

GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY: LAST-MILE DELIVERY, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IS KEY TO GROWTH

Context

- December 25 is celebrated as **Good Governance Day in India** which reflects the **significance of governance in various aspects.**
- Also, on this day it is important to recollect the **contributions made by influential leaders like Sardar Patel in shaping the country's higher civil service and his emphasis on treating common people as one's own.**

Historical Background of Governance in India

- **Sardar Patel shaped the country's higher civil service and laid the foundation for people-centred good governance.**
- **His advice to the Indian Administrative Service officers in 1947 that their predecessors (British Civil Servants) were brought up in the traditions in which they kept themselves aloof from the common run of the people of India.**
- He told the civil servants that **it will be their bounden duty to treat the common men in India as their own.**
- **Good Governance Day** is observed in India annually (since 2014) on the 25th day of December - the birth anniversary of former-PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
 - The day honours PM Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

Challenges and the Way Forward to Fulfil the Last Mile Delivery

- **Reform of Governance Systems**
 - There is still a need for re-evaluation of governance systems, emphasising the need for streamlining and enhancing effectiveness.
 - This involves **critically appraising existing laws, rules, and procedures.**
- **People-Friendly and Transparent Laws**
 - Laws and governance procedures should be more people-friendly and transparent.

- This involves the repeal of archaic laws, simplification of processes, and the enactment of new legislation.
- **Clarity of Goals and Roles**
 - Emphasis should be on clear goals and roles for government functionaries.
 - Every official should be aware of their responsibilities, goals, and the expected time frames for task completion.
- **Continuous Improvement:** There is a need for a commitment to constant improvement such that governance should be a dynamic and evolving process.
- **Agility and Data-Driven Decision-Making**
 - An agile system which can collect credible data, analysing areas for improvement, and making swift decisions based on evidence is the key.
 - This underscores the importance of a data-driven approach to governance.
- **Values of Openness and Reflection**
 - For last mile delivery, a mindset is required that values openness, honesty, reflection, and consultation.
 - This will require a commitment to a transparent and participatory approach to governance.
- **Use of Technology for Last Mile Delivery**
 - The government has demonstrated that technology can be leveraged to reach out effectively to the marginalised and cut transaction costs and petty corruption.
 - The Direct Benefit Transfer is one example of the creative use of technology in improving last-mile delivery.

INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM

Recently, the 8th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) was conducted by Royal Thai Navy at Bangkok, Thailand.



About the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium:

- The ‘Indian Ocean Naval Symposium’ (IONS) is a **voluntary initiative** that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing **an open and inclusive forum** for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.
 - It was **conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008** as a forum which seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
 - The inaugural edition of IONS was held in Feb. 2008 at New Delhi, with the Indian Navy as the **Chair for two years (2008 - 2010)**.
 - It endeavours to generate a flow of information between naval professionals that would lead to common understanding and possibly cooperative solutions on the way ahead.
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NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON ANGANWADI-CUM-CRECHES

Recently, the Union Minister of Women and Child Development inaugurated the National Programme on Anganwadi-cum-Creches in New Delhi.



About the National Programme on Anganwadi-cum-Creches:

- The Anganwadi-Cum-Creche initiative under the **Palna Scheme** underwent revisions and was included as part of the **Samarthya sub-component of Mission Shakti**, starting from April 2022.
- The central aim of Anganwadi-cum- Creches is to meet the demand for **quality childcare facilities** and enable women to actively participate in the workforce.
- The Government of India aims to set up 17,000 creches across the country.

Key points about Palna Scheme:

- The erstwhile **National Creche Scheme** has been reorganised and renamed as **Palna Scheme** under the sub scheme ‘Samarthya’ of ‘Mission Shakti’.
- **Objectives**
 - To provide **day-care facilities** for children (6 months to 6 years) of working mothers in the community.
 - To improve nutrition and health status of children.

- To promote physical, cognitive, social and emotional development (Holistic Development) of children.
- To educate and empower parents /caregivers for better childcare.
- **Services:** The scheme will provide an integrated package of the following services:
 - Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
 - Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and Pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
 - Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced)
 - Growth Monitoring.
 - Health Check-up and Immunization.
- **Target group:** The scheme focuses on children of **6 months to 6 years**, of working **women in rural and urban areas** who are employed for a **minimum period of 15 days** in a month, or six months in a year.

What is a creche?

- A creche is a facility which enables parents to leave their children while they are at work and where children are provided a stimulating environment for their holistic development.
- Creches are designed to provide group care to children, usually up to 6 years of age, who need care, guidance and supervision away from their home during the day.

WHAT IS FAME INDIA PHASE II?

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry recently recommended that the Centre should extend the deadline of the Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) - II Scheme by at least three more years.



- **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)** is a scheme for **promotion of electric mobility** in the country.

- It has an **outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years** commencing from 1st April, 2019. The FAME India Phase II has been extended for a period of two years after 31st March, 2022.
- **Implementing Agency: Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises.**
- The main objective of the scheme is to encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles by **offering an upfront incentive on the purchase of electric vehicles and also by establishing a necessary charging infrastructure** for electric vehicles.
- The scheme will help address the issue of environmental pollution and fuel security.
- This scheme is the expanded version of the scheme titled 'FAME India I, which was launched on 1st April, 2015, with a total outlay of Rs. 895 crores.

Features of FAME India Phase II:

- **The emphasis is on the electrification of public transportation**, which includes shared transport.
- **Demand incentives on the operational expenditure model for electric buses** will be delivered through State/city transport corporation (STUs).
- **In the 3W and 4W segments, incentives will be applicable mainly to vehicles used for public transport or registered for commercial purposes.**
- **In the e-2Ws segment, the focus will be on private vehicles.**
- Through the scheme, it is planned to support 10 Lakh e-2W, 5 Lakh e-3W, 55000 4Ws, and 7000 buses.
- To encourage advanced technologies, the **benefits of incentives** will be extended to **only those vehicles which are fitted with advanced batteries like lithium-ion batteries and other new technology batteries.**
- The scheme **proposes the establishment of charging infrastructure**, whereby about 2700 charging stations will be established in metros, other million-plus cities, smart cities, and cities of hilly states across the country so that there will be availability of at least one charging station in a grid of 3 km x 3 km.

THE BHARATIYA SAKSHYA (SECOND) BILL 2023

Why in News?

- The Union Home Minister **introduced 3 revised Bills** in the Lok Sabha to replace the existing British-era criminal laws, after withdrawing the previous versions, introduced in August this year.
- In the article below, we will focus only on **the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023**.

About the Three Bills:

- The 3 Bills are set to replace the **Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860; the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872**.
- The IPC will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023; the CrPC will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita, 2023 whereas **the Indian Evidence Act will be replaced by the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023**.
- Following their introduction in August, they were referred to a **31-member Parliamentary Standing Committee**.
- After consulting experts and stakeholders, the panel adopted its report, with **Opposition MPs** -
 - **Pointing out several errors** and lack of diversity in the experts consulted,
 - Questioned the haste with which the new laws are being introduced, and
 - Highlighting that they are ‘largely a copy-paste’ of the existing laws.

About the Indian Evidence Act 1872:

- **It governs the admissibility of evidence in Indian Courts** and applies to all civil and criminal proceedings.
- Over the years, the IEA has been **amended to align with certain criminal reforms and technological advancements**.
 - **For example**, the IEA was amended in 2000 to provide for the admissibility of electronic records as secondary evidence.

- **The Law Commission** has examined the IEA on multiple occasions and suggested amendments on matters such as custodial violence, admissibility of police confessions, and cross-examination.

Key Provisions of the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill 2023:

- **Admissible evidence:** Parties involved in a legal proceeding can only present admissible evidence. Admissible evidence can be classified as either ‘facts in issue’ or relevant facts.
 - The IEA provides for two kinds of evidence - documentary and oral evidence.
- **Police confessions:** Any confession made to a police officer is inadmissible. Confessions made in police custody are also inadmissible, unless recorded by a Magistrate.
 - However, if a fact is discovered as a result of information received from an accused in custody, that information may be admitted if it distinctly relates to the fact discovered.
- **Admissibility of electronic or digital records as evidence:** Documentary evidence includes information in electronic records that have been printed or stored in optical or magnetic media produced by a computer.

WHAT IS NASAMS (NATIONAL ADVANCED SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM)?

The Russian Military has reportedly struck Norwegian NASAMS and French Crotale-NG AD systems at the Starokostiantyniv airfield in the Khmelnytskyi Region, the Russian Defence Ministry said recently.



About NASAMS (National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System):

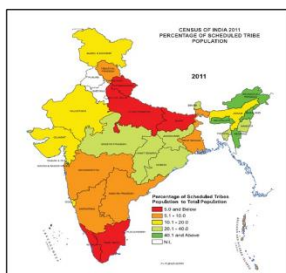
- It is a **medium-range ground-based air defence system.**
- The NASAMS provides short- to medium-range air defence against **aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, and drones.**
- This air defence system is **stationary.** It is best suited to defend important stationary assets, such as key military assets, infrastructure, or cities.

- It was designed and **developed jointly** by Raytheon (**United States**) and Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace (**Norway**).
- NASAMS is **operated by 13 countries** and has been **integrated into the U.S. National Capital Region's air defence system** since 2005.

Features:

- It is the world's **first networked short- and medium-range air defence system** that could **integrate with other equipment** and air defence systems.
- It features an X-Band, 360-degree phased array air defence **radar with a 75-kilometre range** to identify targets.
- The NASAMS is armed with three launchers, each carrying up to six missiles.
- The system **can engage 72 targets simultaneously** in active and passive modes.
- It uses **AIM-120 AMRAAM air-to-air missiles**, which have been modified for ground launch and have an **engagement range of about 30 kilometres**.
- The NASAMS is fitted with a fire distribution centre (FDC) command-and-control unit to perform battle management command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence functions.

HOUSING FOR VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS



Why In News?

- The Centre has begun survey and registration to identify eligible beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) among 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Scheduled Tribes in India:

- According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 104 million representing 8.6% of the country's population.

- These Scheduled Tribes are spread throughout the country largely in forest and hilly regions.
- The essential characteristics of these communities are:
 - Primitive Traits
 - Geographical isolation
 - Distinct culture
 - Shy of contact with community at large
 - Economically backwards
- Government of India set up Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - **Objective:** To provide a more focused approach towards the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (the most underprivileged section of the Indian Society) in a coordinated and planned manner.
- As in the case of Scheduled Castes, the Plan objective of empowering the tribals is being achieved through a three-pronged strategy of:
 - **Social empowerment,**
 - **Economic empowerment,**
 - **Social justice**

What is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)?

- PVTGs are **more vulnerable among the tribal groups.**
 - Currently, there are **75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.**
- The PVTGs are spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (UT), (2011 census).
 - **Odisha has the highest number (more than 2.5 lakh) of PVTGs.**
- **Characteristics of PVTGs:**
 - Population – stagnant/declining
 - Technology – pre-agricultural
 - Literacy Level – extremely low
 - Economy – Subsistence level