



Daily Current Affairs Dated on 19-April-2018

General Studies-2

Integration of e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository

Union External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for HRD, Dr. Satya Pal Singh jointly launched the Study in India programme of HRD Ministry by launching the 'Study in India' portal at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi today. The integration of e-SANAD portal and NAD – National Academic Depository (of HRD Ministry), was also launched by Smt Sushma Swaraj on the occasion.

What is e-SANAD?

e-Sanad is a project aimed at online submission/verification of documents with an ultimate object to extend contact less, cashless, faceless and paperless document attestation service for apostille and normal attestation to applicants in India (to be extended to Indians residing abroad as well in a phased manner).

It is designed and developed by NIC. Any type of document viz personal, educational or commercial can be authenticated/apostilled using e-Sanad.

The document should be available in the digital repository for getting attestation/apostille through e-Sanad. The e-Sanad service will start with CBSE depository (documents of years 2014 & onwards) and verification of these CBSE documents would be done online.

About National Academic Depository (NAD):

National Academic Depository (NAD) is a 24X7 online store house of all academic awards viz. certificates, diplomas, degrees, mark-sheets etc. duly digitised and lodged by academic institutions / boards / eligibility assessment bodies.

- The UGC has signed a tripartite agreement with NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL) for operationalising NAD.
- NAD not only ensures easy access to and retrieval of an academic award but also validates and guarantees its authenticity and safe storage.
- National Academic Depository comprises of two interoperable digital depositories viz. CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL) and NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML).



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Regional Workshop on Garbage Free Cities

The 1st regional workshop on star rating of garbage-free cities, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) was held today.

Along with the annual Swachh Survekshan activity, the star rating of garbage-free cities will create a healthy competition among the cities across the countries to achieve the goals of cleanliness and 100% solid waste management.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) focuses on two key objectives- eradication of open defecation and 100% scientific solid waste management (SWM) across all 4041 statutory towns and cities.

To continue the momentum on scientific management of solid waste and motivate cities to achieve more cleanliness, the Star-Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities was launched by MoHUA on January 20, 2018.

The 7-star rating is innovatively designed on a SMART (Single metric, Measurable, Achievable, Rigorous verification and Targeted towards outcomes) approach – making it the first-of-its kind rating tool for assessing cleanliness of cities and towns in India.

STAR RATING OF GARBAGE FREE CITIES -Parameters of star rating system

It is a single metric rating system, based on 12 parameters:

1. Door-to- Door Collection
2. Segregation at source
3. Sweeping of public, commercial and residential areas (no visible eyesores on streets)
4. Waste Storage Bins, Litter Bins and material recovery facility
5. Bulk Waste Generators compliance



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6. Scientific Waste Processing, Scientific Landfilling and C&D Waste Management
7. User Fees, Penalties, Spot Fines for littering and Enforcement of Ban on Plastic
8. Citizen grievance redressal and feedback system
9. Eradication of crude dumping of garbage and dump remediation
10. Cleaning of storm drains and surface of water bodies
11. Waste Reduction
12. Visible beautification in the city.

Key Features of 7-star rating-Designed on a SMART approach:

- **SINGLE METRIC** - Rating criteria encapsulates all components of MSWM as well as plastic waste, waste in drains and water bodies
- **MEASURABLE** - Criteria under each star rating has measurable parameters (e.g. % of HHs covered by D2D collection, % of waste processed, etc.)
- **ACHIEVABLE** - Each criteria and associated parameter has been devised to ensure that it is realistically achievable by cities.
- **RIGOROUS VERIFICATION** - Robust 2-step verification mechanism of both self-declaration and third party verification. Cities rated 1, 2 and 4-star must carry out self-assessment and self-verification, while 3-star, 5-star and 7-star cities will need to be certified through an independent third party. Moreover, a city should be ODF before going for 3-star and above certification.
- **TARGETED TOWARDS OUTCOMES** – Based on verifiable outcomes rather than inputs and processes (e.g. remediation of dumpsites, regular sweeping, collection of user charges, etc.)

Strengths of star rating protocol

- Outcome-based tool rather than process based, hence will enable institutionalization of good practices such as source segregation, scientific waste processing, penalties & spot fines for littering, and compliance of bulk waste generators, etc.
- Designed to enable cities to gradually evolve into a model (7-star) city, with progressive improvements in their overall cleanliness.
- At the 7-star level, 3R components of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) incorporated.



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GITC-2018

Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC), 2018" will be held in New Delhi during 8th to 11th November, 2018.

This event will have around 300 participants including 120 Youth with disabilities from 24 Asia Pacific countries.

About the Event:

GITC is being held every year in Asia- Pacific region and such events were held in the past in countries like Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam etc.

This competition is amongst four categories of disabilities namely, Physical, Visual, Hearing and Intellectual.

The competition is a testing ground for individual as well as group competencies in the field of IT. Awards will be given to the most successful candidates from different categories of event.

Benefits of Event:

- This competition is expected to enrich further the IT skills of Youth with Disabilities further and help them emerge as future leaders.
- India is co-hosting the event alongwith Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
- Government of Korea and its organising partners namely Rehabilitation International Korea and LG Group.
- The event will also have a Seminar for IT Forum in which the countries will present their work and achievement in ensuring accessibility to persons with disabilities in the IT sector.

DEPwD will also involve major stakeholders in this event, which would include Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of Human Resource Development etc.

General Studies-3

Chandrayaan-2 Mission

The Chairman Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) & Secretary Department of Space, Dr K Sivan briefed Union Minister Dr.Jitendra Singh about the upcoming



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Moon mission "Chandrayaan-2", expected to be launched from Sriharikota around October-November this year.

Giving details about the upcoming Chandrayaan-2 mission, Dr Sivan informed that the total cost of the mission is about Rs. 800 crore, which includes Rs. 200 crore as the cost of launching and Rs. 600 crore for the satellite.

This cost, he said, is almost half of the launch cost if the same mission had to be launched from a foreign launching site.

About Chandrayaan-2

Chandrayaan-2 will be equipped with a lander and rover probe, which will descend on the surface of the moon, from where it will observe the lunar surface and send back data, which will be useful for analysis of the lunar soil.

Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) Portal

Soon researchers in any college or institution and research organisations can check, reserve and have easy access to even expensive research equipment and facilities anywhere in India, thanks to the efforts by the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

The centre is in the process of collating information about scientific and research equipment and facilities available at academic institutions and research organisations across the country.

About The Portal:

- The portal — Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) — will soon become operational. The government green signalled the project last month.
- The institutions and organisations that have the equipment and facilities will provide access to researchers for both academic and non-academic work through an online reservation system.

Benefits of Portal:

It will provide access to researchers to any equipment or facility that has been procured using public funds, the equipment will be better utilised and it will avoid duplication of expensive equipment as much as possible

Sharing expensive equipment can bring down the cost of doing research in India.



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They are trying to replicate the Indian Nanoelectronic Users Programme (INUP) model at CeNSE and IIT Bombay that has been in operation since 2008 to provide access to sophisticated device fabrication and analytical equipment to any academic researcher in the country. I-STEM is inspired by positive experience with INUP.

Norms regarding CRZ to be relaxed:

The Centre has allowed India's coasts to be made more accessible to tourism and industrial infrastructure and given individual States considerable leeway to decide how they should plan such development, according to a draft version of the proposed modification to India's coastal regulation zone plan made public on the Environment Ministry website on Wednesday.

What is Coastal Regulation Zone(CRZ)?

The coastal regulation zone, or CRZ, 2011, refers to regions in the proximity of India's 7000-km-long shoreline where buildings, tourism facilities, industrial projects, residential facilities etc are highly regulated.

In most cases it begins from the high tide line (HTL) to about 500 metres towards the landward side. The zone is subdivided into regions, with varying leeway for infrastructure development, depending on population and ecological sensitivity.

The CRZ-1, for instance, includes the most ecologically sensitive areas and according to current laws is off-limits for tourism activities and infrastructure development except for defence, strategic and rare public utilities projects.

Changes made in new CRZ notification:

According to the new CRZ, 2018 notification "nature trails and eco-tourism activities.." may be permitted in CRZ-1 regions provided they conform to state-approved coastal zone management plans.

The current law, called the CRZ, 2011 also defines as 'coastal zone,' the region from the HTL to 100 m of the creek along 'tidal-influenced bodies' such as bays, estuaries, rivers, backwaters, lagoons and ponds etc. that are connected to the sea. The proposed laws relax this to 50 metres.

Earlier, rural habitations or relatively undisturbed areas close to the shore, called CRZ-II, possessed a 200 metre 'no development zone'. This has now been reduced to 50 metres, provided the area has a population density exceeding 2161 per square kilometre as per the 2011 Census.



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Concerns Raised:

Environmentalists say that the new regulations have been framed without a transparent public consultation process.

A committee headed by Shailesh Nayak, former secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, had framed a report to reconsider the limits of the existing coastal zone regulations.

The report however wasn't made public by the Environment Ministry. "It was only after several Right to Information requests that the policy was made available and that too, after pressure from the Central Information Commissioner," said Kanchi Kohli, researcher at the Centre for Policy Research.