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* C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; T – Thiruvananthapuram
Rethinking KUSUM

If designed better and implemented effectively, the scheme could radically transform the irrigation economy

KUSUM

* Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan
* Continuous energy supply

Sustainable Irrigation Access

* Proposed objectives

  1) Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of capacity upto 2MW in the rural areas
  2) Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers not connected to the grid

III) Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply & also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM & get extra income

IV) Solarization of tube-wells and lift irrigation projects of Government Sector

* Notification by Ministry of New Renewable Energy

  → New scheme for farmers for installation of Solar pumps and grid connected solar power plants

  → 3 Components:

  a) Component - A: 1.000 MW of Decentralized Ground mounted Grid connected Renewable power plants
b) Component-B: Installation of 17.50 lakh Standalone Solar powered Agriculture pumps

c) Component-C: Solarization of 10 lakh grid-connected Agriculture pumps

→ Solar Capacity Addition → 25750 Mw by 2022

Editorial

• 3 crore farmers still use diesel for irrigation needs despite power subsidies
• Majority are marginal farmers
• Half of India’s net sown area is unirrigated
• KUSUM scheme could radically transform the irrigation economy is govt. chooses two approaches
  • Equity by Design
  • Prudence over Populism

1. Equity by Design
   • All farmers enjoy equitable benefits
   • 3 Suggestions
     1. Reduce disparities existing among the States
        • Chhattisgarh & Rajasthan - 50% of 2 lakh Solar pumps
        • Bihar, U.P & W.B. - Diesel pump usage
        • Poor Budget allocations by the State govt.
        • Equitable Installation of Solar powered agriculture pumps (Component-B)
        • Central govt. should incentivize States through target-linked financial assistance

2. Reduce disparities within the States
   • Bihar ⇒ 90% small & - receive only 50% marginal farmers of govt subsidies
   • Chhattisgarh ⇒ 95% of beneficiaries from socially disadvantaged groups
   • Financial Assistance to socially disadvantaged groups

3. Reduce disparities between different Categories of farmers
   • Component - C → Cost Share
     30% - Centre
     30% - State
     40% - Farmers → Inequality if same Share exists for all Categories of farmers

2. Prudence over Populism
   • Component-C
   • Grid Connected Vs Non-Grid Connected
     Power Subsidies → Diesel ⇒ Needs financial support
     Regular Income for Supplying surplus power
   • Centre - 30% Subsidy
     States - 30% share → DISCOMS
Other Suggestions

- Replace the existing pumps to generate efficient energy
- Surplus Energy → Use for post-harvesting processes instead of feeding to the grid

Authors

- Better design → Change in the
  Effective Implementation → Irrigation Economy

- Will provide affordable, reliable, and equitable access to energy and water

Monitor biomedical waste management: NGT

- Also States to set up common treatment and disposal facilities, if not done yet

NGT - All States and UTs to provide a report on biomedical waste generated + set up common treatment and disposal facilities if not done yet

NGT Chairperson → District Magistrates to monitor State compliance with Biomedical waste management rules, 2016

- twice a month

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper 1—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance,
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
**Biomedical Waste**

- Human and animal anatomical waste,
- Treatment apparatus like needles and,
- Syringes used in healthcare facilities (HCFs)
- 2015, CPCB (pollution control) report
  - India generates 500 tonnes of biomedical waste/day
- ASSOCHAM report: rate of biomedical waste generation to grow at 7.4% annually - to reach 775 tonnes/day by 2022

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**Important provisions in Biomedical Waste Management Rules 2016**

1. Covers all stakeholders - those who generate, store, transport biomedical waste → ↑ responsibility
2. Wider ambit - covering vaccination and blood donation camps
3. Training to healthcare workers
4. Establishing common treatment & disposal facilities
'Auto sector to face a volatile year'

Industry will witness many landmark disruptions, says MRF

K.M. Mani, chairman and managing director of MRF Ltd, in a message to shareholders, said the industry would have to align its production to face this requirement. MRF Ltd is a leading manufacturer of tyres.

"The Indian automotive industry is at an inflection point where both opportunities and challenges abound in equal measure. The coming year will witness several landmark disruptions and changes in the automotive industry which will shape the direction of future events in the industry," he said.

Inventory build-up

"Assuming that the short-term hiccups would be factored in by automobile firms and tire manufacturers, he said that the uncertainty over the next six months would be further compounded by low consumer sentiments, resulting in inventory build-up and all resulting equipment manufacturers shifting production in line with demand," he added.

While anticipating an increase in scooter prices due to BS-IV norms, volatile fuel prices and rising insurance costs, the company said there could be some uncertainties around how the market would evolve after BS-VI norms are introduced.

Compliance with BS-VI norms will require higher investment by automakers in technology to upgrade vehicles due to higher fuel efficiency and in setting up new plants. This will also mean significantly reduced launches till the new norms come into force, effective April 1, 2020, MRF said.

While describing the electric vehicle segment as a nascent industry, Mr. Mani cautioned the incentives offered as they would have a long-term impact.

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**Automotive Sector**

- **Challenging year**
  - Various regulatory changes
  - India will switch over to BS VI norms by April 2020
  - Volatile for the next 6 months

- **BS-VI norms**
  - Bhavat Stage VI
  - Vehicle Emission Standards
  - W.e.f April 2020
  - Pollutants
    - Hydrocarbons
    - Carbon Monoxide
    - Nitrous Oxides
    - Particulate Matter

- Entire vehicle design requires a change
  - Challenging for automotive and allied industries

- **Indian Automotive industry is at an inflection point**

- Possible impacts due to switch over to BS VI standards
  - Low Consumer Sentiments
  - Inventory Buildup
  - Original equipment manufacturers have to align production in line with demand

- Automotive manufacturers have to invest huge money

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Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
→ Increase in overall prices of vehicles
→ Increase in the fuel prices
→ Increase in the insurance costs
→ Vehicle launches by the automotive companies are likely to reduce
→ Electric vehicle segment will give tough competition to fossil fuel based vehicles

Relief for airlines as Pakistan opens its airspace after 6 months

In a massive relief for air travellers and airlines, Pakistan reopened its airspace for all flights except on Tuesday after a gap of six months since the IAF launched strikes in Pakistan. Hours after the announcement, Air India and IndiGo announced that flights from New York to Delhi became the first Indian aircraft to fly over the neighboring country and reach the destination 90 minutes early. The curb meant airlines had to take a longer route to their destinations and burn more fuel, stop midway for refueling and route more pilots and cabin crew as their duty hours are regulated.

An increase in fuel expenses, which constitute a significant portion of costs, resulted in an increase in fares and, in some cases, cancellation of flights. Pakistan has cancelled the NOTAM notice to amend its airspace with effect from 0001 IST; the con sequential NOTAM by India also cancelled. Airlines likely to resume normal routes through Pakistani airspace,” an official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation said. The move will benefit Indian carriers as well as the Pakistani airlines as the former can fly direct from its eastern borders with India, such as IndiGo and Jet Airways, while the latter can direct flights to and from most other airlines.

- Pakistan cancelled the NOTAM for its airspace and reopened its airspace for all flights
- NOTAM - notice to airmen issued by national authorities to aircraft pilots about changes in aeronautical services, potential hazards etc.
- Pakistan airspace - closed completely after Feb 2019 Balakot air strike by IAF

Flights using Pak airspace - especially flights to and from India; USA and Europe bound flights, flights from Southeast Asia suffered severely
IATA - before the ban at least 220 flights used Pakistani airspace every night between Asia & Europe

IATA - International Air Transport Agency
- not a UN agency
- represents 290 airlines, operating over 100 countries & 80% of total air traffic

Airspace
* Space above a nation's territory till outer space
* Govt. of the territory has sovereign control
* Sovereign state can control the aircrafts operating here using its aviation laws
**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Biomedical waste management rules 2016.
1. It covers the blood donation camps and vaccination camps apart from hospitals and clinics.
2. It provides for using bar-code system to tag containers carrying waste.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Practice Question – Prelims**

Q2. Consider the following statements.
1. Airspace of a country include the space above its territory and also the outer space.
2. A country has sovereign power over its airspace and can regulate the flights and persons in its airspace using its laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Mains
GS - III
Q1. “Affordable, reliable and equitable access to energy and water is the need of the hour to address the agrarian crisis”. Examine the challenges and measures to tackle agrarian crisis in the light of above statement.

Practice Question – Mains
GS - II
Q2. “Healthcare in India is one of the largest sector in terms of revenue and employment. Formation of large number of health care facilities is associated with the generation of huge amount of biomedical waste”. Discuss the initiatives by the government for proper disposal and the threats associated if the waste is not properly treated.

Practice Questions – Prelims
Answers
1. Option c – Both 1 and 2
2. Option b – 2 only