

NEWS TODAY

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2020 CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (MoHUA)

• Highlights of survey

- > **Indore emerged as the cleanest Indian city** fourth time in a row followed by Surat.
- > **Cleanest capital city** - New Delhi (Union Territory of New Delhi) and the NDMC.
- > **Cleanest state with more than 100 cities** - Chhattisgarh.
- > **Cleanest state with less than 100 cities** - Jharkhand.
- > **Cleanest Ganga town** - Varanasi.
- > **Cleanest megacity with more than 40 lac population** - Ahmedabad.

• About Swachh Survekshan

- > It is an **annual ranking exercise** taken up by MoHUA to assess urban areas of country on their **levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** in a timely & innovative manner.
 - It was **launched in 2016** which is the world's largest urban sanitation and cleanliness survey.
 - It aims to **encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness** amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns & cities a better place to live in.
- > Swachh Survekshan 2020 is the **5th edition** and covered 4,242 cities, 62 cantonment boards and 92 Ganga towns.

Focus Area of Swachh Survekshan 2020



GOVERNMENT JOBS IN MADHYA PRADESH TO BE RESERVED FOR PEOPLE FROM THE STATE: CHIEF MINISTER

- Though details of the proposal are not outlined, reservation solely based on place of birth would **raise constitutional questions**.
- **Issues with such reservation**
 - > **Article 16(2)** prohibits state from discriminating employment under the State on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, **place of birth, residence** or any of them.
 - > **India has common citizenship**; requirement of a residence cannot be qualifications for granting public employment in any state.
- **Exceptions**
 - > **Article 16(3)** says that only **Parliament may make a law** "prescribing" a requirement of residence for jobs in a particular state, **not state legislatures**.
 - Under Article 16(3), Parliament enacted the **Public Employment (Requirement as to Residence) Act**, which allowed exceptions only in case of the special instances of Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.
 - > Constitutionally, some states have **special protections under Article 371**. E.g. In Uttarakhand, class III and class IV jobs are reserved for locals.
- However, some states have gone around the mandate of Article 16(2) by prescribing **knowledge of the language as a criterion**. This ensures that local citizens are preferred for jobs.

STRATEGIC AUTONOMY NEEDED IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

- At ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks, India's external affair minister noted that COVID-19 highlighted **importance of diversification and resilience of global supply chains (GSC)**.
 - > He stressed that **concept of strategic autonomy has assumed relevance** in terms of GSC and stressed for Multilateralism.
- GSC are **networks that can span across multiple continents and countries** for the purpose of sourcing and supplying goods and services.
 - > GSC involve the **flow of information, processes and resources across the globe**.
- During COVID 19 crisis, inherent risks to the **global economy surfaced due to overdependence on China** as Chinese suppliers are crucial for many industries that operate globally.
 - > This has made world's **companies and governments take lessons** and be better prepared against future shocks.
- **Steps so far**
 - > India's steps under **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative** towards more self-reliant India. PM in Independence Day speech called making India as a possible **hub for supply chains**.
 - > India, Japan and Australia are working on launching a trilateral **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative** to reduce dependence on China.
 - > Also, countries such as Japan are taking measures like **paying firms to relocate back to Japan**.

CHINA TO LEND BANGLADESH \$1 BILLION FOR TEESTA RIVER PROJECT

- The proposed loan for a **Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project on Teesta River**.
 - > The project is aimed at **managing the river basin efficiently**, controlling floods, and tackling the water crisis in summers.
 - > It is the **first time China is getting involved in a river management project** in Bangladesh.
- This assumes significance, as India and Bangladesh have been engaged in a **long-standing dispute over water-sharing in the Teesta**.
- Teesta River originates at TsoLamo (Himalayas), India, and **flows through Sikkim, West Bengal and Bangladesh** before pouring into Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh.
 - > It is **one of the 54 rivers that enter Bangladesh** from India and is fourth-largest trans-boundary river in Bangladesh (after Ganga, Brahmaputra & Meghna).
- Teesta has been a **source of discord between India & Bangladesh with negotiations** on water sharing dating back to 1951 when Bangladesh was East Pakistan.
- In 1984, a Joint Rivers' Commission recommended **allotting 42.5 per cent to India and 37.5 per cent to Bangladesh**.
 - > A **2011 attempt to ink an agreement on the basis of the 1984 recommendations** could not be implemented due to objections from West Bengal.



DST ENCOURAGES TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH ON CARBON CAPTURE, UTILISATION & STORAGE (CCUS)

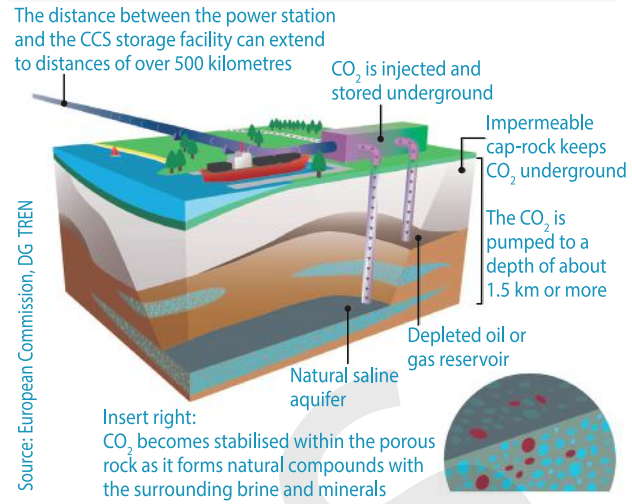
• Department of Science & Technology (DST) has invited **proposals from Indian researchers under Accelerating CCUS Technologies (ACT)**.

- ACT is an international initiative, of 16 members including India, **to establish CCUS as a tool to combat global warming**.
- It will be in **action from 2016-2021**. It will **facilitate the emergence of CCUS** via transnational funding.

• About CCUS

- It is a **set of technologies that capture carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions** at source, preventing them from entering the atmosphere, or else directly from the air.
 - **CO₂ is captured using technologies** categorized under pre-combustion, post-combustion or oxy-combustion.
- Once captured, **CO₂ can be either re-used in various products**, such as cement or plastics (utilisation), **or stored in geological formations** deep underground (storage).
- **Benefits:** reducing the overall carbon emissions, improving efficiency of coal and gas fired plants to generate reliable and affordable power etc.
- **Issues:** possible leaks and the related damage from underground storage sites, high capture costs, a lot of energy is needed to convert CO₂ into useful products leading to more emissions etc.

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS)



ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference is being organized jointly by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and Parliament of Austria with support of United Nations (UN). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IPU was established in 1889 as international organisation of parliaments. It aims to foster contacts, coordination, and exchange of experience among parliaments of all countries. • It is being organized in virtual mode and second part of the conference will be held next year in physical mode in Vienna, Austria.
<p>Call for Digitalisation of Labour Bureau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is aimed to increase outreach of the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Also, a new logo of labour bureau was also launched. • Labour Bureau is the apex national-level organization in the field of labour statistics which performs functions such as labour intelligence, research, monitoring/evaluation and training. • Its mandate is to act as a storehouse of important economic indicators like Consumer Price Index for industrial workers, agriculture & rural labour numbers for industrial, agricultural and rural labourers.
<p>Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of PMEGP Projects recorded 44% Jump in 2020. • PMEGP is the flagship employment generation program of the Central government. • Implementation agency: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). • Eligibility: Any individual, above 18 years of age. Only new projects are considered for sanction under PMEGP. • Maximum cost of the project admissible in manufacturing sector is ₹ 25 lakhs and, in the business, service sector, it is ₹ 10 lakhs.
<p>Trifood Project of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) launched the tertiary processing centres of Trifood Project, in Raigad (Maharashtra) and Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh). • TRIFOOD is a joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, MoTA and TRIFED. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and value addition to the Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the tribal forest gatherers.
<p>Science and Technology Indicators (STI) 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a periodic compendium of the state of scientific research in India. • It is prepared by a division of the Department of Science Technology, National Science and Technology Management Information System, and is based on data provided by a range of scientific establishments across the country. • As per his, India's private sector research companies appear to employ a larger proportion of women in core research and development activities than government-funded major scientific agencies.
<p>Eat Right Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently initiated Eat Right Challenge. • It is an annual competition which aims to encourage cities/districts in India to strengthen the food safety and regulatory environment and awareness among consumers to make better food choices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FSSAI will financially support the first 150 cities and districts that registers. • This is part of the FSSAI's Eat Right India initiative under Ministry of Health, to improve public health and combat negative nutritional trends to fight lifestyle diseases.
<p>Chandrayaan-2 completes 1 year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chandrayaan-2 mission was India's first attempt to make a soft-landing (Vikram Lander) of a rover (Pragyan) on the uncharted South Pole of the lunar surface. • Though the soft-landing attempt was not successful, the orbiter, which was equipped with eight scientific instruments, was successfully placed in the lunar orbit. • Key instruments include: Terrain Mapping Camera – 2, Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer, Imaging Infra-Red Spectrometer etc.

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