

4<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**GS : 2 - GOVERNANCE**

**Swachh Survekshan 2017: Indore cleanest city, Bhopal at no 2, Gonda dirtiest**

(Indian Express)

- Indore has been declared the cleanest city in India among 434 cities surveyed for the government cleanliness ranking by the Quality Council of India, according to the Swachh Survekshan 2017 report.

**Key facts:**

- Madhya Pradesh's capital — Bhopal — came second.
- Mysuru, which had topped the list in 2016, came fifth this year.
- State-wise, Gujarat has the highest number, with 12 of its cities among the top 50 clean cities followed by Madhya Pradesh with 11 and Andhra Pradesh with eight.
- Union Territory Chandigarh, which had stood second last year, slipped to the eleventh position this year.

**GS : 1 - INDUSTRIES (GEOGRAPHY)**

**Cabinet clears National Steel Policy that favours Indian steelmakers**

- The cabinet cleared wide-ranging economic measures on Wednesday, including a national steel policy that favours domestic manufacturers in government projects.

**Highlights:**

- All government tenders will give preference to domestically manufactured iron and steel products. There will be a condition in it (tender) so that the surplus capacity is consumed.
- Indian steel makers who import raw materials or intermediate products can claim the benefits of the domestic procurement provision if they add a minimum of 15% value to the product.
- The policy has a waiver for specific kinds of steel not manufactured in the country, or where domestic makers can't meet the quality standards required by a project.
- The National Steel Policy 2017 aims to make India self-sufficient in steel production. It projects crude steel capacity of 300 million tonnes (mt), production of 255mt and per capita consumption of 158kg of finished steel by 2030-31, as against the current consumption of 61kg.
- The policy also envisages adequate local manufacturing to meet the demand for high-grade automotive steel, electrical steel, special steels and alloys for strategic applications by the same year. It also sees an increase in domestic availability of washed coking coal so as to reduce import dependence on coking coal from about 85% to around 65% by 2030-31.
- India is the third largest producer of steel globally.

**GS : 2 - GOVERNMENT SCHEMES**

**Cabinet approves New Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA**

(PIB)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for re-structuring the schemes of the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** under **new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)** for the **period 2016-20** coterminous with the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle.
- The objective of SAMPADA is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste.
- SAMPADA is an **umbrella scheme** incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like **Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc.** and also new schemes like **Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.**
- The SAMPADA is a comprehensive package to give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country.
- The implementation of SAMPADA will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- Government has taken various other measures to boost food processing sector as follows:

- (a) To provide impetus to investment in food processing and retail sector, govt. has allowed **100% FDI** in trading including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured and / or produced in India.
- (b) The govt. has also set up a **Special Fund of Rs. 2000 crore** in **NABARD** to make available affordable credit at concessional rate of interest to designated food parks and agro processing units in the designated food parks.
- (c) Food and agro-based processing units and cold chain infrastructure have been brought under the ambit of **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** to provide additional credit for food processing activities and infrastructure thereby, boosting food processing, reducing wastage, create employment and increasing farmers' income.

**GS : 2 - ECONOMY**

**Package to resolve NPAs gets Cabinet nod**

(The Hindu)

- The government cleared a package to resolve the persistent rise in non-performing assets that are plaguing public sector banks and denting credit growth.

**Key facts:**

- The package, which includes an ordinance to amend the **Banking Regulation Act of 1949** to empower the Reserve Bank of India to take more actions to check bad loans, is learnt to have been cleared by the government during the meeting of the Union Cabinet on Wednesday.
- The economic survey of 2016-17 has pointed out the **twin balance sheet problem** — that is, stressed companies on one hand and NPA-laden banks on the other and advocates that a centralised **Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA)** be established to deal with the problem of bad loans.

**GS : 2 - INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Chenab to get tallest rail bridge**

(The Hindu)

- The Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir will be spanned by the **world's highest railway bridge** that is expected to be 35 metres taller than Paris' Eiffel Tower.
- Designed to withstand wind speeds of up to 260 km per hour, the 1.315-km- long "engineering marvel" will connect Bakkal (Katra) and Kauri (Srinagar).
- The bridge forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch between **Katra and Banihal**, which is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project**.

**Blast-proof structure**

- The bridge will be made of 63-mm thick special blast-proof steel as the region is prone to frequent terror attacks. Its concrete pillars will be designed to withstand explosions.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Andhra Pradesh's Banganapalle mango gets Geographical Indication tag**

- The Registrar of Geographical Indications Registry (RGIR) has granted Banganapalle the GI status on a six-year-old application from Andhra Pradesh's horticulture department.

**Extra Neutral alcohol or ENA**

- The Extra Neutral alcohol or ENA is a high distilled alcohol without any impurities and others destined to be used in the high cosmetic industry, perfumeries as well as for the production of alcoholic beverages such as whisky, vodka, gin, cane, liqueurs and alcoholic fruit beverages and aperitifs.
- The Patna High Court has set aside the Bihar government's decision to ban production of Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) by several distillery and liquor companies in the State.