

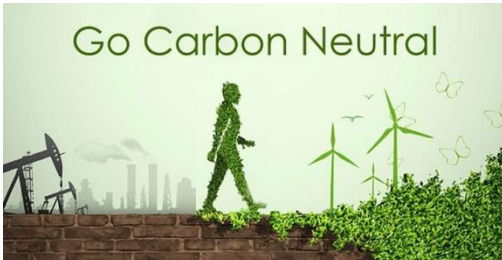
Current Affairs: 10.06.2021

LADAKH TO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) has signed a MoU with the Administration of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh, to make it a clean, green and Carbon Neutral UT.

About:

Under the MoU, various clean energy and energy efficiency programmes will be implemented such as solar mini and micro grid solutions, energy efficient lighting, energy storage-based solutions, efficient cooking stoves and electric mobility solutions in the UT. PM Modi, in his Independence Day speech of 2020, said that the Ladakh, Leh and Kargil region will be developed and declared to be a carbon neutral region, a first in the country. While the concept of carbon neutral villages have been considered in India in the past and some villages in Kerala and Manipur have adopted it, this will be the first large region to be carbon neutral.



Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) is a 100% owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under Ministry of Power.

SURAKSHIT HUM SURAKSHIT TUM ABHIYAAN



NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan in 112 Aspirational Districts.

About:

It aims to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to Covid-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. The Abhiyaan is being part of a special initiative, Aspirational Districts Collaborative, in which local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas of the Aspirational Districts Programme. It will be led by district magistrates in partnership with over 1000 local NGOs, which will enlist and train over 1 lakh volunteers to connect with patients through inbound/outbound calls.

Aspirational Districts Programme

- **Background:** In keeping with the PM Modi's vision of a New India by 2022, Government of India launched the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' in January 2018.

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NATIONAL SCHEME SANCTIONING COMMITTEE (NSSC) OF SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMEEN)



The National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) of SBM-G approved the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) of States and UTs. It allocated Rs. 40,700 crores under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) towards solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) arrangements

support for over 2 Lakh Villages in 2021-22.

About:

The National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) of SBM-G works under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti. It comprises representatives of Ministry of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, representative from State Governments apart sector experts. The NSSC reviewed the plans of all States and UTs and provided them guidance to intensify implementation as sanitation and hygiene are of paramount importance in the pandemic times.

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS



President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Anup Chandra Pandey, a retired Uttar Pradesh-cadre IAS officer, to the post of Election Commissioner. Following the elevation of Sushil Chandra as the CEC, the position of an EC was vacant since April 13.

Appointment of Election Commissioners

View of Constitution: The power to appoint the CEC and the ECs lies with the **President of India** under **Article 324(2)** of the Constitution, which states that “the President shall fix the number of ECs in a manner he sees fit, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament”. Thus, Article 324(2) left it open for the Parliament to legislate on the issue.

Procedure: But, in the **absence of any Parliamentary law** governing the appointment issue, the ECs are appointed by the government of the day, without pursuing any consultation process. There is no concept of collegium and no involvement of the opposition.

Tenure: The Commissioners are appointed for a 6-year period, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

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Qualification: There are no prescribed qualifications for their appointment, although convention dictates that only senior (serving or retired) civil servants, of the rank of the Cabinet Secretary or Secretary to the GoI or an equivalent rank, will be appointed.

MANGO

To boost mango exports from eastern region, sixteen varieties of mangoes including three GI certified Khirsapati & Lakshmanbhog (West Bengal), Zardalu (Bihar) are being exported to Bahrain.



About:

Mango in India is also referred as 'king of fruits' and referred as Kalpavriksha (wish granting tree) in ancient scriptures. While most of the states in India have mango plantations, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh followed by Telangana, Karnataka and Bihar have major share in total production of the fruit. Alphonso, Kesar, Totapuri and Banganpalli are leading export varieties from India. Mango exports primarily take place in three forms: fresh mango, mango pulp, and mango slice.