Prelim Bits 12-01-2024 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Swachh Survekshan Awards

Recently Union government announced the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023.

- An ***annual*** cleanliness ranking for ***urban areas since 2016***.
- **Released by** – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Coverage** – Originally 73 cities in 2016, now has increased along with *4,416 urban local bodies*, *61 cantonments* and *88 Ganga towns*.
- About *1.58 crore online citizen feedback* and *19.82 lakh face-to-face views* were received as a part of the ranking.
- **Criteria**
  - Door-to-door collection of waste
  - Segregation at source
  - cleanliness of public areas
  - Clean water bodies
  - Citizens' feedback regarding the cleanliness of their cities

2023 Awards

- **Among Cities with >1 lakh population** – ***Indore and Surat*** were named the joint winners with 100% door-to-door collection of waste & remediation of dumpsites and 98% segregation at source.

  *2023 was the **7th year in a row that Indore** was named the cleanest city in the Swachh Survekshan Awards. Surat won the top award for the 1st time. Of the 8 rounds of annual awards since 2016, this was the **1st time that 2 cities shared the top prize**.*

- **Among States** – ***Maharashtra*** bagged the top spot with 89.24% door-to-door collection and 67.76% source segregation followed by Madhya Pradesh.
- *Sasvad in Maharashtra* was named the cleanest city among those with population below 1 lakh.
- *Chandigarh* won the award for the city having the *best safety standards for sanitation workers*, Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar.
- Varanasi was named the *cleanest 'Ganga town'*.
- *Mhow Cantonment* was the cleanest cantonment in the country.
- Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Nagaland and Tripura were ranked the *bottom five states*.

Scientific processing of waste had increased from 15-16% in 2014 to almost 76% by Jan 2024.

References

The Indian Express| Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023

Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti

PM presents sacred Chadar to be placed during the Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti at Ajmer Sharif Dargah

- Khwaja Chishti is also known by different names as, ***Khawaja Gharib Nawaz, 'Sultan-Ul-Hind'*** (Benefactor of the Poor).
- **Birth** – Sijistan (modern-day Sistan) in Iran in 1141-42 CE.
- **Visit to India** – He started living and *preaching in Ajmer after 2nd Battle of Tarain (1192),* where Mohammed of Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan.
- **His Mission** – To establish the kingdom of God on Earth.
- **Popularity** – He was popular among the locals, kings, nobles, and peasants for his instructive discourses full of spiritual insights.
- He established the ***Chishti order of 'fakirs'*** in India.
- **Doctrines** – It emphasised the ***unity of being with God*** (waḥdat al-wujūd) and members of the order were also pacifists.
- They *rejected all material goods* as distractions from the contemplation of God.
- They *abstained from connection* with the secular state.
- Recitation of the names of God, both aloud and silently (dhikr jahrī, dhikr khafī), formed the cornerstone of Chishtī practice.

***Urs festival** is an annual festival held at Ajmer in Rajasthan to commemorate his death anniversary.*

Other Sufi Orders in India
• **Suhrawardi Order** – It was founded by Sheikh Shahabuddin Suharwardi Maqtul and unlike the Chishtis, accepted maintenance grants from the Sultans. • **Naqshbandi Order** – It was founded by the Khwaja Baha-ul-din Naqsh band, stressed on the observance of the Shariat. • **Qadiriyya Order** – Sheikh Abdul Qadir of Badaun founded this in the 14th century who were supporters of the Mughals under Akbar.

References

1. PIB| Death Anniversary of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
2. Isalmigems| Life of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti

Cervical Cancer Vaccine

Indian government is set to roll out a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for girls in the 9-14 years age group.

> ***Cervavac** is an indigenously developed quadrivalent vaccine by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune, is already available commercially.*

- **Immunisation drive** – It will be conducted *through schools* and existing vaccination points, *planned in 3 phases over 3 years* and is likely to start from the 2nd quarter of 2024 for free.
- Currently, the *2-dose HPV vaccine* is available commercially for about Rs 2,000 per dose.

> *None of the HPV vaccines available globally recommend a single-dose schedule*

- **Target** – *Nearly 8 crore children* between the *ages of 9 and 14 years* will be eligible and when divided over 3 years.
- **Benefits** – It offers protection against the HPV strains that cause cancer of the anus, vagina and oropharynx and genital warts.

Cervical Cancer

- It is the *4th most common cancer in women* which develops in a woman's cervix (the *entrance to the uterus* from the vagina).
- **Cause** – Almost all (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk ***human papillomaviruses (HPV)***, an extremely common virus transmitted ***through sexual contact***.

> *At least 14 HPV types have been identified as oncogenic and among these, HPV types 16 and 18 considered to be the most oncogenic.*

- **Treatment** – When diagnosed, it is a *treatable form of cancer*, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.
- **Prevention** – Effective *primary (HPV vaccination) and secondary* prevention approaches will prevent most cases.
- With a comprehensive approach to prevent, screen and treat, it can be eliminated as a public health problem within a generation.

References

1. The Indian Express| Vaccination drive for Cervical Cancer
2. WHO| Cervical Cancer

Classical Language

Recently, West Bengal Chief Minister has called for inclusion of 'Bangla' as a classical language.

- Currently***, 6 languages*** enjoy the 'Classical language status
  - Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).
- **Guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are**
- *High antiquity* of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- A *body of ancient literature/texts,* which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers
- The *literary tradition be original* and not borrowed from another speech community.
- The classical language and literature being *distinct from modern*, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
- **Benefits of Recognition** – 2 major *annual international awards* for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages
- A *Centre of Excellence for studies* in Classical Languages is set up
- The UGC is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of *Professional Chairs* for the Classical Languages so declared.

Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) is in Mysuru and Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) is in Chennai.

Bengali Language
• **Origin** – It can be traced back to the *3rd-4th BCE*. • **Official Language** – In West Bengal • **Popularity** – It is the *2nd most spoken language in India* and the *7th most spoken language in the world*.

References

1. The Indian Express| Request to include 'Bangla' as Classical Language
2. The Indian Express| Classical Language Status

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