

1. Swachh Survekshan 2023

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: Union Government has launched the Eighth Edition of Swachh Survekshan – SS-2023 under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.

More on the Topic:

- **Swachh Survekshan is a ranking exercise** taken up by the Government of India to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner.
- The objective of the survey is to **encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness** amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.
- Additionally, the survey also intends to **foster a spirit of healthy competition** among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities and towns.
- The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India takes up the Swachh Survekshan in urban areas and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in rural areas.
- **The Quality Council of India (QCI)** has been commissioned the responsibility of carrying out the assessment.

Swachh Bharat Mission:

- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) or Clean India Mission is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India in 2014.
- The objectives of the first phase of the mission are the following.
- Eradication of **manual scavenging**.
- Generating awareness and bringing about a **behaviour change** regarding sanitation practices.
- **Building capacity at the local level.**
- **The second phase** of the mission aims to **sustain the open defecation free status** and improve the management of solid and liquid waste, while also working to improve the lives of sanitation workers.



- Under the scheme, the Government provides subsidies for constructing toilets, waste management structures, and awareness campaigns to bring behaviour change.
- In rural areas "**SBM - Gramin**" is **financed and monitored through the Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- In Urban areas "**SBM - urban**" is **overseen by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

Source: Indian Express

2. Draft e Waste Management Rules

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The Environment Ministry has published Draft E-waste Management Rules. Following are included in the draft rules.

More on the Topic:

- Consumer goods companies and makers of electronics goods have to ensure **atleast 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled by 2023** with targets to increase them to 70% and 80% in 2024 and 2025 respectively.
- The rules also bring into effect **a system of trading in certificates, akin to carbon credits**, that will allow companies to temporarily meet their shortfalls.
- Along with specifying targets, the rules also lay out a system of companies securing **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates**.
- These certificates **certify the quantity of e-waste collected and recycled in a particular year** by a company and an organisation may sell surplus quantities to another company to help it meet its obligations.
- **Companies will have to register on an online portal and specify their annual production and e-waste collection targets.**

About Compliance Mechanism:

- The chief entity that will coordinate the trade of EPR certificates and monitor if companies are meeting their targets is **the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**.
- **A Steering Committee (SC)** to be headed by the Chairman of the CPCB will oversee the overall implementation of these regulations.
- Companies that don't meet their annual targets will have to pay a fine or an 'environmental compensation'.



- Those that meet their targets with a year's delay will be refunded 85% of their fine, after two years, 60% and 30% after the second and third year respectively.

Responsible Agencies:

- The EPR requires **producers to set up e-waste exchange facilities** to facilitate collection and recycling, and assign specific responsibility to bulk consumers of electronic products for safe disposal.
- **The State governments have been entrusted with the responsibility of earmarking industrial space** for e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities, undertaking industrial skill development and establishing measures for protecting the health and safety of workers engaged in the dismantling and recycling facilities for e-waste.

India's E Waste Problem:

- According to the **Global E-Waste Monitor 2017**, India generates about **2 million tonnes (MT) of e-waste annually and ranks fifth** among e-waste producing countries, after the U.S., China, Japan and Germany.
- Most of **India's e-waste is recycled by the informal sector** and under hazardous conditions and a thrust of the e-waste rules is to have more this waste be handled by the formal sector.

Source: Indian Express

3. Net Zero Alliance

Topic: International Affairs

In News: World Economic Forum has launched Indian CEOs' alliance to supercharge race to 'net-zero'.

More on the Topic:

- The Alliance **brings together chief executives from India's leading businesses**. It is part of the Forum's Climate Action Platform and will build upon learnings from global projects such as the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders and the First Movers Coalition'
- The Alliance will serve as a high-level platform to support business leaders in planning and implementing plans and programmes to achieve climate targets, including net-zero economic growth.
- It will bring together the government, businesses and other key stakeholders to achieve the Indian Prime Minister's ambitious, five-part "Panchamrit" pledge.



Components of "Panchamrit" pledge:

- First- **India will reach its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.**
- Second- India will meet **50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy** by 2030.
- Third- India will **reduce the total projected carbon emissions** by one billion tonnes from now onwards till 2030.
- Fourth- By 2030, India will **reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45 percent.**
- And fifth- by the year 2070, **India will achieve the target of Net Zero.** These panchamrits will be an unprecedented contribution of India to climate action.

Source: Indian Express

4. The People's Biodiversity Register

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Kolkata became the first major metropolitan city in India to prepare a detailed register of biodiversity.

More on the Topic:

- The People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), **which details flora and fauna forms**



within the city as well as its land uses and human activities, has been prepared by KMC's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC).

- It was supervised by West Bengal's biodiversity board with the help of non-profits.
- The document will be key in fighting climate change in the eastern India's largest city-Kolkata.
- The Forest Survey of India's recent report had flagged the West Bengal Capital for the least greenery among all metro cities.

Source: Business Standard

5. Global Travel and Tourism Development Index

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: India was ranked at the 54th place in a global travel and tourism development index.

More on the Topic:

- This rank is down from 46th in 2019, but still remained on the top within South Asia.
- Japan has topped the global charts, followed by the US, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, UK, Singapore and Italy in the top ten.
- The Index is published by World Economic Forum.
- The Travel and Tourism Development Index assesses 117 economies, identifying key factors in enabling the sustainable and resilient growth of travel and tourism economies.

Source: Hindu

6. CORPAT Exercise

Topic: International Relations

In News: The fourth edition of the Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) commenced in the Northern Bay of Bengal.



More on the Topic:

- The sea phase of the exercise would facilitate ships from both the navies to participate in intensive surface warfare drills, weapon firing drills, seamanship evolutions and coordinated air operations in a tactical scenario.
- The conduct of CORPATs has strengthened mutual understanding and enhanced interoperability between both the navies in countering transnational maritime threats.

Source: Indian Express

7. India's missing wolves

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Indian Wolves population is reducing.

More on the Topic:

- A new study estimates that there may be as few as 3,100 wolves in India.
- **This puts them in the same category of endangerment as tigers.**
- **Habitat loss is a primary threat** to this species.
- No wildlife sanctuary is dedicated to the preservation of the Indian wolf, and a recent study shows that less than 5% of open natural ecosystems in the country are protected.
- The wolf, unlike the tiger, is not a creature of forests. It requires vast areas, and manages to live in the interstices of agricultural spaces that are left fallow by farmers dependent on rainfall as their only source of irrigation.
- The survival of the Indian wolf depends on nomadic pastoralist communities.
- Wolves can be saved by protecting their natural habitat.



Source: PIB



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