

## Prelim Bits 12-01-2024 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Swachh Survekshan Awards

Recently Union government announced the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023.

- An **annual** cleanliness ranking for **urban areas since 2016**.
- **Released by** - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Coverage** - Originally 73 cities in 2016, now has increased along with 4,416 urban local bodies, 61 cantonments and 88 Ganga towns.
- About 1.58 crore online citizen feedback and 19.82 lakh face-to-face views were received as a part of the ranking.
- **Criteria**
  - Door-to-door collection of waste
  - Segregation at source
  - cleanliness of public areas
  - Clean water bodies
  - Citizens' feedback regarding the cleanliness of their cities

### 2023 Awards

- **Among Cities with >1 lakh population** - **Indore and Surat** were named the joint winners with 100% door-to-door collection of waste & remediation of dumpsites and 98% segregation at source.

*2023 was the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row that Indore was named the cleanest city in the Swachh Survekshan Awards. Surat won the top award for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Of the 8 rounds of annual awards since 2016, this was the 1<sup>st</sup> time that 2 cities shared the top prize.*

- **Among States** - **Maharashtra** bagged the top spot with 89.24% door-to-door collection and 67.76% source segregation followed by Madhya Pradesh.
- **Sasvad in Maharashtra** was named the cleanest city among those with population below 1 lakh.
- **Chandigarh** won the award for the city having the best safety standards for sanitation workers, Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar.
- Varanasi was named the cleanest 'Ganga town'.
- **Mhow Cantonment** was the cleanest cantonment in the country.
- Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Nagaland and Tripura were ranked the bottom five states.

Scientific processing of waste had increased from 15-16% in 2014 to almost 76% by Jan 2024.

## References

[The Indian Express| Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023](#)

## Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti

*PM presents sacred Chadar to be placed during the Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti at Ajmer Sharif Dargah*

- Khwaja Chishti is also known by different names as, ***Khawaja Gharib Nawaz, 'Sultan-Ul-Hind'*** (Benefactor of the Poor).
- **Birth** - Sijistan (modern-day Sistan) in Iran in 1141-42 CE.
- **Visit to India** - He started living and *preaching in Ajmer after 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Tarain (1192)*, where Mohammed of Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan.
- **His Mission** - To establish the kingdom of God on Earth.
- **Popularity** - He was popular among the locals, kings, nobles, and peasants for his instructive discourses full of spiritual insights.
- He established the ***Chishti order of 'fakirs'*** in India.
- **Doctrines** - It emphasised the ***unity of being with God*** (waḥdat al-wujūd) and members of the order were also pacifists.
- They *rejected all material goods* as distractions from the contemplation of God.
- They *abstained from connection* with the secular state.
- Recitation of the names of God, both aloud and silently (dhikr jahri, dhikr khafi), formed the cornerstone of Chishti practice.

*Urs festival is an annual festival held at Ajmer in Rajasthan to commemorate his death anniversary.*

## Other Sufi Orders in India

- **Suhrawardi Order** - It was founded by Sheikh Shahabuddin Suharwardi Maqtul and unlike the Chishtis, accepted maintenance grants from the Sultans.
- **Naqshbandi Order** - It was founded by the Khwaja Baha-ul-din Naqsh band, stressed on the observance of the Shariat.
- **Qadiriyya Order** - Sheikh Abdul Qadir of Badaun founded this in the 14th century who were supporters of the Mughals under Akbar.

## References

1. [PIB| Death Anniversary of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti](#)
2. [Isalmigems| Life of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti](#)

## Cervical Cancer Vaccine

Indian government is set to roll out a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for girls in the 9-14 years age group.

*Cervavac* is an indigenously developed quadrivalent vaccine by the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune, is already available commercially.

- **Immunisation drive** - It will be conducted through schools and existing vaccination points, planned in 3 phases over 3 years and is likely to start from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024 for free.
- Currently, the 2-dose HPV vaccine is available commercially for about Rs 2,000 per dose.

*None of the HPV vaccines available globally recommend a single-dose schedule*

- **Target** - Nearly 8 crore children between the ages of 9 and 14 years will be eligible and when divided over 3 years.
- **Benefits** - It offers protection against the HPV strains that cause cancer of the anus, vagina and oropharynx and genital warts.

## Cervical Cancer

- It is the 4th most common cancer in women which develops in a woman's cervix (the entrance to the uterus from the vagina).
- **Cause** - Almost all (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk **human papillomaviruses (HPV)**, an extremely common virus transmitted **through sexual contact**.

*At least 14 HPV types have been identified as oncogenic and among these, HPV types 16 and 18 considered to be the most oncogenic.*

- **Treatment** - When diagnosed, it is a treatable form of cancer, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.
- **Prevention** - Effective primary (HPV vaccination) and secondary prevention approaches will prevent most cases.
- With a comprehensive approach to prevent, screen and treat, it can be eliminated as a public health problem within a generation.

## References

1. [The Indian Express| Vaccination drive for Cervical Cancer](#)
2. [WHO| Cervical Cancer](#)

## Classical Language

Recently, West Bengal Chief Minister has called for inclusion of 'Bangla' as a classical language.

- Currently, **6 languages** enjoy the 'Classical language status'
  - Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).
- **Guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are**
- *High antiquity* of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- A *body of ancient literature/texts*, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers
- The *literary tradition be original* and not borrowed from another speech community.
- The classical language and literature being *distinct from modern*, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
- **Benefits of Recognition** - 2 major *annual international awards* for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages
- A *Centre of Excellence for studies* in Classical Languages is set up
- The UGC is requested to create, to start with at least in the Central Universities, a certain number of *Professional Chairs* for the Classical Languages so declared.

*Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) is in Mysuru and Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) is in Chennai.*

### Bengali Language

- **Origin** - It can be traced back to the *3rd-4th BCE*.
- **Official Language** - In West Bengal
- **Popularity** - It is the *2<sup>nd</sup> most spoken language in India* and the *7<sup>th</sup> most spoken language in the world*.

### References

1. [The Indian Express| Request to include 'Bangla' as Classical Language](#)
2. [The Indian Express| Classical Language Status](#)