



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 21-12-2024

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Special Court of Elected Representatives

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Judiciary.

Context:

- Belagavi police are likely to produce BJP MLC C.T. Ravi before the special court of elected representatives in Bengaluru.

Overview:

- **Definition:** Special Courts are courts with limited jurisdiction focused on specific areas of law rather than geographical locations.
- **Establishment:** Created under the **Special Courts Act of 1979** and other specific laws, addressing cases related to corruption, narcotics, atrocities against SCs/STs, and violations of acts like the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act.
- **Purpose:** To handle cases that require specialized attention and faster resolution, particularly for marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society.

Composition:

- Judges of Special Courts are typically nominated High Court judges, with concurrence from the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

Jurisdiction:

- **Special Jurisdiction:** Limited to specific types of cases such as bankruptcy, family matters, or government claims.
- **Distinct Features:** Different from general jurisdiction courts, as they focus narrowly on predefined legal areas and may follow streamlined or alternative procedures.

Differences from General Courts:

- **Scope:** Narrower jurisdiction compared to general courts.
- **Procedural Flexibility:** Often bypass complex procedural rules.
- **Appointment of Judges:** More influenced by political processes; judges may not always have formal legal training.

Challenges:

- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Often rely on existing court resources, leading to inefficiencies.
- **Streamlining Issues:** Procedural complexity hinders swift justice.
- **Arbitrary Prioritization:** Decisions on case prioritization can be ad hoc, leading to inconsistent justice delivery.

- **Limited Jurisdiction:** Restrictive scope can delay related cases or cause inconsistency.
- **External Interference:** Vulnerability to political and external pressures affects impartiality.

Recommendations:

- **Increased Funding:** Allocate more resources for better infrastructure and operational efficiency.
- **Training Programs:** Equip judges and staff with updated legal knowledge and skills.
- **Independence:** Ensure impartiality by basing judge appointments on merit, not politics.
- **Expanded Jurisdiction:** Broaden case categories to reduce the burden on regular courts.
- **Simplified Procedures:** Streamline case handling through reduced delays and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Parliamentary standing committee on defence

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity –Parliamentary committees.

Context:

- The Mi-17 chopper crash that killed the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat was due to human error (aircrew), according to the latest report of the Parliamentary standing committee on defence.

Overview

- **Type:** Department-Related Standing Committee (DRSC).
- **Constitution:** Formed by the Parliament of India.
- **Purpose:**
 - Legislative oversight of defence policies.
 - Decision-making of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- **Role:** One of the 24 DRSCs tasked with ministry-specific oversight.

Composition

- **Total Members:** 31.

- **Lok Sabha Members:** 21 (Lower House).
- **Rajya Sabha Members:** Not more than 10 (Upper House).
- **Membership Criteria:**
 - Members are elected yearly through proportional representation by single transferable vote.
 - Ministers are ineligible for membership.
 - Members must vacate their position upon becoming a Minister.
- **Chairperson:**
 - Appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Leadership

- **Current Chairperson:** MP Kalraj Mishra.
- **Predecessor:** MP Maj Gen BC Khanduri (Retd.).

Term

- **Duration of Membership:** One year.

Direct Tax Collection Surges in 2024-25

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Taxation.

Context:

- The Income Tax Department's reported growth in direct tax collections for the financial year 2024-25 is a significant milestone, showcasing the country's economic momentum and enhanced tax compliance. Here's a concise breakdown:

Key Highlights

Total Direct Tax Collections:

- Amount: ₹19.21 lakh crore
- Growth: 20.32% compared to the previous year
- Components of Collection:
- Corporate Tax: ₹9.24 lakh crore

Non-Corporate Tax: ₹9.53 lakh crore

- Observation: Balanced growth across sectors reflects a resilient economic framework.

Refunds Processed:

- Amount: ₹3.38 lakh crore
- Impact: Enhances taxpayer satisfaction and demonstrates efficient administrative processes.

Net Collections:

- Amount: ₹15.82 lakh crore
- Growth: 16% increase, highlighting streamlined collection methods.

Economic Implications

Increased Government Revenue:

- Enhanced capacity for public expenditure on critical sectors like infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

Boost to Investor Confidence:

- Signals robust economic health, likely attracting domestic and foreign investments.

Encouragement of Compliance:

- Indicates success in promoting tax compliance and modernizing the tax system.

Future Outlook

- To sustain and build upon this growth:
- Continued emphasis on taxpayer services and digital infrastructure.
- Focus on transparency and ease of compliance.
- Strategic measures to identify and close tax loopholes.
- This milestone underscores the strong interplay between effective governance, economic growth, and public cooperation.

PM Surya Ghar Scheme

Syllabus: GS-3: Renewable Energy

Context:

- Gujarat, Maharashtra and UP Top Rooftop Solar Installation under PM Surya Ghar Scheme.

Current Progress (As of December 9, 2024)

- **Total Installations Completed:** 6.79 lakh

- **Gujarat:** 3.02 lakh
- **Maharashtra:** 1.39 lakh
- **Uttar Pradesh:** 56,000
- **State Contribution:** Six states account for 88% of total installations.

Overview of the Scheme

- **Objective:**
 - Provide **free electricity up to 300 units per month** for 1 crore households by enabling them to install rooftop solar systems.
- **Implementation Agencies:**
 - **National Level:** National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA).
 - **State Level:** Distribution Utilities (DISCOMs) or State Power/Energy Departments.

Key Features

- **Subsidy Structure:**
 - **60% subsidy** for systems up to **2 kW** capacity.
 - **40% subsidy** for systems between **2-3 kW** capacity.
- **Model Solar Villages:**
 - Development of demonstration projects in rural areas to encourage adoption.
- **Incentives for Local Bodies:**
 - Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions will receive incentives to promote solar installations.

Expected Benefits

- **Economic:**
 - Reduced electricity bills.
 - Opportunity to earn by selling surplus power to DISCOMs.
- **Environmental:**
 - **30 GW solar capacity addition** through residential rooftop systems.
 - Reduction of **720 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions** over 25 years.
- **Energy Generation:**
 - Each **3 kW system** can generate **over 300 units/month**, aligning with the free electricity target.

➤ **Job Creation:**

- **17 lakh direct jobs** across manufacturing, logistics, installation, operations, and maintenance.

Challenges in Implementation

➤ **Household Reluctance:**

- Some households prefer free electricity provided by states over solar installations.

➤ **Limited Space:**

- Small rooftops, shading issues, and risks like vandalism hinder adoption.

➤ **Operational Strain on DISCOMs:**

- Financial burden of net metering, where solar users draw from the grid without proportional costs.

➤ **Grid Management:**

- Lack of storage systems may result in grid management challenges like the **Duck Curve** phenomenon.

➤ **Quality Assurance:**

- Difficulty in ensuring high-quality installations leads to consumer dissatisfaction and inefficiency.

Way Forward

- **Targeted Outreach:** Collaborate with local bodies to reach economically disadvantaged households consuming <300 units/month.

- **Community Solar:** Promote shared solar generation through centralized plants for households unable to install rooftop systems.

- **Revise Net Metering:** Implement Time-of-Use (TOU) pricing to reduce grid strain and incentivize solar usage during peak generation.

- **Storage Integration:** Mandate energy storage with rooftop solar systems to enhance grid stability and optimize surplus energy use.

Kisan Kavach

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Agriculture

Context:

Kisan Kavach is an innovative anti-pesticide bodysuit designed to safeguard farmers from pesticide exposure, addressing a critical health and safety issue in agriculture.



Key Highlights

- **What it is:**
 - A washable and reusable protective bodysuit for farmers.
 - Specifically designed to prevent pesticide toxicity during agricultural activities.
- **Developed by:**
 - **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC-inStem), Bangalore**, in collaboration with **Sepio Health Pvt. Ltd.**
- **Objective:**
 - To enhance farmer safety.
 - To promote sustainable agricultural practices.
 - To reduce health risks caused by pesticide exposure.

Features

- **Durability:**
 - Washable and reusable.
 - Effective for up to **one year**.
- **Technology:**

- Incorporates advanced fabric with **nucleophilic hydrolysis** technology.
- Deactivates pesticides on contact, neutralizing their harmful effects.
- **Affordability:**
 - Initial price: ₹4,000 per unit.
 - Expected to become more affordable as production scales up.

How it Works

- The suit is crafted using cotton fabric treated with **nucleophile attachments**.
- When harmful pesticides come into contact with the fabric:
 - They undergo **nucleophilic hydrolysis**, rendering them non-toxic.

Benefits

- **Health Protection:**
 - Mitigates risks of **breathing disorders, skin irritation, and vision loss**.
 - Ensures a safer working environment for farmers handling pesticides.
- **Economic and Environmental Impact:**
 - Supports sustainable agricultural practices.
 - Long-lasting use reduces the need for frequent replacements.

Kisan Kavach is a pivotal step toward improving farmer welfare, addressing health concerns, and ensuring agricultural sustainability in India.