

AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME (ABSS)

The Udupi station under the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) network was recently included in the Railway Ministry's Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) for redevelopment.



About the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS):

- It is an ongoing **Indian Railways mission** launched in February 2023 by the **Ministry of Railways** to **redevelop 1,309 stations nationwide**.
- The scheme aims to **transform railway stations into modern, well-equipped hubs** with improved passenger amenities, better traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and enhanced signage.
- It is **based on Master Planning for the long term and the implementation** of the elements of the Master Plan **as per the needs** and patronage of the station.
- The scheme shall **cater for the introduction of new amenities as well as the upgradation** and replacement of existing amenities.
- The ultimate goal is to transform these stations into vibrant city centres over the long term.

Key Features:

- **Modern passenger amenities:** This includes providing clean and hygienic **waiting areas, restrooms, Special amenities for the disabled**, and food and beverage outlets.
- **Improved traffic circulation:** This includes creating **separate entry and exit points** for passengers and vehicles, **widening roads** and footpaths, and providing adequate **parking facilities**.
- **Inter-modal integration:** This includes providing **seamless connectivity** between railway stations and other modes of transport, such as buses, taxis, and auto-rickshaws.

- **Upgraded signage:** This includes providing **clear and visible signage in multiple languages** to guide passengers.
 - **Sustainability:** This includes using energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
 - **Eco-friendliness:**
 - **Rainwater harvesting** systems and **green spaces**
 - **Ballastless tracks**, which reduce noise and vibration
 - **Roof plazas**, where available, provide additional space for commercial activities and passenger amenities.
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NATIONAL SPORTS AND ADVENTURE AWARDS 2023

Recently, the President of India presented the National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan.



About the National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023:

- National Sports Awards are given **every year** to recognize and reward **excellence in sports**.
- **Categories of National Sports Award**
 - **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:** It is considered India's highest sporting honour; the Khel Ratna was established in 1991-92. The award is named after the Indian hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand.
 - The award is given for outstanding performances in sports **spanning over a period of four years** and the Khel Ratna winners receive a medallion, certificate and a cash prize.
 - **Arjuna Award:** It is awarded for consistently **good performance** over a **period of four years**. The winners of the Arjuna Award receive a statuette of Arjuna, a certificate and a cash prize.
 - **Dronacharya Award:** It was instituted in 1985, and is India's highest **sports honour for coaches**. It is awarded to individuals for producing medal winners at

prestigious international events. Awardees receive a bronze statue of Dronacharya, a certificate and a cash prize.

- **Major Dhyan Chand Award:** This award represents India's highest honour for **lifetime achievements in sports**. Presented for good performance and contributing towards the promotion of sports in an individual capacity since 2002, the winners get a Dhyan Chand statuette, a certificate and a cash prize.
- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy (MAKA):** It was instituted in 1956–1957. It is given to **an institution or university** for top performance in inter-university tournaments over the **last year**.
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar:** Awarded to **organisations or corporates** (both private and public) and individuals for playing a role in the area of sports promotion and development over the **last three years**.

MUMBAI TRANS HARBOUR LINK (MTHL): INDIA'S LONGEST SEA BRIDGE OPENS TODAY

Why in News?

- The PM of India will inaugurate the country's longest bridge over the sea - the 22 km Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), officially the **Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link**.
- The bridge that was first conceptualised six decades ago will cut the travel time between Sewri (Mumbai) and Chirle (Raigad) to under 20 minutes.

About the MTHL:

- It is a **22-km-long twin-carriageway six-lane bridge** over **Thane Creek in the Arabian Sea**, connecting Sewri in the island city of Mumbai to Chirle in Raigad district on the mainland.
- **The MTHL includes** a 16.5 km sea link and viaducts on land at either end with a cumulative length of 5.5 km.

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

- While the project’s contractors sourced engineers and experts from across the globe, most of the **labourers hired were from states** such as Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra.
 - On average, **5,403 individuals worked daily** on the four packages of the project.
- **The objective of the project is to improve connectivity** in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region which comprises the districts of Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad, and promote the region’s **economic development**.

How will MTHL Help?



- The MTHL will bring down the **average travel time** between Sewri and Chirle from 61 minutes currently to less than 16 minutes and will **decongest the existing route** over the Vashi bridge.

to **facilitate greater economic integration** of Navi Mumbai with Mumbai, with benefits extending to **Panvel, Alibaug, Pune, and Goa**.

- **It will significantly improve connectivity** between South Mumbai and the under-construction Navi Mumbai International Airport, the Mumbai Pune Expressway, the Mumbai-Goa Highway, and the main hinterland in general.
 - **It will also provide improved access to Jawaharlal Nehru Port.**

ZERO DEFECT ZERO EFFECT (ZED) SCHEME



Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) scheme by the MSME Ministry has achieved the 1 lakh certification milestone, the ministry said recently.

About the Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED):

- Launched in October 2016 and revamped in April 2022, the ZED scheme **offers certification for environmentally conscious manufacturing under three certification levels** (gold, silver, and bronze) classified **according to 20 performance-based parameters** such as quality management, timely delivery, process control, waste management, etc.
- The major **objectives of the ZED Scheme** are:
 - To **create proper awareness in MSMEs** about ZED manufacturing and motivate them to assess their enterprise for a ZED rating.
 - To drive manufacturing with **the adoption of Zero-Defect production processes** without impacting the environment (Zero Effect).
 - To **encourage MSMEs to constantly upgrade their quality standards** in products and processes.
 - To **support the “Make in India” campaign**.
- Currently, the scheme is **applicable for manufacturing MSMEs only**.
- MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification can be attained in three levels after registering and taking the ZED Pledge:
 - Certification Level 1: **BRONZE**
 - Certification Level 2: **SILVER**
 - Certification Level 3: **GOLD**

WHAT IS ARTICLE 30 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION?

The Supreme Court recently attempted to strike a balance by remarking that the intent of Article 30 of the Constitution was not to ghettoise minorities by insisting they had the upper hand in the administration of the institution.



Article 30:

- It is one of the many provisions that ensure **the preservation of minority rights**.

- Article 30 of the Indian Constitution states the **right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.**
- It says: “**All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.**”

Features:

- It consists of provisions that safeguard various rights of the minority community in the country, keeping in mind the principle of equality as well.
- **Article 30 (1) says that all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.**
- The right is provided by this clause **for two types of minorities, namely, religious and linguistic minorities.**
- **Article 30 (1A) deals with the fixation of the amount for the acquisition of property of any educational institution established by minority groups.**
- **Article 30 (2) states that the government should not discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language while giving aid.**

Concept of Minorities:

- The **Constitution of India** uses the word minority but **does not define it.**
- **Article 29** of the Indian Constitution **uses the word ‘minorities’** in its marginal heading, **but it speaks about "any section of the citizens** inhabiting the territory of India or any part of the country should **have the right to protect their language or script or culture**, which is different and varied.
- It also says that **citizens should be allowed to be admitted to any educational institution** which is **maintained by the State** or get help from State funds **whether they vary in religion, race, caste, language, or any of them.**
- **Article 30** talks only about religious and linguistic minorities.

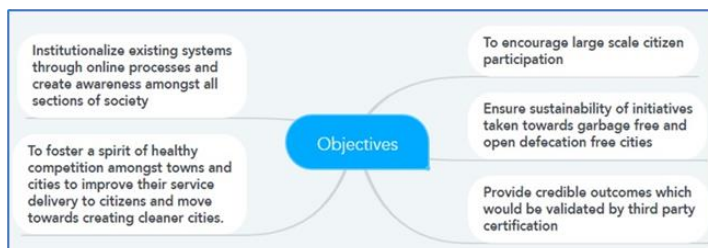
SWACHH SURVEKSHAN AWARDS 2023

Why in news?

- **Surat in Gujarat and Indore in Madhya Pradesh** were jointly declared the cleanest cities of the country at the annual Clean City Awards 2023 of the Union Urban Affairs Ministry.
- This was the seventh year in a row that Indore has been ranked as the cleanest city in India.

Swachh Survekshan:

- It is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India, launched as part of the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** (specifically under SBA-Urban).
- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) with the Quality Council of India (QCI) as its implementation partner.
 - The SBA was launched (on 2nd October 2014) to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2nd October 2019.
 - The SBA was split into two - rural (**SBA-Gramin**, monitored by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**) and urban (**SBA-Urban**, overseen by the **MoHUA**).
 - **SBM-U 2.0** was recently launched on 1st October 2021, focused on ensuring complete access to sanitation facilities for all.
 - The vision of **Garbage Free India** is an initiative under SBM-U 2.0.
- **The first survey was undertaken in 2016** (covering 73 cities), which had grown to



cover 4242 (by the 2020 survey).

- The methodology for measuring cleanliness rests on two main criteria – citizen feedback and field assessment.

Objectives of Swachh Survekshan:

Swachh Survekshan 2023

- The President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The **theme** for the year 2023 was -“Waste to Wealth”.
 - For 2024, the theme is “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle”.

Performance of cities in Swachh Survekshan 2023

- The **Mhow Cantonment Board in Madhya Pradesh** was adjudged the cleanest



cantonment board.

- **Varanasi and Prayagraj**, both in Uttar Pradesh, won the top two awards amongst the cleanest Ganga towns.
- **Chandigarh** walked away with the award for the Best Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher (safest city for sanitation workers).
- Twenty zonal awards were bestowed upon medium and small cities.

[SOUTH AFRICA'S GENOCIDE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL AT THE ICJ](#)

Why in news?

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has been asked to consider whether Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza.
- South Africa brought the case to the court.

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- **About**
 - The ICJ is the principal **judicial organ** of the United Nations (UN).
 - It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.

- The seat of the Court is at the **Peace Palace in The Hague** (Netherlands).
 - It is the only one of the six principal organs of the UN that is not located in New York City.
- **English and French** are the ICJ's official languages.

Role:

- To settle, by international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and
- To give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

News Summary: South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the ICJ

- South Africa has brought a case to the **ICJ accusing Israel of committing genocide** in its military response to the 7 October Hamas attack that killed hundreds of Israeli civilians.
- The South African case includes references to the Israeli use of blanket bombing and the cutting of food, water and medicine supplies to Gaza.
- If ICJ passes an order, it will have legal significance for all States that are parties to the Genocide Convention

Jurisdiction of ICJ in the present case

- The ICJ cannot automatically decide all cases involving breaches of international law.
- It can only decide cases that are brought before it by States that consent to its jurisdiction.
- In the present case, the agreement comes from an article in the **UN's 1948 Genocide Convention**.
- As per this article:
 - Disputes about interpreting, applying, or fulfilling the Convention, including a State's responsibility for genocide, must go to the ICJ if any party involved asks for it.
- Both South Africa and Israel are parties to the Convention.