

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 24-06-2020

### GeM Country of Origin

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a Special Purpose Vehicle launched in 2016, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal.
- It facilitates online procurement of common use goods & services required by various Central and State Government Departments/Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM.
- It also provides the tools of e-bidding and reverse e-auction to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money.
- **Recent Developments** - It has made mandatory for sellers to enter the Country of Origin while registering all new products on GeM.
- It has enabled a provision for indication of the percentage of local content in products.
- Now, the Country of Origin as well as the local content percentage are visible in the marketplace for all items.
- Make in India Filter has been enabled on GeM portal so that the buyers can choose to buy only those products that meet the minimum 50% local content criteria.

### YUKTI 2.0

- The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It is to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions.
- It is an extension of 'YUKTI - Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Portal'.
- YUKTI which was launched to identify ideas relevant in COVID pandemic.
- The Ministry has invited students, faculty members, startups and other stakeholders of higher education institutions to register on the YUKTI portal

and share their technologies and innovations.

- Database shared will be showcased to the investor community such as businessmen, farmers and industrialists i.e. students will be able to sell their ideas.
- However, preliminary innovations won't be showcased on YUKTI 2.0 but only those which have commercialization potential.

## **EAG Meeting**

- Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) is a regional body comprising nine countries.
- Members - India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.
- It is an associate member of the FATF.
- Recently India has participated plenary virtual meeting of EAG, under the aegis of the Financial Action Task Force.
- In the meeting India plans to share more evidence with the key FATF members on the narco-terror cases linked to Pakistan-based syndicates, through which funds are allegedly being supplied to the terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir.
- FATF is an inter-governmental body to promote effective measures combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- A country is put on the grey list when it fails to curb terrorism financing and money laundering.
- Grey list countries - Pakistan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Syria, Mongolia and Yemen in Asia along with few other countries
- Putting a country on the blacklist means shutting all doors to international finance for that country. Countries - North Korea and Iran.

## **Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020**

- Union Ministry for Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated one of India's largest and first Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020.
- It is organized by FICCI.
- It aims to give a boost to health and hygiene endeavors.
- Due to COVID-19 in India an ecosystem is being built for a self-reliant India, which will help in ramping up domestic production in Pharmaceutical, Health and Hygiene Sector.

## **Decarbonizing Transport in India**

- NITI Aayog and International Transport Forum (ITF) will collaborate to

launch a new online project called 'Decarbonizing Transport in India'.

- It is to chart out a path for a low-carbon transport system in the country.
- It will offer an opportunity to provide inputs for transport challenges and their relation to CO2 reduction in the country.
- The project will include designing a transport emissions assessment framework for India, providing the government with a detailed understanding of transport activities and CO2 emissions as a basis for decision-making.
- It is a part of the ITF's DTEE (Decarbonizing Transport in Emerging Economies) series of projects.
- DTEEs aimed at lowering carbon emissions across different regions in the world.
- The current participants in the initiative are India, Argentina, Azerbaijan, and Morocco.

### **International Transport Forum**

- It is an inter-governmental organization within the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) system.
- It is the only global body with a mandate for all modes of transport.
- It acts as a think tank for transport policy issues and organizes the annual global summit of transport ministers.
- India has been a member of ITF since 2008.
- DTEE is a collaboration between the ITF and the Wuppertal Institute, which is supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

### **Compressed Bio-Gas**

- Biogas and CNG are the same but for a few differences.
- *Origin* -
  - CNG is found in nature as Natural Gas.
  - Biogas, is produced in a sealed tank/ chamber, from an organic feed-stock.
- *Composition* - Biogas is mainly Methane & Carbon Di Oxide, while Natural Gas is mainly Methane.
- Compressed Biogas proposes to build large biogas plants that will continuously produce biogas from urban, domestic and industrial wastes.
- The biogas produced will be stored under pressure in gas cylinders for easy distribution to urban and semi-urban customers as alternative to charcoal and firewood.
- Union Government is in the process of including Compressed Bio-Gas under

## Priority Sector Lending.

### **SATAT Scheme**

- Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme on Compressed Bio Gas was launched in 2018.
- It envisages targeting production of 15 MMT of CBG from 5000 plants by 2023.
- The Government of India has taken various enabling steps to ensure the success of the SATAT scheme.
- Oil Marketing Companies have offered long term pricing on CBG to make projects bankable and have agreed to execute long term agreements on CBG.
- Under SATAT scheme, IOT Biogas Limited (Namakkal, Tamil Nadu) decided to divert part/full biogas production to Compressed Biogas (CBG) generation.
- The Compressed Biogas procured from IOT Biogas plant shall be sold through Retail Outlets (ROs) and Institutional Business (IB).
- *This is the first time an alternative to natural gas is being sold by Oil Marketing Companies.*

**Source:** PIB, the Hindu, Economic Times

