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Important Facts For Prelims (4th May 2019)

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Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- Common Service Centre's **(CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited**, under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, has **tied up** with **IIT-Kanpur** to upscale '**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**'.
 - IIT-Kanpur has brought together **15 leading higher education institutions** from Uttar Pradesh to work with CSC for the development of villages under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme.
 - These institutions will **adopt gram panchayats** and equip them with all citizen centric services through CSCs.
- 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is an **initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**. Its **2.0** version was launched in the year **2018**.
 - It aims to create a **vibrant relationship between the society and the higher educational institutions**, with the latter providing the **knowledge and technology support to improve livelihoods in rural areas** and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and private organizations in the society.
 - It covers two major domains for holistic development of villages – **human development and material (economic) development** - in an integrated way.
 - **Institutes** through their faculty and students **carry out studies of living conditions** in the adopted villages, **assess** the local problems and needs and thus accordingly **prepare a workable action plan**.



Common Service Centres (CSCs)

- The CSC is a strategic cornerstone of the **National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)**, approved by the Government in **May 2006**, as part of its commitment in the **National Common Minimum Programme** to introduce e-governance on a massive scale.
- The objective of CSCs is to provide high quality and cost-effective video, voice and data content and services, in the areas of e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment as well as other private services.
- A highlight of the CSCs is that it offers **web-enabled e-governance services in rural areas**, including application forms, certificates, and utility payments such as electricity, telephone and water bills.

Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies

- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (**PSA**) to the Government of India and the **IIT Delhi** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for setting up a **Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies** for implementation of sustainable, scientific and technological solutions for waste management.
- The **long-term goal** is to create **circular economic models for waste management**, by leveraging **big data analytics** and **frontier technologies** to streamline waste in India.
- The overall outcomes would involve treating waste and generating different forms of energy, thereby **making India a waste free nation, with zero greenhouse gas emission** and no health hazard.

Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India

- India has had a Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) since 1999. **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the first PSA from 1999-2001** and Dr. R. Chidambaram from 2001-2018. Professor K. Vijay Raghavan succeeded Dr. Chidambaram on 3rd April 2018.
- The Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) is an overarching Council that facilitates the PSA's Office to assess the status in specific science and technology domains, comprehend challenges in hand, formulate specific interventions, develop a futuristic roadmap and advise the Prime Minister accordingly.