



1. Urban Cooperative Banks

Topic: Economy



In News: Reserve Bank has notified four key measures to meet the priority sector lending targets.

More on the Topic:

- **The Four Key Measures are:**
- UCBs can now open **new branches up to 10% (maximum 5 branches) of the number of branches in the previous financial year** without prior approval of RBI in their approved area of operation.
- UCBs can also do One Time Settlement at par with Commercial Banks.
- Now co-operative banks through board-approved policies may **provide process for technical write-off as well as settlement with borrowers.**
- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to **extend the timeline for UCBs to achieve Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets** by two years i.e. up to March 31,2026.
- **Designating a Nodal Officer in RBI:** In order to meet the long pending demand of the cooperative sector for closer coordination and focused interaction, RBI has recently notified a nodal officer as well.

About Urban Cooperative Banks:

- The term Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), though not formally defined, refers to primary cooperative banks located in **urban and semi-urban areas.**
- These banks, **till 1996**, were allowed to lend money only for **non-agricultural purposes.** This distinction does not hold today.
- These banks were traditionally centred around communities, localities and workplace groups.
- They essentially lent to small borrowers and businesses. Today, their scope of operations has widened considerably.



- They are registered under **the Cooperative Societies Act of the State concerned or the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.**
- The Cooperative banks are governed by **the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 and Banking Laws (Cooperative Societies) Act, 1955.**

Pradhan Features of Cooperative Banks:

- **They are Customer Owned:** Co-operative bank members are both customer and owner of the bank.
- **Democratic in nature:** Co-operative members also own it and they democratically elect a board of directors. Members usually have equal voting rights, (as per the principle of "one person, one vote")
- **Profit distribution:** Part of the profit, benefits or surplus is usually allocated to constitute reserves and a part of this profit can also be distributed to the cooperative members.
- They play important role in **Financial Inclusion of unbanked rural masses.**

Source: Indian Express

2. Har Ghar Jal Program

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: A report of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has highlighted significant impacts of 'Har Ghar Jal' program on public health and economic savings.

More on the Topic:

- The report has said that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country could avert nearly 400,000 diarrhoeal disease deaths.
- With universal coverage of safely managed drinking water in India, almost 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years from diarrhoeal disease are estimated to be averted.



- This has resulted in estimated cost savings of up to \$101 billion.

About Jan Jeevan Mission:

- Jal Jeevan Mission is a central government initiative under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Jal Jeevan Mission, is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.
- The mission ensures functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
- It also ensures conjunctive use of conserved water; drinking water source augmentation, drinking water supply system, grey water treatment and its reuse.

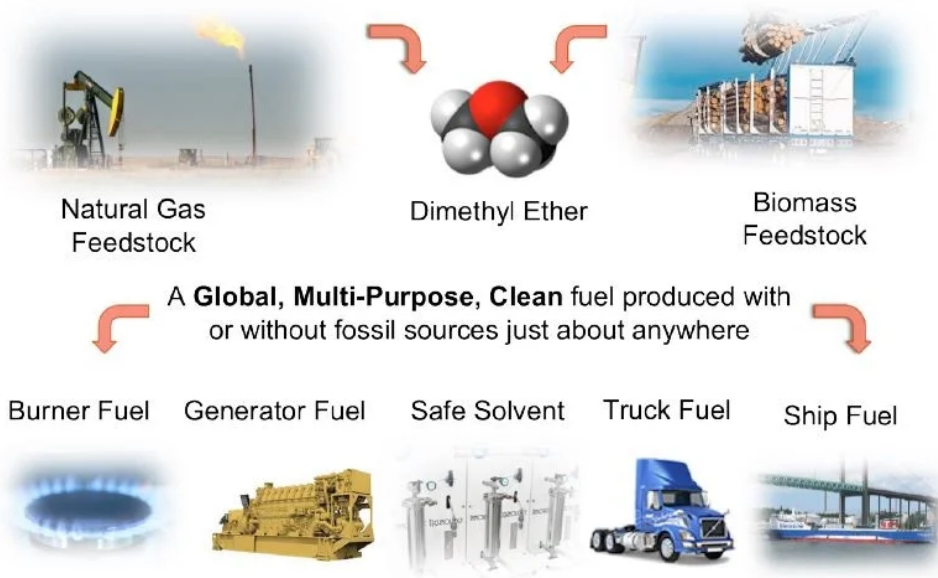
Implementation:

- **Paani Samitis** plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain village water supply systems.
- These consist of 10-15 members, with at least 50% women members and other members from Self-Help Groups, Accredited Social and Health Workers, Anganwadi teachers, etc.
- The committees prepare a **one-time village action plan**, merging all available village resources.
- The plan is approved in a Gram Sabha before implementation.
- The fund sharing pattern between **the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.**

Source: Hindu

3. Dimethyl Ether (DME) -fuelled Vehicle

Topic: Science and Technology





In News: India's first 100% Dimethyl Ether (DME) -fuelled tractor/ vehicle for on- and off-road applications has been developed recently.

More on the Topic:

- Dimethyl Ether (DME) is a **synthetic fuel that serves as an alternative to diesel fuel** in specially designed compression ignition diesel engines.
- DME is **primarily produced by converting natural gas, organic waste or biomass to synthesis gas (syngas)**.
- Syngas is a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
- Its properties are **similar to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)**.
- It is used as **an alternative to diesel**, in chemical industry, and as an aerosol propellant.
- Characteristics: It is a colourless, highly flammable gas at ambient conditions, but can be handled as a liquid when lightly pressurised.

Significance of Dimethyl Ether as a Fuel::

- The DME-fuelled engine exhibited higher brake thermal efficiency. It produced **negligible soot while significantly reducing HC, CO, and CO₂ emissions**.
- The developed DME Tractor is projected to be a **cost-effective and environmentally friendly solution for agricultural applications**.
- In addition, the simplified engine technology without using expensive and hard-to-maintain emission control devices makes it user-friendly, and the tractor can comply with the most-stringent emission legislations applicable today and in the future.
- The exhaust from the DME fuelled tractor is **smokeless, improving the ambient air quality on the farms and in the agricultural sector**.
- It is renewable and can help in **reducing India's oil import bill**.
- Can virtually **eliminate particulate emissions** as it lack carbon-to-carbon bonds.

Cons Associated with Dimethyl Ether as a fuel:

- It has low energy density, lower calorific value, poor anti-knock performance, needs engine modification etc.

Source: Hindu

4. TAPI Pipeline



Topic: International Relations

In News: Pakistan and Turkmenistan signed a Joint Implementation Plan (JIP) of TAPI Pipeline.

More on the Topic:

- The **Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) Pipeline**, also known as **Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline**, is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Galkynysh – TAPI Pipeline Company Limited with participation of the Asian Development Bank.
- It aims to export natural gas annually through pipeline from **Turkmenistan (Galkynysh gas field) to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (Fazilka).**

Source: HT

5. SEBI Complaint Redressal System

Topic: Economy



change the world



In News: SEBI has proposed to strengthen the investor grievance handling mechanism through SEBI Complaint Redressal System (SCORES) by integrating it with the online dispute resolution (ODR) mechanism.

More on the Topic:

- **Sebi** operationalised the ODR this March. The ODR platform is a way for investors to access a three-step, Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) mediated dispute resolution mechanism.
- Investors opt for this mechanism when they are not happy with the resolution they find through SCORES.

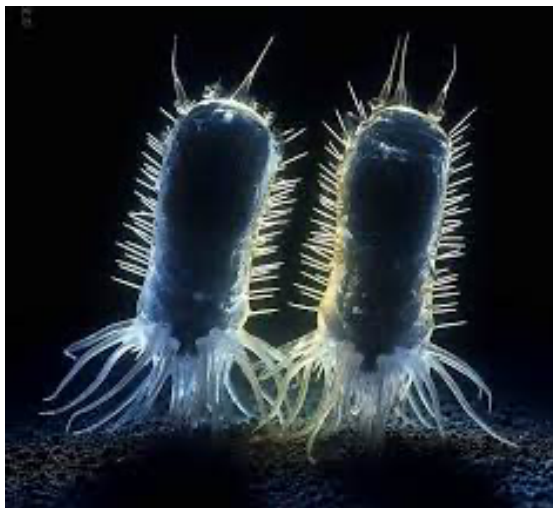
About SCORES:

- SEBI's Complaints Redress System (SCORES) portal encourages investors to lodge their **complaints on SCORES** instead of sending physical letters.
- SCORES doesn't deal with complaints against companies including Unlisted/delisted companies, sick companies or a company where a moratorium order is passed, or where the company is struck off by the Registrar of Companies (RoC).

Source: Hindu

6. Protosterol Biota

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Scientists have found ancient organisms called Protosterol Biota that existed over 1.6 billion years ago and played a crucial role in the evolution of complex life.

More on the Topic:

- The remains of Protosterol Biota are dated to the Proterozoic Eon, a critical period in the evolution of complex life.
- Protosterol Biota were **abundant in marine ecosystems and likely shaped Earth's ecosystems for much of its history.**
- Their presence challenges the previous belief that modern eukaryotes should have dominated ancient waterways more than a billion years ago.
- The Proterozoic Eon has been shrouded in mystery due to the limited fossil record of microscopic organisms that inhabited Earth's marine environments.
- Eukaryotes, including fungi, plants, animals, and single-celled organisms, are descendants of the Last Eukaryotic Common Ancestor (LECA) that lived around 1.2 billion years ago.
- **Eukaryotes are single-celled or multicellular organisms whose cells contain a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles.**
- The Protosterol Biota represents the oldest remnants of our own lineage, predating LECA.

Source: Hindu

7. Anak Krakatau Volcano

Topic: Geography



In News: Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano has erupted recently.

More on the Topic:

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- The volcano island located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands.
- Krakatau lies along convergence of Indian-Australian and Eurasian tectonic plates
- Anak Krakatau, which means "child of Krakatau," is the offspring of the famous Krakatau, whose monumental eruption in 1883 triggered a period of global cooling.

Source: Hindu
