBs are **large birds standing about one metre tall and weighing about 15 to 18 kgs.**
- They are not great fliers and have wide sideways vision to maximise predator detection. **But the species' frontal vision is narrow.**
- These birds **cannot detect power lines from far and since they are heavy fliers,** they fail to manoeuvre across power lines within close distances. This makes them vulnerable to collision with power lines. In most cases, death is due to collision rather than electrocution.

#### Steps Taken:

- A total of 16 GIB chicks, artificially hatched from eggs collected from the wild, are being reared in the satellite conservation breeding facility in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.
- The objective is **to build the captive population of the GIBs and to release the chicks in the wild.** The initiative is likely to take 20 to 25 years.

Source: Down to Earth

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### 3. Appointment of SC Judges

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**

**Article 124(2)** of the Indian Constitution provides that the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President after consultation with such a number of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose.

**Article 217** of the Indian Constitution states that the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court.

**In News:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud is scheduled to read out the oath of allegiance to the Constitution to five new judges of the Supreme Court.

#### More on the Topic:

- It is a sign that the **court has prevailed over the government's continuous attacks on the collegium system.**
- The court has **refused to let the disparaging public comments made by government functionaries about the collegium affect it.**



- Instead, the court had used the opportunity to put pressure on the government through judicial orders and collegium resolutions to clear pending appointments.
- In the process, the Collegium has also fine-tuned its functioning to usher in transparency. The court has also used the acrimony initiated by the Centre to set down some ground rules for the government while making judicial appointments.

#### **Appointment of SC judges:**

- The judges of **the supreme court are appointed by the president.**
- The chief justice is appointed by the president after consultation with such judges of supreme court and the other judges are appointed by president after the consultation with the chief justice and such other judges of the supreme court.
- The consultation with the chief justice is obligatory in case of appointment of a judge other than chief .
- Controversy over consultation: The supreme court has given different interpretation of the word consultation.
- **In first judges case :** The court held that consultation does not mean concurrence and it only implies exchange of view.
- **Second judges case :** the court reversed its earlier ruling and changed the meaning of the word consultation . Hence ,it ruled that the advice tendered by the chief justice of India is binding on the president in matters of appointment of the judges of the supreme court .but , the chief justice would tender his advice on the matter after consulting two of his senior most colleagues.
- **Third judges case:** The court held that the consultation process to be adopted by the chief justice of India requires consultation of plurality judges. Sole opinion of chief justice of India does not constitute the consultation process. He should consult a collegium of four senior most judges of supreme court and even if two judges give an adverse opinion ,he should not send the recommendation to the government the court held that the recommendation made by the chief justice of India without complying with the norms and requirements of the consultation process are not binding on the government.

#### **Additional Information:**

- The 99th constitutional amendment act of 2014 and the national judicial appointments commission Act of 2014 have replaced the collegium system of appointing judges to the supreme court and high Court with a new body called the **national judicial appointments commission (najc).**
- However, in 2015 the supreme court has declared **both the 99th constitutional amendment as well as NJAC act as Unconstitutional and void.**
- Consequently ,the earlier collegium system became operative again.
- **This Verdict was delivered by the supreme court in the fourth judges case (2015).** the court opined that:
- The new system (i.e.,NJAC) would affect the independence of the judiciary.

**Source: Hindu**

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## 4. A new kind of ice: 'Amorphous' Ice

**Topic: Science and Technology**



**In News:** Scientists have created a new type of ice that matches the density and structure of water, perhaps opening a door to studying water's mysterious properties.

### **More on the Topic:**

- The ice is called medium-density amorphous ice.
- Normally, **when water freezes, it crystallises and its molecules are arranged into the familiar hexagonal, solid structure that we call ice.**
- Ice is less dense than its liquid form is an unusual property for a crystal.
- Depending on conditions such as pressure and the speed of freezing, water can also solidify in any of two dozen other regular arrangements. Amorphous ice is different: it has no such order.
- If confirmed, the new form of ice could enable studies of water in a manner that was not possible before.

**Source: Hindu**



## 5. Global Climate Fund

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton announced that a global Climate Resilience Fund, in partnership with Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), will work to tackle challenges faced due to rising temperatures due to climate change.

### **More on the Topic:**

- Self-Employed Women's Association, meaning "service" in several Indian languages, is a trade union based in Ahmedabad, India, that promotes the rights of low-income, independently employed female workers. Nearly 2 million workers are members of the Self-Employed Women's Association across 8 states in India.

**Source: Business Standard**

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## 6. Khelo India

Topic: Miscellaneous



**In News:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports along with Lieutenant Governor of J&K launched the 3rd Khelo India Winter Games Mascot, Theme Song and Jersey.

### More on the Topic:

- The Khelo India Scheme is **the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**
- Khelo India was introduced to revive sports culture in India at grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country
- Under the Scheme, **eight years of annual financial aid in the amount of Rs. 5 lakh** are given to talented athletes in priority sports disciplines at various levels.
- About 20 million kids between the ages of 10 and 18 will be a part of the National Physical Fitness Campaign as a result of this program.
- Children's physical fitness will be the only focus of this; nevertheless, fitness-related activities will also be supported.
- Additionally, the government committed to promoting 20 universities as centres of excellence in sports throughout India.

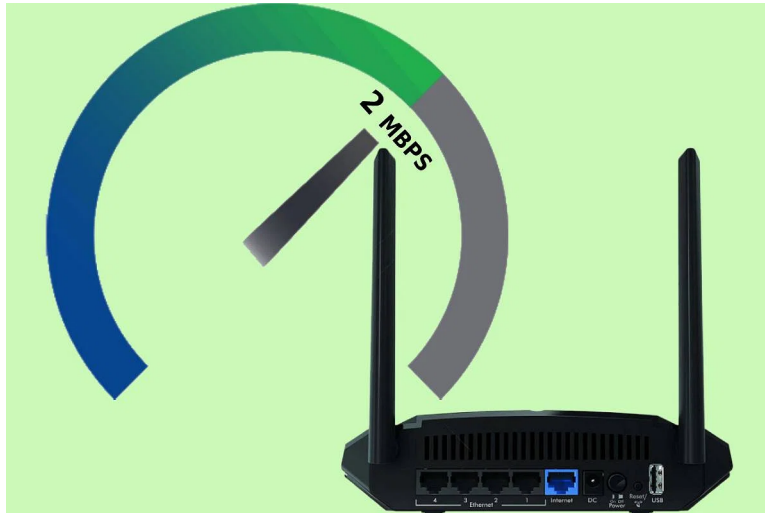
**Source: Business Standard**

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## 7. India broadband definition update

**Topic: Economy**



**In News:** The government has changed the definition of broadband connectivity to include a higher minimum download speed of 2 Mbps (megabits per second).

### **More on the Topic:**

- Now broad band is defined as a data connection that is able to support interactive services including Internet access.
- Earlier, the definition notified by the Telecom Department in July 2013 had benchmarked it to 512 kbps (kilobits per second) as minimum download speed.

### **What is broadband:**

- In telecommunications, broadband is the wide-bandwidth data transmission that transports multiple signals at a wide range of frequencies and Internet traffic types, which enables messages to be sent simultaneously and is used in fast internet connections.

**Source: Business Standard**

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