



Balalatha's
CSB IAS ACADEMY
The Road Map to Mussoorie...

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COTPA ACT, 2003

Context: The Union Govt. has decided to revise excise duties on tobacco and tobacco related products, which continue to remain outside the GST framework.



About the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA):

- The Act prohibits smoking of tobacco in public places, except in special smoking zones in hotels, airports, etc.
- Advertisement of tobacco products including cigarettes is prohibited.
- Tobacco products cannot be sold to person below the age of 18, and in places within 100 yards radius from the outer boundary of an institution of education, which includes both schools and colleges.
- Tobacco products must be sold, supplied, or distributed in a package which shall contain an appropriate pictorial warning, its nicotine and tar contents.

- Owner/in-charge of a public place must display a board containing the warning “No Smoking Area - Smoking here is an offence” in appropriate manner at the entrance and inside the premises.
- The Act gives power to the police and food safety authorities to conduct search and seizure of premises where tobacco products are produced, stored or sold, if they suspect that provisions of COTPA were violated.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

- The WHO FCTC is an international treaty adopted by the WHO in 2003.
- It is designed to address global health risks associated with tobacco use and to provide a comprehensive framework for govts to implement effective tobacco control policies.
- FCTC recognizes that tobacco use is a major public health concern, causing numerous preventable deaths and illnesses worldwide.
- The FCTC operates as a legally binding treaty. It means that countries that have ratified it must implement measures outlined in the FCTC within their jurisdictions.

Status of Tobacco Consumption in India:

- According to Global Youth Tobacco Survey, India has the 2nd largest number (268

million) of tobacco users and of these, 13 lakh die every year from tobacco-related diseases.

- Ten lakh deaths are due to smoking, with >2,00,000 due to second-hand smoke exposure, and over 35,000 are due to smokeless tobacco use.
- About 27 crore people above the age of 15 years and 8.5% of school-going children in the age group 13-15 years use tobacco in some form in India.
- India bears an annual economic burden of over ₹1,77,340 crore on account of tobacco use.
- Tobacco is known to be a major risk factor for many non-communicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and chronic lung diseases. 27% of all cancers in India are due to tobacco usage.

Other Steps Taken by India:

- ✓ The **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019** prohibits the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement of e-Cigarettes.
- ✓ Union Govt launched **National Tobacco Quitline Services (NTQLS)** which provides telephone-based information, advice, support, and referrals for tobacco cessation.
- ✓ **mCessation Programme** is a similar initiative which uses mobile technology for tobacco cessation. It was launched in 2016 as part of the Digital India initiative.

Source: Govt. notifies February 1 as the end of GST compensation cess, start of new tobacco tax regime (The Hindu)

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Context: An article in The Hindu analyses the challenges faced by India in improving its solid waste management sector.



About Solid Waste:

- It includes solid & semi-solid domestic waste, sanitary waste, commercial waste, street sweepings, silt removed or collected from drains, agriculture and dairy waste, treated biomedical waste **excluding industrial waste, e-waste, untreated biomedical waste, battery waste, and radioactive waste.**
- With a burgeoning population and even faster urbanisation – there has been an **explosion in generation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Indian cities.**

Status of Solid Waste in India:

- Urban India alone generates nearly **0.15 million tonnes per day of Municipal Solid Waste.**
- It is estimated that about **62 million tonnes of solid waste are generated annually** in the country.
 - About 43 million tonnes (**70%**) are **collected**, of which about 12 million

is treated & 31 million is dumped in landfills.

- The volume of waste is projected to reach **165 million tonnes by 2031 and 436 million tonnes by 2050.**
- India accounts for roughly 18% world population and **12% of global municipal waste generation.**

Key Features of SWM (Solid Waste Management) Rules, 2016:

- Responsibilities of Generators have been introduced to **segregate waste in to 3 streams** and handover this segregated waste to authorized waste collectors or urban local bodies (ULB):
 - **Wet (Biodegradable)**
 - **Dry (Plastic, Paper, metal, wood, etc.)**
 - **Domestic hazardous wastes** (diapers, napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc.)
- **Waste Generators will have to pay:**
 - 'User Fee' to waste collectors.
 - 'Spot Fine' for Littering and Non-segregation.
- **Used sanitary waste like diapers, sanitary pads should be wrapped securely in pouches** provided by manufacturers or brand owners of these products or in a suitable wrapping material and shall place the same in the bin meant for dry waste/non- bio-degradable waste.
- Bulk generators, market associations, event organizers, hotels & restaurants have been made **directly responsible for the segregation and sorting the waste and managing in partnership with local bodies.**

- **Makers of disposable products such as tin, glass, plastics packaging etc. or owners who introduce such products in the market shall provide necessary financial assistance to local authorities** for establishment of a waste management system.
- **Bio-degradable waste should be processed, treated, and disposed of via composting or bio-methanation** within the premises as far as possible.
 - **Residual waste shall be given to waste collectors** or agency as directed by the local authority.
- Waste processing facilities will have to be set up by **all local bodies having 1 million or more population** within two years of notification of the rules.
- Rules provide for exact and elaborate **criteria for identification of landfill sites and waste processing facilities.**

Other Related Initiatives in India

Waste to Wealth Portal:

- ✓ Aims to identify, develop, and **deploy tech to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials and extract resources of value.**

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:

- ✓ Mandates **generators of plastic waste to take steps to minimize generation, prevent littering, and ensure segregated storage** of waste at source.
- ✓ **PWM (Amendment) Rules, 2022** - specify responsibilities of various stakeholders such as manufacturers, importers, retailers, and consumers.

Project REPLAN by Khadi and Village Industries Commission:

- ✓ Aims to **make carry bags by mixing processed and treated plastic waste with cotton fibre rags** in the ratio 20:80.

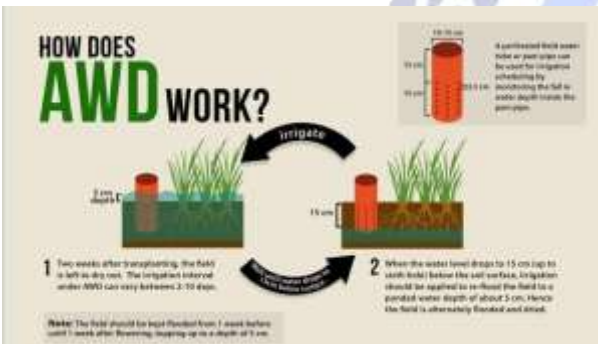


ULBs levy user fees or SWM cess under the SWM Rules, 2016. As per the rules, ULBs must collect user fees for SWM services provided. While there is no specified rate, ULBs typically charge about ₹30-50 per month, which is collected along with property tax.

Source: *Transforming a waste-ridden urban India (The Hindu)*

TERMS IN NEWS

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) Technique



- It is a **method of lowland rice cultivation** that **reduces water consumption and methane emissions** by alternating between flooded and non-flooded periods.

Its mechanism:

- **Controlled Irrigation:** Unlike traditional continuous flooding (CF), AWD allows the water level to recede naturally to a specific threshold before the field is re-flooded.
- **Monitoring:** Farmers often use a simple field water tube to monitor the subsurface water level.

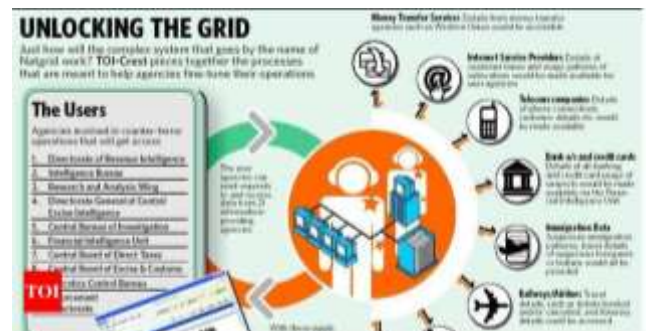
Timings:

- **Initial Phase:** Fields are kept flooded for the first 15–20 days after transplanting to establish seedlings.
- **AWD Phase:** The wetting-drying cycle continues until the flowering stage.
- **Flowering Stage:** Continuous flooding (3–5 cm) is maintained to prevent moisture stress.

Benefits:

- **Water Conservation:** Reduces water use by 25–40%.
- **Methane Reduction:** Lowers methane emissions by disrupting anaerobic conditions suitable for microbes.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Decreases irrigation frequency, leading to lower labor and energy (pumping) costs.
- **Soil and Crop Health:** Enhances root development, improves nutrient uptake, and may reduce lodging.
- **Reduces toxic metal accumulation in grains:** Reduce accumulation of lead, arsenic, and cadmium in rice grains.
- **Reduces pests & diseases:** Can reduce insect pests and diseases, especially those caused by fungi.

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)



- NATGRID is a **database compiled by Ministry of Home Affairs** that contains 24 sets of data to help agencies identify & monitor suspects.

- It was **conceived in 2008 after the 26/11 attacks** in Mumbai. The data sets include:
 - Immigration records, passports
 - Banking details, credit card information, PAN records
 - Travel history
 - Phone data
 - Vehicle registration data
 - National Population Register
 - Company details etc.

Utility of NATGRID:

- The data repository at NATGRID **captures all the digital footprints** of an individual or an entity.
- NATGRID offers **real-time intelligence** about individuals and other entities to law-enforcement authorities across the country.
- The data is used to **counter illegal activities** (E.g., suspicious financial transactions, drug rackets) by sharing data with several security agencies.

Data is utilized by:

- NATGRID services are available to **11 central agencies and police departments of all states** and UTs.
- The eleven agencies include the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), Intelligence Bureau (IB), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Directorate General of GST Intelligence.

PLACES IN NEWS

Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve



- BRT Tiger Reserve is located in Chamaranagar district, Karnataka.
- The reserve is named after the **“Biligiri,” a white rocky cliff that has a temple of Lord Vishnu**, locally known as Rangaswamy.
- The BRT Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a **Tiger Reserve in 2011**.
- This unique bio-geographical entity is situated **between the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats** in South India.
- The forests are **mainly of the dry deciduous type**. Other than this, the area is interspersed with moist deciduous, evergreen, and shola vegetation at varying altitudes.

- The Tiger Reserve is home to a variety of animals including tigers, leopards, elephants, wild dogs, bison, sambar deer, spotted deer, barking deer, four-horned antelopes, sloth bears, wild boars, langurs, bonnet macaques

Bulgaria



- Bulgaria adopted the euro as its national currency, replacing the Bulgarian Lev and becoming the 21st member of the eurozone.
- Bulgaria is a country located in **southeastern Europe in the Balkan Peninsula**. It shares land borders with **Romania** (north), **Serbia and North Macedonia** (west), **Greece and Türkiye** (south), and has a coastline along the **Black Sea** (east).
- Bulgaria is a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**) and the European Union (**EU**).
- Sofia** serves as its political and economic capital.

- Bulgaria was part of the **Ottoman Empire** from the 14th to the 20th Century, and after the 1st World War, it came under the **Soviet-led Eastern Bloc** and became a socialist state.
- Since adopting a **democratic constitution in 1991**, Bulgaria has been a parliamentary republic and has seen a high degree of political, administrative, and economic gains.
- Its **high-income economy** is part of the European Single Market and is largely based on services, followed by manufacturing, and mining.
- Bulgaria also plays a key role as a **transit country for natural gas and oil pipelines** from Turkey and Russia.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Solid Waste Management Rules of 2016:

- Waste processing facilities will have to be set up only by all notified urban and rural local bodies.
- The rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for identification of landfill sites and waste processing facilities.
- Waste generators have to segregate the waste into 5 separate categories at the source itself.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q2. The “Alternate Wetting and Drying” Technique is related to the cultivation of which of the following crops ?

- (a) Sugarcane
- (b) Rice
- (c) Wheat
- (d) Cotton

Q3. Consider the following nations located in West Asia and Eastern Europe:

- 1. Azerbaijan
- 2. Georgia
- 3. Armenia
- 4. Hungary
- 5. Greece
- 6. Bulgaria
- 7. Romania

How many of these nations share a maritime border with the Black Sea?

- (a) Only three
- (b) Only four
- (c) Only five
- (d) Only six

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act of 2003 and tobacco use in India:

- 1. Electronic cigarettes are included under the purview of the Act.
- 2. The Act was enacted in pursuance of the WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- 3. India has the world’s highest burden of tobacco use and resultant health problems.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Consider the tiger reserves of India and the states they are located in:

- 1. Bilgiri Rangaswamy: Karnataka
- 2. Indravati: Chattisgarh
- 3. Nameri: Assam
- 4. Melghat: Maharashtra

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answers:

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. A
- 4. C
- 5. D