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NAMASTE Scheme

Context: The article found mention on the PIB Website.

- NAMASTE stands for National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem.
- Its primary objective is to ensure the safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India, while also providing them with sustainable livelihoods.
- The initiative is a joint effort by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The National Safai Karamchhari Financial Development Corporation (NSKFDC) is the implementing agency for NAMASTE.
- The initiative will cover five hundred cities, which will align with the AMRUT cities.
- The implementation period for NAMASTE is from 2022 to 2026.

Interventions in the NAMASTE Component

- **Profiling of SSWs:**
 - NAMASTE aims to profile Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).
 - SSWs' list sourced from relevant Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
 - Detailed profiling conducted through dedicated camps.
- **Occupational Safety Training and PPE Distribution:**
 - Providing SSWs with training in occupational safety.
 - Distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to enhance safety.
- **Safety Devices for SRUs:**
 - Assisting Sanitation Response Units (SRUs) with safety devices.
 - Enhancing safety during hazardous cleaning tasks.
- **Extending Health Insurance Scheme Benefits:**
 - SSWs and families covered under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
 - NAMASTE covering AB-PMJAY premium for previously uncovered manual scavengers and SSW families.
- **Livelihood Assistance:**
 - Promoting mechanization and enterprise development.
 - National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) supporting sanitation-related equipment/vehicle procurement under Swachhata Udyami Yojana (SUYY), fostering "Sanipreneur."
 - Continued capital subsidy for self-employment projects of identified scavengers and their dependents.
 - Skill development training for identified scavengers and their dependents, accompanied by a monthly stipend.
- **Convergence of MoSJE & MoHUA Programs:**
 - Joint responsibility of MoSJE and MoHUA for SSW safety.
 - NAMASTE aims to strengthen convergence between both Ministries.
 - Leveraging existing allocations from SRMS, SBM, DAY-NULM, and NSKFDC for comprehensive safety measures.
- **IEC Campaign:**
 - Collaborative awareness campaigns by ULBs & NSKFDC.
 - Utilizing electronic, print media, and prominent hoardings in local languages, English, and Hindi.
 - Maximal use of social media platforms for extensive outreach.
- **MIS and Website Implementation:**
 - Robust Monitoring and Information System (MIS) implemented.
 - Dedicated website established for effective monitoring of NAMASTE initiatives.

Gun Jumping

Context: Platinum Trust has been fined by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) due to a violation known as "Gun Jumping."

- Gun Jumping in the context of competition and merger control pertains to cases where participants in an M&A deal finalize the transaction without informing the relevant competition authorities, such as the CCI.
- Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) involve combining companies through different types of transactions.
- Many competition regimes, including India's, necessitate pre-merger notification to entities like the CCI.
- During investigations, the CCI expects parties not to proceed with the merger until the standstill period expires.
- Although the term 'Gun Jumping' lacks a specific definition in the Competition Act, it involves parties meeting certain monetary thresholds notifying the CCI about the impending transaction.
- The standstill provision requires parties to adhere to it, obliging them to wait for 210 days from the notification date or until CCI approval, whichever comes first.
- Throughout the standstill period, parties must continue operating their businesses as separate entities.
- "Gun Jumping" refers to instances where parties either neglect to notify the CCI before finalizing the deal or violate standstill obligations.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) possesses the authority to penalize instances of Gun Jumping under Section 43A of the Competition Act 2002.

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- Penalties for Gun Jumping can reach up to 1% of the total turnover or 1% of the assets, depending on which is higher, of the combined entities.
- Gun jumping can manifest in two forms: Procedural Gun Jumping (failure to notify) and Substantive Gun Jumping.

Article 356 of Constitution and Section 124 of IPC

Context: Amid a conflict, the Punjab Governor has asked the Chief Minister for explanations. If unanswered, the Governor might inform the President about a "constitutional mechanism failure" under Article 356.

What is Article 356?

- Article 356 of the Indian Constitution deals with the imposition of "President's Rule" in a state, enabling the removal of an elected government in case of a breakdown in constitutional machinery.
- The determination of whether the constitutional machinery has collapsed can be made by the President based on a report from the Governor or suo motu.
- **Basis:** Article 356 empowers the President to withdraw executive and legislative powers from a state if the government cannot function in accordance with the Constitution.
- **Duration:** President's Rule can be enforced in a state for up to six months at a time, with a maximum duration of three years. Renewed Parliamentary approval is needed every six months.
- **Origin:** Article 356 draws inspiration from Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, differing in that the President, not the Governor, holds this power. This provision allowed the British to exercise ultimate authority when necessary, creating a "controlled democracy."

Safeguards

- The 1994 Supreme Court ruling (S.R. Bommai case) overturned the tradition that Article 356 usage was immune to court review, a doctrine established in the 1977 State of Rajasthan vs Union of India case.
- The Bommai case verdict defined conditions for dismissing State governments and the associated procedures.
- In the S.R. Bommai case, a nine-judge Supreme Court bench clarified Article 356's scope, which permits President's Rule imposition in States, subject to strict conditions.
- These conditions involve verifying the presence of objective situations impeding State governance where the proclamation is made.
- The procedure required approval from both Houses of Parliament before being open to judicial review.

Emergency Provisions

- Constitution's Part XVIII focuses on emergency provisions. These provisions fall into three groups:
 - Articles 352, 353, 354, 358, and 359 address National emergencies.
 - Articles 355, 356, and 357 pertain to President's rule imposition in specific State situations.
 - Article 360 discusses financial emergencies.

Section 124

- IPC Chapter VII, Section 124 deals with assaulting or restraining President or Governor to influence lawful powers.
- This offense involves inducing or compelling President/Governor to exercise or refrain from lawful powers.
- Actions covered include assault, wrongful restraint, or attempts using criminal force to overawe.
- Punishment is up to seven years' imprisonment along with a fine.
- Classification under CrPC: Non-bailable and cognizable offense.
- Triable by Court of Session, bail not automatic.
- Not listed under Section 320 CrPC for compounding.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Indian Peafowl



Scientific Name: Pavo cristatus

National Bird: The Indian Peafowl is the national bird of India.

Flourishing Population: The Indian Peafowl population is rapidly increasing.

Expansion of Range: It is expanding into new habitats where it was not previously found.

Habitat: Found in a variety of habitats including forests, grasslands and cultivated areas.

High Himalaya and Western Ghats: The species has expanded its range into high Himalayan regions and rainforests of the Western Ghats.

Population Density: The peafowl's population density is increasing in areas where it was previously found.

Kerala Example: It now occurs in every district in Kerala, including areas where it was once extremely rare.

Range Expansion: Its expansion into new habitats signifies its adaptability and resilience.

Conservation Success: The thriving population of the Indian Peafowl showcases certain conservation successes.

Role in Ecosystem: Plays a role in controlling insect populations and as an indicator of healthy ecosystems.

IUCN status: "Least Concern."

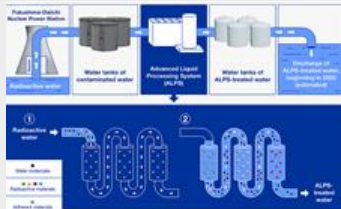
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Advanced Liquid Processing System



What is Advanced Liquid Processing System?

Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) is a sophisticated water treatment system used in the context of Fukushima's nuclear disaster cleanup.

Purpose: Treats radioactive-contaminated water post Fukushima disaster.

Functionality:

Separation: Removes cesium, strontium, cobalt, and other radioactive elements.

Multi-Stage: Various steps for targeted removal.

Components: Ion exchange, coagulation-filtration, adsorption, membrane filtration.

Result: Reduces radioactive levels significantly, excluding tritium.

Role in Fukushima Cleanup:

- ALPS plays a crucial role in treating contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.
- Helps in reducing environmental and health risks associated with the release of radioactive water.

Environmental Concerns: Tritium presence prompts debates on marine and ecosystem impact.

IAEA Evaluation: International Atomic Energy Agency assesses ALPS effectiveness and safety.

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund



GBFF ratified at 7th GEF Assembly to support Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) goals.

What is Global Biodiversity Framework Fund?

The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) is a financial mechanism designed to gather contributions from governments, non-profits, and the private sector.

Purpose: Aims to mobilize funds to achieve biodiversity conservation targets by 2030.

Contributors: Open to governments, non-profits, private sector for contributions.

Donors and Contributions:

- Canada and UK already donated: 200 million Canadian dollars, 10 million pounds.
- Additional funding needed to operationalize the fund.

Focus Areas:

- Supports actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.
- Aims to restore nature's balance by 2050.
- Prioritizes Indigenous-led initiatives (20% funds).
- Supports Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries.

Target 19 of GBF: Seeks to raise at least \$200 billion annually by 2030.

Implementation Timeline:

- **GEF Council Decision:** Initial contributions to reach \$200 million from 3 donors by December 2023.
- GBFF Council's first meeting in January 2024.
- Approval of work program planned in June 2024.

My Stamp



Recently, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, released a postage stamp on 15th August, 2023 in memory of Dadi Prakashmani.

What is 'My Stamp'?

The "My Stamp" initiative is a unique program by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications.

Concept: Department of Posts initiative allowing personalized postage stamps.

Customization: Individuals can choose images, themes for stamps.

Usage: Usable for regular postal needs or as commemorative stamps.

Importance: Adds personal touch, enhances engagement with postal services.

Examples: Marks birthdays, events, personalities, historical landmarks.

Promotion: Encourages creativity, cultural expression, citizen participation.

About Dadi Prakashmani:

- Dadi Prakashmani was the former chief of Brahma Kumaris, a renowned spiritual organization.
- She played a pivotal role in spreading Indian values and culture both in India and abroad through spirituality.
- Under her leadership, Brahma Kumaris evolved into the world's largest women-led spiritual organization.

Tele-Law 2.0



What is Tele-Law 2.0?

Tele-Law 2.0 refers to an evolved version of the Tele-Law program initiated by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.

Initiative Launch:

- Tele-Law 2.0 unveiled by Law Minister as part of the DISHA Scheme.
- A new era in digitally delivered citizen-centric legal services.

Integration and Merger:

- Tele-Law Services merged with Nyaya Bandhu pro bono legal services.
- Aims to enhance citizen access to legal aid.

Role of Technology:

- Emphasis on aligning justice delivery with technological advancements.
- Digital literacy and empowerment of the populace.

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	Pro Bono Services: ➤ Call for legal professionals to contribute pro bono services. ➤ Ensuring essential legal assistance for all citizens. Future Expansion: ➤ Tele-Law services to extend to all 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats through common service centres. ➤ Goal: Touch lives of one crore beneficiaries by 2026. Significance: ➤ Bridge gap between technology and citizens in legal services. ➤ Achieve access to justice at the grassroots level.
Place in News Athens	Recently, the Prime Minister of India (Narendra Modi) recently visited Athens at the invitation of Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Location: Capital of Greece, situated in the southern part of the Greek mainland. Political Boundaries: ➤ Greece is located in southeastern Europe. ➤ Shares borders with Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey. Physical Features: Aegean Sea: Lies to the east of Athens, part of the Mediterranean Sea. Piraeus: Major port city near Athens on the Saronic Gulf. Hymettus Mountain: To the east of Athens. Acropolis Hill: Dominant elevated area in the city with historical landmarks. Saronic Gulf Islands: A group of islands in the gulf, near Athens. Landmarks: Acropolis: Ancient citadel with the Parthenon temple. 

POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ **Why did Chandrayaan-3 choose to land close to the South Pole?** -To explore permanently shadowed regions
- ❖ **Who received 'The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour' from the Greek government?** -Narendra Modi
- ❖ **What is Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS)** - a water recycling technology for fish farming
- ❖ **Which irregular galaxy did the Hubble Space Telescope recently capture an image of?** -ESO 300-16
- ❖ **Which landmark connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and avoids Cape Horn?** -Panama Canal

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