UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelimbits 22-07-2025

National Conference on "Good Governance Practices"

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance.*

Why in the news?

Recently, the two-day national Conference on "Good Governance Practices" was Inaugurated in Bhubaneswar.

- **Aim** - To foster a spirit of collaborative learning and institutional innovation by bringing together public administration leaders from the national and state levels on a unified platform.
- **Objective** - It seeks to highlight exemplary governance initiatives recognized with the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration.
- **Theme** - "**Good Governance Practices**".
- **Organized by** - the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with the Government of Odisha.
- **Recognition** – The conference seeks to highlight with PM's awards for Excellence in Public Administration.
- **Representation** - 400 delegates from across the country, comprising senior officials from the Central and State Governments
    - More than 20 distinguished speakers, including District Magistrates and Secretaries.
- **Key highlights -** The conference highlighted that out of 41 Conferences held since Independence, an impressive 29 have been organized in the last 15 years.
- It also noted that 4 critical dimensions of the Modi-led reforms include
    - Reforms as revolutionary, breaking away from outdated practices
    - Far-reaching socio-economic impact.
    - Instilling a new sense of self-esteem, confidence, and trust in the system.
    - several initiatives—such as the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) and the Digital Life Certificate—have evolved into global models of innovative governance.
- Outdated and old laws have been repealed, emphasising a departure from the 'status quo' approach of the past, promoting greater efficiency in governance.
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has now surpassed global payment systems like VISA in terms of usage.
- Odisha affirmed the State's commitment to people-centric, technology-driven, and future-ready governance.
- Secretary of DARPG, emphasized that the conference has been in alignment with the

theme of **Civil Services Day 2025** i.e. “Holistic Development of India through Holistic Development of Districts and Blocks”.

- **Significance** – It is showcasing scalable and replicable models in public service delivery, digital governance, citizen engagement, and inclusive development.

Reference

PIB | Conference on “Good Governance Practices”

Capacity Utilization of Renewable Energy

***Prelims**: Current events of national and international importance.*

Why in News?

India’s renewable energy capacity utilization stands at 30%, despite its contributing to a 50% share in India’s total energy capacity.

A. Installed Electricity Capacity by Source as on 30.06.2025 (RE + Large Hydro Combined)

Sector	Capacity (in GW)	Percentage
Thermal	242.04 GW	(49.92%)
Nuclear	8.78 GW	(1.81%)
RE (including Large Hydro)	234.00 GW	(48.27%)
Total	**484.82 GW**	**(100%)**

- **Status of installed energy capacity** – India’s renewable energy share is 50% of its total electric power capacity i.e. 484 gigawatts.
- **Notable achievement** - It is emphasizing that India is five years ahead of the target set under its Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] to the Paris Agreement.

Year	Share of Renewable energy in India’s installed electricity capacity
2014-15	30%
2024-25	50%

The quantum of clean energy (non-fossil) produced annually has risen quite significantly from 190 billion units in 2014-15 to 460 billion units in 2024-25.

- **Importance** -This underscores the country's steadfast commitment to climate action and sustainable development, and signals India's clean energy transition.
- **Issue addressed** – Despite the share of clean/renewable energy is 50%, its share of actual electricity supplied is below 30%.
- **Causes** - Lower capacity utilization factor - CUF values for clean energy have been lower than that of coal or nuclear sources.

Capacity utilization factor (CUF) is a measure of how much available energy was usable.

- Solar has CUF of approximately 20% and wind around 25-30%, compared to coal's 60% or nuclear is 80%.
- This means despite high installed capacity, their contribution to actual generation remains limited.
- **Major electricity contributor** – Coal is the largest contributor to India's Base load demand, or power that is available through the day.
- It shares about **75%** of India's energy mix.
- **Measures** -**Grid flexibility** i.e. grid needs to adapt quickly to changes in solar power supply, which can fluctuate based on weather and time of day.
- **Improved battery storage** - Advanced batteries are required to store excess solar energy generated during the day for use at night or during cloudy periods.
- **Differential tariffs** - Charging lower rates for electricity during solar-rich daytime hours encourages consumers to use more power when solar supply is highest, matching demand with supply.
- **Develop 'hybrid' power projects** - That combine solar, wind, hydro and storage elements to meet India's growing peak and round-the-clock power.
- These hybrids can store surplus energy and release it during peak demand hours, particularly in the evening.
- **Challenges** - Land-aggregation issues
- Lack of coordinated transmission planning
- High cost of storage components.

Reference

The Hindu| Capacity Utilization of Renewable Energy

PIB | India's Renewable Rise

Accountability For Safety UN peacekeepers

Prelims: *current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

In a recent high-level meeting of the Group of Friends (GoF) at the UN Headquarters,

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, underscored the significant challenges that UN peacekeepers encounter in their work.

- **Established in** - Officially established in December 2022 during India's presidency of the UN Security Council, building on the historic Security Council Resolution 2589 (2021).
- **Co-chaired by** - India along with other key nations.
- **Dedicated to** - The group's mission is focused on advancing legal frameworks, promoting investigations, and supporting initiatives to ensure accountability for crimes committed against UN peacekeepers.
- **Primary goal** – To *deter future assaults and secure justice for peacekeepers and their families.*
- **India's expression** - India has reiterated its strong dedication to ensuring accountability for crimes against United Nations peacekeepers, describing this as a "***strategic necessity***" essential for global peacekeeping missions.
- **Need** - UN peacekeepers operate in increasingly perilous environments and face significant challenges, with many crimes remaining unpunished.
- This absence of accountability greatly undermines international peace initiatives by instilling greater confidence in perpetrators.
- **Critical imperative** - The emphasis is that accountability is more than just a matter of justice for individuals.
- It is fundamental for the effectiveness, credibility, and future of UN Peace Operations around the world.
- In a strong display of global unity, aim to discuss better strategies, operational frameworks, and increased international cooperation to ensure safety of peace keepers.
- **Emphasis** - Peacekeepers are facing rising threats in highly unstable conflict areas, with hostile attacks and fatalities increasing.
- **Indian contributions** - India stands as the largest troop-contributing country to the United Nations, having deployed over 300,000 peacekeepers throughout its history.
- **The Permanent Mission of India to the UN** – It has noted that "Indian peacekeepers have served with valor and honor in nearly every major UN mission, making significant sacrifices, with 182 Indian peacekeepers having given their lives in service.
- **Significance** - Understanding these complex relationships is vital, necessitating a comprehensive approach along with a steadfast political commitment from all involved parties.

Reference

The Hindu| Accountability For Safety UN peacekeepers

Rare Diseases in India

Prelims - *Current events of National & International importance and General Science.*

Why in News?

Indian Organization for Rare Diseases (IORD) reported that out of 300 million people with rare diseases in the world, about 90 million are in India.

- **Definition –** According to WHO, Rare disease is a lifelong disease with a prevalence of 10 or fewer per 10,000 population.
- According to Organization of Rare Diseases India (ORDI) defined rare disease is defined as a disease that affects 1 in 5,000 people.
- **Rare disease in children -** 80% of these conditions are genetic in origin and predominantly affect children, about 30% of the children don't live to see their 5th birthday.
- Fewer than 5% of rare diseases have treatments approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- More than 95% of these conditions don't have a therapy or it may be impossibly expensive.
- **Reason for rare disease in India -** Real number is likely to be higher since our social practices include endogamy, the practice of marrying within a community.
- Genetic condition in that community, endogamous marriages will tend to preserve that condition instead of letting it die out.
- **Consequences –** Expensive treatment, non-suitable insurance policies,
- Compensatory treatment by companies (not a feasible way of obtaining treatment), forced to get crowd funding.
- **Creating awareness - Premarital counselling -** Scientists and health advocates have collaborated with communities to discourage marriages between carriers of the same genetic mutation.
- This helps reduce the risk of passing on hereditary conditions to children.
- **Awareness among doctors** - Doctors may never have encountered them and are often unaware of these diseases.
- **Inform registry –** often medical problem is not reported, which would be essential to help draft suitable policies to support patients.
- Needed to help patients connect with each other, and so that industry identifies market opportunities to develop suitable therapies.
- **GenTICS -** Developed by Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, Bengaluru, a gene database on rare genetic disorders".
- This is a valuable resource, since a user can choose from a list of symptoms to predict the possible rare disease.
- The patient's family can then take the information to their doctor and seek support from a patient group.
- **Molecular Diagnostics Counselling Care and Research Centre (MDCRC) in Coimbatore** – Working on Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a disorder that affects only male children, with females being the carriers.
- MDCRC has done large-scale genetic screening across several districts of Tamil Nadu intending to detect the relevant mutations early and eventually eradicating DMD from the State.
- Similar efforts are required for many disorders around the country.

Reference

[The Hindu| Rare diseases have a lot to gain from greater awareness]