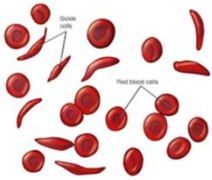


NATIONAL SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA ELIMINATION MISSION

Recently, the Prime Minister launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission and distributed sickle cell genetic status cards to the beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh.



About the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission:

- The Mission aims to address the pressing health challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among the tribal population, will mark a crucial milestone in the Government's ongoing efforts to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047.

Objectives of the Mission:

- Provision of affordable and accessible care to all SCD patients
- To ensure quality of care for SCD patients
- To reduce the prevalence of SCD
- **Health promotion-** Awareness generation & pre-marital genetic counselling
- **Prevention:** Universal screening and early detection
- **Holistic Management & continuum of care:** Management of persons with sickle cell disease at primary, secondary and tertiary health care levels; treatment facilities at tertiary health care facilities Patient support system Community adoption.

About Sickle Cell disease:

- Sickle cell disease is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that affect haemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen through the body.
- The red blood cells are disc-shaped and flexible enough to move easily through the blood vessels. If people have sickle cell disease, their red blood cells are crescent or "sickle" shaped.

- These cells do not bend or move easily and can block blood flow to the rest of their body leading to serious problems, including **stroke, eye problems, infections, and episodes of pain** called **pain crises**.
- As per the Census 2011, India has an **8.6% tribal population, which is 67.8 million** across the Indian states.
- The MoHFW tribal health expert committee report has listed sickle cell disease as one of the 10 special problems in tribal health that affect the tribal people disproportionately, thus making this an important intervention.
- The program will be carried out in a mission mode covering the entire population from zero to 18 years of age and shall incrementally include the entire population up to 40 years as a part of National Health Mission.
- In the initial stage, the mission would prioritise its intervention in high prevalence and tribal states/UT, the plan would subsequently expand to include all states/UTs in a phase-wise manner with an incremental approach.
- The mission aims to cover 7 crore people with screening, counselling for prevention and care for people with SCD in three and half years.

NANO UREA

Recently, the Chemical and Fertilizer Minister said Nine Nano Urea plants to be set up across the country by 2025.



Why in News?

- The ministry is aiming to **manufacture 44 crore bottles of Nano Urea** by the year 2025.
- To achieve the target nine plants will be set up across the country.

About Nano Urea:

- It is a **nanotechnology-based revolutionary Agri-input** that **provides nitrogen to plants**.
- It is **developed and patented** by the **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)**.

- IFFCO Nano Urea is the **only nano fertilizer approved by the Government of India** and included in the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO).
- **Features:**
 - Compared to conventional urea prill, Nano Urea has a **desirable particle size of about 20-50 nm** and **more surface area** (10,000 times over 1 mm urea prill) and **number of particles** (55,000 nitrogen particles over 1 mm urea prill).
 - It contains **4.0 % total nitrogen** (w/v).

Merits of Nano Urea:

- The urea **absorption rate by crops is 80 percent** in the case of Nano Urea whereas the traditional urea absorption rate is only 30 percent.
- Nano Urea is **cost-effective** and demonstrated an **increase in crop yield**.
- It is produced by an **energy-efficient, environment-friendly production process** with less carbon footprints.
- It is also **easy to store than urea bags**.
- A target has been set to achieve self-reliance in the production of Urea **to reduce dependence on imports**.

CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Recently, The Government has revised the Crop Residue Management guidelines enabling efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in the States of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Delhi.



About Crop Residue Management guidelines:

- As per the revised guidelines, techno-commercial pilot projects for Paddy Straw Supply Chain will be established under the **bilateral agreement between the Beneficiary/Aggregator and Industries** utilizing the paddy straw.
- **The beneficiary or aggregator can be Farmers, rural entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats.**

- **The govt. shall provide financial assistance on the capital cost of machinery and equipment.**
- Project proposal-based **financial assistance will be extended for machines and equipment such as higher HP tractors, cutters, tedder, medium to large balers, rakers, loaders, grabbers and tele-handlers.**
- **State Governments shall approve these projects through project sanctioning committee.**

Funding pattern:

- The **Centre and state governments** will jointly provide **financial support of 65 per cent** of the project cost, while the industry as primary promoter of the project will contribute 25 per cent.
- The **remaining 10%** will be contributed by **beneficiary or aggregator.**
- **The land for storage** of the collected paddy straw will be arranged and prepared by the beneficiary as may be guided by the end use industry.

The Outcomes of the above interventions are:

- **Supplementing in-situ options:** The initiative will complement the ongoing efforts for paddy straw management through in-situ methods.
- **Reduction in stubble burning:** It is estimated that during the three-year duration of the interventions, approximately 1.5 million MT of surplus paddy straw will be collected, which would have otherwise been burnt in the fields.
- **Creation of biomass collection depots:** Around 333 biomass collection depots with a capacity of 4,500 MT will be established in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Reduced air pollution:** The project will significantly contribute to reducing air pollution caused by stubble burning, leading to cleaner and healthier environments.
- **Job creation:** The interventions are expected to generate employment opportunities for approximately 900,000 man-days.
- **Encouraging a robust supply chain:** The establishment of a paddy straw supply chain will facilitate its availability for various end-uses such as power generation, heat generation, bio-CNG, etc., by power/bio-CNG/bio-ethanol producers.

- **Stimulating investments:** The development of a supply chain will attract new investments in the biomass-to-biofuel and energy sectors.

GST COLLECTION RISES 12% TO OVER RS 1.61 LAKH CRORE IN JUNE

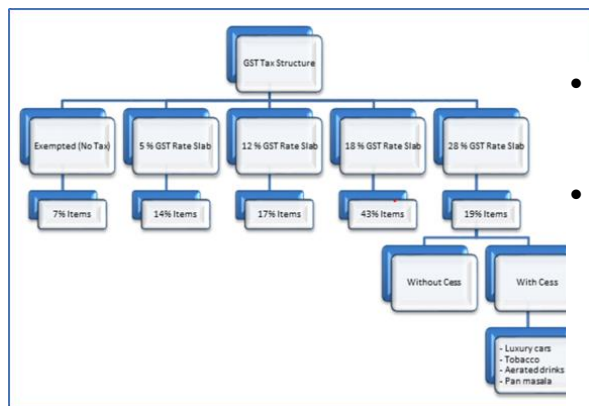
Why in News?

- The Finance Ministry said that the GST collections rose 12 per cent to over Rs 1.61 lakh crore in June, 2023.

About Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- Goods and Services Tax is a **single indirect tax** which has replaced multiple indirect taxes in India such as the excise duty, VAT, services tax, etc.
- GST is levied on the supply of goods and services in India. It came into effect from **July 2017**.
- **Objective:** To remove the ambiguity and bring equality in the prices of products across the country.
- It eventually **aspires to reduce the manufacturing cost of businesses and create a unified and streamlined market** where the cost of goods and services will be more even across the country.

GST Rate Slabs:



- The rates are notified on the recommendation of the **GST Council**.
- GST rates have been structured in a way that essential services and food items are placed in the lower tax brackets, while luxury services and products have been placed in the higher tax bracket.

- The GST council has fitted over 1300 goods and 500 services under four tax slabs of **5%, 12%, 18% and 28%** under GST.
- This is aside the rate on gold that is kept at 3% and rough precious and semi-precious stones that are placed at a special rate of 0.25% under GST.

- 7% of goods and services fall under exempted GST Rate Slab i.e. **0%** tax.
- Some of these that are of regular consumption include fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, butter milk, curd, natural honey, flour, etc.

About GST Council:

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a **Constitutional body** formed under **Article 279A** of the Constitution.
- It was introduced by the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**.
- **Objective:** To regulate and direct each and every step for the implementation of goods and service tax in the nation.

Role of GST Council:

- The GST Council makes recommendations to the centre and the states on the following matters:
 - Taxes, cess, and surcharge levied by the centre, states and local bodies which might be incorporated under GST.
 - The goods and services that are subjected to or exempted from GST.
 - The model of GST laws and allocation of Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) and the principles governing the place of supply.
 - Special rates for a specific period to raise additional resources during a natural calamity.
 - The date on which GST is to be levied on high-speed diesel, petroleum crude, natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel.
 - The maximum limit of turnover below which goods and services might be exempted from GST.
 - The rates including GST bands of floor rates.
 - Any other GST related concern as deemed by the Council.

Composition of GST Council:

- The GST Council consists of the following members:
 - Union Finance Minister (Chairperson)
 - Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue and Finance

- Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States

Decision-making of GST Council:

- GST Council is required to **meet at least once in three months.**
- Every decision of the GST Council has to be taken by a **majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present.**
- The vote of the central government has a weightage of one-third of the total votes cast, and
- The votes of all the state governments taken together have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast in that meeting.

INDUSTRIAL PARK RATING SYSTEM

Recently, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) successfully organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System in New Delhi.



About Industrial Park Rating System:

- IPRS was launched by **DPIIT in 2018** with the support of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) is an **extension of the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB)** platform which features **more than 4,500 industrial parks.**
- It is a **GIS-enabled database to facilitate investors to identify their preferred location for investment.**
-
- **Aim:** To **rate the country's industrial parks and special economic zones (SEZ).**
- It rates industrial parks **across four pillars:** internal infrastructure and utilities, external infrastructure and facilities, business support services, and environmental and safety management.
- Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZS) are classified into 3 categories: **Leaders,**

- **Challengers and Aspirants.**

- This particular portal is integrated with the industry-based GIS system of the states and Union territories and plot-wise information in these are **updated on a real-time basis.**

- **Industrial Park Rating System Report 2.0**

- Based on the findings of the pilot and review of the global approaches, frameworks, and guidelines DPIIT introduced **‘IPRS 2.0’ in Oct, 2021** as a key enabler for identifying additional measures to enhance industrial competitiveness.

- The Globally known frameworks were referred for developing the initial concept of IPRS 2.0 viz. **the International Guidelines for Industrial Park (IGIP) developed by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Eco-Industrial Park (EIP) framework developed by UNIDO, World Bank.**

What Is a Special Economic Zone (SEZ):

- A special economic zone is an area in a country that is subject to **different economic regulations than other regions within the same country.**
- They are typically created in order to facilitate rapid economic growth by **leveraging tax incentives** to attract foreign investment and spark technological advancement.
- The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy was **launched in April, 2000.**
- SEZs being set up under **The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.**

[TIME-OF-DAY \(TOD\) TARIFF: AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTRICITY \(RIGHTS OF CONSUMERS\) RULES 2020](#)

Why in News?

- The Union Power Ministry announced amendments to **the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules 2020**, and the changes included the introduction of time-of-day (ToD) tariff provisions.
- As per the notification, ToD tariffs in India will be **static** (not dynamic - determined on a real-time basis in accordance with the actual demand conditions), which means they will be decided in advance for different blocks of the day.

The Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules 2020:

- The Ministry of Power has promulgated the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules 2020 under the Electricity Act 2003.
- These rules empower the consumers of electricity as the consumers have rights to get reliable services and quality electricity.

About the Time-of-day Tariff Norms:

- The TOD tariffs are separate tariffs for peak hours, solar hours and normal hours.
- **The power tariff during “solar hours”** - the duration of 8 hours a day as specified by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) - of the day shall be **at least 20% lower than the normal tariff.**
- **Tariffs during peak hours** will be at least **20% higher than the normal tariff for commercial and industrial consumers**, and at least **10% higher for other consumers.**
- It would be applicable for Commercial and Industrial consumers **having Maximum demand of 10 KW and above** (from 1st April 2024), and for all other consumers (except agricultural consumers) from 1st April 2025.
- **Smart metres are a prerequisite for ToD tariff systems** and most SERCs have already implemented ToD tariffs for large commercial and industrial categories of consumers.