



**इशोइशा**  
IAS ACADEMY  
Your Dreams, Our Mission!

**C.A Dated On 25-10-2018**

**General Studies-1**

**International Arya Mahasammelan-2018**

**Why in News?**

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan – 2018 today (October 25, 2018) in Delhi.

The President was happy to note that this Mahasammelan with discuss on the issues such as prevention of superstition, modernization, women empowerment, tribal welfare, and management of natural calamities.

**About Arya Samaj:**

- **Arya Samaj** is an [Indian Hindu reform movement](#) that promotes values and practices based on the belief in the infallible authority of the [Vedas](#).
- The samaj was founded by the [sannyasi](#) (ascetic) [Dayanand Saraswati](#) on 10 April 1875.
- Members of the Arya Samaj believe in one God and reject the worship of idols.

**About Dayanand Saraswati:**

- **Dayanand Saraswati** (12 February 1824 – 30 October 1883) was an Indian religious leader and founder of the [Arya Samaj](#), a [Hindu reform movement](#) of the [Vedic dharma](#).
- He was also a renowned scholar of the Vedic lore and [Sanskrit](#) language. He was the first to give the call for [Swaraj](#) as "India for Indians" in 1876, a call later taken up by [Lokmanya Tilak](#).
- Denouncing the [idolatry](#) and ritualistic worship prevalent in [Hinduism](#) at the time, he worked towards reviving [Vedic](#) ideologies.
- Subsequently, the [philosopher](#) and [President of India](#), [S. Radhakrishnan](#) called him one of the "makers of Modern India", as did [Sri Aurobindo](#)



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**General Studies- 2**

**Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act?**

The government Wednesday approved setting up of Appellate Tribunal and Adjudicating Authority for speedy disposal of cases related to benami transactions.

**Benefits of Adjudicating Authority:**

- The approval will result in effective and better administration of cases referred to the Adjudicating Authority and speedy disposal of appeals filed against the order of the Adjudicating Authority before the Appellate Tribunal.
- The appointment of the Adjudicating Authority, it added, would provide first stage review of administrative action under the the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act (PBPT) Act.
- Establishment of the proposed Appellate Tribunal would provide an appellate mechanism for the order passed by the Adjudicating Authority under the PBPT Act.

**What is Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act?**

- Benami transaction refers transactions made in a fictitious name, or the owner is not aware of the ownership of the property, or the person paying for the property is not traceable
- The rules and all the provisions of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act came into force on November 1, 2016.
- After coming into effect, the existing Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988, was renamed as the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988.

**Salient Features of Act:**

- The act provides for establishment of an Adjudicating Authority by the Central Government. It shall be consisting of a Chairperson and at least two other members. A person who has been member of Income Tax or Revenue Service only can become member or chairperson of



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adjudicating authority. The case shall be decided in a year's time, once it is referred by the initiator to the adjudicating authority

- Appeals against the adjudicating authority's decision can be taken to the *Appellate Tribunal* at New Delhi.
- Once an order is finalized, the Benami properties will be confiscated. The designated officers appointed from among the income-tax officers will manage and disposed-off these properties.
- Benamidar or any person who abets other person to enter into such transactions will face rigorous imprisonment ranging from one to seven years in jail. The person may also be liable to pay a fine of upto 25% of the fair market value of such Benami property.

### **General Studies- 3**

#### **Indian Institutes of Skills**

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

The Centre has decided to set up skill development institutes on [government](#) land, in partnership with private players, across the country.

The Union Cabinet approved the scheme on Wednesday, according to an official statement.

The public-private partnership model will be adopted to set up the institutes — to be called the Indian Institutes of Skills — at select locations, based on demand and available infrastructure.

##### **Objectives of IIS:**

The institutes are expected to help boost global competitiveness of key industry sectors by providing high-quality training, applied research education and a direct and meaningful connection with the industry.

##### **About PPP:**

- A PPP Project means a project based on a contract or concession agreement, between a Government or statutory entity on the one side and



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a private sector company on the other side, for delivering a service on payment of user charges.

- The rights and obligations of all stakeholders including the government, users and the concessionaire flow primarily out of the respective PPP contracts.

#### **What is different about it?**

- Unlike private projects where prices are generally determined competitively and Government resources are not involved, PPP projects typically involve transfer of public assets, delegation of governmental authority for recovery of user charges, private control of monopolistic services and sharing of risks and contingent liabilities by the Government.
- The justification for promoting PPP lies in its potential to improve the quality of service at lower costs, besides attracting private capital to fund public projects.

For creating a transparent, fair and competitive environment, the Government of India has been relying increasingly on standardising the documents and processes for award and implementation of PPP projects.

#### **International year of Reefs-2018**

The International Conference on Status and Protection of Coral Reefs (STAPCOR – 2018) with the theme "Reef for Life" was inaugurated at Bangaram coral Island of Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

#### **What is STAPCOR?**

The effect of climate change and global warming along with El-Nino on the corals has lead to heavy bleaching internationally during the year 1998. This led to the foundation of STAPCOR with a decision to have a international conference in every 10 years to review the status and progress of coral reefs all over the world.

#### **About Corals:**



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- **Corals** are [marine invertebrates](#) within the [class Anthozoa](#) of the [phylum Cnidaria](#). They typically live in compact [colonies](#) of many identical individual [polyps](#).
- Corals species include the important [reef](#) builders that inhabit tropical oceans and secrete [calcium carbonate](#) to form a hard skeleton.
- A coral "group" is a colony of myriad [genetically identical](#) polyps.
- Each polyp is a sac-like animal typically only a few millimeters in diameter and a few centimeters in length.
- A set of [tentacles](#) surround a central mouth opening. An [exoskeleton](#) is excreted near the base. Over many generations, the colony thus creates a large skeleton characteristic of the species. Individual heads grow by [asexual reproduction](#) of polyps.

### **BS Norms**

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

The Supreme Court has banned the sale and registration of motor vehicles conforming to the emission standard Bharat Stage-IV in the entire country from April 1, 2020.

#### **What are BS norms?**

The BS — or Bharat Stage — emission standards are norms instituted by the government to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles. India has been following the European (Euro) emission norms, though with a time-lag of five years.

#### **Difference between BS-IV and the new BS-VI:**

- The major difference in standards between the existing BS-IV and the new BS-VI auto fuel norms is the presence of sulphur.
- The newly introduced fuel is estimated to reduce the amount of sulphur released by 80 per cent, from 50 parts per million to 10 ppm.



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- As per the analysts, the emission of NO<sub>x</sub> (nitrogen oxides) from diesel cars is also expected to reduce by nearly 70 per cent and 25 per cent from cars with petrol engines.

### **National Monitoring Framework on Sustainable Development Goals**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the constitution of a High Level Steering Committee for periodically reviewing and refining the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with associated targets.

#### **Members of Committee:**

The High Level Steering Committee will be chaired by :

- Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), with the Secretaries of data source Ministries and NITI Aayog members and Secretaries of other related Ministries as special invitees, with function of reviewing of National Indicator Framework including refinement of the indicators from time to time.

#### **Targets:**

- Measures to mainstream SDGs into on-going national policies, programmes and strategic action plans to address the developmental challenges.
- Statistical indicators of NIF will be the backbone of monitoring of SDGs at the national and state level and will scientifically measure the outcomes of the policies to achieve the targets under different SDGs.
- Based on statistical indicator, the MoSPI will bring out national reports on implementation of SDGs. The Report will facilitate assessment of progress, identify challenges and give recommendations for follow up at the national level.
- High Level Steering Committee will review the National Indicator Framework on regular basis for its improvement.



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- Data source Ministries / Departments will be responsible for providing regular information to MoSPI on these indicators at required intervals and disaggregation for national and sub-national reporting of SDGs.
- Advanced IT tools will be used for close and effective monitoring.

#### **Major impact:**

- a. SDGs integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. It intends eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world with basic motto of 'SabkaSaathSabkaVikash'.
- b. SDGs with 17 Goals and 169 Targets intend for promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.
- c. NIF will help in outcome-based monitoring & reporting on progress on SDGs at National level.

#### **Background:**

- The UN General Assembly in its 70<sup>th</sup> Session considered and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the next 15 years.
- The 17 SDGs came into force with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2016.
- Though not legally binding, the SDGs have become de facto international obligations and have potential to reorient domestic spending priorities of the countries during the next fifteen years.
- Countries are expected to take ownership and establish a national framework for achieving these Goals.
- Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.
- Countries would be responsible for follow-up and review at the national level, with regard to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets.
- Actions at the national level to monitor progress under SDGs will require quality, accessible and timely data.