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Rethinking KUSUM

If designed better and implemented effectively, the scheme could radically transform the irrigation economy.

- **KUSUM**

  - **Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan**
  - **Continuous energy supply**
  - **Sustainable Irrigation Access**

- **Proposed objectives**

  1. Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas
  2. Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers not connected to the grid

- **III) Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply & also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM & get extra income**

- **iv) Solarization of tube-wells and lift irrigation projects of Government Sector**

- **Notification by Ministry of New Renewable Energy**

  → New scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar power plants

- **3 Components:**

  a) **Component - A:** 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground mounted Grid connected Renewable power plants
1. **Equity by Design**
   - All farmers enjoy equitable benefits

2. **3 Suggestions**
   - Reduce disparities existing among the States
     - Chhattisgarh & Rajasthan - 50% of 2 lakh Solar pumps
     - Bihar, U.P & W.B. - Diesel pump usage
     - Poor Budget allocations by the State govt.
     - Equitable Installation of Solar powered agriculture pumps (Component - B)
     - Central govt. should incentivise States through target-linked financial assistance

<table>
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<th>2. Reduce disparities within the States</th>
<th>3. Prudence over Populism</th>
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<td>* Bihar ⇒ 90% small &amp; - receive only 50% marginal farmers of govt subsidies</td>
<td>* Component - C</td>
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<td>* Chhattisgarh ⇒ 95% of beneficiaries from socially disadvantaged groups</td>
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<td>* Financial Assistance to socially disadvantaged groups</td>
<td>* Grid Connected Vs Non-Grid Connected</td>
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| 2. Reduce disparities between different Categories of farmers | ↓  
| * Component - C → Cost Share | ↓  
| 30% - Centre | Power Subsides  
| Inequity If Same  
| Share exists for | Diesel → Needs financial support  
| 40% - Farmers all Categories of farmers | Regular Income for  
|                     | Supplying surplus power  
|                     | Centre - 30% subsidy  
|                     | States - 30% share → DISCOMS |
Practice Question – Mains
GS - III

Q. “Affordable, reliable and equitable access to energy and water is the need of the hour to address the agrarian crisis”. Examine the challenges and measures to tackle agrarian crisis in the light of above statement.
Biomedical Waste

* Human and animal anatomical waste,
* Treatment apparatus like needles and,
* Syringes used in healthcare facilities (HCFs)
* 2015, CPCB (pollution control) report
  → India generates 500 tonnes of biomedical waste/day
* ASSOCHAM report: rate of biomedical waste generation to grow at 7.4% annually to reach 775 tonnes/day by 2022

![Consequences of Inadequate Waste Management](image)

**Important provisions in Biomedical Waste Management Rules 2016**

1. Covers all stakeholders – those who generate, store, transport biomedical waste → ↑ responsibility
2. Wider ambit – covering vaccination and blood donation camps
3. Training to healthcare workers
4. Establishing common treatment & disposal facilities
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements about the Biomedical waste management rules 2016.

1. It covers the blood donation camps and vaccination camps apart from hospitals and clinics.
2. It provides for using bar-code system to tag containers carrying waste.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Mains

GS - II

Q. “Healthcare in India is one of the largest sector in terms of revenue and employment. Formation of large number of health care facilities is associated with the generation of huge amount of biomedical waste”. Discuss the initiatives by the government for proper disposal and the threats associated if the waste is not properly treated.
### Automotive Sector

- Challenging year
  - Various regulatory changes
  - India will switch over to BS VI norms by April 2020
  - Volatile for the next 6 months

### BS - VI norms

- **Bharat Stage VI**
- Vehicle Emission Standards
- **w.e.f April 2020**
- Pollutants
  - Hydrocarbons
  - Carbon Monoxide
  - Nitrous Oxides
  - Particulate Matter

### Entire Vehicle design requires a change

- Challenging for automotive and allied industries

### Indian Automotive industry is at an inflection point

### Possible Impacts due to switch over to BS VI standards

- Low Consumer Sentiments
- Inventory Buildup
- Original equipment manufacturers have to align production in line with demand
- Automotive manufacturers have to invest huge money

- Increase in overall prices of vehicles
- Increase in the fuel prices
- Increase in the Insurance costs
- Vehicle launches by the automotive companies are likely to reduce
- Electric vehicle segment will give a tough competition to fossil fuel based vehicles
Relief for airlines as Pakistan opens its airspace after 6 months

In a major relief for air- travelers and airlines, Pakistan reopened its airspace for all international flights with effect from 00:00 IST on 17 July 2019. A ban on skies above Pakistan had been in vogue for a span of six months since the IAF had fired at its own airspace in Balakot. Hours after the announcement, an oil cargo flight from Basra to Dubai became the first Indian aircraft to fly over the neck- locking corridor and reach the destination 90 minutes early. The curfews meant airlines had to take longer routes to their destinations and burn more fuel, stop midway for refuelling and routes more pilots and cabin crew cost.

An increase in fuel expenses, which constitutes a large portion of an airline’s operational costs, resulted in an increase in fares and, in some cases, cancellation of flights.

“Pakistan has cancelled the NOTAM (notice to airmen) for its airspace effective from 00:00 IST on 17 July 2019. However, the airlines are expected to continue to use the longer routes until they are notified of the reopening of the airspace,” the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

Pakistan airspace — closed completely after Feb 2019

Flights using Pak airspace — especially flights to and from India; USA and Europe bound flights, flights from Southeast Asia suffered severely

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Pakistan cancelled the NOTAM for its airspace and reopened its airspace for all flights

NOTAM — notice to airmen

Issued by national authorities to aircraft pilots about changes in aeronautical services, potential hazards etc.

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper 1: (200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

• India and its neighborhood- relations.

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Longer routes to reach destination

\[ \text{Impact (when airspace was closed)} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{Stop midway for refuelling} & \Rightarrow \text{Further delay} \\
\text{\uparrow fuel consumption} & \Rightarrow \text{\uparrow in operational cost} \\
\text{\uparrow fuel expense} & \Rightarrow \text{Exorbitant fares}
\end{align*} \]

More pilots & cabin crew recruited to meet additional daily hours

Considerable \downarrow in travel time - relief for passengers

\text{No additional fuel consumption} \text{\downarrow in operational cost}

More passengers \uparrow in profit

\downarrow fuel emissions - good for environment

Why a big relief now?
Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Airspace of a country includes the space above its territory and also the outer space.
2. A country has sovereign power over its airspace and can regulate the flights and persons in its airspace using its laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2

IATA - International Air Transport Agency
- not a UN agency
- represents 290 airlines, operating over 200 countries & 80% of total air traffic

Airspace
- space above a nation’s territory till outer space
- govt. of the territory has sovereign control
- sovereign state can control the aircrafts operating there using its aviation laws
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Biomedical waste management rules 2016.

1. It covers the blood donation camps and vaccination camps apart from hospitals and clinics.
2. It provides for using bar-code system to tag containers carrying waste.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. Airspace of a country include the space above its territory and also the outer space.
2. A country has sovereign power over its airspace and can regulate the flights and persons in its airspace using its laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
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d) Neither 1 nor 2
Q1. “Affordable, reliable and equitable access to energy and water is the need of the hour to address the agrarian crisis”. Examine the challenges and measures to tackle agrarian crisis in the light of above statement.

Q2. “Healthcare in India is one of the largest sector in terms of revenue and employment. Formation of large number of health care facilities is associated with the generation of huge amount of biomedical waste”. Discuss the initiatives by the government for proper disposal and the threats associated if the waste is not properly treated.
Practice Questions – Prelims

Answers
1. Option c – Both 1 and 2
2. Option b – 2 only

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