DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 07-09-2024

GS-2

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GS-3

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4. **FAME scheme**

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Black Coat Syndrome

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Judiciary.

Context:

➢ *The* **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, *during the* **National Conference of District Judiciary**, *introduced the* **term "black coat syndrome" to** *highlight the problem of delayed justice in the Indian judicial system, comparing it to the anxiety patients experience in hospitals, known as "white coat syndrome."*

➢ **She emphasized that delays in justice,** *particularly in cases involving the poor, women, and children, worsen access to justice.*

Challenges in the Judicial System:

➢ **Pendency of Cases**: *With over five crore cases pending as of October 2023, the judiciary struggles to manage its backlog.*

➢ *Despite having only 20,580 judges in the* **Supreme Court, high courts, and district courts,** *the volume of cases continues to grow.*

➢ **Inadequate Infrastructure**: *Many courts, especially district courts, lack basic amenities such as separate toilets for women (19.7% as of September 2023), which affects their efficiency.*

➢ **Judicial Vacancies**: *High court vacancies stand at 31%, with 347 positions unfilled. District courts have 5,300 vacant judge positions, accounting for 21% of their sanctioned strength.*

➢ **Gender Inclusivity**: *While the Supreme Court has only three female judges (9.3%), the high courts have 13.42% female representation. District courts, however, show better inclusivity, with 36.33% female judges.*

Initiatives to Address Issues:

➢ **ICT Integration**: *Projects like the e-SCR provide digital versions of court judgments. Virtual court proceedings via video conferencing have become a norm, while the eCourts portal offers stakeholders centralized access to court services.*

➢ **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**: *This platform provides public access to court case statistics, aiding in research and improving transparency.*

➢ **National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms (2011)**: *Aims to reduce delays and increase access to justice.*

➤ **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**: *Mechanisms such as Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalayas, and Online Dispute Resolution help in reducing the caseload on traditional courts.*

➤ **Fast Track Courts**: *Established to expedite cases involving heinous crimes, senior citizens, women, and children.*

Way Ahead:

➤ **Increase Judicial Capacity**: *Courts should function beyond their current 71% capacity to keep up with the growing number of cases.*

➤ **Filling Judicial Vacancies**: *Addressing the 28% vacancy rate in district courts is crucial. A standardized recruitment calendar is suggested to ensure a steady flow of new recruits.*

➤ **National Integration of Judicial Recruitment**: *The Chief Justice advocated for national-level integration of recruitment processes, moving away from state-specific selection systems.*

➤ **District-level Case Management Committees**: *These committees can help efficiently manage the backlog by focusing on targeted cases and reconstructing records.*

➤ **Pre-litigation Dispute Resolution**: *Encouraging alternative dispute resolutions, like Lok Adalats, has already shown promise, with around 1,000 cases resolved in just five days.*

➤ **Judicial Vacation Reform**: *The Malimath Committee (2003) recommended reducing vacation periods by 21 days to reduce pendency.*

ANIIDCO

Syllabus: GS-2: UT – Development and Governance.

Context:

➤ *The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)** is managing a massive ₹72,000 crore infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island.*

Overview of ANIIDCO and the Great Nicobar Island Project

➢ **ANIIDCO Background:**

- o **Established in 1978** *to promote economic development in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.*

- o *Focuses on sectors like* **tourism, agriculture, fisheries***, and eco-tourism.*

- o *Supports* **local businesses and sustainable development***, contributing to the region's economy.*

Financial and Operational Capacity

➢ **Financial Performance:**

- o **Average annual revenue of ₹370 crore** *and a profit of ₹35 crore over the last three years.*

- o *Concerns raised about its ability to handle the* **₹72,000 crore infrastructure project** *due to its modest financial track record.*

➢ **Operational Readiness:**

- o *Lacked a* **clear environmental policy and skilled workers** *when chosen to lead the project in July 2020.*

- o *Began hiring* **specialists only in late 2022,** *causing delays in project preparedness.*

Environmental Concerns and Oversight

➢ **Environmental Responsibility:**

- o *The* **Expert Appraisal Committee** *(EAC) raised concerns about ANIIDCO's ability to manage environmental responsibilities in May 2021.*

- o *Despite admitting to lacking an environmental policy, ANIIDCO received environmental clearance from* **the EAC in November 2022.**

- o *Concerns about the adequacy of environmental oversight have been raised.*

Conflict of Interest and Governance Issues

➢ **Conflict of Interest:**

- o *ANIIDCO's managing director also held the position of Secretary for Environment and Forests during the environmental clearance process.*

    o *Allegations of self-certifying environmental assessments, raising concerns about the fairness of reviews.*

Historical Concerns and Recommendations

➤ **Doubts from Former Administrators:**

    o **Lt Gen A.K. Singh recognized ANIIDCO's** *potential but recommended bringing in external experts for the project.*

    o **Former Chief Secretary Sanat Kaul** *suggested restructuring ANIIDCO to better manage large-scale development projects.*

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – macroeconomics terms.

Context:

➤ **World Bank projection**: *Decline in Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in India's economy for FY25.*

More about news:

Revised GDP growth estimate: *Increased to 7% (from 6.6%) for FY25, driven by:*

➤ *Public infrastructure investments.*

➤ *Household spending on real estate.*

Urban youth unemployment: *High at 17%, reflecting labor market challenges.*

Loss in market share: *India losing ground in labor-intensive sectors like apparel and footwear.*

Sectoral growth expectations:

➤ **Industrial growth**: *Expected to slow slightly in FY26.*

➤ **Agricultural growth**: *Projected to rise sharply.*

Global trade challenges: *World Bank emphasizes risks from trade protectionism and rising tariffs, which could hinder trade-focused investments.*

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)*: A key economic indicator, reflecting the total value of investments in infrastructure, machinery, equipment, and buildings, crucial for enhancing productive capacity.*

Long-term concerns*:*

- *Addressing high unemployment.*

- *Reviving labor-intensive sectors.*

- *Managing trade competitiveness amidst global protectionism.*

FAME scheme

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Industrial Policy.

Context:

➢ *FAME scheme must continue for at least 3-5 years:* **Assocham report.**

Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) Scheme

➢ **Continuation of FAME Scheme:**

- o *The FAME scheme needs to continue for an additional 3 to 5 years to allow the Electric Vehicle (EV) market to mature.*

- o *Benefits for both Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) should be continued.*

- o *For EVs, benefits may be linked to battery size.*

- o *Strong HEVs should be encouraged through road tax exemptions parallel to EVs.*

➢ **Study by Assocham and NRL:**

- o *The study by Assocham and Nomura Research Institute (NRL) emphasized the need for further incentives to accelerate EV adoption.*

- o *Suggested a* **new Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** *scheme to encourage charging infrastructure and upstream battery processes, with special focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).*

Viksit Bharat - Electric Mobility Hub

- ➢ **Report Highlights:**

  - o *The report titled* **'Building India an Electric Mobility Hub for Viksit Bharat'** *highlighted the potential for India to become a global leader in EV production.*

  - o *Subsidy schemes targeting the* **testing and validation** *of EV components would help in launching quality products.*

  - o *India should focus on expanding EV and component exports to* **South East Asia, Latin America (LATAM), Middle East, and Africa (MENA)** *regions.*

- ➢ **Global EV Market Trends:**

  - o *Global EV purchases are driven by* **incentives, tighter emission norms***, and targets for phasing out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, especially diesel engines.*

Infrastructure and Policy Recommendations

- ➢ **EV Infrastructure Development:**

  - o *Establishing a robust EV infrastructure is critical for widespread electric mobility adoption.*

  - o *A comprehensive network of* **charging stations***, promotion of* **battery-swapping technology***, and advancements in* **energy storage solutions** *are essential.*

  - o **Public-private partnerships** *will expedite the development of infrastructure, ensuring both urban and rural access to cost-effective charging.*

- ➢ **PLI Scheme for Charging Infrastructure:**

  - o *A new PLI scheme is recommended for incentivizing charging infrastructure, battery processing, and localization of key components.*

FAME-III Scheme and Future Outlook

- ➢ **FAME-III Scheme:**

  - o *The FAME-III scheme is expected to be launched soon, replacing the temporary* **Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024***, with an outlay of ₹778 crore.*

o *The earlier EMPS 2024 scheme had a total outlay of ₹500 crore, which was extended till September 30, 2024.*

India's Carbon Reduction Targets and EV Goals

➢ **Carbon Emission Reduction:**

o *EVs are critical to helping India meet its* **carbon emission reduction target of 45% by 2030** *and reduce the national oil import bill.*

➢ **EV Penetration Goal:**

o *Continued government support is necessary to achieve India's EV penetration target of* **30% by 2030**.

National Blockchain Framework

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Computer Systems.

Context:

➢ *The* **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** *(MeitY), Government of India, has launched a groundbreaking initiative to harness the potential of blockchain technology through the unveiling of the* **Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack**, *which offers* **Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS)**.

➢ *This stack,* **developed in collaboration with key research institutions**, *provides a geographically distributed infrastructure to support permissioned blockchain-based applications.*

Key highlights from the launch:

➢ **National Blockchain Framework (NBF)**:

o *Designed to promote research and application development.*

o *Aims to enhance digital trust, transparency, and secure service delivery.*

o *Features distributed infrastructure hosted at NIC data centers in Bhubaneswar, Pune, and Hyderabad.*

o *Supports multiple permissioned blockchain platforms, providing a secure foundation for blockchain applications.*

- ➤ **NBFLite***:*

  - o *A **lightweight blockchain platform** specifically developed as a sandbox for startups and academia.*

  - o *Supports rapid prototyping, research, and capacity building.*

  - o *Collaborative effort by C-DAC, NIC, IDRBT Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, IIIT Hyderabad, and SETS Chennai.*

- ➤ **Praamaanik***:*

  - o *A **blockchain-enabled solution** for verifying the origin of mobile applications, enhancing security and trust for users.*

- ➤ **National Blockchain Portal***:*

  - o *An important digital resource for fostering blockchain adoption and innovation in India.*

- ➤ **Transforming Governance***:*

  - o *Blockchain technology is seen as pivotal in transforming governance by making public services more transparent, efficient, and accountable.*

  - o *MeitY envisions India emerging as a global leader in blockchain technology, with a focus on scaling applications across states and departments.*

Conclusion:

*The **National Blockchain Framework** addresses several challenges, including skilled manpower shortages, vendor lock-in, and research concerns related to security, interoperability, and performance. MeitY's vision is to build secure, transparent digital platforms that will enhance citizen-centric services while positioning India as a blockchain technology leader.*