

**12– 04 – 2022**

**News: Mullaperiyar Dam Issue**

- Recently, the **Supreme Court ordered the reconstitution of the Mullaperiyar dam's supervisory committee.**
- The committee will include one technical expert each from Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the two States involved in the dispute concerning safety of the dam.

**Supreme Court ruling**

- The **court has empowered the panel with functions and powers on par with that of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA).** NDSA is a body envisaged under the Dam Safety Act, 2021.
- **For any act of failure, “appropriate action” will be taken against the persons concerned not only for having violated the directions of the court but also under the Act.**
- The act talks of **one year imprisonment or fine or both for refusal to comply with directions of bodies formed under the law.**
- As per the Supreme Court latest order, the two States are expected to nominate, within two weeks, one representative each to the supervisory committee, in addition to one nominee each.

# National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)

- National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) are two statutory bodies created under the provisions of Dam Safety Act of 2019.
- The National Committee on Dam Safety is **chaired by the chairperson, Central Water Commission.**
- Functions of the committee include **formulating policies and regulations regarding dam safety standards and prevention of dam failures, analyzing the causes of major dam failures, and suggesting changes in dam safety practices.**
- The act also ideates setting up a **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) to be headed by an officer, not below the rank of an Additional Secretary, to be appointed by the central government.** The main task of this authority includes **implementing the policies formulated by the National Committee on Dam Safety, resolving issues between State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs), or between an SDSO and any dam owner in that state, specifying regulations for inspection and investigation of dams.**
- The NDSA will also provide accreditation to agencies working on construction, design, and alteration of dams.

- The act also envisages constituting a State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) whose functions will be to keep perpetual surveillance, inspection, monitoring the operation and maintenance of dams, keeping a database of all dams, and recommending safety measures to owners of dams.
- The owners of the specified dams are required to provide a dam safety unit in each dam. This unit will inspect the dams before and after the monsoon session, and during and after any calamity or sign of distress.
- Dam owners will be required to prepare an emergency action plan, and carry out risk assessment studies for each dam at specified regular intervals.
- Dam owners will also be required to conduct a comprehensive dam safety evaluation of each dam, at regular intervals, through a panel of experts.
- The act provides for two types of offences – obstructing a person in the discharge of his functions, and refusing to comply with directions issued under the proposed law.

**News:** Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards and Lalit Kala Akademi Awards

- The Vice President bestowed the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Sangeet Natak Awards for the year 2018 to 43 eminent artists (4 Fellows and 40 awardees).

## **Sangeet Natak Academy Awards**

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship is the **highest honour conferred by Sangeet Natak Akademi without distinction of nationality, race, caste, religion, creed, or sex.**
- The Fellowship of the Akademi is the **most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 numbers at any given time.**
- The honour of Akademi Fellow **carries purse money of Rupees three lakh along with a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.**

### **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards**

- The awards are **given to the artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional / Folk / Tribal Music / Dance / Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts etc.**
- Akademi Puraskar carries **Rupees one lakh along with Tamrapatra and Angavastram.**

## Lalit Kala Academy Awards

- The National Lalit Kala Akademi awards are conferred to recognize individuals for their outstanding work in the field of art. The awardees are selected by an esteemed panel of judges, nominated by the Akademi.

## Sangeet Natak Akademi

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- It was created by a resolution of the (then) Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 1952 with Dr P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman.
- It is presently an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.
- The Akademi establishes and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the field of the performing arts.

Few important ones are:

- National School of Drama, New Delhi was set up in 1959,
- Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy in Imphal- 1954,

- Kathak Kendra (National Institute of Kathak Dance) in New Delhi- 1964.
- National Projects of Support to Kutiyattam (Sanskrit theatre of Kerala), Chhau dances of eastern India, Sattriya traditions of Assam, etc.

## **Lalit Kala Academy**

- The Akademi was inaugurated on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1954, by the then Honourable Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- The Akademi was given statutory authority in 1957, under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- Since its establishment it has been serving the entire country by promoting the creative endeavours of Indian artists and bringing their arts to bear upon a large number of people, thereby playing an important role in defining and redefining the sensibility of an entire culture, falling under the visual arts spectrum.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

**News:** State Energy and Climate Index (SECI)

- Recently, NITI Aayog released the State Energy and Climate Index (SECI)

## **State Energy and Climate Index (SECI)**

- State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) is an **index published by NITI Aayog**.
- It is the first index that **aims to track the efforts made by States and UTs in the climate and energy sector**.
- The States have been **categorised based on size and geographical differences as larger and smaller States and UTs**.
- The **index is based on 2019-20 data**.
- **Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab have been ranked as the top three performers** in the category of larger States, while Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were the bottom three States.
- **Goa emerged as the top performer in the smaller States** category followed by Tripura and Manipur.
- **Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and Daman & Diu / Dadra & Nagar Haveli** are the top performers.
- **Punjab was the best performer in discom performance**, while **Kerala topped in access, affordability and reliability category**.

- Haryana was the best performer in clean energy initiative among larger States and Tamil Nadu in the energy efficiency category.