

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for: "E GOVERNANCE"

1. Arth Ganga Model (Aug. 27, 2022)

The Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga mentioned the Arth Ganga model during his virtual keynote address to the Stockholm World Water Week 2022 on 26 August.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

About Arth Ganga Model :

- PM Modi first introduced the concept of Arth Ganga Model during the first National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur in 2019.
- During the meeting he urged for a shift from **Namami Gange** (cleaning of Ganga) to the model of Arth Ganga.
- Arth Ganga focuses on the sustainable development of the Ganga and its surrounding areas, by focusing on economic activities related to the river.
- The Arth Ganga model seeks to use economics to connect people to the river.
- The scheme seeks to contribute at least 3% of the GDP from the Ganga basin.

Features of Arth Ganga Model :

- **Zero Budget Natural Farming** - This includes chemical free farming on 10 km on either side of the river and promotion of use of cow dung as manure through Govardhan Yojana.
- **Monetization and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater** - It envisages reuse of treated water for irrigation, industries and revenue generation for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- **Creation of livelihood opportunities** - For example- 'Ghat Mein Haat', promotion of local products, Ayurveda, medicinal plants, capacity building of volunteers like Ganga Praharis.
- **Increase public participation** - To enhance synergy among the stakeholders associated with the river.
- **Promotion of cultural heritage and tourism** - To promote cultural heritage and tourism in and around the Ganga through conduct of boat tours, adventure sports and yoga activities.
- **Improved water governance** - To promote institutional building by empowering local administration for better water administration.

2. Govt launches 2nd phase of Grameen Udyami Project (Aug. 22, 2022)

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society on 20 August launched the second phase of Grameen Udyami Project to augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The second phase of the pilot project was launched in Ranchi.
- The Central Government has sanctioned a budget of 85 thousand crore rupees exclusively for tribal areas.
- The initiative aims to provide multi-skilled and functional skills to the youth of India to enable their livelihood.
- The Prime Minister has emphasised on inclusion of tribal communities in the workforce, ensuring their holistic development so as to make them self-reliant and integrated into their respective geographical areas.

Grameen Udyami Project :

- It has been implemented under the Parliamentary Package Scheme.
- It is a unique multi-skill project, funded by NSDC, which aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- The project is being implemented in six states- Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat.
- Minister of State Rajiv Chandrashekar and tribal MPs embodied this concept.
- In the first phase of training, candidates from rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat were included.

The training under the project :

- Electrician & Solar PV Installation Technician
- Plumbing & Masonry
- 2-Wheeler Repair & Maintenance
- IT/ITES with e-Governance
- Farm Mechanisation

Objectives of the project :

- Increase in Rural/Local Economy
- Enhance employment opportunities
- Reduce forced migration due to lack of local opportunities

• Conservation of natural resources

3. Amit Shah e-launched the presence of cooperatives on the Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal (Aug. 9, 2022)

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on 9 August e-launched the onboarding of cooperatives on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal in New Delhi.

Important facts

- 589 cooperative societies have been selected as eligible for onboarding.
- Recently, the Ministry of Cooperation in its advisory made NCUI as the nodal or lead agency to facilitate the presence of cooperatives on GeM, to coordinate with the officials of GeM and to guide the cooperatives in the process of this presence.
- NCUI has prepared a list of cooperative societies having turnover/deposit amounting to Rs 100 crore and asked to initiate their onboarding process on GeM.
- A helpdesk of the GEM technical team has been set up at NCUI to help the cooperatives in the entire process.
- Onboarding of Cooperative Societies/Banks on GeM will be done in a phased manner.

Government e-Market (GeM) portal

- GeM is an acronym for One Stop Government e-Market Place hosted by DGS&D ((Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals) where common user goods and services can be procured.
- GeM is a dynamic, self-sustaining and user-friendly portal for procurement by government officials.
- Public procurement is a very important part of government activity and reform of public procurement is one of the top priorities of the present government.
- The Government e-Marketplace originated in January 2016 based on the recommendations of two Groups of Secretaries.
- Apart from reforms in DGS&D, they recommended setting up of a dedicated e-market for various goods and services bought or sold by the Government/PSUs.
- Subsequently, the Finance Minister in his budget speech for the financial year 2016-17 announced the setting up of a technology driven platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various ministries and agencies of the government.
- DGS&D with technical support from the National e-Governance Division (Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology) has developed a GeM portal for procurement of both products and services.
- The portal was launched on 9 August 2016 by the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

4. PM Narendra Modi to chair NITI Aayog governing council meeting (Aug. 6, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 7th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre, New Delhi on 7 August.

- PM will pave the way for a new era of collaboration between the Centre and the States.
- This will be the first physical meeting of the council after July 2019 and its members will include all chief ministers.
- On the 75th anniversary of independence, the states need to be agile, resilient and self-reliant and move towards "Atmanirbhar Bharat" in the spirit of cooperative federalism.
- In June this year, a National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held in Dharamsala, which was presided over by the Prime Minister.

The agenda of the meeting

- The agenda of the meeting includes crop diversification, achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and agro-communities, implementation of the National Education Policy and urban governance.
- The Governing Council meeting will try to finalize a roadmap and result-oriented action plan on each subject.
- The meeting will also emphasize the importance of the presidency for India in a federal system and the role of states in highlighting India's progress on the G-20 platform.

Governing Council of NITI Aayog

- This includes the Chief Ministers of all the states and the Lieutenant Governors of the Union Territories.
- It also includes ex-officio members of NITI Aayog, Vice-Chairman and whole-time members of NITI Aayog.
- It presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues.

About NITI Aayog

- It is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, it provides directional and policy inputs.
- It designs strategic and long-term policies.
- It also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre, States, and Union Territories.
- The Governing Council of NITI Aayog is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes the Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories and the Lieutenant Governors of other Union Territories.
- It was constituted on January 1, 2015.

- NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India.
- The Government of India constituted the NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission, which was set up in 1950.
- This step was taken to better meet the needs and aspirations of the people.

5. Parliamentary panel reviews Goa's uniform civil code (Aug. 1, 2022)

A parliamentary committee reviewed Goa's Uniform Civil Code. Some members of the committee believe that it contains some strange and outdated provisions related to marriage.

Important facts

- The Goa Civil Code, applicable to citizens of all religions and origins of the coastal state, is at the centre of discussion amid calls for a uniform civil code across the country.
- States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have proposed to implement Uniform Civil Code.
- Members of Parliament's Standing Committee on Law Personnel Affairs, headed by Sushil Kumar Modi, had visited Goa in June and reviewed the civil code there.

Goa Civil Code

- In 1867, Portugal enacted a Portuguese civil code, and in 1869 it was extended to the overseas provinces of Portugal (which included Goa).
- It is considered a Uniform Civil Code.
- Generally, the Goa Civil Code is far more gender-justifiable than other laws in the country.
- The law does not recognize bigamy or polygamy, including by Muslims.
- The law provides for compulsory registration of marriage before a civil authority, ensuring that the wife is an equal heir and entitled to half of the "common property".
- The parents have to compulsorily share at least half of the property with their children including daughters.

What is a Uniform Civil Code?

- Uniform Civil Code means one law for the whole country, which is applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- Article 44 of the Constitution talks about securing a Uniform Civil Code for every citizen of the country.
- Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- Article 37 of the Constitution makes it clear that the DPSP "shall not be enforced by any court" but the principles laid down therein are fundamental in governance.

- The Supreme Court for the first time directed the Parliament to frame a uniform civil code in the year 1985 in Shah Bano case.

6. UN Rights Panel Calls To Repeal Hong Kong Security Law Imposed By China (July 28, 2022)

Experts from the UN Human Rights Committee said on July 27 that Hong Kong's controversial national security law should be repealed as the law is being used to crack down on free expression and dissent.

Important facts

- Chinese and Hong Kong officials have used the NSL imposed by Beijing in 2020 to restore stability after the city was destabilized by sometimes violent anti-government and anti-China activities in 2019.
- This UN committee, which oversees the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), released its findings on Hong Kong after periodic review.
- The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a signatory to the ICCPR but China is not.
- This is the first recommendation by an independent UN expert body since 2020.

About Hong Kong

- Hong Kong is an autonomous region, and a former British colony in southeast China.
- It became a colony of the British Empire in 1842 at the end of the First Opium War.
- Sovereignty over the region was returned to China in 1997.
- As a Special Administrative Region (SAR), Hong Kong maintains governing power and economic systems that are separate from those of mainland China.
- The Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 guarantees basic law for 50 years.

About Hong Kong Security Law

- Hong Kong was handed back to China by the British government in 1997, but this was done under an agreement.
- This agreement is called the 'Basic Law' and it affirms the principle of 'one country, two systems'.
- This minor constitution is a product of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.
- Under this, China promised in 1997 that in the coming 50 years it would respect Hong Kong's liberal policies, governance system, an independent judiciary and individual freedoms that no other part of mainland China has.
- The Basic Law will expire in the year 2047. Under Article 23, Hong Kong can make its own national security law.

7. India's Indermit Gill appointed Chief Economist of World Bank (July 26, 2022)

The World Bank has appointed Indian citizen Indermit Gill as its Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of Development Economics.

Important facts

- Gill will replace American economist Carmen Reinhart and his appointment will be effective from September 1, 2022.
- Gill is currently Vice President of Equitable Development, Finance and Institutions, where he led work on macroeconomics, credit, trade, poverty and governance.
- Gill will be the second Indian to serve as the Chief Economist at the World Bank. Kaushik Basu was the first Indian to hold the position from 2012-2016.
- Raghuram Rajan and Gita Gopinath have served as chief economists at the International Monetary Fund, a subsidiary of the World Bank.
- Between 2016 and 2021, Gill was Professor of Public Policy at Duke University and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution.
- Gill has also taught at Georgetown University and the University of Chicago.
- Gill holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago.
- Gill holds an MA from Delhi School of Economics and a BA (Hons) in Economics from St Stephen's College, University of Delhi.

About World Bank

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund were established together in 1944 during the Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, USA.
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is also called the World Bank.
- At present, 189 countries are members of the World Bank.
- Its headquarter is in Washington DC, the capital of America.
- The World Bank Group is a group of the following five international organisations that provide economic-financial assistance and financial advice to member countries-
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- International Finance Corporation
- international development association
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- President- David Malpass
- CEO- Anshula Kant

8. India And Namibia Sign MoU For Wildlife Conservation (July 20, 2022)

India and Namibia on 20 July signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Biodiversity Use to place the Cheetah in the Historic Category in India.

Thrust areas of the MoU

- Biodiversity conservation with a special focus on the conservation and restoration of cheetahs in areas where they became extinct.
- Exchange of expertise and capabilities with the aim of promoting cheetah conservation between the two countries.
- Wildlife conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by sharing good practices
- Technological applications, mechanisms of livelihood generation for local communities living in wildlife habitats and sustainable management of biodiversity.
- Cooperation in climate change, environmental governance, environmental impact assessment, pollution and waste management and other areas of mutual interest.
- Training and exchange of trained personnel in wildlife management including sharing of technical expertise, wherever relevant.

About Cheetah

- The cheetah is one of the oldest of the big cat species, whose ancestors can be traced back more than five million years to the Miocene era.
- It is the world's fastest land mammal that lives in Africa and Asia.
- Human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss and hunting and illegal trafficking are the reasons for their extinction in India.

Cheetah reintroduction project in India

- The main goal of the project is to establish viable cheetah metapopulation in India that allows the cheetah to perform its functional role as a top predator.
- The surveys were conducted at 10 locations between 2010 and 2012.
- Under this project, 50 cheetahs will be introduced in various national parks of the country over a period of 5 years.

9. The website of the Ministry of Home Affairs tops the service portals of the Union Ministry (July 15, 2022)

The website of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been ranked first under the Portal of Central Ministries in the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment.

Important facts

- The Digital Police Portal of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Central Mantralaya Services Portal has been ranked second in the assessment.
- This evaluation was done by evaluating service portals with the portal of their parent Ministry/Department.
- The government portals that were assessed were divided into two main categories - State/Union Territory/Central Ministry Portal and State/Union Territory/Central Ministry Service Portal.

Four parameters of assessment

1. Accessibility
2. Content availability
3. Ease of Use and Information Security
4. Privacy for Central Ministry Portals

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

- The National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment was conducted in 2021 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in association with knowledge partners NASSCOM and KPMG.
- It is a periodic assessment aimed at improving the effectiveness of the States/UTs and the Central Government in the delivery of their online services to the citizens.

10. Chhattisgarh gets Centre's nod for World Bank funded school project (July 8, 2022)

The Chhattisgarh government has received in-principle approval from the Centre for a \$300 million (approximately ₹2,100 crore) school education project, funded by the World Bank to the state government.

• What is the proposal?

- A World Bank team will visit Chhattisgarh later this month for the first phase of talks.
- The discussion on this proposal started two months ago, and was then sent to the Centre after the approval of the state finance department.

- The World Bank will lend the Chhattisgarh government \$300 million over a five-year period at interest far below market rates and repay it over a period of 20 years.
- After assessment by the World Bank team, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared, which will be placed before the World Bank Board and the Centre for final approval.
- The DPR will also have a detailed plan of how the money will be spent.
- **What is an in-principle nod?**
- This means that the Centre has no objection to the state borrowing from an external financial institution like the World Bank.
- It is not a final nod, but it paves the way for the state to move forward with subsequent discussions.
- Similarly, the World Bank has also given in-principle approval that it is ready to fund the project.
- **World Bank's association with India's school education**
- The World Bank has been associated with India's school education system since 1994.
- The World Bank signed a \$500 million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS) with India in 2021 to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.
- However, Chhattisgarh is not included in that list.