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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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GREEN CREDIT PROGRAM

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Green Credit Program". This topic has relevance in the "Environment and Ecology" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

What is the Green Credit Program?

For Mains:

GS3: Environment and Ecology

Initiatives for conservation of environment

Why in the news?

The government has launched a unique program that enables individuals or organisations to accumulate Green Credits and trade them on a specialised exchange.

Green Credit Program

- Green Credit represents a form of **incentive for activities that positively impact the environment.**
- The **Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Ministry** is initiating a national-level Green Credit program, which utilises a competitive, market-based approach to incentivise environmental actions by various stakeholders.
- This program is a voluntary initiative as a follow-up to the '**LiFE**' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign.
- An inter-ministerial Steering Committee backs the GCP for its governance.
- It designates **The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** as the **GCP Administrator** entrusted with program implementation, management, monitoring, and operations.



Program Scope:

The Green Credit program encompasses eight activities:

- **Tree Plantation:** Aimed at expanding the green cover across the nation.
- **Water Management:** Focused on promoting water conservation, harvesting, and efficient water use, including wastewater treatment and reuse.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Encouraging natural and regenerative agricultural practices, along with land restoration, to enhance productivity, soil health, and nutritional value of food produced.
- **Waste Management:** Promoting sustainable and improved waste management practices, encompassing collection, segregation, and environmentally sound disposal.
- **Air Pollution Reduction:** Encouraging measures to reduce air pollution and other pollution abatement activities.
- **Mangrove Conservation and Restoration:** Aimed at the mangrove ecosystems conservation and restoration.

Green Credit Procedure:

- **Registration:** Individuals or entities register their environmental activities on the program's website.
- **Verification:** A designated agency verifies registered activities, with self-verification for small projects.
- **Calculation:** Green Credit calculation factors in resource needs, scale, scope, size, and relevant parameters for environmental impact.
- **Certification:** The Administrator issues Green Credit certificates after a positive verification.

Objectives of the Program:

- The Green Credit program operates on a market-based mechanism designed to stimulate positive environmental actions.
- It generates tradable Green Credits, which can be exchanged on a domestic market platform.
- The program encourages industries, companies, and various entities to fulfil their existing obligations under current laws.
- It also motivates these stakeholders to undertake voluntary environmental measures by generating or purchasing their Green Credits.

Distinction from Carbon Credits:

- The Green Credit program operates separately from the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023, established under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.**
- An environmental activity that generates Green Credits may also receive carbon credits under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme. However, **Green Credits obtained for fulfilling legal obligations under current laws are not tradable.**

Sources:

Govt launches Green Credit to incentivise eco-friendly actions

Q1. With reference to the Green Credit Program, consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of loan provided to businesses and individuals to support investments in green technologies and renewable energy projects.
2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change is launching a nationwide Green Credit initiative.
3. The Forest Survey of India has been designated as the GCP Administrator.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Q2. Consider the following:

1. Tree plantation
2. Water management
3. Monoculture type of agriculture
4. Waste management
5. Renewable energy plants
6. Mangrove conservation and restoration.

How many of the activities mentioned above are not part of the Green Credit Program?

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

Answer: (b)

Q3. Explain the concept of the Green Credit Program and its significance in promoting environmentally friendly actions.

Gaurav N

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Special Leave Petition". This topic has relevance in the Polity and Governance section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 2: Polity and Governance

Why in the news?

The Supreme Court has granted early listing for a special leave petition that challenges the Delhi High Court's dismissal of petitions filed by NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and the human resources head, Amir Chakraborty. These petitions pertained to their arrest by the Delhi Police under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Background:

The Supreme Court of India highlighted an issue regarding Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in criminal cases, which frequently lack vital information, including information about the accused, charges, and the trial's progress. Recognizing the deficiency of essential details in these appeals, the Supreme Court underscored the necessity for the establishment of new regulations aimed at ensuring that all requisite information is included in SLPs. This measure would help avoid unwarranted delays and enhance the efficiency of the legal process.

Special Leave Petition of the Supreme Court:

Granting Special Leave: According to Article 136 of the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court holds the discretionary power to grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence, or order issued by any court or tribunal within the territory of India. This

discretionary authority allows the Supreme Court to decide whether to accept or reject a requested Special Leave in any given case.

Exclusion of Armed Forces Matters: Notably, this provision does not apply to judgments, determinations, sentences, or orders issued by any court or tribunal established under laws related to the Armed Forces.

Inter-State Water Dispute (ISWD) Tribunal: When discussing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs), it's essential to consider their relationship with judgments from Inter-State Water Dispute (ISWD) Tribunals. The Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956, along with Article 262(2) of the Constitution, explicitly excludes the Supreme Court from hearing or deciding appeals against the decisions of ISWD Tribunals.

However, Article 136's reference to "any court or tribunal in the territory of India" raises questions about its applicability to ISWD Tribunals. The Supreme Court has argued that remedies provided under Article 136, which includes Special Leave Petitions, are constitutional rights. Therefore, there are potential avenues for circumventing this exclusion, primarily through Articles 32, 131, and 136 of the Constitution.

Constitutional Remedies: Article 32 of the Constitution provides constitutional remedies through writs like Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, and Quo Warranto to safeguard fundamental rights.

Original Jurisdiction: Article 131 grants the Supreme Court original jurisdiction in matters involving disputes between the Center and the States or inter-State disputes, addressing such issues in a comprehensive manner.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cji-agrees-to-look-into-newslick-founders-plea-for-early-listing-of-his-petition-against-arrest-remand/article67425863.ece>

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in India:

1. SLPs are primarily filed in the High Courts of India.
2. SLPs can only be filed by government authorities and public servants.
3. The Supreme Court of India has the discretionary power to decide whether to grant or deny permission for an SLP.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: A

Q.2 Consider the following statements regarding Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in India:

1. SLPs are filed directly in the Supreme Court of India.
2. SLPs can be filed only on constitutional matters and not on any other legal issues.

3. The grant of permission for an SLP is a matter of right for the petitioner.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: B

Q.3 Examine the discretionary powers of the Supreme Court of India in deciding Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) and the impact of such discretion on the Indian legal system.

Rishabh



Yojna IAS
योजना है तो सफलता है