



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018

## **General Studies-2**

### **Open Data for Good Governance:**

Open government data means publishing information collected by the government in its entirety, such as government budgets, spending records, health-care measures, climate records, and farming and agricultural produce statistics.

### **Usefulness in Governance:**

One, such data collected by governments are for citizen welfare; hence they have an implicit right to benefit from the information.

Two, data sets such as government budget usage, welfare schemes and subsidies increase transparency and thereby build trust.

Third, and most important, it paves the way to develop technology-led innovations which can unlock massive economic value, thereby benefitting even the poorest of poor, the under-represented and the marginalised.

### **Economic Benefits:**

Research by PwC in Australia estimated that open data can add an additional 1.5% to the country's GDP.

In the Indian context, this could conservatively translate to about \$22 billion.



## Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018

A case in point here is Transport for London, a public utility, which has digitised and shared only about 80 data sets, yet this has led to the creation of multiple technology applications for city transport and maps, unlocking estimated economic benefits and savings for the city to the tune of £130 million.

### **Steps taken By GoI:**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has made some laudable efforts, including a policy around open data.

India currently houses more than 1.6 lakh data resources and has published over 4,015 application programme interfaces (APIs) from across 100-plus departments.

As a result, India's global ranking by the Global Open Data Barometer has jumped.

### **Way forward:**

The first step is to ensure completeness of data stacks opened for use either through machine-readable formats or direct APIs.

Completeness would imply a data set. For example, soil data cards will have data on all relevant aspects as well as current emerging technologies such as Blockchain and the Internet of Things to provide the opportunity to automate data collection.

Clustering of relevant data sets and APIs would be the next step. This would mean combining data sets which can lead to the creation of applications such as farm insurance from weather, soil and crop cycle/sale data. Therefore, technology developers have a road map of "innovations in focus" for national development.

The next step is building anchor cases or use-cases to encourage data usage. A case in point is Aadhaar/identity data which has seen exponential growth (post



## **Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018**

identification in e-KYC). eg. an Aadhaar-enabled payment system, and direct benefit transfers among others which are clearly pushing the “financial inclusion” drive.

The final step would be setting up a comprehensive governance framework which includes an open data council with cross-sector representation to monitor, regulate and build usage after proportionate oversight.

## **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**

### **Why in News?**

The Union Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar will confer the National Awards on Best Performing Self Help Groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) .

The National Awards to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are intended to provide public recognition to the outstanding performance of the community institutions and incorporate a sense of pride among the poor community members.

Conferring awards to best performing SHG and Village Organizations was initiated by DAY-NRLM in 2016-17.

The DAY-NRLM awards are conferred on the Best Performing Community Based Organizations (Self Help Groups and Village Organizations) after screening the nominations received from the SRLMs.

The selection process adopted is that the SHGs are first assessed for their performance on several indicators such as Institution Building-Capacity Building, Financial Inclusion, Livelihoods, Convergence etc. and then nominated by the respective SRLMs for receiving awards.

The National Unit of DAY-NRLM then screens the applications thus received and finalizes the awardee list.

### **Advantages of awards:**



## **Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018**

The Awards have motivated the State Missions across the country to perform better and it has also brought the programme to the attention to the senior officers in the states.

The financial resources leveraged by the Self Help Group members has enabled them to undertake a large ensemble of livelihood activities such as agriculture and allied activities, sheep and goat rearing, horticulture, running of local means of transportation, rearing of milch animals, irrigation development through bore wells, carpentry etc.

### **About SHG's:**

The SHGs are a perfect example of how livelihoods of households can transform through a collective approach, managed in line with core democratic and financial principles.

The SHG has contributed to several community level activities for the common good.

These include awareness promotion for constructing household toilets using SBM funds, environmental sanitation, liquid waste management and support for maintenance of village commons.

The members are conscious of their social responsibilities and have undertaken several collective activities including campaign against child labour, illicit distillation and child marriages etc. SHG has demonstrated strong features of a progressive community based institution.

### **Swachh Bharat Mission**

#### **Why in News?**

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the largest behavior change programme in the world, the rural sanitation coverage of India has now risen to 85%. Through mobilization of rural communities, 7.4 crore toilets have been built across rural India, and as an outcome, over 3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).



## Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018

This is significant because, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), sanitation coverage has increased to more than double the coverage at the time of the launch of the Mission.

### **Analysis of survey:**

A recent survey conducted by an Independent Verification Agency across 90,000 households in over 6000 villages has found the usage of toilets in rural India to be 93.4%.

Two independent surveys conducted in the past by the Quality Council of India in 2017, and National Sample Survey Organization in 2016, have pegged the usage of these toilets at 91% and 95% respectively.

This success has been achieved due to the difference in approach to sanitation adopted by the Swachh Bharat Mission in comparison to previous sanitation programmes in the country.

### **About SBM:**

The Swachh Bharat Mission is the first sanitation programme in the country to measure outcomes (ODF) instead of output (toilets) alone.

The SBM's emphasis on behavior change in rural sanitation at the grassroots also leads to rigorous verification and sustainability of the benefits accrued to rural communities under the progress made.

The SBM is a people's movement, a true *jan andolan*, and it is this people's participation that has led to the success being witnessed under the Mission.

The Mission is on track to achieve an ODF India by October 2019.

### **Objectives:**

- To bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.
- To accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019.
- To motivate communities to adopt sustainable sanitation practices and facilities through awareness creation and health education.



## Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018

- To encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.
- To develop, wherever required, community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific Solid & Liquid Waste Management systems for overall cleanliness in the rural areas.
- To create significant positive impact on gender and promote social inclusion by improving sanitation especially in marginalized communities.

## **General Studies-3**

### **Bad Banks:**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, currently in charge of the Finance Ministry, has announced the formation of a committee to assess the idea of special asset reconstruction companies or asset management companies to take over bad loans from banks.

### **Background:**

Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian had suggested the creation of a Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) to deal with what he described as India's "festering twin balance sheet problem".

### **Benefits:**

A professionally-run PARA, or the so-called 'bad bank', could assume custody of the largest and most difficult-to-resolve NPAs from lenders' balance sheets.

This would allow banks to focus on extending fresh credit and supporting the pick-up in growth.



## Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018

More importantly, a bad bank taking tough decisions on borrowers-gone-bad, it was argued, could free bankers from the risks entailed in large loan write-downs.

### **Challenges:**

It would be very time-consuming and there would be challenges on its ownership structure as well as the pricing of bad [loans](#) taken over from banks.

In any case, going by the experience of private asset reconstruction companies, a PARA by itself would not be able to deploy dramatically different tools to extract better value from underlying assets and would, at best, amount to window-dressing bank books to attract investors.

As former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan had pointed out, a government-owned bad bank could still face scrutiny from the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

### **Way Forward:**

Whether or not the knots in the bad bank idea are sorted out, the government should focus on other reforms as well.

One, amend the Prevention of Corruption Act to shield bankers and officers from investigative witch-hunts.

Two, back bankers to take demonstrable action against wilful defaulters.

And three, take a hard look at what ails the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 11-June-2018

## **CSIR lab to give technology for India's first indigenous Lithium Ion Battery project**

Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Battery project.

CSIR-CECRI has set up a demo facility in Chennai to manufacture prototype Lithium-Ion cells.

It has secured global IPRs with potential to enable cost reduction, coupled with appropriate supply chain and manufacturing technology for mass production.

Currently, Indian manufacturers source Lithium Ion Battery from China, Japan and South Korea among some other countries. India is one of the largest importers and in 2017, it imported nearly 150 Million US Dollar worth Li-Ion batteries.

### **Benefits of Li-Ion Batteries:**

It will give tremendous boost to two flagship programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi – increasing the share of Clean Energy in the energy basket by generating 175 Giga Watts by 2022, of which 100 Giga Watts will be Solar and the second, National Electric Mobility Mission, to switch completely to electric vehicles by 2030.”

The project is in tune with Prime Minister's vision of "Make in India", to turn India into a manufacturing hub and to cut down outflow of foreign exchange.

Li-Ion batteries have applications in Energy Storage System – from hearing aid to container sized batteries to power a cluster of villages, Electric Vehicles (2-wheeler, 3-wheeler, 4-wheeler and Bus), portable electronic sector, Grid Storage, Telecom and Telecommunication Towers, Medical Devices, Household and Office Power Back (UPS), Powering Robots in Processing Industry.

Lithium-ion batteries can power any electrical application without the need of physical wires-means wireless.