21 – 11 – 2021

News: Ekalavya Schools

- ➢ Tribal Affairs Ministry has said that construction of Ekalavya Schools put on fast track after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of 50 schools on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on 15th of this month virtually from Bhopal.

- ➢ These schools are being set up in 26 districts of seven States and one Union Territory.

Ekalavya Model Residential Schools

- ➢ As per the budget 2018-19, every block with more than 50% Schedule Tribe (ST) population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Ekalavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.

- ➢ These are being set up by grants provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

- ➢ There will be an autonomous society under the ministry of tribal affairs — similar to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti — to run the EMRSs.

- ➢ The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail

of reservation in high and professional educational courses and as jobs in government and public and private sectors but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population.

News: Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

➢ Recently, the Allahabad High Court has called upon the Central government to initiate the process for implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Uniform Civil Code

Background

➢ Increase in legislation dealing with personal issues in the far end of British rule forced the government to form the B N Rau Committee to codify Hindu law in 1941.

➢ UCC is one that would provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.

➢ Article 44 of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.

➢ Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).

➢ In order to bring uniformity, the courts have often said in their judgements that the government should move towards a UCC.

➢ The judgement in the Shah Bano case (1985) is well known.

➢ The Supreme Court in Shayara Bano case (2017) had declared the practise of Triple Talaq (talaq-e-biddat) as unconstitutional.

Need for UCC

➢ **National Integration**: A common civil code will help the cause of national integration by removing disparate loyalties to laws which have conflicting ideologies.

➢ **In Conformity With Changing Times**: There has been a steep rise in inter-community, inter-caste and interfaith marriages and relationships, in recent times.

➢ Also, coupled with the rise in the number of single women, a comprehensive UCC will be in conformity with the changing times.

➢ **Protection to Vulnerable Section of Society**: The UCC aims to provide protection to vulnerable sections as envisaged by Ambedkar including women and religious minorities.

➢ **Adhering to Ideal of Secularism**: Secularism is the objective enshrined in the Preamble, a secular republic needs a common law for all citizens rather than differentiated rules based on religious practices.

➢ **Simplification of Laws**: The code will simplify the complex laws around marriage ceremonies, inheritance, succession, adoptions making them one for all. The same civil law will then be applicable to all citizens irrespective of their faith.

Associated Challenges

➢ **Communal Politics**: The demand for a uniform civil code has been framed in the context of communal politics.

➢ A large section of society sees it as majoritarianism under the garb of social reform.

➢ **Constitutional Hurdle**: Article 25 of Indian constitution, that seeks to preserve the freedom to practise and propagate any religion gets into conflict with the concepts of equality enshrined under Article 14 of Indian Constitution.

Smart Policing Index 2021

➢ Smart Policing Index 2021 is brought up by a nationwide survey conducted by Indian Police Foundation (IPF).

➢ The purpose of the IPF survey was to gather information on citizens' perceptions about the impact of the SMART policing initiative.

➢ Indian Police Foundation (IPF) is a Delhi-based think tank set up by eminent citizens including serving and retired police officers, civil servants, academics and lawyers etc – for each individual state or Union territory.

The survey had 10 sets of questionnaires, which included:

➢ Six indices of "Competence-Based Indicators" dealing with issues such as police sensitivity, accessibility, responsiveness and technology adoption among others;

➢ Three indices of "Value-Based indicators" dealing with integrity of the police; and

➢ One index of "Trust".

➢ The SMART scores are set on a scale of 1 to 10 and are indicative of the levels of citizen satisfaction, a score of 10 being the highest level of satisfaction.

- Southern states and some in the Northeast fared better on most policing indices compared to states in the north.

- The top five states with the highest score on overall policing are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala and Sikkim.

- From bottom upwards are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Punjab.

SMART Policing

- The SMART Policing idea was envisioned, articulated and introduced by the Indian PM at the Conference of DGPs of State and Central Police Organizations, held at Guwahati, in the year 2014.

- It envisaged systemic changes to transform the Indian Police to be: Strict and Sensitive, Modern and Mobile, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive, Techno-savvy and Trained (SMART).

- The strategy combined the development of physical infrastructure, technology adoption, a focus on the critical soft skills and attitudes, as well as a deep commitment to the values of professional excellence and service to the people, considered essential to take the Indian Police to the next level.

Swachh Survekshan Rankings

➢ In 2020, Ministry of State for Housing and Urban Affairs launched Swachh Survekshan 2021, quarterly assessment of cities and towns in India.

➢ The survey is based on 71 parameters, including open defecation, garbage collection, dumpster-free street, beautification projects, public toilets and mapping of public toilets.

➢ The survey was carried out in 4,320 cities over 28 days, where feedback from 4.2 crore persons was recorded.

➢ Chhattisgarh is the cleanest state (for the third time), in the category of States with more than 100 urban local bodies followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

➢ Jharkhand was judged the cleanest State with less than 100 ULBs, followed by Haryana and Goa.

➢ Ranks for Swachh Survekshan have been assigned on the basis of population 10 lakh and above, 1-10 lakh and Less than 1 lakh.

➢ Indore was ranked the cleanest city for the fifth consecutive year followed by Surat and Vijayawada (in cities with more than 1 lakh population).

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency, Varanasi, won the award for the cleanest "Ganga city".

- Of cities with population less than 1 lakh, Maharashtra's Vita was the cleanest, followed by Lonavala and Sasvad.

- The New Delhi Municipal Council's area was ranked the cleanest in the category of cities with 1-3 lakh population.

- Noida was named the cleanest among medium sized cities, that is with 3 lakh to 10 lakh population.

- Among the big cities with population of 10 lakh to 40 lakh, Navi Mumbai was ranked the cleanest.