



1. Delhi Civic Bodies Bill

Topic: Governance

In News: Parliament has passed the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

More on the Topic:

- The bill seeks to merge three municipal corporations into a single entity in the national capital.
- The municipality wards will be redrawn and the number of council seats will be reduced to 250.
- The word government will be replaced as central government.
- New corporation would have mandatory e governance system.
- The new changes has been made according to Article 239 AA of the constitution.
- Article 239 AA empowers Parliament to legislate on any matter including subjects which assembly can legislate.
- **The 69th Amendment Act, 1992** has added two new Articles 239AA and 239AB under which the Union Territory of Delhi has been given a special status.
- Art. 239AA provides that the Union Territory of Delhi shall now be called the National Capital Territory of Delhi and its administrator shall be known as Lt. Governor.

Source: Indian Express

ARTICLE 239AA

- **69th Amendment 1991** inserted the Article 239AA in the Constitution. It granted special status to Delhi among Union Territories (UTs) by providing Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to such Assembly.
- **Public order, Police and Land** in NCT of Delhi fall within the domain of Union Government.
- For remaining matters of State List or Concurrent List, in so far as **any such matter** is applicable to UTs, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for NCT of Delhi.

2. Counter Cyclical Capital Buffer

Topic: Economy

In News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that it is not necessary to activate 'Counter-Cyclical Capital Buffer' at this point in time.

More on the Topic:

- The 'CCyB' applies on banks to promote sustainable provision of credit to the economy in time of distress.
- The framework on 'CCyB' was put in place by the Reserve Bank in terms of guidelines issued on February, 2015.
- The guidelines said that 'CCyB' would be activated as and when the circumstances warranted, and that the decision would normally be pre-announced.



Objective:

- The countercyclical capital buffer is **intended to protect the banking sector against losses** that could be caused by cyclical systemic risks increasing in the economy.
- Countercyclical capital buffers **require banks to hold capital at times when credit is growing rapidly so that the buffer can be reduced if the financial cycle turns down** or the economic and financial environment becomes substantially worse.
- Banks can use the capital buffers they have built up during the growth phase of the financial cycle to cover losses that may arise during periods of stress and to continue supplying credit to the real economy.
- The rule was first introduced in Basel III as an extension of another buffer (called the capital conservation buffer).

Basel Norms:

- Basel norms or Basel accords are the **international banking regulations issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision**.
- The Basel norms is **an effort to coordinate banking regulations across the globe**, with the goal of strengthening the international banking system.
- In 2010, Basel III guidelines were released.
- These guidelines were introduced **in response to the financial crisis of 2008**.

- A need was felt to further strengthen the system as banks in the developed economies were under-capitalized, over-leveraged and had a greater reliance on short-term funding.

Source: Indian Express

3. Prakriti Mascot

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Union Environment Ministry has launched “Prakriti”, a mascot that spreads greater awareness about small alterations in life that can curb plastic pollution.

More on the Topic:

- India is on its way to imposing a blanket ban on single-use plastic. Items such as earbuds, glasses, plastic flags, cutlery, glasses, etc are to be banned from July 2022.
- **SUP is plastic produced and designed to be thrown away after being used only once.** By that definition, a large number of products fall in the category. These include everything from a disposable straw to a disposable syringe.
- About 60% of plastic waste in India is collected; that means **the remaining 40% or 10,376 tons remain uncollected.**



What is the impact?

- Low utility but high littering potential.
- Large and growing volume adds enormously to the total plastic waste.
- Adverse impacts on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Major Sources of Single use plastic:

- According to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment, **Plastic packaging (flexible and rigid) contributes to almost 60 per cent of the total plastic waste generated.**
- Plastic packaging waste, inscrutably, is not listed for being phased out. It was proposed to be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way through the **extended producer responsibility (EPR)** of the producer, importer and brand owner (PIBO), according to the **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.**

Important Provisions of Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021:

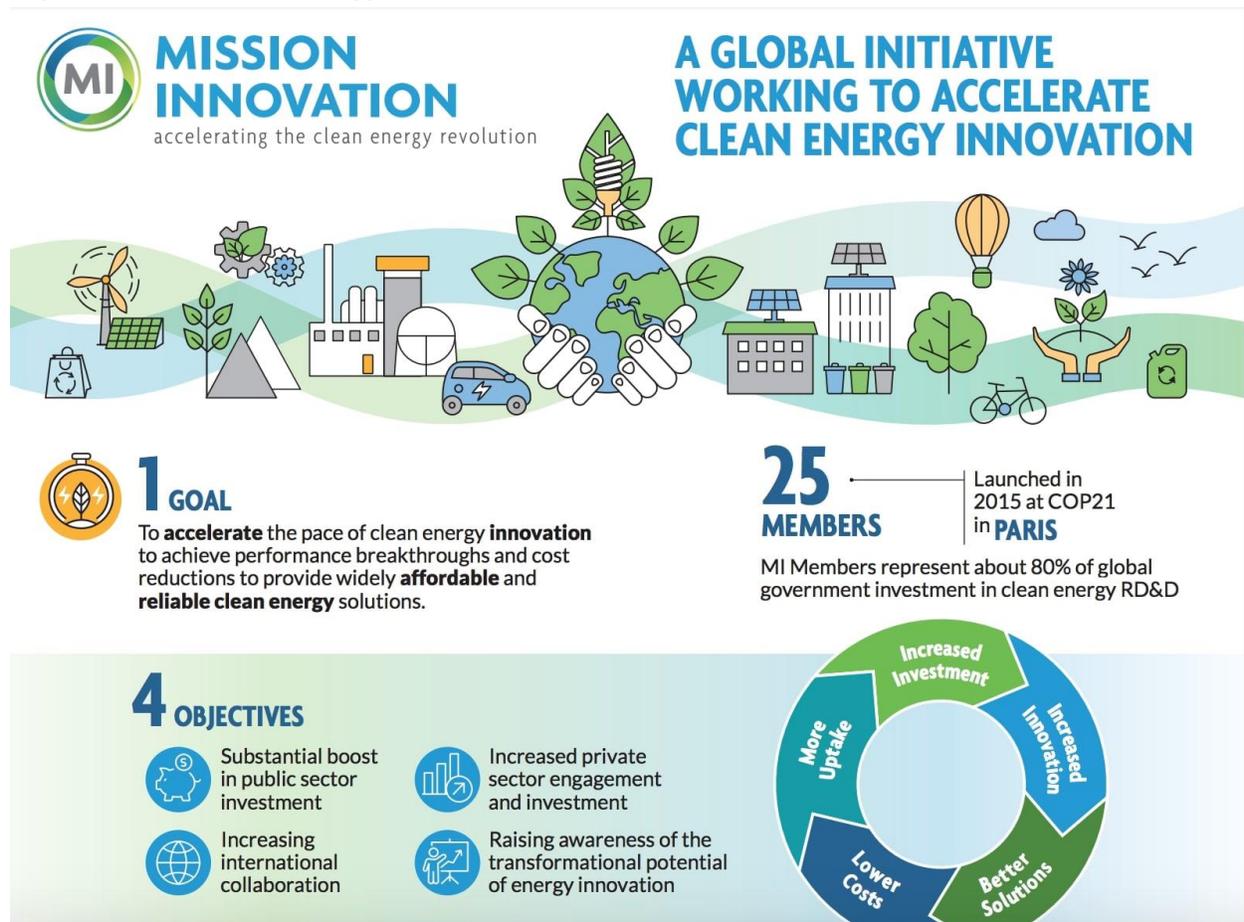
- Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibiting identified single use plastic (SUP) items by 2022.

- Thickness of plastic carry bags to be increased from 50 microns –to 75 microns from 30th September, 2021 and to 120 microns from the 31st December, 2022. This is to stop littering due to lightweight plastic carry bags, and allow their reuse.
- Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility/EPR (as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016) has been given legal force through the 2021 Rules, for effective implementation.

Source: PIB

4. “Mission Integrated Bio-refineries”

Topic: Science and Technology



MISSION INNOVATION
 accelerating the clean energy revolution

A GLOBAL INITIATIVE WORKING TO ACCELERATE CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION

1 GOAL
 To **accelerate** the pace of clean energy **innovation** to achieve performance breakthroughs and cost reductions to provide widely **affordable** and **reliable clean energy** solutions.

25 MEMBERS
 Launched in 2015 at COP21 in **PARIS**
 MI Members represent about 80% of global government investment in clean energy RD&D

4 OBJECTIVES

- Substantial boost in public sector investment
- Increased private sector engagement and investment
- Increasing international collaboration
- Raising awareness of the transformational potential of energy innovation

Increased Investment
Increased Innovation
Better Solutions
Lower Costs
More Uptake

In News: Union Ministry for Science and Technology has launched “Mission Integrated Bio-refineries”.

More on the Topic:

- It is a major **futuristic PPP (Public Private Participation) model initiative** for ‘Clean Energy’ solutions through Public-Private Alliances.



- The mission is a part of **India’s commitment to a low-carbon future through “Mission Innovation.”**
- **This is the 6th mission launched by mission innovation.**
- The goal of the mission is **to develop innovative solutions to accelerate the commercialization of integrated biorefineries**, with a target of **replacing 10% of fossil-based fuels, chemicals and materials with bio-based alternatives by 2030.**
- The mission is centred on technology advancement and cooperation, zero-waste bio-refinery for cost-effective production of sustainable bio-fuels with co-production of bio-based chemicals and materials, using biotechnological interventions.
- Mission Integrated Bio-refineries unites a dynamic and result-oriented partnership of countries, international organizations, academic institutions and civil society **to accelerate innovation for renewable fuels, and chemicals for a low-carbon future.**

Mission Innovation:

- Mission Innovation was announced on 30th November 2015, on the sidelines of the Paris Climate Agreement **to undertake ambitious measures to combat climate change.**
- It is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union to accelerate global clean energy innovation.

Source: Indian Express

5. Prehistoric Relics Discovered

Topic: Art and Culture



In News: Several prehistoric artifacts and archaeological remains have been found on the banks of three rivers flowing through the Attappady hills in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

More on the Topic:

- Prehistoric humans discovered many stone tools, inhabited caves, menhirs, cisterns or burial chambers, stone circles, burial urns, black and red pottery, terracotta images, stone carvings, and granite inscriptions in the tribal area of Attappadi.
- The presence of a mature settlement is indicated by the discovery of several prehistoric artefacts and archaeological remains.
- Attappady is a tribal taluk in Kerala. Irula, Muduka and Kurumba tribes are the natives of Attappady.

Source: Hindu

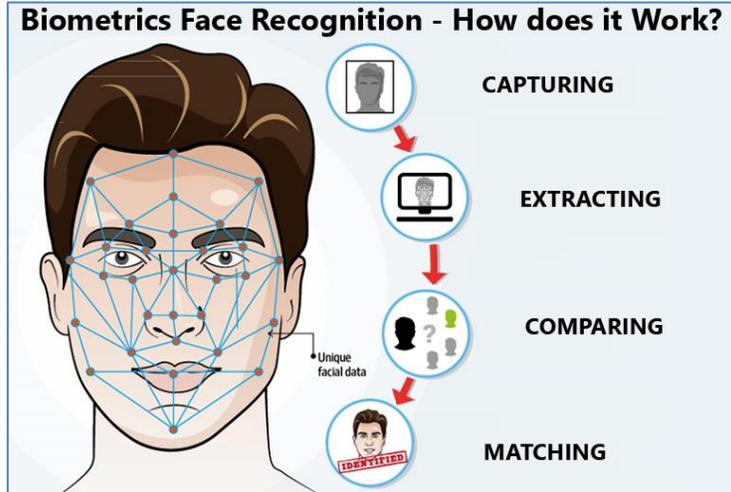
6. Facial Recognition System

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: The Facial Recognition System (FRS) under the Digi Yatra initiative will implemented in a phased manner.

More on the Topic:

- Facial recognition System is part of the Digi Yatra initiative of the government for providing passengers seamless and hassle-free experience at airports.
- DigiYatra is intended to facilitate hassle free travel.
- Air ports and air lines join hand together in this scheme. This scheme reduces tedious long queues and waiting lists.
- It uses technology for verification. Biometrics such as fingerprints, iris are recorded.



About Facial Recognition System:

- It is a biometric technology that uses distinctive features of the face to identify and distinguish an individual.
- Over a period of almost 6 decades, it has evolved in many ways- from looking at 3D contours of a face to recognizing skin patterns.
- The facial recognition system works **primarily by capturing the face & its features through the camera and then using various kinds of software to reconstruct those features.**
- The captured face along with its features is stored into a database, which can be integrated with any kind of software that may be used for security purposes, banking services, etc.

Concerns:

- Violation of the right to privacy
- Technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Big Data which needs for successful implementation of Facial Recognition are costly to implement.
- In today’s world of cybercrime there are chances of data leakage and possible misuse of the data used for facial recognition.

Source: Hindu



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