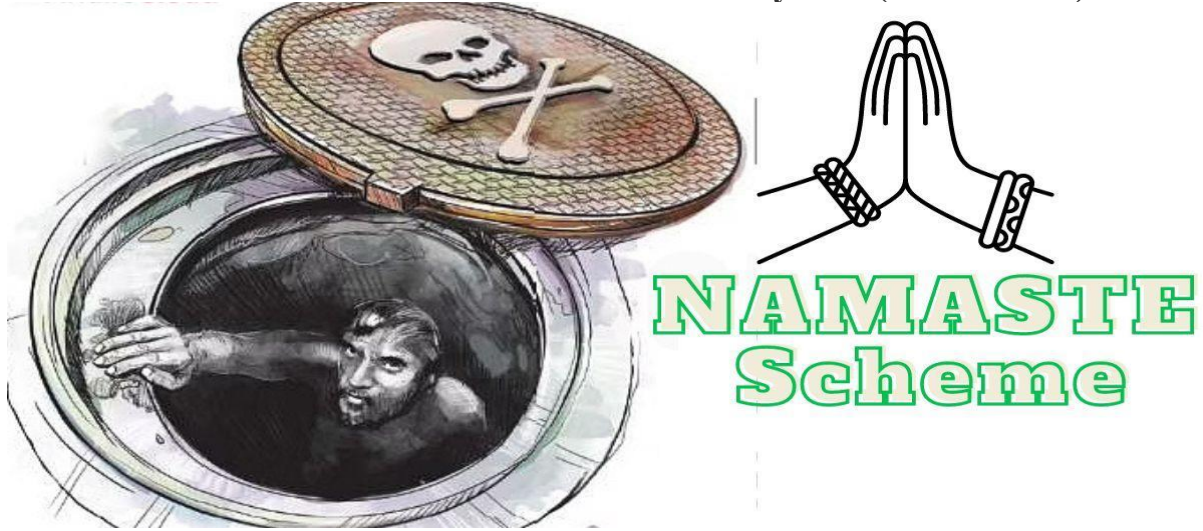


## UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES 27-08-2023

### National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)™



#### The scheme aims at formalization and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers

Although, with the efforts under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) and other efforts of the Government, the menace of manual scavenging has been almost eliminated, a number of sewer/septic tank related deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, are reported in the press from time to time. Such cases are taken up with the concerned State Government for payment of compensation of Rs.10 lakh as per Supreme Court orders.

Thus, the main problem these days is hazardous cleaning of Sewer and Septic tanks and non observance of safety precautions due to which precious human life is lost. To eliminate hazardous cleaning, stop deaths of sewer and septic tank workers and ensure their safety and dignity, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) have jointly formulated a Scheme namely National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE). The existing components of SRMS have been kept as components of NAMASTE Scheme. The scheme is to be implemented in all 4800+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country, during the three years upto 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs. 349.70 crore.

#### Interventions of NAMASTE Component:

1. Profiling of SSWs: NAMASTE envisages profiling of the Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs). List of SSWs would be obtained from the concerned ULBs and thereafter detailed profiling of the SSWs would be undertaken through profiling camps.
2. Occupational Safety Training and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits to SSWs
3. Assistance for Safety Devices to Sanitation Response Units (SRUs) for hazardous cleaning operations.
4. Extending Health Insurance Scheme Benefits: For providing a safety net to identified SSWs and their families, they will be covered under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The premium for AB-PMJAY for those



identified Manual scavengers and SSWs families who are not covered earlier shall be borne under NAMASTE.

5. **Livelihood Assistance:** The Action Plan will promote mechanization and enterprise development. National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) will provide funding support and capital subsidy to the Manual Scavengers, sanitation workers and their dependents to procure sanitation related equipment and vehicles under Swachhata Udyami Yojana (SUY) to make them “Saniprenure”. In addition to this, providing capital subsidy to identified manual scavengers and their dependents for self employment project will be continued.
6. Identified manual scavengers and their dependents will be provided skill development training for a period upto two years with monthly stipend of Rs.3000/-.
7. **Convergence of Programmes of MoSJE & MoHUA:** The safety of SSWs is a joint responsibility of MoSJE and MoHUA. Hence, the intent of NAMASTE is to strengthen convergence amongst both Ministries for governance and implementation of the NAMASTE components. The Action Plan leverages the available financial allocations of existing SRMS, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) and NSKFDC and brings in a focused approach to provide occupational, social and financial safety nets to the SSWs.
8. **IEC Campaign:** Massive campaigns would be undertaken jointly by the ULBs & NSKFDC to spread awareness about the interventions of NAMASTE. Electronic and print media and hoardings at prominent locations shall be used for the campaign in local language and English/Hindi. Maximum use of social media during the publicity would be ensured.
9. **MIS and Website:** There will be strong MIS implementation and monitoring with the help of dedicated website for NAMASTE.

## **President of India releases postage stamp in memory of Dadi Prakashmani**

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu released a postage stamp in memory of Dadi Prakashmani, former chief of Brahma Kumaris at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre today (August 25, 2023).

This stamp was released under the ‘My Stamp’ initiative of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications to mark the 16<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Dadi Prakashmani.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Dadi Prakashmani spread the Indian values and culture in India and abroad through spirituality. Under her leadership, the Brahma Kumaris became the largest women-led spiritual organization in the world. Like a true leader, she stood by Brahma Kumaris family with faith and courage even in challenging circumstances and always guided them.

The President said that it is the biggest truth of the world that life is temporary and a person is remembered only because of his/her deeds. She added that one should do noble deeds with the sense of public welfare. She shared that Dadi ji may not be not physically among us, but the memories of her spiritual and genial personality and her message of human welfare would always be alive among us and will continue to inspire generations to come.

## India-Greece Joint Statement

At the invitation of Prime Minister H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Hellenic Republic on 25th August 2023.



Prime Minister Mitsotakis and Prime Minister Modi acknowledged that both India and Greece share historical linkages and agreed that at a time when the global order is undergoing unprecedented changes, a reenergised approach to enhancing our bilateral relationship is required.

Both leaders held high level talks in a warm and friendly atmosphere. They noted the ongoing cooperation between the two sides and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

As leaders of two ancient sea faring nations with a long-standing maritime outlook, they shared their vision of a free, open and rules-based Mediterranean Sea and Indo-Pacific, in accordance with the law of the sea, in particular the provisions of the UNCLOS, and with full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of navigation to the benefit of international peace, stability and security.

Both Leaders noted that the EU and India have largest democratic and free market space in the world, and agreed that deepening EU-India relations would be mutually beneficial and have a positive regional and global impact. The Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that both Greece and India have shown extraordinary economic resilience, despite the challenges in their respective regions, and have restored domestic economic growth. The two Prime Ministers expressed their strong support for the ongoing India-EU trade and investment negotiations and the early implementation of the India-EU Connectivity Partnership.

Building on the foundation of the long-standing warm and close relationship between their countries and peoples, the two leaders decided to upgrade Greek-Indian bilateral ties to the level of a "Strategic Partnership" and agreed to work to further expand bilateral cooperation in political, security and economic spheres. The two Prime Ministers also decided to take steps to further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. Appreciating the



increase in bilateral trade and economic engagement in recent years, the leaders also directed that both sides shall work to double bilateral trade by 2030.

Both leaders reiterated the need for further broadening and deepening bilateral engagements, in the field of defence, shipping, science and technology, cyber space, education, culture, tourism and agriculture. They took note of the signing of the MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture, including the establishment of a Hellenic-Indian Joint Sub-committee on Agriculture for facilitating sectoral cooperation for mutual benefit. Both leaders directed their senior officials to ensure regular dialogue in the areas including political, economic, defence, security and public diplomacy. They also agreed to encourage direct flights between Greece and India. Taking into account the long-standing cultural exchanges between India and Greece, both leaders welcomed efforts to promote exchanges in all forms of art. They also agreed to encourage joint efforts in preserving and protecting ancient sites, and strengthen cooperation within UNESCO.

Both leaders agreed that an early finalization of a Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement (MMPA) would be mutually beneficial, facilitating in particular the free movement of workforce between the two countries. The two leaders strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whenever, wherever, and by whom-so-ever committed and the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism.

Prime Minister Modi welcomed Greece into the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and looked forward to Greece's membership of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Welcoming India's Presidency of the G20 Forum, Prime Minister Mitsotakis expressed confidence that under India's leadership, the G20 will successfully advance its goals. Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Mitsotakis for the gracious hospitality extended by the Government and the people of Greece during the visit. Prime Minister Modi extended an invitation to Prime Minister Mitsotakis to visit India.

## **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) organised NIELIT Job Fair 2023 "Yuva Rojgar Manch"- Sashakt Yuva, Sashakt Rashtra in association with Directorate General of Employment (DGE)**

50 employers' desk were setup and conducted interview of 793 talented candidates

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), an Autonomous Scientific Society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, organised NIELIT Job Fair 2023 "Yuva Rojgar Manch"- Sashakt Yuva, Sashakt Rashtra in association with Directorate General of Employment (DGE), Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India for NIELIT students as well as for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) on 24th and 25th of August, 2023, at National Career Service Centre, Karkardooma, Vikas Marg, New Delhi.

The Director General, NIELIT, Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. Director General, NIELIT in his inaugural address highlighted that this



job fair organised by NIELIT in collaboration with DGE is an example how a big work can be done with collaborations. He added that in today's world employment as well as entrepreneurship both are equally important. He also emphasized that NIELIT will organize more Job Fairs in Tier II and Tier III cities to ensure that opportunities reach every corner of the country.

The NIELIT Job Fair 2023 "Yuva Rojgar Manch" shows NIELIT's dedication to its students' holistic development. During the two-day event 50 employers' desk for companies such as IBM India, Tech Mahindra, NIIT, My Money Mantra, Just Dial, Ebix Cash, Hindustan Wellness, Kudos Ayurveda, Investor Clinic, HDB Financial, Gi Group were setup and conducted the interview of 793 candidates hailing from diverse corners of the nation.

An informative session on "AI for Future Workforce" by NIELIT and Intel experts was also organised during the Job Fair wherein candidates gained a profound understanding of AI's applications shaping the future.

With an unwavering commitment to enhancing capacity building and fostering skill development in the field of Information, Electronics, and Communication Technology (IECT), NIELIT has firmly established itself as a premier institution across India. Its extensive network of 47+ Own/Extension Centres, coupled with numerous upcoming centers, and 8000+ training partners testifies to its PAN INDIA presence.

NIELIT's laudable efforts culminate annually in the production of a significant number of skilled candidates through a spectrum of flagship programs. These include the O, A, B, and C Level programs, along with degree programmes and NSQF aligned long term and short-term skilling courses in future emerging technologies. This comprehensive approach equips the participants with the necessary competencies to thrive in the rapidly evolving landscape of IECT.

## AUSINDEX-23

Recently, the fifth edition of the biennial AUSINDEX maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was conducted from 22nd-25th August 23 in Sydney.

It is a major biennial maritime exercise, being conducted since 2015.

The exercise will provide an opportunity for both Navies to further bolster inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.

This year's edition was held in Australia.

INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata participated in the exercise along with HMAS Choules and HMAS Brisbane from RAN.

Besides ships and their integral helicopters, the exercise also witnessed the participation of fighter aircraft and maritime patrol aircraft.



## Tele-Law 2.0

**Recently, the Tele-Law 2.0 initiative was launched by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.**

This version entails the fusion of Tele-Law Services with Nyaya Bandhu pro bono legal services, a merger to further enhance citizen accessibility to legal aid.

The integration of legal guidance, support, and representation through a single registration process stands as a testament to the commitment to nurture a digitally literate and empowered populace.

### **What is Tele-Law programme?**

This was launched by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice in 2017.

This is operating under the DISHA Scheme.

The programme connects needy and marginalised people in need of legal aid with the Panel Lawyers via video conferencing/telephonic facilities available at Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated at the panchayat level.

In addition, the service can also be accessed through the Tele-Law Mobile App.

**Eligibility: Legal advice is made available to everyone under the Tele-Law service. Advice is free of Cost to those who are eligible for free legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987.**

Legal matters in which advice can be taken through Tele-Law service include:

- Dowry, family dispute, divorce, protection from domestic violence
- Sexual harassment, sexual abuse, eve teasing at the workplace
- Maintenance of women, children and senior citizens
- Rights regarding property and land
- Equal wages for males and females
- Maternity benefits and prevention of foeticide.

## UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

**Recently, India and Iran dropped the foreign arbitration clause in the Chabahar port issue.**

India and Iran have agreed to pursue arbitration under rules framed by the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and will not go for commercial arbitration in foreign courts.

### **About the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL):**

It is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, established in 1966.

Mandate: To further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade.

## Membership:

The Commission is composed of 60 member States elected by the General Assembly.

The 60 member States include 14 African States, 14 Asian States, 8 Eastern European States, 10 Latin American and Caribbean States and 14 Western European and other States.

The General Assembly elects members for terms of six years; every three years, the terms of half of the members expire.

**India is a founding member of this organisation.**

## Key facts about Chabahar Port

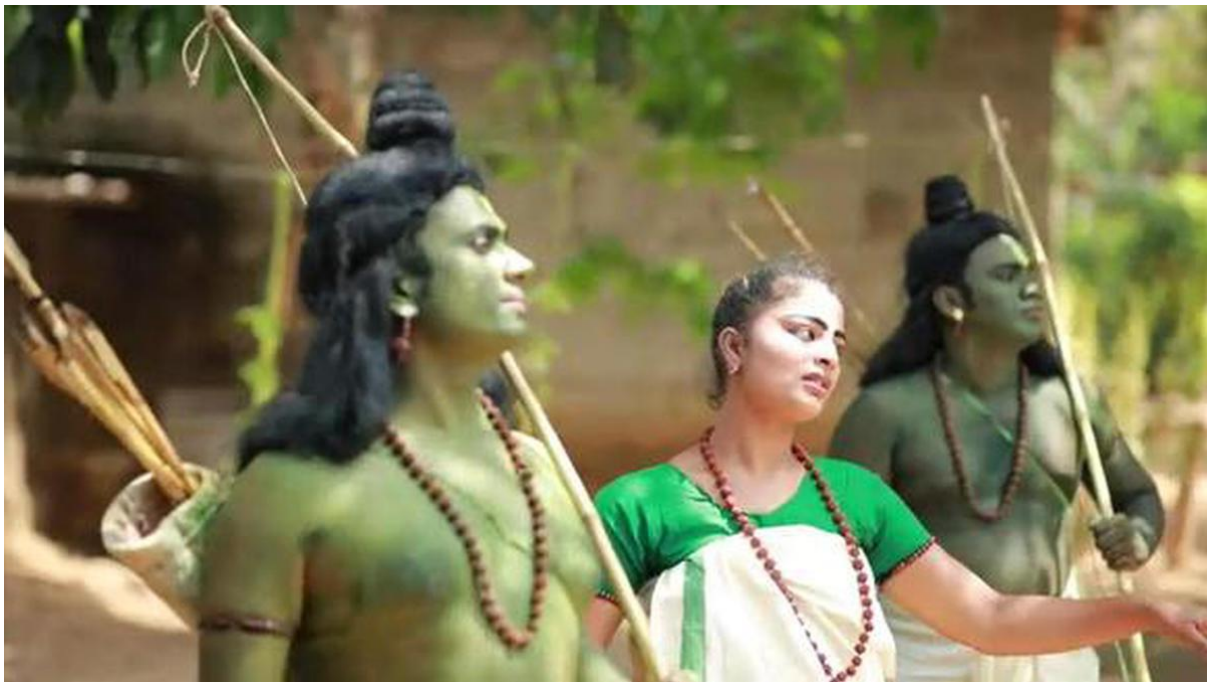
It is a seaport in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran, on the Gulf of Oman, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.

It is a deep-water port with direct access to the Indian Ocean that is outside the Hormuz Strait.

Its geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit centre on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor.

## Seethakali

The Perinad Seethakali Sangham member group is all set to perform outside Kerala for the first time. It is a unique centuries-old folk art form that is believed to have originated at Perinad in the Kollam district of Kerala.



This art form was first performed some 150 years back by the people of **Vedar** and **Pulayar** communities.



## Themes

**It is based on certain episodes taken from the Indian epic Ramayana.**

Mythic characters such as Rama, Seetha, Ravana and Hanuman come alive in Seethakali performances that portray the tale of Seetha's journey, from the time she accompanied Rama to the woods till her ascent to the heavens. In the early times, Seethakali was performed as part of the harvest festival Onam. **From Atham star till the 28th day after Onam**, the performers who belong to the subaltern communities go from one house to another performing this art.

The props and instruments used during performances are all made of natural materials like bamboo and palm leaves. The costumes and the make-up are loud and eye-catching.

The characters of Rama and Lakshmana appear in green since the colour is used to represent gods and goddesses in Kathakali. Currently, in Kerala, there is only one registered Seethakali performing group – **Perinad Seethakali Sangham.**