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August 2019



## A Current Affairs Series for UPSC Examination

Ayodhya Dispute

Triple Talaq Bill

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Composite Water Management Index

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## Compendium – August 2019

**Dear Students,**

With the present examination pattern of UPSC Civil Services Examination, General Studies papers require a lot of specialization with 'Current Affairs'. Moreover, following the recent trend of UPSC, almost all the questions are based on news as well as issues. CL IAS has now come up with '**JOIN THE DOTS! AUGUST 2019**' series which will help you pick up relevant news items of the day from various national dailies such as The Hindu, Indian Express, Business Standard, LiveMint, PIB and other important sources.

'**JOIN THE DOTS! AUGUST 2019**' series will be helpful for prelims as well as Mains Examination. We are covering every issue in a holistic manner and covered every dimension with detailed facts. This edition covers all important issues that were in news in the month of June 2019. Also, we have introduced Prelim base question for Test Your Knowledge which shall guide you for better revision. In addition, it would benefit all those who are preparing for other competitive examinations.

We have prepared this series of documents after some rigorous deliberations with Toppers and also with aspirants who have wide experience of preparations in the Civil Services Examination.

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**All the best!!**

**Team CL**

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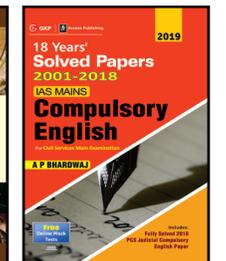
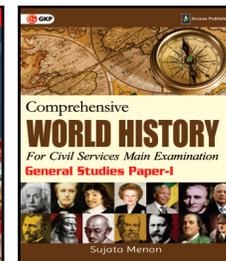
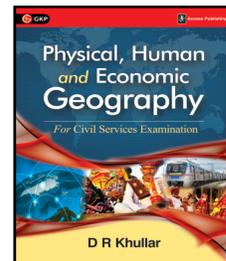
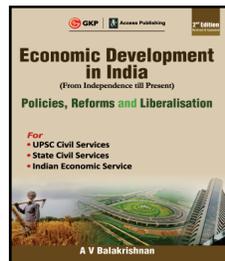
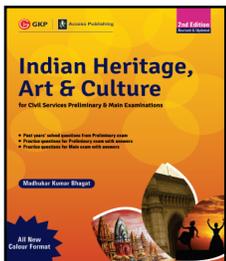
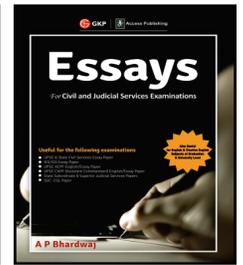
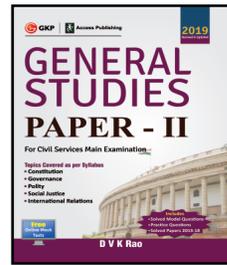
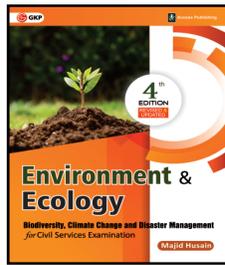
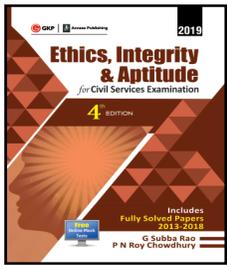
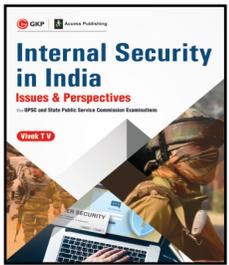
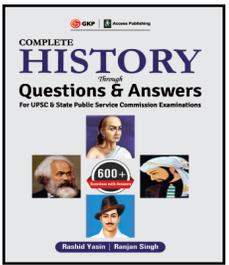
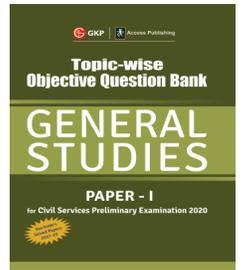
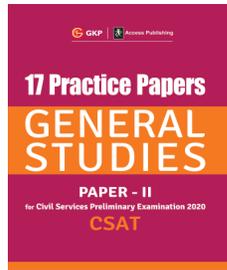
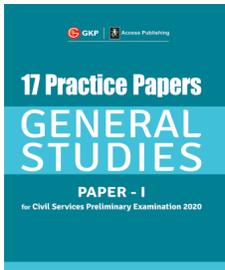
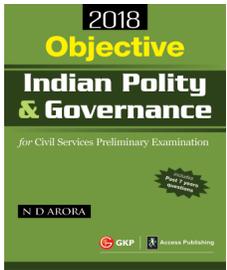
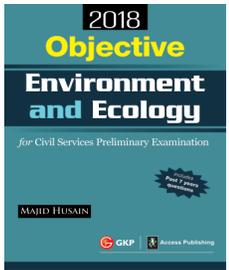
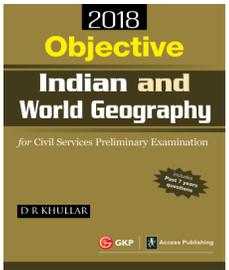
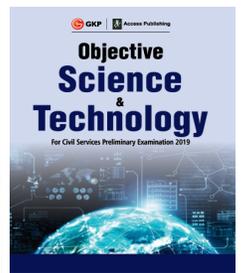
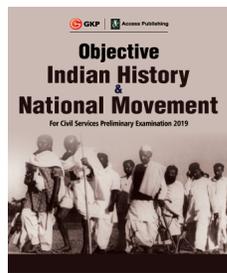
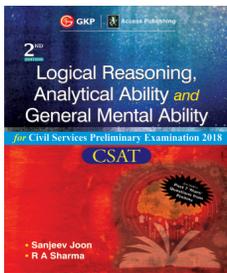
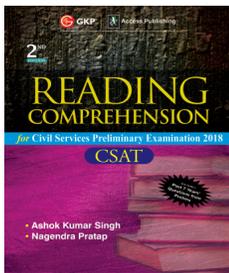
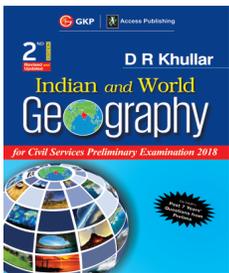
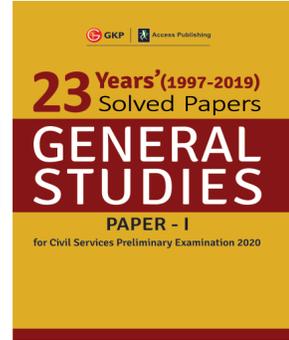
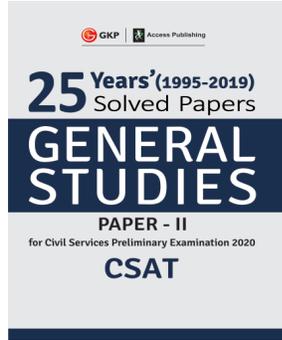
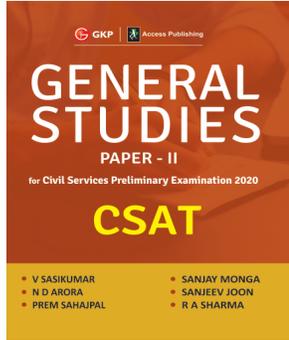
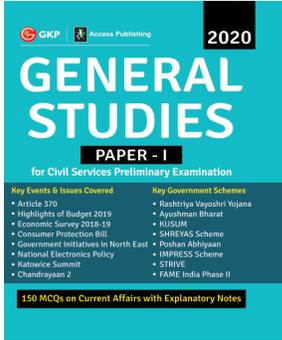
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# Bestsellers for Preliminary & Main Examinations



# **GENERAL STUDIES I**

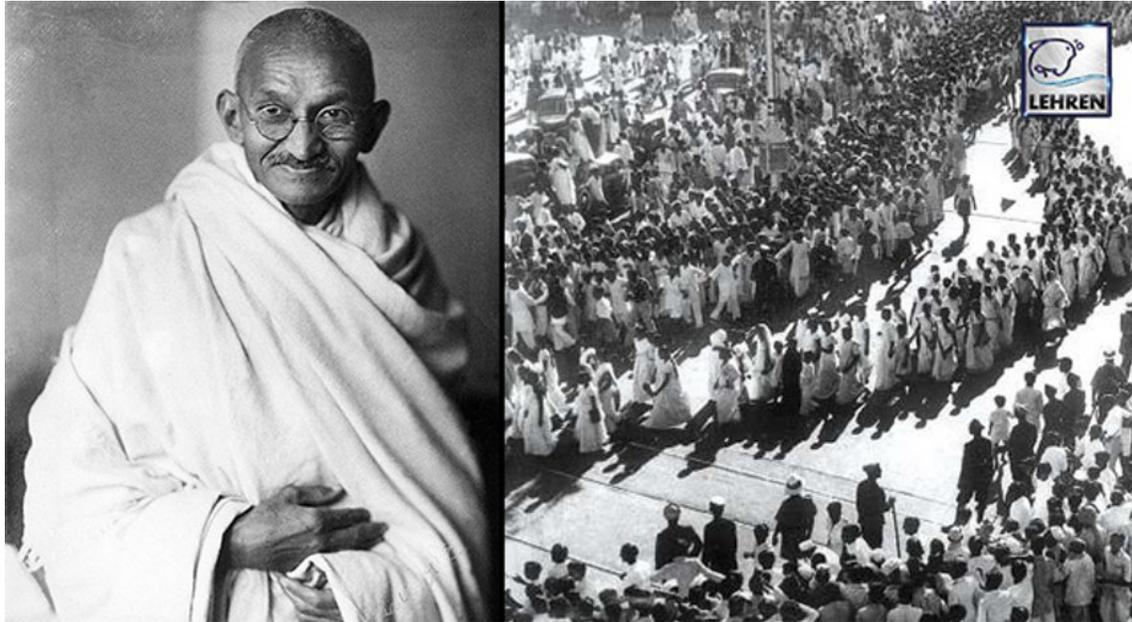
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# Join the dots!

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### Indian National Movement

#### Quit India movement: India observes 77th anniversary of August Kranti Diwas



***Prelims (about the facts of Quit India Movement) + Mains (GS I the freedom struggle and its various stages)***

#### **What's the NEWS**

- The 77th anniversary of Quit India movement, also known as August Kranti Diwas, was observed on August 8, 2019. The Quit India movement began with Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call of "Do or Die" to end the British rule in India.

#### **Know! all about Quit India movement**

- On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave the famous Quit India speech in which he called upon Indians to "do or die" to drive the British away from India and launched the Quit India movement at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) in Mumbai.
- Quit India movement is one of the most significant movements in the history of Indian freedom struggle. It was launched at the height of the Second World War.
- The Quit India movement was a civil disobedience movement, which began with Mahatma Gandhi's call for immediate self-rule by Indians. Mahatma Gandhi drafted a resolution calling for the British to Quit India.
- The Quit India resolution was passed at the Mumbai session of AICC on August 8, 1942, after the failure of the Cripps mission. Mahatma Gandhi gave his famous 'Do or Die' Quit India speech at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay after the passing of the Quit India resolution.
- Following Mahatma Gandhi's call for "an orderly British withdrawal" from India, the AICC launched a mass protest. It was one of the most aggressive movements launched by the Indian National Congress.
- In his Quit India speech, Mahatma Gandhi asked all Indians including teachers to leave their jobs and take part in the movement.
- The Quit India movement called for India's immediate independence and was launched in protest against sending Indians to fight for the British in the Second World War. The movement aimed to force the British Government to come to the negotiating table by holding their war effort hostage.

- The movement demanded the British to leave India immediately and transfer their power to the Indian National Congress. The British, however, refused to grant immediate independence and said that it could only be granted after the end of the Second World War.

### **The British response**

- The British responded to the Quit India movement by imprisoning almost the entire INC leadership including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Vallabhbhai Patel without trial and most of them were kept there till the end of the Second World War in 1945.
- In addition to this, the INC was declared as an unlawful association and its offices across the country were raided and their funds were frozen.
- With the arrest of the main leaders, the Quit India movement turned violent with widespread acts of sabotage such as raiding of government buildings and setting them on fire.
- Due to weak coordination and lack of clear action plan, the movement wore out by 1943 and failed to have much impact on the Allied war effort.

### **Know the significance of Quit India movement**

- Despite its failure, the Quit India movement is considered significant as it made the British Government realize that India was ungovernable in the long run.
- Post the Second World War, the question that was most prominent for the British was on how to exit India peacefully.

## **Independence Day on August 15**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (facts about Indian National Movement) + Mains GS I The freedom struggle***

#### **Know! some facts and events related to Indian Independence**

*As stated by Lord Mountbatten*

- “The date I chose came out of the blue. I hadn’t worked it out exactly then — I thought it had to be about August or September and I then went out to the 15th August. Why? Because it was the second anniversary of Japan’s surrender,” Lord Mountbatten had said then.
- In 1929, when Jawaharlal Nehru as Congress President gave the call for ‘Poorna Swaraj’ or total independence from British colonial rule, January 26 was chosen as the Independence Day.
- In fact, Congress party continued to celebrate it 1930 onwards, till India attained independence and January 26, 1950, was chosen as the Republic Day – the day India formally became a sovereign country and was no longer a British Dominion.

#### **The story of the date i.e 15 August**

- Lord Mountbatten had been given a mandate by the British parliament to transfer the power by June 30, 1948. If he had waited till June 1948, in C Rajagopalachari’s memorable words, there would have been no power left to transfer. Mountbatten thus advanced the date to August 1947.
- The Indian Independence Bill was introduced in the British House of Commons on July 4, 1947, and passed within a fortnight. It provided for the end of the British rule in India, on August 15, 1947, and the establishment of the Dominions of India and Pakistan, which were allowed to secede from the British Commonwealth.
- The Indian Independence Bill gave August 15 as the date of independence for both the countries. The first stamp issued by Pakistan mentioned August 15 as its independence day but in 1948, Pakistan started marking August 14 as its independence day, either because the ceremony for the transfer of power in Karachi was held on August 14, 1947, or because August 14, 1947, was the 27th of Ramadan, a very sacred date to the Muslims.

## **National Issues: Ayodhya dispute**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (all about the ayodhya dispute) + Mains (GS I Indian society)***

#### **What’s the NEWS**

- Mediation process fails, Supreme Court will begin day-to-day hearing of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute from August 6. Earlier SC allows mediation on Ram Mandir to continue till July 31.

- The SC bench led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi declared the mediation process as failed, as it did not result in any settlement.

### **Know! more about the developments**

- The five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court will now hear the Ram Mandir matter on a daily basis.
- The bench plans to conclude the hearing before November first week, as CJI Ranjan Gogoi is slated to retire by then. If the hearing does not conclude by then, a fresh new bench will need to be constituted to hear the matter.

### **The mediation process**

- The Supreme Court had on July 18 allowed mediation process in the Ayodhya dispute case to continue till July 31.
- The three-member mediation panel headed by former SC judge FMI Kalifulla submitted its report on August 1.
- In its report, the mediation panel stated that both the parties had not been able to find an amicable solution to the issue.

### **Know! the Inception of the mediation process and the chronology of Ayodhya case**

- The Supreme Court of India on March 8, 2019 decided to refer the Ayodhya-Babri Masjid title dispute case for mediation.
- The apex court has formed a panel of mediators to resolve the issue, which will be headed by Supreme Court judge, Justice F M Kalifullah.
- The other members of the panel include spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Sankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu.
- The mediation will be held in Faizabad, newly renamed as Ayodhya and its status report will have to be submitted to the court within the time of four weeks. The mediation proceedings are to be held confidentially and the court has banned the media from reporting it.
- The five-judge constitution bench, headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and Abdul Nazeer, had appeared divided on whether mediation between the disputing parties was the best way to resolve the decades-old dispute.
- In 2010, a three-judge bench of the Allahabad High Court had ruled that the disputed land in Ayodhya where the Babri Masjid stood for 500 years until it was demolished in 1992 shall be divided into three parts.
- The bench comprising Justices SU Khan, Sudhir Agarwal and DV Sharma had stated that while a two-thirds portion will be shared by two Hindu parties, one-third will be given to the Sunni Muslim Waqf Board.
- The court in a 2-1 majority verdict declared plaintiffs representing Lord Ram, the Nirmohi Akhara and the Waqf Board as joint titleholders of the property.
- The high court allotted the portion under the central dome of the demolished Babri Masjid, under which a makeshift Rama temple currently stands, to the Hindus, asserting that it was the birthplace of Lord Rama, as per Hindi belief and faith.
- The nearby Ram Chabutra and Sita Rasoi were also allotted to the Nirmohi Akhara, while the outer courtyard of the disputed land was allotted to the Sunni Wakf Board. The Babri Masjid was demolished by a group of kar sevaks on December 6, 1992.
- The Bench had clarified that even though all the three parties are declared to have a one-third share each in the property, minor adjustments could be made for which the adversely affected party would be compensated from the adjoining land acquired by the Central Government.
- The Sunni Waqf Board had said it would file an appeal in the Supreme Court against the judgment.



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INQUIZITIVE MINDS

# **GENERAL STUDIES II**

**Governance, Constitution,  
Polity, Social Justice and  
International relations**

# National Affairs: Triple Talaq Bill, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019 Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha

Relevance IN – Prelims (about the bill/act and its provisions) + Mains (GS II social justice +role of judiciary and executive)

## What's the NEWS

- Triple Talaq Bill known as Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 has been passed in the Rajya Sabha in a landmark vote with 99 votes in favour and 84 against.
- The Triple Talaq bill was tabled in the upper house of the Parliament by Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 aims to ban and criminalise the practice of divorce among Muslims by simply stating Talaq three times.

## Know! the main concerns of the bill (things require detailed re-examination)

- When the divorce is declared invalid for non-existent act, why is there a punishment. The bill is very stringent, proposes unfair punishment for non-punishable act.
- Sending husband to jail for 3 years virtually ends any possibility of reconciliation.
- Whether making it a cognizable and non-bailable offence would lead to it being misused against Muslim men.
- Husband is the sole earner, it will bring financial crisis on the family. In principle, there should not be a criminal remedy for a civil contract.
- Whether resorting to an illegal and arbitrary form of divorce should necessarily lead to a prison term of 3 years beside a fine and it raises the issue of proportionality.
- Whether the civil wrong, which is mainly a breach of a marriage contract in an arbitrary manner, ought to be treated as a crime.
- On one hand, it says instant triple talaq is void and hence marriage continues to subsist (remain in force). But it also talks of issues such as custody of children and maintenance, which would arise only after a divorce.
- If the husband is imprisoned, from where will he provide for the subsistence allowance?
- Will the woman be allowed to live in the married family after such a “void” divorce?
- Where will she go, if she is thrown out by the husband's family as their son is jailed because of the talaq?

## Know! the provisions of the bill

- The bill criminalises instant divorce by Muslim men and seeks jail term of three years for the guilty.
- According to the bill, a woman can approach a magistrate for “subsistence allowance” not only for herself but also for her minor child. And on the issue of the custody of the child, the magistrate has the right to take a call.
- The bill provides three-year jail for Muslim who take divorce by saying ‘talaq’ thrice and it was passed by the Lok Sabha in December 2018.
- Twice the government had promulgated an ordinance on triple talaq in September 2018 and on February 2019. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha but remained pending in Rajya Sabha.
- As we know that if the bill remains pending in Rajya Sabha after presenting it then it does not lapse with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. Also, if it is passed by Lok Sabha and remains pending in Rajya Sabha then it lapses with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.



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### Empowering women

Key features of the revised Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2018

- The Bill will replace the ordinance promulgated in September 2018
- Clause 3 of the Bill declares pronouncement of talaq, both in written or electronic form, as illegal and void
- Pronouncement of talaq is a punishable offence with **imprisonment** for up to **3 years** and a **fine**. The Bill also makes the **woman entitled to maintenance** determined by a magistrate
- Cognizance of offence can be taken only on a **complaint** to a magistrate **by the wife or her close relatives**
- The woman can also **drop the case** against her husband if both reach a compromise
- There is provision for bail, which can be granted by a magistrate only after hearing the wife

- The major issue over the law was ‘three year jail’ that the opposition claimed by saying that it will generate fear amongst the Muslims. Later, the government introduced the provision of ‘bail’ during the trial.

### **Know! about triple talaq**

- The term ‘Talaq’ derives from Arabic verse which means ‘freeing or undoing the knot’ that refers to a divorce.
- The Quranic message is very explicit about divorce as it leans more toward safeguarding marriage than dissolving it abruptly.
- But still people need separation through Talaq or complete breakdown of marriage then it require arbitration before husband and wife.
- Triple Talaq- which in reality is not for pronouncing three times but followed by three and also never pronounces in one go without arbitrators from both side because Islam gives provision of rethink, reconsider and reconcile, if it is possible.

## **Bilateral Relations: India, Russia sign Rs 1,500 crore deal for air-to-air missiles (R-27) to be used by Su-30**

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about air to air missile R-27) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations)*

### **What’s the NEWS**

- R-27 is a medium range air-to-air missile which was initially developed for MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets.
- India has signed a deal worth Rs 1500 crore to buy R-27 air-to-air missiles from Russia.
- The objective of this deal is to boost the capabilities of Indian Air Force (IAF) in beyond visual targets. R-27 air-to-air missiles will be equipped on the Su-30MKI fighter jets.
- R-27 is a medium-range air-to-air missile which was initially developed for MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets.
- Russia developed these missiles to add the capability to the Sukhoi and MiG warfare aircraft. Indian Air Force has signed Rs 7600 crore deals in the past two months. These deals have done to acquire types of equipment under emergency requirements.



### **Know! more about the R-27 Missile**

- The R-27 (AA-10 Alamo) is an air-to-air guided missile. Russian firm Vypel and Ukrainian firm Artem manufacture this missile. Russian Air Force deployed these missiles in the 1990s on its fourth generation fighter jets.
- R-27 missile can destroy air targets even in adverse weather conditions. Length of the missile is 4 meter while body diameter is 0.23 meter. Weight of the missile is 253 kilograms.
- Once missile air-launched, it can strike radio-emitting air targets during day and night. The R-27P1 has a range of 72km, while the R-27EP1 can engage targets within the range of 110km.

### **Know! the emergency power given to the army**

- Government has given emergency purchasing powers to all three military services. The Army can buy whatever warfare equipment is important to safeguard our borders.
- As per the powers given to security forces, they can buy armed equipment of their choice within three months at a cost up to Rs 300 crore. These powers were given to the forces after Pulwama attack in which 44 CRPF personnel were killed.

## Consumer Protection Bill 2019 passed by Lok Sabha

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about the new provisions in consumer protection bill)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- The Consumer Protection Bill 2019 that seeks to protect and enforce consumer rights was passed through a voice vote by the Lok Sabha. The Consumer Protection Bill seeks to establish the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will take immediate action on complaints filed by consumers. The authority will take action after a complaint is filed by even a single consumer and it can also file a class suit.

#### **The Consumer Protection Bill 2019 Objective**

- The main objective of the Consumer Protection Bill is to ease the process of addressing the grievances of consumers.
- The Consumer Protection Bill 2019 seeks to replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The bill proposes setting up of a Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and forums at the district, state and national levels for fast redressal of consumer complaints.

#### **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**

- Central Consumer Protection Authority is a national level regulator dealing with matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements that are prejudicial to the interests of public and consumers.
- The CCPA deals with the rights of consumers as a class. It will comprise an investigation wing headed by a Director-General with powers of search and seizure.
- The District Collector is empowered to report to the CCPA regarding mass consumer complaints in the concerned jurisdiction.

#### **Know! the key provisions Consumer Protection Bill 2019**

- The Consumer Protection Bill aims to protect consumers' interests through a redressal mechanism that would ensure timely and effective settlement of disputes.
- It seeks to enlarge the scope of the existing law and make it more effective and purposeful.
- It seeks to establish a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to protect consumer rights and look into the issues related to false or misleading ads.
- It has provisions for post-litigation stage mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. It also provides for product liability action
- The bill provides for fine and ban on celebrities for endorsing misleading advertisements:
- The bill also provides for penalty up to life term jail sentence in case of adulteration.

## State Specific: Union Cabinet approves J&K Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about the EWS reservation provisions) + Mains (GS II social issues + issues relating to development and management of social issues like education and human resource + centre-state relations)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (2nd Amendment) Bill was approved by the Union Cabinet
- The bill will pave the way for the extension of 10 percent reservation for the poor in educational institutes and government offices of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 10 percent reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) will be in addition to the existing reservations in the state.

#### **Know! more about the EWS reservation**

- The Union Government had approved a constitutional amendment in January 2019 to provide 10 percent reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections in general category for direct recruitment in higher education and government jobs.

- The 10 percent reservation is over and above the existing reservation cap of 50 percent.
- The Union Government stated that those with an annual family income of less than Rs 8 lakh will be categorized as economically weaker and deemed eligible for the reservation quota.
- The Supreme Court had earlier refused to order a stay on the government's decision to grant 10 percent quota to economically weaker sections in jobs and admissions.
- The court had, however, agreed to examine the validity of the law and issued a notice to the Centre on the pleas.
- The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha passed the reservation bill on January 8 and 9 respectively and it was later signed by President Ram Nath Kovind.

## **National Affairs: Rajya Sabha passes Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about motor vehicle amendment bill 2019) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions for the development of various sectors)***

### **What's the NEWS**

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by Rajya Sabha
- It will improve road safety, facilitate citizens in their dealings with transport departments, strengthen rural transport, public transport and last mile connectivity through automation, computerization and online services.
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is based on the recommendations of the Group of Transport Ministers (GoM) of States constituted by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to address the issue of road safety and to improve the facilitation of the citizens while dealing with transport departments.
- The GoM was headed by Shri. Yoonus Khan, the then Transport Minister of Rajasthan, and had 18 State Transport Ministers from different political parties as members.

### **Know! the important provisions of the bill**

- The amendments in the Bill mainly focus on issues relating to improving road safety, citizens' facilitation while dealing with the transport department, strengthening rural transport, last mile connectivity and public transport, automation and computerization and enabling online services.

### **Some of the important areas of amendment are as follows:**

- In the area of road safety, the Bill proposes to increase penalties to act as deterrent against traffic violations.
- Stricter provisions are being proposed in respect of offences like juvenile driving, drunken driving, driving without licence, dangerous driving, over-speeding, overloading etc.
- Stricter provisions for helmets have been introduced along with provisions for electronic detection of violations. Penalty regarding motor vehicles is to be increased by 10 % every year..
- The Bill mandates automated fitness testing for vehicles. This would reduce corruption in the transport department while improving the road worthiness of the vehicle.
- The Bill allows the central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users

### **National Road Safety Board**

- The Bill provides for a National Road Safety Board, to be created by the central government through a notification.
- The Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including standards of motor vehicles, registration and licensing of vehicles, standards for road safety, and promotion of new vehicle technology.
- To help road accident victims, Good Samaritan guidelines have been incorporated in the Bill.
- The Bill provides for a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour.
- The Bill has included the driver's attendant in 3rd Party insurance. There will be no cap on liability of insurers. There will be a 10 time increase in insurance compensation, from Rs 50, 000 to Rs 5 lakh.

## National Affairs/Governance: One nation one ration card scheme

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about one nation one ration card) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions + centre- state relations)**

### What's the NEWS

- One nation one ration card scheme was launched on a pilot basis in four states- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The scheme will provide a major boost to the national food security government.

### Know! more about the scheme

- Under the one nation one ration card scheme, families who have food security cards will be able to buy rice, wheat or any food grain at a subsidised price from any ration shop in the mentioned states.
- The ration cards will need to be linked with the Aadhaar Number to avail the service.
- The Union Government plans to extend the One nation one ration card scheme to all the states by August 2020 to enable the portability of the food security card.
- In Telangana, those who have white ration card have been receiving the portability facility, which enables them to buy their subsidized food grains from any fair price shop in the state.
- Under the one nation one ration card scheme, the same facility can now be utilized in Andhra Pradesh through PoS machines.
- As per official data, around 2.82 crore consumers benefited from ration portability in Telangana. The facility was introduced in the state last year.
- Now, over 56 lakh beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act in Telangana are expected to benefit from the facility.
- With the launch of the One nation one ration card scheme, consumers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat will also stand to benefit from the facility.

### Easy access

Under the 'One nation, one ration card' system, beneficiaries can buy subsidised foodgrains from a ration shop in any part of the country

Ration card-  
Aadhaar linkage  
must to access  
the portability  
scheme

The scheme will be rolled out  
across the country on: July 1, 2020



A migrant will be allowed to buy a maximum of 50% of the family quota. This is to ensure that the individual, after shifting to another place, does not buy the entire family quota in one go

States providing portability of PDS entitlements:

- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura

- A person will only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at ₹3/kg and wheat at ₹2/kg

- Even if a beneficiary moves to a State where grains are given for free, he/she will not be able to access those benefits

## Judiciary: Cabinet approves increasing strength of SC judges from 31 to 34

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about article 124 and Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Union Cabinet approved increasing the number of judges in the top court from the present 30 to 33, excluding the chief justice of India. At present, the sanctioned strength of the apex court is 30, excluding the CJI.

### Know! more about it

- Once the bill to increase the number of judges gets parliamentary nod, the number of judges would go up to 33, excluding the CJI.
- The strength will be 34, including the CJI. At present, the Supreme Court is working with its full sanctioned strength of 31, including the CJI.
- The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was last amended in 2009 to increase the judges' strength from 25 to 30 (excluding the CJI).
- The decision of the Cabinet came days after Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to increase the number of judges in the top court.

## Know! the Constitutional Provisions

- The strength of Supreme Court is fixed by law made by Parliament as per Article 124 (1) of Constitution of India.
- Therefore, the strength can be increased by way of parliamentary legislation.
- In pursuance of this Parliament has enacted Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, which originally provided for maximum of 10 judges (excluding the CJI). The law was last amended in 2009 to increase judges' strength from 25 to 30 (excluding the CJI).

## Cabinet Decisions: Cabinet approves signing of the UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements resulting from mediation by India

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about UN convention on international settlement agreement UNISA +ADR mechanism)*

#### What's the NEWS

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) resulting from mediation by the Republic of India scheduled to be held at Singapore on 7th August, 2019, or at United Nations Headquarters.

#### Benefit of signing this agreement

- Signing of the Convention will boost the confidence of the investors and shall provide a positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

#### Know! the Initiatives to promote ADR Mechanisms:

- In order to encourage international commercial arbitration in India, to evolve a comprehensive ecosystem of arbitration the Government is establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) as a statutory body.
- The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, has been further amended and legislative exercise to further amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, is currently underway.
- These initiatives are being taken with a view to encourage the settlement of commercial disputes, domestic and international, in India through ADR Mechanism of Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation.

#### Know! the genesis of UNISA)

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation ("the Convention") on 20th December 2018.
- The General Assembly authorized that the Convention will open for signature at a signing ceremony to be held on 7th August 2019 in Singapore and will be known as the "Singapore Convention on Mediation" (the Convention).
- The Convention provides a uniform and efficient framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation and for allowing parties to invoke such agreements, akin to the framework that the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York, 1958) (the "New York Convention") provides for arbitral awards.

## Internal Security: Rajya Sabha passes UAPA Bill

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about the provisions of UAPA Bill) + Mains (GS III challenges to internal security)*

#### What's the NEWS

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment (UAPA) Bill, 2019 .
- The bill has been passed amid strong protest by opposition parties over specific provisions of the bill. Amid protest from opposition, Rajya Sabha rejected the opposition-sponsored motion to send the bill to select committee with 104 votes against it as compared to 85 in favour.

#### Know! more about the bill

- The main contentious issue of this bill was to designate a person as a terrorist once this bill is enacted. However, the government refused to budge on this demand from opposition to send it for further scrutiny.

- The bill gives special powers to deal with terrorist activities in the country. The Bill amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- Amendment of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) allows the Central government to designate an individual as a terrorist.
- As per the existing UAPA, the Central government can only designate organizations, and not individuals, as terrorists.
- Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) can grant approval of seizure or attachment of property associated with terrorism when the said agency investigates the case.
- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill, 2019 broadens the scope of what constitutes a terrorist act. It has added International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005) to the schedule to the UAPA Bill, 2019. Amendment to Schedule 4 of the UAPA will allow the NIA to declare an individual suspected as a terrorist.
- It provides NIA Inspector or above to investigate cases under UAPA, 2019. At present only Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and Deputy Superintendent of Police are allowed to investigate the cases. UAPA Bill, 2019 adds that if NIA officer is conducting the investigation then approval of the Director-General of Police would not be required.
- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 has included nine national-international treaties against terrorism, including the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), and the Convention against Taking of Hostages (1979) and the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).

### **Know! the inception of UAPA bill**

- The UAPA Bill has been called an upgraded version of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, or TADA, and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), which was repealed in 2004.

## **India and its neighbourhood relations: ASEAN-led meetings in Bangkok**

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about ASEAN and about Mekong -ganga) + Mains (GS II India and its neighbourhood)**

### **What's the NEWS**

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who held a range of ASEAN -related multilaterals and a string of bilateral

### **Know! more about the bilateral meetings**

- The minister attended a host of engagements, including the ASEAN -India Ministerial Meeting, the 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EASFMM), 26th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting from August 1 to August 2.
- The meeting reviewed the progress in the implementation of key decisions of the leaders of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and India, the parties involved would be reviewing progress in the implementation of key decisions taken during –
  - (a) 25th Anniversary ASEAN - India Commemorative Summit,
  - (b) Informal ASEAN - India Breakfast Summit and
  - (c) review progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2016-2020).
- External affairs minister also stated that India is looking forward to the early completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and its extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam.
- During the meeting, the new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 was adopted that envisages project-based cooperation in various areas including tourism and culture, water resources management.



- The members also exchanged views on important regional and international issues and on ways and means of further strengthening the ASEAN -India Strategic Partnership.

### 10th MGC Ministerial Meeting

- Jaishankar also co-chaired the 10th MGC Ministerial Meeting with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- The 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand. During this meeting, new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 was adopted.
- The New MGC Plan of Action envisages project-based cooperation among member countries in various areas including tourism and culture, education, public health and traditional medicine, agriculture and allied sectors, transport and communication, MSMEs and water resources management.

### Know! about Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

- It is sub-regional cooperation organisation comprising India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- It was launched in 2000 at Laos capital Vientiane. It takes its name from Ganga and Mekong, the two rivers in Southeast Asia.
- The objective of this cooperation is to facilitate closer contacts among people inhabiting these two (Ganga and Mekong) major river basins and enhancing cooperation in culture, tourism, education, transport and communications among member countries. Mekong River Basin countries are Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam

### Know! about ASEAN

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.
- It also regularly engages other countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN

## Jammu and Kashmir Bifurcation Bill passed in Rajya Sabha, Ladakh, J&K to be Union Territories – (part I)

### The new order

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** introduced two statutory resolutions to recommend that the President issue a notification rendering **Article 370** inoperative, and to accept the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. A look at how the government changed the **special status** of the State **overnight**:

**370** Under Article 370,

Jammu and Kashmir had its own constitution and the laws passed by Parliament were applicable to the State only with the State government's concurrence

**370**

The President was empowered to decide which provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable with the State's assent

**35A**

Article 35A protected the laws such as bar on outsiders buying property in the State and women marrying non-Kashmiris losing their property rights

- These special measures could only be altered on the recommendation of the **Sadar-i-Riyasat** (on the advice of the Ministers Council) or by the 'Constituent Assembly'

- President Ram Nath Kovind declared that all provisions of the Indian Constitution shall now apply to the State

**367**

To scrap Article 370 altogether, a few clauses were added to Article 367 on Monday which contains "Interpretations": the reference to the 'Constituent Assembly' was amended to read 'Legislative Assembly of the State'. All references to the 'Sadar-i-Riyasat' will be construed as references to the Governor

### SHARING OF POWER

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, will bring about the following changes to the State

- Two Union Territories to be formed out of the State of Jammu and Kashmir: UT of Ladakh (Kargil and Leh districts; ●) and UT of J&K (all other districts of the State of J&K ●)



- Both UTs to have L-G, for now the Governor of State will continue as both

- Four sitting Rajya Sabha members of the State will become MPs of UT of J&K

- Five Lok Sabha seats to go to the UT of J&K

- Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K will have 107 seats to be chosen through a direct election

- One Lok Sabha seat to go to the UT of Ladakh

- 24 seats in PoK will be vacant

**No entry:** Barbed wire erected by the security personnel to block vehicles on a road during restrictions in Srinagar on Monday.

• REUTERS

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about article 370, 35A and the facts related to it) + Mains (GS II centre state relations + functions and responsibilities of the Union and the states+ challenges pertaining to federal structure)**

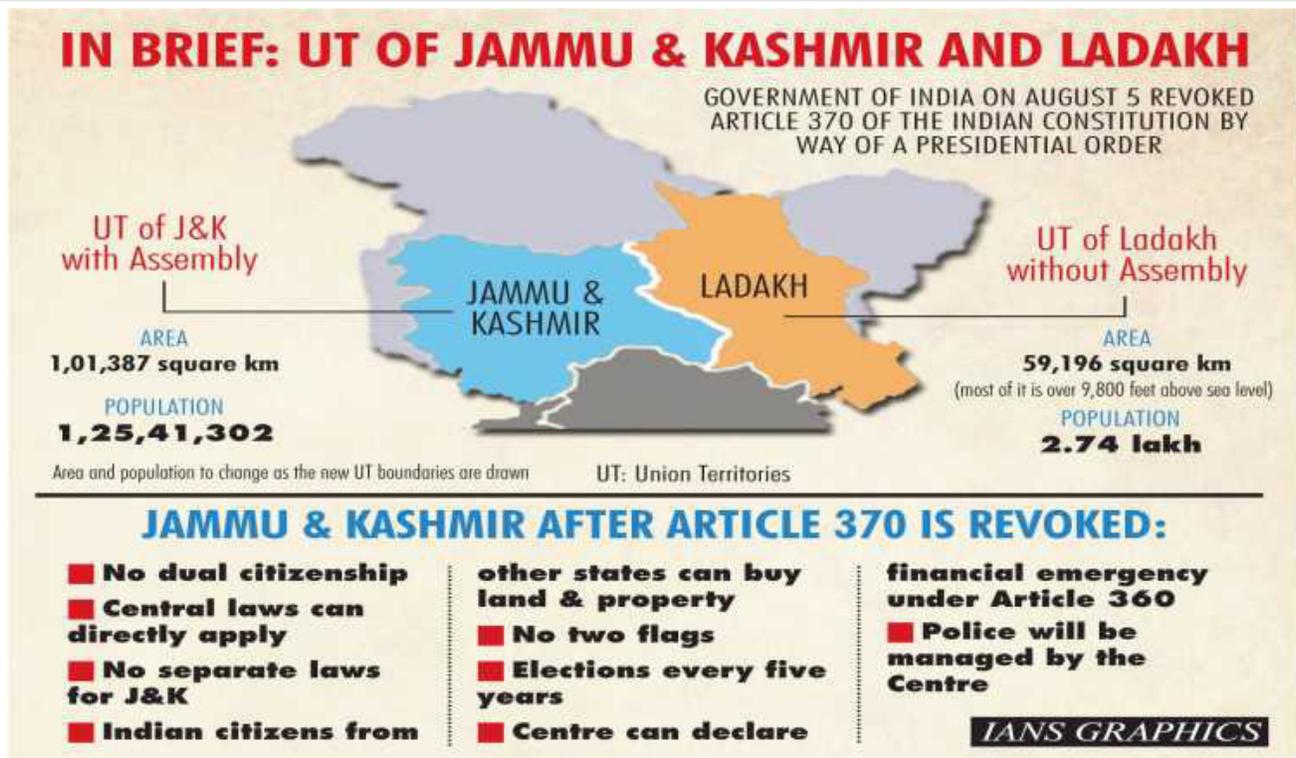
**What's the NEWS**

- The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 that proposes the bifurcation of the state into two union territories-Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The bill was passed hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the government has scrapped the special status granted to the state of Jammu and Kashmir by modifying Article 370 of the Constitution.
- Article 370 of the constitution is a 'temporary provision' granting special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir.
- Instead of 29 states, we will now have 28 states. Kashmir will now be headed not by the Governor but by a Lt. Governor like Delhi or Pondicherry.

**Know! about Article 35A**

- Article 35A stems from Article 370, and was introduced through a Presidential Order in 1954. Article 35A does not appear in the main body of the Constitution — Article 35 is followed by Article 36 — but appears in Appendix I.
- Article 35A empowers the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define the permanent residents of the state, and their special rights and privileges.
- Monday's Presidential Order has extended all provisions of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir, including the chapter on Fundamental Rights. Therefore, the discriminatory provisions under Article 35A are now unconstitutional. The President may also withdraw Article 35A.
- This provision is currently under challenge in the Supreme Court on the ground that it could have been introduced in the Indian Constitution only through a constitutional amendment under Article 368, and not through a Presidential Order under Article 370. However, Monday's Presidential Order, too has amended Article 367 without following the amending process.

**Centre – State Relations: Parliament approves bill for bifurcation of J&K into two Union Territories– (part II)**



**Relevance IN – Prelims (about article 370, 35A and the facts related to it) + Mains (GS II centre state relations + functions and responsibilities of the Union and the states+ challenges pertaining to federal structure)**

**What's the NEWS**

- Home Minister Amit Shah today moved the resolution to revoke Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, in Lok Sabha.
- He also introduced Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019 in the Lower House of Parliament.
- A resolution removing the special status of the state under Article 370 was approved by the Rajya Sabha on Monday.
- With this move, there are now 9 Union Territories and 28 States in India. The decision came after President Ram Nath Kovind issued Government Order in Jammu and Kashmir Gazette, scraping Article 370, except Clause 1 which states that J&K is a part of India. With the revocation of Article 370, Article 35A gets revoked as well.

**Know! the sequence of events in Jammu and Kashmir since 1947**

- Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) also got Independence from the British rule. But then king of Jammu and Kashmir Raja Hari Singh decided not to join the Indian union and wanted to keep his principality as independent state.
- Kashmir was invaded by the Pakistan-backed “Azad Kashmir Army on October 20, 1947 and confiscated a part of Kashmir region which is now known as Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).
- In this situation, Maharaja Hari Singh, signed the “Instruments of Accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India” with then PM of India, Pt. Nehru on October 26, 1947.
- Under this agreement the state surrendered three subjects (defence, communication and external affairs) to the dominion of India.
- The Article 306A was enshrined as Article 370 in the constitution as a “temporary provision”. Sheikh Abdullah did not want that temporary provision and insisted for guarantee of autonomy but India did not accept that. So the provisions of the article 370 came into force from 17 November, 1952.

**Article 370 gives the following rights and facilities to the citizens of J & K**

**What did Article 370 say?**

The controversial Article 370 had 'temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir', allowing it to have its own Constitution.

- The J&K Constitution defined a permanent resident as one who was a State subject as of May 14, 1954, or had been a resident of the State for 10 years on that date with a legally acquired property
- Non-permanent residents could not acquire immovable property, get government employment, scholarships or other aid provided by the State government
- The premise of this special Article emanated from residency laws issued by the then Maharaja Hari Singh to prevent migration of people from neighbouring Punjab during British rule
- Curbs on land acquisition by non-permanent residents are not unique to J&K – Himachal Pradesh and several North-Eastern States, too, have this provision
- In 2002, the J&K High Court had struck down the provision of women losing their permanent resident status if they married a non-permanent resident. Their children, however, could not enjoy succession rights

**What's in store now**

- J&K will now have no separate flag or Constitution and the tenure of the Assembly will be five years, instead of the earlier six years
- The Indian Penal Code (IPC) will replace the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) to deal with criminal cases
- Article 356, under which President's rule can be imposed in any State, will also be applicable to the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh
- People from other States can purchase land and properties and the Right to Information Act will be applicable to the new UTs

- Jammu & Kashmir; is an integral part of the Indian Union. But its area, name and boundary can't be altered without the consent of the state assembly.
- According to this article, the central government has to get approval from the state government to implement all other laws except defence, foreign affairs and communication in the state.

- Jammu and Kashmir has its constitution because of article 370 and its administration is run accordingly not according to the Constitution of India.
- J & K has 2 flags; One of Kashmir and another is India's Tri color flag.
- The citizens of other Indian states can not buy any property or kind of any property in this state. It means, the fundamental right to property is still in force in this state.
- The people of Jammu and Kashmir have two types of citizenship. One is Indian citizenship and another is Kashmiri citizenship. Worth to mention that no other Indian can have two citizenship simultaneously.
- If a Kashmiri woman marries an Indian, then her Kashmiri citizenship terminates, but if she marries a Pakistani, it does not affect her citizenship status.
- If a Pakistani boy marries a Kashmiri girl, he gets Indian citizenship too while Indians don't have this privilege.
- Part 4 of the Indian Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy) and Part 4A (Fundamental Duties) are not applicable in this State.
- It means the citizens of Kashmir are not bound to save the cow, maintain the dignity of the women and respect the National Flag of India.
- One of the most shocking right is that Insulting National Symbols of India (National Anthem, National Flag etc.) in J & K does not fall under the category of crime.
- The President of India does not have power to declare financial emergency in the state.
- Any amendment in the Constitution of India does not apply automatically to J & K unless a special order of President is not passed.
- The Central government can impose National Emergency in the state in two conditions only; war and external invasion
- The President has no power to suspend the constitution of the state on the ground of failure to comply with the directions given by him.
- If the national emergency is imposed in the country on the basis of internal disturbance; this emergency is not applicable in the Jammu and Kashmir until it is approved by the state government.
- The Central Government can not impose National Emergency in the state on the basis of internal disturbance in the state. The central government must take the permission of state government before doing so.
- Only the resident of the Kashmir can take selection in the jobs of the state government.

## JAMMU & KASHMIR AND THE CONSTITUTION

**October 26, 1947:** Maharaja Hari Singh executes the Instrument of Accession under the Indian Independence Act according to the Dominion of India, which was to exercise powers only in relation to Defence, External Affairs and Communication.

**October 17, 1949:** Article 370 included in the Constitution making Jammu and Kashmir a part of India as one of the States under Article 1. Except Article 1 and Article 370, J&K exempted from the Constitution. For extending any central



law related to matters other than Defence, External Affairs and Communication, the concurrence of the State Government and its further ratification by the J&K Constituent Assembly was mandatory.

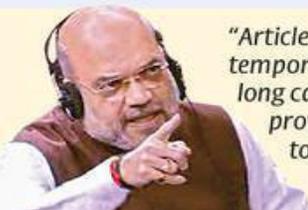
**July 24, 1952:** Delhi Agreement signed to constitute a framework for distribution of legislative power between State and Central legislature and extending the Constitutional jurisdiction in

the State. It gave special powers to the J&K State Legislature to make laws for conferring special rights and privileges on its subjects and it extended Articles 52 to 62 of the Constitution to the State.

**May 14, 1954:** The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, issued by the President under Article 370, extended numerous Articles of the

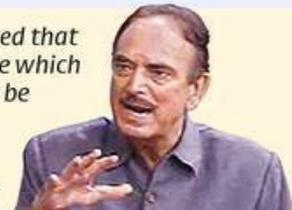
Constitution as well as the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Election Commission, CAG and UPSC to J&K. This Order also added Article 35A to the Constitution that empowered the State Legislature to define permanent residents of J&K and provide special rights and privileges to them.

**August 5, 2019:** The Government moves a resolution in Parliament to abrogate Article 370 and re-organise J&K as two distinct Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



*"Article 370 was a temporary provision; how long can a temporary provision be allowed to continue."*

**Amit Shah**  
Home Minister



*"I had never imagined that the head of the state which is India's crown will be chopped off."*

**Ghulam Nabi Azad**  
Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha

Know the Key Changes	
Then	Now
Jammu & Kashmir was a state with special status.	Now Jammu & Kashmir will be a Union Territory.
Only citizens of Jammu and Kashmir were allowed to buy land in the state.	People from anywhere in India will be able to buy a property.
No 'outsider' could settle in the state.	Now any citizen of the country can settle in J&K.
RTI could not be filed	No restriction on filing RTI
Period of Legislative assembly was 6 years.	Now, it will not be for six years.
Jammu & Kashmir had a separate flag.	Only the National Flag will be there.
J&K had a separate constitution.	No separate constitution, law & order will be under center government.
Ladakh was a part of Jammu & Kashmir	Ladakh will be a separate Union Territory without a legislature.
The constitutional head was Governor	Now, state head will be Lieutenant Governor.

## NO ARTICLE 370 WHAT CHANGES IN J&K?



### BEFORE

- Special powers exercised by J&K
- Dual citizenship
- Separate flag for Jammu & Kashmir
- Article 360 (Financial Emergency) not applicable
- No reservation for minorities such as Hindus and Sikhs
- Indian citizens from other states cannot buy land or property in J&K
- RTI not applicable
- Duration of Legislative Assembly for 6 years
- If a woman from J&K marries out of state, she would lose the citizenship of the state
- Panchayats did not have any rights
- Right to Education (RTE) was not applicable

### NOW

- No special powers now
- Single citizenship
- Tricolour will be the only flag
- Article 360 will be applicable
- Minorities will be eligible for 16% reservation
- People from other states will now be able to purchase land or property in J&K
- RTI will be applicable
- Assembly duration in Union Territory of J&K will be for 5 years
- If a woman marries out of state or country, she will still retain all her rights and Indian citizenship
- Panchayats will have the same rights as in other states
- Children in the state will benefit from RTE





**August 5, 2019: Home Minister Amit Shah moved the resolution on Article 370 as also the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019**

All clauses of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will not be applicable in the state

**Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation bill**

- UT in Ladakh - will have no legislature like Chandigarh
- The other union territory of J&K will have a legislature like Delhi and Puducherry

**President Ram Nath Kovind** in 'concurrence' with the 'Jammu and Kashmir government' promulgated **Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019** on Monday, August 5, 2019

- Provisions of the Indian Constitution are applicable in the state. It comes into force 'at once', and shall 'supersede the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954'
- All the provisions of the Constitution shall apply in relation to the state of Jammu and Kashmir

**Article 370**

The IoA signed on **October 26, 1947** by the then ruler **Raja Hari Singh** had mentioned in **Clause 5** that accession terms cannot be varied by any amendment of the Act or of Indian Independence Act unless such amendment is accepted by him by a supplementary instrument.

- Article 35A, which stemmed out of Article 370, that gave powers to J&K Assembly to define permanent residents of the state, their special rights and privileges
- The J&K Constitution adopted on **Nov 17, 1956** defines permanent resident as a person who was a state subject as of **May 14, 1954** or has been a resident in the state for **10 years** on that date with a legally acquired property.

**Non-permanent residents cannot acquire immovable property, get govt employment, scholarships or other aid provided by the state government**





PTI GRAPHICS

## Social Issues: World Breastfeeding Week 2019

**Relevance IN - Prelims (about world breastfeeding week and facts related to it) + Mains (GS II issues related to development and management of social sector like health)**

### What's the NEWS

- Every year World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated from August 1 to 7 with an aim to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies across the globe.
- As per the UNICEF report, about 60% of the world's total infants are missing out of recommended six months of exclusive breastfeeding.
- The theme for 2019 World Breastfeeding Week is - Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding.
- The objective of this theme is to aware parents about the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months because it has many benefits for the infant and the mother. Exclusive breastfeeding is a very important source of energy and nutrients in children aged between 6–23 months.



### Know! the importance of Breastfeeding Week

- According to the information released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), every new born baby has the right to good nutrition according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- As per the data collected by the United Nations Globally in 2016, 41 million children are obese in the world while 155 million children under 5 were estimated to be stunted (too short for age).
- Breastfeeding reduces the risk of developing breast cancer, ovarian cancer, type 2 diabetes and heart disease in the mother.
- It prevents infections like early-stage diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections; also, it reduces the infant mortality rate.
- According to the WHO data, it is estimated that increased breastfeeding could avert 20,000 maternal deaths each year due to breast cancer.

### Know! more about breastfeeding week

- It was first observed in 1992 by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) and is now celebrated in more than 120 countries by UNICEF, WHO and their partners including individuals, organizations, and governments.

## Centre-State relations/Infrastructure development: Kosi-Mechi linking project gets Centre's green signal

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Kosi -Mechi linking project and about ken-betwa project) + Mains (GS II centre – state relations + GS III infrastructure development)**

### What's the NEWS

- Cabinet has approved Rs. 4,900 crore for Kosi-Mehi interlinking project in Bihar.
- The central government has approved the second river interlinking project after the Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change gave its nod to the state's Kosi-Mechi river linking (KMRL) project, paving the way for work to begin next year
- To be undertaken at a cost of around Rs 4,900 crore, the KMRL project is likely to be completed in five years.
- Once completed, it will irrigate 2.14 lakh hectares in four Seemanchal —59,970 hectares in Araria, 59,642 hectares in Purnia, 39,548 hectares in Kishanganj, and 35,635 in Katihar district of Purnia division.

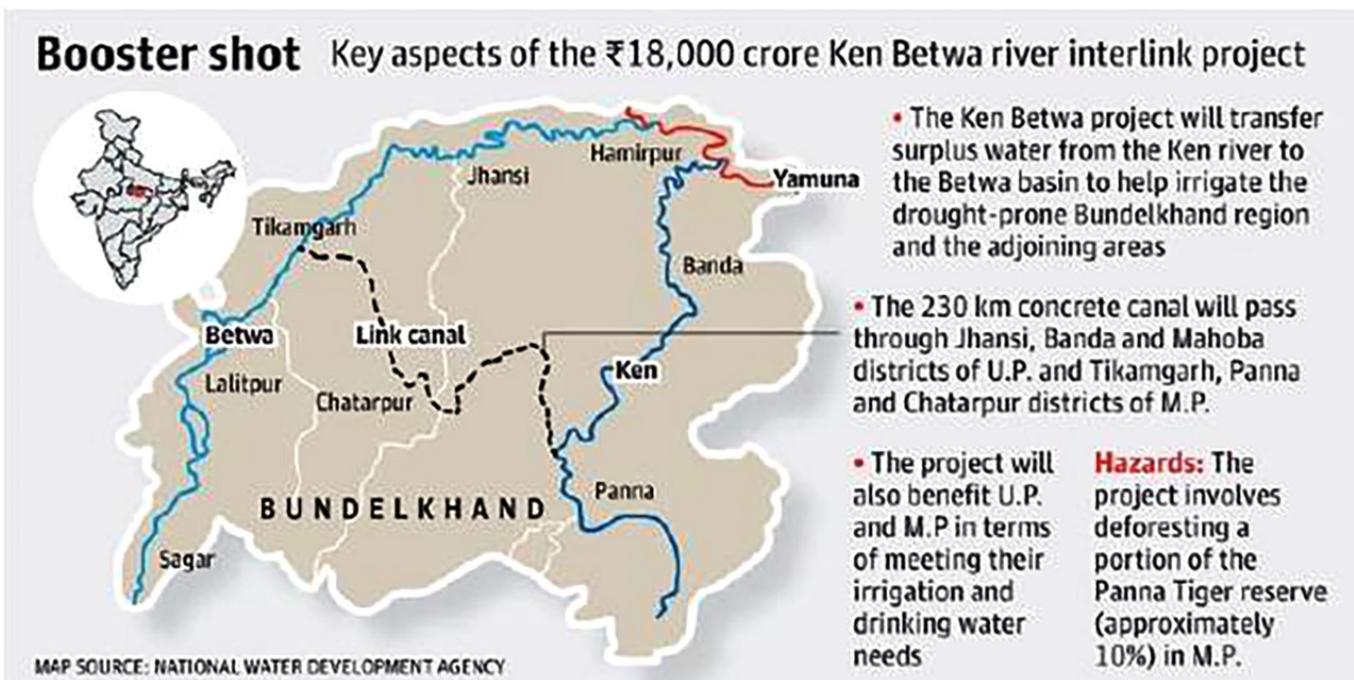
- A 76.2km canal will be built to link the two rivers basins of Kosi (Supaul and Saharsa districts) in the west with Mechi basin in Kishanganj on the east, and their linkage with the Mahananda basin, further east.

### Kosi-Mechi Interlinking Project

- This project can provide relief to the region from the menace of recurring floods. Also, it will provide irrigation facility to more than 2.14 lakh hectares of command areas spread across the districts of Kishanganj, Araria, Katihar and Purnia in north Bihar.
- This project will provide a diversion to the surplus water of Kosi River through existing Hanuman Nagar barrage to Mechi River of Mahananda basin.
- Mechi River will get water from another source and it will become a vast natural resource of irrigation.
- This project has a possibility to escort the next green revolution in Seemanchal region. This project involves no displacement of population and there is no diversion of any forest land.
- Another benefit of the project is that there is no national park, wildlife sanctuary; eco-sensitive areas, etc. are present within 10 kilometres (km) radius of the project.

### About Ken-Betwa Interlinking Project

- Ken-Betwa Interlinking is country's first river interlinking project that will connect two rivers in Madhya Pradesh.
- The project aims to transfer surplus water of Ken River to the Betwa basin through a concrete canal to irrigate India's worst drought-prone Bundelkhand region.



- This project will help irrigate an area of 6.35 lakh hectares annually in Bundelkhand region.
- Two powerhouses of 2×30 MW and 3×6 MW each, 221 km long Ken-Betwa link canal and two of 1.9 km long upper level are other attractions of the project.

## Social Justice/Issues: Surrogacy regulation Bill 2019

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the provisions of surrogacy bill) + Mains GS II Social justice)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 by a voice vote.
- The Bill, introduced by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and provides for constituting a National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards, and the appointment of appropriate authorities for the regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy.



### What is surrogacy

- The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after the birth to the intending couple.
- The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy and allows “altruistic surrogacy” which does not involve monetary compensation to the surrogate mother apart from medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy.

### Know! more about surrogacy and the new provisions in the bill

- Surrogacy is the practice where by one woman carries the child for another with the intention that the child should be handed over after birth.
- Such a surrogacy arrangement may be altruistic or commercial in nature.
  - Altruistic surrogacy involves an arrangement where the couple does not pay the surrogate mother any compensation other than the medical and insurance expenses related to the pregnancy.
  - Commercial surrogacy includes compensation (in cash or kind) paid to the surrogate mother, which exceeds the reasonable medical expenses associated with the pregnancy.
- The bill seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and it aimed at ending the exploitation of women who are lending their womb for surrogacy, and protecting the rights of children born through this.
- Constituting a National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards, and the appointment of appropriate authorities for the regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy.
- The Bill seeks to allow only altruistic surrogacy by infertile Indian couples from a “close relative”, while prohibiting foreigners, NRIs and PIOs from commissioning surrogacy in the country.
- The couple intending to commission a surrogacy arrangement must be a close relative of the surrogate mother.
- In addition, the couple have to be Indian citizens who have been married for at least five years and are in the age group of 23-50 years (female partner) and 26-55 years (male partner), and secure a medical certificate stating that either or both partners are infertile.
- The couple also should not have any surviving child (whether biological, adopted or surrogate), except if the surviving child is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from a fatal illness, among other provisions.
- The surrogate mother, apart from proving that she is a close relative of the couple intending the surrogacy, has to be married with a child of her own, in the age bracket of 25 to 35 years old, and should not have been a surrogate mother before.

- The Bill states that any child born out of a surrogacy procedure shall be the biological child of the intending couple and will be entitled to all rights and privileges that are available to a natural child.
- Singles, homosexuals and live-in couples cannot apply for surrogacy. A woman can be a surrogate only once in her lifetime.
- Only Indian couples who are legally married for at least five years and possess a certificate from a doctor stating that they are medically unfit to produce a child can opt for surrogacy.

## Bilateral Relations: Pakistan suspends all bilateral trade with India over Kashmir

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about India – Pakistan relations and facts regarding bilateral trade) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations)**

### What's the NEWS

- Pakistan announced a five-point plan that included suspension of bilateral trade in response to the Indian government's move to end special status for Jammu and Kashmir.
- The decision was taken after Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan held a crucial meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC), attended by top civil and military leadership.
- It was decided in the meeting that Pakistan will suspend the bilateral trade and review the "bilateral arrangements" with India.

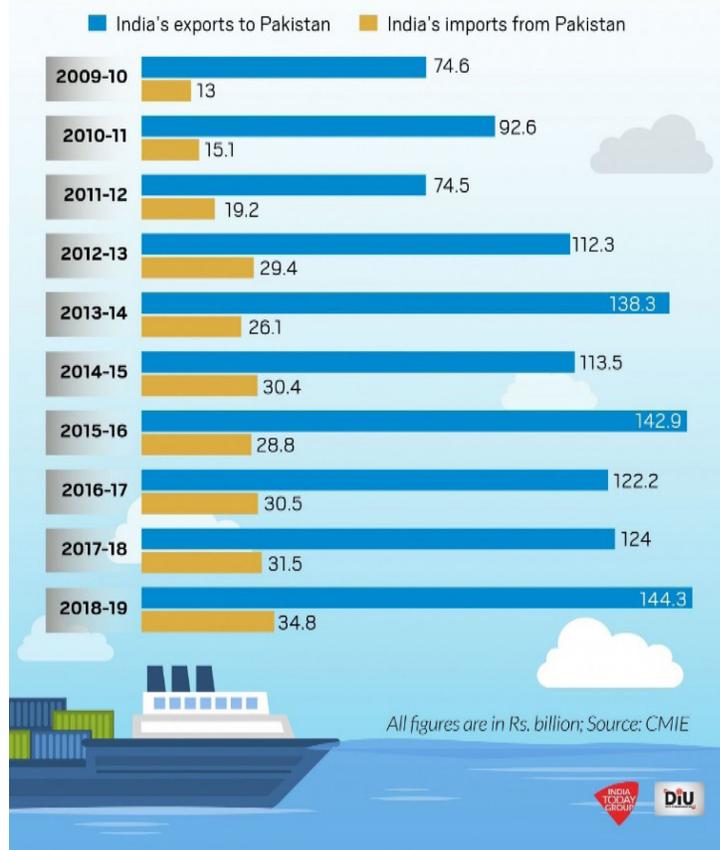
### Know! more about it

- It was decided in the meeting that Pakistani ambassadors will no longer be in New Delhi and their counterparts in Pakistan will also be sent back.
- It was mentioned in a statement released by Govt. of Pakistan that the committee decided to downgrade of diplomatic relations with India and suspension of bilateral trade with India.
- Pakistan government has also decided to raise the issue in the United Nations including its Security Council.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan asked armed forces of Pakistan to remain vigilant.
- As per the media reports, Pakistan decided to celebrate August 15 as a black day, however, August 14 is Pakistan's Independence Day.

### Know! what would be the Impact on India

- Pakistan's decision to suspend trade relations with India would hardly impact India.
- According to the reports, the move will have minimal impact on India's overall trade scenario.
- A key reason for the nominal impact of trade suspension on the Indian economy is that a large part of the trade between the countries takes place through informal route.
- According to the recent report released by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the total exports from India to Pakistan in the financial year 2018-2019 was around USD 2 billion.
- But the latest data of informal exports as per the ICRIER report which goes back to 2012-13, was USD 3.9 billion, nearly twice the current value of formal exports.

## INDIA-PAK: BILATERAL TRADE



## Parliamentary Reforms: Parliament passes bill for speedy eviction from govt accommodations

**Relevance in – Prelims (about the new provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants))**

### What's the NEWS

- Parliament on August 6 passed a bill for speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from government residential accommodations
- The bill, would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for evicting the unauthorised occupants after a three-day notice.
- The Bill amends Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 which provides for eviction of unauthorised occupants from public premises in certain cases.

### Know! more about the bill

- The upper house passed by voice vote the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019, which has strict provisions to evict illegal occupants from government property allotted to members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and government officials.
- The bill would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for evicting the unauthorised occupants after a three-day notice.

### What's the need

- Lok Sabha results were declared on May 23 and all members who lost elections were supposed to vacate the homes by June 23, but even after more than two months the ministry is still issuing routine notices
- The Centre has to evict unauthorised occupants from government accommodations under the provisions of the PPE Act, 1971. However, the eviction proceedings take unusually long time, thereby reducing the availability of government accommodations to new incumbents.
- Under the proposed bill, the estate officer will not be required to follow elaborate proceedings like serving notice, show cause, inquiry, rather he or she can initiate summary eviction proceedings.
- The proposed amendments would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for evicting unauthorised occupants from residential accommodations and to levy damage charges for accommodation held during the period of litigation.
- The bill provides for strict provisions to evict illegal occupants from government property allotted to government officials and members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- If person fails to comply with order, then estate officer may evict such person from residential accommodation and take possession of it.
- For this purpose, estate officer can also use such force as required. Also, estate officer now does not need to follow elaborate proceedings like serving notice, show cause, inquiry, rather he or she can initiate summary eviction proceedings.

## Parliament passes Consumer Protection Bill

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the new provisions of consumer protection bill 2019) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions)**

### What's the NEWS

- Parliament passed the Consumer Protection Bill 2019 that seeks to establish authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumer disputes.
- The Bill, already passed by Lok Sabha, was approved in the Upper House by voice vote. It seeks to strengthen rights of consumers and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.

## Easing Eviction

The Centre will introduce the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, which would amend the 1971 legislation and make it easier for the govt to evict overstaying officials and free up houses

The amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in Lok Sabha this week

It would amend Sections 2, 3 and 7 of the Act



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## Know! the provisions of the bill

- The bill seeks to establish a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights.
- It strengthen the rights of consumers and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.
- Under the Bill, celebrities endorsing misleading ads are also liable for fine.
- If a product is found faulty, instead of earlier individual examination, the entire batch would be examined.
- On maximum retail price (MRP), it should be displayed prominently on products apart from date of expiry, date of manufacturing and complaints redressal mechanism.
- There is no concept of levying a service charge globally and the government advised restaurants to make it voluntary.
- Since 90 per cent of cases are coming to district consumer commissions, the compensation have been increased to Rs one crore and Rs 10 crore for state level commissions, while the compensation for above Rs 10 crore has been kept for national commission ensuring that legislations should be properly scrutinised.
- The bill proposes setting up of Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and forums at the district, state and national levels for adjudicating consumer complaints.



## Know! more about the new authority

- It also seeks to set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights as a class.
- The CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices. The agency can also initiate class action, including enforcing recall, refund and return of products.

## The contentious issues in the bill

- There is a provision in the bill wherein members of the state and district level consumer disputes redressal forums will be appointed by the central government, “usurping the powers of the state“.
- The disputes redressal forums proposed in the bill do not have members from judiciary. “How can it be called a quasi-judiciary body? It is a pseudo-judiciary body
- This a “sabotage of federalism and centralisation of powers” and added that even state’s powers to frame rules has been snatched away.
- It challenges the federalism as members of the state and district forums will be appointed in consultation with the central government.
- The bill has not been drafted in a “simple language” for the benefit of consumers. The definition of consumer rights is written in a complicated way

## Alternative Dispute redressal mechanism: India signs UNISA; experts call for local laws supporting treaty

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about UNISA and about mediation as alternative dispute redressal mechanism) + Mains (GS II international organisations)*

### What’s the NEWS

- India signed a key UN convention on international settlement agreements, even as experts called for local laws to support the treaty’s implementation in business contracts.

### Know! more about it

- The United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) was signed by India’s High Commissioner to Singapore Jawed Ashraf, representing the Government of India. 46 countries signed the treaty named Singapore Convention on Mediation.



### **Know! the Benefits of signing UNISA**

- The signing of the convention is particularly important for the growth of mediation in India
- India has adopted this (convention) and with that we have significantly enhanced the ease of doing business in India
- On the ease of doing business, as for the legal front, we are up by 50 per cent just by signing this convention and it is a dramatic jump
- But this is just a base convention that will have to be translated into an effective law in India
- To further boost foreign investors' confidence in the Indian market, the law supporting the convention in India should cover all government contracts with investors for mediation both in India and in a third country choice of disputing parties.
- The mediator community to grow exponentially, given the need to have a mitigation department in every law firm.
- With contract-based businesses set to boost the Indian economy to the USD 5 trillion target, foreign companies would be asking legal groups about their mediation capabilities
- South Asia constitutes one of the largest markets for international arbitrations under the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), which is dominated by disputes from Indian businesses.

### **Know! more about UN Convention on International Settlement Agreement (UNISA)**

- It is also known as Singapore Convention on Mediation. In December 2018 UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted The United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.
- It provides uniform framework for enforcing international settlement agreements which results from mediation.
- It also provide efficient framework for allowing parties to invoke such agreements similar to framework that New York Convention (or Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York, 1958) provides for arbitral awards.

## **Parliament Functioning: President Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill**

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about the new and stringent provisions of motor vehicle act)*

### **What's the NEWS**

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 31, 2019. The bill was passed in the upper house with three key amendments so it had to be sent back to the Lok Sabha for approval.
- The introduced amendments aim to improve road safety and help citizens in their dealings with transport departments.
- The amendments also aim to strengthen rural transport, public transport and last mile connectivity through automation, computerization and online services.
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 will increase the fine on most traffic violations by almost 10 times.

**Know! the key amendments Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- The Bill proposes to increase penalties for traffic violations to act as a future deterrent.
- It proposes stricter provisions for offences such as drunken driving, juvenile driving, driving without licence, over-speeding, dangerous driving and overloading.
- It also proposes stricter provisions for driving without helmets. The bill also includes provisions for electronic detection of traffic violations.
- The penalty for motor vehicles is proposed to be increased by 10 percent every year.
- The Bill includes a provision that mandates automated fitness testing for vehicles.
- This proposal would help reduce corruption in the transport department and improve road worthiness of the vehicle.
- The motor vehicles bill also proposes penalty for deliberate violation of safety and environmental regulations.
- The bill proposes regulation of the process of testing and certification of automobiles and it also proposes to bring agencies issuing automobile approvals to be brought under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and vehicle testing standards to be set. The bill also provides for mandatory recall of defective vehicles.
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 provides for the setting up of a National Road Safety Board by the central government.
- The National Road Safety Board will be required to advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including registration and licensing of vehicles, standards of motor vehicles, standards for road safety and promotion of new vehicle technology.
- The bill incorporates Good Samaritan guidelines in order to help road accident victims. The Bill defines good samaritan as a person who provides emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a road accident victim and provides rules to prevent harassment of such a person.
- The Motor Vehicle (amendment) Bill 2019 amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to tackle issues like regulation of taxi aggregators, third party insurance and road safety.

<b>Suggested fines</b>	
 <p><b>Drunk driving</b>  <b>Fine:</b> ₹2,000-10,000 graded  <b>Jail:</b> On 2nd offence  <b>Licence:</b> 3 months suspension  <b>Vehicle impounding:</b> Yes</p>	 <p><b>Using mobile phone</b>  <b>Fine:</b> ₹2,000 (1st), ₹4,000 (2nd), +₹1,000 (subsequent)  <b>Jail:</b> No  <b>Licence:</b> 3 months' suspension on 2nd offence, cancellation on 3rd  <b>Vehicle impounding:</b> No</p>
 <p><b>Without insurance</b>  <b>Fine:</b> ₹2,000 (1st) &amp; ₹4,000 (subsequent)  <b>Jail:</b> No  <b>Licence:</b> No  <b>Vehicle impounding:</b> Yes</p>	 <p><b>Unfit vehicle</b>  <b>Fine:</b> ₹2,000 (1st) &amp; ₹2,000 (subsequent)  <b>Jail:</b> No  <b>Licence:</b> No  <b>Vehicle impounding:</b> Yes</p>
 <p><b>Obstruction on road</b>  <b>Fine:</b> ₹1,000 + ₹200 per hr (1st), double (subsequent)  <b>Jail:</b> No  <b>Licence:</b> No  <b>Vehicle impounding:</b> No</p>	 <p><b>Dangerous driving</b>  <b>Fine:</b> ₹4,000 (1st) &amp; ₹8,000 (subsequent)  <b>Jail:</b> 3 months suspension; cancellation on 3rd offence  <b>Licence:</b> Suspended on 3rd offence  <b>Vehicle impounding:</b> Yes</p>

- This Bill seeks maximum accountability for third party insurance in case of a vehicle accident at Rs 10 lakh in case of death and Rs. 5 Lakh in case of grievous injury.

### **The statics of road accidents in India**

- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in Lok Sabha that more than 1.50 lakh people die and 5 lakh people injured annually in road accidents.
- The amendment Bill proposes to exclude a clause of the Motor Vehicle Act to decide how to maintain their registers for driving licenses, to centralize vehicle registration data and achieve standardization

## **NITI Aayog: NITI Aayog launches Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India Awards**

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about WTI initiative of NITI Aayog) + Mains (GS III economic development +inclusive growth and issues arising from it + GS I role of women and women organisations**

### **What's the NEWS**

- NITI Aayog, the premier think tank of the Government of India, has launched the Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards, in collaboration with the United Nations in New Delhi.
- UN Resident Coordinator in India, Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, opened the nomination process for WTI Awards 2019, in the presence of CEO NITI Aayog, Mr. Amitabh Kant

### **Know! more about the WTI Awards**

- The WTI Awards, since its inception in 2016, has been recognising and celebrating stories of exemplary women from across India.
- The theme for WTI Awards 2019 is “Women and Entrepreneurship”, in continuation with last edition’s theme that recognizes women entrepreneurs who are breaking the glass ceiling and challenging stereotypes, through businesses and enterprises and are providing innovative developmental solutions to building a dynamic New India.
- Whatsapp has collaborated with the WEP for the WTI Awards of 2019, and will be providing support equivalent to US\$100,000 to the winners.
- The campaign builds on the success of the WTI Awards for the past three years. WTI Awards 2018 received more than 2,300 nominations.
- Through a highly objective and rigorous selection process, 15 women entrepreneurs doing inspirational work from diverse sectors viz. Renewable Energy, Education, Sanitation, Art and Culture, Social Innovation and Impact, were recognised.
- The first two editions of the WTI Awards felicitated 12 phenomenal stories each of women undertaking phenomenal work to transform societies across India’s cities, towns and villages; and empowering themselves and their communities.

### **Know! more about WEP**

- WEP is one of its kind facilitation platform, which enables convergence of multiple stakeholders on a single platform, work in collaboration with these stakeholders to bridge the gap in the entrepreneurial ecosystem,



host relevant information about several schemes and partner organizations on WEP website to connect women entrepreneurs with relevant partners.

- WEP, through its partners, in various verticals such as Finance, Marketing and Networking, Entrepreneurship Development, Mentoring, Incubation and Acceleration aims at providing services such as free credit ratings, skill development, local support, corporate partnerships, funding support etc. to women entrepreneurs.
- In the span of past 15 months, WEP has seen several success stories emerging. WEP has more than 5,000 women entrepreneurs registered on the platform, more than 30 partners and has committed funding of more than US\$10mn for these startups.

## **e- governance: 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 successfully concludes at Shillong (Shillong declaration)**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the national conference on e- governance and about shillong declaration) + Mains (GS II important aspects of governance transparency and accountability, e- governance – applications, success, limitations)***

### **What's the NEWS**

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and the State Government of Meghalaya organized the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- The theme of this Conference was “Digital India: Success to Excellence”.

### **Know! more about NCeG**

- The two-day 22nd edition of the National Conference on e-Governance held in Shillong concluded with a historic ‘Shillong Declaration’ outlining the future trajectory the country would take in terms of e-Governance.
- The 10- point declaration is an outcome of a commitment made at the inaugural session the previous day and was framed after two days of intensive deliberations among senior officials, experts and representatives of 28 States and all Union Territories.
- Over the two days, discussions were held on six sub-themes in Plenary sessions - India Enterprise Architecture (INDEA), Digital Infrastructure, Inclusion and capacity building, Emerging Technology for Practitioners, Secretariat Reforms, National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA).

### **Shillong declaration**

- NCeG 2019 provided a platform for the delegates, including senior government officers from across the country, industry stalwarts and researchers, to share best practices, latest technology developments and leveraging them for achieving effective governance and public service delivery.
- The focus of all the sessions was on learning with each other's experiences to ensure effective e-governance for citizen satisfaction and achieve Prime Minister's vision of ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’.

## **Government Schemes: India's Largest Rural Sanitation Survey Launched**

### **What's the NEWS**

- Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 (SSG 2019) .

### **Know! more about the survey**

- To be instituted from August 14 to September 30, 2019, SSG 2019 will cover 17,450 villages in 698 districts across India and include 87,250 public places namely schools, anganwadi centers, public health centres, haat/ bazaars/religious places, making it India's largest rural sanitation survey.
- Around 2,50,000 citizens will be interviewed for their feedback as part of the survey.
- Citizens will also be mobilised to provide feedback on sanitation related issues online using an application developed for the purpose.
- An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts and the results will be announced based on quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters.

- With over 5.8 lakh villages, 639 districts, and 32 States/UTs declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) in rural India, the country is well poised to be completely an Open Defecation Free India by October 2, 2019.
- A detailed protocol has been developed to guide the ranking of Districts basis their performance on key quality and quantitative parameters.
- The Jal Shakti Minister released the SSG 2019 logo, the SSG 2019 brochure mobile app and a dashboard for citizen's feedback.

## Prime Minister's Independence Day address (key highlights)

### MODISPEAK

#### On economy

"We are targeting a \$5-trillion economy. Many think it's difficult, but if we don't do difficult things, how will we progress?"

#### On population

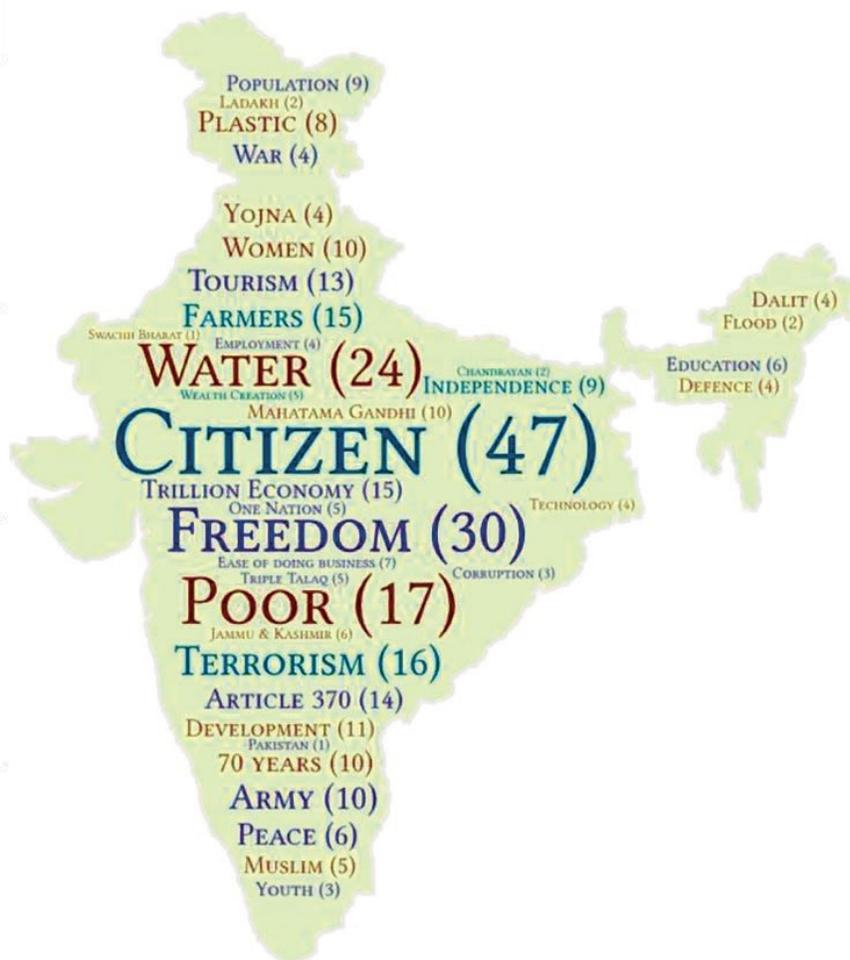
"Population explosion is a grave danger for future generations. People who are doing family planning are patriots"

#### On J&K

"One nation, one Constitution has become a reality... It is our responsibility to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir"

#### On corruption

"Corruption and nepotism have infiltrated our lives like termites, and we are trying continuously to throw them out"



### Government to launch Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households

#### What's the NEWS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said more than Rs 3.5 lakh crore will be spent in the coming years under the Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households. In his Independence Day address, Modi said half of the country's households do not have access to piped water.
- The government has resolved to provide piped water to all households by 2024. It has clubbed all erstwhile water related ministries under one new Jal Shakti Ministry.
- In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the new ministry will look at the management of water resources and water supply in an integrated and holistic manner, and will work with states to ensure Har Ghar Jal (piped water supply) to all rural households by 2024 under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

## State Specific: Madhya Pradesh may get a second House

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about bicameral system of legislature) + Mains (GS II Parliament and state legislature – structure and working)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Congress government in Madhya Pradesh has moved to create a Legislative Council for the state, in keeping with the promise in its manifesto ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections.

### Know! about the process of creation of Legislative council and bicameral system of legislature

- India has a bicameral system of legislature at the Union level. Just as Parliament has two Houses, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, individual states too, can choose to have a Legislative Council in addition to the Legislative Assembly.
- This option is available under Article 171 of the Constitution. As in the Rajya Sabha, members of a state Legislative Council too, are not directly elected by voters.

### Know! the genesis

- When the founding fathers of the Republic were debating the Constitution of free India, opinion in the Constituent Assembly was divided on the idea of having a second House.
- It was argued that a second House would help check hasty actions by the directly elected House. Also, non-elected individuals in the Upper House would be able to contribute to the legislative process.
- Opponents of the idea argued that political parties would be able to use the Legislative Council in the states to delay legislation, and as a sop or sinecure for leaders who have failed to win an election.

### Creation of Legislative Councils

- Under Article 169, a Legislative Council can be formed “if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting”. Parliament can then pass a law to this effect.
- Under Article 171 of the Constitution, the Legislative Council of a state shall not have more than one-third of the total number of MLAs of that state, and not less than 40 members.
- Jammu & Kashmir, which will soon cease to exist as a state, was the exception to this provision: as per Section 50 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, the Assembly had 87 members, and the Legislative Council 36.
- As with Rajya Sabha MPs, the tenure of a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in a state is six years, with one-third of the members of the House retiring every two years.
- A third of the MLCs are elected by the state's MLAs, another third by a special electorate comprising sitting members of local governments such as municipalities and district boards. A twelfth is elected by an electorate of teachers, and another twelfth by registered graduates.
- The remaining members of the Council are appointed by the Governor for distinguished service in various fields.

### States with Councils

- If J&K, which has been split into two Union Territories, not be considered, six states currently have Legislative Councils.
- Andhra Pradesh (176 MLAs; 58 MLCs)
- Bihar (243 MLAs; 75 MLCs)
- Karnataka (225 MLAs; 75 MLCs)
- Maharashtra (289 MLAs; 78 MLCs)
- Telangana (119 MLAs; 40 MLCs)
- Uttar Pradesh (404 MLAs; 100 MLCs)

### Other cases (demand by different states)

- Before Madhya Pradesh, which is planning a 76-member Upper House, Odisha had, in 2018, moved to create a Legislative Council of 49 members (1/3rd of the 147-member Assembly).
- Several years ago, Tamil Nadu's DMK government had passed a law to set up a Council, but the subsequent AIADMK government had withdrawn it after coming to power in 2010.

- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council was set up in 1958, abolished in 1985, and reconstituted in 2007.
- Proposals to create Legislative Councils in Rajasthan and Assam are pending in Parliament. The PRS Legislative Research website lists the status of both these Bills as pending.

### **Know! the difference between Vidhan Parishad and Rajya Sabha**

- The legislative power of the Councils are limited. Unlike Rajya Sabha which has substantial powers to shape non-financial legislation, Legislative Councils lack a constitutional mandate to do so. State Assemblies can override the suggestions/amendments made to a legislation by the Council.
- Unlike Rajya Sabha MPs, MLCs cannot vote in elections for the President and Vice President. The Vice President of India is the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

## **Bilateral Relations: PM Modi launches RuPay card in Bhutan**



### ***Relevance IN - Prelims (about the MoUs and agreements signed) + Mains (GS II India and its neighbourhood relations)***

#### **What's the NEWS**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi further cemented the ties with Bhutan by launching India's RuPay card in Bhutan. He also signed 10 MoUs during his second visit to Bhutan.
- The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on his second visit to Bhutan (first since his re-election), discussed wide-ranging steps to strengthen the relationship with Bhutan and signed 10 MoUs to infuse new energy between both countries. Bhutan was the first country that PM Modi visited as Prime Minister in 2014.

#### **Know! more about the launch of RuPay card and other MoUs signed**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's RuPay card in Bhutan by purchasing at Simtokha Dzong, that functions as a monastic and administrative centre. It was built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal.
- The launch of RuPay card will be done in two phases- in the first phase, India's banks will issue RuPay cards that can be used by Indian travellers in Bhutan; in second phase-banks of Bhutan will be empowered to issue RuPay cards to Bhutanese citizens to use in India
- Bhutan is the second country after Singapore where RuPay card was launched. In May 2018, PM Modi had launched three India's payment apps RuPay, BHIM and SBI apps.
- India and Bhutan signed 10 MoUs (Memorandum of Understandings) in Power, IT, Education, Space research and Aviation sectors.

- Apart from this, PM Modi announced an additional \$100 million to Bhutan under the SAARC currency swap framework to meet foreign exchange requirements.
- He along with Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering jointly inaugurated the SATCOM network and Ground Earth Station, developed with the assistance from ISRO for utilisation of South Asia Satellite in Bhutan.

### Know! about RuPay card

- RuPay Card was launched on 26 March 2012 by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to have India's own multilateral system of payments. It helps electronic payments at all Indian banks and financial institutions.

## Government Schemes: Textiles Ministry partners with 16 states for skilling 4 lakh under 'Samarth' scheme



### Relevance IN – Prelims (about Samarth scheme) + GS II government policies and interventions for development in various sectors+ GS III economic development)

#### What's the NEWS

- Sixteen states have signed pacts with the Ministry of Textiles to partner with it for skilling about four lakh workers as part of the 'Samarth' scheme.
- Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha, which were among the eighteen states that had earlier agreed to be on board, did not participate.
- Once the agencies that are nominated by the states provide training to the workers, they would be provided jobs in the textiles industry

#### Know! more about the agreement and about the scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the 'Samarth' Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS) from 2017-18 to 2019-20 to meet the skill requirements of textiles industry.
- The scheme aims at skill development of 10 lakh youth up to 2020 with a projected outlay of Rs 1300 crore.
- About three-fourths of workers in the textiles sector are women and 70 per cent of the beneficiaries of the Mudra loan are women
- With the exception of spinning and weaving, beneficiaries will be provided training in the entire value chain such as apparel and garments, knitwear, metal handicraft, handloom, textiles, handicraft and carpet.
- The sixteen states that signed the MoUs include Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Karnataka, Manipur, Haryana, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.

- 16 states out of 18 selected states have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Ministry of Textiles for skilling about 4 lakh workers as part of Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH).

### **Know! about Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH)**

- It is skill development scheme of Union Ministry of Textiles, covering the entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector. It was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in December 2017.
- Provide demand driven, placement oriented NSQF (National Skills Qualification Framework) Compliant skilling programme to incentivize organized textile and related sectors excluding Spinning and Weaving.
- Through Samarth skill gap and skilling requirements will be assessed and skills will be imparted accordingly.

## **Bilateral Relations: PM Modi inaugurates Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant in Bhutan**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (facts related to the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations - India and its neighbourhood-relations)***



### **What's the NEWS**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant, one of the major projects under Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000 MW hydropower by 2020 with the Indian government's support.
- The Rs 4,500-crore hydroelectric plant, touted as a Bhutan-India friendship project, is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan.
- It was developed by the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA), which was jointly constituted by the Indian and the Bhutanese governments.

### **Know! more about the project and about the agreement signed**

- The Mangdechhu project is funded by India through a 70 per cent loan and a 30 per cent grant. It is estimated to generate 2,923 GWh of electricity.

- Most of the electricity generated by the Mangdechhu hydropower project will meet the energy requirements of Bhutan and the surplus electricity will be exported to India.
- Modi also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan Hydropower cooperation.

### **India to purchase surplus electricity from Bhutan's state-run Druk Green Power**

- PTC India Ltd, India's largest electricity trader, will buy surplus power from Bhutan government-run Druk Green Power Corp. Ltd, which runs the 720 megawatts (MW) Mangdechhu hydropower project.
- PTC India Ltd (PTC) signed power purchase agreement (PPA) with Druk Green Power Corp. Ltd (DGPC, A Royal Bhutan Govt. Company) for purchase of surplus power from 720MW Mangdechhu hydro electric project in Bhutan for 35 years. Government of India has designated PTC as the nodal agency from Indian side to purchase this power from Bhutan
- Electricity from the run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan will be supplied to Assam, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal.

### **India's neighbourhood first policy**

- Cross-border energy trade is a key part of Modi's South Asia-focused, neighbourhood-first policy.
- India has also been playing a key role in creating a new energy security architecture for its neighbours to counter China's Belt and Road initiative aimed at connecting countries across Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Bhutan, strategically located between India and China, has the potential to generate 30,000MW of hydropower, but has a capacity of just 1,490MW.
- According to the Indian embassy in Thimphu, hydropower exports provide more than 40% of Bhutan's domestic revenues, and constitute 25% of its gross domestic product (GDP).
- India has been supplying electricity to Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. India is also pitching for a global electricity grid at the first general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and has also been championing for a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) electricity grid, which would meet electricity demand in the region.

## **HRD Minister launches Teachers Training Programme 'NISHTHA'**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about NISHTHA) + Mains (GS II issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to health***

### **What's the NEWS**

- Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the Integrated Teachers Training Programme, NISHTHA, National Initiative for School Head's and Teachers' Holistic Advancement



### **Know! all about NISHTHA**

- The integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of the school at the elementary level in all government school, faculty members of state councils of Educational Research and Training and other educational departments of all States and Union Territories.
- The integrated training will motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students, handle diverse situations and act as first level counsellors.
- Through this initiative, teachers at elementary level will be able to acquire scientific temperament and knowledge of other important educational aspects and transfer it to students.
- HRD Minister also launched NISHTHA initiative's Website, Training Modules, Primer Booklet and Mobile App built for purpose.

- The Mobile App and Learning Management System (LMS) which will be used for registration of Resource Persons and Teachers, training gap and impact analysis, monitoring, mentoring and measuring progress online is based on MOODLE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) and have been developed by NCERT.

### **Know! about the training module**

- Inclusive education, ICT in teaching-learning, including artificial intelligence, health and well-being, initiatives in school education, including library, eco club, youth club, kitchen garden, school leadership qualities, environmental concerns, pre-school, pre-vocational education and school-based assessment in a joyful learning manner, are among the areas that will be covered in the training
- The training will be conducted directly by 33,120 key resource persons (KRPs) and state resource persons (SRPs) chosen by the state and UTs, who will in turn be trained by 120 national resource persons identified from the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and NGOs.

## **NITI Aayog: ‘San-Sadhan’ Hackathon**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (San – Sadhan Hackathon)+ Mains (GS II social justice + welfare schemes for the vulnerable section of population)***

### **What’s the NEWS**

- The government calls for applications for its latest initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission, called the ‘San-Sadhan’ Hackathon, an initiative to ease lives of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.

### **Objective**

- In this hackathon, the government is looking for smart, scalable and innovative solutions for economical toilets for individual and community use in rural and urban contexts.

### **Organising Ministries**

- The initiative is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and 91springboard.

### **Know! more about the Hackathon**

- The Hackathon invites researchers, start-ups, student innovators, technology enthusiasts, and industry experts to participate. This hackathon is a great opportunity to win exciting prizes and get handholding and mentoring support by ministry, industry experts and ecosystem enablers.
- The shortlisted applicants will work to develop their prototype during the two-day Hackathon scheduled to be held in the month of September in New Delhi.
- The applicants will be showcasing their innovations on the final day of the hackathon and the winners shall be felicitated during the valedictory function which is slated to be held in mid-September.

### **Know! about the ministries involved**

#### **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti:**

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation manages the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) and is the coordinating department for the overall SBM.
- Since the launch of the SBM, India’s rural sanitation coverage has increased from 39% in 2014 to over 99% as of August 2019, and the Mission is on track to achieve its goal of an ODF India by 2019.
- The Department also manages rural drinking water supply, and is responsible for the Jal Jeevan Mission, aiming at providing piped water supply to all rural households.

#### **Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment:**

- In order to give focused attention to Policy issues and meaningful thrust to the activities aimed at welfare and empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities, a separate Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on May 12, 2012.

- The mission of this department is to empower Persons with Disabilities, through its various Acts/Institutions/Organizations and Schemes for rehabilitation and to create an enabling environment that provides such persons with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and enables them to participate as independent and productive members of society.

### **Atal Innovation Mission:**

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of Government to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

## **NITI Aayog: NITI Aayog to release a Report on the Composite Water Management Index 2.0**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about composite water management index)***

#### **What's the NEWS**

- NITI Aayog will release the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) tomorrow
- Inspired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's impetus on Jal Sanchay, Jal Shakti Ministry on 1st July, 2019 launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 water stressed blocks in 256 districts, to ensure important water conservation interventions.
- To supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry, NITI Aayog has prepared the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0).

#### **Know! more about CWMI**

- The CWMI is an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States and Union Territories in efficient management of water resources.
- This has been done through a first of its kind water data collection exercise in partnership with Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Rural Development and all the States/ Union Territories.
- The index would provide useful information for the States and also for the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.
- CWMI 2.0 ranks various states for the reference year 2017-18 as against the base year 2016-17.

#### **CWMI 1.0**

- NITI Aayog first launched and conceptualized the Composite Water Management Index in 2018 as a tool to instill the sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states.
- This was a first ever attempt at creating a pan-India set of metrics that measured different dimensions of water management and use across the lifecycle of water.
- The report was widely acknowledged and provided actionable guidance to States on where they were doing well absolutely and relatively and what they needed to focus on to secure their water future.

## **Centre – States Relations: 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council at Panaji**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about Zonal council) + Mains (GS II centre-state relations)***

#### **What's the NEWS**

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah chaired the 24th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Panaji (Goa).

#### **Know! more about Zonal Councils**

- The five Zonal Councils - Western, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Central - were set up under the States Reorganization Act, 1956 to foster Inter-State co-operation and co-ordination among the States.
- The Zonal Councils are mandated to discuss and make recommendations on any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning, border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport etc.
- They are regional fora of cooperative endeavour for States linked with each other economically, politically and culturally.

- Being compact high-level bodies, specially meant for looking after the interests of respective Zones, they are capable of focusing attention on specific issues taking into account regional factors, while keeping the national perspective in view.
- The deliberations of the Council were warm and cordial, in the true spirit of cooperative federalism and ended with the decision to host the next meeting in Maharashtra.

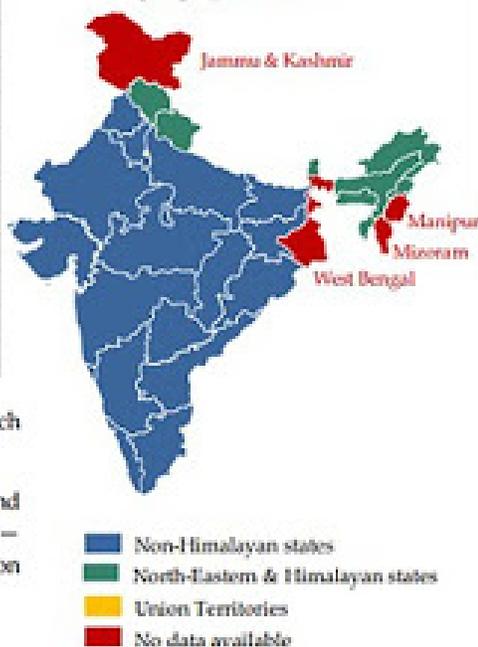
## NITI Aayog: NITI Aayog releases Report on the Composite Water Management Index 2.0

**The Index comprises of 9 themes, and covers 25 states and 2 UTs**

### CWMI themes and weights

	Sectors	Weights
1	Source augmentation and restoration of waterbodies	5
2	Source augmentation (Groundwater)	15
3	Major and medium irrigation – Supply side management	15
4	Watershed development – Supply side management	10
5	Participatory irrigation practices – Demand side management	10
6	Sustainable on-farm water use practices – Demand side management	10
7	Rural drinking Water	10
8	Urban water supply & sanitation	10
9	Policy and governance	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Classification of states to account for different hydrological conditions and geographical area



The nine themes are further sub-divided into 28 indicators which account for equal weightages within respective themes

Groundwater augmentation, major and medium irrigation, and policy & governance remain themes with highest weightages – given the growing groundwater crisis, India's low irrigation utilization, and the importance of effective policy frameworks

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Composite Water Management Index 2.0 and its findings) + Mains (GS II functions and responsibilities of the Union and the states, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein)**

### What's the NEWS

- To supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry, NITI Aayog has prepared the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0).
- Scientific management of water is increasingly recognized as being vital to India's growth and ecosystem sustainability.
- Government is being proactive about water management and has created the Ministry of Jal Shakti to consolidate interrelated functions pertaining to water management.
- The newly formed Jal Shakti Ministry under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has strived to over bridge the water challenges by launching the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - a campaign for water conservation and water security.

### Know! about Composite Water Management Index 1.0

- NITI Aayog first launched and conceptualized the Composite Water Management Index in 2018 as a tool to instill the sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states.
- This was a first ever attempt at creating a pan-India set of metrics that measured different dimensions of water

management and use across the lifecycle of water.

- The CWMI is an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States/ Union Territories in efficient management of water resources.
- This has been done through a first of its kind water data collection exercise in partnership with Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Rural Development and all the States/ Union Territories.
- The index would provide useful information for the States and also for the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.

### Know! about Composite Water Management Index 2.0

- CWMI 2.0 ranks various states for the reference year 2017-18 as against the base year 2016-17. In the report released today, Gujarat hold on to its rank one in the reference year (2017-18), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged number 1 in 2017-18 followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura and Assam.
- The Union Territories have first time submitted their data and Puducherry has been declared as the top ranker.
- In terms of incremental change in index (over 2016-17 level), Haryana holds number one position in general States and Uttarakhand ranks at first position amongst North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- On an average, 80% of the states assessed on the Index over the last three years have improved their water management scores, with an average improvement of +5.2 points.
- The overall ranking for reference year 2017-18 and change in the rankings from the base year 2016-17 of different States in the Report is given in Charts-1 and Chart 2.

**Chart-1: Ranking of Different States in CWMI 2.0 2019**

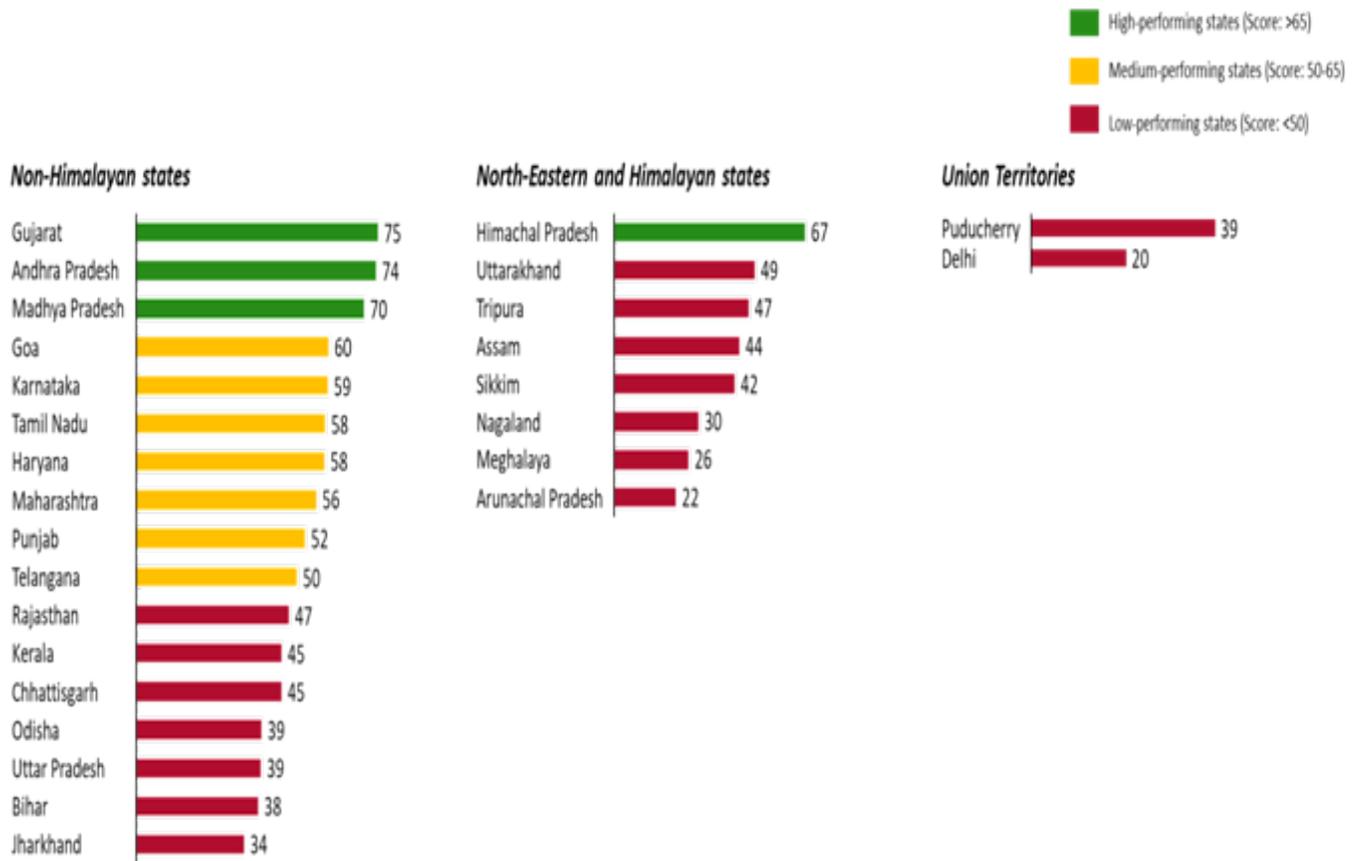


Chart-2: Incremental Ranking of Different States in CWMI 2.0

**Non-Himalayan states**

	FY 17-18	FY 16-17	FY 15-16	1-year trend
Gujarat	1	1	1	— No change
Andhra Pradesh	2	3	2	↑ 1 position
Madhya Pradesh	3	2	3	↓ 1 position
Goa	4	11	10	↑ 7 positions
Karnataka	5	4	5	↓ 1 position
Tamil Nadu	6	7	6	↑ 1 position
Haryana	7	16	16	↑ 9 positions
Maharashtra	8	5	4	↓ 3 positions
Punjab	9	6	7	↓ 3 positions
Telangana	10	8	11	↓ 2 positions
Rajasthan	11	10	13	↓ 1 position
Kerala	12	12	12	— No change
Chhattisgarh	13	9	8	↓ 4 positions
Odisha	14	13	9	↓ 1 position
Uttar Pradesh	15	15	14	— No change
Bihar	16	14	15	↓ 2 positions
Jharkhand	17	17	17	— No change

**North-Eastern and Himalayan states**

	FY 17-18	FY 16-17	FY 15-16	1-year trend
Himachal Pradesh	1	2	1	↑ 1 position
Uttarakhand	2	6	4	↑ 4 positions
Tripura	3	1	2	↓ 2 positions
Assam	4	4	5	— No change
Sikkim	5	3	3	↓ 2 positions
Nagaland	6	5	6	↓ 1 position
Meghalaya	7	7	7	— No change
Arunachal Pradesh	8	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

## Bilateral Relations: PM Modi conferred UAE's highest civilian honour, launches RuPay card

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Prime Minister's recent foreign visits and its takeaways) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations)**

### What's the NEWS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is currently in Abu Dhabi for a bilateral visit, was conferred the Order of Zayed, the highest civil decoration of the UAE.
- The award was conferred earlier in April 2019 in recognition of the leadership of the Prime Minister for his contribution towards boosting bilateral ties between the two nations.
- The award in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, acquires special significance as it was awarded to Prime Minister Modi in the year of the birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed.



### Order of Zayed

- The Zayed Medal is the highest civilian decoration of the UAE, which is awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states. The medal has been previously conferred to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Queen of the United Kingdom Elizabeth II.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially launched the RuPay card in the UAE on August 24, 2019 at the Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi. With this, UAE has become the first gulf country where the Indian RuPay card has been launched.
- Modi, who is on a tri-nation tour to France, the UAE and Bahrain, reached Abu Dhabi on Friday from Paris. From Abu Dhabi, he will visit Bahrain before returning to France for the G7 summit.

### Know! about India – Bahrain relationship and agreements signed

- PM Narendra Modi was conferred Bahrain Order- First Class by Bahrain's King, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations of India with the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Bahrain Order - First Class is also known as the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance.
- India welcomed the interest of the Kingdom of Bahrain to join the International Solar alliance (ISA), recognising the importance of it as international intergovernmental organisation, which has become an effective platform to facilitate the deployment of solar energy.
- India and Bahrain reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the identity of the perpetrators and their motives and they agreed to further enhance cooperation in the field of security, counter-terrorism and the exchange of intelligence and information.
- India and Bahrain further discussed ways and means to further promote cooperation in cyber security, including prevention of use of cyber space for terrorism, radicalization and for disturbing social harmony.
- India and Bahrain agreed to enhance cooperation in energy, covering the areas of joint exploration and training of human resources.
- India and Bahrain agreed to enhance cooperation to strengthen maritime security in the Gulf region, vital for the security and safety of sea lanes.
- Both Nations also emphasized on the urgent need to pursue UN reforms, including the Security Council through an expansion of both categories of its membership, to make it more representative and effective in tackling global challenges.

## Judiciary: SC to examine validity of new triple talaq law, issues notice to Centre

**Relevance IN - Prelims (about triple talaq – contentious issues) + GS II (structure organisation and functioning of the executive and the judiciary)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Supreme Court agreed to hear a plea challenging the newly-minted law which criminalizes the practice of instant triple talaq
- A bench of justices N.V. Ramana and Ajay Rastogi issued a notice to the Centre on a batch of petitions which claimed that the Act violates the provisions of the Constitution.
- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, makes instant triple talaq a cognizable offence attracting up to three years of imprisonment with a fine. Under the act, an accused can be arrested without a warrant.



### Know! more about the petition filed

- Petitions challenging the criminalization of instant triple talaq were filed by Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, a religious organization of Sunni Muslim scholars; Amir Rashid Madni, a politician and Islamic scholar; and Jamiat Ulama- I- Hind.
- The religious organization contended that the Act allows for penal actions against a specific class of people based on their religion.
- The petitioners also said the bill violates the fundamental rights under Article 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution of India.
- The petition by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind contended that the Act is discriminatory in nature, as it allows for penal actions against a class of people belonging to a certain religion. It has sought direction from the Supreme Court to declare the Act as “unconstitutional”, as the law is violative of fundamental rights to equality, non-discrimination, life and liberty.
- The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind questioned the 3-year jail term prescribed under the new triple talaq law and called it both “disproportionate and excessive”.
- The Muslim body pointed out that while triple talaq has been made a non-bailable offence with punishment amounting to 3 years of imprisonment, desertion of a wife by the husband is not even an offence in India.

## Health Sector: WCD Minister Smriti Irani confers POSHAN Abhiyaan Awards

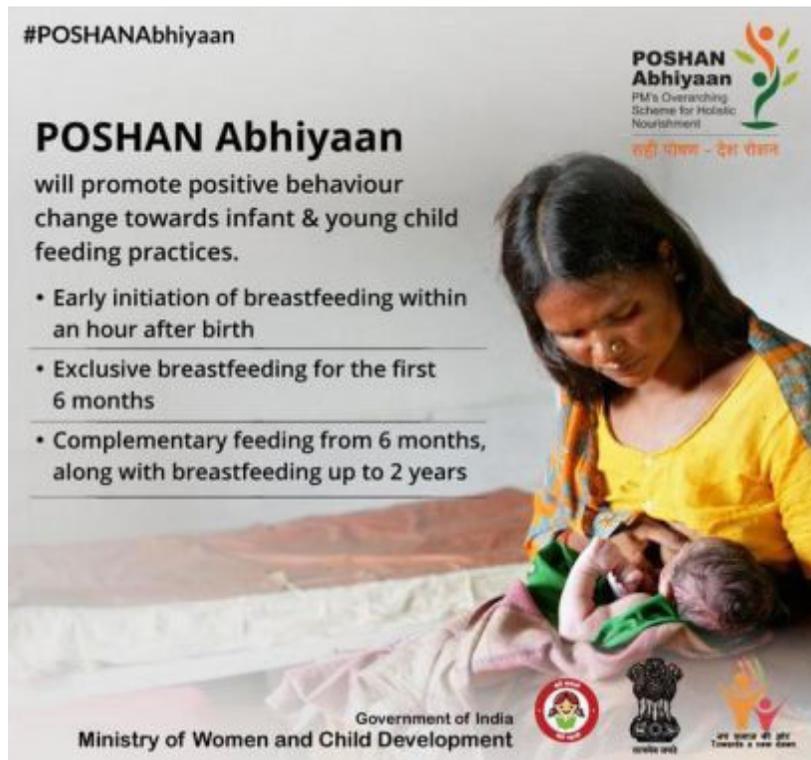
**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the POSHAN Abhiyaan scheme) + Mains (GS II issues relating to the development and management of social sector/services like health + social justice)**

### What's the NEWS

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani gave away the Poshan Abhiyaan Awards for the year 2018-19 in different categories

### Know! more about the award and about Poshan Abhiyaan

- The awards were given to the States, Districts, Blocks and Anganwadi Workers for their contributions in scaling up the Abhiyaan and ensuring that it reaches every household in the country.



- POSHAN Abhiyaan is a multi - ministerial convergence mission with the vision to address malnutrition with a targeted approach by 2022 across the country.



- Nine states and three Union Territories were awarded during the ceremony including Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram and Chandigarh, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- The states and UTs were given 23 excellence awards comprising a certificate and cash prize worth Rs. 1 crore to the state/UT at 1st position and Rs 50 lakh to the 2nd position for ICDS-CAS implementation and capacity building, convergence, behaviour change and community mobilisation.

**Know! more about POSHAN Abhiyaan**

- The WCD Minister, Smriti Irani also launched #ThankyouAnganwadiDidi- a short film on the occasion, which recognises the contribution of Anganwadi workers towards the development of a healthy child.

*Further, the WCD Minister highlighted the 5 pillars of POSHAN Abhiyaan, which are as follows:*

- Importance of First 1000 days
- Detection and right treatment of Anaemia & Diarrhoea
- Personal Hygiene

- Sanitation
- PaushtikAahaar

## Bilateral Relations: India and France



### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the important takeaways of this bilateral meeting) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations)***

#### **What's the NEWS**

- PM Modi holds talks with French Prez; India, France to expand cooperation in areas of counter terrorism, security
- India and France released a joint statement after detailed talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.
- The Prime Minister is on an official state visit to France at the invitation of the French President for a bilateral summit on August 22-23 in Paris and to participate in the G7 Summit on August 25-26 in Biarritz. During the talks, both the leaders discussed their bilateral relations and ways to open new areas of cooperation.

#### **Know! about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the two nations**

##### **Development of bilateral trade and economic relations**

- The India-France Administrative Economic and Trade Committee (AETC) provides an appropriate framework to assess and find ways to further promote the bilateral trade and investment as well as to speed up the resolution of market access issues to the benefit of economic operators.

##### **Space Cooperation**

- Exploration together, the concerns planetary exploration or human spaceflight.
- To train medical support personnel for Indian astronauts, who will be part of India's manned space mission by 2022. The training will be carried out both in France and in India.
- Arrangement for the establishment of a framework for the realization of joint maritime domain awareness mission.
- The launch of a Space Climate Observatory that further enhances Indo-French cooperation on combating climate change, besides TRISHNA joint mission and accommodating Argos in Oceansat 3.

## Energy

- Negotiations in progress between NPCIL and EDF since the conclusion of the Industrial Way Forward Agreement between the two parties in 2018 for the construction of six nuclear power reactors in India in Jaitapur, Maharashtra.
- MoU between the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) concerning cooperation with the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) in January 2019 for another five years, the signing of the Implementing Agreement between the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and the CEA on the safety of Light Water Reactors (LWR) in September 2018.
- Joint partnership in International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactors (ITER) and European Council for Nuclear Research (CERN) projects.

## Education

- Student mobility between the two countries, which has been aided by the teaching of French in India and the creation of the network of schools for Excellence in French.
- The student exchange target of 10,000 set in 2018 is expected to be fulfilled this year itself and therefore both sides decided to enhance the target to 20,000 students by 2025.

## Defence Cooperation

- Signing of an agreement regarding the Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support.
- To strengthen the cooperation in defence industry field and extended their support to existing and upcoming partnerships between the defence companies of the two countries in the spirit of “Make in India” and for the mutual benefit of both countries.

## Digital Space

- Both leaders adopted cybersecurity and digital technology road map aimed at expanding Indo-French bilateral cooperation, particularly in the strategic sectors of high-performance computing and Artificial Intelligence, with the target of bringing the start-up ecosystems in both the nations closer to each other.

## Cultural Ties

- To further enhance people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. The two leaders agreed to set up a regular dialogue on consular matters, which will facilitate exchange and mobility
- Overall, around 700 000 Indian tourists visited France in 2018, which 17 percent more than in 2017 and more than 250,000 French tourists visited India in the same year.
- The Country of Honour for the 2020 edition of Livre Paris, the Paris international book fair and the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi will hold the first exhibition in India of French artist Gérard Garouste in January 2020, while the Musée national d’art moderne (Centre Georges Pompidou) will hold a dedicated exhibition of the works of Indian artist Sayed Haider Raza in 2021.
- India will organise Namasté France, in 2021-2022 and the two countries will adopt a Plan of Action by the end of 2019 aimed at enhancing co-produced projects, distribution, and training in the fields of cinema, video games and virtual reality. France and India agreed to cooperate shooting of films in both countries.

## Climate Change

- France and India urged all stakeholders to contribute to the success of the Climate Action Summit convened by the United Nations Secretary-General on 23rd September 2019 and to encourage the global efforts towards combating climate change.

## Renewable energy

- The progress made by the International Solar Alliance in capacity building and sharing of best practices to harness solar energy among the member nations.
- Implementation of Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and welcomed the progress achieved by the World Bank and the French Development Agency in Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI) projects for enhancing investors’ confidence.

## Indian Ocean Region

- White Shipping agreement, India and France welcome the appointment of a French liaison officer at the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram.

- The two nations further intend to coordinate their action at the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and undertake, along with interested states, a joint project for reinforcing assets for combatting piracy and all kinds of maritime trafficking in the Southern Indian Ocean.
- France also intends to work concertedly with India at the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), over which it will preside from 2020 to 2022

## International Affairs: Russia launches world's first floating nuclear reactor in Arctic



### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about Akademik Lomonosov)**

#### **What's the NEWS**

- Russia's floating nuclear power station Akademik Lomonosov expected to change the Arctic, warn environmentalists
- The reactor's trip is expected to last between four and six weeks, depending on the weather conditions and the amount of ice on the way

#### **Know! more about it**

- Russia will launch the world's first floating nuclear reactor and send it on an epic journey across the Arctic, despite environmentalists warning of serious risks to the region.
- Loaded with nuclear fuel, the Akademik Lomonosov will leave the Arctic port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 kilometre voyage to North eastern Siberia.
- Nuclear agency Rosatom says the reactor is a simpler alternative to building a conventional plant on ground that is frozen all year round, and it intends to sell such reactors abroad.
- The reactor's trip is expected to last between four and six weeks, depending on the weather conditions and the amount of ice on the way. Work began on the 144-metre Akademik Lomonosov in Saint Petersburg in 2006.
- The vessel weighs 21,000 tons and has two reactors with a capacity of 35 megawatts each, close to that of those used by nuclear icebreakers. It has a crew of 69 and travels at a speed of 3.5 to 4.5 knots.
- It was launched and loaded with nuclear fuel from Arctic port of Murmansk for its 5,000 kilometre voyage to Pevek in northeastern Siberia. On arriving in Pevek, it will replace local nuclear plant and closed coal plant. It will go in full operations by end 2019 and it will mainly serve region's oil platforms in Arctic.

## Social Issues: Janaushadhi Sugam

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about Janaushadhi Sugam and about PMBJP) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions for the development of various sectors)*



### What's the NEWS

- Union Ministry for Chemicals and Fertilizers, launched a mobile application “Janaushadhi Sugam” and had announced that “Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin” will now be available at only One Rupee per pad.

### Know! more about Janaushadhi Sugam

- “Janaushadhi Sugam” will enable people to search Janaushadhi generic medicines and the stores at the tip of their fingers.
- About 28 million girls are reported to be leaving education because of lack of availability of good quality Sanitary Napkin” pads at reasonable cost.
- Pharmaceuticals is determined to provide affordable healthcare to all Indians through ever-increasing network of PMBJP Kendras across country and this had already led to substantial savings to poor on medicines.
- The Government of India launched “Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin” at Rs 2.50 per pad on the eve of the World Environment Day 4th June 2018.
- Jan Aushadhi Suvidha comes with a special additive, which makes it biodegradable when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded. Till 31st July 2019, over 1.30 crore pads were sold at Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras.
- This step taken by the Department of Pharmaceuticals will ensure the achievement of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of “Affordable and Quality Healthcare” for all.
- It will also help in fulfilling the Prime Minister’s dream of “Clean India & Green India” as these pads are oxo-biodegradable and environment friendly. Jan Aushadhi Suvidha is being made available for sale in more than 5500 PMBJP Kendras across the country.

### “Janaushadhi Sugam” mobile application

- This APP would have user-friendly options like- to locate nearby Janaushadhikendra, direction guidance for location of the Janaushadhikendra through Google Map, search Janaushadhi generic medicines, analyse product comparison of Generic vs Branded medicine in form of MRP & overall Savings, etc.

### Know! about PMBJP

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana Kendra (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendras known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana Kendra (PMBJPK) have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs for co-coordinating procurement, supply and marketing of generic drugs through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra

**Quality Generic-Medicines at affordable prices.**

- Ensuring access to quality medicines for all the sections of the society
- Providing medicines at 50% - 90% less prices
- Opening more and more PMBJP Kendra to generate employment
- Reducing and redefining the unit cost of treatment per person
- Improving access to better healthcare by promoting generic-medicines

900 generic medicines | 154 surgical equipments | over 5500 PMBJP Kendras

## Culture/e-governance: Integrated NOC online Application Processing System for National Monuments Authority (NMA), Integrated NOAPS single window clearing system

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about integrated online application process system and about integrated NOAPS) + (GS II important aspects of e-governance transparency and accountability)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Cultural Ministry launched an integrated NOC online Application Processing System for National Monuments Authority (NMA) for 517 local bodies of six states.
- This will help in online processing of applications requesting NOC for construction related work in prohibited and regulated area of ASI protected monuments.

### **Know! more about the newly inaugurated integrated online approval system**

- With the increase of urbanization, development, growth and increasing population pressure, there is growing pressure on land including the land around centrally protected monuments.
- As this often affects the monument/site adversely it is important that such growth around the centrally protected monuments is properly regulated, balancing the needs of individuals and growth and development on the one hand and the requirements of preservation and protection of these monuments on the other.
- This website will help common people substantially in line with the vision and Objectives of Digital India & Ease of Doing Business.
- Six New States will be part of this Integrated Online Application Portal with Urban Local Bodies Count.
- Earlier this system was available only for five urban local bodies of Delhi and one urban local body of Mumbai.

### **Know! about Smart 'Smarac' Mobile App**

- The Portal has integration with the Smart 'Smarac' Mobile App of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), through which the applicant traverses his plot and the geo coordinates of his plot along with the images get uploaded into the NIC portal along with the proximity and the approval status.

### **National Monuments Authority (NMA)**

- National Monuments Authority (NMA) under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010".
- In order to automate the process of grant of NO Objection Certificate(NOC) for construction related work in the prohibited and regulated area, NMA had decided to Design, Develop and Implement a web enabled Software

(S/w) application named NOC online Application Processing System (NOAPS) and launched it in the public domain over the URL: <http://nmanoc.nic.in/>.

- With the objective of introducing transparency, “NOAPS Non Single window system” was launched on 29th September 2015. Further, “NOAPS Single window system” was officially launched on 1st May 2016.
- The applicant needs to fill up a single form which is being sent to the concerned agencies by the Urban Local Body, from whom No Objection Certificate (NOC) is required.
- NMA on its part will communicate its decision to the local body within 15-30 working days, bringing down the time limit from ninety days, as prescribed in Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act.
- By this integration, the National Monuments Authority has made a humble effort towards the Mantra of “Reform, Perform and Transform” given by the incumbent government

### **Know! about AMASR Act**

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (or AMASR Act) is an act of parliament of the government of India that provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance, for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects. It was passed in 1958.
- The Archaeological Survey of India functions under the provisions of this act.
- The rules stipulate that area in the vicinity of the monument, within 100 metres is prohibited area.
- The area within 200 meters of the monument is regulated category. Any repair or modifications of buildings in this area requires prior permission

## **G7 Summit 2019: G7 leaders make joint statement on fair trade**



***Relevance IN – Prelims (about G7 and its take ways) + Mains (GS II international institutions)***

### **What's the NEWS**

- A statement issued at the conclusion of the two-day meeting of the G7 leaders in the French resort city of Biarritz, says the main issues covered included trade, Iran, Libya, Ukraine and Hong Kong.
- France issued a short statement at the end of a meeting of G7 leaders on several issues, but it was not a communique along the lines of those usually drawn up at the annual summit, reflecting divisions.
- The statement said the seven industrialised nations were committed to open and fair world trade and to global economic stability.

- It said they wanted significant changes to the World Trade Organization to make it more efficient in protecting intellectual property, resolving disputes more quickly and eradicating unfair trade practices.
- French President Emmanuel Macron said that the 3-day gathering of G7 leaders in southwest France came in under budget and was “one of the least expensive” Group of Seven summits ever.
- G7 world leaders are now looking ahead to what’s next after the summit came to a close in Biarritz.

### **Know! the important takeaways of G7**

- The G7 group to reinstate Russia as a permanent member of the grouping but no consensus was reached on whether or not to invite Russia to the next year’s G7 summit in the United States.
- French President Emmanuel Macron said that he and German Chancellor Angela Merkel would be organizing a summit in the coming weeks with the Russian and Ukrainian leaders to obtain results on the Ukraine crisis.
- The G7 leaders had expressed concern during their summit meeting that trump’s trade war with China could spiral outward and called for a sensible resolution.
- The G7 summit this year laid increasing focus on climate change amid a backdrop of the burning Amazon, a month after the Earth recorded its hottest month ever.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi while interacting with the media alongside US President Donald Trump said that all issues between India and Pakistan are bilateral and that is why India does not don’t want to trouble any third country.
- The G7 leaders confirmed the existence and importance of the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 on Hong Kong and called for violence to be avoided.
- US President Donald Trump vowed to work out a very big trade deal, bigger than ever with the United Kingdom after Brexit.
- US President Donald Trump announced locking of a new trade agreement with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The deal aims to secure market access for several American agricultural goods and Japan has agreed to purchase large sums of corn from the US.

### **Know! about G7**

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an international intergovernmental economic organization consisting of the seven largest IMF-described advanced economies in the world: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States; between 1997 and 2014, the group included Russia and was known as the Group of Eight, and had for a year been known as the Group of Six before the 1976 inclusion of Canada.
- As of 2018, the seven countries involved represent 58% of the global net wealth (\$317 trillion) and more than 46% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) based on nominal values, and more than 32% of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity.
- The European Union has also been an invitee to G7 summits, and other expanded summits with other nations have met under the banner of the Group of Eight + Five.
- With the G20 major economies growing in stature since the 2008 Washington summit, world leaders from the group announced at their Pittsburgh summit in September 2009 that the group would replace the G7 as the main economic council of nations.

## **Health Sector: Health Ministry signs MoU with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for enhanced outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the significance of MoU) + Mains (GS II issues relating to development and management of social sector and services relating to health)***

### **What’s the NEWS**

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a MoU between National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE).

### **Know! all about the MoU and its significance**

- It has played a very big role in significantly reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country, and that too faster than the global rates.

- The impact of the programme has been significant with more than 80% decline in estimated new infections from peak of epidemic in 1995. “Similarly, estimated AIDS related death declined by 71% since its peak in 2005.
- As per UNAIDS 2018 report, the global average for decline in new infections and AIDS related deaths from peak has been 47% and 51% respectively and the Government is fully committed for meeting all the set goals to eliminate HIV/AIDS by 2030.
- It will help in developing specific strategies and action plans for HIV and AIDS prevention and mechanisms for drug addiction treatment and extending social protection schemes to the vulnerable populations.
- The MoU will help in developing human resources and build capacity in order to strengthen the service delivery mechanisms for HIV & AIDS prevention, drug addiction treatment and referral to services offered by National AIDS Control Programme and DoSJE.
- It aims at reducing incidence of social stigma and discrimination against victims of drug abuse and Children and People Living with HIV/AIDS. It aims to promote enabling environment based on no stigma and discrimination
- The MoU will help in reaching out to the marginalised groups and will provide opportunity for empowerment and access to social protection schemes by the high risk population, persons engaged in begging, People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), and Children affected by HIV & AIDS (CABA).
- The MOU will catalyze in achieving the national goals and objectives of HIV prevention and impact mitigation.
- Through this MoU, the services of various institutes under DoSJE such as National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention (NCDAP), National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Integration Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) will be leveraged for execution of activities laid out in the MoU.

## Economic Development/ Social Justice: MSME Minister urges key stakeholders to come together to boost the Khadi sector

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about khadi sectors and MSME industries and initiatives taken by the government to strengthen MSME) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions for development in various sectors)**

### What’s the NEWS

- The Government has taken up a mission-mode project of creating 5 crore jobs in 5 years in the MSME sector.
- Government has decided to take the proportion of MSME exports to 50% and to increase the GDP contribution of the MSME sector from 29% to 50% in the next 5 years.

### Steps taken by the government to strengthen the Khadi sector

- The Ministry of Railways to serve tea in kulhads made of terracotta and to make these kulhads mandatory in all bus stations and railway stations
- To modernize Khadi – in product design, fashion design, weaving and other processes. New research needs to be incorporated and adopted. I
- The Government is working on policies to promote growth. The government will provide support in measures such as reducing cost of capital, in bringing in mechanization and modernization, and in reducing logistics and power costs.

**12 historic decisions by PM Modi for the MSME Sector**

Loan in 59 minutes.	Interest benefits for GST registered MSMEs.	CPSEs and Corporates more than Rs. 500 crore to join Trade Receivables e-Discounting System or the TReDS Platform.
Tech support to MSMEs via 20 hubs and 100 Spokes.	Mandatory 25% procurement from MSMEs by CPSEs.	Now, returns due to 8 Labour Laws and 10 rules to be filed only once instead of the earlier twice.
Pharma Clusters where 70% cost borne by Centre.	All CPSEs to join Government e-Marketplace (GeM).	Of the 25% mandatory procurement, 3% to be done only from women-led MSMEs.
Ending Inspector Raj and ensuring transparency.	Ordinance for simplifying levy of penalties for minor offences.	Easier process for Environmental Clearances and 'Consent to Establish'.

- The Government is developing an e-market portal like Alibaba, by the name of Bharat Craft. This will provide a direct interface between buyers and sellers. We are also launching a Bank of Ideas and Innovations.
- Khadi has universal appeal. It is eco-friendly, hygienic for the body, uses less water and provides livelihood support to millions.
- The middle-men should be removed as much as possible, so that maximum profit goes to the artisans, enabling them to lead a dignified life.
- We need to think differently and explore how technology can be used for the benefit of Khadi.
- After Aadhaar-seeding, the number of artisans involved in the Khadi sector has come down to a realistic figure of around 4.75 lakh. Every incentive provided to artisans now goes directly to their bank account through Direct Benefit Transfer. We need to expand this, to bring in better standards, quality and international collaborations.
- -intensive and have propensity to respond positively to tech-adoption, and will spark a larger discussion in other MSME clusters.
- The Ministry also launched Tech Saksham, a CII Tech Project, aimed at accelerating MSME growth through technology enablement.

### **Know! more about CII TECHSAKSHAM**

- CII Tech-Saksham for MSMEs, a Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) partnered project, brings together technology majors Dell Technologies India, HP India, Intel India, Vodafone Idea Ltd, WhatsApp India & Yes Bank to address technological gaps faced by MSMEs in their growth.
- Aligned with the Ministry's aspiration of generating value-added employment, the stated vision of CII TECHSAKSHAM is to bridge the gap in technology adoption for MSMEs so as to provide an impetus for them to be competitive on a global scale, increase their contribution to country exports and leverage cost efficiencies.
- CII TECHSAKSHAM is a three-year long comprehensive project which, in its first phase, will focus on sectors that are labour
- Through various policy recommendations, knowledge sessions, mentoring initiatives, and useful resource banks for MSMEs, TECHSAKSHAM will help the ecosystem address critical barriers such as awareness and cost of technology purchase/maintenance, resources and manpower required to run the technologies, return on investments, etc.
- The CII-Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs would also play a key role in deploying technological interventions towards bringing in operational efficiencies amongst the MSMEs coupled with handholding & mentoring through its recognized cluster approach.

## **Government Schemes: PM launches the Fit India Movement**

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about FIT India movement) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions)**

### **What's the NEWS**

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Fit India Movement at a ceremony in New Delhi today on the occasion of National Sports Day. The Prime Minister urged the people of the country to make fitness their life style.

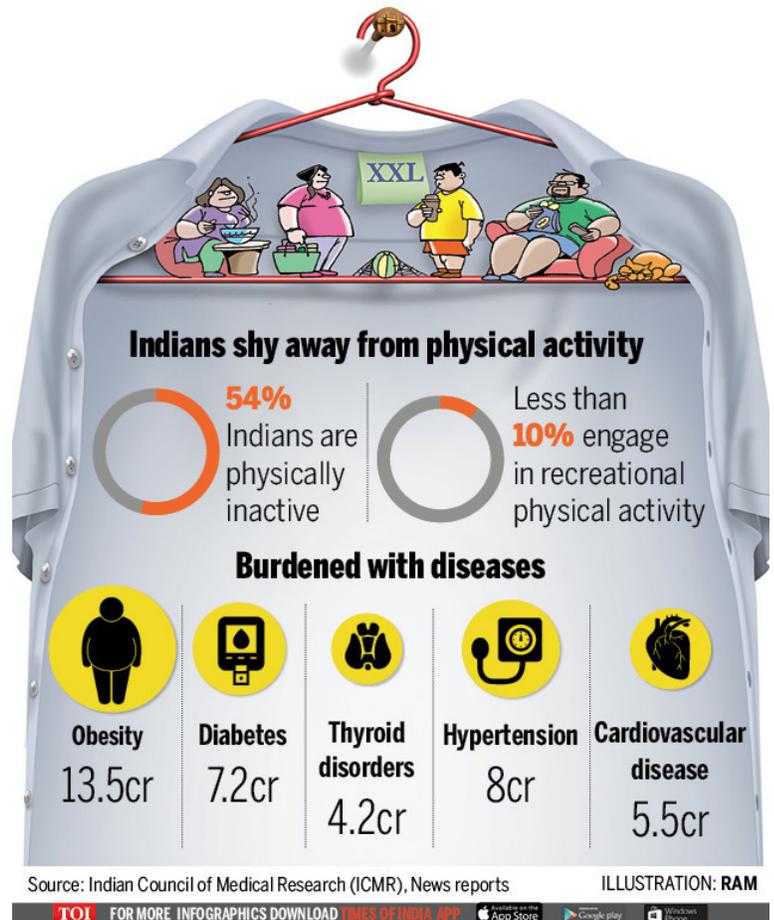
### **Know! more about it**

- The people's movement has been launched on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyanchand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Major Dhyanchand, India's sports icon who enthralled the world with his game and techniques.



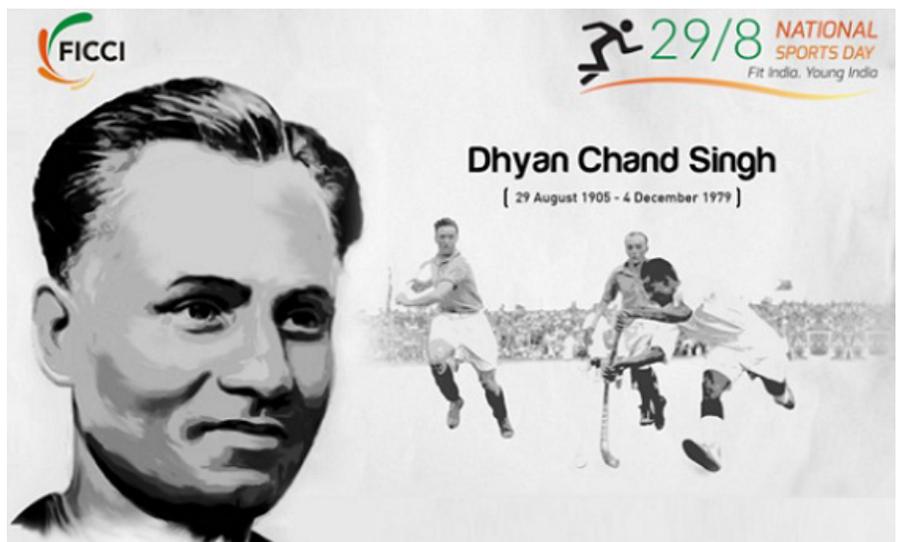
- The Prime Minister said that 'Fit India Movement' should become a national goal and its aspiration. In an effort to inspire the nation, the Prime Minister said that Fit India Movement may have been started by the government but it is the people who have to lead it and make it a success.
- Success is related to fitness, success stories of all of our icons from any field of life have a common thread- most of them are fit, have a focus on fitness and are fond of fitness
- Technology has reduced our physical ability and has robbed us of our daily fitness routines and today we are unaware of our traditional practises and lifestyle which could keep us fit. With time, fitness has been relegated a lower priority in our society. Earlier a person used to walk or cycle for kilometers, today mobile apps have to tell us how many steps we walked.
- Today lifestyle diseases are on a rise in India affecting even the young. Cases of diabetes and hypertension is on the rise and even common among children in India. But small lifestyle changes can prevent these lifestyle diseases. 'Fit India Movement' is an effort to bring these small lifestyle changes
- Sports has a direct relation to fitness but 'Fit India Movement' aims to go beyond fitness. Fitness is not just a word but an essential pillar to a healthy and prosperous life. When we prepare our bodies for battle, we make the country strong as iron.
- Fitness is part of our historic legacy. Games and sports are played in every nook and corner of India. While working on the body they also train the mind, increasing focus and coordination of body parts. A healthy Individual, a healthy family and a healthy society are the essentials to make New India a Fit India.

## WHY WE NEED 'FIT INDIA MOVEMENT'



### National Sports Day 2019

- India celebrates the Day today, 29 August, to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, who was born on August 29, 1905.
- The National Sports Day is also known as the Rashtriya Khel Divas. On this Day, President Ram Nath Kovind confers the National Sports Awards, National Adventure Awards, Arjuna Award, Khel Ratna, Dronacharya Award and Dhyanchand Award to recognise the exceptional achievements of Indian sportspersons.
- This year's list of National Sports Award winners includes prominent names like Ravindra Jadeja, Deepa Malik, Bajrang Punia and many others.



## Know! about Dhyan Chand

- The Day remembers the national sports personality Dhyan Chand who was one of the greatest field hockey players of all time.
- Famously known as “The Wizard”, he displayed superb ball control and extraordinary goal-scoring feats.
- He won three Olympic gold medals in Hockey field in the years 1928, 1932, and 1936. In his Sports career spanning over 22 years, he scored over 400 goals. He was conferred with the third-highest civilian honour, Padma Bhushan in 1956. He was born in Allahabad on August 29, 1905.
- The Union Government proclaimed 29 August as the country’s National Sports Day in 2012 to commemorate Major Dhyan Chand and his achievements in the field of sports.

## Schemes launched by the Government to promote sports in India

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports plays a major role in promoting sports in India.
- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) that works under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is responsible for the promotion of Sports and Games in the country.
- The Government has launched several schemes and initiatives in the field of sports and games.

## Khelo India Scheme

- The Khelo India Scheme was launched in 2016 after the merger of three schemes - Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).
- The scheme aims to boost mass participation of youth in annual sports games and competitions. Khelo India (National Programme for Development of Sports Scheme) aims to achieve the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports.
- The scheme strives to promote “Sports for All” as well as “Sports for Excellence”.
- The scheme was revamped in the year 2017 with an aim to mainstream sports as a tool for individual and community development, economic development and national development.

## Sports Talent Search Portal

- The Sports Talent Search Portal to spot the best talent among the youth of India. The portal allows young people to upload their achievements. Applicants who get shortlisted are then called for trials and the qualified candidates then get to take part in the schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

## Target Olympic Podium Scheme

- The Sports Ministry launched the ‘Target Olympic Podium (TOP)’ Scheme in May 2015 under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) to support the potential medal prospects for Olympic Games of 2016 and 2020. The main focus is given to Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Archery, Wrestling and Shooting sports.

## Empowered Steering Committee on Sports

- The Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) was constituted in January 2017 on the recommendations of the Olympic Task Force.
- The Committee is responsible for preparing a comprehensive action plan for effective participation of Indian players in the Olympic Games of 2020 (Tokyo), 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles).

## Government Schemes: Govt launches Swachh Survekshan 2020 and Swachh Nagar app for waste collection

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about swachh survekshan 2020) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions)**

### What’s the NEWS

- An app that will allow users to have waste — solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) — collected by their urban local bodies was launched by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on, along with a new protocol on wastewater treatment that would become a part of cleanliness rankings of cities.
- SBM Water PLUS Protocol, Swachh Nagar app, Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit and AI-enabled mSBM App were also launched.



### Know! about Swachh Survekshan 2020 (Cleanliness survey)

- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey which will culminate in January 2020, Swachh Survekshan 2020 the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey

### Know! about the app

- The app would let users place a request to have waste picked up from their homes and make the payment for the same.
- It was already functional in Agra, Palwal and Port Blair and would now be extended to the whole country.
- This app features tracking of waste collection by ULBs through route and vehicle monitoring, notification to citizens, online collection of user fee for waste collection and an effective grievance redressal mechanism, will be the answer to several issues that hinder effective waste management such as lack of monitoring, collection of segregated waste, and tracking the movement of waste vehicles and waste pickers, amongst others.

### Swachh Survekshan League 2020

**How is Swachh Survekshan League 2020 different.**  
... Ek kadam sustainability ki ore

Swachh Survekshan 2019	Swachh Survekshan League 2020
 <b>Annual Survey</b> : Conducted once a year ,on cumulative progress made by the ULBs	 <b>Quarterly Survey</b> : Continuous assessment through quarterly survey followed by final assessment in 2020
 <b>Data capture</b> through Online MIS with <b>multiple data fields</b> for Service Level Progress and Certifications	 <b>Integrated tech enabled data capture</b> for reliable data driven analytics and decision making
 <b>Citizen Centric Engagement</b> through indicators and feedback i.e. citizens can directly contribute to the city's performance	 <b>Citizens Validation</b> of the progress claimed by ULB to ensure continuous and sustained progress.
 <b>Sustainability</b> through Star Rating for Garbage Free City Protocol and ODF, ODF+ and ODF++ protocols for sustainable sanitation	 <b>Institutionalizing Sustainability</b> through Garbage Free City, ODF++ and Water+ protocols for holistic solid & liquid waste management and environmental sustainability

**from 'Sustainability' to 'Institutionalizing Swachhata'**

- The government launched Swachh Survekshan League 2020 with the objective of sustaining the on-ground performance of cities along with continuous monitoring of service level performance on cleanliness.

### **Know! about Water+ protocol**

- The Minister also launched the Water+ protocol for cities. A city could be given the tag of Water+ if it ensures 100% treatment of wastewater and 10% use of treated wastewater, among other things.

### **Launch of another app — mSBM**

- The government also launched another app — mSBM — through which the government would be able to check whether funds given to beneficiaries of the Swachh Bharat Mission for constructing toilets are used for the work before releasing the second instalment.

### **Know! the Key Focus areas for Swachh Survekshan 2020 are:**

- Collect segregate waste and maintain till processing site
- Utilize capacity of wet processing facilities
- Treat and re-use waste water
- Curtain solid waste based Air Pollution
- Follow three principles – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Uplift social condition of informal Waste Pickers
- Promote procurement through GeM
- Assess Ganga Towns separately to accelerate action
- Engage Technology-driven Monitoring

### **Know! more about Swachh Survekshan 2020**

- Swachh Survekshan 2020 will be conducted in January 2020. It will be organised through citizen engagement that means citizen feedback or indicators involving citizen participation.
- Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India. It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2 October 2019.

## **International Issues: Hong Kong Protest**



***Relevance IN – Prelims (about one country two systems + about Hong Kong autonomous status + Mains (GS II international relations)***

### **Know! all about the protest**

- The protests had begun in Hong Kong in early June over concerns regarding a bill that would allow individuals to be extradited to mainland China. The proposed law has been suspended.

## **Know! about the inception of Hong Kong**

- Hong Kong was a British colony until 1997, after which it was handed back to China under a policy called “one country, two systems”.

## **Know! the policy of one country, two systems**

- The policy offers the residents of Hong Kong a greater degree of independence than they would have in China.
- The policy though made Hong Kong a part of China but it let it keep many of liberties that are denied to the Chinese citizens including freedom of speech, unrestricted internet access and the right to free assembly.
- Hong Kong has its own set of laws, police, system of governance and currency under a mini-constitution called the Basic Law.
- Although China agreed to keep the policy intact at least till 2047, many residents of Hong Kong feel that China is slowly taking away its autonomy and that the local government is in its favour.
- The protests had initially begun in June after residents of Hong Kong felt that the newly proposed law will jeopardize Hong Kong’s autonomy from China and would endanger Hong Kong-based critics of China.



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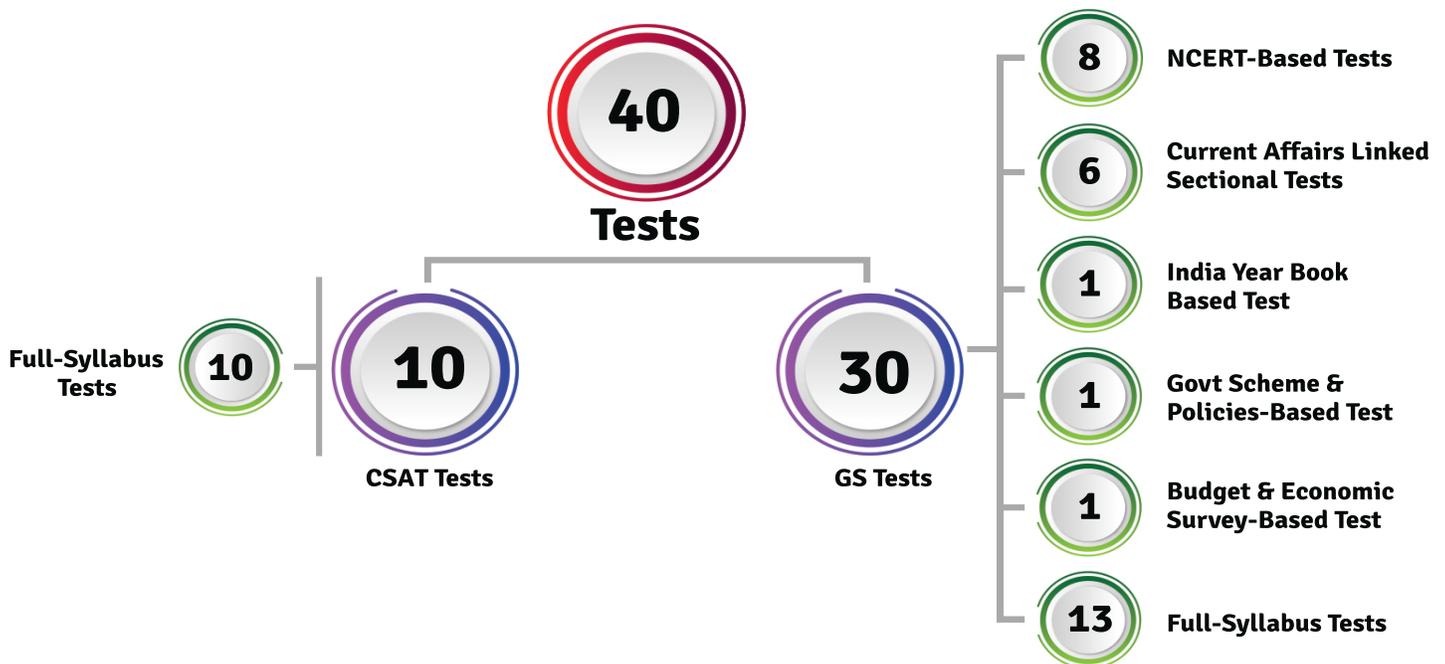
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INQUIZITIVE MINDS

# **GENERAL STUDIES III**

**Technology, Economic Developments,  
Biodiversity, Environment, Security  
and Disaster management**

## India's 7th Economic Census begins from Tripura

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about economic census) + Mains (GS III economic development)**

### What's the NEWS

- The 7th Economic Census of India began from Tripura which will be followed by other states in the next few days.
- Enumerators started visiting door to door and business establishments across Tripura to collect data on various economic variables.

### Know! more about the process of economic census

- Officials of the State Economics and Statistics Department said that data will be collected on various economic variables like nature of economic activities, size of workforce and type of establishments in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.
- The census is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The CSC e-Governance Services India Limited has been entrusted with data collection
- Under the provisions of Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, data will be collected through door to door survey of each household and commercial establishment.
- Findings of this survey will be available by March 2020 while fieldwork is expected to be completed by December 2019.
- According to the previous Economic Census held in 2013, 58.5 million establishments in India were employing around 131 million workers. The first economic census were held in 1977

### Know! more about Economic Census

- Economic Census counts all entrepreneurial and commercial units in India that involved in any economic activities.
- It can be agricultural or non-agricultural sector involved in producing or distributing goods or providing services not for the sole purpose of own consumption.
- In Indian Economy unorganised sector has a big contribution for employment generation and providing a boost of economy and economic census is the only source that provides complete data of all establishments in the country.
- It also provides a significant insight of commercial, economic and entrepreneur activities across the country.
- The 7th Economic Census will be conducted using state-of-the-art ICT platform, real-time data validation and scrutiny, monitoring and supervision using interactive MIS dashboards, finalization and dissemination of results through Statistical reports.

## Space Awareness: Cabinet approves ISRO Technical Liaison Unit at Moscow

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about ISRO's technical liaison unit) + Mains (GS III space awareness)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow, Russia.

### Know! more about ITLU

- The ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow will enable effective technical coordination for timely interventions on diversified matters with Russia and neighbouring countries for realization of the programmatic targets of ISRO.
- The Liaison Officer, deputed at ITLU from ISRO provides technical information about the developments in research and technology and inputs arising from their meetings with researchers, government agencies and industries in the respective countries.

- They also support the ongoing bilateral programmes of cooperation in space technology and act on behalf of ISRO on the matters referred.

### **Know! the Benefits**

- ISRO will be able to collaborate with Space agencies/industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergetic outcomes.
- ISRO's Gaganyaan programme requires development of some of the key technologies and establishment of specialized facilities, which are essential to support life in space.
- Keeping in view the 15th August, 2022 timeline for realization of the Gaganyaan human space programme, it is prudent to avail technical cooperation from International space agencies, who have already demonstrated their technical capabilities in specific areas.
- Russia, being one of the space faring nations, it is envisaged to collaborate with Russia extensively in various fields of relevance.

### **Know! more about ITLU**

- Department of Space has instituted technical Liaison Units, namely ISRO Technical Liaison Units (ITLU) at Washington, USA and Paris, France with the prime objective to liaise with various Government and space agencies in USA and Europe, respectively.
- Space cooperation has been one of the major links between India and Russia almost from the beginning of the space era and currently both sides are actively pursuing interactions in diversified areas of space programme.
- Apart from intensifying cooperation with Russia, India has expanded its space cooperation with countries near to Russia.
- This calls for extensive uninterrupted coordination & interface support for increased level international technical collaboration

## **Science and Technology: Atal Community Innovation Centre**



***Relevance IN – Prelims (about ACIC) + Mains (GS III awareness in the field of IT, space computers, robotics etc)***

### **What's the NEWS**

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) to encourage the spirit of innovation at the community level.
- This initiative aims to encourage the spirit of innovation through solution-driven design thinking to serve society.

## Know! all about ACICs

- ACICs will encourage students, researchers and other individuals/group of individuals to ideate and design novel solutions. ACICs will also connect innovative thinkers to our market and mainstream economy.
- ACIC is a new initiative of Atal Innovation Mission to support community innovation drive in the country. The program is directed to encourage the spirit of innovation through solution driven design thinking to serve the society.
- It will focus on underserved/ unserved regions of the country which at present lack a vibrant start-up and innovation ecosystem.
- ACIC will be established either in PPP mode or with support of PSUs and other agencies.
- The maximum grant-in-aid support from AIM will be up to 2.5 crores subject following compliance to ACIC guidelines and contributing matching from the host institutions and their funding partner(s).

## Know! the features of the program:

1. Enabling infrastructure for building innovation ecosystem
2. Community oriented approach to innovation by enabling solutions through advanced tinkering
3. Offer opportunities to innovators to ideate in areas of societal importance
4. Capacity building of communities in evolving technologies and taking their solutions from ideation to prototype.
5. Promoting design thinking process to spur innovation
6. Providing a framework to engage local industries to facilitate offering of innovative solutions in their products, services and processes
7. Public private Partnership (PPP) mode to ensure financial sustainability and participation of central agencies, PSUs etc. to mobilize resources for running the program
8. Offer an opportunity for everyone to innovate, ideate and design impactful solutions, irrespective of their age.
9. One of the unique feature of this program wherein talented students and youth of ITI and Diploma will be offered opportunity to display their and build innovative solutions through ACIC.
10. The program will offer a big leapfrog jump towards establishing Indian for further scale up the ranking in Global Innovation Index.

## Economic Developments: GDP Ranking 2018

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about the GDP ranking 2018 and its findings) + Mains (GS III economic development)

#### What's the NEWS

- India has slipped down to the **7th place** in the global **GDP rankings of 2018**, reveals data compiled by the World Bank.
- According to the 2017 World Bank report, India had become the fifth largest economy, displacing UK and France.
- According to the 2018 data, the UK and France once again moved ahead of India to reclaim their 5th and 6th spots respectively in the global GDP rankings.

#### Know! more about the Global GDP rankings 2018

- The United States continues to top the list with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion, followed by China at second place with GDP of \$13.6 trillion and Japan at third place with a GDP of \$5 trillion.
- India recorded a **GDP of \$2.73 trillion** in 2018, which is less than that of the UK and France, which had a GDP of \$2.82 trillion and \$2.78 trillion respectively in the same year.
- India had emerged as the fifth largest economy in 2017, pushing ahead of the UK and France in the global GDP table. While the UK was pushed to sixth place, France was pushed to the seventh position. In the Global GDP rankings of 2017, India had recorded a GDP of \$2.65 trillion, while the UK's GDP was \$2.64 trillion and France's \$2.59 trillion.

#### NEW ORDER

Ranking	Country	GDP '18 (\$ trillion)
1	US	20.5
2	China	13.6
3	Japan	5.0
4	Germany	4.0
5	UK	2.8
6	France	2.8
7	India	2.7
8	Italy	2.1
9	Brazil	1.9
10	Canada	1.7
11	Russia	1.7
12	S Korea	1.6
13	Australia	1.4
14	Spain	1.4

Source: World Bank

## Know! the reasons for India's economic slowdown

- The drop in India's position on the global GDP table reflects the slump in India's overall economic growth.
- India's GDP in 2018 shows a growth of mere 3.01 percent in dollar terms in 2018, as against 15.72 percent in 2017. On the other hand, the UK's GDP grew by 6.81 percent and France's economy expanded by 7.33 percent.
- India has slipped to the 7th place in Global GDP ranking due to currency fluctuations and a slowdown in **economic growth**.
- While in 2017, the Indian rupee had appreciated by 3 percent against the dollar, in 2018 it depreciated by 5 percent against the dollar.
- India is, however, still the fastest-growing major economy in the world. According to a research firm, IHS Markit, India will overtake the UK as the fifth-largest economy in the world in 2019 and is likely to even overtake Japan and emerge as the third-largest economy by 2025.

## \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25

- In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Indian government set a goal of becoming a **\$5 trillion economy by 2025**.
- To achieve this goal, India will need to sustain a GDP growth rate of 8 percent. India has identified certain key areas to boost work upon such as Indian MSMEs, increasing focus on private investment, introducing people-centric policies and invoking a behavioral change to address issues such as gender equality, a healthy and a beautiful India, savings, tax compliance and credit quality.

## Defence: India successfully test-fires 2 quick reaction surface-to-air missiles

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about QRSAM)

#### What's the NEWS

- India successfully conducted two back-to-back flight tests of its state-of-the-art quick reaction surface-to-air missiles (QRSAM) against live aerial targets from a base in Odisha
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the two missiles from the integrated test range (ITR) at Chandipur.
- Two missiles were tested against two live targets meeting complete mission objectives of engaging the targets.

#### Know! more about QRSAM

- QRSAM, with many state-of-the-art technologies, engaged the targets at different ranges and altitudes.
- The entire mission was captured by various electro-optical tracking systems, radar systems and telemetry systems.
- The all-weather and all-terrain QRSAM system has been developed for the Army, with search and track on the move capability having a very short reaction time.
- The systems are equipped with indigenously-developed phased array radar, inertial navigation system, data link and RF seeker
- The missile, which can be mounted on a truck and stored in a canister, is equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars



- QSRAM uses solid-fuel propellant and has a range of 25-30 km. The first trial of the QSRAM was conducted on June 4, 2017. On February 26, 2019, two rounds of trials were successfully carried out on the same day
- The two missiles were tested for different altitude and conditions. The test flights had successfully demonstrated their aerodynamics, propulsion, structural performance and high manoeuvring capabilities

## Economic Development: RBI's Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy; RBI cuts Repo Rate by 35 basis points

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about repo and reverse repo rate and about the MPC takeaway) + Mains GS III economic development**

### What's the NEWS

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cuts repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) in its third bi-monthly policy review of the financial year 2019-20.
- It was RBI's fourth continues rate cut in a row. Six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI decided to cut the repo rate on the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation.

### Know! more about the Bi-monthly policy statement

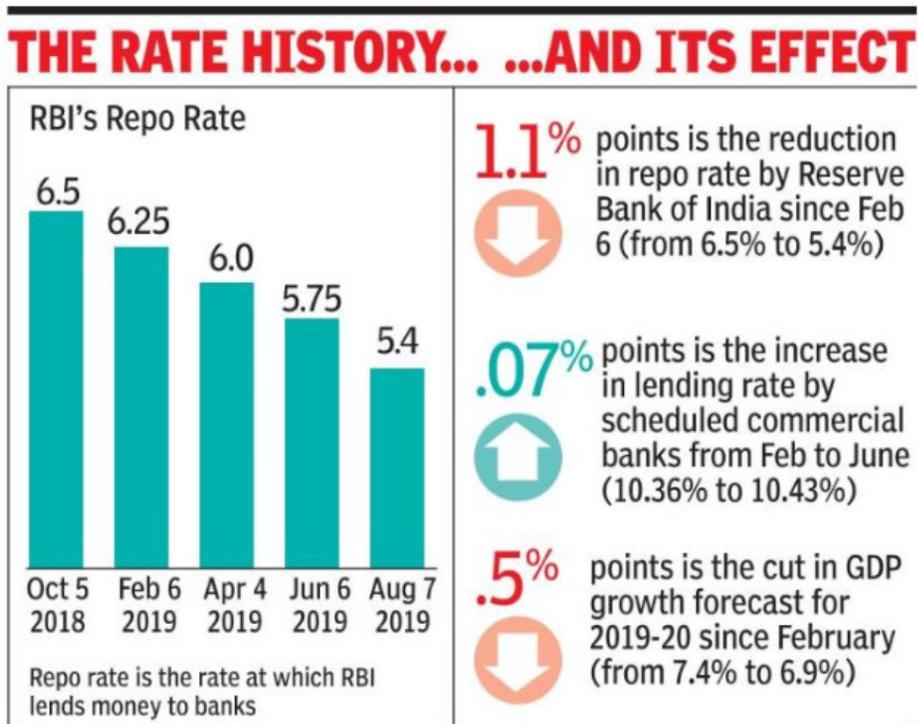
- As per the information released by RBI, CPI inflation is projected at 3.1% for Q2 FY20 and 3.5-3.7% for H2 FY20.
- The MPC led by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das decided to reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75 per cent to 5.40 per cent with immediate effect.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands revised to 5.15%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 5.65%.
- The MPC also decided to maintain the accommodative stance of monetary policy.
- MPC said that GDP growth for 2019-20 is revised downwards from 7.0 per cent in the June policy to 6.9%.
- As per the information released by the Reserve Bank of India CPI inflation is projected at 3.1% for Q2 FY20 and 3.5-3.7% for H2 FY20.
- The RBI has maintained its accommodative stance on the policy. All members of the committee voted to maintain accommodative stance.
- Four members (Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia, Bibhu Prasad Kanungo and Shaktikanta Das) voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 35 basis points, while two members (Dr. Chetan Ghate and Dr. Pami Dua) voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points.

### Repo Rate

- It is a rate at which all other banks borrow funds from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Reverse Repo Rate

- It is the rate at which RBI or central bank of a country borrows funds from commercial banks within the country.



# Internal Security: Government of India, Govt. of Tripura and National Liberation Front of Twipra (NLFT- SD) Sign Memorandum of Settlement

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the provisions of UAPA and the recent amendments done inn UAPA) + Mains (GS III internal security)**

## What's the NEWS

- A Memorandum of Settlement was signed by the Government of India, Govt. of Tripura and National Liberation Front of Twipra led by Sabir Kumar Debbarma (NLFT-SD).

## Know! about NLFT

- NLFT has been banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act since 1997 and has been involved in violence, operating from their camps across the international border.
- NLFT has been responsible for violent activities including 317 insurgency incidents in which 28 security forces and 62 civilians lost their lives during the period 2005-2015. Peace talks with NLFT were initiated in 2015 and there has been no violence by NLFT since 2016.
- NLFT (SD) has agreed to abjure the path of violence, join the mainstream and abide by the Constitution of India.

## Know! more about Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

- It is an Indian law aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India. Its main objective was to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.
- The National Integration Council appointed a Committee on National Integration and Regionalisation to look into, the aspect of putting reasonable restrictions in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- Pursuant to the acceptance of recommendations of the Committee, the Constitution (Sixteenth Amendment) Act, 1963 was enacted to impose, by law, reasonable restrictions in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India.

## Know! about the recently amended The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019

### The contentious clause

- The amendment has focused on the power of the union government to declare any individual a “terrorist” for the purposes of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967
- The UAPA permits the union government to designate any organisation as a “terrorist organisation,” allowing the government to prosecute members and active supporters of such an organisation.

### Government's point of view

- The government has said in the Rajya Sabha that terrorist acts are committed not by organisations, but by individuals.
- Not designating individuals as terrorists, would give them an opportunity to circumvent the law and they would simply gather under a different name and keep up their terror activities
- One more reason stated by the government is that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) now designates individuals as such, and India as a signatory of the United Nations Charter is bound to treat such individuals as terrorists.
- India's most wanted, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar, are likely to be the first two individuals to be designated as terrorists under the legislation

### Know! the other added provisions in the bill/act

- The amendments give powers to the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.
- Earlier, the law required that the NIA take prior permission from the respective state police chief to attach the proceeds of terrorism.
- Earlier, officers in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and above were empowered to investigate cases under the UAPA as per Section 43. Now, officers in the rank of Inspector are empowered to do so.

- The inspector-rank officers have over time acquired sufficient proficiency to investigate UAPA-related cases and this move would quicken the delivery of justice in such cases, which are reviewed by senior officers at various levels.

## Defence: Defence Ministry to extend benefits of child care leave to single male parents

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about the change in provisions of CCL)*

### What's the NEWS

- The Government has decided to extend benefits of child care leave (CCL) to single male service personnel after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the move. The decision is in sync with an order by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- At present, CCL is granted only to women officers in Defence forces. Recently, DoPT has made certain amendments to allow CCL to civilian employees, whereby the CCL granted to woman employees till now has been extended to single male Government servants also.

### Know! more about Child Care Leaves for Defence Forces

- The age limit of 22 years prescribed earlier in the case of a child with 40 per cent disability has been removed for the purpose of availing CCL. Further, the minimum period of CCL that can be availed at a time has been reduced to five days instead of 15 days
- Now single male service personnel will be able to avail the benefit of CCL. Single male service personnel and woman officers of Defence forces will also be able to avail CCL in respect of child with 40 per cent disability without any restriction of age limit for the child.
- Further, the minimum period of CCL that can be availed in each spell has been reduced to five days from the earlier limit of 15 days, officials said.
- Before this decision, CCL was granted to woman officers only in defence forces. Now, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has made certain amendments to grant CCL to civilian employees, whereby the CCL granted to woman employees till now has been extended to single male government servants also.

## Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about CDS) + Mains (GS II various security challenges)*

### What's the NEWS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort was full of big bang announcements like appointing a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), 20 years after a review committee on the Kargil War had suggested it, and the setting aside of Rs. 3.5 lakh crore for a Jal Jeevan Mission for water conservation.
- The demand for CDS was raised after a review of the conduct of the Kargil War, during the time of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government.

### Know! all about Chief of Defence Staff

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech announced the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Chief of Defence Staff will be for all three services – The Indian Army, the Air Force and the Indian Navy.
- This post of recommended for the first time after the 1999 Kargil War. The objective of the creation of this post is to ensure better coordination between all three services.
- Chief of Defence Staff is the highest-ranked officer of the country's armed forces. CDS advise the government on matters related to all three services Army, Navy and Air Force.
- CDS will also be the head of the three services and will be a five-star military officer. CDS can effectively coordinate among the three services during the war, emergency situations or something crucial. Chief of Defence Staff will also work as military adviser to the PM on nuclear issues.

# Environment Conservation: India emits the most sulphur dioxide in the world

*Relevance IN – Prelims (all about SO<sub>2</sub> – the anthropogenic factors and mitigation efforts, findings of the report) + Mains (GS II environment conservation)*

## What's the NEWS

- India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the world, contributing more than 15 per cent of global anthropogenic emissions, according to a new report by Greenpeace.

## Know! more about the findings of the report

- The primary reason for India's high emission output is the expansion of coal-based electricity generation over the past decade, the report added.
- India is the largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide in the world, as per data released by Greenpeace.
- Anthropogenic sulphur dioxide is produced from burning of coal and it is known to largely contribute to air pollution.
- Five of the top 10 SO<sub>2</sub> emission hotspots from coal/power generation industry across the world are in India, read the Greenpeace report.
- The analysis is based on hotspots detected by NASA Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) satellite data that captured more than 500 major source points of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the globe including natural sources such as volcanoes.

## How it affects human health

- SO<sub>2</sub> emissions are a significant contributor to air pollution. Its direct exposure and exposure to particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particulate matter) produced when SO<sub>2</sub> reacts with other air pollutants to form sulphate particles both affect human health.

## Sources of SO<sub>2</sub>

- The greatest source of SO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels in power plants and other industrial facilities. Other sources include industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore, natural sources such as volcanoes, and locomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burn fuel with high sulphur content.
- The study found the thermal power plants or clusters at Singrauli, Neyveli, Talcher, Jharsuguda, Korba, Kutch, Chennai, Ramagundam, Chandrapur, and Koradi to be the major emission hotspots in the country. The vast majority of plants in India lack flue-gas desulfurisation (FGD) technology to reduce air pollution, according to the report.
- When it comes to individual hotspots, the Norilsk smelter site in Russia continues to be the largest anthropogenic SO<sub>2</sub> emission hotspot in the world, followed by the Kriel area in Mpumalanga province of South Africa, Zagros in Iran, and Rabigh in Saudi Arabia. Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh is at number five

## What are the steps taken by the government

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had, for the first time, introduced SO<sub>2</sub> emission limits for coal-fired power plants in December 2015. But a Supreme Court order changed the deadline for installation of FGD technology in power plants from 2017 to December 2019 in Delhi-NCR and till 2022 for other parts of the country.

## China's case study

- Rising emissions have made India overtake China whose success in reducing emissions has also made Russia the number two emitter. China reduced their SO<sub>2</sub> emissions through stringent emission norms and implementation of technologies like FGD.

## Environment Conservation: New climate targets to limit emissions from 28 companies

**Relevance IN – Prelims (steps taken by the government to combat climate change + NDC) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)**

### What's the NEWS

- Twenty-eight companies from across the world, with a combined market capitalisation of \$1.3 trillion, have set new climate targets aligned with the ambition of limiting the global rise of temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- The companies include Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Levi Strauss and Co, Unilever, Vodafone Plc and Mahindra Group.
- These companies will motivate more countries to come up with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in line with the 1.5°C target instead of 2°C at the climate summit,

### Know! the role of NDC, targets of emission control and the role of UN Global Compact

- NDCs are voluntary commitments on reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions made by countries as mentioned in the Paris Agreement.
- According to the new target, the world will have to cut its GHG emissions by 45 per cent in the next 11 years and bring it to zero by 2050.
- Companies can set their own targets through the science-based targets initiative (SBTi) which independently assesses corporate emissions reduction targets against the latest climate science.
- The companies will also be responsible to share their work on implementation with the UN Global Compact and they will be monitored regularly though there will be no penalties or sanctions for non-compliance
- The UN Global Compact is a special initiative of the UN secretary general that works with companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.
- Till now countries like Norway, United Kingdom, Chile and Costa Rica have publicly announced that they will revise their NDCs

### India's participation in combating climate change

- While India is expected to attend the summit, it has not yet made public its intention to enhance its NDC.
- Leaders from over a 100 countries along with representatives from corporations, civil society and other international organisations are expected to attend the summit.
- India is taking leadership position in achieving the NDCs. India has already created 80 GW of renewable power and has set a target of achieving 175 GW by 2022. It already reduced energy intensity by 21 per cent and are on track.

### Clean Air Initiative

- Ahead of the summit, the UN, on July 23, also announced the Clean Air Initiative and called on governments to commit to achieving air quality that is safe for citizens and align the issues of climate change and air pollution by 2030.
- Clean air is a major problem, as according to the World Health Organization, air pollution annually kills 7 million people all over the world, 600,000 of them being children.

## Defence: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves decisions regarding re-organisation of Army Headquarters

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about separate vigilance under COAS) + Mains (GS III various security forces and agencies)**

### What's the NEWS

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has approved certain decisions regarding re-organisation of Army Headquarters.

- The approval has been given based on a detailed internal study conducted by the Army Headquarters.

***The decisions are as follows:***

**Setting up of a separate vigilance cell under Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) with tri-services representation –**

- A separate Vigilance Cell under COAS with Tri-Services representation - Presently, the vigilance function for the COAS is through multiple agencies and there is no single point interface.
- An independent vigilance cell will be made functional under COAS. Accordingly, ADG (Vigilance) will be placed directly under the COAS for this purpose. It will have three Colonel-level officers (one each from Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy). This will be done within the existing posts at AHQ.

**Establishment of an umbrella organisation under Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) for enhanced focus on human rights issues –**

- An umbrella organisation under VCOAS for enhanced focus on human rights issues - To give high priority to observance of human rights convention and values, it has been decided to set up a special Human Rights Section headed by ADG (Major General rank officer) directly under the VCOAS.
- It will be the nodal point to examine any HR violation reports. To enhance transparency and ensure the best of investigative expertise is available to the section, a Police officer of SSP/SP rank will be taken on deputation.

**Re-location of 206 Army Officers from army headquarters to formations/units of the field army**

- Re-location of 206 Army Officers from AHQ to Formations/Units of the Field Army - A total of 206 officers will be optimized from AHQ and these officers will be made available additionally to Formations/Units of the Field Army, as per details given below:

## **DRDO hands over design of Mobile Metallic Rampto Indian Army**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about mobile metallic rampto and about DRDO)***

**What's the NEWS**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army

**Know! more about Mobile Metallic Ramp**

- With load bearing capacity of 70 metric ton (MT), the MMR has been designed and developed by DRDO's premier research laboratory, Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) on the requirements projected by Army for reducing the Strategic Mobility time of mobilizing Armoured Fighting Vehicles.
- The ramp will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army. It is portable, modular in design, which can be easily assembled or disassembled. Since, it is modular in design and portable, which can be easily assembled or disassembled.

**Know! about DRDO**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Government of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India.
- It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian Ordnance Factories with the Defence Science Organisation.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

## Space Awareness (Chndrayaan-2 updates): Chandrayaan-2 Enters Moon Orbit

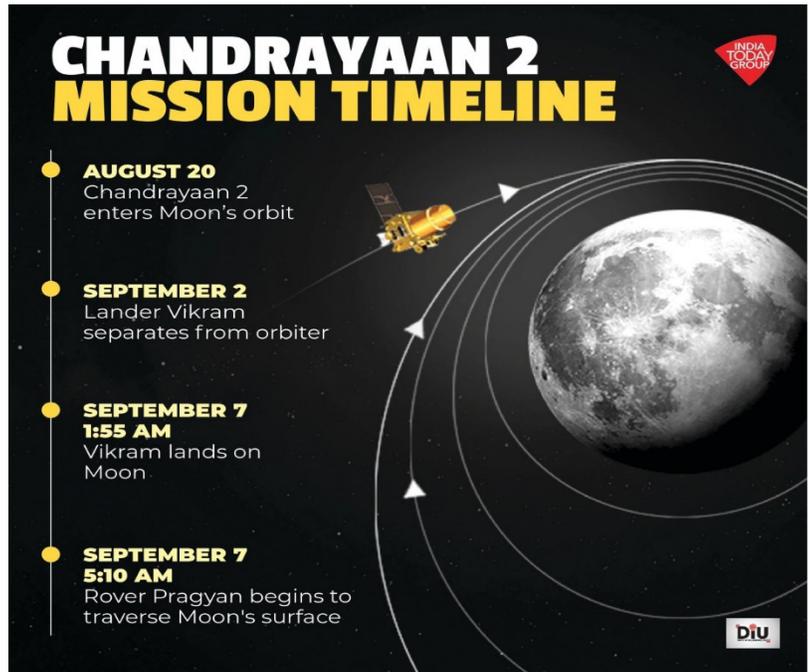
**Relevance IN – Prelims (all about chandrayaan -2) + Mains (GS III awareness in the field of space)**

### What's the NEWS

- Chandrayaan-2 successfully enters Moon's orbit: The spacecraft has been injected into an elliptical orbit that is 114 km away from the moon's surface at its nearest point and 18,072 km at its farthest.
- Now this orbit would be changed through another series of manoeuvres, to let the spacecraft eventually attain a near-circular orbit of 100 km around the moon.

### Know! more about the developments (as of now)

- Chandrayaan-2, India's second Moon mission, entered the lunar orbit on August 20, 2019. According to the ISRO, the next major step of this mission is the separation of the Lander Vikram from the orbiter on September 2.
- Chandrayaan-2 will perform a series of four-orbit maneuvers till September 1. It will enable the spacecraft to enter its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the Moon's surface.
- Almost 30 days after it was launched, the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft moved into lunar orbit, in preparation for a landing on September 7.
- Chandrayaan-2, launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on July 22, is India's first lander mission to the moon.
- At this point, the Vikram lander, along with the small Pragyaan rover, is slated to separate from the main composite module and start its incremental descent towards the moon's surface.
- The separation is scheduled for September 4, following which the lander and rover would position themselves in a lower orbit, while the landing is planned to take place at 0140 hours IST on September 7. The main spacecraft module would continue to go around the moon in its orbit for at least one full year.
- On September 3, before the planned separation, a three-second operation will be carried out to check the functioning of all onboard systems on the Vikram lander. The next day, the lander and the rover will separate from the main spacecraft through a manoeuvre that will last 6.5 seconds, Sivan said.
- After separating, Vikram will not immediately land on the moon's surface. Instead, it will go around the moon for three days, during which all its parameters will be checked. Its powered descent will start in the early morning of September 7, around 1.40 am, and it is expected to land within 15 minute



## Governance/Internal Security: Aadhaar-social media account linking

**Relevance IN – Mains (GS III role of external state and non state actors in creating challenges to internal security + awareness in the field of IT, Computers)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Supreme court sought response from the Centre, Google, WhatsApp, Twitter, You tube and others on Facebook Inc's plea seeking transfer of cases related to linking of social media accounts with Aadhar pending in different high courts to the apex court

## Keeping track

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Facebook's plea to transfer various cases related to demands to link social media profiles with Aadhaar numbers. The court issued notices to the Centre, Google, Twitter, YouTube and others and sought their response by September 13

- Various petitions are pending in the Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh High Courts involving Facebook

- The petition pending in the Madras High

Court pertains to linking people's WhatsApp accounts to their Aadhaar numbers. The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Madras High Court can continue the proceedings but cannot pass final orders

- Mukul Rohatgi and Kapil Sibal represented Facebook and Whatsapp at the hearing on Tuesday and asked that the petitions be transferred to the SC. Attorney General K.K. Venugopal represented Tamil Nadu and opposed the transfer

- Justice Deepak Gupta said the case represents a conflict between right to privacy and the duty to prevent online crimes



- The top court agreed to hear the Facebook plea and sought responses of Centre and the social media platforms by September 13
- Social media profiles of users need to be linked with Aadhaar numbers to check circulation of fake, defamatory and pornographic content as also anti-national and terror material, the Supreme Court.
- The suggestion was made by the Tamil Nadu government which is facing resistance from Facebook Inc on the ground that sharing of 12-digit Aadhaar number, the Biometric Unique Identity, would violate the privacy policy of users.
- The Supreme Court stressed on the need to find a balance between the right to online privacy and the right of the state to trace originators of messages that are fake, defamatory or aim to spread panic.

### Government stand on it (Tamil Nadu government who originated this)

- Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the state government, said: "The linking of social media profiles of the users with the Aadhaar was needed to check fake news, defamatory articles, pornographic materials, anti-national and terror contents in the online media."

### Resistance by Facebook

- Facebook Inc said that it cannot share the Aadhaar number with a third party as the content on its instant messaging Whatsapp was end-to-end encrypted and even they do not have access to it.
- Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Facebook, said the question is whether Aadhaar can be shared with a private entity or not.
- He said that an ordinance has been promulgated, which says that Aadhaar can be shared with a private entity, if there was a larger public interest involved.
- There is end-to-end encryption on Whatsapp so it not possible access to the content. How can they tell them what is the Aadhaar number. They also have to take care of the privacy of the users", Rohatgi stated while defending Facebook.
- Facebook has contended that there are four petitions including -- two in Madras High Court, one in Bombay and one in Madhya Pradesh High Courts -- and they contained almost similar prayers.
- It said, "Transfer would serve the interests of justice by avoiding the possibility of conflicting decisions from the four common cases.

### What if linked

- The linking of user profiles on social media with Aadhaar would make every message and post by the user traceable.
- Though the move will serve as a deterrent to social media instigators and perpetrators of defamatory and fake posts, it would also violate the privacy of the users, keeping a record of each message along with the registered mobile number or email account.
- This would mean the end of private communications. The privacy experts fear that the linking would allow India's nationalist government to force social media platforms to become surveillance tools.

## International Issues: U.S. tests first ground-launched cruise missile after INF treaty exit

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about INF treaty) + Mains (GS III international relations)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Pentagon said it tested a conventionally configured ground-launched cruise missile with a range of more than 500 km (310 miles), the first such test since the United States pulled out of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).
- The United States formally withdrew from the landmark 1987 pact with Russia on Aug. 2 after determining that Moscow was violating the treaty, an accusation the Kremlin has denied.
- Moscow denies flouting the accord and has accused Washington of breaking the pact, allegations rejected by the United States.

### Know! more about the treaty

- The treaty, negotiated by then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, banned land-based missiles with a range of between 310 and 3,400 miles (500 to 5,500 km).
- The INF was a 1987 pact with the former Soviet Union that banned ground-launched nuclear and conventional ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,000 kilometers. However, the United States and NATO allies have for years declared Russia in violation of the agreement.
- The missile hit its target after more than 500 km of flight. The test would have been prohibited by the INF treaty.
- The dispute is aggravating the worst U.S.-Russia friction since the Cold War ended in 1991. Some experts believe the treaty's collapse could undermine other arms control agreements and speed an erosion of the global system designed to block the spread of nuclear arms.

## Economic Developments/Security challenges: FATF Asia-Pacific Group puts Pakistan in 'enhanced blacklist'

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about APG and about FATF) + Mains (GS III security challenges + economic developments)**

### What's the NEWS

- In a huge victory for India, the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering and Terror Financing has put Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist) for its failure to meet its standards
- Pakistan was put in the Enhanced Blacklist of Asia Pacific Group (APG)
- The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has also found that Pakistan was non-compliant on 32 of the 40 compliance parameters of terror financing and money laundering and it ranked low in 10 of the 11 Effectiveness Parameters.
- The FATF APG meeting was held in Canberra, Australia and the discussions lasted over seven hours over two days.

### Know! more about the recent developments during the APG meeting

- The APG has placed Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow-up List (Black List) for failure to meet its standards
- On 11 effectiveness parameters of terror financing and money laundering, Pakistan was adjudged as low on 10. The official said despite its efforts, Pakistan could not convince the 41-member plenary to upgrade it on any parameter.
- Now, Pakistan has to focus on avoiding the blacklist in October, when the 15-month timeline ends on the FATF's 27-point action plan
- FATF will hold a Plenary meeting in Paris October 2019 to decide on Pakistan's Grey list status.
- FATF added Pakistan on its Grey List in June 2018. The decision to put Pakistan on the blacklist was taken during the 41 member APG Plenary meeting that lasted for over 7 hours on two days in Canberra, Australia.

- In June, the FATF had warned Pakistan that its failure to complete its action plan on terror financing could possibly lead to the country getting blacklisted.

**Know! more about FATF and its Blacklist criteria**

- Countries that support terror funding and money laundering activities are placed in the Blacklist of FATF. These countries are known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs).
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in June 2018 added Pakistan to its ‘Grey List’ for being involved in providing terror funding and related issues. It was not the first time that Pakistan was added to FATF’s Grey List. Pakistan had earlier been in the grey list of FATF during 2012 - 2015.

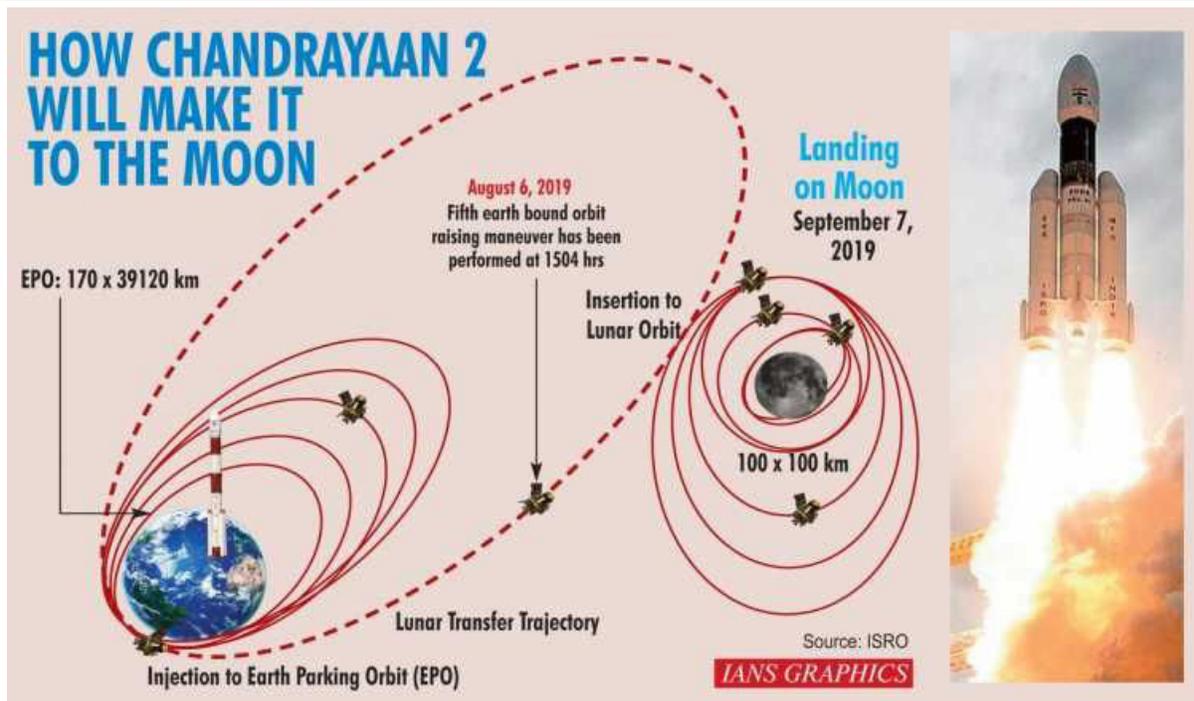
**Know! more about Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**

- FATF Asia-Pacific Group is one of the regional affiliates of the Financial Action Task Force.
- The Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering works to ensure that all the countries adopt and implement the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards that are set out in the FATF’s 40 Recommendations and Eight Special Recommendations.
- APG assists countries in implementing laws to deal with crime, assistance, punishment, investigations; provides guidance in setting proper reporting systems and helps in establishing financial intelligence units.
- At present, there are 41 members of APG. Of these, 11 countries are also the members of the head FATF – India, China, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand Singapore and the United States.

**Know! about the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**

- It is an international anti-money laundering regulator that establishes international standards for combating money laundering and terrorism.
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris (France) as an inter-governmental body by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. FATF Plenary consists of around 39 member countries including India. China is the current President of the FATF.
- FATF Secretariat is headquartered in Paris as ‘Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)’. The FATF decisions are taken by the ‘FATF Plenary’, the decision-making body that holds FATF plenary sessions in February, June and October every year.

**Space Awareness (Chandrayaan -2 updates): Chandrayaan-2 successfully enters Lunar Transfer Trajectory**



## Relevance IN – Prelims (about Chandrayaan -2) + Mains (GS III space awareness)

### What's the NEWS

- Chandrayaan-2 headed onwards on its path to the moon after the Indian Space Research Organisation, successfully carried out a crucial process to manoeuvre India's second lunar probe out of the earth's orbit.
- ISRO said that it carried out the manoeuvre called Trans Lunar Insertion (TLI) at 2.21 am today as it was planned.

### Know! more about it

- The final orbit raising manoeuvre of Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was successfully carried out today at 02:21 am IST. During this manoeuvre, the spacecraft's liquid engine was fired for about 1203 seconds. With this, Chandrayaan-2 entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory
- After Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22, the spacecraft's orbit was progressively increased five times from July 23 to August 6. The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is expected to reach the moon's orbit on August 20. The spacecraft's liquid engine will be fired again to insert the spacecraft into a lunar orbit.
- Following this, there will be further four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the moon's surface
- On September 7, the spacecraft's lander, Vikram, is expected to soft-land on the south pole of the moon and unleash the rover to explore the surface.
- The health of the spacecraft is being continuously monitored from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at Bialalu, near Bengaluru

### Chandrayaan -2 (Objective)

- Chandrayaan-2 will find out where and in what form water is available on the surface of the Moon. Additionally, Chandrayaan-2 will detect the weather and radiation there. Chandrayaan-2 will also try to find out that which part of the moon always remain in the dark and which part comes into the contact of light.

## Defence: 'No First Use' Nuclear Policy of India; Rajnath Singh's tweet has started a fresh debate about 'No first use' doctrine

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about No First Use doctrine) + Mains (GS II India's foreign policy and bilateral relations)

#### Know! all about 'No First Use' Nuclear Policy of India

- This doctrine states that India will not be the first to launch a nuclear weapon but retained the right to retaliate in the condition of an atomic attack.
- The Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh has given major hints about a possible review of Vajpayee's 'no first use' of nuclear weapons and said it will depend on circumstances in future.
- India had announced its nuclear doctrine in 1999 in which it had declared a 'no first use policy' i.e. India will not be the first country to launch a nuclear weapon but retained the right to retaliate in response to an atomic strike.
- 'No first use' (NFU) is basically a pledge or a policy by a nuclear power country for not to use nuclear weapons as a means of warfare unless first attacked by an adversary using nuclear weapons. This concept of 'No first use' is also applied to chemical and biological warfare.
- India conducted five nuclear tests and became a nuclear weapon state during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure as prime minister in 1998. Few days later Pakistan had conducted six tests. Soon after that India brought out its nuclear doctrine in 1999 that had 'no first use' policy.



Rajnath Singh  
@rajnathsingh

Pokhran is the area which witnessed Atal Ji's firm resolve to make India a nuclear power and yet remain firmly committed to the doctrine of 'No First Use'. India has strictly adhered to this doctrine. What happens in future depends on the circumstances.

1:46 PM · Aug 16, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

3.7K Retweets 13.6K Likes

## Government Schemes/ India's diaspora: 54th Edition of Know India (KIP) Programme

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about KIP) + Mains (GS II India's diaspora)**

### What's the NEWS

- 40 Indian Origin youth have taken part in 54th Edition of Know India (KIP) Programme. This edition is scheduled from 1st August to 25th August, 2019. Punjab and Harayana are partner states for this edition.
- These 40 participants are from 9 countries, namely Fiji (7), Trinidad & Tobago (7), Mauritius (7), Guyana (6), Suriname (5), Myanmar (3), South Africa (2), Israel (2) and Reunion Island (1) out of which 26 are female and 14 are male.

### Know! about KIP

- Know India Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs is a three-week orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication & information Technology, culture.
- KIP provide a unique forum for students & young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations & experiences and to develop closer bonds with the contemporary India.
- KIP aimed to engage and make students and young professionals of India Diaspora in age group of 18-30 years. It was launched in 2004. It is 25-day orientation programme organized by Union Ministry External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with one or two States including visit to States for 10 days

### Know! about Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY)

- Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojna (PTDY) is a important initiatives of Government of India providing the elder generation in Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in the age group of 45-65 year an opportunity to reconnect with their root.
- The Programme is available for those PIOs residing in Girmitiya countries (Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, T&T, Jamaica, South Africa)

## Infrastructure development: SC clears Chardham highway project, connecting four holy places in Uttarakhand

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about chardham + role of high powered committee) + Mains 8 GS III infrastructure development)**

### What's the NEWS

- Supreme Court has cleared the decks for the Chardham highway project, which will connect four holy places of Uttarakhand through 900-km all-weather roads.
- The apex court also asked the Union Environment and Forest Ministry to form the high-powered committee by August 22 to look into environmental concerns.
- A bench comprising Justices Rohinton Fali Nariman and Surya Kant modified an earlier order of National Green Tribunal by constituting a fresh high-powered committee.
- The Supreme Court added representatives from Physical Research Laboratory, Wildlife Institute of India and Defence Ministry to the new high powered committee. The top court asked the committee to submit its recommendations within four months.

### Know! the role of high powered committee

- The court said, the committee shall hold quarterly meetings thereafter to ensure compliance and may suggest any further measure after each review meeting. It said, the committee shall consider the cumulative and independent impact of the Chardham project on the entire Himalayan valleys.
- The committee will also suggest the areas in which afforestation should be taken and the kind of saplings to be planted. In case of non-survival of any sapling, further plantation should be done and compensatory afforestation should be ten times the number of trees cut

## Know! about Char Dham Highway

- It is a proposed two-lane (in each direction) express National Highway in state of Uttarakhand. The two lane highway will have a minimum width of 10 metre.
- The proposed Char Dham Expressway National Highway project will connect 4 holy places in Uttarakhand states viz.- Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri
- Project includes 900 km national highways which will connect whole of Uttarakhand state.

## Defence: Indian Army delegation takes part in BPM to celebrate PLA's 92nd foundation day

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the BPM and about India- china relations) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations)**

### What's the NEWS

- An Indian Army delegation took part in special Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) held at Nathu La y to celebrate 92nd anniversary of the foundation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

### Know! more about it

- On invitation from the PLA, a delegation of Indian Army comprising of officers and soldiers took part in the celebration.
- The PLA troops interacted with the visiting Indian delegation and presented a cultural programme comprising several events to celebrate the occasion.
- As a gesture of goodwill, the Indian side also reciprocated with traditional cultural events to mark the occasion
- Delegations from both sides also met at Kongra La in North Sikkim. The ceremonial meeting was headed by Brigadier ranking official from both sides.
- Celebrations took place in an atmosphere marked by warmth and cordiality and provided an opportunity to both sides to display their rich culture.
- Such interactions go a long way in ensuring better understanding between both armies and have contributed towards achieving common goals of peace and tranquillity along the borders
- BPM was held between the two armies at DBO-TWT meeting point opposite Eastern Ladakh.
- BPM is a mechanism where both the armies meet to iron out their differences by resolving disputes. These disputes generally arise out of misunderstandings of each other's position along the LAC.

## Infrastructure Development: Power Minister Shri RK Singh launches SARAL – 'State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index'



## **Relevance IN – Prelims (about SARAL) + Mains (GS III infrastructure development -energy)**

### **What's the NEWS**

- The Ministry of Power has launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index–SARAL
- The State of Karnataka has been placed at the first rank in the Index that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development. Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have got 2nd, 3rd and 4th rank respectively.
- The purpose of SARAL is to incentivise rooftop solar by creating healthy competition among the States.

### **Know! more about SARAL**

- SARAL has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

*It was launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities. SARAL currently captures five key aspects*

1. Robustness of policy framework
  2. Implementation environment
  3. Investment climate
  4. Consumer experience
  5. Business ecosystem
- It encourages each state to assess the initiatives taken so far, and what it can do to improve its solar rooftop ecosystem.
  - This will help states to channelize investments that can eventually help the sector grow. In addition, such an exercise is likely to create a more conducive environment for solar rooftop installations, encourage investment and lead to accelerated growth of the sector.

### **India's Renewable target**

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, of which 100 GW solar power is to be operational by March 2022, of which 40 GW is expected to come from grid connected solar rooftops.
- The Indian Grid Connected Rooftop PV (GRPV) segment is slowly gaining momentum with substantial interest from entrepreneurs, developers, financial institutions, development banks, end users and government entities.

### **Reason for the development of SARAL**

- To achieve our rooftop solar targets, it is important to develop an ecosystem that ensures information symmetry, access to financing and clear market signals.
- Thus, the MNRE has developed the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index–SARAL that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.
- SARAL is the first of its kind index to provide a comprehensive overview of state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment.

## **Economic Development: Sabka Vishwas - Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme to be operationalized from 1st September 2019**

### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019 + Mains (GS III economic developments)**

#### **What's the NEWS**

- In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Hon'ble Finance Minister announced the Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019.
- The Scheme has now been notified and will be operationalized from 1st September 2019. The Scheme would continue till 31st December 2019.

## **Know! about the objective of this scheme**

- Government expects the Scheme to be availed by large number of taxpayers for closing their pending disputes relating to legacy Service Tax and Central Excise cases that are now subsumed under GST so they can focus on GST.

## **The two main components of the Scheme are dispute resolution and amnesty.**

- The dispute resolution component is aimed at liquidating the legacy cases of Central Excise and Service Tax that are subsumed in GST and are pending in litigation at various forums.
- The amnesty component of the Scheme offers an opportunity to the taxpayers to pay the outstanding tax and be free of any other consequence under the law.
- The most attractive aspect of the Scheme is that it provides substantial relief in the tax dues for all categories of cases as well as full waiver of interest, fine, penalty,
- In all these cases, there would be no other liability of interest, fine or penalty. There is also a complete amnesty from prosecution.
- The Scheme is especially tailored to free the large number of small taxpayers of their pending disputes with the tax administration.

## **New and Renewable Energy: Power Minister Shri RK Singh approves proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy**

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about renewable energy) + Mains (GS III energy security)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- In a decision that would give boost to the ocean energy in India, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion etc. shall be considered as Renewable Energy and shall be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).

#### **Ocean Energy**

- Oceans cover 70 percent of the earth's surface and represent an enormous amount of energy in the form of wave, tidal, marine current and thermal gradient.
- Total identified potential of Tidal Energy is about 12455 MW, with potential locations identified at Khambhat & Kutch regions, and large backwaters, where barrage technology could be used.
- The total theoretical potential of wave energy in India along the country's coast is estimated to be about 40,000 MW – these are preliminary estimates. This energy is however less intensive than what is available in more northern and southern latitudes.

#### **Tidal Energy**

- The tidal cycle occurs every 12 hours due to the gravitational force of the moon. The difference in water height from low tide and high tide is potential energy.
- Similar to traditional hydropower generated from dams, tidal water can be captured in a barrage across an estuary during high tide and forced through a hydro-turbine during low tide.
- The Gulf of Cambay and the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat on the west coast have the locations in the country where potential exists.

#### **Wave Energy**

- Wave energy is generated by the movement of a device either floating on the surface of the ocean or moored to the ocean floor.
- Many different techniques for converting wave energy to electric power have been studied. Wave conversion devices that float on the surface have joints hinged together that bend with the waves. This kinetic energy pumps fluid through turbines and creates electric power.
- Stationary wave energy conversion devices use pressure fluctuations produced in long tubes from the waves swelling up and down. This bobbing motion drives a turbine when critical pressure is reached. Other stationary platforms capture water from waves on their platforms. This water is allowed to runoff through narrow pipes that flow through a typical hydraulic turbine.

## Current Energy

- Marine current is ocean water moving in one direction. This ocean current is known as the Gulf Stream.
- Tides also create currents that flow in two directions. Kinetic energy can be captured from the Gulf Stream and other tidal currents with submerged turbines that are very similar in appearance to miniature wind turbines. Similar to wind turbines, the movement of the marine current moves the rotor blades to generate electric power.

## Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)

- Ocean thermal energy conversion, or OTEC, uses ocean temperature differences from the surface to depths lower than 1,000 meters, to extract energy.
- A temperature difference of only 20°C can yield usable energy. Research focuses on two types of OTEC technologies to extract thermal energy and convert it to electric power: closed cycle and open cycle.

## Economic Developments: RBI to transfer Rs. 1.76 lakh crore to government

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the committee suggestions and reasons behind the transfer) + Mains (Economic development)**

### Highlights

- RBI to transfer surplus of Rs 1.76 lakh cr to govt
- It is the highest-ever surplus amount transferred by the RBI to govt
- Since 2013-14, the RBI has been paying 99 per cent of its disposable income to govt

### What's the NEWS

- The Central Board of the RBI decided to transfer a sum of Rs. 1,76,051 crore to the Government of India comprising Rs. 1,23,414 crore of surplus for the year 2018-19 and Rs. 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) adopted at the meeting of the Central Board.

### Know! more about the committee and its report

- The RBI, in consultation with the government, had constituted an expert committee to review the Extant Economic Capital Framework of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The excess reserve transfer is in line with the recommendation of former RBI governor Bimal Jalan-led panel constituted to decide size of capital reserves that the central bank should hold.
- The government was represented by Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar in the panel which finalised its report on August 14 by consensus.
- The receipts from the RBI will give a fillip to the government's efforts to boost the economy from a five-year low.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had last week announced a slew of measures to prop up growth even as the government tried to stick to the target of keeping fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent of the GDP. The additional cash will now give the Centre more headroom for stimulating the economy.
- The Modi government and the RBI under its previous governor Urjit Patel had been at loggerheads over the optimum level of surplus capital with the central bank.
- As a result, the RBI in its crucial November 2018 board meeting decided to form a committee to review the economic capital framework (ECF) for the Reserve Bank.
- The committee's recommendations were based on the consideration of the role of central banks' financial resilience, cross-country practices, statutory provisions and the impact of the RBI's public policy mandate and operating environment on its balance sheet and the risks involved.
- The committee's recommendations were guided by the fact that the RBI forms the primary bulwark for monetary, financial and external stability.
- Hence, the resilience of the RBI needs to be commensurate with its public policy objectives and must be

### Boost to finances

At a board meeting on Monday, the RBI decided to hand over its entire 2018-19 surplus of ₹1.23 lakh cr. to the govt

In ₹ crore	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Income	64,617	79,256	80,870	61,818	78,281
Expenditure	11,934	13,356	14,990	31,155	28,277
Net surplus	52,683	65,900	65,880	30,663	50,004
Surplus given to centre	52,679	65,896	65,876	30,659	50,000
% of RBI's net profit	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.99

maintained above the level of peer central banks as would be expected of a central bank of one of the fastest growing large economies of the world.

## Environment Conservation: 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about COP 14 and about the genesis of UNCCD) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)**

#### **What's the NEWS**

- India will be hosting the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from 2-13 September 2019

#### **India's commitment**

- Desertification is a worldwide problem directly affecting 250 million people and a third of the earth's land surface.
- To fight this menace, India will convert degraded land of nearly 50 lakh hectares to fertile land in next 10 years; it will implement provisions of New Delhi Declaration which is to be adopted at the end of conference and a Centre for Excellence will be established at Dehradun

#### **Know! more about the conference and its genesis**

- Delegates from 196 countries comprising of scientists and representatives of national and local governments, global business leaders, NGOs, gender-based organisations, youth groups, journalists, and faith and community groups will present and share their expertise and give an overview to achieve their goals at the 12-day Conference.
- The Convention entered into force in December 1996. It is one of the three Rio Conventions along with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- India became a signatory to UNCCD on 14th October 1994 and ratified it on 17th December 1996.
- The main objective of the convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, involving long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.

#### **Know! about Desertification**

- Degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas (Not the natural expansion of existing deserts)
- Land Degradation: Deterioration in the quality of land (its topsoil caused by excessive or inappropriate exploitation)

- Causes of desertification are - overexploitation, overgrazing, deforestation and poor irrigation practices. Some of the solutions are – prevention of soil erosion, water resource management and sustainable practices.

## Infrastructure Development: National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Conferred The Prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about SKOCH Governance gold awards) + Mains (GS III infrastructure development)**

### What's the NEWS

- Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA).

### Know! about PAiSA

- Launched in November 2018, PAiSA is a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Mission.
- It offers end to end online solution for processing, payment, monitoring and tracking of interest subvention claims from banks on a monthly basis.
- Claims for subvention are uploaded by banks through their CBS (Core Banking Solution) in respect of the beneficiaries of the Self Employment Programme, which are verified and approved by the ULB and State concerned.
- The approved claim amount gets credited directly to the beneficiary's loan account through DBT mode.
- As of now, 28 States/UTs and 74 Banks including 21 Public Sector, 18 Private and 35 Regional Rural Banks have been on boarded on the portal. Till now approximately 1.50 lakh beneficiaries have been paid Rs. 27 Cr (approx.) as interest subvention through PAiSA.

### Know! about SKOCH Awards

- Skoch Group is a think tank dealing with socio-economic issues with a focus on inclusive growth since 1997.
- The group companies include a consulting wing, a media wing and a charitable foundation. Skoch Group is able to bring an Indian felt-needs context to strategies and engages with fortune-500 companies, state owned enterprises, government to SMEs and community-based organisations with equal ease.
- The repertoire of services include field interventions, consultancy, research reports, impact assesments, policy briefs, books, journals, workshops and conferences. Skoch Group has instituted India's highest independent civilian honours in the field of governance, finance, technology, economics and social sector.
- SKOCH Award, instituted in 2003, is the highest civilian honour in the country conferred by an independent organisation. It recognises people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.
- SKOCH Award comes with a backing of reputation of more than two decades. It is distinctive for its approach of selection of awardees, which is based on nomination, jury evaluation, presentation of shortlisted nominees, focus group discussions, interactions and peer evaluation.
- The SKOCH Award not only acknowledges exceptional achievers – organisations and individuals – but also spurs institutional guidance and best practices in the industry.

## Economic Development: 10 public sector banks to be merged into four

**Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank to be merged; Union Bank, Andhra Bank and Corporate Bank to be merged**

**Punjab National Bank (PNB), Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India to be merged; Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank to be merged**

**Relevance IN – Prelims (factual information about the merger) + Mains (GS III economic developments)**

### What's the NEWS

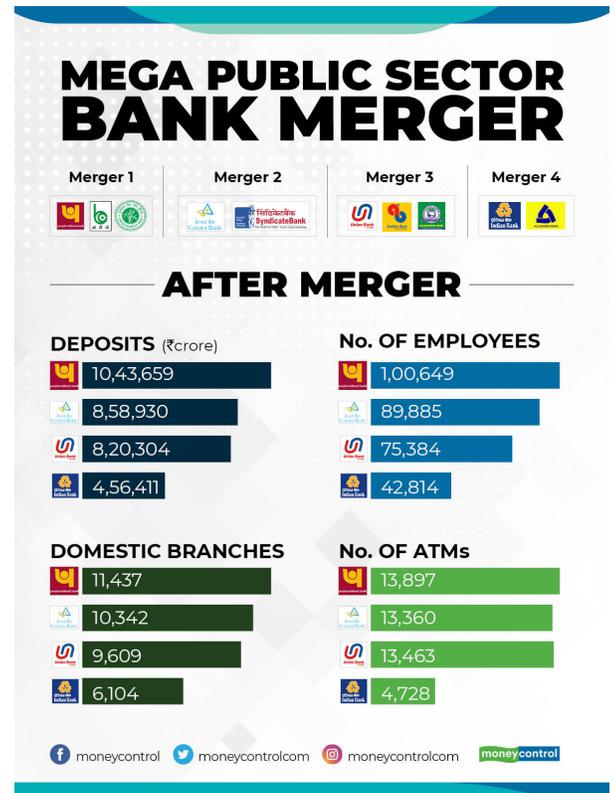
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a big consolidation of public sector banks: 10 public sector banks to be merged into four.

### Know! all the details about the merger

- Under the scheme of amalgamation, Indian Bank will be merged with Allahabad Bank (anchor bank - Indian Bank); PNB, OBC and United Bank to be merged (PNB will be the anchor bank); Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank to be merged (anchor bank - Union Bank of India); and Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank to be merged (anchor bank - Canara Bank).
- In place of 27 public sector banks in 2017, now there will be 12 public sector banks after the latest round of consolidation of PSU banks. The consolidation of public sector banks will give them scale to grow

### Capital infusion by the government to banks

- The government also announced capital infusion totalling over Rs. 55,000 crore into public sector banks: PNB (Rs. 16,000 crore), Union Bank of India (Rs. 11,700 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs. 7000 crore), Indian Bank (Rs. 2500 crore), Indian Overseas Bank (Rs. 3800 crore), Central Bank (Rs. 3300 crore), UCO Bank (Rs. 2100 crore), United Bank (Rs. 1,600 crore) and Punjab and Sind Bank (Rs. 750 crore).



Anchor bank	Amalgamating bank(s)	Business size*	PSB rank by size	CBS
Punjab National Bank	Oriental Bank of Commerce United Bank of India	₹ 17.94 lakh cr.	2nd largest	Finacle
Canara Bank	Syndicate Bank	₹ 15.20 lakh cr.	4th largest	iFlex
Union Bank of India	Andhra Bank Corporation Bank	₹ 14.59 lakh cr.	5th largest	Finacle
Indian Bank	Allahabad Bank	₹ 8.08 lakh cr.	7th largest	BaNCS

SBI	Amalgamated earlier	₹ 52.05 lakh cr.		
Bank of Baroda	Amalgamated earlier	₹ 16.13 lakh cr.		

Bank	Business size*
Bank of India	₹ 9.03 lakh cr.
Central Bank of India	₹ 4.68 lakh cr.

Bank	Business size*
Indian Overseas Bank	₹ 3.75 lakh cr.
UCO Bank	₹ 3.17 lakh cr.
Bank of Maharashtra	₹ 2.34 lakh cr.
Punjab and Sind Bank	₹ 1.71 lakh cr.

27 PSBs → 12 PSBs

2017 → Post consolidation

\* March 2019 financials

### Earlier mergers

- Lat year the government had approved the merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda (BoB) that become effective from April 1, 2019. In 2017, the State Bank of India absorbed five of its associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank.

## Other Highlights

- Indian Bank to be merged with Allahabad Bank (anchor bank - Indian Bank)
- Consolidated Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank to be 7th largest public sector bank with Rs 8.08 lakh crore business (anchor bank - Indian Bank)
- PNB, OBC and United Bank to be merged (PNB will be the anchor bank)
- Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank to be merged (anchor bank - Union Bank of India)
- Consolidated Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank to be 5th largest public sector banks with Rs. 14.6 lakh crore business
- Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank to be merged
- Consolidated Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank to be 4th largest public sector bank with Rs. 15.2 lakh crore business
- No retrenchment has taken place post merger of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank; staff has been redeployed and best practices in each bank have been replicated in others

## Know! the benefits of merger

- The consolidation in the banking sector will create higher efficiencies through better utilization of capital, greater credit disbursal, focused customer service and global expansion opportunities. Fundamentally, we will have a cleaner, structurally robust and profitable banking system.
- Larger banks stand to benefit more from merger as capital adequacy improves
- The larger banks stand to benefit more in terms of capital adequacy than the smaller lenders, a sharp departure from past practice in which government infused capital in their balance sheets year after year.
- Enhanced capacity to increase credit
- Banks with a strong national presence and international reach
- Reduction in lending cost
- Next Generation technology for the banking sector
- Improved ability to raise market resources

## Other steps taken by the government

- In FY19, the government infused over Rs. 1 trillion in public sector banks with the last round of Rs. 48,239 crore in February allowing six banks to exit Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) prompt corrective action (PCA) exercise.
- The central bank uses the PCA framework to rein in banks that have breached certain regulatory thresholds in bad loans and capital adequacy.
- Out of the five banks under PCA framework, capital has been announced for only three banks—Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India and UCO Bank.
- The announced capital infusion is unlikely to be sufficient for taking these banks out of PCA in immediate future. United Bank will cease to exist upon merger and outcome for IDBI Bank will depend on its capital raising

## Internal Security: NRC Assam (Updates); Assam NRC Final List

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about NRC) + Mains (GS III internal security)*

#### What's the NEWS

- The NRC or National Register of Citizen for Assam will be published by August 31, 2019. The Union Home Ministry has appealed to the people of Assam to ignore the rumours.
- Ministry of Home Affairs said that if one's name doesn't appear in National Citizenship Register (NRC), the person will not be directly declared as a 'foreigner' and can appeal to the 'Foreign Tribunal'.

#### Know! the recent updates

- The government has increased the timeline of filing an appeal to the tribunal from 60 to 120 days.
- A sufficient number of tribunals have been set up at major places of the state for this purpose.

- The government will also provide free legal aid to the needy from the District Legal Services Authority so that they can file an appeal.

### **Who can view today's result**

- Those people who submitted a claim after not being included in the complete draft published on July 30, 2018, or excluded via the additional draft exclusions list published on June 26 this year, or had any objection filed against their inclusion
- Only those people will appear on the list whose names or family members of the applicant were appeared on the first NRC in 1951 or in the electoral rolls up to March 24, 1971.
- Apart from this, other required documents are – permanent residential certificate, passport, government-issued licence or certificate, LIC policy, land and tenancy records, government employment certificate, bank/post office accounts, educational certificate and court records.

### **What will happen if the name is not there in the list**

- Non-inclusion of a person's name in the NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared a foreigner" as the person will be allowed to present his/her case before designated foreigners' tribunals.
- Those people left out of the NRC will not be detained "under any circumstances" until the foreigners' tribunals declare them foreigners.
- Section 8 of Schedule to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 provides an opportunity to appeal.
- The time limit to file an appeal has been increased from 60 days to 120 days – till December 31, 2019.
- A total of 1,000 tribunals have been sanctioned by the home ministry. If one loses the case in the tribunal, the person can move the high court and, then, the Supreme Court.

### **Know! more about NRC**

- The first NRC list was created in 1951; it was a list of Indian citizens in Assam. Two other states in the north-east region Manipur and Tripura also declared their NRC. They were also given grants by the Centre to create their own NRCs.
- At present, Assam is the only state to have an NRC in India. About a year ago, the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950 was passed by the Centre and the first NRC was released.

## **Defence: Rajnath inaugurates Ladakhi-Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela in Leh**

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the mela and about DIHAR) + Mains (GS III security challenges)**

### **What's the NEWS**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 26th Mela of Ladakhi-Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela

### **Know! about the mela and about DIHAR**

- The mela was organised by the Leh based Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) of DRDO, which was established in 1960 to meet the fresh food requirement of the soldiers deployed in the harsh terrain of Ladakh
- Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), and Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal amongst others were also present there.
- Through the technologies developed by the institute, the Army is getting locally grown fresh organic farm produce.
- As a spin-off of the technologies developed, farmers in Ladakh are able to produce a variety of fruits and vegetables resulting in improving their socio-economic condition
- The interdependence created between the locals and the Army through the scientific endeavours of DIHAR has contributed to socio-economic upliftment of local farmers.
- The institute is known for many success stories in translating science to alleviate real-life problems being faced in the remote Ladakh region.
- DIHAR is now working to develop newer technologies to make fresh food available even in the remotest locations in the Himalayas.
- The Defence Minister visited the experimental farm of DIHAR where technologies for the production of quality organic fruits and vegetables were being demonstrated.



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# **Miscellaneous/ Prelims Factoids**

## Didi Ke Bolo campaign

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about the campaign)*

#### What's the NEWS

- 'Didi Ke Bolo' campaign launched by Mamta Banerjee in which 1,000 party workers will meet thousands of people in next 100 days to learn about local issues.

#### Know! more about it

- A new political campaign 'Didi Ke Bolo' has been initiated by the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee to address the public grievances and other social issues. This campaign is launched with an eye to the next assembly elections in the state.
- In this initiative every citizen of West Bengal can directly contact chief minister. People can reach out to her by calling on a specific number.
- Mamta Banerjee launched a phone number – 9137091370 and a website – [www.didikebolo.com](http://www.didikebolo.com).
- One can drop his/her message, issue etc. on website or connect on given phone number with suggestions or problems.

## Miscellaneous Factoids: Muthulakshmi Reddi's - India's first woman legislator

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about Muthulakshmi reddy)*

#### What's the NEWS

- Dr Muthulakshmi Reddi was India's first legislator and also known as a woman of many firsts.
- Tamil Nadu Government declared that every year hospitals will celebrate her birth anniversary as 'Hospital Day.'
- Muthulakshmi Reddi was an Indian educator, lawmaker, surgeon, and a social reformer. Dr Muthulakshmi Reddi devoted her life to the benefit of public health and the battle against gender inequality.
- Muthulakshmi Reddi was born on July 30, 1883, in Tamil Nadu. She became the first female surgeon in a government hospital and the first woman legislator in the country during British India.

## Prelims Factoids: Indian army launches e-cars in Delhi to fight air pollution

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about the initiative taken by Indian army)*

#### What's the NEWS

- The Indian Army in step with government policies on environmental protection has launched an ecological initiative with employing E Cars for use of its officials in New Delhi in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a joint Venture of Central PSUs under Ministry of Power. The introduction of E-Car in Army at Delhi was visualised on World Environment Day

#### Know! more about this green initiative

- Indian Army has a large number of Territorial Army Battalions (ECO) which have done a yeoman service in environmental protection initiatives such as forestation.



- Army units posted in remote and ecologically sensitive areas from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari have been carrying out various activities in close coordination with local populace to conserve the ecological balance and protect the environment.
- The first batch of e-cars was flagged off on August 1, 2019. The Indian Army plans to operate **10 e-cars in the first lot** as a pilot project and develop further such e-cars in Delhi to ensure minimal emissions and efficiency.
- The e-car initiative is expected to boost further development of electric vehicle technology and its adoption by the general public in the near future.
- The Army has launched e-cars in Delhi, keeping in mind the worsening state of air in the capital city. Air pollution has been a major challenge in Delhi, with it crossing the danger mark on several occasions.
- Electric vehicle technology has proved to be a sound alternative to fight air pollution as it reduces carbon emission footprint.
- Several Indian automobile manufacturers including Tata Motors and Mahindra have taken the initiative in manufacturing Electric Cars. The EESL has played the role of the main facilitator in providing these e-vehicles to various Government agencies.

## Prelims Factoids: Journalist Ravish Kumar Wins 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award

### THE 2019 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES



### Relevance IN – Prelims (about Ramon Magsaysay award)

#### What's the NEWS

- Eminent journalist Ravish Kumar wins Magsaysay Award for 2019 on August 2, 2019. Ramon Magsaysay Award is the highest honour given to Asian individuals and organisations.
- Ravish Kumar has been awarded for “harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless”. This award is known as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

#### Know! more about it

- Ravish Kumar is among the five recipients of Ramon Magsaysay Award. The award citation says that Ravish Kumar's 'Prime Time' programme deals with real-life, under-reported problems of ordinary people.
- The award citation describes Ravish Kumar as a sober, well-informed and incisive anchor who has been highly vocal on insisting that the professional values of balanced, fact-based reporting be upheld in practice.

#### Know! the other winners of Magsaysay Award 2019

- Apart from Ravish Kumar, the other winners of the Magsaysay Award 2019 are - Myanmar's Ko Swe Win (Journalist), Thailand's Angkhana Neelapajit (Human Rights Activist), Philippines' Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Musician), and South Korea's Kim Jong-Ki (Activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth).

## **Know! about Ramon Magsaysay Award**

- Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 by trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.
- The award is also known as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- The award is named after the 3rd president of Republic of Philippines Ramon Magsaysay.
- Awardees are presented with a certificate and a medallion with an embossed image of Ramon Magsaysay facing right in profile

## **The Previous Indian Winners**

- RK Laxman, P Sainath, Arun Shourie, Kiran Bedi and Arvind Kejriwal

## **State Specific: Rajasthan Assembly passes anti-mob lynching bill**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the provisions of anti-mob lynching bill)***

#### **What's the NEWS**

- Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on August 6, 2019, passed a bill against mob lynching and honour killing in the state. In the case of the victim's death, the bill provides a fine up to Rs 5 lakh and life imprisonment to convicts involved in mob lynching

#### **Know! more about the bill provisions**

- The bill defines lynching as “an act or series of acts of violence or those of aiding, abetting or attempting an act of violence, whether spontaneous or preplanned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation or ethnicity”.
- The anti-mob-lynching bill proposes imprisonment up to seven years and a fine up to Rs. 1 lakh in case of the victim suffering simple injuries.
- The convicts will get jail terms up to 10 years and a fine of Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 3 lakh in case of an assault by mob or victim suffering serious injuries.
- In case of victim's death, the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019 provides for life imprisonment and a fine from Rs. 1 to 5 lakh to those convicted in cases of mob lynching.
- The Bill was introduced to ensure that the incidents of mob lynching are not repeated in the State. Among the total number of mob lynching cases happened in India after 2014, 86% of cases of mob lynching reported in the Rajasthan.

## **State Specific: Rajasthan launches new higher education model**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RACE)***

#### **What's the NEWS**

- A new higher education model has been launched in Rajasthan for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalise the availability of resources.
- The model will create a pool for sharing of facilities which will benefit the colleges lacking infrastructure.

#### **Know! more about RACE**

- The state government inaugurated the model, titled Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence through which all the colleges would get equal opportunities for imparting quality education with the adoption of the new model.
- The colleges in need will submit their requirement to the nodal college in the district, which will send the teachers on deputation, if needed, and provide the facilities such as projectors, digital libraries, equipment and technicians.
- The model will help the colleges situated in small towns facing shortage of faculties and infrastructure.
- Though the sanctioned posts of teachers in the government colleges are 6,500, the State at present falls short by about 2,000 teachers.
- Until the additional posts are created and new appointments made, the RACE is expected to help channelise resources and ensure quality education.

- RACE will give autonomy to small colleges and help them find solutions to their problems at local level. It will also help colleges situated in small towns facing shortage of faculties and infrastructure

## Prelims Factoids: Pranab Mukherjee conferred Bharat Ratna, Bhupen Hazarika and Nanaji Deshmukh conferred posthumously



### What's the NEWS

- The President conferred the Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian honour) posthumously upon late singer Bhupen Hazarika and late RSS leader Nanaji Deshmukh and Former President Pranab Mukherjee
- The Bharat Ratna was conferred after a gap of four years. In 2015, the Modi Government had conferred the prestigious honour upon former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and founder of Banaras Hindu University Madan Mohan Malviya.
- With the latest conferral, the total number of Bharat Ratna awardees has gone up to 48.

### Pranab Mukherjee

- Pranab Mukherjee was the 13th President of India and had served between 2012 and 2017. He became the fifth president to receive the Bharat Ratna.
- The other Presidents to receive the nation's highest civilian honour include Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Zakir Hussain and VV Giri.
- Pranab Mukherjee, at the age of 47, had become India's youngest Finance Minister in 1982. He was chosen to lead key ministers including external affairs, defence and finance from 2004. He became the first President to have this distinction.

### Bhupen Hazarika

- Bhupen Hazarika, popular Assamese musician and filmmaker, played a huge role in bringing the culture and folk music of Assam and north-east India to Hindi cinema. He was born on September 8, 1926 and passed away on November 5, 2011.
- Bhupen Hazarika was conferred the Padma Shri in 1977, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987, Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 1992, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan posthumously in 2012.
- Bhupen Hazarika was multi-talented, as he was a singer, playback singer, lyricist, poet, musician and filmmaker. He had done his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1952.
- Hazarika also had a brief stint in politics, as he had been fielded by the BJP from the Guwahati Lok Sabha seat in 2004 but was unsuccessful. Earlier, he had served as an Independent MLA in Assam between 1967 and 1972.

### Nanaji Deshmukh

- Nanaji Deshmukh was born on October 11, 1916 in Hingoli, Maharashtra. Deshmukh had set up a chain of

RSS-inspired schools throughout India and was associated with the RSS till his death in 2010 at the age of 94 in Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

- Deshmukh had played a leading role in the formation of the Janata Party government in 1977 and was one of the key members of the JP Narayan's movement against the Emergency in 1975.

## Prelims Factoids: 100th birth anniversary of Vikram Sarabhai



### *Relevance IN – Prelims (all about Vikram Sarabhai)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- India is celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of award-winning Indian physicist, industrialist, and innovator Vikram Sarabhai. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is also known as the father of Indian space programme as he established the Indian National Committee for Space Research which was later renamed as ISRO.

#### **Know! about Vikram Sarabhai**

- Vikram Sarabhai was born on August 12, 1919, in Ahmadabad. His family was dedicated to the Indian Independence Movement.
- He founded Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmadabad at the age of 28.
- He was much interested in cosmic rays, rockets, and satellites. Dr. Sarabhai believed in using science and technology as levers of development.
- Father of India's nuclear science program, Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, supported Dr. Sarabhai to establish the first rocket launching station in India.
- As a result, the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station was established in southern India, which had its first successful launch on November 21st, 1963.
- Vikram Sarabhai's dream of an Indian satellite was realized when Aryabhata went into orbit in 1975
- The Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was launched during July 1975 - July 1976 as a result of Dr. Sarabhai's dialogue with NASA in 1966.
- Vikram Sarabhai always wanted to spread science education in the country and founded a Community Science Centre at Ahmedabad in 1966. This centre is known as Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre today.

## Prelims Factoids: 20 persons, three organisations conferred with National Youth Awards for 2016-17; International Youth Day: 2019

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about National youth award and International youth day)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju conferred the National Youth Awards for 2016-17 on twenty individuals and three organisations on the occasion of International Youth Day.



### **Know! more about the award**

- The awards are presented to young persons and voluntary organization every year in recognition of their outstanding work in the field of national development and social service.
- The awards aim towards encouraging them to develop a sense of responsibility to the community and also to improve their own potential as a good citizen.

### **About International Youth Day**

- India observed the International Youth Day by conferring the National Youth Awards for excellent work and contribution in different fields of development and social service.
- The International Youth Day was observed across the world on August 12 to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of the society. The 2019 theme of the day is “Transforming education”.
- The UN General Assembly first designated August 12 as International Youth Day in 1999

### **Know! more about International Youth day**

- The International youth day 2019 theme “Transforming education” emphasizes on the efforts to make education more accessible and inclusive to the youth.
- In line with the Goal 4 of 2030 SDG to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, the International Youth Day aims to highlight how the governments and youth-led and youth-focused organizations are transforming education to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The International Youth Day aims to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.
- According to the United Nations, there are roughly around 1.8 billion young people between the age group of 10 and 24 in the world. This is the largest youth population ever. However, more than half of these young people aged between 6 and 14 years lack basic reading and maths skills, despite attending school. This fact threatens to severely hamper the progress of the 2030 SDG Agenda.
- The International Youth Day is being co-organised by the UN’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNESCO.

## State specific: J-K to host 3-day global investors summit in Srinagar from October 12

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about this global investors summit)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- Seeking to attract businesses to Jammu and Kashmir, the state administration announced a three-day global investors summit to be held in Srinagar from October 12.

#### **Know! about this meet and the benefits of it**

- The meet will provide J-K an opportunity to showcase its strengths, strategies and potential, the state's Principal Secretary (Industries), Naveen Choudhary, told reporters here.
- It will also help allay fears and apprehensions in the minds of trade and business communities outside the state, he added.
- The announcement comes a week after the Centre scrapped special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution. Among the reasons cited was that the provision had restricted the state's industrial growth and development.
- The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will be the national partner for the investors meet. An MoU has been signed by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) and CII for organisation and management of the event
- Trade and industry organisations will come to know first hand about the business- friendly policies of the government, assess infrastructure, natural resources, raw material and skill and un-skilled manpower available and identify business opportunities in the state.
- It will present immense opportunities to develop contacts between the state and business community and between local and outside business communities, he said.
- With effect from October 31, Jammu and Kashmir will be bifurcated into two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, as a bill in this regard was passed by Parliament and given Presidential assent.

## State Specific: Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about mission reach out)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- The Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- A high level "Mission Reach Out" conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station on Saturday, which was chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, they said.

#### **Know! more about Mission reach out**

- The Corps commander lauded the absolute synergy between the Army, civil administration and other security establishments in maintaining peace, harmony and a conducive environment, the officials said.
- The Corps commander informed about the numerous initiatives undertaken by the Army under 'Mission Reach Out'.



- Among these are mobile medical care units with essential medicines and lady medical officers, wherever necessary, providing water in locations where the supply was disrupted, provision of essentials, including rations, assistance in transportation of patients to hospitals, facilitating people to speak to their near and dear ones through Army exchange and creating a safe environment for ATMs, banks and hospitals to function

## Defence: Pilot Abhinandan Varthaman awarded Vir Chakra On Independence Day

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about Vir Chakra + about dog fight)*

#### What's the NEWS

- Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman emerged a national hero after he shot down a Pakistani F-16 fighter jet on February 27 during a dogfight near the Line of Control.
- Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who spent nearly 60 hours in Pakistan's custody after his MiG-21 Bison was shot down by Pakistan Air Force F-16s in February, awarded the Vir Chakra gallantry medal on Independence Day.
- Wing Commander Varthaman emerged a national hero after he shot down a Pakistani F-16 fighter jet on February 27 during a dogfight near the Line of Control. He was captured by Pakistani forces and returned to India three days later, on March 1.
- The dogfight took place a day after Indian Air Force jets bombed terror camps in Pakistan's Balakot after 40 soldiers were killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama by a suicide bomber of the Jaish-e-Mohammed.
- Vir Chakra is presented for acts of bravery on the battlefield. Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal who also played an important role in the Balakot airstrikes will be awarded the Yudh Seva Medal.

## Prelims Factoids: Panchamirtham' of Palani temple gets GI tag

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about panchamirtham)*

#### What's the NEWS

- The famous Palani panchamirtham, given as 'prasadam' at the Murugan temple there, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This is the first time a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu has been bestowed with the GI tag. The application was filed by the Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Thirukkcoil, North Giriveethi, Adivaram, Palani.
- It takes total number of such indigenous products from Tamil Nadu that have been accorded GI tag to 29.

#### Know! about Panchamirtham

- It is an 'abhishega prasadam' (food that is a religious offering), which is served in a semi-solid state.
- In Tamil, term 'pancha' means five and 'amirtham' means delicacy. It is combination of five natural substances
- The geographical area for production of Palani Panchamirtham is not just Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple, but entire Palani town in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu.

#### Know! about Geographical Indication

- It defines goods as originating in territory of a country or a region or locality in that territory, provided a given quality reputation or other characteristics of the product are attributable to its geographical origin.
- The product to acquire GI tag has to indicate that it is of particular origin and has certain unique quality or reputation or some other characteristics, which is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.
- In India, GI tag is given by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, who is Registrar of Geographical Indications (under Union ministry of commerce & industry) under statutory provisions of Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999

## Piyush Goyal inducts first CORAS commandos in railways

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about CORAS)

#### What's the NEWS

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal inducted the Commando for Railway Security (CORAS) and promised to set up a commando training centre in Haryana to modernize and train commandos of the Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- These CORAS commandos will be posted in Left extremist wing affected areas, northeastern region and Jammu and Kashmir where providing security to the passengers and the railway network is of utmost priority.
- A new state-of-the-art commando training centre for RPF will be started in Jagadhri (in Haryana) which will have access to latest technology and equipment.”
- It is separate Commando Unit of Railway Protection Force (RPF). It has been carved out from motivated and willing young staff of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF).



## Tribal Affairs: “Aadi Mahotsav” Begins at Leh-Ladakh

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about Aadi Mahotsav + TRIFED) Mains (GS II Social justice + welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections of the population by the centre and state

#### What's the NEWS

- Aadi Mahotsav (National Tribal Festival), a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) begins at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh.
- The 9 day event from 17th August till 25th August, 2019 was inaugurated by Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs
- The theme of the festival is: “Acelebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce”. TRIFED essentially is to play the role of a ‘Service provider’ & ‘Market Developer’.

#### Know! more about the fest

- The first of its kind event in Leh-Ladakh will see around 160 Tribal artisans from more than 20 states across the country, actively participating and showcasing their masterpieces.



- The product range will comprise of Tribal Textiles from Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal; Tribal Jewellery from Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and North East; Tribal Paintings like Gond art from Madhya Pradesh, Warli art from Maharashtra; Metal craft from Chhattisgarh; Black pottery from Manipur, and Naturals and Organic products from Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

### **Steps taken by the Tribal ministry for the overall development of tribal people**

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is committed for the overall development of tribal people across the country who are deprived of the benefits of the many schemes of the government.
- The Government plans to setup 3000 Van DhanVikasKendras (VDVK) across the country in 2019-20 which include 13 VDVKs planned to setup in Ladakh, the Minister added.
- Now the products of Tribal artisans are being marketed all over the country through 104 retail outlets run by TRIBES India and to 190 countries across the country through Amazon, with whom TRIBES India has an agreement.
- The tribes constitute over 8% of the country's population. This is a very significant number. In real terms it corresponds to over 10 crore Indians. More than 70% population of Ladakh region are tribes. The government has conceptualized of organizing AadiMahotsav in Leh-Ladakh in Arptil 2019.
- As the name of this event AadiMahotsav suggests, it is the 'adi' factor that is important about them. The Adivasi way of life is guided by primal truths, eternal values and a natural simplicity.

### **Know! about TRIFED**

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987.
- It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India. TRIFED has its registered and Head Office located in New Delhi and has a network of 13 Regional Offices located at various places in the country.
- TRIFED is engaged in procurement and marketing of tribal art and craft items through its chain of 40 retail outlets called TRIBES INDIA which offers a range of tribal products, which include Metal Craft Tribal Textiles Jewellery Tribal Paintings
- Through this initiative TRIFED provides a platform through which tribals products can be marketed in retail directly to the consumers and in the process ensures that tribal gets a fair price

## **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship: India's participation at WorldSkills International Competition**

### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about WorldSkills Kazan 2019)**

#### **What's the NEWS**

- The 48-member Indian Team representing the country at WorldSkills Kazan 2019 was given a grand send-off, organized by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), to motivate the participants as they gear up to pit their skills against the best in the world. India is the sixth largest team that will take part in the competition.

### **Know! more about World Skills International Competition**

- Nearly 1,500 competitors from 60 countries will compete in 56 skill competitions at this mega event in Kazan, Russia on August 22-27.
- The 48-member Indian team will participate in 44 skills, including mobile robotics, prototype modelling, hairdressing, baking, confectionary & patisserie, welding, brick laying, car painting, floristry, etc. Forty-four experts and 14 interpreters are also accompanying the participants to Kazan.
- In 2017, a 28-strong contingent took part in the WorldSkills International at Abu Dhabi, winning one silver, one bronze and nine Medallions of Excellence.
- Karnataka and four from Uttar Pradesh. Over 50,000 youth had registered for the IndiaSkills Competitions that was organized across several legs last year.

## Prelims Factoids: World Humanitarian Day 2019

### What's the NEWS

- The world humanitarian day 2019 was observed on August 19, 2019. The day is observed annually to pay tribute to the humanitarian aid workers who endanger their lives for humanitarian service as well as to rally support for the people affected by crisis across the world.
- The world humanitarian day 2019 theme is 'Women Humanitarians'.
- The world humanitarian day 2019 campaign aims to celebrate the unsung women humanitarians who have been working on the front lines for the survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises in their own communities in some of the most difficult regions including Afghanistan, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen and hundreds of those who lost their lives while serving humanity.
- Women make up a large number of people who endanger their own lives to save others. Women humanitarians are often known to be the first to respond to a crisis and last to leave. Hence, such women deserve a mention and celebration. Women Humanitarians are crucial for today's time to strengthen the global humanitarian response.
- Women form more than half of the Red Cross or Red Crescent volunteers around the world and are among the first to respond in case of disasters, epidemics and conflicts.
- Women involve themselves in every aspect of crisis response including search and rescue, assessing needs, looking after the elderly and using social media to convey relevant information.
- The world humanitarian day is observed annually on August 19, as on the same day in 2003, a terrorist attack at the UN headquarters in Baghdad led to the killing of UN's top representative to Iraq, Sérgio Vieira de Mello and 21 of his colleagues. Five years later, the UN General Assembly officially adopted a resolution designating 19th August as the world humanitarian day.

## Prelims Factoids: Five new fish species discovered from Arunachal Pradesh

### What's the NEWS

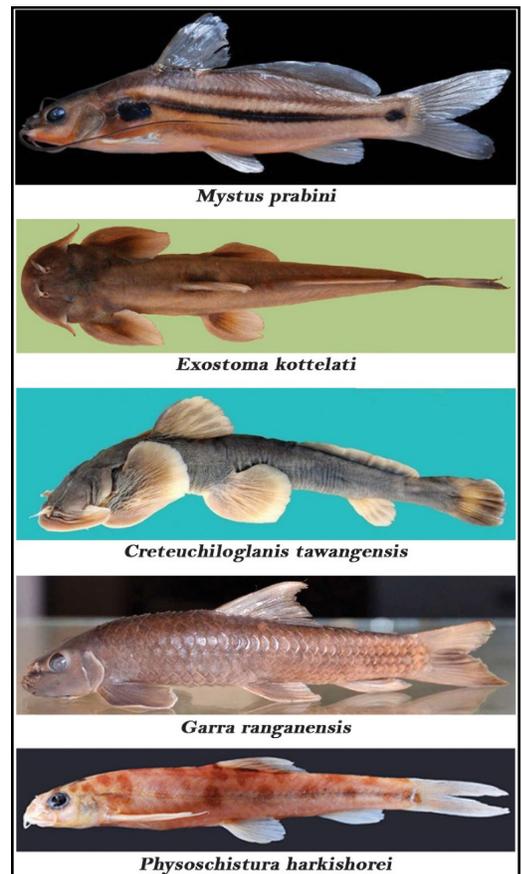
- Five more species of fish were discovered from Arunachal Pradesh by a fisheries and aquatic ecology research team led by Prof DN Das from Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) recently.

### Know! more about the discovered fish

- The discovery and descriptions of the fish species have been published in various journals of international repute, according to a release from RGU's zoology department.

### The newly discovered species include the

1. *Mystus prabini* (discovered in Sinkin and the Dibang rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district)
2. the *Exostoma kottelati* (discovered in the Ranga river in Lower Subansiri district)
3. the *Creteuchiloglanis tawangensis* (discovered in the Tawangchu river in Tawang district)
4. the *Garra ranganensis* (discovered in the Ranga river); and
5. the *Physoschistura harkishorei* (discovered in the Dibang and the Lohit rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district).



## Cabinet meeting

**Relevance IN – Prelims (factual information regarding the cabinet decisions) + GS II and III – government policies and interventions for the development of various sector + economic development)**

### Highlights

- Approval for 75 new medical colleges; FDI norms eased for single brand retail, digital media, manufacturing. The Cabinet has approved 75 new medical colleges, to be established by 2021-22.
- Prakash Javadekar said that Cabinet has approved Establishment of an International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

### Know! the important takeaways of the cabinet meeting

- The government will start 75 new medical colleges in the country, announced Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar after a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- The new medical colleges, to be opened in unreserved districts, will be built at the expenditure of Rs 24,375 crore and will add 15,700 more MBBS seats,
- The government also announced a Rs 6,268 crore subsidy for export of 6 million tonnes of sugar during the 2019-20 marketing year starting October in order to liquidate surplus domestic stock and help mills in clearing huge sugarcane arrears to farmers.
- A lump sum export subsidy of Rs 10,448 per tonne will be given to sugar mills in the 2019-20 marketing year (October-September), costing the exchequer Rs 6,268 crore as a subsidy
- The cabinet has also establishment of an International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), adding that the prime minister will launch CDRI during UN Climate Summit in New York on 23rd September 2019.
- The government has relaxed Foreign Direct Investment rule for foreign single-brand retailers and also permitted foreign investment in contract manufacturing and coal mining. 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in coal mining and associated infrastructure has been approved.
- To boost domestic manufacturing, 100 per cent FDI in contract manufacturing under automatic route has been allowed, adding that 26 per cent FDI has been allowed in digital media.
- On FDI in single-brand retailing, the Cabinet has expanded the definition of mandatory 30 per cent domestic sourcing norm. It also allowed single-brand retailers to start online sales, waiving the previous condition of setting up a mandatory brick-and-mortar store.

## Prelims Factoids: Rare tarantula sighted in Villupuram district



***The known habitat of Peacock Parachute Spider is in degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh***

**Relevance IN – Prelims (Peacock Parachute Spider)**

## What's the NEWS

- In an interesting find, researchers have sighted a critically endangered species of tarantula for the first time beyond its known habitat in the Eastern Ghats.

### Know! more about it

- The spider belonging to the genus *Poecilotheria*, commonly known as the Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula was spotted by a team of researchers of the Puducherry-based Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district.
- The team of wildlife researchers was involved in field work in the reserve forests recently when they sighted a Gooty Tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*) resting in a cave.
- The species was later cross-matched with photographic evidence published by the Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society.
- The species, known to be endemic to India, was found at different locations in the reserve forests. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorised it as Critically Endangered.
- The spider was sighted way back in 1899 by Reginald Innes Pocock on the basis of a single female specimen in Gooty. About 102 years later this species has been recorded at degraded forest between Nandyal and Giddalur in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.

## Consumer Affairs: National Lab Directory

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about National lab directory)

#### What's the NEWS

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched the National Lab Directory which is a one-stop-shop for all testing needs of the industries, academia, researchers and other stakeholders who need to get their Testing Facilities accredited / certified / recognised.
- BIS has been setting good standards which match the global benchmark. 4500 labs have now been linked through this directory, which will provide one stop shop for testing where products can also be seen.

#### Know! all about the directory

- The National Lab Directory presently encompasses NABL accredited, BIS Recognised/Empanelled Labs, Hallmarking Labs.
- The labs which are recognised/notified by FASAI, APEDA, EIC, can also be indicated accordingly.
- All testing facilities for various labs can be searched by Products, IS standards, etc. Besides intelligent search cutting across various databases interlinked through APIs, there is an interactive Geographical Information System and Drill Down Dashboard.
- This Directory will benefit all stakeholders such as manufacturers, consumers, regulatory agencies, government and research institutions in identifying the test facilities that are required for assessing conformity of relevant products or in testing for the purpose of research and development.

## VP Naidu departs for 5-day visit to Baltic nations

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about the Baltic nations) + Mains (GS II India's foreign policy)

#### What's the NEWS

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu emplaned for a five-day visit to Lithuania Latvia and Estonia with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties with the three Baltic nations
- Naidu is the first high-level dignitary from India to visit the three countries.

#### Know! more about the visit

- The visit takes place in the context of increasing political engagement, as well as intensified trade and commercial ties. The visit of Vice President to the three Baltics countries is to advance India's outreach to the important countries in the region.



- This visit will also provide an opportunity to brief the Baltic countries and get their views on enhanced opportunities for cooperation, thus further strengthening our existing friendly ties. Notably, India and Baltic countries have historical connect and common linguistic roots.
- The cutting edge technology and innovation ecosystems of the Baltic countries complement India's huge market and appetite for these technologies.

## Prelims Factoids: Palani prasadam, Kerala betel vine, Mizo shawl get Geographical Indication tags

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about the GI tag and about the products)*

#### What's the NEWS

- A temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu, a woven fabric and a colourful shawl from Mizoram and a betel vine from Kerala are the latest products to have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the government.
- The GI under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has recently registered four new GIs. Palani Panchamirtham from Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the State of Mizoram and Tirur betel leaf from Kerala are the latest additions to the list of registered GIs
- A GI product is recognised as originating from a specific geographical origin possessing qualities or reputation related to its origin. The GI tag is exclusive and a similar item originating from a different location is not allowed to use it.

#### Know! more about these products

- Palani Panchamirtham, an 'abisega prasadam' from Palani Town is one of the main offerings to Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy, the presiding deity of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, situated in Palani Hills, Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu.



- Tawlhlohpuan, a compactly woven fabric from Mizoram, is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving and intricate designs that are made by hand, the release said. Tawlhlohpuan, which holds high significance in the Mizo society, is produced throughout the Mizoram — Aizawl and Thenzawl town being the main centres of production.



- The second product originating from Mizoram extended the GI status is the Mizo Puanchei, a colourful Mizo shawl considered essential by most women from the State and a common costume in Mizo festive dances and official ceremonies. The weavers insert the designs and motifs by using supplementary yarns while weaving to create this beautiful and alluring textile



- Tirur betel vine from Kerala, which is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District, is valued both for its mild stimulant action and medicinal properties.
- Though it is commonly used for making pan masala for chewing, it has many medicinal, industrial and cultural usages and is considered as a remedy for bad breath and digestive disorders
- GI products can benefit the rural economy in remote areas, by supplementing the incomes of artisans, farmers, weavers and craftsmen and the DPIIT has been taking initiatives to promote and market GI products.

## Government Schemes: Government to set up KABIL to ensure consistent supply of critical minerals

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about KABIL and its objective)*

#### **What's the NEWS**

- KABIL, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, a joint venture company will be set up soon to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the Indian domestic market.

#### **Know! more about it**

- KABIL will be set up in joint partnership between three Central Public Sector Enterprises including National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd (MECL).
- The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL in the company is in the ratio of 40:30:30.

#### **Know! the KABIL objective**

- KABIL's main objective will be to ensure a consistent supply of critical minerals to the Indian domestic market and the mineral security of the Nation.
- The company would also help in realizing the overall objective of import substitution.
- The Indian government has identified twelve minerals as strategic minerals that have a small resource base. Among these minerals, the most significant ones include Lithium and Cobalt.
- KABIL would mainly carry out exploration, identification, acquisition, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals abroad for commercial use in India.
- The company would also ensure that India's requirements of the strategic minerals are met.
- KABIL will help in building partnerships with other mineral-rich countries such as Australia and those in Africa and South America.

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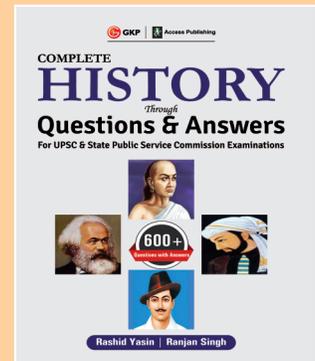
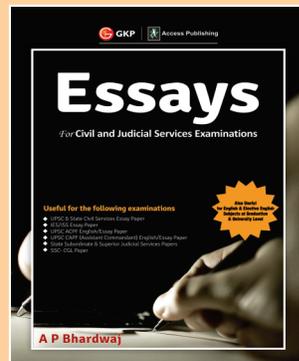
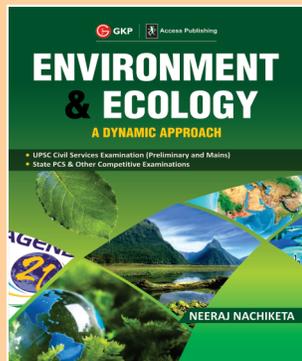
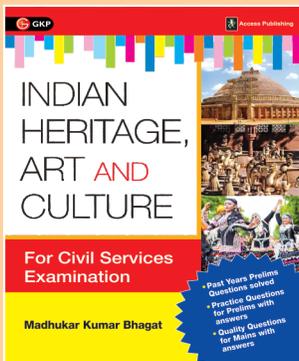
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