

# NEWS TODAY

## PUNJAB SEEKS RE-ASSESSMENT OF RIVER WATER SHARE ON SATLUJ YAMUNA LINK (SYL) CANAL

• Recently, Supreme Court directed the Centre to mediate between the two states to resolve the long-pending SYL issue.

➤ During the meet, Punjab has been demanding a **reassessment of the Ravi-Beas river waters' volume**, while **Haryana has been seeking completion of the SYL canal**.

### • SYL canal

➤ It is a proposed 214-kilometer long canal **connecting Sutlej and Yamuna rivers** which was planned in 1966 after the state of Haryana was formed out of Punjab.

➤ It seeks to provide Haryana its average annual share of **surplus Ravi-Beas water**.

➤ Haryana completed its stretch of the SYL Canal in 1980, while **Punjab kept delaying the construction** on the pretext of non-availability of spare water.

### • Mechanism for resolution of interstate water disputes:

➤ Article 262 **enables Parliament to provide for adjudication** of dispute with respect to use, distribution or control of waters of inter-State river or river valley.

➤ **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act (ISWD), 1956** provides for setting up of tribunals for adjudication of an inter-state river dispute.

➤ **Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019** was introduced last year to amend ISWD Act.



## RBI UNVEILS FRAMEWORK FOR UMBRELLA ENTITY TO MANAGE PAYMENT SYSTEMS

• The umbrella entity (UE) will **set-up, manage and operate new payment system(s)** in the retail space comprising, but not limited to ATMs, white label PoS, Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services, among others.

• Last year, RBI had proposed to create an **alternative umbrella organisation for retail payments** to prevent monopoly and concentration risk.

➤ It had noted that the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, which controls over 60% of retail payments, has become 'too big to fail'.

➤ Currently, NPCI is the **sole umbrella organisation** for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

### • Key guidelines

➤ Entity will be **authorised under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** and shall be a company incorporated in India under the **Companies Act, 2013**.

➤ Entities eligible to apply shall be **owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens**. UE shall have a minimum paid-up capital of ₹500 crore.

➤ It will **operate clearing and settlement systems** for participating banks and non-banks, **identify and manage relevant risks**, monitor retail payments system developments and related issues in the country and internationally.

## SUPREME COURT (SC) DISMISSES PLEA TO TRANSFER PM CARES MONEY TO NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND (NDRF)

• **SC made certain key observations** regarding Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund:

➤ It **refused to direct the transfer of funds** from PM CARES Fund to NDRF, saying they were two separate entities.

➤ NDRF is a statutory fund created under the Disaster Management Act (DM Act).

➤ Since PM CARES does not receive any government support, **no CAG audit is required**.

➤ **No institutions and individual can be prohibited to make contributions** to the PM CARES Fund, as, it is voluntary.

➤ **Rejected the need for a fresh national disaster management plan** to take on COVID-19 challenges saying that it is not conceivable that a plan would be framed after the disaster has occurred.

• **PM CARES Fund** is charitable trust set up in March 2020, as dedicated national fund with **objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation**, like posed by COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected.

➤ Prime Minister is Chairperson (ex-officio) and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

## NCAP PROGRAMME: COVID-19 PANDEMIC DISRUPTS CLEAN AIR ACTION PLANS

• Prime Minister announced on Independence Day that a **clean air programme will be implemented on mission mode in 100 cities soon**.

➤ However, **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** has made little advancements since last year when it was launched.

• Also, with COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown and financial slowdown, it is becoming difficult for **various sectors like industry, thermal power plants and transportation to reduce emissions** by switching to cleaner processes and fuels.

➤ Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been directing state governments about implementing action plans immediately under NCAP.

• NCAP is a **pollution control initiative launched by the Ministry of Environment** to cut the concentration of coarse (PM10) and fine particles (PM2.5) by at least 20% in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.

➤ It is to be implemented in **102 non-attainment cities**.

➤ **CPCB will execute the programme** for the prevention, control, and abatement of air pollution within the framework of NCAP.

### • Issues with NCAP:

➤ **Absence of clarity** on funding provisions.

➤ **Lack of legal framework** might dilute the effectiveness of the programme.

➤ **No deterrence policy** to ensure targets are met.

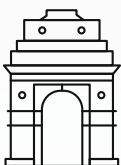
# 51 MN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS GET TAP WATER BUT PACE SLOW FOR 2024 TARGET

- **Out of 189 million rural households in India**, 51 million households (27% of the total) were provided with tap water connection till August 2020.
  - > Of this **20 million were added in the past year under Jal Jeevan mission (JJM)**. However, this needs to expand at a quicker rate to meet its 2024 deadline under JJM.
  - > Also, while Telangana and Haryana have over **80% of households with tap connections**, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have less than 10%.
  - > Use of contaminated water **causes diseases such as diarrhoea**, third leading cause of childhood mortality in India.
- JJM was launched in 2019 with aim to **provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** to every rural household (Har Ghar Nal Se Jal) by 2024.
  - > FHTC means a tap connection to a rural household for **providing drinking water in adequate quantity** (55 litres per capita per day) on regular basis.
- **Issues in JJM implementation:** Funding of scheme, capacity of water supply departments to execute the projects, may lead to neglect of local water resources, neglect of root cause of water contamination etc.

## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>ARIIA-2020 (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rankings released by Ministry of Human Resource Development, aims <b>to promote innovation among Indian educational institutions</b>.</li> <li>• It assesses colleges and varsities on criteria ranging from <b>support for entrepreneurship development, intellectual property generation</b>, technology transfer and commercialisation among other aspects.</li> <li>• ARIIA announcement included <b>classification of the institutes into two broad categories</b> and six subcategories.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; IIT Madras bagged the first place followed by IIT Mumbai and IIT Delhi in this year under the 'Best Centrally Funded Institution' category.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for Aatmanirbhar Bharat</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively under the aegis of Microprocessor Development Programme of Ministry of Electronics and IT.</li> <li>• The challenge seeks to invite innovators, startups and students to <b>use these microprocessors to develop various technology</b> products.</li> <li>• It is aimed at <b>meeting India's future requirements of strategic and industrial sectors</b> and mitigate the issues of security, licensing, technology obsolescence and cutting dependency on imports.</li> <li>• It was launched by <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was released by Indian Council of Medical Research and National Centre for Disease Informatics &amp; Research.</li> <li>• <b>Key points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Cancer cases in the country are <b>likely to increase to 15.6 lakhs by 2025</b>.</li> <li>&gt; In 2020, <b>tobacco-related cancers</b> are estimated to contribute to 27.1% of the total cancer burden, and highest in the north-eastern region.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Common cancers among men:</b> lung, mouth, stomach and oesophagus.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Common cancers among women:</b> Cancers of the breast and cervix uteri.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Pandit Jasraj</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was one of the <b>prominent Indian classical vocalists</b>. He was <b>associated with Mewati gharana</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Mewati Gharana is a <b>Khayal-based Hindustani Classical musical family-hood (Gharana)</b> founded in the late 19th Century.</li> <li>&gt; Mewati Gharana <b>acquired its name</b> after Mewar region of Rajasthan, from which its founding exponents hailed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Pandit Jasraj</b> was awarded Padma Vibhushan and was also a master of haveli sangeet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mali</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, Mali President had resigned amid a military coup.</li> <li>• Mali is <b>landlocked country of western Africa</b>, mostly in the Saharan and Sahelian regions.</li> <li>• <b>Niger River</b> flows through its interior, functioning as the main trading and transport artery in the country.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ninja Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>drone-based surveillance system</b>, deployed by Railways, to enhance security at railway stations, tracks and workshops.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; It can also be used for <b>mapping of railway assets</b> to assess the encroachments on railway property, crowd monitoring during critical situations etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Vaccine Nationalism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amidst the COVID-19 vaccine race among different countries</b>, World Health Organization has cautioned member nations about the risks of vaccine nationalism.</li> <li>• Under this, <b>each country takes an "every nation for itself" approach</b> to securing vaccines as they are developed by private companies at high price points (<b>effectively reducing access for poorer countries</b>).</li> </ul>

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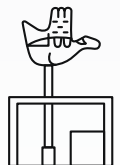
**HYDERABAD**



**PUNE**



**AHMEDABAD**



**CHANDIGARH**

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