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BCIM:  
Bangladesh- China- India-  
Myanmar Economic Corridor



G-20 2019:  
Osaka Summit, Japan



World Environment Day 2019:  
Beat Air Pollution



Black Hole: First ever image  
of black hole revealed



Mission Shakti -  
ASAT  
Mission Shakti: India's first  
anti-satellite missile test

ISSUE 12 | 2019 | APR 19-JUN 19

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL TO JUNE  
2019

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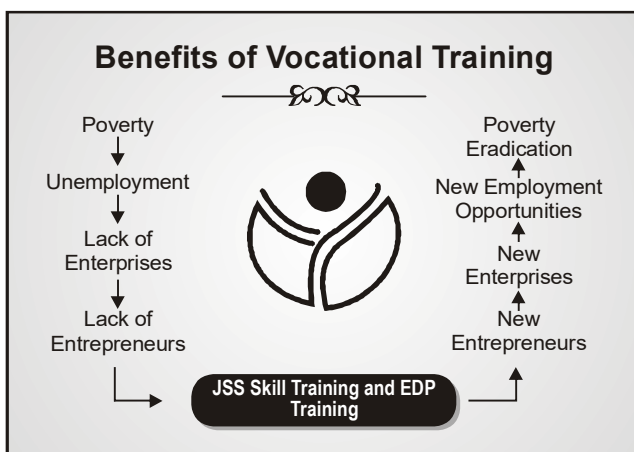
# CHAPTER

# 1

# Polity Governance and Social Issues

## JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN (JSS)

1. It was initially launched by **Ministry of Human Resource Development & then transferred to Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in 2018** & was previously known as Shramik Vidyapeeth.
2. Its objective is **to provide vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate & school drop outs by identifying skills required by a market in the region of their establishment.**
3. It uses lecture and demonstration, print/AV material and computer aided techniques, field visit, placement/on the job training and follow-up as the major methodologies of teaching.
4. **Benefits:** (a) It links literacy with vocational skills & provide Life Enrichment Education to people.  
(b) It helps to shape their beneficiaries into self-reliant employees and entrepreneurs.  
(c) It provides job opportunities including wage, self and co-employment.
5. It fairly distributes teaching hours to theory and practical with more weightage on practical aspects.



*Note: The fee for SC/ST candidates, who join vocational training under JSS, is waived off by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.*

## CABINET COMMITTEES

1. They are extra-constitutional bodies, which derive their legality from the constitution.
2. **Objectives:**
  - ❖ To ensure smooth functioning between two departments or ministries of the government.
  - ❖ To sort out differences between various ministries on policy matters by preparing a common platform.
  - ❖ To assist in reducing the workload of the Union cabinet.
3. As per the Indian constitution, a government is called executive including the President of India.
4. The powers to constitute cabinet committees having members from various ministries are vested with Prime Minister led Union cabinet.
5. This is done in accordance with the Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.
6. Article 77(3) of the Constitution allows the president to make these rules for convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India.
7. The Government of India added two new committees to the existing 6 cabinet committees in June 2019.
8. **Cabinet committee on investment & growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment & skill development** are 2 new committees added by the government. There are a total 8 cabinet committees.
9. The 8 Committees and their composition/functions are discussed below:



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**a) Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**

- ❖ It is headed by Prime Minister.
- ❖ Minister of Home Affairs & Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry are members of the committee.
- ❖ It takes decision regarding all higher level appointments in the Cabinet Secretariat, public enterprises, banks and financial institutions.

**b) Cabinet Committee on Accommodation**

- ❖ It is composed of cabinet ministers from different ministries with one of them is the head of the committee.
- ❖ The committee determines the rules and terms and conditions to govern out-of-turn allotment of government accommodation and allotment of accommodation to the members of the parliament.
- ❖ Also considers proposals regarding shifting of the existing Central Government Offices to places outside Delhi and the location of new offices in Delhi.

**c) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**

- ❖ Cabinet ministers of different ministries are its members with Prime Minister as the head of this committee.
- ❖ It directs and coordinates the governmental activities in the economic sphere.
- ❖ It also reviews economic trends and evolve consistent and integrated policy framework in the country.

- ❖ It looks into the issues relating to disinvestment

**d) Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs**

- ❖ This committee is composed of cabinet ministers from different ministries with the Union Home Minister is the head of the committee.
- ❖ The function of the committee is to track the progress of Government business in Parliament and gives directions necessary to secure smooth and efficient conduct of such business.

**e) Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs**

- ❖ The committee is headed by the Prime Minister. Cabinet ministers of various ministries are its members.
- ❖ It looks into the problems relating to Centre-State relations.
- ❖ It also deals with policy matters concerning foreign affairs having no external or internal security implications.

**f) Cabinet Committee on Security**

- ❖ The Prime Minister is the head of this committee.

Cabinet ministers of Finance, Defence, Home Affairs and External Affairs are its members.

- ❖ Its objective is to deal with all Defence related issues & the issues relating to law and order and internal security.
  - ❖ It also considers all matters relating to atomic energy.
- g) Cabinet committee on investment & growth (added in 2019)**
- ❖ It is a new committee comprising of Prime Minister as head and its members are Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and Minister of Commerce & Industry.
  - ❖ It will look into the matter related to investment in India and GDP growth rate of the country.
- h) Cabinet Committee on Employment and skill development (added in 2019)**
- ❖ The committee is made up of Prime Minister (head), Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Minister of Rural Development, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and other ministers.
  - ❖ It will take measures to improve the status of unemployment and enhance skill development in the country.

**JAL SHAKTI MINISTRY**

1. It is a new ministry created by the Government of India by merging : (a) the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and (b) Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
2. Its main objective is to look into the issues such as international & inter-states water disputes, the Namami Gange project and provide clean drinking water.
3. It will formulate & implement plan to provide piped water connections to all households in India by 2024 & is known as **Nal se Jal** scheme, which will be a component of government's Jal Jivan Mission.

**Note:** India is home to 4% of world's water resources and more than 18% of the world's population.

India is the World's largest user of groundwater, which is about 25% of global groundwater extraction.

India, Bangladesh, Pakistan & China together account for more than 50% of world's groundwater usage.

## QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements related to World Environment Day.
- This day is organized in collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Programme.
  - The theme for 2019 World Environment Day is Air pollution.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2              (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Consider the following statements related to World Oceans Day 2019.
- Its objective is to enhance the awareness about the important role oceans play human life and the measures to be taken in order to protect and conserve the oceans.
  - It was first proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2              (d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Which one of the following is the place where India conducted its Nuclear Tests in 1998?
- (a) Pokharan, Rajasthan  
(b) Balasore, Odisha  
(c) Shriharikota, Andhra Pradesh  
(d) Thiruvanthapuram, Kerala
4. Consider the following statements related to World Migratory Bird Day 2019.
- It is celebrated on May 12 to highlight the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
  - Collision with badly placed wind turbines and power lines is not a major threat to migratory birds.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2              (d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Consider the following statements related to Startup Ranking Framework.
- Its main aim is to encourage only Union Territories to take positive measures in order to enhance the Startup ecosystems at the local level.
  - It is launched by Ministry of Finance.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are NOT correct?
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2              (d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Consider the following statements related to International Day for Biological Diversity 2019.
- Its main objective to increase awareness on different kinds of biodiversity issues like habitat destruction, marine pollution and climate change.
  - The theme for 2019 is Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health.
  - The theme aims to spread awareness of the dependency of our food systems, nutrition and health on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 2                      (d) 1, 2 and 3
7. Consider the following statements related to Man Booker International Prize.
- This prize for the year 2019 has been awarded to the Polish author Jokha al-Harhi.
  - It is one of the most celebrated literary awards in the British culture and was started in 1969.
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only                      (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2              (d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about Earth Hour 2019?
- It is an annual event organized by the World Wildlife Fund.
  - It is observed on March 24 between 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

## OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

3. It promotes conservation and sustainable energy.  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
(a) 1, 2 and 3                      (b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 2                          (d) 1 only
9. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about World Press Freedom Index?  
1. It is jointly published annually by Reporters Without Borders and International Press Institute.  
2. The Index ranks 180 countries according to the level of freedom available to journalists.  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
(a) 1 only                              (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. Jan Shikshan Sansthan is a central government scheme under the ambit of:  
(a) Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(b) Ministry of Rural Development  
(c) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship  
(d) Ministry of Women and Child Welfare
11. National Technology day is celebrated on:  
(a) May 11                              (b) May 12  
(c) May 13                              (d) May 14
12. The Government of India added two new committees to the existing 6 cabinet committees in June 2019. The names of the two committees are:  
(a) Cabinet committee on accommodation, Cabinet committee on employment & skill development  
(b) Cabinet committee on investment & growth, Cabinet committee on accommodation  
(c) Cabinet committee on economic affairs, Cabinet committee on employment & skill development  
(d) Cabinet committee on investment & growth, Cabinet committee on employment & skill development
13. Consider the following statements related to Leader of Opposition:  
1. He is chosen from the party which has min 15% members of the total strength of that house.  
2. The post of Leader of Opposition isn't mentioned in Indian Constitution.  
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?  
(a) 1 only                              (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2                      (d) Neither 1 nor 2
14. Nandan Nilekani Committee Report was constituted in Jan 2019 by:  
(a) NITI Aayog  
(b) Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI)  
(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)  
(d) (a) and (b)
15. Consider the following:  
1. Economic Performance  
2. Education  
3. Government Efficiency  
4. Corporate Social Responsibility  
Which of the above is/are the categories in which world competitiveness ranking classifies economies?  
(a) 1 and 3                              (b) 2 and 4  
(c) 1 and 2                              (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
16. Consider the following countries:  
1. Pakistan  
2. Turkmenistan  
3. Iran  
4. Kazakhstan  
Which of the above is/are NOT the members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?  
(a) 1 and 3                              (b) 2 and 4  
(c) 1 and 2                              (d) 2 and 3
17. 2019 G20 summit was held in:  
(a) Bonn, Germany  
(b) Osaka, Japan  
(c) New York, USA  
(d) Durban, South Africa
18. START is an arms curtailment treaty signed between United States & Russia. It stands for:  
(a) Sophisticated Arms Reduction Treaty  
(b) Strategic Arms Relocation Treaty



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