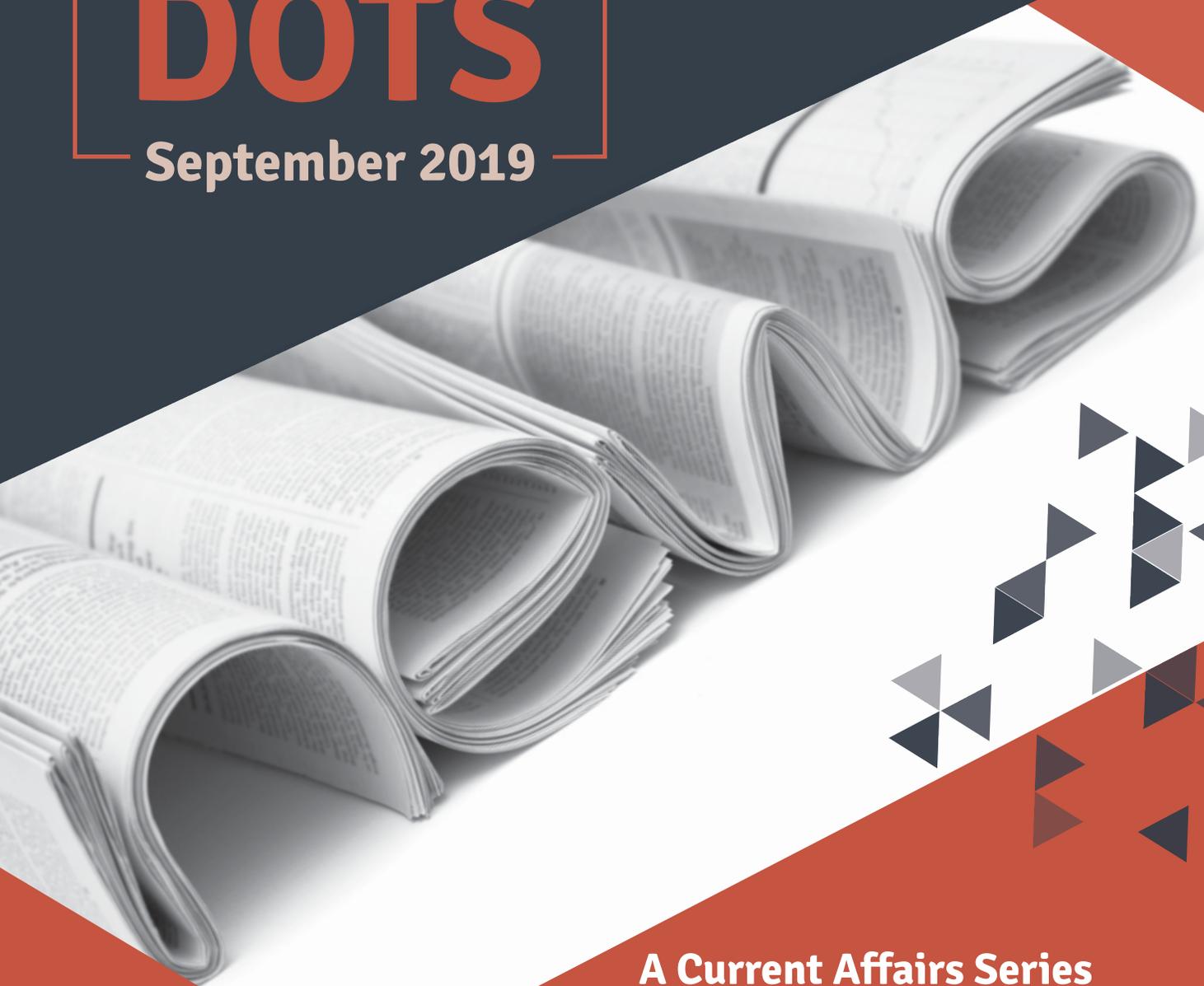


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September 2019



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## Compendium – September 2019

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**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! SEPTEMBER 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! SEPTEMBER 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.

For more information and more knowledge, you can go to our website <https://www.careerlauncher.com/upsc/>

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**All the best!!**

**Team CL**

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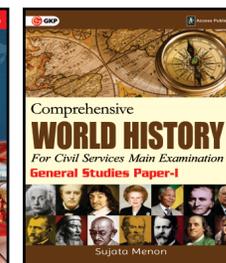
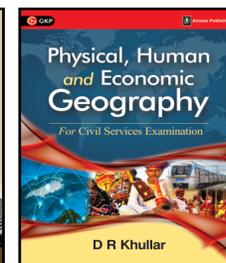
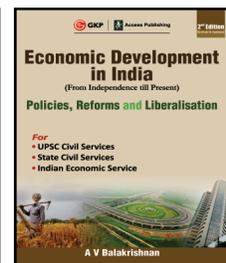
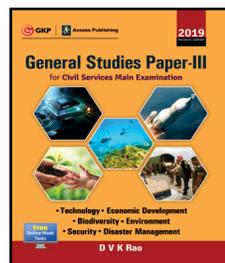
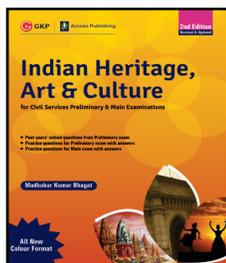
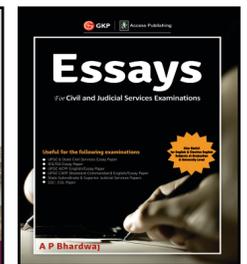
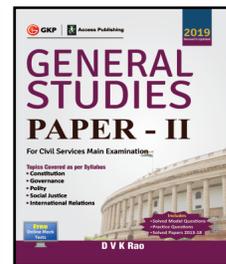
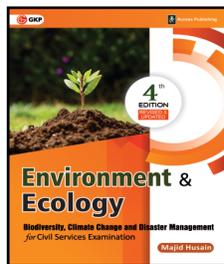
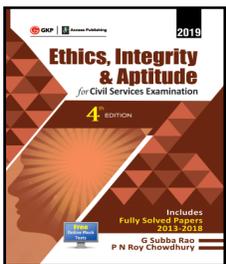
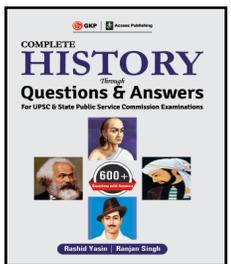
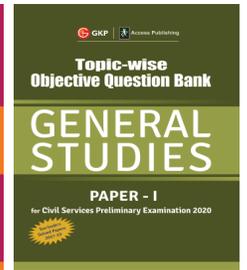
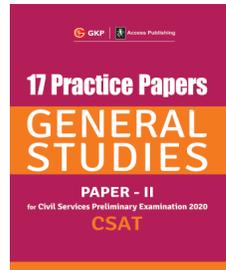
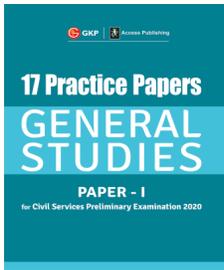
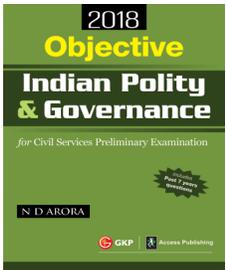
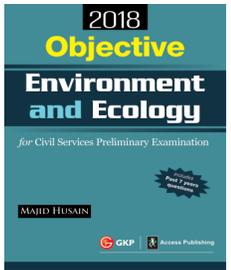
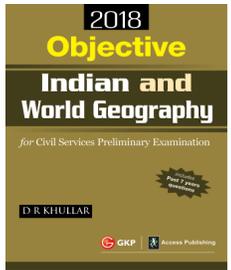
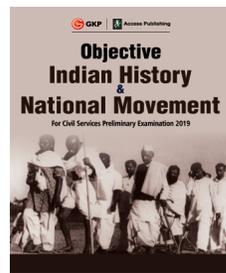
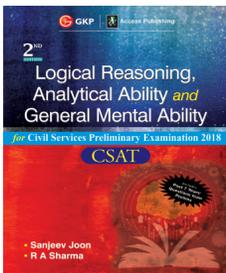
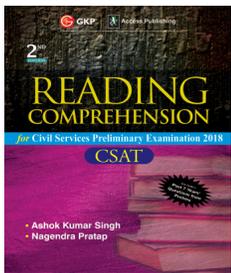
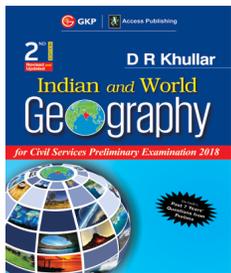
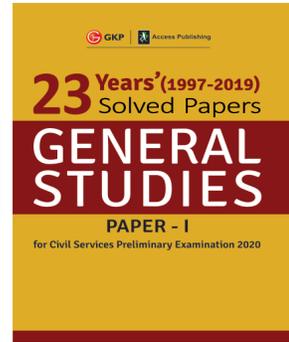
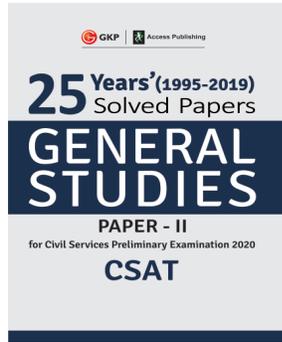
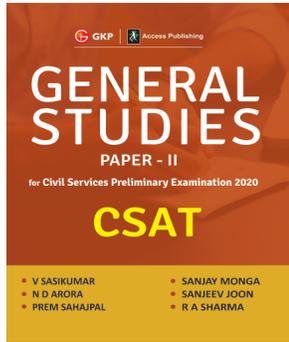
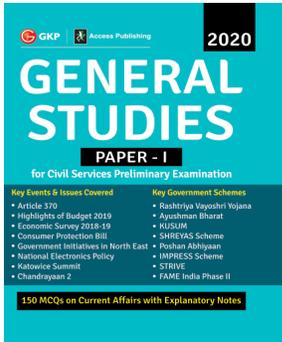
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# Bestsellers for Preliminary & Main Examinations



# **GENERAL STUDIES I**

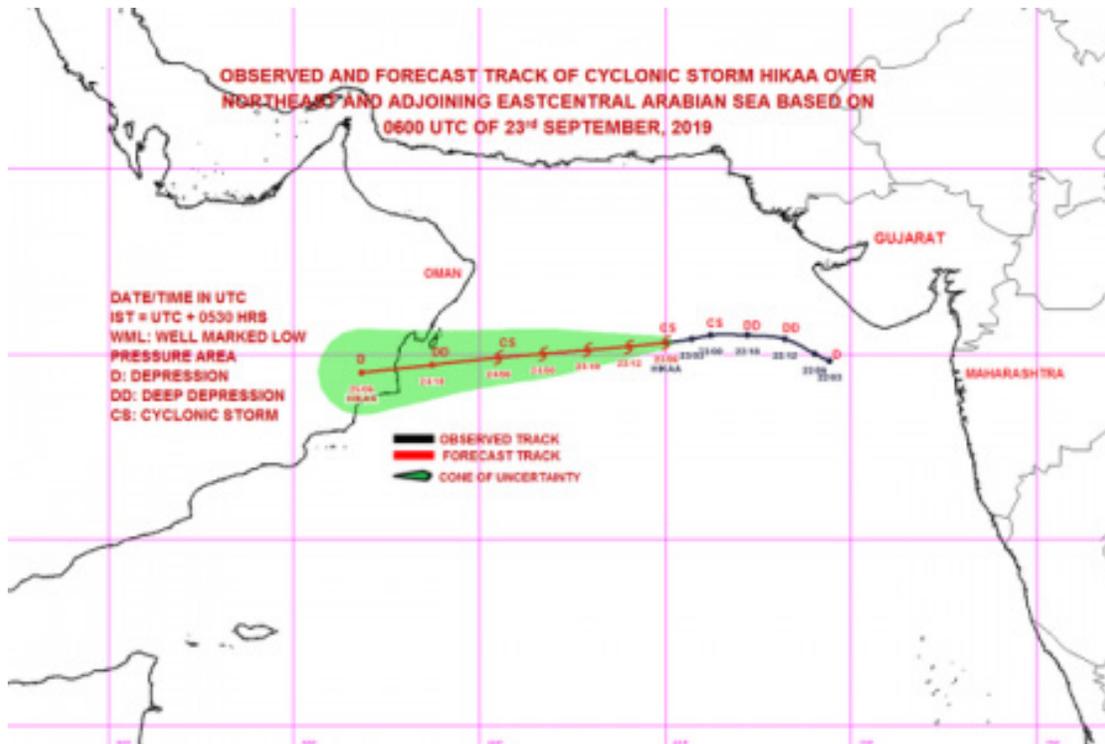
**Indian Heritage and Culture,  
History and Geography of  
World and Society**

# Join the dots!

## A current affairs series for UPSC Examination

### Geophysical Phenomena

#### Cyclonic Storm 'HIKAA'



**Relevance IN – Prelims (about tropical cyclone and its naming) + Mains (GS I Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.,**

#### What's the NEWS

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) informed that Cyclonic Storm 'Hikaa' will reach Oman coast by the early morning of September 25.
- Deep Depression over Arabian sea intensified into a Cyclonic Storm 'HIKAA' at 0530 IST of September 23 near latitude 20.5°N and longitude 66.2°E, 760 km east-southeast of Masirah (Oman).
- The **Cyclonic Storm 'HIKAA'** over northeast and adjoining east central Arabian sea moved nearly westwards
- It is likely to intensify further during next 24 hours and weaken gradually thereafter. It is very likely to move nearly westwards and cross Oman coast between latitude 19°N and 20°N during early hours of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as a deep depression.

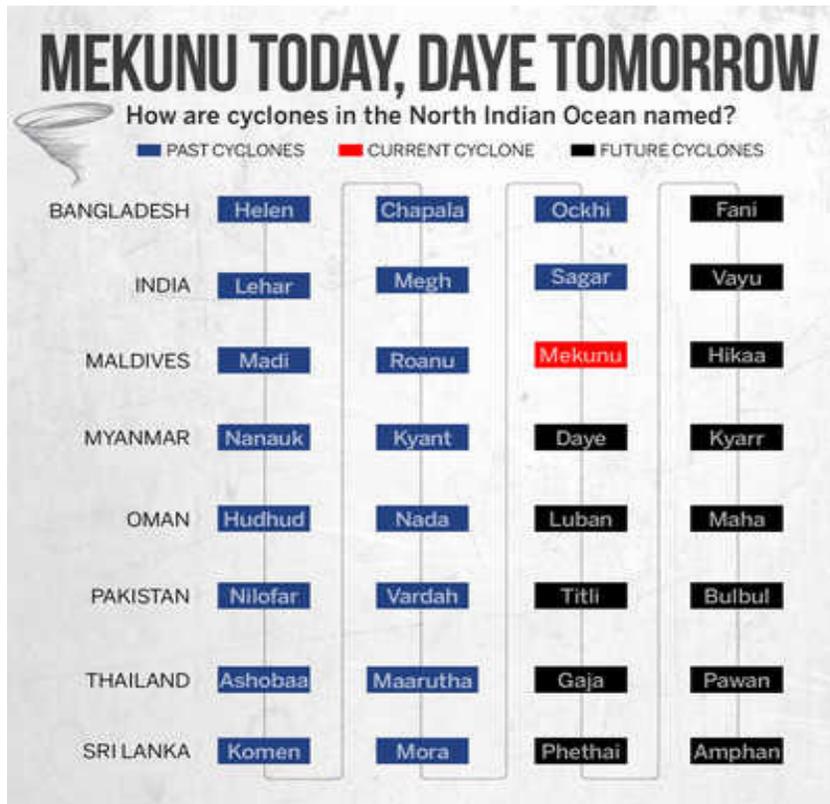
#### Know! the Practice of naming tropical cyclones

- The practice of naming these tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea began in September 2004. Before that the names were given arbitrarily
- India has contributed to the list of cyclones with names such as Agni, Aakash, Bijli, Jal, Lehar and Vayu. Besides, **seven other south-east Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, are part of the group.**
- The names are sequentially listed in a table of 8x8, following the alphabetical order of the names of the seven countries.

- As per the existing list, the next cyclone that forms over the Indian Ocean will be named Hikaa (Maldives), followed by Kyarr (Myanmar), Maha (Oman), Bulbul (Pakistan), Pawan (Sri Lanka), and Amphan (Thailand).



- The name Vayu is contributed by India and Hikaa and Kyarr by Maldives and Myanmar respectively
- Once the list is exhausted, the committee would meet again, and a fresh list will be prepared by the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC). Countries generally do not repeat the names of cyclones and retire the name once the cyclone dissipates.



### Know! about Tropical Cyclone

- A tropical cyclone is a rapidly rotating storm system characterized by a low-pressure center, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, and a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce heavy rain or squalls.

- Depending on its location and strength, a tropical cyclone is referred to by different names, including hurricane, typhoon, tropical storm, cyclonic storm, tropical depression, and simply cyclone.
- A hurricane is a tropical cyclone that occurs in the Atlantic Ocean and north eastern Pacific Ocean, and a typhoon occurs in the north western Pacific Ocean; in the south Pacific or Indian Ocean, comparable storms are referred to simply as “tropical cyclones” or “severe cyclonic storms”

## Indian Heritage and culture: 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Vaidyaratnam, Shri P.S. Varier



### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about Vaidyaratnam, Shri P.S. Varier) + Mains (GS I Indian heritage and culture)**

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

- The Vice-President of India Inaugurated the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Vaidyaratnam, Shri P.S. Varier, at Kottakkal in Kerala

#### **Know! all about Vaidyaratnam P.S. Varier**

- Vaidyaratnam P.S. Varier, a great visionary who brought about a renaissance of Ayurveda, over the course of the last century.
- Vaidyaratnam P. S. Varier (1869–1944) was an Ayurvedic physician from Kerala, India. He is well-regarded as the founder of Kottakkal Arya Vaidyasala, a major Ayurvedic treatment centre in Kerala.
- In 1902, Varier founded Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala for the manufacture and sale of ayurvedic medicines which later became synonymous with ayurvedic treatment in India.
- The Patasala established in 1917 has now become an Ayurveda College affiliated to Calicut University.
- Varier is credited with pioneering the practice of manufacturing ayurvedic medicines.
- He also wrote text books for students of Ayurveda. One of them, Ashtangasariram, won a certificate in 1932 from the National Organisation of Physicians
- His karma mandala, as all of us know, was primarily the organising, updating and contemporising of the traditional Indian health care science of Ayurveda.
- He was also a successful Institution builder. The 117 year-old Arya Vaidya Sala, 100 year-old Ayurveda College, 87 year-old Vishwambhara Temple, 85 year-old Herb Garden of AVS and the 80 year-old Kathakali academy here are living monuments of his institution-building efforts.
- P.S. Varier was an exceptional person, an effective clinician with a unique healing touch, an academician-cum-educator par-excellence, a benevolent entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a man of letters, a promoter of fine arts and above all a representative of Indian renaissance.



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 **INQUIZITIVE MINDS**

# **GENERAL STUDIES II**

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

## Election Commission: ECI to host the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies



***Relevance IN – Prelims (about A- WEB) Mains (GS II electoral reforms + salient features of the representation of people’s act)***

### **What’s the NEWS**

- The Election Commission of India is scheduled to host the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru on 3rd September 2019.
- India will take over as A-WEB’s Chair for the 2019-21 term. Over 50 countries across the globe will join the meeting at Bengaluru from 02nd to 04th September, 2019.
- An International Conference on “Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections” will also be held on 04th September, 2019.

### **Know! more about A-WEB**

- The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) is the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.
- A-WEB was established on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea. The permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located at Seoul.
- A-WEB’s vision is to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide.
- Its activities are guided by its mission to identify latest trends, challenges and developments in democratic electoral management and electoral processes and to facilitate appropriate exchange of experience and expertise among members with the objective of strengthening electoral democracy worldwide.
- Election Commission of India has been very closely associated with the process of formation of A-WEB since 2011-12.
- ECI has been its Executive Board Member since AWEB’s inception in October 2013 for two consecutive terms (2013-15 and 2015-17).
- At present A-WEB has 115 EMBs as Members & 20 Regional Associations/Organisations as Associate Members.
- ECI will continue to remain on the Executive Board of A-WEB for 2021-23 in its capacity as immediate former Chair of A-WEB. The current Executive Board of AWEB 2017-19 has 21 members . India will take over as Chair of A-WEB for 2019-2021 term.

## Know! more about A-WEB

- A-WEB was founded with the shared vision among its members of achieving sustainable democracy around the world.
- A-WEB aims at strengthening the processes of election management in member countries.
- Since, its inception A-WEB has undertaken election ICT Programmes in various countries like Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Papua Guinea and Samoa.
- A-WEB also undertakes Election Visitor and Observation Programmes in various countries to study various election management practices and share knowledge with other Member of EMBs

## Health Sector: 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

*Relevance IN - Prelims (about WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia) + Mains (GS II issues relating to development and management of various sector/services relating to health)*



## What's the NEWS

- Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia and he was also unanimously elected as Chair of the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.
- Eight Ministers of Health from the 11 countries of the WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR), were also present at the inaugural session. This is the second time that India is hosting the Regional Committee meeting; the previous one was also hosted by India in New Delhi.

## Know! the step taken by India in Health Sector

- The government is observing the entire month of September as “Poshan Maah” (Nutrition Month) to sensitize the public towards healthy eating, address the twin issues of malnutrition/undernutrition and problem of obesity in some sections of the population, and intensifying the campaign towards a ‘Malnutrition-Free India’.
- India is passing through an epidemiological shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases, and the burden of diet-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity is rising rapidly. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has adopted a “food systems approach” to ensure our citizens have access to safe and healthy food,
- Citizens are being sensitized through a people’s movement called ‘Eat Right India’. “It’s tagline, Sahi Bhojan. Behtar Jeevan’ – ‘Right diet leads to better quality life’ depicts India’s commitment to preventive and promotive healthcare as an important pillar of our health policy

- The launch of 'Fit India' Movement' coinciding with the National Sports day celebrations. This campaign aims at encouraging people to include physical activity and sports as a routine in their everyday life.
- This, along with Eat Right India campaign, will help us to fight lifestyle diseases like hypertension, obesity and diabetes effectively
- Ayushman Bharat is India's road to Universal Health Care. The first component of this is establishing 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres by the year 2022, which shall provide an entire gamut of preventive healthcare.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, is aimed at providing health protection cover to over 100 million poor and vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care including pre- and post-hospitalization expenses.
- Key features include health cover of up to Rs. Five hundred thousand per family. A total of 17,000 hospitals have been empanelled so far under this scheme.
- More than 4.1 million persons have become beneficiaries under this scheme and have thus saved a total of an approximate 120 billion Indian Rupees on health expenditure.
- A plan to increase full immunization coverage to 90% people through intensification of campaigns under Mission Indradhanush.
- The range of diseases covered under Universal Immunization Program has also been increased with inclusion of Rotavirus, Pneumococcal and Measles Rubella Vaccines.

### **Know! about WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR)**

- The Regional Committee for South-East Asia is the World Health Organization's governing body in the South-East Asia Region, with representatives from all 11 Member States of the Region.
- It meets in September every year to review progress in health development in the Region, formulate resolutions on health issues for the Member States, as well as to consider the regional implications of World Health Assembly resolutions, among others.

## **Health and Family Welfare: India announces contribution of 22 mn USD to GFTAM for 6th replenishment cycle**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM) + Mains (GS II Issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relation to health***

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

- India has announced a contribution of 22 million US Dollars to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM) for the 6th replenishment cycle (2020-22), an increase of 10% over the amount contributed by us in the 5th cycle.

### **Know! more about Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM)**

- India stands firm to its long-standing partnership with the Global Fund and its commitment to eliminate AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- India's pledge for the Global Fund strongly demonstrates its strong political leadership to achieve the universal health for all and its equally strong commitment to work across borders to join hands in fighting the epidemics of these three diseases.
- India was the first implementing country to host a replenishment milestone of the Global Fund and now has become first among G20, BRICS and implementer countries to announce the pledge for the 6th Replenishment Conference, setting precedent for other donors to contribute generously for the cause.
- India shares a sustained partnership with the Global Fund since 2002 both as recipient and as a donor. Global Fund support with investment of US \$ 2.0 billion so far has made significant contribution in attaining targets related to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria reduction and escalating our fight against these three diseases.
- In the current funding cycle (2018-21), the Global Fund has allocated US\$ 500 million to India. As a donor, India has contributed US\$ 46.5 million so far till 2019 including US\$ 20 million for the 5th Replenishment.

## Bilateral Relations: Japan-India Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the various agreements between India – Japan) = Mains (GS II bilateral relations)**

### What's the NEWS

- Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India is on a bilateral visit to Japan from 2 to 3 September 2019.
- The two Ministers held the annual Defence Ministerial Meeting on 2 September 2019 in Tokyo.
- In this context, the Ministers affirmed their intention to hold the first Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue (2+2) ahead of the Japan-India Annual Summit this year for advancing cooperation towards peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

### Know! the other co operations between the two nations

- The Ministers welcomed that negotiations on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) have shown progress since the announcement of the commencement of negotiations in the Summit Meeting last year.
- The Ministers welcomed the steady progress in bilateral cooperation in the area of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) based on the Implementing Arrangement for Deeper Cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy signed last year.
- The Ministers welcomed that the first bilateral exercise between the JGSDF and the Indian Army in the area of counter-terrorism “Dharma Guardian” was held in the autumn of 2018.
- The Ministers welcomed that the Japan-India-U.S. trilateral maritime exercise “MALABAR 2019” will be held from late September to early October this year.
- The Ministers also welcomed that the second Japan-India-U.S. trilateral mine-countermeasures exercise (MINEX) was held in July this year, and expressed their resolve to continue the trilateral exercise in the same framework from next year onwards.
- The Ministers recognised the conduct of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) in 2018 and shared the view to conduct the exercise on a regular basis.
- The Ministers welcomed that ‘SHINYUU MAITRI 18’, the first bilateral exercise between the air components, was held in December 2018, and the coordination for the second round of the exercise has been smoothly proceeding.
- The Ministers also welcomed the first participation of the JASDF in the India-U.S. bilateral exercise “Cope India” as observers in December.

## India, Russia sign 15 agreements



## **Relevance IN – Prelims (about India – Russia relations) + Mains (GS II international relations)**

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

- India and Russia signed 15 agreements taking bilateral cooperation to a new high at the 20th annual summit.

### **Russia backed India on article 370**

- India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution was an internal matter and also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.
- Russia has backed India's move on Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the changes in the status are within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

### **Know! more about the agreements**

- The two leaders held the delegation-level talks at the India-Russia 20th Annual Summit after a two-hour tete-a-tete on board a ship, aimed at strengthening the special and privileged relationship between the two sides.
- The agreements were exchanged in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin after the restricted and delegation-level talks.
- The agreements include four in the area of oil and gas, LNG and coking coal, five in trade and investments, two in infrastructure and one each in defence and audio visual production.
- The MoU on defence is about the production of spare parts for Russian origin arms under Make-in-India program through joint ventures.
- The MoUs in infrastructure relate to the establishment of maritime links between Vladivostok and Chennai to improve connectivity.
- Other MoUs relate to the exploration of cooking coal in the Arctic region, sourcing LNG from Russia. An agreement has also been exchanged for combating customs violations during 2019-22.
- An agreement between Invest India and the Russian Direct Investment Fund has been signed for Investment Collaboration.
- The Russian President invited the Prime Minister to attend the 75th Victory Day to celebrate the victory of the USSR in the second world war, to be held in Moscow in May next year.

## **Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)**



**Eastern  
Economic  
Forum**

**4-6 September, 2019**

 **ROSCONGRESS**

 **Vladivostok, Russia**

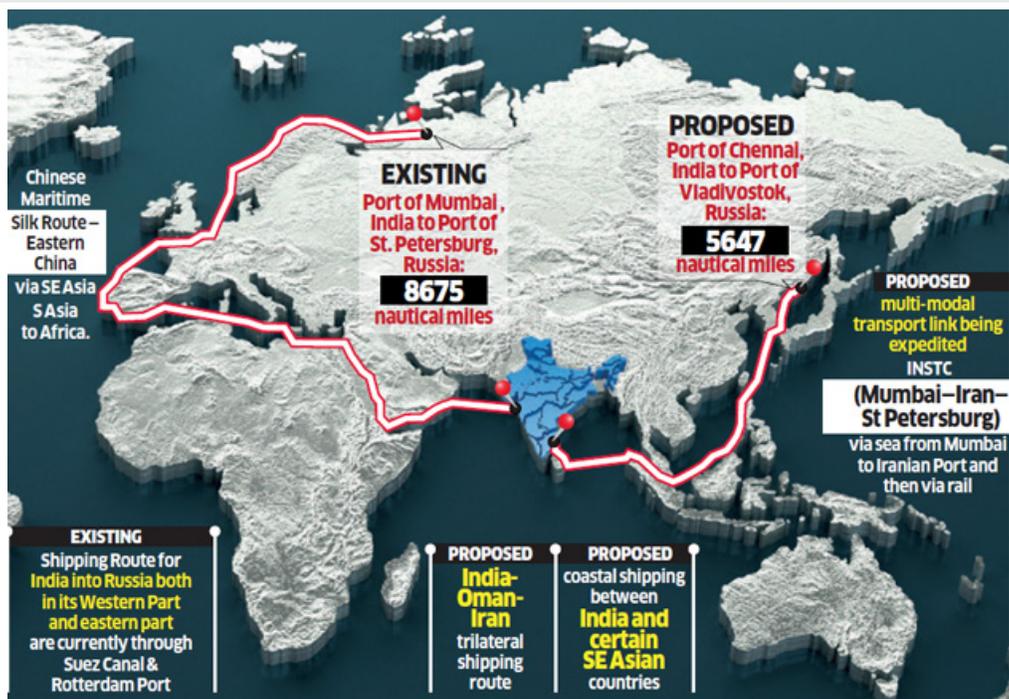
 [forumvostok.ru/en/](http://forumvostok.ru/en/)



- Mr. Modi, who arrived in Russia on a two-day visit, during which he will also attend the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit to the Russian Far East region.
- Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held each year in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.
- Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held each year since 2015 in September, at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East. The Russian president and the Japanese premier have attended this forum since its beginning.

- Far East Economic Forum is sponsored by the organizing committee appointed by Roscongress, an association of the Russian Government, which also sponsors other international forums, such as St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.
- The Eastern Economic Forum 2019 will take place on 4–6 September in Vladivostok on the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) campus.
- The Eastern Economic Forum was established by decree of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- A lot has been accomplished during the last 5 years: over 40 legislative initiatives that sustain investment activity and improve the social sphere have been passed; 20 advanced special economic zones and 5 free ports have been put in place.
- 17 different countries invest in the Far East: China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, to name a few. Since 2014, nearly 32% of all direct foreign investment came.

## Maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok



- Prime Minister Modi said a proposal had been made to have a full-fledged maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok. A Memorandum of Intent was signed in this regard.
- Due to the increasing localisation of nuclear plants being formed with the cooperation of Russia in India, we are also developing a true partnership in this field.

## Russia to train Indian astronauts

- Russia, he said, would help train Indian astronauts for the manned space mission — the Gaganyaan project.
- The two sides signed 15 agreements/MoUs in areas such as defence, air, and maritime connectivity, energy, natural gas, petroleum and trade.

### Other highlights

- The bilateral trade between the two nations grew by almost 17 per cent and mounted to USD 11 billion. There is every condition that it will grow further up.
- It was the common goal of the two sides to reach an agreement to establish a free trade area between India and the Eurasian economic union.
- The flagship joint project was the cooperation in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. “The first two units are already operational. The work for the third and fourth unit are going as per schedule.

- Both countries are successfully implementing the bilateral programme on military and technical cooperation up to 2020 and are working to update it to extend to another 10 years.

## Bilateral Relations: Eastern Economic Forum

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about EEF) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations + international institutions)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Prime Minister announced that India would be giving 1 billion dollar worth 'Line of Credit' for the development of the Far East.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 5th Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok, Russia as its Chief Guest at the special invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

### Know! more about the announcements made by India

- The Prime Minister made a landmark announcement that India would be giving 1 billion dollar worth 'Line of Credit' for the development of the Far East.
- This is the first time that India would be giving line of credit to an area of another country.
- India's credit line offer would serve as a take-off point of 'Act Far East' and this move would also add a new aspect to India's economic diplomacy and help strengthen India's cooperation with friendly nations in the region.

### Know! other highlights of the bilateral meeting

#### Indo-Pacific Region

- Both the Nations have decided to start a new phase of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region. Towards this, the two leaders have agreed to a proposal to establish a maritime link between Chennai and Vladivostok.

#### Far East Street Exhibition

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 'Far East Street' exhibition on September 4, 2019 with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The 'Far East Street' exhibition showcased the vibrant culture of the Russian Far East.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral interactions with the leaders of Japan, Malaysia and Mongolia on the sidelines of the 5th Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok.

### Know! More about the Eastern Economic Forum

- Eastern Economic Forum was established by Russia to boost the economic development of Russia's Far East and expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The 5th Eastern Economic Forum was participation from several countries at ministerial level such as China, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea and North Korea.
- Currently, 17 countries including Japan, China, Australia, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam invest in the Russian Far East region. According to the EEF website, since 2014, almost 32 per cent of all FDI into Russia has come to this region.

## Government policies: Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the recent amendment in Motor vehicles act) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions for the development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementations)**

### What's the NEWS

- Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019 has been implemented throughout the country since September 1, 2019.
- This new act has increased fine for many offence to check the road accidents and improve the road safety in the country.
- Now driving without driving licence will be fined Rs 5000 instead of Rs 500 earlier.

## Why the stringent measures were needed

- According to the 2018 report of the World Health Organization, the highest number of road accidents occur in India worldwide. Even China, the most populous country, is behind us in this regard.
- As per the report of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 2017; there are about 5 lakh road accidents occurred in India every year in which around 1.5 lakh people are killed.
- There are around 1.49 lakh people died in 2018 in the road accidents with Uttar Pradesh registering the maximum spike in fatalities.
- So in order to prevent the menace of road accidents; the central government has amended the Motor Vehicle 1988 by the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019.

## Know! the new features of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.

- The Bill increases the minimum compensation for hit and run cases as follows: (i) in case of death, from Rs 25,000 to two lakh rupees, and (ii) in case of grievous injury, from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000.
- The New Bill allows the central government to order for recall of defected motor vehicles which may harm the environment, or the driver, or other road users.
- The National Road Safety Board, will be created by the central government to advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management.
- Now the fine is increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000 along with imprisonment of 6 months. On the repetition of this act fine would be Rs. 15,000.
- Driving without driving licence will be fined Rs 5000 instead of 500 earlier.
- Rash driving will cost fine of Rs. 5000 earlier it was Rs.1000.
- Offence by Juveniles is a new category introduced. Now Guardian of the Juvenile / owner of the vehicle shall be fined Rs. 25,000 with 3 yrs imprisonment. For Juvenile to be tried under Juveniles Justice Act. Registration of Motor Vehicle shall be cancelled.
- If a vehicle manufacturer fails to comply with motor vehicle standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to Rs 100 crore, or imprisonment of up to one year, or both.
- If a contractor fails to comply with road design standards, the penalty will be up to Rs.1 lac.
- Under section 196 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 2019 driving without Insurance will be fined Rs 2000.
- Under the section 194 D of the act; riding without Helmets will be fined to Rs 1000 and disqualification for 3 months for licence.
- Under section 194B of the Act; driving without seat belt will cost Rs. 1000.
- Speeding / Racing will be fined Rs 5,000 instead of Rs 500 earlier.
- Under section 194 E of the Act; not providing way for emergency vehicles will cost Rs 10,000.

### MV(Amendment) Bill, 2019 means steeper penalties for offences

TOI

Offences	MV Act, 1988	MV (Amendment) Bill, 2019
Driving without licence	Rs 500	Rs 5,000
Drunk driving	Rs 2,000	Rs 10,000-Rs 15,000
Over speeding	Rs 400	Rs 2,000- Rs 4,000 for Medium passenger vehicle/Heavy passenger vehicle/Medium goods vehicle/Heavy goods vehicle
Driving without insurance	Rs 1,000	Rs 2,000 Imprisonment: 3 mths
Driving without helmet	Rs 100	Rs 1,000 Disqualification for 3 mths for licence
Driving without seat-belt	Rs 100	Rs 1,000 Child restraint: Rs 1,000
Not providing way for emergency vehicles	New	Rs 10,000 Imprisonment: 6 mths
Offences by juveniles	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guardian/owner shall be deemed to be guilty</li> <li>• Rs 25,000 fine with 3 year imprisonment</li> <li>• Juvenile to be tried under JJ Act</li> <li>• Registration of vehicle to be cancelled</li> </ul>

## Human Resource Development: Rs 125 crore allotted to IIT-Kharagpur for Centre's SATHI initiative

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about SATHI initiative) + Mains (GS II issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to education and human resource)**

### What's the NEWS

- An amount of Rs 125 crore has been earmarked for the SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute) Centre at IIT-Kharagpur for three financial years starting from 2019-20

## Know! about SATHI Centre initiative

- IIT-Kharagpur has been selected for the SATHI Centre initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Indian government
- The initiative will be developed as a state-of-the-art shared, professionally managed science and technology infrastructure facility
- The primary objective of the centre is to extend help to the neighbouring academic institutes, research establishments and the industries, particularly the start-ups and manufacturing units for using sophisticated instruments, which do not exist anywhere else, in a few selected areas.
- The equipment and facilities proposed to be acquired for this centre will cater to the ever increasing and diverse need of scientists and technologists of the country.
- The SATHI Centre will run 24 × 7 round the year. At least 70 per cent of instrument time will be reserved for external users from other academic institutes, national laboratories, start-ups, entrepreneurs and the industry.

## Delhi University, IIT-Madras, BHU among 5 awarded Institutions of Eminence status

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about institute of eminence status) + Mains (GS II issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to education and human resource)*

### What's the NEWS

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) awarded Institutions of Eminence (IoE) status to five public universities: IIT-Madras, Banaras Hindu University, IIT-Kharagpur, University of Delhi and University of Hyderabad.
- The decision was taken by the MHRD on the advice of University Grants Commission and the Empowered Expert Committee to award these five public universities the IoE tag.
- Meanwhile, Letters of Intent (LoI) were issued to five Private Universities for accepting and sending their preparedness for being declared as Institutions of Eminence.

### The private Universities

- Private universities — the Vellore Institute of Technology, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Jamia Hamdard University and the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology — were issued Letters of Intent to grant them the status.
- The new greenfield Bharti Institute, a project of Airtel's Satya Bharti Foundation, has also been issued the letter.
- These institutions will need to submit their readiness for commencing academic operations as IoEs.

### The state Universities

- In addition, letters were issued to two State governments — UP and Haryana — to pass legislation in the State Assembly to change the status of — Shiv Nadar University and OP Jindal University respectively — from Private Universities. The move is required to enable to be considered as IoE Deemed Universities.
- Jadavpur University (West Bengal) and Anna University (Tamil Nadu) these two State universities were also selected by the Empowered Committee and the State governments have been asked to indicate their commitment towards their contribution under the IoE scheme. Earlier, in the first round under the IoE scheme, six institutions were selected as IoEs.

### Conditions for state Universities

- Four other institutions, which had also been recommended by the UGC, require the State governments to act before they can be awarded the status.
- The Tamil Nadu and West Bengal governments must commit themselves to contributing half of the funds required for Anna University and Jadavpur University.
- The Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Assemblies must pass legislation to end the private university status of Shiv Nadar University and OP Jindal University, so that they could receive the new status of IoE Deemed Universities.

- Each university will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry, laying out its plan to achieve the objective of becoming a world-class institution. The public institutions on the list will then be eligible for a government grant of 1,000 crore.

### **Know! all about IoE and the benefits of getting the IoE status**

- In 2017, the University Grants Commission (UGC) started inviting applications from universities who conformed to the set of guidelines provided by them in order to be granted the eminence tag.
- The need for creating a separate category of universities which will be regulated differently from other universities came about because of the fact that last year none of the Indian universities were placed in World University Rankings.
- The objective behind the tag of eminence was to give 20 universities (10 public and 10 private), wide-ranging autonomy by the government in administrative and financial matters so that they can emerge as world-class universities over a reasonable period of time and be ranked among the top 500 of any of the world-renowned ranking frameworks in the first 10 years of being declared Institute of eminence.
- The government universities would be further given financial assistance to the amount of Rs 1000 crore for fulfilling the said objectives.

*Some of the expectations that a University of Eminence should satisfy within a reasonable time, as provided in the UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as Institutions of Eminence) Guidelines, 2017 are:*

- It should preferably be multi-disciplinary and have both teaching and research focus of an exceptionally high quality
- There should be a reasonably good mix of domestic and foreign students.
- It should have a good proportion of foreign or foreign qualified faculty.
- It should have student amenities comparable with that of globally reputed institutions
- The institution should have reasonably large owned campus with adequate space for expansion.
- It should come in the top 500 of any of the world-renowned ranking frameworks (such as the Times Higher Education world University Rankings or QS or, Shanghai's Jiao Tong University) in in the first ten years of setting up on being declared as Institution of Eminence, and having achieved top five hundred rank, should consistently improve its ranking to come in the top one hundred eventually over time

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- The plan was to select a good mix of central universities as well as arts, management and technical institutes.
- The Top 50 in the National institution Ranking Framework in their category under the latest National Institution Ranking Framework.
- Top 500 in internationally recognised rankings like the Times Higher Education World University Rankings or QQS or SJTU (Shanghai's Jiao Tong University) would also be eligible for inclusion in the programme.

### **Eligible institutes**

- Central Universities
- Government-owned and controlled deemed universities
- Institute of National importance such as IITs, NITs etc.
- State universities set up under a law made by legislative assembly of a **state**

### **How IoEs will be different from other universities**

- The institutes will be free from most UGC regulations which are binding on other universities, except for some flexible guidelines
- They will not have to adhere to UGC mandated curriculum and would be free to fix their own curriculum and syllabus
- They would be able to admit 30 per cent of foreign students on merit and deciding the fee charged from foreign students will also be their prerogative
- They can recruit foreign faculty upto 25 per cent of its faculty strength
- They will have the flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree, after approval of their Governing Council and broadly conforming to the minimum prevailing standards
- They shall be free to enter into academic collaborations with other institutions of India

However, all these facilities will be subject to the University of Eminence meeting the goal of becoming an institution of global repute at the end of fifth and subsequent years failing which they could be penalized by the Empowered Expert Committee to the extent of revoking their eminence tag and reverting them back to their original status.

### **‘Institute of Eminence’ status (1.0)**

- Human Resource Development (HRD) last year in June named six universities selected for their world-class ‘Institute of Eminence’ status to enjoy heightened autonomy – and in the case of public institutions substantial extra government funding.
- Out of the six announced, Reliance Foundation’s proposed Jio Institute near Navi Mumbai, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (BITS Pilani) and Manipal University are in the private sector, and the remaining three – the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore – are in the public sector.

## **International Relations: First conference on military medicine for SCO member states in Delhi soon**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about SCO and the conference on military medicine) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations + international organisations)***

### **What’s the NEWS**

- Military medicine experts from Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries will meet for a two-day conference starting September 12, aiming to share best practices in the field and build capacities

### **Know! more about the conference**

- This will be the first military cooperation event hosted by India under the SCO Defence Co-operation Plan 2019-2020 after it became a SCO member country in 2017.
- The first conference on military medicine for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States will be held here on September 12-13,” according to a statement issued by the defence ministry.
- The conference will be conducted by the Indian Armed Forces under the aegis of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) with an aim to share best practices in the field of military medicine, build capacities and overcome common challenges.
- The SCO Member States will be represented by senior military medical practitioners. Dialogue Partners Nepal and Sri Lanka will also be sending their delegations to participate in the conference.
- During the conference, the Indian Armed Forces will also demonstrate the Rapid Action Medical Team and organise a visit for the delegates to the Army Research and Referral Hospital
- Deliberations will take place between military medicine experts of SCO Member States on rendering of combat medical support, humanitarian assistance during disasters and measures to improve patient safety
- The conference will be preceded by a meeting of the heads of delegations to discuss areas of cooperation in the field of military medicine between SCO member countries

### **Know! about SCO**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter, formally establishing the organisation, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003.
- The original five nations, with the exclusion of Uzbekistan, were previously members of the Shanghai Five group, founded on 26 April 1996.
- Since then, the organisation has expanded its membership to eight countries when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO, it meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.
- Military exercises are also regularly conducted among members to promote cooperation and coordination against terrorism and other external threats

## Bilateral Relations: PM Modi and Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurate cross-border petroleum products pipeline

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about the pipeline -source and destination) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations)*

**What's the NEWS**



- PM Modi and PM Oli of Nepal, jointly inaugurated a cross-border petroleum products pipeline via video conference

### **Know! more about the pipeline**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Nepal, Right Hon'ble K.P. Sharma Oli today jointly inaugurated South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline from Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal
- The 69-km Motihari-Amlekhgunj pipeline, having a capacity of 2 million metric ton per annum, will provide cleaner petroleum products at affordable cost to the people of Nepal.
- PM Modi welcomed the announcement made by Prime Minister Oli to reduce the price of petroleum products by Rs. 2 per litre in Nepal.
- As of now, tankers carry petroleum products from India to Nepal as part of an arrangement which is in place since 1973.
- This India-Nepal energy cooperation project is a symbol of our close bilateral relations. It will help to enhance the energy security of the region and substantially cut down on transit costs.

## Social Justice: Conference on 'Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails

*Relevance IN – Mains (GS II social justice +important aspects of governance, government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation)*

**What's the NEWS**

- Two day National Conference on 'Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails: Vulnerability of Inmates and Jail Staff and their Protection' organized by BPR&D

## Know! more about the conference

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development is organizing a two-day National Conference on ‘Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails: Vulnerability of Inmates and Jail Staff and their Protection’
- The conference enumerated various challenges in the field of correctional services and the need for a conscious policy to improve prison systems and associated human resources.

## The Prison System in India

- The prison administration in the country since independence has been a matter of intense debate on various forums.
- Even the Supreme Court of India has expressed its concern over the conditions of prisons. Therefore, there is a need to ensure safety and security of the prisoners, improve the condition of living of prisoners and to convert the prison as a centre of reformation.
- The Prison system should not be allowed to aggravate sufferings during the process of imprisonment. There is need to reform convicts and rehabilitate them back into the society.

## Challenges

- Challenges associated with prison reforms such as overcrowding in prisons, large number of under-trials, inadequate prison infrastructure, criminal activities and radicalization in jails, safety of women prisoners and their young children, along with shortage of funds and staff for proper prison administration.

## Steps taken by the government

- Various steps taken by the Central Government over the last ten years to improve the conditions of prisons, such as fast track courts and Lok Adalats, both of which would reduce pendency and the number of under-trials, thus reducing the burden on the prison system.
- The Scheme for Modernization of Prisons – a Central Government scheme with an outlay of 1800 crore rupees that aims to create 199 new jails, 1572 additional barracks and 8568 prison staff quarters.

## Way forward

- There is immense scope for NGOs and civil society organizations in the aftercare and rehabilitation of convicts, the civil society participation in the field should be encouraged.
- Public participation in correctional services is critical for strengthening the efforts towards reformation of prisoners

## Government Policies and Interventions: There should be “One Nation One Standard” similar to “One Nation One Constitution” and “One Nation One Ration Card”

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about one nation one standard) + Mains (GS II government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation)*

## What’s the NEWS

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan exhorted that similar to “One Nation One Constitution” and “One Nation One Ration Card” there should be “One Nation One Standard”.

## One Nation One Standard (the ongoing inception process)

- A meeting was held with all stakeholders, Regulators and officials to review the ‘Process of Making Standards’ and also deliberate on improving the implementation and enforcement of the set Standards.
- The purpose of setting standards and enforcing them is not intended to bring back “inspector raj” but to ensure that quality products are made available for all consumers across the country.
- Indian Standards should be set as per global benchmarks and just like other countries enforce their standards on imported products.
- Similarly, foreign goods coming into India should also comply with Indian standards.

- This should be done on a reciprocal basis for International goods and a system should be put in place for effective monitoring and checking to ensure that they are effectively enforced.

### How to achieve the One Nation One Standard (know! the process)

- Currently, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the only national body that frames standards. It has come out with over 20,000 standards for various products and services so far. There are also about 50-odd agencies that have framed about 400 standards in the Country
- For “One Nation One Standard” it is important that BIS is empowered. Since the BIS is a National Standards body, residuary powers are vested with BIS, all other standard making bodies must work in coordination with BIS.
- There are multiple standards in the country for single product/service and the purpose is to converge such standards with the BIS which is a recognised national body for standardisation in India
- The BIS frames standards and cannot regulate its implementation. The concerned department should monitor or a separate regulator needs to be set up the idea which has been mooted by the government think tank Niti Aayog.
- The departments have their own standards. For example, the Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) has set standards on food, while Automobile Research Organisation of India makes standards for the automobile sector.
- These standards need to be converged with BIS and redesignate them as one. This will help in easy implementation and monitoring of standards
- The entire process will take time and it will depend on how soon other agencies are willing to converge with BIS.
- Once they are ready, their standard will be redesignated. For example, if FSSAI converges its standards, then its products would be known as BIS/FSSAI

### Fact check

- The standard set for Bullet Proof Jackets in India is higher than global benchmarks and India is only the 4th country in the world to have such a standard after USA, Germany and UK. The standard has been set after due consultations with stakeholders and it is now being exported to several countries under the “Make in India” initiative.
- NITI Aayog is currently working on a draft Medical Devices Bill which will help to tackle the problem of non-standard medical devices coming into the market. It was stated that devices of 23 categories are regulated and notified under drugs and the attempt is to do this on a comprehensive scale.

## Government Schemes: Prime Minister Launches Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the various schemes) + Mains (GS II social justice + government policies and interventions for the development of various sectors+ welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections of the population)**

### What’s the NEWS

- In another major effort to secure the lives of the farmers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana at Ranchi, the Capital of Jharkhand.
- The Scheme shall secure the lives of 5 Crore Small and Marginal Farmers by providing a minimum pension of Rs 3000 per month, to those who attain 60 years of age.
- Prime Minister also launched the National Pension Scheme for the Traders and The Self-Employed.
- The scheme aims at providing a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000, to small traders and self - employed after attaining the age of 60 Years. Around 3 Crore Small traders would be benefitted from the scheme.

## Know! about the various launched schemes

### PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

- Every farmer family of the country will get the benefit of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
- More than 21 thousand crore rupees have been deposited in the accounts of about six and a half crore farmer families of the country.

**More than 32 lakh laborers have also joined the Shramayogi Manadhan Yojana.** ⇒

**More than 22 crore people have joined Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana** ↓

The image shows two side-by-side posters for insurance schemes. The left poster is for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, highlighting life insurance worth ₹ 2 lacs at just ₹ 330 per annum. The right poster is for Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, highlighting accident insurance worth ₹ 2 lacs at just ₹ 12 per annum. Both posters specify that the insurance is for all Bank account holders whose age is between 18 to 50 years and covers the period from 1st June to 31st May.

The infographic is titled '#BudgetForNewIndia' and features a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It promotes the 'Shramev Jayate: Honouring Shram Yogi' scheme, which is the Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana. Key details include: providing an assured monthly pension of ₹3000 per month for workers joining at the age of 29; a monthly contribution of ₹100 for workers in the unorganized sector until 60 years of age; and benefiting 10 crore workers in the unorganized sector. An illustration of a family is shown on the right.

**Also under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, about 44 lakh poor patients have been benefitted**

The infographic features the PM-JAY logo and lists several key features: a health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year; 10.74 crore poor & vulnerable families entitled as per SECC; states given flexibility to decide on mode of implementation; benefits will be portable across the country; no cap on family size or age; and being technologically driven, enabling cashless and paperless transactions. Logos for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Health Authority are also present.

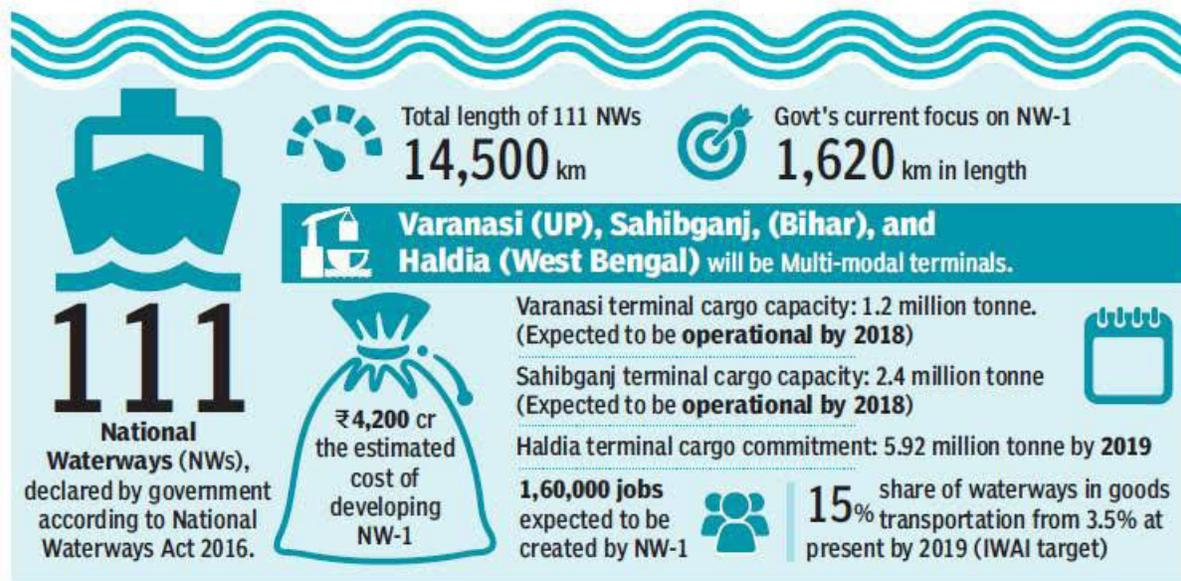
### Ekalavya Model Schools

- Prime Minister also launched 462 Ekalavya Model Schools across the country in Tribal Dominated Areas. The schools would focus to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST Students in these areas.
- These Eklavya schools will not only serve as medium of education for tribal children but there will also be facilities for sports and skill development along with protection of local arts and culture. In these schools, the government will spend more than one lakh rupees a year on every tribal child."

### Sahibganj multi-modal terminal.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated the Multi-Modal Transport Terminal at Sahibganj.
- This waterway will connect Jharkhand not only with the whole country, but also with foreign countries.

## Know! about National Waterway 1



## REVIVING INLAND WATERWAYS TOI

Inland Waterways Terminal inaugurated in Varanasi on Nov 12, 2018 by PM Modi

The first of the four multimodal terminals constructed on **National Waterways-1**

Developed by World Bank-aided **Jal Marg Vikas project**

Aims to provide seamless linkage between rail-road-river transportation

### PROJECT COST

**₹5,369.18 crore**

### STATES SERVED

- 1 UP
- 2 Bihar
- 3 Jharkhand
- 4 West Bengal



## VESSEL THAT'S MADE THE FIRST JOURNEY TO THE TERMINAL

### M V RABINDRANATH TAGORE



### ROUTE

Kolkata to Varanasi

### JOURNEY TIME

**13 DAYS**

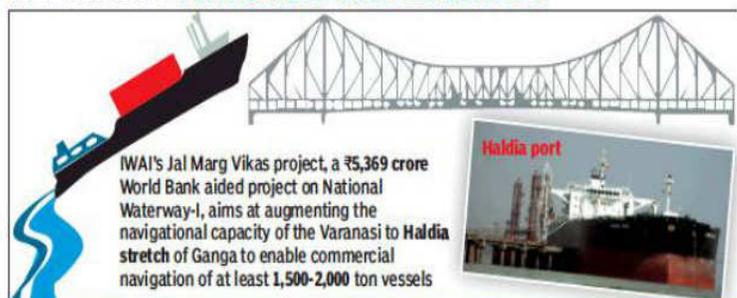
### RETURN JOURNEY

To carryIFFCO fertilisers from its Phulpur plant near Allahabad

Travelling with **16 containers** from PepsiCo (India)-- filled with food and snacks



## ALL ABOUT NATIONAL WATERWAYS-I



IWA's Jal Marg Vikas project, a ₹5,369 crore World Bank aided project on National Waterway-I, aims at augmenting the navigational capacity of the Varanasi to Haldia stretch of Ganga to enable commercial navigation of at least 1,500-2,000 ton vessels



**₹359.20 crore** state-of-the-art navigational lock at Farakka expected to complete by June 2019

Multi-modal terminals (MMTs) being constructed at Sahibganj and Haldia while two inter-modal terminals (IMTs) are under construction at Ghazipur in UP and Kalughat in Bihar



PM Modi at the inland waterway terminal in Varanasi

IWA has also finalized 13 vessel designs suitable for inland water transport with focus on economic efficiency, low transport cost, high safety, low draft and high carrying capacity



Development of NW-1 is expected to drive the economic growth of states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal

Navigational lock, Roll on-Roll off terminals, river information system, vessel maintenance facilities, fairway development, channel marking and conservancy are part of the project

## The Swachhata Hi Seva Programme launched

- The Swachhata Hi Seva campaign has started in the country. Under this campaign, by October 2, we have to collect single-use plastic in our homes, schools, offices. On October 2, the day of Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary, we have to remove that plastic pile".
- Prime Minister launches National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons

## National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons

- The National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons, a pension scheme for the Vyaparis (shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons) with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore.
- With this nation-wide launch, the facility for enrollment under the scheme has been made available to the prospective beneficiaries through 3.50 lakh Common Service Center (CSCs) across the country.
- At the time of enrollment, the beneficiary is required to have an Aadhaar card and a saving bank/ Jan-dhan Account passbook only. He/ She should be within 18 to 40 years of age group.
- GSTIN is required only for those with turnover above Rs. 40 lakhs. The enrolment under the scheme is free of cost for the beneficiaries. The enrolment is based upon self-certification.
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for entry age of 18 to 40 years with a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The beneficiary should not be income tax payer and also not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS (Govt.)/PM-SYM.
- The Central Government shall give 50 % share of the monthly contribution and remaining 50% contribution shall be made by the beneficiary. The monthly contribution is kept low to make it affordable. For example, a beneficiary is required to contribute as little as Rs.100/- per month at a median entry age of 29 years.
- This scheme will target enrolling 25 lakh subscribers in 2019-20 and 2 crore subscribers by 2023-2024. An estimated 3 crore Vyaparis in the country are expected to be benefitted under the pension scheme.

## Health Sector: India joins the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) hub + Mains (GS II Issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to health*

#### What's the NEWS

- India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member.
- This was announced by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology in New Delhi.
- This expands the global partnership working to address challenges and improve coordination and collaboration in global AMR R&D to 16 countries, the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations and four international organisations (as observers).

#### Know! about the global AMR R&D

- The Global AMR R&D Hub was launched in May 2018 in the margins of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly, following a call from G20 Leaders in 2017.
- The Global AMR R&D Hub supports global priority setting and evidence-based decision-making on the allocation of resources for AMR R&D through the identification of gaps, overlaps and potential for cross-sectoral collaboration and leveraging in AMR R&D.
- The operation of the Global AMR R&D Hub is supported through a Secretariat, established in Berlin and currently financed through grants from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).
- From this year onward, India will be the member of Board of members of Global AMR R&D Hub. By partnering with the Global AMR R&D Hub, India looks forward to working with all partners to leverage their existing capabilities, resources and collectively focus on new R&D intervention to address drug resistant infections.
- AMR is the ability of a microbe to resist the effects of medication that once could successfully treat the microbe.
- Today, the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance continues unabated around the world. Given the important and interdependent human, animal, and environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance, India considers it reasonable to explore issues of antimicrobial resistance through the lens of One Health approach which should be supported by long-term commitments from all stakeholders.
- In a major boost to combat one of the gravest risks to global health a dedicated special vehicle in terms of Global AMR R&D Hub may allow partners to devote expertise in order to accelerate global action against antimicrobial resistance.

# Governance/Polity/Constitution: The Collegium of Supreme Court judges



**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the collegium system and cases related to it + about NJAC) + Mains (GS II structure, organisation and functioning of the judiciary)**

## What's the NEWS

- The recent controversy over the transfer of the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, to the Meghalaya High Court has once again brought to the fore a long-standing debate on the functioning of the 'Collegium' of judges that makes appointments and transfers in the higher judiciary.

## Know! all about the Collegium system

- The Collegium of judges is the Supreme Court's invention. It does not figure in the Constitution, which says judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed by the President and speaks of a process of consultation.
- In effect, it is a system under which judges are appointed by an institution comprising judges. After some judges were superseded in the appointment of the Chief Justice of India in the 1970s, and attempts made subsequently to effect a mass transfer of High Court judges across the country, there was a perception that the independence of the judiciary was under threat.

*This resulted in a series of cases over the years.*

## The 'First Judges Case' (1981)

- It ruled that the "consultation" with the CJI in the matter of appointments must be full and effective. However, it rejected the idea that the CJI's opinion, albeit carrying great weight, should have primacy.

## The Second Judges Case (1993)

- This case introduced the Collegium system, holding that "consultation" really meant "concurrence".
- It added that it was not the CJI's individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the Supreme Court.

The infographic is titled 'NJAC VS COLLEGIUM SYSTEM' in large blue letters. It is divided into two columns by a vertical dotted line. The left column is titled 'WHAT'S COLLEGIUM SYSTEM' and the right column is titled 'WHAT'S NJAC'. Below the text is a photograph of the Supreme Court of India building. The infographic lists the following points:

- WHAT'S COLLEGIUM SYSTEM**
  - Collegium system based on Three Judges Cases
  - Under it, appointment of judges are made by Chief Justice of India and four most senior Supreme Court judges.
  - Has no constitutional backing.
  - Constitution of India's Article 124 says appointments to be made by President in consultation with judges as President may deem necessary.
  - Critics say it is a closed-door system which lacks transparency
- WHAT'S NJAC**
  - NJAC was a body created to end the two-decade-old Supreme Court Collegium system of judges appointing judges.
  - Was passed by Lok Sabha on August 13, 2014. Was passed by Rajya Sabha a day later.
  - Will consist of six people – CJI, two senior-most Supreme Court judges, Law Minister and two 'eminent' persons.
  - Critics say judges in NJAC will need support of others to push a name through. They fear judicial independence being compromised.

### **The Third Judges Case (1998)**

- On a Presidential Reference for its opinion, the Supreme Court, in the Third Judges Case (1998) expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

### **The Fourth Judge Case (2015)**

- When the Constitution was altered, through the 99th constitutional amendment, and when the collegium was sought to be replaced by the National Judicial Appointments Commission — a body comprising members of the judiciary, the executive and the general public — the court swiftly struck it down.
- It ruled, in what we might now call the Fourth Judges Case (2015), that the primacy of the collegium was a part of the Constitution's basic structure, and this power could not, therefore, be removed even through a constitutional amendment.

### **Know! the collegium procedure**

- The President of India appoints the CJI and the other SC judges. As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
- In practice, it has been strictly by seniority ever since the supersession controversy of the 1970s. The Union Law Minister forwards the recommendation to the Prime Minister who, in turn, advises the President.
- For other judges of the top court, the proposal is initiated by the CJI. The CJI consults the rest of the Collegium members, as well as the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs.
- The consultees must record their opinions in writing and it should form part of the file. The Collegium sends the recommendation to the Law Minister, who forwards it to the Prime Minister to advise the President.
- The Chief Justice of High Courts is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States. The Collegium takes the call on the elevation.
- High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges. The proposal, however, is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues. The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister.

### **Know! about the transfer of judges**

- The Collegium also recommends the transfer of Chief Justices and other judges. Article 222 of the Constitution provides for the transfer of a judge from one High Court to another.
- When a CJ is transferred, a replacement must also be simultaneously found for the High Court concerned. There can be an acting CJ in a High Court for not more than a month.
- In matters of transfers, the opinion of the CJI “is determinative”, and the consent of the judge concerned is not required. However, the CJI should take into account the views of the CJ of the High Court concerned and the views of one or more SC judges who are in a position to do so.
- All transfers must be made in the public interest, that is, “for the betterment of the administration of justice”.

### **Criticism of Collegium system**

- Opaqueness and a lack of transparency, and the scope for nepotism are cited often.
- The process may on occasions, make wrong appointments and, worse still, lend itself to nepotism.
- The attempt made to replace it by a ‘National Judicial Appointments Commission’ was struck down by the court in 2015 on the ground that it posed a threat to the independence of the judiciary.
- Dissenting judge, Justice J. Chelameswar, termed it “inherently illegal”. Even the majority opinions admitted the need for transparency.
- In an effort to boost transparency, the Collegium's resolutions are now posted online, but reasons are not given.

### **Way Forward**

- The need of the hour is the Judiciary should improve transparency by bringing the long pending MoP (memorandum of procedure) in the collegium system and the Executive should not interfere in the matters of Judiciary

## Health Sector: MDH masalas in US have tested positive for Salmonella

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

#### What's the NEWS

- At least three lots of MDH sambar masala were recalled from retail stores in California this week after tests by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) showed positive for salmonella.

#### Know! about Salmonella

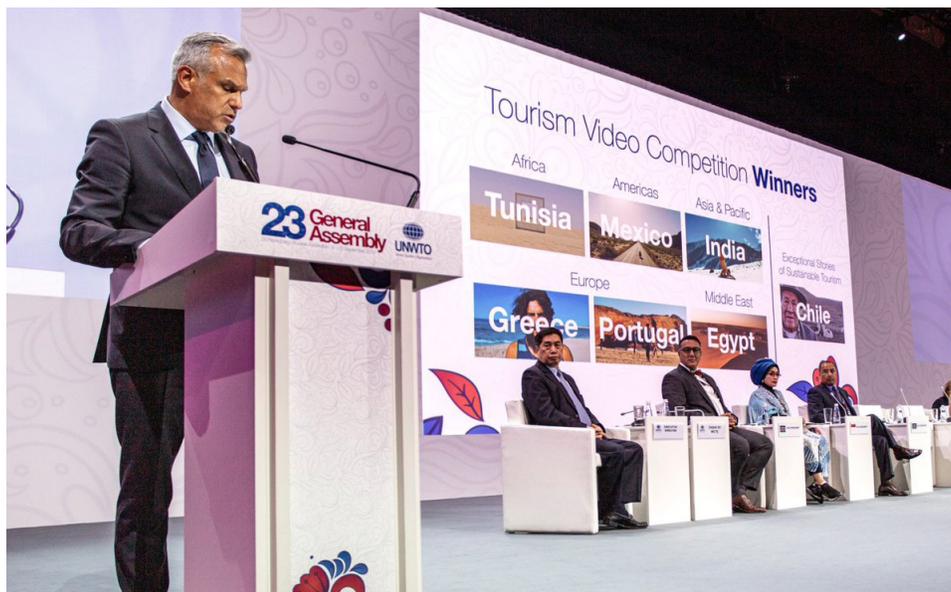
- Salmonella is a group of bacteria that can cause food-borne illnesses known as salmonellosis. The existence of the pathogen has been known since at least 1880, but it came to be called Salmonella from around 1900
- According to estimates by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Salmonella causes 1.2 million illnesses, 23,000 hospitalisations and about 450 deaths in the United States every year. In a majority of these cases — roughly 1 million — food is the source of the illness.
- Individuals who develop salmonellosis may show symptoms such as nausea, diarrhoea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12-72 hours after contracting the infection. Usually, the illness lasts for 4-7 days, and most people recover without treatment.
- According to the CDC, children under the age of 5 are at highest risk for Salmonella infection. Older adults and people with weakened immune systems too, are likely to have severe infections.
- Salmonella bacteria are widely distributed in domestic and wild animals. They are prevalent in food animals such as poultry, pigs, and cattle, as well as in pets, including cats, dogs, birds, and turtles.
- The WHO says Salmonella can pass through the entire food chain from animal feed, primary production, and all the way to households or food-service establishments and institutions.
- Salmonellosis in humans is generally contracted through the consumption of contaminated food of animal origin (mainly eggs, meat, poultry, and milk), although other foods, including green vegetables contaminated by manure, have been implicated in its transmission. Person-to-person transmission can also occur through the faecal-oral route.

## International Organisations: 23rd Session Of The UNWTO General Assembly For 2019 Held Saint Petersburg, Russia

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about UNWTO and about the awards won by India)*

#### What's the NEWS

- The **23rd session of the United Nations World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) General Assembly for 2019 was held in Saint Petersburg, Russia from September 9-13, 2019.**



## Know! about UNWTO

- The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- As the leading international organization in the field of tourism, UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.
- UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts, and is committed to promoting tourism as an instrument in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), geared towards reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development worldwide.

## Know! the awards won by India and about India's Pavilion

### 5th edition of the UNWTO Awards:

- The 15th edition of the UNWTO Awards marked the launch of the Accessible Tourism Destinations (ATD) initiative, organized by UNWTO in partnership with the Spanish NGO ONCE
- Thrissur in Kerala, India received a special mention award as an emerging destination on the global accessible tourism market.

### UNWTO Tourism Video Competition 2019

- India's 'Yogi of the Racetrack', a short promotional film on Yoga produced by the Union Ministry of Tourism, was conferred 'Best Video' award 2019 for the Asia & Pacific Region.
- Yogi of the Racetrack is a short promotional film on Yoga, which has been shot across India including the Ganges and the Himalayas.

### Incredible India Pavilion

- Incredible India Pavilion was inaugurated at INWETEX 2019 in St. Petersburg on the sidelines of the 23rd General Assembly of UNWTO. It showcased various tourism products of India including classical and folk dance.

## Human Resource Development: Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) – 2019 and Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) – 2019 launched by the HRD Ministry



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

### What's the NEWS

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) - 2019 and Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) – 2019 **under Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT)**

## Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP)-

- To build higher managerial capabilities of existing higher education leaders and administrators and to draw fresh talent into the management of higher education systems, a National Initiative “**Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP)**” was launched to design and deliver a structured scheme of leadership development for HEIs.
- LEAP is a three weeks leadership development **training programme (2 weeks domestic and one week foreign training)** for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions.
- The main objective is **to prepare second tier academic heads** that are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.
- A maximum of Rs. 10 Lakhs per participant (including foreign training) is approved and each training institution signs MoUs with its foreign counterpart.
- LEAP training institution prepares information brochures with relevant information, such as structure of the programme, Curriculum, Resource Persons, Pedagogical aspects, Assessment and evaluation and scheduled dates for Indian & foreign training. Each training module will have a batch of 30 trainees.

## Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT)

- Ministry of Human Resource Development launched Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) in November, 2018.
- ARPIT is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.
- For implementing ARPIT, discipline-specific **National Resource Centers (NRCs)** are identified which are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.
- For ARPIT 2019, 51 discipline specific NRCs have been notified covering 46 disciplines, such as, Agriculture, Law, Architecture, Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering and
- Through ARPIT all in-service teachers, irrespective of their subject and seniority have been given an enabling opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in their disciplines through the technology based online refresher courses.
- Faculty can benefit from this initiative as it is highly flexible and can be done at one’s own pace and time.
- The NRCs will revolutionize professional development of faculty by catering to massive numbers by leveraging ICT and online technology platform of SWAYAM.
- The First round of ARPIT 2018 stands completed in which there were 51000+ enrolments, 6411 faculty registered for examination. A total of 3807 faculty qualified.

## Health Sector: NCG-Vishwam Cancer Care Connect (NCG-Vishwam 3C)

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about NCG-Vishwam Cancer Care Connect) + Mains (GS II issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to health, education)***

### What’s the NEWS

- A global cancer care network, “NCG-Vishwam Cancer Care Connect” (NCG-Vishwam 3C) has been launched.
- NCG-Vishwam envisages integration of the hospitals and relevant cancer care institutes in partner countries with the National Cancer Grid (NCG) of India.

### Know! all about NCG-Vishwam Cancer Care Connect

- NCG managed by Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), was established in 2012 with the vision of creating uniform standards of cancer care across India and this has grown to a large network of 183 cancer centres, and hospitals.
- By virtue of this, National Cancer Grid (NCG) established and managed by Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), which has 183 participating stake holders from India has been made open to the cancer hospitals and other relevant institutes from foreign countries. .
- The objective of the NCG has been removing the disparity in Cancer Care. The NCG Vishwam is expected to play the same role globally.

- Eleven countries expressed interest immediately after the launch. Hospitals from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh conveyed their appreciation through a video message of offering the NCG to foreign countries.
- Cancer Care is an integral part of the responsibilities of the Department of Atomic Energy. The radioisotopes for detection of cancer and treatment are exclusively produced by the Department.
- The Department is also involved in development of newer radiopharmaceuticals. A cobalt teletherapy machine, called Bhabhatron, for cancer treatment, has also been developed by the Department.
- The Tata Memorial Centre (or TMC), which is an integral part of the Department, has been a premier cancer care facility since 1941 and it has struck an excellent balance with trilogy of patient care, education and research.
- NCG-Vishwam envisages integration of the hospitals and relevant cancer care institutes from partner countries with the National Cancer Grid (NCG) of India.

## Cabinet Decisions: Cabinet approves Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance

### PRODN, SALE PUNISHABLE BY JAIL, FINE

<p><b>WHAT IS AN E-CIGARETTE?</b> Electronic-cigarettes are <b>battery-operated devices that produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine</b>, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes. These include all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), Heat Not Burn Products, e-hookah and similar devices</p> 	<p><b>STOCKS TO BE DEPOSITED WITH POLICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Any <b>production, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale (including online sale), distribution or advertisement</b> (including online advertisement) of e-cigarettes shall be a cognizable offence</li> <li>➤ Owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes on the date of commencement of the ordinance will have to <b>suo moto declare and deposit these stocks</b> with the nearest police station</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; color: white; background-color: red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">e-cigarettes are banned in around 30 countries</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">3 YRS' PRISON, ₹5L FOR REPEAT OFFENCE</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;">The first offence will be punishable with an <b>imprisonment of up to 1 year or fine up to ₹1 lakh or both</b></td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;">Repeat offence will attract <b>imprisonment of up to 3 years and fine up to ₹5 lakh</b></td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;"><b>Storage</b> of e-cigarettes shall also be punishable with <b>jail term up to 6 months or fine up to ₹50,000 or both</b></td> </tr> </table>	The first offence will be punishable with an <b>imprisonment of up to 1 year or fine up to ₹1 lakh or both</b>	Repeat offence will attract <b>imprisonment of up to 3 years and fine up to ₹5 lakh</b>	<b>Storage</b> of e-cigarettes shall also be punishable with <b>jail term up to 6 months or fine up to ₹50,000 or both</b>
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**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Electronic Cigarettes) + Mains (GS II social justice and governance - issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to health, education)**

### What's the NEWS

- In a major health and wellness initiative for the country, the Union Cabinet has approved the Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) Ordinance, 2019.

### Know! about Electronic-cigarettes

- Electronic-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes.
- These include all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Heat Not Burn Products, e-Hookah and the like devices.
- These novel products come with attractive appearances and multiple flavours and their use has increased exponentially and has acquired epidemic proportions in developed countries, especially among youth and children.

## Know about e-smoking

- It is referred to as the practice of inhaling capsules of nicotine in a vaporised form after they were heated. This is actually an electronic nicotine delivery system.
- It has a nicotine capsule, which has no tobacco, but nicotine gives excitement as it hits the brain.

## Know! the mechanism of e-cigarettes

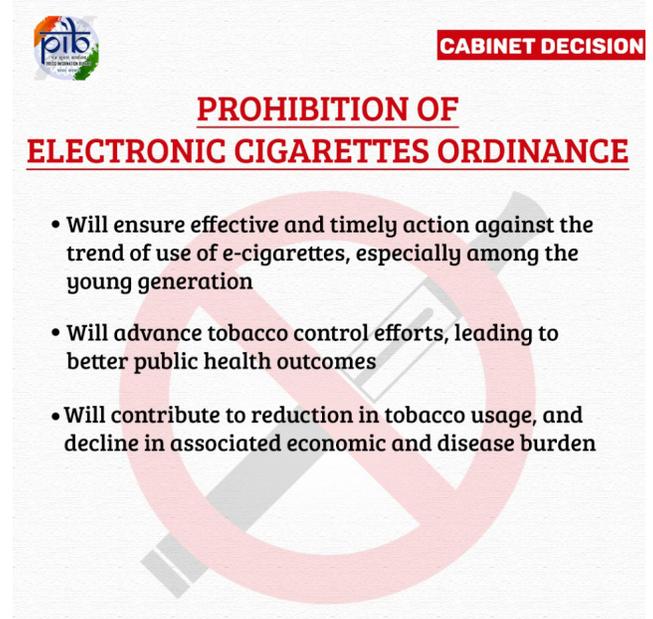
- They heat a liquid to generate a nicotine containing aerosol, instead of burning tobacco.
- They do not produce toxic tars but the problem is, at high temperatures, e-cigarettes produce carcinogens such as formaldehydes, although these are fewer in number compared to regular cigarettes.
- They also increase the odds of lung disease and myocardial infarction, but much lesser extent than normal cigarettes.

## What after the Implementation

- Upon promulgation of the Ordinance, any production, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale (including online sale), distribution or advertisement (including online advertisement) of e-cigarettes shall be a cognizable offence punishable with an imprisonment of up to one year or fine up to Rs. 1 lakh or both for the first offence; and imprisonment of up to three years and fine up to Rs. 5 lakh for a subsequent offence.
- Storage of electronic-cigarettes shall also be punishable with an imprisonment up to 6 months or fine up to Rs 50,000 or both.

## Know! more about the decision and about e-cigarettes

- The current decision has come on the back of an advisory issued by the Government in 2018 to all States to consider banning e-cigarettes.
- 16 States and 1 UT have already banned e cigarettes in their jurisdictions. Notably, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in a recent white paper on the subject, also recommended a complete ban on e-cigarettes based on currently available scientific evidence.
- The WHO has also urged member countries to take appropriate steps including prohibiting these products.
- These products are usually marketed as being safer alternatives for conventional cigarettes but such notions of safety are false.
- E-cigarettes are usually promoted by the industry as smoking cessation aids but their efficacy and safety as a quitting aid has not yet been established.
- Unlike the tried and tested nicotine and non-nicotine pharmacotherapies that are known to help people quit tobacco use, the WHO does not endorse e-cigarettes as cessation aids.



## Human Resource Development: Ministry of HRD announces National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme for better learning outcomes in Higher Education

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) + Mains GS II – issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to health, education, human resources**

### What's the NEWS

- Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced a new PPP Scheme, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) for using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.

## Know! all about NEAT

- The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- This requires development of technologies in Adaptive Learning to address the diversity of learners.
- There are a number of start-up companies developing this and MHRD would like to recognise such efforts and bring them under a common platform so that learners can access it easily.
- MHRD would act as a facilitator to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students.
- MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.
- EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal.
- They would be free to charge fees as per their policy. As their contribution towards the National cause, they would have to offer free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution through NEAT portal. MHRD would distribute the free coupons for learning to the most socially/economically backward students.
- AICTE would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme. The scheme shall be administered under the guidance of an Apex Committee constituted by MHRD.
- Independent Expert Committees would be constituted for evaluating and selecting the EdTech solutions.

## Women and Child Development: Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Reaches One Crore Beneficiaries

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana) + Mains (GS II Social issues/justice + issues relating to development and management of social sector/ services relating to health, education , human resource)**

### What's the NEWS

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a flagship scheme of the Government for pregnant women and lactating mothers has achieved a significant milestone by crossing one crore beneficiaries. The total amount disbursed to the beneficiaries under the scheme has crossed Rs. 4,000 crores.

### Know! more about PMMVY

- PMMVY is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme under which cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.
- Implementation of the scheme started with effect from 01.01.2017. Under the 'Scheme', Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three installments on fulfilling the respective conditionality, viz. early registration of pregnancy, ante-natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000.
- Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Rajasthan are the top five States/UT in the country in implementation of PMMVY. Odisha and Telangana are yet to start implementation of the scheme.
- Implementation of the scheme is closely monitored by the central and state governments through PMMVY-CAS, a web based software application.
- The application is interoperable with UIDAI and Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for authentication of unique beneficiaries and their Bank Accounts.

### Status check

A look at the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Under the scheme, monetary benefits are extended to all pregnant women and lactating mothers, except those in government service, for the safe delivery of the first child
- On average, eligible beneficiaries get ₹6,000 each in three instalments
- The cash incentive is provided as compensation for wage loss, so that the beneficiary can take adequate rest before and after the delivery and immunisation of her first child



- The Scheme is 100 percent Local Government Directory (LGD) compliant with a uniform master data of all villages/towns/cities throughout the Country on one platform, i.e. PMMVY-CAS. These features have helped in quick implementation of the scheme and eliminating duplication of benefits.

## Social Justice: Management Information System Portal launched

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the Management Information System) + Mains (GS II Social Justice-Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.**

### What's the NEWS

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has developed a Management Information System, MIS for stakeholders of Accessible India Campaign.
- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the MIS portal

### Know! about the MIS Portal

- The MIS portal will bring all the nodal ministries and States and Union Territories on a single platform for monitoring the progress being made against each target of Accessible India Campaign.
- The portal will be useful in maintaining all the function on digital platform and capture data on a real-time basis.
- The monitoring of the places being made accessible will become more effective as there is provision of uploading images of such features. The portal is made fully accessible for Divyangjans.

### Know! about Accessible India Campaign or Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

- It is a program which was launched to serve the differently-able community of the country.
- The program comes with an index to measure the design of disabled-friendly buildings and human resource policies.
- The flagship program has been launched by the Prime Minister on 3 December 2015, the International Day of people with Disabilities.
- The initiative also in line with the Article 9 of UNCRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to which India is a signatory since 2007.
- The scheme also comes under Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 under section 44, 45, 46 for equal Opportunities and protection of rights which provides non-discrimination in Transport to Persons with Disabilities

## Centre – States Relations: 29th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council



**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Zonal Council) + 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

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah chaired the 29th meeting of the Northern Zonal Council was held at Chandigarh

- The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Administrator of UT of Chandigarh, Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi

### Northern Zonal Council

- 20% of the area and 13% of the population is covered by the States in this region and North Zone has made important contribution in the economic growth of the country.

*The Council reviewed the progress of implementation of the recommendations made at the last meeting. The Council among others focused on the following issues:*

1. Speedy investigation of cases of sexual offence/rape against women and children. It was decided that no stone should be left unturned to adhere to the time limits of 2 months for investigation and enquiry/trial in keeping with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.
2. The Council expressed satisfaction over release of Rs. 47,436 crores under CAMPA funds which was long overdue.
3. Report of Survey of India relating to boundary disputes between Haryana and Himachal Pradesh was presented, on which there was broad consensus on methodology.
4. It was agreed that coverage of all villages which have hitherto remained without any banking facilities within 5 km radial distance by a Bank/India Post Payments Service must be ensured within 3 months.

### Know! about the Zonal Council

- The five Zonal Councils (Northern, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Central Zonal Councils) 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 endeavor 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.

## Bilateral relations: President of Mongolia, paid a State Visit to India

**Relevance IN – (Prelims – important takeaways of the bilateral meeting between India-Mongolia) + Mains (GS II Bilateral relations)**

### What's the NEWS

- At the invitation of Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, H.E. Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga, President of Mongolia, paid a State Visit to India from 19 to 23 September, 2019.
- Bilateral talks between the two sides were held. The discussions covered bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- The two sides recalled the historic State Visit of Prime Minister Modi to Mongolia in May 2015, which had **led to the upgradation of bilateral ties to the level of Strategic Partnership** which is based on universally recognized principles of independence, sovereignty and equality of states, the fundamental ideals of the Treaty of Friendly Relations and Cooperation between Republic of India and Mongolia, signed on February 22, 1994, and other bilateral documents.



## Joint Statement on Strengthening the Strategic Partnership between India and Mongolia

- Steps taken by both the countries to promote people-to-people exchanges and simplify the Visa regime for broad-basing the bilateral Strategic Partnership.
- India decided to introduce the e-Visa facility for the Mongolian short-term visitors. In reciprocation, Mongolia announced a “visa on arrival” scheme arrangement for Indian short-term visitors to encourage mutual tourism.
- Mongolia reiterated its support to India’s permanent membership bid at the UNSC. Both sides also reaffirmed their support for their respective bids for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for the terms 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 respectively.
- Both nations appreciated the regular participation of their armed forces in “Nomadic Elephant” military exercise in India and the “Khaan Quest” exercise in Mongolia. The two sides agreed to continue the cooperation in the field of defence exchanges and training.
- The project related to Cyber Security Training Centre to be established in Mongolia with Indian assistance is in advanced stage of implementation. The Indian side reaffirmed to the Mongolian side its support for capacity building and infrastructure development in the field of cyber security.
- Mongolia appreciated the significant progress made in the implementation of the ‘Mongol Refinery Project’ under India’s Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 1 billion.
- India further agreed to extend an additional LOC of US \$236 million for the project, taking India’s total commitment for the project to US\$ 1.236 billion.
- Both sides also decided to train engineers and technicians to be employed at the “Mongol Refinery Project” in India through Scholarship from the Indian Government under the existing Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.
- Mongolia conveyed its interest to join the ISA and India invited the Mongolian side to consider signing the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance as soon as the amendments to Framework Agreement get ratified by ISA’s member countries.
- India also announced its decision to extend assistance for upgrading the building of Mongolia’s External Affairs Ministry into a green and energy-efficient solar building.
- India and Mongolia further reviewed the progress on setting up of the ‘Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Excellence in Information & Communication Technology’ being developed in Mongolia with Indian assistance.

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha at the Gandan Monastery in Mongolia via videoconferencing.



## Know! about the Golden statue and Gandan Monastery

- The golden statue with Lord Buddha holding a bowl was unveiled at a brief ceremony held at the prime minister's Lok Kalyan Marg residence.
- The Gandan Monastery is located in Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar.
- In May 2015, Modi had visited the monastery where he presented a Bodhi tree sapling describing it as a token of friendship from the Indian people.
- He had also announced to gift a statue of Lord Buddha to the monastery, underlining the common Buddhist heritage and civilisational links between the two countries and people
- The statue depicts Lord Buddha in a sitting posture along with his two disciples conveying the message of compassion along with peace and co-existence.
- Gandan is the largest and most significant monastery in Mongolia.
- Built in the mid 19th century, it is the only monastery where Buddhist services continued to function even during the Communist period.

## Science & Technology: Government launches 'UMMID' initiative to tackle inherited genetic diseases of new born babies

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about genetic diseases + about UMMID initiative + Nidan kendra) + Mains (GS II Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.)*

### What's the NEWS

- The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders) initiative and inaugurated NIDAN (National Inherited Diseases Administration) Kendras, which is being supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

### Know! more about UMMID

- With the program being implemented at government hospitals, people who cannot afford expensive care for genetic disorders will be benefited
- UMMID is a path-breaking initiative in the health-care sector as UMMID initiative is meeting the hopes of large number of persons with inherited diseases.

### Know! about genetic diseases and its statics in India

- A genetic disorder is a genetic problem caused by one or more abnormalities formed in the genome. Most genetic disorders are quite rare and affect one person in every several thousands or millions.
- Genetic disorders may be hereditary or non-hereditary, meaning that they are passed down from the parents' genes. However, in some genetic disorders, defects may be caused by new mutations, altered phenotype, or changes to the DNA
- Taking into account that congenital and hereditary genetic diseases are becoming a significant health burden in India, and realizing the need for adequate and effective genetic testing and counselling services.
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has started the UMMID Initiative which is designed on the concept of 'Prevention is better than Cure'.
- In India's urban areas, congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the third most common cause of mortality in new-borns.
- With a very large population and high birth rate, and **consanguineous marriage** favored in many communities, prevalence of genetic disorders is high in India

### The UMMID initiative aims

- to establish NIDAN Kendras to provide counselling, prenatal testing and diagnosis, management, and multidisciplinary care in Government Hospitals wherein the influx of patients is more
- to produce skilled clinicians in Human Genetics, and
- to undertake screening of pregnant women and new born babies for inherited genetic diseases in hospitals at aspirational districts.

## Objective of Nidan Kendras

- The department is planning to expand the program and establish more Nidan Kendras in other parts of the country, train more clinicians in clinical genetics and cover more aspirational districts for screening of pregnant women and new born babies for inherited genetic diseases to provide comprehensive clinical care, in the next phase under this UMMID initiative.
- The Government of India has launched the National Health Policy, 2017 aiming to shift focus from “sick-care” to “wellness”. UMMID initiative shall work towards achieving wellness by promoting prevention of genetic diseases.

## Know! about Consanguineous marriage

- Consanguineous marriage is matrimony between individuals who are closely related.
- Though it may involve incest, it implies more than the sexual nature of incest. In a clinical sense, marriage between two family members who are second cousins or closer qualifies as consanguineous marriage.
- This is based on the gene copies their offspring may receive. Though these unions are still prevalent in some communities, as seen across the Greater Middle East region, many other populations have seen a great decline in intra-family marriages.

As a part of this initiative, in the first phase, five NIDAN Kendras have been established to provide comprehensive clinical care.



### UMMID' INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO TACKLE INHERITED GENETIC DISEASES OF NEW BORN BABIES

The UMMID initiative aims to:

1. To Produce skilled clinicians in Human Genetics
2. In phase one 5 National Inherited Diseases Administration (NIDAN) Kendras to be established.

#### LIST OF NIDAN KENDRAS

LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE (LHMC), DELHI
NIZAM'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (NIMS), HYDERABAD, TELANGANA
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), JODHPUR
ARMY HOSPITAL RESEARCH CAMP- REFERRAL, DELHI
NIL RATAN SIRCAR (NRS) MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, KOLKATA

## Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises: 16th Global SME Business Summit

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the Global SME Business Summit) + Mains (GS II economic development + GS II Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.**

### What's the NEWS

- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has said that **reducing the cost of capital, logistics and power** are crucial for making the Indian MSME sector globally competitive during the inauguration of the 16<sup>th</sup> Global SME Business Summit 2019 in New Delhi.

### Know! the objective of the summit

- The Summit is organized every year by Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). The theme this year is **Making Indian MSMEs Globally Competitive**.
- The Government's target is to increase MSME's present share of 29 percent of GDP to 50 percent in next five years and raise its export contribution from 49 percent to 60 percent. To achieve these targets logistics, power and capital cost will need to be reduced.

### Steps taken by the government and steps need to be taken

- For cheaper capital, the Ministry is in talks with ADB, KfW and World Bank for their credit line. 200 SMEs are registered on the stock exchange, and the Minister is urging more companies to register.
- The problem of delayed payments to MSMEs is also being looked into as the UK Sinha Committee Report will soon be implemented.
- For lowering cost of power and logistics there is necessity of energy audits and energy efficient technologies and to achieve that roof top solar plants will be provided to MSMEs with KfW support.
- The use of water transport can reduce logistic cost.
- The Ministry will soon launch a new E-Commerce website 'Bharat Mart' to enable MSMEs to sell their products in local as well as international markets.

## Digital MSME portal

- The Ministry is in the process of developing a digital MSME portal which will work as a virtual meeting place for all stakeholders of the sector.
- For the over 75 lakh MSMEs currently registered with the Ministry, this will provide a platform where they can interact globally to fulfil their requirements for funding, knowledge, technology, skilling and marketing, making them more competitive and integrated with the global value chain.
- To enhance manufacturing competitiveness of entrepreneurs, the Ministry is in the process of opening new 135 new Tool Rooms & Technology centres to develop the skill of the entrepreneurs.

## Connect the dots (about KfW)

- The KfW, formerly KfW Bankengruppe (banking group), is a German state-owned development bank, based in Frankfurt.
- Its name originally comes from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (“Credit Institute for Reconstruction”).
- It was formed in 1948 after World War II as part of the Marshall Plan. As of 2018, it is Germany’s third largest bank by balance sheet.

## Jal Shakti/Governance: 6th India Water Week – 2019

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about India water week) + Mains (GS II Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation).**

### Know! about the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan

- In the face of geographical diversity of India and the problems related to waters, Ministry has come up with **Jal Shakti Abhiyan**, which is a collaborative effort of the Central and State Governments to accelerate progress on water conservation activities in the most water stressed blocks and districts of India.
- Under this campaign, the entire Government of India machinery of over 1000 senior Central Government officers have joined the States to promote focused interventions for water collection and conservation, including restoration and renovation of traditional water bodies.
- The theme of this year’s India Water week inaugurated by the President Shri Ram Nath Kovind is “Water cooperation: Coping with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges”. Japan and European Union have been associated as partner countries for this mega event.
- Cooperation is a must for a sustainable tomorrow and Jal Shakti Ministry is an example in itself of such cooperation.
- For better water governance, Indian government has merged several departments related to water and sanitation into a new integrated Ministry of Jal Shakti.

### Know! about India Water Week

- Ministry of Jal Shakti has been organizing India Water Week since 2012 as an international event to focus on water related issues.
- Five editions of India Water Week have been organized so far. Water Resources Ministers of various States have attended the Inaugural Function.
- About 1500 delegates from India and abroad are participating in this event, which includes about 63 delegates from 28 countries.

## Exercise MALABAR 2019

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Exercise Malabar) + Mains (GS II Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests)**

### What’s the NEWS

- The 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR, is scheduled between the navies of India, Japan and USA from 26 Sep to 04 Oct 19 off the coast of Japan.

## Know! more about it

- Two frontline indigenously designed and built Indian Naval Ships, the Multipurpose Guided Missile Frigate Sahyadri and ASW Corvette Kiltan reached Japan, to participate in the Exercise.
- In addition to the ships, a 'P8I' Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, also arrived in Japan for the Exercise.
- The US Navy is being represented by a Los Angeles-Class Attack Submarine and a 'P8A' Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- The JMSDF would be participating with its Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer JS Kaga, Guided Missile Destroyers JS Samidare and Choukai and a 'P1' Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.



## Know! about the objective of MALABAR Exercise

- MALABAR 2019 would endeavour to further strengthen India - Japan - US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles.
- The Exercise would encompass conduct of complex maritime operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains, and focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Air and Anti-Surface Firings, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) including Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) and tactical scenario based Exercise at Sea.
- In addition, the partner navies would conduct official protocol visits, professional interactions including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), reciprocal ship visits, sports fixtures and social events during the harbour phase.
- Participation of IN ships and aircraft in the Exercise would significantly bolster the strong maritime bonds of friendship between the three countries and contribute to security and stability in the region.

## Good Governance: Dr Jitendra Singh launches CPGRAMS reforms in Department of Posts

***Relevance in – Prelims (about the new version of Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System CPGRAMS) + Mains (GS II Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures***

### What's the NEWS

- The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions recently Launched the new version of Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) in Department of Posts

### Know! all about the new version of CPGRAMS and the importance of redressal mechanism

- The new version of CPGRAMS will lead to reduction in grievance disposal time and improved quality of grievance redressal.
- Till now top-down approach towards grievance redressal was followed and now with the new version of CPGRAMS, the complainant has been empowered. This will also save the processing time by about 7-10 days.
- The CPGRAMS 7.0 version is proposed to be replicated in the rest of the Central ministries in the coming months.
- Currently the DARPG handles about 16 lakh grievances every year of which 95% are being disposed off satisfactorily.
- Under new version, there will be almost no manual intervention with mapping of 1.5 lakh post offices.
- The Government has taken a major step for systemic improvement in the Centralized Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).

- The new upgraded version CPGRAMS 7.0 provides for grievances filed on CPGRAMS to be directly sent to field level grievance officers by providing user IDs to all field level functionaries.
- The Department of Posts is one of the largest recipients of Public Grievances in India. It is expected that the CPGRAMS 7.0 will cut processing time by 50 percent in the Department of Posts.
- Public Grievances are more of a feedback system to the Government to understand the root causes of the problems and the Department has conducted a study by QCI to analyse the root cause of grievances in various ministries/departments.
- The DARPG launched the CPGRAMS for receiving, redressing and monitoring of grievances from the public.
- The CPGRAMS provides the facility to lodge a grievance online from any geographical location. It enables the citizen to track online the grievance being followed up with Departments concerned and also enables DARPG to monitor the grievance.

## Government Schemes: National Launch of 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029)

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the objective of rural sanitation strategy) + Mains (GS II Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029), which focus on sustaining the sanitation Behaviour change that has been achieved under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), ensuring that no one is left behind, and increasing access to solid and liquid waste management.

### Know! the statics of SBM – G

- Since the launch of the SBM-G in 2014, over 10 crore toilets have been built in rural areas; over 5.9 lakh villages, 699 districts, and 35 States/UTs have declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- This strategy has been prepared by DDWS, in consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders, and it lays down a framework to guide local governments, policy makers, implementers and other relevant stakeholders in their planning for ODF Plus, where everyone uses a toilet, and every village has access to solid and liquid waste management.
- The 10 year strategy focuses on the need for States/UTs to continue their efforts to sustain the gains of the mission through capacity strengthening, IEC (Information, education and communication), organic waste management, plastic waste management, grey water management and black water management.

## India's Foreign Policy: Prime Minister met with the leaders of CARICOM at the UNGA

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about CARICOM) + Mains (GS II Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests)**

### What's the NEWS

- India's historic and warm relations with the countries of the Caribbean witnessed a new momentum with the meeting of PM Modi with 14 leaders of the CARICOM group of countries on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2019.
- It was the first-ever meeting of PM Modi with CARICOM leaders in a regional format and highlighted the steadily intensifying and deepening

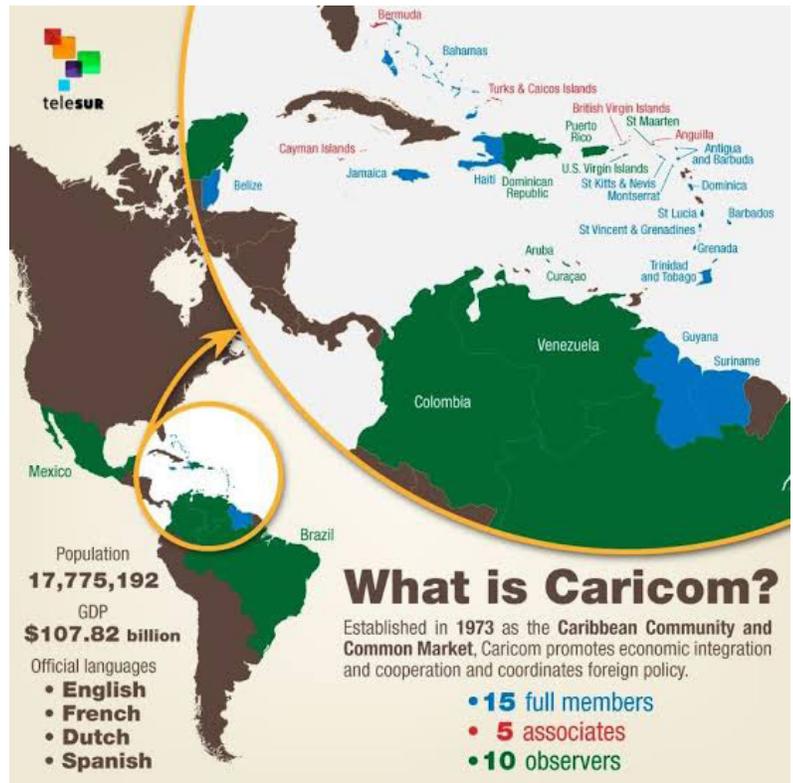


relations between India and partner countries of the Caribbean, not only in the bilateral, but also in the regional context.

- PM Modi reiterated India's firm commitment to strengthen its political, economic and cultural engagement with CARICOM.

**Know! about CARICOM**

- The Caribbean Community (CARICOM or CC) is an organisation of fifteen Caribbean nations and dependencies having primary objectives to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members, to ensure that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy.
- The organisation was established in 1973. Its major activities involve coordinating economic policies and development planning; devising and instituting special projects for the less-developed countries within its jurisdiction; operating as a regional single market for many of its members (Caricom Single Market); and handling regional trade disputes.
- The secretariat headquarters is in Georgetown, Guyana. CARICOM is an official United Nations Observer.



**Human Resource Development: India to host the second edition of joint international hackathon ‘Singapore India Hackathon 2019**

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about the joint international hackathon) + Mains (GS II bilateral relations)*

**What’s the NEWS**

- India will hold the second edition of joint hackathon with Singapore, the ‘Singapore India Hackathon 2019’ at IIT Madras on Sep 28 and 29, 2019.
- The Singapore India Hackathon, an initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is the first of its kind joint International hackathon between India and any other country.

**Know! more about the Hackathon**

- The aim of this joint international hackathon is to promote engagement and collaboration of student community in India with the rest of the world and to develop innovative and out- of -the- box solutions for some of the daunting problems faced by our societies.



- During the non-stop, fast-paced 36 hours Singapore India Hackathon, the students will develop creative and innovative solutions focused on the themes.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Singapore India Hackathon was held at NTU, Singapore in November, 2018, based on the theme ‘Smart Campus’.
- This year the hackathon is focused on three themes, ‘Good Health and well-being’, ‘Quality Education’ and ‘Affordable and Clean Energy’.
- Singapore India Hackathon 2019 has 20 teams and for the first time each participating team would comprise of 3 students from India and 3 students from Singapore, thereby paving the way for exchange of culture and ideas.

### **Know! the highlights of Smart India Hackathon 2019**

- 20 teams with 6 team members each (3 members from India and 3 members from Singapore) to participate.
- Each team to have 2 mentors (1 from India and 1 from Singapore)
- The hackathon will be focused on 5 problem statements under 3 broad themes – Good health and well-being, Quality Education, Affordable and clean energy
- Top 4 teams will win prizes (\$10,000, \$8,000, \$6,000 and \$4,000 respectively) from the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi, along with 6 more teams with Encouragement prizes (\$2,000 per team)

## **Election Commission: Voluntary Code of Ethics by Social Media Platforms to be observed in the General Elections**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the Voluntary Code of Ethics) + Mains (GS II Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act)***

### **What’s the NEWS**

- Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) on behalf of its members has agreed to observe the “Voluntary Code of Ethics” during all future elections including the ongoing General Elections to the Haryana & Maharashtra legislative assemblies
- IAMAI and social media platforms Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Google, Sharechat and TikTok had presented and observed this “Voluntary Code of Ethics” during the General Election to 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha 2019.
- IAMAI has assured the Commission that the platforms will cooperate in ensuring the conduct of free and fair elections.

*The highlighted features of “Voluntary Code of Ethics” are as follows:*

- Social Media platforms will voluntarily undertake information, education and communication campaigns to build awareness including electoral laws and other related instructions.
- Social Media platforms have created a high priority dedicated grievance redressal channel for taking expeditious action on the cases reported by the ECI.
- Social Media Platforms and ECI have developed a notification mechanism by this ECI can notify the relevant platforms of potential violations of Section 126 of the R.P. Act, 1951 and other electoral laws.
- Platforms will ensure that all political advertisements on their platforms are pre-certified from the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees as per the directions of Hon’ble Supreme Court.
- Participating platforms are committed to facilitate transparency in paid political advertisements, including utilising their pre-existing labels/disclosure technology for such advertisements.

## **North-East Region: 2-day 68th Plenary session of North Eastern Council held in Guwahati**

***Relevance IN -Prelims (about north eastern council) + Mains (GS II Centre- state relations)***

### **What’s the NEWS**

- The 68<sup>th</sup> Plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) was held in Guwahati.
- The Plenary session was inaugurated by the Union Home Minister Shri Amit.

- The Union Home Minister announced that the North Eastern Council will earmark 30 per cent of its fund for focussed funding of priority areas and deprived sections of society in the North East also the North East Council has been given its highest budgetary allotment of 1476 crore rupees for the year 2019-20.
- All the Governors and Chief Ministers of the eight north eastern states and other members also attended the meet
- It was emphasised that NEC as a regional planning body and a resource centre should play a major role in guiding the states towards achieving the goal of development at par with the rest of the country.
- The creation of shared infrastructure, setting up of shared institutions and finding & pursuing common interests for all the eight states should continue to be the vision and objective of the Council.
- Some of the key areas in which initiatives have been taken are upgradation of airports, increasing air connectivity of north east region with South-East Asian countries, strengthening broadband network and mobile connectivity especially in the uncovered villages in areas along the international border.
- The decisions and recommendations of the NEC Plenary will be sent to various Ministries and departments of the Central and state governments for taking appropriate action.

### **Know! about North Eastern Council (NEC)**

- NEC is a statutory advisory body constituted under the NEC Act 1971 and came into being on the 7th November, 1972 at Shillong.
- The eight States of Northeast India viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, are members of the council, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them. Sikkim was added to the council in the year 2002.
- The headquarters of the council is situated in Shillong and functions under the ministry of home affairs of the Government of India.

## **International Organisations: 22nd Session of UN Committee on CRPD at Geneva**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about UNCRPD) + Mains GS II (social justice)***

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

- India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- It ratified this Convention on 01-10-2007 in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention. India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India in November 2015.
- The UN Committee on CRPD in its 22<sup>nd</sup> Session took up India's First Country Report for consideration during 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at UNHRC, Geneva.
- UN Committee on enactment of the Comprehensive RPwD Act, 2016, launch of Accessible India Campaign, establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) to address issues concerning psycho-social disability, establishment of Centre for Disability Sports, achievements in distribution of aids and assistive devices, etc.
- The UN Committee while appreciating the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016 and various initiatives of the Government of India raised queries
- The UN Committee welcomed the efforts of the Government of India and noted the response of the Indian delegation. The Committee will come up with its final recommendations on the report shortly

## **Centre – State Relations: Centre sets up 3-member panel to oversee bifurcation of J&K into two Union Territories**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the objective of the panel) + Mains (GS II centre – state relations)***

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

- Centre has set up a three-member panel to oversee the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

- The committee will look into the distribution of assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir between two successor Union territories, which will come into existence on 31st of October this year.
- The committee headed by Former Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra will have Retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and Retired Indian Civil Accounts Service officer Giriraj Prasad Gupta as members.
- On 5th of last month, the Centre had announced the abrogation of the special status given to J&K under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into the two UTs.

### Know! more about the committee role

- The Centre has constituted a three-member committee to look into distribution of assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir between two successor Union territories, which will come into existence on October 31
- In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 84 and Section 85 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the central government hereby constitutes the advisory committee
- As per Section 84 of the Act, the assets and liabilities of the existing state of Jammu and Kashmir have to be apportioned between the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.
- On August 5, the Centre announced the abrogation of the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into the two UTs.
- The apportionment of the assets and liabilities of the existing state of Jammu and Kashmir shall be subject to the recommendations of a committee constituted by the central government.
- According to Section 85 of the Act, the central government, by an order, can establish one or more advisory committees for apportionment of assets, rights and liabilities of the companies and corporations constituted for the existing state of Jammu and Kashmir between the two Union territories.

## Health Sector: Malaria Eradication possible by 2050: Lancet Report

MALARIA ERADICATION WITHIN A GENERATION

A new report from  
*The Lancet* Commission  
on malaria eradication

UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences  
Global Health Group

THE LANCET

THE LANCET  
September 2015

Malaria eradication within a generation:  
ambitious, achievable, and necessary

"Malaria eradication is a goal of epic proportions that represents the best of human ingenuity and requires an extraordinary degree of trust and collaboration among all nations. It is this bigger vision that will propel and sustain the community in the long and sometimes difficult road to a malaria-free world."

A Commission by The Lancet

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

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

- The latest Lancet Report suggested that it may be possible to eradicate malaria from the world by 2050.
- The report titled, 'Malaria eradication within a generation: ambitious, achievable, and necessary' has prepared by 41 leading scientists, economists and health-policy experts.

#### **Know! more about the report**

- The report synthesizes existing evidence with new epidemiological and financial analyses to demonstrate that malaria eradication by 2050 is a bold but attainable and necessary goal.
- In the report—the first peer-reviewed academic document of its kind—the Commission examines the major operational, biological, and financial challenges on the path to eradication and identifies solutions that will enable the global malaria community to bend the curve and achieve a world free of malaria within a generation.

## Know! the major highlights

- According to the Lancet Report, in 2017, there were 86 such countries and the pace of malaria elimination has accelerated in recent years between 2000 and 2017, 20 countries achieved elimination and several others are on track to eliminate by 2020.
- The report suggested that global social, economic, and environmental trends are, in most places, helping to reduce malaria. The Commission's models show that these trends alone will lead to greatly reduced but still widespread malaria by 2050.

## Measures to be taken to eradicate Malaria

- The report suggested that forming close partnerships with private healthcare providers, to ensure that all malaria cases are correctly diagnosed, treated, and reported can strengthen the programme.
- Other essential measures - deploying information technology solutions that facilitate the faster and smarter collection, analysis, use, and sharing of data to inform the choice and targeting of interventions and improve the impact of existing tools.

## Know! about Malaria

- Malaria is a vector-borne disease caused by Plasmodium parasites.
- People come into the contact of the parasites through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes or malaria vectors. Generally, malaria parasites travel to the liver and when they mature the parasite enters the bloodstream and start to infect red blood cells.
- Some common symptoms of malaria are - shaking chills that can range from moderate to severe, headache, high fever, nausea, diarrhoea, coma, muscle pain, anaemia, abdominal pain and profuse sweating.
- Every year on 25th April World Malaria Day is observed.

## National Affairs: 'Pen-Paper Census' to be transformed to a 'Digital Census' in Census 2021

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Census 2021) + Mains (GS II - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.**

### What's the NEWS

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah presided as Chief Guest over the Foundation Stone laying ceremony of Janganana Bhawan

### Know! the importance of Census

- A scientific Census process is seminal in the development of not only the social flow in the Nation, but also for laying out the future plan of development for the last man in the society.

**Mapping the populace** The census enumeration exercise will be done in three phases

**HOUSE LISTING:** Comprising 34 categories, it will be done from April to September, 2020

**ENUMERATION:** Comprising 28 categories, it will be held between February 9 and 28, 2021

**REVISION:** It will be done from March 1 to 5, 2021

**OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:**

- There will be a "third gender" category this time
- Government teachers will conduct the enumeration exercise
- Data will be collected on a web-based application developed under the Registrar General

**THE OUTLIERS:** There are around 45,000 villages in the country with no internet connectivity. For them, data can be gathered on paper

**MANDATORY CLAUSE:** Every citizen is compelled by law to participate in the Census exercise, and denial could lead to criminal action

- 130 crore Indians need to be made aware about the importance of Census, as it is the foundation for long-term future planning for growth and development in the country.
- The valuable data generated from the Census exercise is useful for multifarious developmental activities.
- Each citizen would be able to participate in country's development process only when they are aware of the multidimensionality of the Census process and the data it generates
- The 2021 census would be, inter alia, an exercise in the study of human resources, public life, culture and economic infrastructure in the country. It would function as the building block for scientific planning of the future economic development in the country

### Know! the Census 2021 Process

- The process of a 'Pen-Paper Census' would be transformed to a 'Digital Census' in the upcoming Census exercise by using the latest technology.
- People would be able to upload the details of self and family on the newly developed mobile app themselves.
- Availability of data in digital form would help in its detailed multi-dimensional analysis and utilisation for public welfare, using latest software.
- The Centre is ready with a list of states and Union Territories for the first digital National Population Register (NPR) under census 2021 putting newly created Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir on top where the mammoth exercise would start in September 2020.
- Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India -- founded in 1961 by Ministry of Home Affairs for arranging, conducting and analysing the results of the demographic surveys of India, including census and linguistic survey - has put Jammu and Kashmir on the top of the list as it is a hilly area.
- The 2021 census would begin from all hilly areas in which Jammu and Kashmir is on the top followed by Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh
- Jammu and Kashmir people would be registered in the digital NPR data under the census 2021 within the 20-day exercise.
- According to the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, the census 2021 will be done on different survey grounds such as NPR, Household, House Listing and Linguistic, and that all will be done through a mobile-based App 'Census 2021-NPR', which can be downloaded from Google Play Store.
- The App can only be used by the government enumerators who will be employed in taking census of the population.
- It will be mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. A usual resident is defined for the NPR purposes as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months or more.
- The NPR, a register of usual residents, will be prepared under the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

### National Population Register (NPR)

- For the first time that the National Population Register (NPR) would come into being as the result of the Census exercise.
- This is a new initiative altogether which would be a solution to multifarious problems facing the country that range from effective maintenance of law and order to efficient implantation of welfare schemes like MGNREGS, food security and nutrition campaigns etc.

### What about Socio-Economic Caste Census

#### WHAT HAPPENED TO 2011 CASTE CENSUS?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Following all-party consensus, UPA govt in 2011 decided to conduct a Caste Census, the first since 1931</li> <li>➤ Nearly ₹4,900 crore was spent on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)</li> <li>➤ In 2015, expert group was set up under then Niti Aayog vice-chairman to decide on classification and categorisation of SECC data</li> <li>➤ In 2016, all data from SECC barring caste numbers was put in public domain. The caste data still remains unreleased</li> <li>➤ In July 2017, the govt told</li> </ul>	<p>Parliament that raw caste data from SECC had been given to the social justice ministry, "who is to form the expert group for classification and categorisation of data"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One problem with the SECC data cited by experts is that it has thrown up 46 lakh castes, sub-castes, clan names and so on. Categorising these is a mammoth task</li> <li>➤ To avoid this pitfall, enumerators in 2021 will be given a pre-decided list of castes so that they can ask households which of them they fall under</li> </ul>
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# **GENERAL STUDIES III**

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

## Environment conservation: A new Project to study to check antibiotic resistance in Ganga

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the objective of this project and about antibiotic resistance) Mains (GS III environment conservation + GS II government policies and intervention for development of various sectors)**

**The project aims at indicating the type of contamination in the river and the threat to human health and it is expected to last two years, will identify sources of *Eschericia coli*.**

### What's the NEWS

- The government has commissioned a Rs. 9.3 crore study to assess the microbial diversity along the entire length of the Ganga and test if stretches of the 2,500 km long river contain microbes that may promote “antibiotic resistance”.

### Know! more about it

- The project, expected to last two years, is to be undertaken by scientists at the Motilal Nehru Institute of Technology, Allahabad; the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur; Sardar Patel Institute of Science & Technology, Gorakhpur, as well as start-up companies, Phixgen and Xcelris Labs.
- The latter two provide genome sequencing services, which in this case will involve mapping the genomes of the microbes sampled.

### Objective

- To indicate the type of “contamination” (sewage and industrial) in the river and “threat to human health (antibiotic resistance surge)”, identifying sources of *Eschericia coli*, a type of bacteria that lives in the gut of animals and humans.
- While largely harmless, some species have been linked to intestinal disease as well as aggravating antibiotic resistance.
- There have been several studies that have looked at microbial diversity in the Ganga but these have been isolation. No study has looked at the “entire stretch” of the river
- In 2014, researchers from Newcastle University in the U.K. and IIT-Delhi sampled water and sediments at seven sites along the Ganga in different seasons.
- They reported in the peer-reviewed Environmental Science and Technology that levels of resistance genes that lead to “superbugs” were about 60 times greater during the pilgrimage months of May and June than at other times of the year.
- A 2017 report commissioned by the Union Department of Biotechnology and the U.K. Research Council underlined that India had some of the highest antibiotic resistance rates among bacteria that commonly cause infections.

### Antibiotic resistance

- When bacteria develop the ability to survive exposure to antibiotics designed to kill them. It is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development.
- Antibiotic resistance results in longer hospital stay, higher medical costs and increased mortality rates. Antibiotics can dissolve in the soil, water and the environment at large, giving microbes further opportunity to build up resistance.
- The United States has recently published a report, it was mentioned that the rise in antibiotic resistance could kill 10 million people by 2050 in India.

## Housing & Urban Affairs: Campaign Angikaar & E-Course on Vulnerability Atlas Launched

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about angikaar and about e-course on vulnerability atlas) Mains (GS III infrastructure development + disaster management)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Housing and Urban Affairs ministry launched “**angikaar**” a campaign for change management and **e-Course** on Vulnerability Atlas of India

## Know! about Angikaar

- **Angikaar** has been launched for social behaviour change, focusing on issues such as water & energy conservation, waste management, health, tree plantation, sanitation and hygiene for **beneficiaries of completed houses** under PMAY (U), through community mobilisation and IEC activities.
- For this purpose, the campaign will converge with schemes and Missions of other Ministries dealing with these subjects.
- The convergence would especially focus on **Ujjwala** for gas connection and **Ayushman Bharat** for health insurance to the beneficiaries of PMAY (U).
- Under PMAY (U) about 88 lakh houses has been approved till now as against demand of 1.12 crore. The angikaar aims at reaching out all the beneficiaries of the Mission in phased manner.
- The campaign will be initiated in all target cities on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 commemorating 150<sup>th</sup> Gandhi Jayanti after preparatory phase and culminate on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The campaign will include door to door activities, ward and city level events.



## Know! about e-course on Vulnerability Atlas

- The e-course on Vulnerability Atlas is offered by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in collaboration of School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).
- It is a unique course that offers awareness and understanding about natural hazards, helps identify regions with high vulnerability with respect to various hazards (earthquakes, cyclones, landslides, floods, etc.) and specifies district-wise level of damage risks to the existing housing stock.
- The e-course will be a tool for effective & efficient disaster mitigation & management in the field of Architecture, Civil Engineering, Urban & Regional Planning, Housing & Infrastructure Planning, Construction Engineering & Management and Building & Materials Research. The registration to e-Course on Vulnerability Atlas of India will be through SPA's website [www.spa.ac.in](http://www.spa.ac.in).
- During the inauguration of **Construction Technology India** (CTI-2019), Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a mandate to enable "Ease of Living" for PMAY (U) beneficiaries and emphasized the need to incorporate hazard safety provisions in all construction works. In this direction, as a part of 100 days agenda the Ministry has launched these initiatives.

## Agricultural Reforms: Govt approves Rs 6,268 crore subsidy to promote sugar exports

**Relevance IN –Mains (GS III issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidy and minimum support price)**

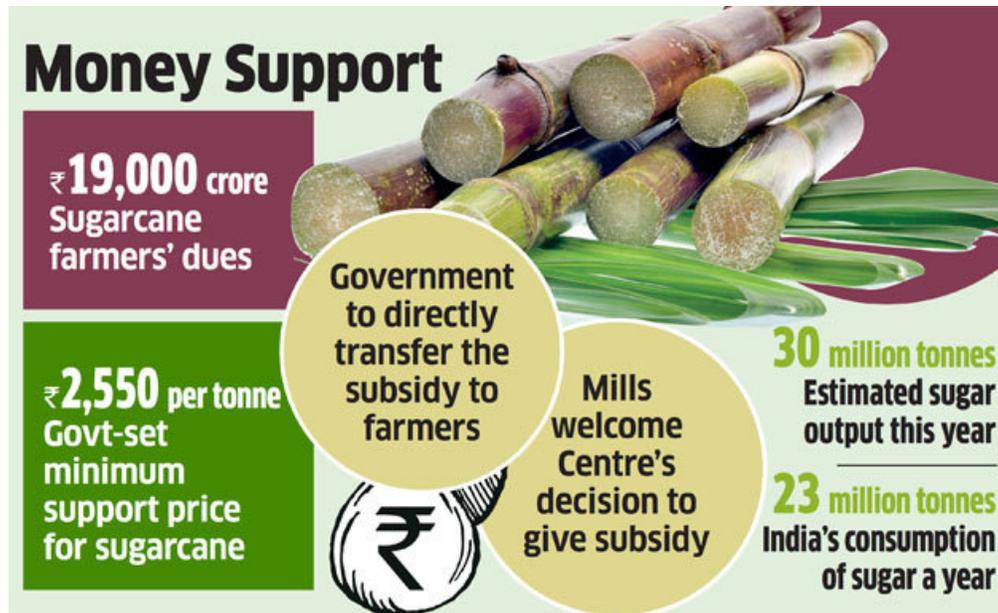
### What's the NEWS

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved sugar export policy for evacuation of surplus stocks during sugar season 2019-20.
- The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave nod to sugar export subsidy of about Rs 6,268 crore to liquidate surplus domestic stock and help mills in clearing huge sugarcane arrears to farmers.

### Know! more about the export subsidy and how it will benefit the farmers

- The export subsidy will be provided for expenses on marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs, international and internal transport costs and freight charges.
- The subsidy would be directly credited into farmers' accounts on behalf of mills against sugarcane price dues. Subsequent balance, if any, would be credited to mills' account.

- The decision will benefit millions of farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka as well as other states, Javadekar added. Maharashtra and Haryana are among the top sugarcane producing states in the country.



- Given the surplus sugar production in the last two seasons and various measures taken by the government, the ensuing sugar season 2019-20 is expected to commence with an opening stock of about 142 LMT and season-end stock is expected to be about 162 LMT.

## Infrastructure Development: Samudrayaan Project

- The 'Samudrayaan' project undertaken by the NIOT, Chennai, is in line with the ISRO's ambitious 'Gaganyaan' mission of sending an astronaut to space by 2022
- The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometre for 72 hours

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about 'Samudrayaan' project) + Mains (GS III infrastructure development – energy)**

### What's the NEWS

- India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle is likely to be a reality in 2021-22 with the 'Samudrayaan' project
- The project proposes to send a submersible vehicle with three persons to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out deep underwater studies
- The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometre for 72 hours
- Similar to ISRO's plan to carry persons on a space mission, NIOT has undertaken Samudrayaan. The Rs. 200 crore project proposes to carry three persons in a submersible vehicle to a depth of 6000 metres under sea for various studies. Submarines go only about 200 metres
- The project has been undertaken by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

### Know! more about Samudrayaan project?

- The 'Samudrayaan' project undertaken by the NIOT, Chennai, is in line with the ISRO's ambitious 'Gaganyaan' mission of sending an astronaut to space by 2022.



- The success of the ‘Samudrayaan’ will help India to join the league of developed nations in exploration of minerals from oceans
- Such missions had already been carried by developed countries and India could be the first among the developing nations
- The ‘Samudrayaan’ is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences’ pilot project for deep ocean mining for rare minerals.
- This will be a part of the Rs. 6000 crore ‘Deep Ocean Mission’ that has received in-principle approval but is awaiting a final nod from the Union Finance Ministry.
- India has been allocated a site of 75,000 sq km in the Central Indian Ocean Basin by the International Sea Bed Authority for exploration of polymetallic nodules from seabed.
- The estimated resource of polymetallic nodules is about 380 million tonnes, containing 4.7 million tonnes of nickel, 4.29 million tonnes of copper and 0.55 million tonnes of cobalt and 92.59 million tonnes of manganese.
- NIOT has similarly undertaken Samudrayaan as ISRO has envisioned carrying an astronaut to space under its 2022 ‘Gaganyaan’ mission.
- The submersible vehicle, which will be indigenously developed, would be capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six-kilometer for 72 hours.
- The project will go deeper in phases with more trials and the ocean mining is expected to commence in 2022.
- The submarines deployed currently go only about 200 metres deep into the sea. The expenditure of the ambitious project is expected to be around Rs 200 crore.
- If the ‘Samudrayaan’ project is successful, India will join the league of developed nations in the exploration of minerals from oceans.
- Developed countries have already carried out such missions. India could be the first developing country to undertake such a project.



## Environment Conservation: India takes over COP Presidency from China for next two years

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about COP 14 and about UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)**

### What's the NEWS

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Shri Prakash Javadekar and Executive Secretary, UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw today jointly inaugurated the 12- day 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to UNCCD
- The Environment Minister who is also elected as the COP President for next two years, expressed India's resounding commitment to finding a long-term solution for minimizing the impact of desertification and land degradation.



### **Know! more about COP 14 and role of India in combating desertification**

- This year, India being the global host for COP 14 will take over the COP Presidency from China for the next two years till 2021.
- India is privileged to be among the select few countries to have hosted the COP of all three Rio conventions on climate change, biodiversity and land.
- Through hosting COP 14, India will highlight its leadership in navigating the land management agenda at global level. It will also provide a stage to mainstream sustainable land management in country's national development policies
- The key outcomes of COP 14 will facilitate in delivering convergence and synergies among the existing programmes in the field of agriculture, forestry, land, water management and poverty alleviation, which will cater the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- India has been proactive in combating land degradation, desertification and drought. We have added more than 15000 Sq km of tree cover inside and outside forest areas in last 5 years, which is a big success in land restoration”.
- The Conference is being attended by delegates from 197 parties 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

### **Know! more about UNCCD**

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 and ratified by 196 countries & European Union.
- India ratified the UNCCD Convention on 17th December 1996. This convention can be called as “Mother convention” of the other two Rio Conventions that emerged as a major outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit viz. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The objective of the COP 14, accompanied with fourteenth meeting of Committee on Science and Technology (CST 14) and eighteenth meeting of Committee to Review the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 18), is to discuss on various issues of land such as sustainable land management, reversing land degradation, mitigating drought, halting desertification, addressing sand and dust storms, linkages with gender, tenure, etc. and guide the Convention as global and national circumstances needs change.

## Economic Development: Cabinet approves Infusion of capital by Government in IDBI Bank

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about IDBI bank’s crisis and steps taken by the government) + Mains (GS III economic developments)**

### What’s the NEWS

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Infusion of Rs 4,557 crore by Government in IDBI Bank.
- It will help in completing the process of IDBI Bank’s turnaround and enable it to return to profitability and normal lending, and giving Government the option of recovering its investment at an opportune time.

### IDBI’s current status

- IDBI Bank needs a one time infusion of capital to complete the exercise of dealing with its legacy book.
- It has already substantially cleaned up, reducing net NPA from peak of 18.8% in June 2018 to 8% in June 2019.
- The capital for this has to come from its shareholders. LIC is at 51% and is not allowed to go higher by the insurance regulator.
- Of the Rs. 9,300 crore needed, LIC would meet 51% (Rs. 4,743 crore). Remaining 49%, amounting to Rs. 4,557 crore, is proposed from Government as its share on one time basis.

### Know! the benefits of this infusion

- After this infusion, IDBI Bank expects to be able to subsequently raise further capital on its own and expects to come out of RBI’s Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework sometime next year.
- This cash neutral infusion will be through recap bonds i.e. Government infusing capital into the bank and the bank buying the recap bond from the Government the same day, with no impact on liquidity or current year’s Budget.
- Following Cabinet’s approval in August 2018, LIC acquired 51% stake in IDBI Bank. Government continues to be a promoter and holds 46.46% stake.
- The financial parameters of IDBI Bank have improved considerably during the last one year:

## Economic Development: Joint India- NDB Workshop on Enhancing New Development Bank (NDB) Engagement with the Indian Private and Public Sector

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the outcome of the workshop and about NDB) + Mains (GS III economic developments)**

### What’s the NEWS

- A one-day Joint India- NDB workshop on Enhancing NDB’s engagement with the India private and public sector was held recently

### Know! all about NDB

- The NDB is the first Multilateral Development Bank established by developing countries and emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The mandate of the Bank is to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, complementing the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.
- India is one of the founding members, holding 20% stake in the Bank. The Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.
- As of now, NDB’s approved loan proportion to India is 28%, the second highest after China amongst the BRICS countries. States like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Assam are receiving funding from the Bank.
- NDB is now keen on expanding its operation in other states and union territories in India. The Bank is also looking forward to expand its lending to private sector in India.

- The workshop was co-organized by NDB and the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

### **NDB and India (How NDB will help in infrastructure financing)**

- India will require an investment of about USD 1.30 trillion in the infrastructure sector over the next five years, which will require innovative sources of funding, and that NDB can contribute towards meeting this funding requirement.
- NDB aims to provide local currency financing options in its member countries and expressed hope that NDB will be able to provide rupee financing in India soon.

## **Internal Security: Declaration of certain individuals as terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about UAPA and its new provisions) + Mains (GS III internal security)***

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

- Invoking the recent amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Central Government has decided to declare the following individuals as terrorists and add their names to Schedule 4 of the Act:
  1. Maulana Masood Azhar : chief, founder and key leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad
  2. Hafiz Muhammad: chief, founder and key leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamat-ud-Dawa
  3. Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi: chief operation commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba and one of its founder members
  4. Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar: runs an international underworld crime syndicate and is involved in perpetrating acts of terror
- All of the above are involved in terrorist attacks in India, and have been designated as global terrorists under United Nations.
- Earlier when terrorist organizations were banned, the individuals associated with it simply changed names and continued to carry out terrorist activities.

#### **Know! about The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and the 2019 amendments**

- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, allowing the Centre and States to designate individuals as terrorists and seize their property.
- Through this new amendment the government can designate individuals as terrorists if the person commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- This has been done as it is seen that when a terrorist organization is banned, its members form a new organization to spread terrorism.
- The bill also empowers the Director-General, National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is being investigated by the agency.
- Under the existing Act, the investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police (DGP) to seize properties that bear any connection to terrorism.
- It has been seen that many times a terror accused own properties in different states. In such cases, seeking approval of DGPs of different states becomes very difficult, and the delay caused by the same may enable the accused to transfer properties.
- It empowers the officers of the NIA — of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.
- The existing Act provides for investigation of cases to be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above.
- No changes being made in arrest or bail provisions. Also, the provision that the burden of proof is on the investigating agency and not on the accused, has not been changed.
- The International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005) has also been added in the Second Schedule through the Amendment.

## Internal Security: 1st National Conference on Cybercrime Investigation and Forensics, organised by CBI

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the objective of this conference) + Mains (GS III internal security + awareness in the field of computer, cyber security)**

### What's the NEWS

- The first National Conference on Cybercrime Investigation and Forensics has been organized by the CBI,
- The Minister congratulated the CBI for organizing the first national conference of its kind in the country. While complimenting the CBI, the Minister said that people from the most peripheral and remotest regions of the country trust the functioning of CBI.

### Why this conference

- The nature of crime also evolves with the evolution of society, which makes it essential on the part of investigative agencies to evolve their techniques.
- The entire crime scenario has changed over the years, he added. He emphasized that the study of cyber crime is important for India, keeping in mind the fact that India has a huge population and that India has the second largest internet users in the world.
- The cyber manipulators are posing risk to the nation by circulating fake videos on the social media, which needs to be addressed.
- A Centralised Technology Vertical (CTV) with a cost of Rs 99 crore will be set up within CBI, which will be operational by next year. It will help in getting real time information for the benefit of interrogators.
- The Minister said that tackling cyber crime cannot be left to CBI alone. He emphasized on the role of NGOs and activists to join this crusade to counter cybercrime by changing the mindset of masses.
- This conference is a platform for State Police and Enforcement agencies to share their best practices and to replicate them.
- Cyber crime has become a global phenomena now and this conference will be an enriching experience for the agencies working at grass root levels.

## Economic Development: RBI Mandates External Benchmarking for Loans from October

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about external bench mark) + Mains (GS III Economic developments)**

**Highlights - Banks must link interest rates for retail and MSME loans to the RBI's benchmark repo rate, the 3-month or 6-month treasury yield, or any other benchmark published by FIBIL.**

### What's the NEWS

- The RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has made it mandatory for banks to link all new floating rate retail and MSME loans to external interest rate benchmarks, effective from 1 October.
- Banks will have to migrate from the existing MCLR (Marginal Cost of Lending Rate) regime to external benchmarking, though they will have the freedom to choose which benchmarks to use and how much of a premium to charge borrowers based on their credit profiles.
- Banks can link their interest rates to the RBI's benchmark repo rate, the three-month or six-month treasury yield published by FIBIL (Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd), or any other benchmark published by FIBIL.
- The interest rate under external benchmark shall be reset at least once in three months

### Benefits of external benchmarking

- In order to ensure transparency, standardisation, and ease of understanding of loan products by borrowers, a bank must adopt uniform external benchmark within a loan category; in other words, the adoption of multiple benchmarks by the same bank is not allowed within a loan category

- This is the latest effort by the RBI to ensure its interest rate decisions get transmitted to borrowers. Mandatory linking to external benchmarks was supposed to become operational in April, but the central bank postponed the effective date, citing the difficulties the change presented to banks' interest rate risk management function. The 1 October deadline has been decided amid concerns about high costs for borrowers.

### **To Ensure Proper monetary transmission**

- RBI aims to ensure faster transmission of Policy rate cuts to loan borrowers. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) recently in its bi-monthly policy review reduced the policy Repo Rate to 5.40 per cent. This was the fourth rate cut in a row by the RBI.
- In 2019 itself, the RBI has reduced the Repo Rate by 110 basis points but the banks only passed the policy rate cut of 40 basis points to the borrowers.
- Due to this very reason RBI decided to link certain categories of loan to the external benchmark based lending rate system.
- RBI had previously asked the banks to adopt this lending rate system for all new retail loans and small business loans from April 2019 itself.
- State Bank of India (SBI) was the first to link certain loans to the repo rate. Later, few other banks also began linking their loan products to external benchmarks.

### **Recommended by the Internal Study Group (ISG)**

- This move of linking certain loans to External Benchmark was suggested by the Internal Study Group (ISG) of the apex bank.
- The ISG was constituted in August 2017 by the RBI to examine the working of the Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) system. The ISG had recommended the External Benchmark based Lending rate system in its Report.

### **Know! about the process of deciding the interest rate by banks**

- Banks or financial institutions cannot lend money below a particular Interest Rate.
- The interest on a loan is decided on the basis of the benchmark rate. This benchmark rate is often in sync with the external rates (External Benchmark) and cost of bank's funds (Internal Benchmark).
- Till now, banks used internal benchmarks to fix the interest rate on loans.
- However, from October 1, 2019, onwards banks will be required to link their lending rates with the external benchmarks.

*RBI has listed three external benchmarks for banks to choose from while sanctioning floating rate personal, retail loans (housing, auto, etc.) and loans to Micro and Small Enterprises.*

### **These benchmarks are:**

- RBI's Repo Rate
- 3-Months Treasury Bill yield published by Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd (FBIL)
- 6-Months Treasury Bill yield published by FBIL
- Any other benchmark market interest rate published by the FBIL

### **Other instructions by RBI regarding External Benchmark based Lending rate system**

- The banks are free to choose from these benchmarks
- Banks need to reset interest rate under external benchmark once in three months.
- Banks cannot adopt multiple benchmarks within a loan category.
- There should be a uniform external benchmark based lending rate within a loan category.
- Banks can alter the operating cost once in three years.
- All the existing loans linked to the MCLR/Base Rate/ Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) will continue till the repayment or renewal.

## Government Schemes: Prime Minister to Launch Kisan Man Dhan Yojana

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about PM Kisan Man Dhan Yojana) + Mains (GS III social issues and social justice)**

### What's the NEWS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall launch the Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The Scheme shall secure the lives of 5 Crore Small and Marginal Farmers by providing a minimum pension of Rs 3000 per month, to those who attain 60 years of age. The scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,774 Crores for the next three years.
- All the small and marginal farmers who are currently between the ages of 18 to 40 years can apply for the scheme.
- Farmer's monthly contribution can be made from the instalments of PM-KISAN or through CSCs.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall also inaugurate 400 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools to provide quality upper primary, secondary, and senior secondary level education to ST Students in Tribal dominated areas.

**INTERIM BUDGET 2019-20**

**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**

Direct income support of ₹6,000 p.a for farmers, effective 01.12.2018

To benefit 12 cr small and marginal farmer families having cultivable land upto 2 ha

Direct transfer into the bank accounts in three equal instalments

First installment upto 31.03.2019, to be paid this year itself

₹75,000 cr in outlay for 2019-20 and ₹20,000 cr in RE 2018-19

### Know! about Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

- It is voluntary and contributory for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years and a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55 to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date i.e. the age of 60 years.
- The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55 to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date i.e. the age of 60 years.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.
- In case of death of the farmer before retirement date, the spouse may continue in the scheme by paying the remaining contributions till the remaining age of the deceased farmer.
- If the spouse does not wish to continue, the total contribution made by the farmer along with interest will be paid to the spouse. If there is no spouse, then total contribution along with interest will be paid to the nominee.
- If the farmer dies after the retirement date, the spouse will receive 50% of the pension as Family Pension. After the death of both the farmer and the spouse, the accumulated corpus shall be credited back to the Pension Fund.
- The beneficiaries may opt voluntarily to exit the Scheme after a minimum period of 5 years of regular contributions. On exit, their entire contribution shall be returned by LIC with an interest equivalent to prevailing saving bank rates.
- The farmers, who are also beneficiaries of PM-Kisan Scheme, will have the option to allow their contribution debited from the benefit of that Scheme directly.

### Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS)

- EMRS is a Government of India scheme for model residential school for Indian tribals (ST, Scheduled Tribes) across India.
- It is one the flagship intervention of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and was introduced in the year 1997-98 to ensure tribal students get access to quality education in the remote tribal areas.

- EMRSs are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India. As per the budget 2018-19, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.
- The government gives one time Rs. 30 lakh grant for establishing the school, thereafter up to Rs. 30 lakh per school annually.
- Additional cost is borne by state governments. At the end of 2018, a total of 284 EMRSs have been sanctioned with maximum of 32 approved in Madhya Pradesh.
- There is around 226 EMRSs functional across the country and 68 of them are affiliated to the CBSE

## **Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Over 1000 farmers attend the National Conference on Crop Residue Management**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about Crop Residue Management) + Mains (GS III farmer welfare)***

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

- The National Conference on Crop Residue Management for the farmers from the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & Delhi has been inaugurated recently

### **Know! more about the steps taken the centre and state for crop residue management**

- Earlier, to support the efforts of the Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to address air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for in-situ management of crop residue through agriculture mechanization, a Central Sector Scheme for the period 2018-19 to 2019-20 has been implemented by Ministry in these States with a total outgo of Central funds Rs.1151.80 crores.
- This conference was organized in collaboration with ICAR in order to address concerns of farmers and State Governments.
- The straw burning events in 2018 have reduced by 15% and 41% as compared to that in 2017 and 2016 respectively, as per the report of the High Power Committee Chaired by Dr. Nagesh Singh.
- The Ministry also launched a multilingual Mobile App “CHC Farm Machinery” for the farmers to avail the custom hiring services of CHCs located in the radius of 50 Kms.
- This app connects the farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centres in their area.

## **Environment Conservation: DPIIT to Launch Plastic Waste Management Campaign for Swachhta Hi Sewa 2019**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about Plastic Waste Management initiative by DPIIT) + Mains (GS III Environment conservation)***

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

- As part of Prime Minister's call to action for Plastic Waste Management, during his Independence Day speech, the theme of this year's Swachhta hi Sewa is Plastic Waste Management. Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is playing a critical two-fold role for the success of the campaign as mandated by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

### **Know! how DPIIT will ensure effective management of plastic waste**

- First, DPIIT will ensure recycling of plastic waste collected on 2nd October 2019 in cement kilns and second, collect plastic waste through nationwide shramdaan on 2nd October 2019.
- For this DPIIT has requested all the State Governments and Union Territories to mobilise the Industrial Parks in States and Union Territories for collection of plastic waste across all Industrial Estates, Parks, Corridors, Nodes and Industrial Areas for the Swachhta hi Sewa 2019 campaign beginning from 11th September, 2019.
- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, has requested DPIIT to mandate the use of plastic waste by cement kilns and DPIIT will ensure that all collected plastic waste may be recycled in cement kilns by Diwali this year.
- On 2nd October, for the Swachhta hi Sewa campaign this year, DPIIT personnel will undertake Shramdaan and ensure the collection of plastic waste on and around industrial areas all across the country.

- DPIIT has requested State Governments to sensitize Industrial Parks by focusing on Plastic Waste Management on a sustained and continuous basis. State and Union Territory Governments will monitor the campaign through their nodal teams to be set up by them.

## Economic Developments: India & ADB sign \$200 million loan to improve rural connectivity in Maharashtra

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about ADB) + Mains (GS III economic/infrastructure developments)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India today signed a \$200 million loan to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of Maharashtra State to improve road safety and better connect rural areas with markets and services.

### Know! the benefits

- Improving rural connectivity is one of the key priorities of the Government of India, which will help enhance rural livelihoods and alleviate poverty among remote rural communities in project districts
- Enhanced road connectivity and better access to markets will help the farmers increase agricultural productivity and incomes," he said.
- The project will improve the condition of about 2,100 kilometers (km) of rural roads to all-weather standards, with climate resilience and safety features, connecting rural communities with productive agricultural areas and socioeconomic centers

### Know! about ADB

- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. In 2018, it made commitments of new loans and grants amounting to \$21.6 billion.

## Infrastructure Development: ANGAN- A three-day international Conference on Energy Efficiency in Building Sector

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about ANGAN)+ Mains (GS II government policies and interventions GS III infrastructure development - energy)**

### What's the NEWS



- An international conference ANGAN (Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat) focussed on Energy Efficiency in Building Sector began in New Delhi

### Know! more about the conference

- The Conference is being organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India in collaboration with GIZ under the Indo German Technical Cooperation.

- Speakers, Delegates, Experts and Policy Makers across 16 countries are participating in this three-day event.
- The participants from Central and State local authorities as well as Technology providers and Experts, practicing Architects and University Students have also been invited.
- The Experts will be discussing various alternative options and technologies in the field of design and construction of energy efficient Commercial as well as Residential Buildings and will suggest the effective ways in implementing the same through policies and programmes.
- It is estimated that an investment of Rs. 2000 billion in Building energy efficiency activities would lead to a cumulative savings of 388 Billion units of electricity for the next ten years with payback of about 2 years.
- The International Conference will provide a platform to deliberate on interdependence between organizations, systemic sustainability and feedback loops for better resource efficiency.

### Know! about BEE

- The BEE is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It assists in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.
- BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organizations to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the Energy Conservation Act.

## Government Schemes: PM Modi launched National Animal Disease Control Programme

**Relevance in – Prelims (about the national animal disease control programme) + Mains (GS III inclusive growth and issues arising from it + farmer's welfare)**

### What's the NEWS

- Taking a step closer towards realising the electoral promise of doubling farm income by 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for eradicating the foot and mouth disease and brucellosis in livestock.

### Know! more about the programme

- The project, which will cost Rs. 12,652 crores for a period of five years till 2024, will be funded entirely by the government.
- The programme, launched in Mathura, aims to control the livestock diseases by 2025 and eradicate these by 2030.
- The programme aims at vaccinating over 500 million livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against the FMD.
- The programme also aims at vaccinating 36 million female bovine calves annually in its fight against the brucellosis disease
- *Prime Minister also launched the National Artificial Insemination Programme and simultaneous*
- The PM also launch the nationwide workshops in Krishi Vigyan Kendras in all the 687 Districts of the country on the topic of vaccination, disease management, artificial insemination and productivity

Realizing the dream of doubling farmers' income by 2022

PM Modi launches the 'National Animal Disease Control Programme'

- A Central government funded programme to vaccinate **500 million livestock**
- This aims to eradicate FMD (foot and mouth disease) & brucellosis in cattle
- Rs. 12,652 crores** to be spent in the next five years
- Artificial insemination to be initiated as well
- Move to enhance the income of farmers all across the nation

Prosperous farmers / Prosperous New India

Source : Government of India | /BJP4India | www.bjp.org

- The National Artificial Insemination Programme was launched on sidelines with 'Swachhta Hi Seva' Programme, 2019 and National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) at Mathura.

## Environment Conservation/Protection: Single-use plastic bags, cups, plates may be banned from October 2

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about single use plastic) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)**

**The UN defines single-use plastic as items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include, among other items, grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery.**

### What's the NEWS

- India is set to impose a nationwide ban on plastic bags, cups and straws on October 2, in its most sweeping measure yet to stamp out single-use plastics from cities and villages that rank among the world's most polluted.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is leading efforts to scrap such plastics by 2022, is set to launch the campaign with a ban on as many as six items on Oct. 2, the birth anniversary of independence leader Mahatma Gandhi
- The ban will be comprehensive and will cover manufacturing, usage and import of such items
- Six single-use plastic items will be banned initially including small plastic bottles, plastic bags, straws, cups, plates and certain types of sachets.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has set the goal to make India free of single-use plastics by 2022, had appealed to the nation to stop the use of single-use plastic in his speech on India's Independence Day. The Union Government is expected to launch a nation-wide campaign against single-use plastic in the second week of September.



### Know! more about single-use plastic

- Single-use plastic is a form of plastic that is disposable, which is only used once and then has to be thrown away or recycled.
- The single-use plastic items include plastic bags, water bottles, soda bottles, straws, plastic plates, cups, most food packaging and coffee stirrers.
- Millions of tons of plastic is being produced every year, which is not biodegradable. Hence, the countries across the globe are adopting and implementing strategies aimed at eliminating the use of single-use plastic.
- As only 1-13 percent of the plastic items are recyclable, the rest ends up either buried in the land or water bodies, eventually reaching the oceans, leading to polluting of water bodies and killing of marine life.
- Most of the plastic is not biodegradable and over a period of time the plastic breaks up and releases toxic chemicals into the water bodies, which in turn make their way into food and water supplies.

### Steps taken by India to curb use of single-use plastic

- In the first phase of its campaign against single-use plastic will spread nation-wide awareness about harmful effects of single-use plastic and in the second phase the government agencies will collect all the single-use plastic items and they will be recycled in the last phase.
- Penalties will be introduced for violation of the single-use plastic ban but the penalties are expected to come into effect six months after the ban, in order to give people time to adopt alternatives to the single-use plastic items.

- Some states in India have already introduced a ban on sale, storage and use of single-use plastic items such as Sikkim, Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Jharkhand.
- Since recycling of plastic is not a permanent solution, manufacturers of single-use plastic have been asked to look for other alternatives that are biodegradable.
- The manufacturer and seller of packaged drinking water 'Rail Neer' is also looking for alternatives including polymers to make their packaging biodegradable.

## Environment Conservation: Indian Railways to Undertake one More Drive of "MASSIVE SHRAMDAN" to Focus on "COLLECTION OF PLASTIC WASTE"

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the objective of massive shramdan) + Mains (GS III Environment conservation + steps taken by the government to eliminate the use of single-use plastics)**

### What's the NEWS

- Indian Railways will undertake one more drive of "MASSIVE SHRAMDAN" with main focus on "COLLECTION OF PLASTIC WASTE".
- In the recent past such drives are being undertaken by Railways. This Shramadan is for:-
- Enhanced cleanliness, through collection of plastic waste from all railway premises. Particular attention to be given to approaches to stations
- Creating awareness for a greater impact against single use plastic.
- Displaying Replacements/ Substitutes for such plastic items.
- For distributing Cloth bags in large numbers
- Educating all in Railways, including vendors to be prepared for ban of single use plastic with effect from 02.10.2019. Single use plastic means usage of any plastic below 50 microns, in any manner.
- Indian Railways is undertaking various activities relating to Swachhata Pakhwada from 11th September to 2nd October, 2019, leading to Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on that Day, which would be observed as Community Service day, involving participation of all stake holders, to make a visible impact on cleanliness.

## Defence: DRDO and the Aeronautical Development Agency successfully executed the first ever arrested landing of LCA Tejas (Navy) at the shore based test facility in Goa.

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the first ever arrested landing of LCA Tejas + GS III (security challenges and their management in border areas))**

### What's the NEWS

- The naval variant of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas made a successful short landing with arrestor wires on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) in Goa

### Significance

- This is seen as a major step forward for the delayed project as it tests modifications that will allow the naval variant of the Tejas to eventually operate from an aircraft carrier.
- With the successful short landing, the fighter jet took a step forward to achieve a major milestone. "This is a step towards the aircraft getting operational on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya"



## **Know! about the test and about Tejas**

- The test was carried out under the supervision of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Aeronautical Development Agency at the shore-based test facility in Goa
- The fighter jet Tejas, which has been developed for the Indian Air Force (IAF), also has a naval version - LCA (Navy) which is in development stage.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted a batch of Tejas aircraft earlier this year.
- Initially, an order was placed with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 40 Tejas aircraft.
- Last year, the IAF issued the request for proposal (RFP) to HAL for the procurement of another batch of 83 Tejas at a cost of over Rs 50,000 crore.

## **Know! more about Naval LCA and SBTf**

- The naval LCA made its first flight in April 2012 and two prototypes have been flying as part of the development.
- The first prototype (NP1) of the Naval LCA made a successful first flight from the SBTf in 2014.
- The SBTf, which replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, was specifically built to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier before they moved on to the actual carrier.
- Once the results of the trials on the SBTf are deemed successful, the LCA will attempt a landing on the deck of the Indian aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- The naval version of the LCA is designed with stronger landing gear to absorb the force exerted by the ski jump ramp during take-off allowing it to be airborne from a much shorter runway on the deck of the aircraft carrier.
- Its special flight control law mode allows hands-free take-off, reducing the pilot's workload as the aircraft leaps from the ramp and automatically puts the aircraft in an ascending trajectory.
- The Navy currently operates Russian MiG-29K fighters from INS Vikramaditya which will also fly from the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant once it enters service. The Navy is currently looking at global tenders for 57 carrier-based twin engine fighter aircraft.

## **Information/Communication/Technology: Ravi Shankar Prasad launches maritime communication services**

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about maritime communication services) + Mains (GS III awareness in the field of IT ,development of new technology)*

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

- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the maritime communication services in Mumbai,

### **Know! about Maritime communication services**

- Maritime connectivity will enable high-end support to those in the sea by providing access to voice, data and video services while travelling on sailing, cruise and other vessels in India using the satellite technology
- The broadband services to the maritime sector will be provided by Nelco Pvt Ltd which is the leading Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) solution provider in the country.
- Nelco through global partnerships, infrastructure including transponder capacity on the satellite of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) and a comprehensive service portfolio will help energy, cargo and cruise vessels by enhancing operational efficiency, improving crew welfare and enabling customer services.

### **Know! about In-flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC) licence**

- The In-flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC) licence has not only enabled connectivity for onboard users on ships but also brings operational efficiencies for shipping companies which were less evolved until now.
- In December 2018, the Government of India had announced the licenses for IFMC that allows voice and internet services while flying over the Indian skies and sailing in Indian waters, both for international and Indian aircraft and vessels.
- The IFMC license is a key initiative of the Telecom Ministry, in a bid to liberalise satellite communication services in India.

## Defence: Army's mountain strike Corps to conduct exercise in Arunachal Pradesh

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the exercise Him Vijay and the newly created Integrated Battle Groups) + Mains (GS III Security challenges and its management in border area)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Army is scheduled to conduct a major Exercise 'HimVijay' beginning October in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam with its newly created Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) involving 15,000 troops.

### Know! more about the exercise

- The exercise will coincide with the proposed visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping for the second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Panagarh based 17 Mountain Strike Corps will conduct Exercise HimVijay spread over a month and half with three newly created IBGs from October
- The IBGs are part of overall force transformation initiated by Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat. They are brigade-sized agile self-sufficient combat formations which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.
- Each IBG will have about 5,000 troops. They would be backed by tanks and artillery for operations in the mountains. The IAF will airlift troops to the areas located over 10,000 feet. Over the years, it has strengthened its strategic airlift capabilities with the induction of C-130 and C-17 aircraft in addition to its Russian origin An-32 and IL-76 aircraft.
- The concept of the IBG was war gamed and tested by the 9 Corps early this year. The Army is in the process of reorganising its major Corps into the IBGs. The number of IBGs had not been decided yet
- Each IBG is tailor made based on Threat, Terrain and Task and resources will be allotted based on the three T's. They are tailored to mobilise within 12-48 hrs based on their location.
- Last November, the Army began inducting the M-777 Ultra Light Howitzers specially for high altitude areas and early this year the IAF began inducting Boeing Chinook CH-47F(I) heavy lift helicopters which can transport the M-777s.
- The Army has contracted for 145 guns and deliveries are slated to be completed by mid-2021 while all 15 Chinooks are scheduled to be delivered by March.

## Environment Conservation: World Ozone Day 2019

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about World ozone day + Kigali and Montreal Protocol) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Ozone layer or also known as Ozone shield, a delicate layer of gas, in the Earth's stratosphere absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet rays. These rays can cause a numerous skin diseases. In the last few years, the ozone layer has depleted extensively.

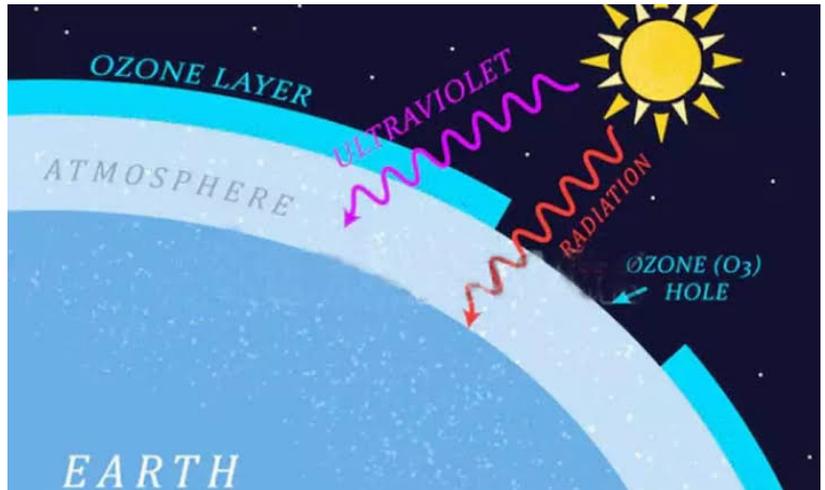
### Montreal Protocol

- On September 16, 1987, the United Nations and 45 other countries signed the Montreal Protocol, on substances that deplete the Ozone layer. Every year this day is celebrated as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone layer.
- The purpose of the Montreal Protocol is to protect the Ozone layer by reducing the production of substances that are supposed to be responsible for Ozone layer depletion.



## Ozone Day theme

- This year's theme celebrates over three decades of international cooperation to protect the Ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.
- Around 99 percent of ozone-depleting chemicals in refrigerators, air-cooling systems and other products have already been phased-out because of the Montreal Protocol.
- On September 16, 2009, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol became the first treaties in the history of the United Nations to achieve universal ratification.



## Kigali Amendment

- The United Nations urges the world to support the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is legally binding and came into force from 1 January 2019.
- The amendment aims to phase out Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a family of potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.

## Environment, Forest and Climate Change: On World Ozone Day, India's Cooling Action Plan gets UN applause

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about India's comprehensive cooling action plan + about world ozone day) + Mains (GS III Environment conservation)**

### What's the NEWS

- India became one of the first countries in the world to launch a comprehensive Cooling Action plan in March, 2019,

### Know! more about the Indian cooling action plan

- It has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors such as residential and commercial buildings, cold-chain, refrigeration, transport and industries.
- The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand, which will also help in reducing both direct and indirect emissions.
- The ICAP has been appreciated internationally as an important policy initiative which has the potential to provide socio-economic and environmental benefits related to reduced refrigerant use, climate change mitigation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Many countries are now involved in development of cooling action plans keeping in view the significant environmental benefits and the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals.

### The India Cooling Action seeks to

- Reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38
- Reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
- Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38
- Recognize "cooling and related areas" as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme
- Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission.

As per the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) phase out programme, India has proactively taken the challenge of complete phase out of HCFC 141 b, which is a chemical used by foam manufacturing enterprises by 1.1.2020.

## 25th World Ozone Day celebrations

- “32 years and healing” is the theme of 25<sup>th</sup> World Ozone Day celebrations. The theme signifies over three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and also the climate system under the Montreal Protocol.
- The abundance of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) in the atmosphere is declining and a recent study has indicated that the ozone hole is recovering.

## Science & Technology: National Centre for Clean Coal Research & Development inaugurated at Bengaluru

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about National Centre for Clean Coal Research + Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research(ICER) What's the NEWS) + Mains (GS III environment conservation + Science and technology)*

### What's the NEWS

- Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru.
- Government of India through Department of Science & Technology, has set up the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D) as a national level consortium on clean coal R&D, led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru.

### Know! more about the centre for clean coal research and development

- The breakthrough research being pursued at IISc in clean coal domain could potentially be game changer for meeting the energy needs of the country in terms of higher efficiency and capacity at lower operating costs and size.
- This would result in research, development and demonstration of state-of-art tools, products and processes which are of critical importance for our energy security

### Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research(ICER)

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan also dedicated an Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research(ICER) to the Nation which is India's first of its kind centre equipped with state-of-art facilities for conducting wide spectrum of energy research by knowledge network of elite researchers.
- Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER) is one of the youngest centres at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- It was conceived to take up socially relevant research in line with national-level missions of the Government of India, which will directly benefit the people of the nation and the world.
- ICER has so focused on research breakthroughs and developing sustainable technologies for renewable energy, combustion, concentrated solar power (CSP), next-generation solar photovoltaic (PV), novel energy storage technologies, hydrogen, biofuels and bio-mass.

### Know! more about NCCCR&D

- National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D) is a national level consortium on clean coal R&D, led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru.
- The primary goal is to address several critical R&D challenges towards the development of clean coal technologies, in tandem with developing supercritical power plant technologies, both at the materials and system level.

### Steps taken to mitigate the menace of climate change

- In order to achieve international targets on climate change by minimizing anthropogenic emissions and also to address the ever-growing energy demand of India, development of clean coal technologies to reduce carbon emissions from coal-based power plants has become a prime necessity for India.
- The pathways identified for lowering the carbon footprint of coal-based thermal power plants is by shifting towards **high efficiency advanced ultra-supercritical (AUSC) steam power plants as well as supercritical carbon dioxide (s-CO<sub>2</sub>) based Brayton cycle power plants, along with exploration of new combustion and gasification technologies.**

## Defence: Wargaming software handed over to Indian Navy

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Wargaming Software) + Mains (GS III security challenges and their management in border areas)**

### What's the NEWS

- Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA) Delhi, a premier DRDO laboratory, has designed and developed a new generation Wargaming Software in collaboration with Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam to meet the contemporary operational and tactical level wargaming requirement for the Indian Navy.

### Know! more about the new generation Wargaming Software

- The key focus has been to create a wargaming environment which enables Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train using the latest technological and computing tools.
- The software has versatile and user-friendly features which enable globally playable wargaming scenarios between multiple forces.
- It enables exercises to be conducted between geographically dispersed locations over Wide Area Network.
- The architecture is forward compatible and new functional and equipment modules can be developed and easily plugged in.

## Economic Development: Resident Indians remitted out more money than ever in July under LRS

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) + Mains (GS III economic development))**

### What's the NEWS

- The outflow of funds by resident Indians under LRS over the last five years has almost negated the inflow of funds by FPIs in the same period.
- Amid the government's efforts to attract foreign direct investors as well as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), the country witnessed its highest ever monthly outflow of \$1.69 billion under the liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) by resident Indians in the month of July.
- With this, the outflow of money under the LRS scheme has hit \$5.8 billion in the first four months of FY20 and aggregated to over \$45 billion (Rs 3.15 lakh crore at exchange rate of 70 to a dollar) since the Narendra Modi-led NDA first came to power in May 2014.

### Know! about RBI's LRS

- Under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) LRS, resident individuals are allowed to remit up to \$250,000 in a financial year under various heads including current account transactions such as going overseas on employment, studies overseas, emigration, maintenance of close relatives, medical treatment among others.
- The residents can also transfer money for capital account transactions under LRS including opening of foreign currency account overseas with a bank, purchase of property and making investments in units of mutual funds, venture capital funds among others.
- RBI data shows that over the last five years, while outward remittance under LRS on account of travel amounted to over \$14 billion, almost \$10.5 billion was on account of maintenance of close relatives and \$10 billion was sent for studies. Another \$4.8 billion was remitted under the head of gifts and \$1.9 billion for overseas investment in equity and debt.

### RISE IN OUTWARD REMITTANCE UNDER LRS

Year	Amount (USD Bn)
2014-15	1.325
2015-16	4.642
2016-17	8.17
2017-18	11.333
2018-19	13.787
2019-20*	5.871

Source: RBI; \*till July

### Update

- RBI has narrowed the definition of relatives under the 'maintenance of close relative' category of Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to check outflow of funds and prevent misuse of facility.
- Now funds under this category can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.

- RBI had also made PAN mandatory for anyone using LRS for remitting money outside the country. Earlier PAN was not insisted upon for putting current account transactions of up to \$25,000.

### **Know! more about LRS**

- At present, LRS limit for all resident individuals, including minors, is US \$2,50,000 per financial year. Under LRS, individuals can make remittances for overseas education, travel, medical treatment, maintenance to relatives living abroad, gifting and donations.
- The remittances under LRS cannot be used for trading on foreign exchange markets, purchase of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds issued abroad by Indian companies and margin or margin calls to overseas exchanges and counterparties.

## **Human Resource Development: Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019)**

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about WAVE summit , Margadarshan and Margadarshak, Model Curriculum and about 360-degree Feedback) + Mains (GS II issues relating to development and management of social sector/services relating to health, education)***

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

- Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launches several initiatives of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), It includes Facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak, Model Curriculum for Diploma Courses, Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019) and 360-degree Feedback of Faculty.
- WAVE Summit 2019' is a great initiative because women have skills in their hands and it will further empower and motivate them.
- The WAVE Summit will be held in November-December 2019. It will be jointly organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur.
- Facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak is also a very good initiative in which the topmost institutions will mentor other institutions, so that they can improve their rankings and follow best practices of the mentor institute.
- 360 degree feedback of faculty scheme will increase the quality of education. This scheme will encourage both students and teachers.

### **Know! more about Facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak**

#### ***Margadarshan***

- Under this scheme, institutions having good accreditation record / highly performing institutions are supposed to mentor relatively newer 10 - 12 potential institutions.
- Best practices in teaching learning process followed in mentor institute are diffused to mentee institutions. These institutions are also provided funding upto Rs. 50 lakhs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Only) per institution over a period of three years in instalments for carrying out various activities like trainings, workshops, conferences and travel.

#### ***Margdarshak***

- Under this scheme, mentor teachers or Margdarshaks who are either serving or superannuated but willing and motivated with good knowledge of accreditation and who can devote adequate time to make required visits to these Institutions are identified.
- These Margdarshaks will regularly visit to the mentee institutions, stay on their campus and guide them for their improvement in quality so that institutions are able to get accreditation by NBA.

### **Know! about 360-degree Feedback**

- AICTE 7th Pay Regulation defines the process of collecting the 360-degree Feedback Data that will be submitted by the education institutes. It starts by first establishing a data framework that maps Teachers, Students and Subjects/courses to capture the data at source through online mechanism.
- The process begins by self reporting of the Teaching Process and other Contributions to the Society by the teachers themselves.

## **Know! about Wawe Summit 2019 (Waste Management Accelerators for Aspire Women Entrepreneurs)**

- It will be the largest gathering of young women students to promote entrepreneurship in waste management and providing alternatives to single use plastic carry bags.
- Indian Institute of Waste Management (IIWM)&All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will be registering the interested participation and guiding them to connect from “Start Up India to Stand Up India”
- Theme: Make your own bag – empowering women to take up income generation activity and entrepreneurship in waste management through making a business out of this record creating concept.
- This conclave will be part of a series of activities to encourage entrepreneurship amongst young graduates.

## **Energy Security: 63rd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about IAEA and about the achievements done by India in the field of nuclear energy) + Mains (GS III energy security + infrastructure development – energy)*

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

- The 63rd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is presently going on at Vienna (September 16 -20, 2019).
- Out of 19 programmes organized at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership in India in 2018-19, eight were conducted jointly with the IAEA, thus reinforcing India's collaboration with IAEA in capacity building.

### **Know! the achievements made by India in the field of Nuclear Energy**

- India's Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) has set a new world record of continuous operation for 962 days on 31 December 2018 while working at 99.3% plant load factor.
- Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units (TAPS 1 &2), connected to grid in April and May 1969, have completed 50 years of safe operation. These are currently the oldest operating power reactors in the world, producing nuclear power at less than 3 cents per unit.
- India has plan for capacity addition in nuclear power generation and presently we have 21 reactors under the stage of construction and planning. This will help in achieving an additional capacity of about 15,000 MWe.
- Apsara-U, an upgraded swimming pool type reactor, operational since September 2018, has been operated at 90% of rated power and demonstrated that it can produce carrier free Cu-64 radioisotope, which has potential for usage in PET scans.
- The U-233 fuelled Kalpakkam Mini Reactor (KAMINI) has continued its successful operation. It is being used for neutron radiography of a large number of pyro-devices from the Indian Space Research Organization, activation analysis, neutron detector testing, etc.

### **Know! about IAEA**

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
- The IAEA was established as an autonomous organisation on 29 July 1957. Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. The IAEA has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.
- The IAEA serves as an intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology and nuclear power worldwide.
- The programs of the IAEA encourage the development of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, science and technology, provide international safeguards against misuse of nuclear technology and nuclear materials, and promote nuclear safety (including radiation protection) and nuclear security standards and their implementation.

## Defence: IAF, Army inaugurate Vijaynagar's Advance Landing Ground (ALG) in Arunachal Pradesh



***Relevance IN – Prelims (about advance landing ground) + Mains (GS III Security challenges and their management in border areas)***

***The ALG will assist in the effective management of our borders with Myanmar and with China as well due to its location and proximity to both the borders.***

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

- The strategically located Advance Landing Ground (ALG) at Vijaynagar has been re-dedicated to the nation and the people of Arunachal Pradesh thereby connecting it by air with the rest of the country.
- Vijaynagar ALG was non-operational for fixed-wing operations since 2016.
- The commanders of the Eastern sector of the Air Force and the Army jointly presided over the ceremony. They jointly inaugurated the resurfaced runway at Vijaynagar ALG thereby re-establishing military transport aircraft connectivity at this Eastern most hamlet of India.

### **Know! more about Vijaynagar ALG and its importance**

- The operations started with the landing of AN-32 transport aircraft of Air Force which carried the senior Air Force and Army officers.
- Repair of the runway at Vijaynagar, which was coordinated by Air Force Station Jorhat, was a challenging task because there exists no road connectivity and all the load had to be airlifted by helicopters.
- With the opening of the ALG, the movement of larger transport aircraft to and from this airfield will start and will act as a catalyst for the development of the area and facilitate movement of the locals.
- The airfield is important not only for the local administration in extending their reach to the residents of this remote area but also crucial from a strategic point of view.
- The ALG will assist in the effective management of our borders with Myanmar and with China as well due to its location and proximity to both the borders.
- India shares 3488 km of the border with China and 1643 km of border with Myanmar. State of Arunachal Pradesh share 1126 km length of the India China border called the Line of Actual Control. Border of Arunachal Pradesh with Myanmar is 526 km long.

## Internal Security: Emergency Response Support System (ERSS- Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and 'E-Saathi' App launched by Home Minister

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about ERSS + E-beat book system + E-Saathi App) + Mains (GS III internal security – police reforms)**

### What's the NEWS

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police.
- The services include the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and the 'E-Saathi App'.

### Know! about ERSS

- ERSS is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund.
- It has been designed to play a pivotal role in mitigation or preventing escalation of crime, especially against women and children.
- ERSS provides a single emergency number (112), computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress. Citizens can send their emergency information through call, sms, email and through the 112 India mobile app.
- The 'Dial 112' emergency response service is an initiative to strengthen proactive community policing that would end confusion amongst distress callers
- In future, the Emergency Number for Road Accidents (1073), Women Helpline (1091, 181), Child Help Line (1098), including other Helpline services would be added under the 112 unified emergency response number.

### Know! about E-Beat Book

- The 'E-Beat Book' is a web and mobile based application which will ease the collection, updation and analysis of the information related to crime and criminals in a real time.
- The E-Beat Book would be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), which would help in a real time updation of crime/criminal data.
- The citizen can directly approach the 'Atal Sebhagita Kendra' for redressal of their grievances and can render their suggestions too.

### Know! about The 'E-Saathi' App

- The 'E-Saathi' App would help the general public, including senior citizens, to remain in touch with the police and also give suggestions to facilitate participative community policing ('Your Police at Your Doorstep' initiative).
- The beat officer would be able to provide services like passport verification, tenant verification, servant verification, character certification etc. at a click of a button through the app, without the people needing to visit the police station.

## Cabinet Decisions: Cabinet approves Payment of PLB to railway employees for the FY 2018-19

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about PLB) + Mains (GS III economic development – steps taken by the government to boost economy)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Union Cabinet has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days wages to over 11.52 Lakh eligible non-gazetted railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) for the Financial Year (FY) 2018-19, for maintaining industrial peace and motivation of railwaymen.



### PRODUCTIVITY LINKED BONUS TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

- Productivity Linked Bonus amounting to 78 days' wages for over 11.5 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) approved
- Expenditure of over 2 thousand crores for FY 2018-19
- Acknowledgement of employees' contribution to efficient Railway operations
- Aimed at maintaining high levels of motivation among railway personnel

## Know! the benefits

- Payment of PLB equivalent to 78 days wages to eligible railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) for the FY 2018-19 would result in motivating a large number of railway employees to improve the performance of the Railways and enhance the productivity levels further, besides maintaining industrial peace.
- PLB to all non-gazetted railway employees is an acknowledgement of their contribution to the efficient running of the Railways.
- There being large number of railwaymen and their families, this acknowledgement will enhance the sense of inclusiveness and equity among them.

## Economic Development: DSCI, MeitY and Google India join hands for 'Digital Payment Abhiyan'

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about digital India Abhiyaan) + Mains (GS III economic development – financial inclusion + digital literacy)**

### What's the NEWS

- Nasscom's Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has collaborated with the electronics and IT ministry (MeitY) and Google India to launch a nationwide awareness campaign 'Digital Payment Abhiyan'.

### Know! more about the campaign

- Communications and Electronics & IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the campaign that will educate end-users on the benefits of making digital payments and urge them to adopt security and safety best practices.
- The campaign was launched at the Google for India event.
- To drive the campaign objectives and amplify outreach to users across all states, DSCI has onboarded various digital payments ecosystem partners. These partners include representation from banking, card networks as well as fin-tech segment.
- The pan-India campaign has crafted in seven languages -- Hindi, English, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali and Marathi -- and will engage with users and make them aware of the dos and don'ts for different payment channels including UPI, wallets, cards as well as net banking and mobile banking.

## Economic Development: Corporate tax rates slashed to 22% for domestic companies and 15% for new domestic manufacturing companies

**Relevance IN -Prelims (about the amendments made in IT tax and Finance act 2019) + Mains (GS III – Economic developments – steps taken by the government to boost the economy)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Government has brought in the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 to make certain amendments in the Income-tax Act 1961 and the Finance (No. 2) Act 2019.

*The salient features of these amendments, which are as under:-*

- a. In order to promote growth and investment, a new provision has been inserted in the Income-tax Act with effect from FY 2019-20 which allows any domestic company an option to pay income-tax at the rate of 22% subject to condition that they will not avail any exemption/incentive.
- b. The effective tax rate for these companies shall be 25.17% inclusive of surcharge & cess. Also, such companies shall not be required to pay Minimum Alternate Tax.
- c. Another new provision has been inserted in the Income-tax Act with effect from FY 2019-20 which allows any new domestic company incorporated on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing, an option to pay income-tax at the rate of 15%.
- d. The Government has also decided to expand the scope of CSR 2 percent spending. Now CSR 2% fund can be spent on incubators funded by Central or State Government or any agency or Public Sector Undertaking of Central or State Government, and, making contributions to public funded Universities, IITs, National Laboratories and Autonomous Bodies (established under the auspices of ICAR, ICMR, CSIR, DAE, DRDO, DST, Ministry

of Electronics and Information Technology) engaged in conducting research in science, technology, engineering and medicine aimed at promoting SDGs.

## CORPORATE TAX MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

For domestic companies

1

**CORPORATE TAX SLASHED TO 22%**  
For cos not seeking incentives/exemptions  
No Minimum Alternate Tax  
Effective tax rate 25.17%

2

**DOMESTIC COS INCORPORATED ON OR AFTER 1 AUG 2019**  
To be taxed at 15% (only if production begins before 31 March 2023)  
Effective tax rate 17.01%

3

**MAT SLASHED TO 15%**  
For companies availing exemption

4

**1.2% CSR SPENDING ALLOWED** on Center/State/ PSU incubators and public funded universities

5

**NO TAX ON BUY-BACKS** announced by listed companies before 5th July 2019

6

**NO ENHANCED SURCHARGE** on capital from the sale of equity share in a company

Sources: PIB creative



### MAJOR TAX INCENTIVES ANNOUNCED FOR DOMESTIC COMPANIES

www.taxguru.in

**22%** Corporate tax slashed for companies not seeking any incentives/exemptions  
Also not required to pay Minimum Alternate Tax  
Effective tax rate **25.17%** inclusive of surcharge & cess

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Fresh investments by a domestic firm incorporated on/before 1.10.2019 to be taxed at only **15%**  
Provided production commences before 31.03.2023  
Effective tax rate **17.01%** inclusive of surcharges and cess

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Companies opting out of concessional tax regime to pay pre-amended rates  
Can opt for concessions after expiry of tax holiday

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Min. Alternate Tax slashed to **15%** from **18.5%** for companies availing exemptions

## Environment, Forest and Climate Change: India is going to increase the share of non-fossil fuels to 175 GW by 2022, and will further take it to 450 GW, United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Climate Action Summit

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about the steps taken by India to mitigate the menace of climate change and to promote renewable energy + about UNSG climate action summit) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)*

### What's the NEWS

- World leaders have gathered in New York today for the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Climate Action Summit.
- The Summit is being called by UNSG Mr. António Guterres to ramp up climate actions worldwide.

### Know! India's efforts

- Jal Jeevan mission for water conservation, rainwater harvesting and for the development of water resources. India is going to spend approximately 50 billion dollars on this in the next few years
- On the occasion of India's 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day, we have called for a people's movement to end the menace of single use plastic.
- On the International forum, almost 80 countries have joined our International Solar Alliance campaign.
- In order to make our infrastructure disaster resilient, India is launching a Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.



## Climate Action Summit (Important highlights)

- The Climate Action Summit focuses on nine interdependent tracks, which are led by 19 countries in total and are supported by international organizations.
- The Summit has brought together governments, private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organizations to develop ambitious solutions in actionable areas. The Secretary-General has also prioritized a number of action portfolios.

### The key areas identified are the following:

- **Finance:** mobilizing public and private sources of finance to drive decarbonization of all priority sectors and advance resilience;
- **Energy Transition:** accelerating the shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy, as well as making significant gains in energy efficiency;
- **Industry Transition:** transforming industries such as oil and gas, steel, cement, chemicals and information technology;
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** reducing emissions, increasing sink capacity and enhancing resilience within and across forestry, agriculture, oceans and food systems, including through biodiversity conservation, leveraging supply chains and technology;
- **Cities and Local Action:** advancing mitigation and resilience at urban and local levels, with a focus on new commitments on low-emission buildings, mass transport and urban infrastructure; and resilience for the urban poor;
- **Resilience and Adaptation:** advancing global efforts to address and manage the impacts and risks of climate change, particularly in those communities and nations most vulnerable.
- **Mitigation Strategy:** to generate momentum for ambitious NDCs and longterm strategies to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- **Youth Engagement and Public Mobilization:** to mobilize people worldwide to take action on climate change and ensure that young people are integrated and represented across all aspects of the Summit, including the six transformational areas.
- **Social and Political Drivers:** to advance commitments in areas that affect peoples well-being, such as reducing air pollution, generating decent jobs, and strengthening climate adaptation strategies and protect workers and vulnerable groups.

### The Partnership of India – Sweden to develop low carbon pathways

- India along with Sweden, supported by World Economic Forum is leading the ‘*Industry Transition*’ track meeting.
- India and Sweden together with other partners are launching the Leadership group within the Industry transition track.
- This initiative will provide a platform for governments and the private sector with opportunities for cooperation in the area of Technology innovation. This will help to develop low carbon pathways for industry.

## Economic Development: National Conclave on Energy Efficiency in MSME sector, Knowledge Management Portal “SIDHIEE” launched

***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the National Conclave on Enhancing Energy Efficiency in MSME sector + about SIDHIEE Portal) + Mains (GS III infrastructure development – energy + economic development)***

### What’s the NEWS

- The Central Government recently inaugurated the National Conclave on Enhancing Energy Efficiency in MSME sector

### Know! more about the conclave

- The two-day Conclave is being organized by Bureau of Energy Efficiency(BEE) with participation from MSME entrepreneurs, Industry Associations, technology and service providers, sectoral energy experts and senior officials from the Government.

- Along with the Conclave, the government also inaugurated an Exhibition displaying Energy Efficient Technologies for MSME Sector.

### **Benefits of this initiative**

- This initiative will help MSMEs by taking this sector towards sustainable and green pathway.
- Making efforts towards energy conservation and taking appropriate measures to mitigate carbon emissions should be the priority
- Energy efficiency measures would reduce MSMEs' power bills and make them competitive in international market

### **Knowledge Management Portal “SIDHIEE”**

- The government also released Energy Conservation Guidelines for MSMEs and launched the Knowledge Management Portal “SIDHIEE” under the BEE's MSME Programme.
- This portal will host useful information including fifty videos of multimedia tutorials for MSMEs for early adoption of energy efficient technologies.

### **Know! about BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency)**

- THE BEE is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- It is assisted in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.
- BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organization to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the energy conservation act.

## **Environment, Forest and Climate Change: New leadership group announced at Climate Action Summit to drive industry transition to low-carbon economy**

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the new initiative and its objective) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)***

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

- A new initiative was launched on 23rd September at the UN Climate Action Summit to help guide the world's heaviest greenhouse gas emitting industries toward the low-carbon economy.

#### **Know! about the new Initiative and the role of India**

- India and Sweden together with Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, South Korea and the UK, as well as a group of companies announced a new Leadership Group for Industry Transition that will drive transformation in hard-to-decarbonize and energy-intensive sectors.
- This global initiative will be supported by the World Economic Forum, the Energy Transitions Commission, Mission Innovation, Stockholm Environment Institute, and the European Climate Foundation among many others in an ambitious, public-private effort, to ensure heavy industries and mobility companies can find a workable pathway to deliver on the Paris Agreement
- Industry sector emissions, including those from hard-to-abate and energy-intensive sectors like steel, cement, aluminum, aviation and shipping are expected to be responsible for 15.7Gt by 2050.
- The international collaboration between countries and industry groups is critical to establish workable policy frameworks and incentives, and to enable joint investment into low carbon infrastructure.

#### **Know! about The Climate Action Summit**

- The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres hosted the Climate Action Summit in New York ahead of the UN General Assembly.
- The Secretary-General called on all leaders – governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organizations – to come with concrete, realistic plans that will boost ambition and rapidly accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement.

- Having the key focus on raising ambition and accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement, the Climate Action Summit focuses on nine interdependent tracks, which are led by 19 countries in total and are supported by international organizations.
- It is noteworthy to point that India along with Sweden, supported by World Economic Forum is leading the 'Industry Transition' track meeting.

## Defence: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh commissions Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Varaha'

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Indian coast guard ship Varaha) + Mains (GS III Security challenges in border areas and their management)**



### What's the NEWS

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh participated in the Commissioning Ceremony of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Varaha' in Chennai

### ICGS Varaha

- ICGS 'Varaha' will further strengthen the Coast Guard fleet in responding to the threats of maritime terrorism, smuggling and challenges of maritime law enforcement.
- ICGS 'Varaha' will enhance the surveillance and patrolling capabilities of Indian Coast Guard and reinforce their role as 'Sentinels of our Seas'.
- ICGS 'Varaha' is a fine example of collaboration with industry and 'Make in India' where Larsen & Toubro (L&T) shipbuilding has played a very important role in production and maintenance of our sea-based assets.
- The name 'Varaha' is taken from Puranas, who was the third incarnation of Lord Vishnu which took the form of Boar to protect mother earth by carrying her out of the sea on his tusks. It reminds us of the principle of sacrifice and rescue in the duty of saving mother earth".
- ICGS 'Varaha', the state-of-the-art offshore patrol vessel, was commissioned into the Coast Guard fleet. It is the fourth among the series of seven ships to be delivered by L&T with features like ultra-advanced navigation, communication sensors and machinery. It will operate from the port of New Mangalore on the West Coast covering Exclusive Economic Zone up to Kanyakumari.
- ICGS 'Varaha' is capable of operating the indigenously-developed Advanced Light Helicopter by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The ship is well equipped with high speed boats, medical facilities and modern surveillance systems.

### Indian Naval Indigenisation Plan from 2015-2030

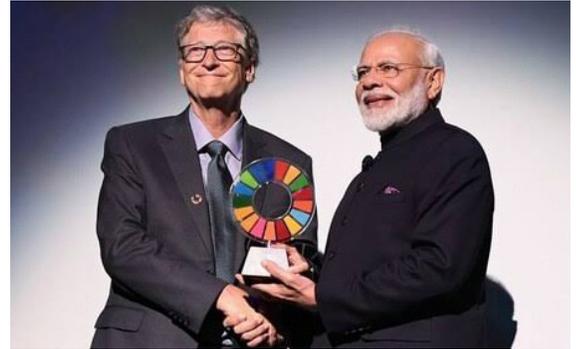
- An Indian Naval Indigenisation Plan from 2015-2030, as a guideline document, has been formulated in pursuance to the Government's vision of 'Make in India'.
- The document is aimed to enable indigenous development of equipment and systems over the next 15 years.

## Environment Conservation: PM receives 'Global Goal Keeper Award' for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the 'Global Goalkeeper' Award + about SDG) + Mains (GS III environment conservation)**

### What's the NEWS

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received the 'Global Goalkeeper' Award by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- The award ceremony took place on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.
- At the same event, Payal Jangid, a 16-year-old activist from Rajasthan, was presented with the Changemaker award for her work against child marriage.



### Know! about Global Goalkeeper

- The Goalkeeper awards felicitate changemakers around the world for their contributions toward meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the UN General Assembly set in 2015 for the year 2030.
- The awards are presented at the annual Goalkeepers function; the first such event took place in 2017.

### Know! about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The website of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals describes the SDGs as “the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”.
- There are 17 such Goals, which were adopted by the UN in 2015, and which came into force on January 1, 2016 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The Goals are universally applicable, and serve as a roadmap for countries to track their progress on complex issues such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.

### The 17 Goals that the UN set in 2015 are:

- *No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Reducing Inequality, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life On Land, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, Partnerships for the Goals.*

### The Goalkeeper awards

- Since 2017, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been publishing an annual report card called 'Goalkeepers' that tracks global progress towards the SDGs.
- According to the Foundation's website, the report aims to accelerate this progress by “using powerful stories, data, and partnerships to highlight progress achieved, hold governments accountable and bring together a new generation of leaders to address the world's major challenges”.
- There are five categories of awards at the Goalkeepers event: Progress Award (age 16-30), Changemaker Award (age 16-30), Campaign Award (age 16-30), Goalkeepers Voice Award (any age), and the Global Goalkeeper Award (any age).
- In the past, speakers at the Goalkeepers event have included the likes of former US President Barack Obama, French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, and Nobel Prize winners Malala Yousafzai and Nadia Murad.

## Economic Development: Government reconstitutes Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)) + Mains (GS III economic development)**

### What's the NEWS

- Government of India has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a period of two years with effect from 26th September 2019.

- Dr. Bibek Debroy and Shri Ratan P. Watal will continue to be the Chairman and Member Secretary respectively of the reconstituted EAC-PM.
- Apart from these two Full-Time Members, the EAC-PM will have two Part-Time Members. While Dr. Ashima Goel continues to be one of the Part-Time Members, Dr. Sajjid Chinoy has been made as another Part-time Member.

### Know! about EAC -PM

- Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC) is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister.
- The council serves to highlight key economic issues facing the country to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint.
- It advises the Prime Minister on economic issues like inflation, microfinance, and industrial output.

## Science & Technology: First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched on CSIR Foundation Day

*Relevance IN – Prelims (about the fuel cell system) + Mains (GS III Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life*

*Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.*

### What's the NEWS

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship program named **“New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)”** on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day .
- A unique example of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) among CSIR's three Laboratories [CSIR-NCL, Pune; CSIR-NPL, New Delhi & CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi (Chennai Center)] and two Indian industries; M/s Thermax Limited, Pune and M/s Reliance Industries Limited, Mumbai exemplified exploiting materials of science developments at CSIR laboratories into practice by Industry.



### Know! the fuel cell system and the benefits of using it

- The 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol / bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products for further use; amounting to greater than 70% efficiency, which otherwise may not be possible by other energy sources.
- The Fuel Cells developed are based on High Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (HTPEM) Technology.
- The development is most suitable for distributed stationary power applications like; for small offices, commercial units, data centers etc.; where highly reliable power is essential with simultaneous requirement for air-conditioning.
- This system will also meet the requirement of efficient, clean and reliable backup power generator for telecom towers, remote locations and strategic applications as well. This development would replace Diesel Generating (DG) sets and help reduce India's dependence on crude oil.
- The developed technology is world class and the development has placed India in the league of developed nations which are in possession of such a knowledgebase.

- CSIR has an impressive portfolio of global patents on these developments. In the field of clean energy, Fuel Cell distributed power generation systems are emerging as promising alternative to grid power.
- The Fuel Cells fit well in India's mission of replacing diesel with green and alternate fuels. The development of fuel cell technology is indigenous and carries immense national importance in terms of non-grid energy security.

## Science and Technology: DRDO and Central University of Jammu sign MoU to set up Kalam Centre for Science and Technology

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the MoU signed) + Mains (GS III Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life**

### What's the NEWS

- The Central University of Jammu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence for the establishment of Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST).

### Know! about the MoU

- The MoU has been inked to facilitate and undertake multidisciplinary directed basic and applied research and technology development in computational system security and sensors.
- KCST will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment leading to increase in research scholars in these areas.
- The high-end research centre will promote quality research which in long run will create a pool of scientists from this region.



Image tweeted by @SpokespersonMoD

## Defence: Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat takes over as Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about COSC + Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) + The Integrated Defence Staff + Mains (GS III various security challenges and their management in border areas**

### What's the NEWS

- Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat received the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) baton from outgoing Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa
- The Air Chief Marshal was appointed as Chairman, COSC on May 31, 2019. Under his stewardship, the Services progressed joint Manship and integration on a number of fronts in synchronisation with the motto 'Victory through Jointness'.



## Know! the role of the new chairman of COSC

- General Bipin Rawat as the Chief of Army Staff, he has been a member of COSC since January 2017.
- During his tenure in COSC, the Committee has deliberated on a number of diverse issues ranging from operations, training and administration, with an aim to enhance jointmanship and integration.
- As the next Chairman COSC, General Rawat is focused to operationalise the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), enhance Tri-Service integration, stimulate simultaneous growth of the Services, rapid operationalisation and synchronisation of modern war fighting capabilities to ensure that the Armed Forces are well aligned to the future.

## Know! all about COSC

- The Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, is the head of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. The most senior chief of staff is appointed to serve as a chairman until he retires.
- Following the end of the Kargil war, Kargil Review Committee found there was a lack of communication between the service branches, and therefore suggested to create the position of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- This was however rejected at that time by many members of the military, arguing that only great or imperial powers engaging in power projection needed that amount of integration.
- A compromise was created with the establishment of the COSC. The Chairman is responsible for inter-service synergy.
- However, as the COSC only serve as Primus inter pares to the other Chiefs of Staff, he does not wield any power.
- The Chairman is assisted by the **Integrated Defence Staff**. It has been suggested that the position of chairman be made permanent, with a renewable two year term.
- On Independence Day 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the government's decision to replace the post of Chairman, COSC with a permanent Chief of the Defence Staff, who would be senior to each service chief and who would deal with India's national security with a comprehensive approach, acting as a single-point military adviser to the prime minister and defence minister.

## Know! about IDS

- The Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) is an organisation responsible for fostering coordination and enabling prioritisation across the different branches of the Indian Armed Forces.
- It is composed of representatives from the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Ministry of External Affairs, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance.
- The IDS is headed by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff along with Deputy Chiefs of Integrated Defence Staff.



# FOR BETTER SYNERGY

(Left to Right) General Bipin Rawat, Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoo and Admiral Karambir Singh

### 1. WHY INDIA NEEDS A GENERAL NO. 1?

- ▶ To provide single-point military advise to government
- ▶ Better manage country's strategic resources & nuclear arsenal
- ▶ Bring synergy among Army, Navy & IAF by resolving inter-service doctrinal, planning, procurement & operational problems
- ▶ Streamline long-term defence planning & procurement process
- ▶ Truly integrate Service HQs with defence ministry & reduce civil-military divide

### 2. THE HISTORY

- ▶ CDS post strongly recommended by GoM report after the 1999 Kargil conflict, which saw squabbling between Army & IAF
- ▶ GoM report stressed the existing chiefs of staff committee (CoSC) had 'revealed serious weaknesses' in its ability to furnish single-point advise
- ▶ Many tri-Service organizations subsequently came up but CDS kept in cold storage
- ▶ Naresh Chandra Taskforce in 2012 also wanted Permanent Chairman of CoSC (a diluted version of CDS)

### 3. THE GLOBAL SCENE

- ▶ Over 70 countries (the US, UK, France, Germany etc) have CDS-like post for integration in military planning & operations
- ▶ US: chairman of joint chiefs of staff is highest-ranking military officer & principal military advisor to President. But chiefs of the unified combatant commands, who handle different parts of the globe, also report directly to political leadership
- ▶ China re-organized its 2.3-million People's Liberation Army into five theatre commands in 2016

### 4. WHY INDIA NEEDS THEATRE COMMANDS NEXT?

- ▶ Joint commands costeffective, save resources & prepare forces for integrated land-air-sea operations
- ▶ India has 17 single- Service commands (Army 7, IAF 7 & Navy 3)
- ▶ But only 2 joint commands for Andaman & Nicobar Command (theatre) & Strategic Forces Command (handles nuclear weapons)

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- The body advises and assists the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. It was established on 23 November 2001 after the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and is located at New Delhi

## Environment, Forest and Climate Change: India Will Restore 26 Million Hectares of Degraded Land by 2030

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about COP 14 and about Delhi declaration + desertification) + Mains (GS II international organisations + GS III environment conservation)**

### What's the NEWS

- The Prime Minister, inaugurated the High-Level Segment Meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



- The Prime Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to addressing all the three main concerns of the Rio Conventions.

### India's pledge

- India would raise its ambition of the total area that would be restored from its land degradation status, from twenty-one million hectares to twenty-six million hectares between now and 2030
- This will be focused on restoring land productivity and ecosystem services of 26 million hectares of most degraded and vulnerable land, with emphasis on the degraded agricultural, forest and other wastelands by adopting a landscape restoration approach.
- The Prime Minister also announced India's proposal to setup a global technical support institute for the member countries of the UNCCD for their capacity building and support regarding the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme
- The COP14 has emerged as a global platform to discuss matters of great importance concerning the environment, he stated "More than 190 Countries, 100 Ministers and 8000 participants from all across the globe came together to discuss and work on promotion of land restoration and climate resilience.

### Delhi Declaration

- The Environment Minister in a Press Conference later today also announced that the Delhi declaration will be announced tomorrow which will be accountable for the actions by various countries

### Know! the report tabled at 14<sup>th</sup> UNCCD

- One of the consequences of desertification and land degradation is migration. At the same time, there is a trapped population — people not in a position to migrate during environmental stress, according to a report

tabled at the ongoing 14th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

- The poor are hit the worst due to problems such as desertification; this will increase if corrective measures are not taken, according to the report, *Addressing the Land Degradation-Migration Nexus: the Role of The United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification*.
- The report has different estimates about the possible impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought on migration.
- It cites two more reports, including one released by World Bank in 2018 that estimated that 140 million people would possibly be internally displaced due to climate change by 2050 across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America.
- A 2019 study by Laurent-Lucchetti et al pegged the number of migrants driven by drought to increase by 22 million in Africa, 12 million in South America and 10 million in Asia in 2059 from 2000-2015 levels.
- Approximately 80 per cent of the world's extremely poor live in rural areas and land degradation has become an important factor in rural poverty. Nearly three billion — 38 per cent of the global population — lived in dry lands, according to the report.
- The UNCCD report recommended that policymakers prioritise these vulnerable areas first while dealing with challenges such as land degradation or desertification.
- It also asked for strengthening access to land and tenure in rural and fragile areas and prioritise the creation of dignified, decent and aspirational employment opportunities for migrants.

## Disaster Management: Prime Minister announces Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure at UN Climate Action Summit 2019

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) + Mains (GS III Disaster Management))**

### What's the NEWS

- Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi announced a global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York City, USA.

### Know! about the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- The partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks, financing mechanisms, private sector, and knowledge institutions will promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
- Developed through consultations with more than 35 countries, CDRI envisions enabling measurable reduction in infrastructure losses from disasters, including extreme climate events.
- CDRI thus aims to enable the achievement of objectives of expanding universal access to basic services and enabling prosperity as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, while also working at the intersection of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Established as a platform for generating and exchanging knowledge, CDRI will conduct country-specific and global activities.



- CDRI will provide member countries technical support and capacity development, research and knowledge management, and advocacy and partnerships to facilitate and encourage investment in disaster resilient infrastructure systems.

## Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Government launches two agriculture related Mobile Apps

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about the agriculture related mobile apps) + Mains (GS II Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation + GS III e-technology in the aid of farmers)**

### What's the NEWS

- Farmers will now have easy access to high value and technical agricultural equipment at their doorstep
- The Ministry for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched the two mobile Apps – **CHC Farm Machinery and Krishi Kisan App for Geo Tagging**

### CHC Farm Machinery App

- The Minister said that through CHC Farm Machinery App, farmers can select and order the required machinery at the rates feasible for them from the Custom Hiring Centres located in the radius of 50 Kms.

### Krishi Kisan App

- The Krishi Kisan App will provide farmers the information of best demonstration of high-yielding crops and seeds in their nearby area.
- Any farmer with high quality of crops can utilise this platform to demonstrate best practices of cultivation to other farmers so that this will help other farmers also to adopt these methods.
- The App will also help in geo-tagging and geo-fencing of crop and give weather forecast message to farmers.

## Science & Technology: 5th India International Science Festival to be held in Kolkata from 5th to 8th November, 2019.

**Relevance IN – Prelims (about India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 + Mains (GS III Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life + Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology)**

### What's the NEWS

- The 5th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 will be held at Kolkata from 5th to 8th November, 2019.
- IISF 2019 will play a crucial role in promoting love and passion of science among students by bringing science outside the lab.
- The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation.

### Know! the objective of IISF

- IISF encourages young minds towards the field of science and promoting networking of stakeholders working towards the propagation of science.
- IISF is the largest science festival in the world; Focus on youth to inspire and motivate them to learn real science in motion.
- The IISF 2019 is the fifth edition since its inception in 2015. The first and second IISF were held in New Delhi, the third in Chennai and the fourth IISF was held in Lucknow, which witnessed a Footfall from over 10 lakh people worldwide.
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019, an annual event organised jointly by science & technology-related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha), 2019.

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# **Prelims Factoids/Miscellaneous**

## KVIC Launches 'Terracotta Grinder' at Varanasi to Re-use wasted pottery

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about Terracotta Grinder')

#### What's the NEWS

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a first ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi. This machine will grind the wasted and broken pottery items for re-using in pottery-making.

#### Know! more about it

- Earlier the wasted pottery items were grinded in normal khal-musal (mortar and pestle) and its fine powder was mixed with the normal clay.
- Mixing this powder in stipulated ratio to normal clay makes the resulting pottery items stronger.
- On this occasion, the KVIC Chairman also distributed 200 Electric Potter Wheels and other pottery machines among the villagers.
- This will not only create 900 new jobs, but will also meet the growing demand for terracotta products at Varanasi railway station following a direction by the Ministry of Railways to Zonal Railways and IRCTC to take urgent necessary action to ensure use of locally produced, environment friendly terracotta products like Kulhad, glasses and plates for serving passengers through all static catering units at Varanasi and Raibareilly railway stations.
- This machine will be a boon for potters as Union Minister of MSME Shri Nitin Gadkari has proposed to introduce kulhads and other terracotta products at 400 prominent railway stations. The proposal is under active consideration of the Railways.



#### REPLAN (REducin PLAstic in Nature)

- KVIC, as part of its commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, had also started manufacturing of plastic-mixed handmade paper at Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), a KVIC unit in Jaipur under its project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic in Nature).
- In this project, the waste plastic is collected, cleaned, chopped, beaten and treated for softness. After that, it is mixed with the paper raw material i.e. cotton rags pulp in a ratio of 80 % (pulp) and 20% (plastic waste). The institute has sold over six lakh handmade plastic mixed carry bags since September 2018.

## Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2019

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about exercise yudh abhyas)

#### What's the NEWS

- As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training, Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2019 is being conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA from 05-18 September 2019.

#### Know! more about Exercise Yudh Abhyas

- It is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavours



between India and USA. This will be the 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

- Exercise Yuddh Abhyas will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.
- The exercise is also an ideal platform to learn from each other's expertise and experiences of planning and execution of operations.
- Both armies will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well developed operations for neutralization of threats of varied nature.
- In the end a joint exercise will be undertaken by both countries in an operational setting under a UN mandate. Experts from both sides will hold expert academic and military discussions to share each other's experiences on varied topics for mutual benefit.

## Induction of AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about apache attack helicopter)*

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

- The IAF formally inducted the AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter into its inventory at Air Force Station Pathankot.

#### **Know! all about Apache Attack Helicopter**

- Apache attack helicopters are being purchased to replace the Mi-35 fleet. Alongside the capability to shoot fire and forget anti tank guided missiles, air to air missiles, rockets and other ammunitions, it also has modern EW capabilities to provide versatility to helicopter in a network centric aerial warfare.
- Apaches have been an integral part of numerous historic campaigns worldwide.
- These aircraft have been modified specifically to suit the exacting standards demanded by IAF.
- IAF has signed a contract with 'The Boeing Company' and US Government for 22 Apache Attack Helicopters.
- The first eight helicopters have been delivered on schedule and the last batch of helicopters is to be delivered by March 2020. These helicopters will be deployed in the Western regions of India.
- The helicopter is capable of delivering variety of weapons which include air to ground Hellfire missiles, 70 mm Hydra rockets and air to air Stinger missiles.
- Apache also carries one 30 mm chain gun with 1200 rounds as part of area weapon sub system. To add to the lethality of the helicopter, it carries fire control radar, which has a 360 coverage and nose mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems.

#### **Know! the significance**

- The addition of Apache Attack Helicopter is a significant step towards modernisation of Indian Air Force helicopter fleet.
- This procurement will enhance the capability of IAF in providing integrated combat aviation cover to the army strike corps.
- These tandem seating helicopters are day/night, all weather capable and have high agility and survivability against battle damage. These are easily maintainable even in field conditions and are capable of prolonged operations in tropical and desert regions.



## Vaishno Devi Shrine tops list of 'Swachh Iconic Places'

### What's the NEWS

- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir has been adjudged as the Best Swachh Iconic place in the country in the 'Swachh Iconic Places' list released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

### Know! more about it

- The Shrine has been adjudged on the basis of the overall improvement in sanitation. Several initiatives were taken in the last few years to ensure the cleanliness of the entire Shrine area.
- The initiatives of water kiosks, reverse vending machines, equid dung management centre, installation of kill waste machine, collection, transportation, and disposal of waste along with regular mopping up of waste through a workforce of 1300 sanitation workers (Shrine cadre and outsourced) have enabled the shrine to achieve the top rank.
- The Shrine was in direct competition with dozen other iconic places including Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Maharashtra), Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh), Tirupati Temple (Andhra Pradesh) Golden Temple (Punjab) Manikarnika Ghat (Varanasi), Ajmer Sharif Dargah (Rajasthan) among others.
- The President will confer the prestigious award to the Shrine during the Swachh Mahotsav to be organized by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation on the 6th September.



## Indo-Thailand Joint Military Exercise Maitree – 2019

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about Exercise Maitree)

### What's the NEWS

- Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 between India and Thailand will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) from 16-29 Sep 2019.

### Know! all about Exercise Maitree

- Indian and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) comprising 50 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various counter terrorism operations in their respective countries.
- Exercise MAITREE is an annual training event which is being conducted alternatively in Thailand and India since 2006.



- Notably, in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Exercise MAITREE with Thailand is a significant in terms of the security challenges faced by both the nations in the backdrop of changing facets of global terrorism.
- The scope of this exercise covers company level joint training on counter terrorism operations in jungle and urban scenario.
- The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army (IA) and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) which in turn will further foster defence cooperation and bilateral relations between the two nations.

## DRDO successfully flight-tests indigenously developed low weight, fire & forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile



### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM))***

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

- In a major boost for Indian Army, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in the ranges of Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Know! more about MPATGM**

- The missile was launched from a man portable Tripod launcher and the target was mimicking a functional tank.
- The missile hit the target in top attack mode and destroyed it with precision. All the mission objectives were met.
- This is the third series of successful testing of MPATGM. The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.
- The test paves the way for the Army to have developed 3rd generation man portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile indigenously.

## Hindi Day – 15 September

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about Hindi Divas and its inception)***

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

- Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14 September, to commemorate the adoption of Hindi written in Devanagari script as one of the two official languages of the Republic of India by Constituent Assembly of India .

## Know! more about Hindi Divas

- Hindi is the official language of India, which was officially recognized after two years of independence.
- In fact, on 14 September 1949, it was decided in the Constituent Assembly that “the official language of India will be Hindi
- Also on the 50th birthday of Beohar Rajendra Simha on 14 September 1949, the efforts came to fruition following adoption of Hindi as an official language.
- This decision was ratified by the Constitution of India that came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- Under the Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script was adopted as the official language.
- In all, there are 22 Scheduled languages of India, of which, two are officially used at Union government of India level: Hindi and English. Hindi is spoken by 250 million people as the original language and it is the fourth language of the world.
- It is said that section 343 (1) of the chapter 17 of the Constitution of India has written something like this in the context of making Hindi the official language, ‘Hindi and script of the Union will be Devanagari.
- The form of the marks used for the official purposes of the Union will be international form. At the same time, many people were not happy with making Hindi the official language and started opposing it and after this protest, English was also given the status of official language.
- Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in world. 43.63% people in India currently speak Hindi language.

## Maiden IN-RSN-RTN Trilateral Exercise Commences



### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about the Maiden IN – RSN -RTN trilateral exercise)*

#### What's the NEWS

- A maiden trilateral exercise, **involving Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Royal Thailand Navy (RTN) and Indian Navy (IN)** has commenced at Port Blair on 16 Sep 19.

#### Know! more about the trilateral exercise

- The five-day-long exercise is aimed at bolstering the maritime inter-relationships amongst Singapore Thailand and India, and contribute significantly to enhancing the overall maritime security in the region.
- This would also strengthen the mutual confidence amongst three navies in terms of interoperability and development of a common understanding of procedures.
- During the harbour phase scheduled at Port Blair, professional exchanges, sports fixtures and cross deck familiarisation visits would be organised.

- The sea phase scheduled from 18 Sep to 20 Sep 19, a host of surface and air operations involving Gunnery, Force Protection Measures and Communication drills would be conducted providing experience gaining and learning from each other's best practices.
- Besides fostering co-operation, the maiden IN-RSN-RTN Trilateral exercise would provide an opportunity to participating navies to come together in a spirit of collaboration to nurture stronger ties.

## Opening Ceremony Indo-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE – 2019



### **Relevance IN -Prelims (about Exercise MAITREE)**

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

- Exercise MAITREE, the annual bilateral joint exercise between Indian Army (IA) and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) commenced at the Foreign Training Node (FTN), Umroi, Meghalaya.

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

- The aim of exercise is joint training of troops in counter terrorism operations in both jungle terrain and urban scenario.
- Exercise MAITREE-2019 has been the face of long standing bilateral ties between India and Thailand since 2006.
- The 14 days exercise will be conducted under the framework of United Nations mandate. Both contingents will share their valuable experiences in the conduct of counter terrorism operations in form of lectures, drills, demonstrations and skill-at-arms with an aim to refine tactics, techniques and procedures.
- The exercise will culminate with a 48 hours joint exercise which will showcase the planning and execution of joint skills of soldiers while conducting any counter terrorism operation.

## Air-to-Air missile Astra successfully flight tested from Su-30 MKI



## **Relevance IN – Prelims (about Air-to Air missile ASTRA)**

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

- Air-to-Air missile, ASTRA, has been successfully flight tested off the coast of Odisha.

### **Know! more about the test**

- The missile was launched from Su-30 MKI as a part of User trials.
- The live aerial target was engaged accurately demonstrating the capability of first indigenous air-to-air missile.
- The mission profile was executed in a text book manner. Various Radars, Electro-Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and Sensors tracked the missile and confirmed its engagement with target.

### **Know! about the missile**

- The state-of-the-art missile was launched from Sukhoi-30 MKI off the coast of Odisha as part of user trials by the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The missile is designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- The Astra missile is a beyond visual range missile. It is capable of engaging different targets at different altitudes.
- The missile has a strike range of 70km.
- The missile has a 15-kg high-explosive pre-fragmented warhead.

## **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited delivers second Scorpene submarine “KHANDERI” to Indian Navy**



## **Relevance IN – Prelims (about Mazagon Scorpene submarine ‘KHANDERI’ + about Project 75)**

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

- Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) called ‘Ship Builder to the Nation’, is one of India’s leading Defence public sector undertaking shipyards under the Ministry of Defence continuing their service to the nation with “Make in India” programme.
- They delivered the second Scorpene submarine ‘KHANDERI’ to the Indian Navy

### **Know! about Submarine Khanderi and other Scorpene class of submarines**

- The submarine ‘KHANDERI’ is named after the wide snouted Saw fish, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean.
- The first Submarine Khanderi was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 06<sup>th</sup> December 1968 and decommissioned on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1989 after more than 20 years of yeoman service to the nation. In true nautical tradition, she will now be ‘reincarnated’ by MDL to guard the vast maritime area of our nation.

- The Scorpene class of submarines can undertake multifarious tasks typically undertaken by any modern submarine which include anti-surface as well as anti submarine warfare.
- The constructions of third Scorpene at MDL, KARANJ, was started on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, and is currently undergoing the rigorous phase of sea trials. The fourth Scorpene, VELA was recently launched in May 2019, and is being prepared for sea trials, whilst the remaining two submarines, VAGIR and VAGSHEER, are in various stages of outfitting.

### **Know! about project 75**

- INS KHANDERI is the Second of the six Scorpene class submarines built under project 75 (Kalvari class) into the Indian Navy. It is a diesel electric attack submarine built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

*Six Scorpene class submarines to be built under project 75 (Kalvari class) into the Indian Navy.*

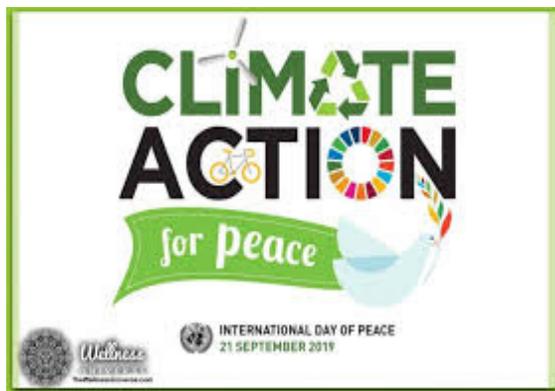
1. KALVARI
2. KHANDERI
3. KARANJ
4. VELA
5. VAGIR
6. VAGSHEER

## **International Day of Peace 2019**

### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about international day of peace)**

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

- The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has declared 21 September as International Day of Peace. This day is dedicated to fortifying the principles of peace, both within and among all member states and peoples. This year's celebrations are particularly significant because it is the 20th anniversary of the UN resolution on the programme of action on the culture of peace.



#### **Know! more about the International Day of Peace**

- International Day of Peace-2019 is devoted to all those people who have done their best efforts to bring peace in their communities or nations.
- International Day of Peace was established by adopting UN resolution on the culture of peace in 1981. In 2001, about two decades later, United Nation's General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.
- United Nations has declared "Climate Action for Peace" as a theme for International Day of Peace-2019.

United Nations believe that climate change has become a clear threat to international peace and security. The available data shows that salinization of water and crops is endangering food security, and the negative impact on public health is escalating

## **Sardar Patel National Unity Award**

### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about the Sardar Patel National Unity Award)**

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

- Government of India has instituted the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India, in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- A notification instituting the Sardar Patel National Unity Award was issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on 20th September, 2019.
- The Award seeks to recognize notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India.

- The award will be announced on the occasion of the National Unity Day, i.e. the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31st October.

### **Know! all about the award**

- The Award shall be conferred by the President by a Sanad under his hand and seal and presented by him in a presentation ceremony along with the Padma award presentation ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- An Award Committee would be constituted by the Prime Minister, which would include the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Secretary to the President, Home Secretary as Members and three-four eminent persons selected by the Prime Minister.
- The Award would consist of a medal and a citation. No monetary grant or cash award would be attached to this Award. Not more than three Awards would be given in a year. It would not be conferred posthumously except in very rare and highly deserving cases.
- The Nominations would be invited every year. The applications would need to be filed online on the website specifically designed by Ministry of Home Affairs. All citizens, without distinction of religion, race caste, gender, place of birth, age or occupation, and any institution/organization would be eligible for the Award.
- Any Indian national or institution or organization based in India would be able to nominate an individual for consideration for this Award. Individuals may also nominate themselves. State Governments, UT Administrations and Ministries of Government of India may also send nominations.

## **PM Modi inaugurates Gandhi Solar Park at UN Headquarters**

### **Catch the sun**

The Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters in New York is an Indian effort to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action. At a contribution of about \$1 million, India has gifted the solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the building, one panel each for 193 member states



- System size of each panel:
- 71.41 KW
- Projected annual system output: 86,244 kWh (equals to carbon dioxide emissions from 30,246 Kg of coal burned or carbon sequestered from 1,008 tree seedlings grown for 10 years)

### ***Relevance IN – Prelims (about the ‘Gandhi Solar Park’ at the Headquarters of the United Nations)***

#### **What’s the NEWS**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 50 kilowatt ‘Gandhi Solar Park’ at the Headquarters of the United Nations here, on the second leg of his visit to the United States.

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

- World leaders including Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President of South Korea Moon-Jae-in were also present at the occasion in New York.
- The leaders also launched a United Nations (UN) postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi, at the programme ‘Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the Contemporary World’ at the UN headquarters.
- The event was hosted to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which will underline the continuing relevance of Gandhian thoughts and values in today’s world.
- Several Heads of State and Government along with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will grace the occasion to pay our collective tribute to Gandhiji and underscore the significance of his message.

- Prime Minister Modi is also scheduled to inaugurate a Gandhi Peace Garden at the State University of New York Campus at Old Westbury in Long Island where 150 trees have been planted in honour of Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

## INDO-KAZAKHSTAN Joint Military Exercise KAZIND - 2019



### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about Indo – Kazakhstan military exercise)**

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

- Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2019 between India and Kazakhstan will be conducted at Pithoragarh from 02 to 15 October 2019.
- The exercise will comprise of nearly 100 soldiers from both Indian and Kazakhstan Army who would be sharing their experience gained during conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in the past.

#### **Know! more about the Exercise**

- Exercise KAZIND-2019 is the fourth edition of an annual event which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India.
- The aim of this exercise is to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.
- During the exercise, aspects of emerging trends of global terrorism and hybrid warfare have also been included.
- The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation further fostering bilateral relations between the two nations.

## India rises 4 places to 44th rank in world digital competitiveness rankings

### **Relevance IN – Prelims (about digital competitiveness ranking)**

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

- India has advanced four places to 44th position in terms of digital competitiveness in the world as the country has made improvement in terms of knowledge and future readiness to adopt and explore digital technologies, according to a global report.

#### **Know! more about the report and its findings**

- India rose from 48th place in 2018 to 44th rank this year as the country has improved overall in all factors -- knowledge, technology and future readiness -- as compared to the previous year's ranking.
- India advanced four places to 44th position in 2019, with the biggest improvement in the technology sub-factor level, holding first position in telecommunications investment," according to the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019 (WDCR).

- The US was ranked as the world's most digitally competitive economy, followed by Singapore in the second place.
- Sweden was ranked third on the list, followed by Denmark and Switzerland in the 4th and 5th place, respectively.
- The largest jump in the overall ranking was registered by China, moving from 30th to 22nd, and Indonesia, from 62nd to 56th.
- The Ranking, produced by the IMD World Competitiveness Center, measures the capacity and readiness of 63 nations to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society.

## ‘World digital competitiveness: India rises to 44th rank’

India has advanced four places to the 44th position in terms of digital competitiveness in the world, according to a IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019 report

**48TH PLACE IN 2018:** The country has improved overall in all factors – knowledge, technology and future readiness – as compared to the previous year’s ranking

**US IS THE** most digitally competitive economy, followed by Singapore

**SWEDEN WAS** ranked third, followed by Denmark and Switzerland in the 4th and 5th place, respectively

**TOP 10 LIST INCLUDES:**

- The Netherlands at 6th place
- Finland at 7th
- Hong Kong SAR at 8th
- Norway at 9th
- Republic of Korea at 10th



up to 13th and 22nd place, respectively

**THE RANKING** measures the capacity and readiness of 63 nations to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society

**THREE FACTORS** that the WDCR examines are: Knowledge, the capacity to understand and learn the new technologies; technology, the competence to develop new digital innovations; and future readiness, the preparedness for the coming developments

**THE LARGEST** jump in the ranking was registered by China, from 30th to 22nd, and Indonesia, from 62nd to 56th

**IN THE CASE** of China, the improvement originated mainly in the knowledge

factor (18th) in which it progressed in the training and education sub-factor (from 46th to 37th) and in scientific concentration (21st to 9th), the report said

**TAIWAN AND** China moved

## 28 September is World Rabies Day

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about Rabies and World Rabies Day)*

#### What’s the NEWS

- 28 September also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur’s death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine
- It is celebrated annually to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease.

#### Know! about World Rabies Day

- World Rabies Day is an international awareness campaign coordinated by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, a non-profit organization with headquarters in the United States.
- It is a United Nations Observance and has been endorsed by international human and veterinary health organizations such as the World Health Organization.
- World Rabies Day aims to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on humans and animals, provide information and advice on how to prevent the disease in at-risk communities, and support advocacy for increased efforts in rabies control.
- Rabies remains a significant health problem in many countries of the world. Over 99% of all human deaths caused by rabid dog bites happen in the developing world, with 95% of deaths occurring in Africa and Asia.
- One major problem with rabies prevention is a lack of basic life-saving knowledge among people at risk. Organizations working on the issue can often feel isolated, and, as a neglected disease, rabies does not attract sufficient resources, even though the world has the tools and knowledge to prevent rabies and nobody needs to die from this disease.
- Health awareness days can help to improve policy on diseases and increase resources to prevent and control them. This understanding led to the development of an awareness day against rabies.

#### Know! about Rabies

- Rabies is a viral disease that causes inflammation of the brain in humans and other mammals. Early symptoms can include fever and tingling at the site of exposure.

- Rabies is caused by lyssaviruses, including the rabies virus and Australian bat lyssavirus. It is spread when an infected animal scratches or bites another animal or human.
- Saliva from an infected animal can also transmit rabies if the saliva comes into contact with the eyes, mouth, or nose.
- Globally, dogs are the most common animal involved. In countries where dogs commonly have the disease, more than 99% of rabies cases are the direct result of dog bites. In the Americas, bat bites are the most common source of rabies infections in humans, and less than 5% of cases are from dogs.

## K Siva Reddy to get Saraswati Samman

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about Saraswati Samman)*

#### What's the NEWS

- Telugu poet K Siva Reddy is to be conferred the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018, for his collection of poems titled **Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down)**.
- *Saraswati Samman - It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature and carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.*

#### Know! about K Siva Reddy

- Born in 1943 in a farmer's family in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur, Reddy is counted among the most renowned modern poets in Telugu. He has also taught English literature and produced 23 volumes of poetry.
- Reddy has also published critical essays on poetry. According to the citation provided by the foundation, Reddy attributes his poetic excellence to his faith in poetry as a weapon in combating injustice and calls himself a wanderer who is forever in search of equality and humanity.
- Pakkaki Ottigilite, published in 2016, is an anthology of 104 poems in blank verse. It captures the responses of the poet over the years to social change, the evolution of his own self and his dynamic relationship with the world.

#### Know! about the award

- The award, instituted by the KK Birla Foundation, is given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any official Indian language and published during the preceding 10 years.
- It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature and carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.
- Reddy was chosen for the award after a rigorous selection process carried out by the Chayan Parishad, or selection committee
- The Chayan Parishad is assisted by five Kshetra Samities, or regional committees, and 22 Bhasha Samities, or language committees, consisting of eminent writers, scholars and critics in various languages from all parts of the country.
- To felicitate writers, the KK Birla Foundation has instituted three awards in the field of literature. These are the Saraswati Samman, Vyas Samman (for Hindi) and Bihari Puraskar (for Hindi and Rajasthani writers of Rajasthan).
- Past recipients of the Saraswati Samman include poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and writers Vijay Tendulkar, Shamsur Rahman Faruqi and Dr Indira Parthasarathy Ramanujar, among many others.

## World Tourism Day

### *Relevance IN – Prelims (about World tourism day)*

#### What's the NEWS

- World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27 every year. This date was chosen as the Constitution of the World Tourism Organization was accepted on this day in 1970.
- On this global day, Indian leaders have urged the youth to explore India and its diverse cultural heritage.
- This year, the theme of World Tourism Day is "Tourism and jobs: a better future for all". India is the hosting country for World Tourism Day 2019.

#### Know! more about World Tourism Day

- The purpose of celebrating World Tourism Day is to raise awareness about the role of tourism around the world and to promote social, cultural, political and economic values.

- This day can help in increasing mutual understanding among people all over the world. On the occasion of World Tourism Day, many types of events are organized all over the world
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to make people aware of tourism around the world.
- The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) keeps the theme of World Tourism Day different every year to make people aware.
- The United Nations decided to celebrate September 27, 1980, as World Tourism Day. The day of September 27 was chosen for World Tourism Day because the Constitution of the World Tourism Organization was accepted on this day in 1970.

## The second edition of tourism and hospitality buyer-seller meet the 'India Tourism Mart 2019' inaugurated

### Relevance IN – Prelims (about India's tourism mart)

#### What's the NEWS

- The Central government recently inaugurated the India Tourism Mart (ITM) 2019
- The Ministry of Tourism and the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) have jointly organized this Mart.

#### Know! about ITM 2019 and its objective

- Over 240 international delegates from 51 countries and 160 exhibitors from across the country are taking part in the second edition of ITM.
- The collaboration of Ministry of Tourism and FAITH will increase the trust of tourists.
- The objective of the Mart is to provide a platform at the national level for the trade and hospitality service providers to interact and conduct business with their counterparts from overseas.

#### Know! about FAITH

- FAITH is the apex organization of important trade and hospitality associations of the country and will drive the event, with support of the Ministry of Tourism, with the objective of positioning the tourism destinations and products of the country in international source markets.

#### Know! more about ITM 2019

- This is the second edition of the Mart being organized on lines of major international travel marts held annually in countries across the world.
- The Mart will provide a platform at the national level for trade and hospitality service providers in the country to interact and conduct business with their counterparts from overseas.
- The event will provide an opportunity for the buyer delegates to see for themselves the world class tourism facilities available in the country - the Airports, Hotels, tourist destinations and products, MICE facilities, etc., which will enable them to promote the same more effectively amongst potential consumers in their respective countries. The State of Gujarat is the Partner State at ITM 2019



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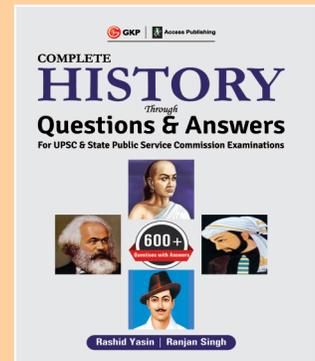
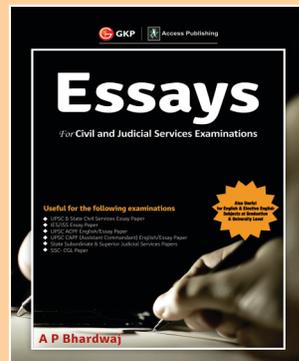
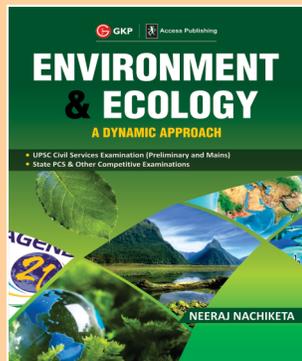
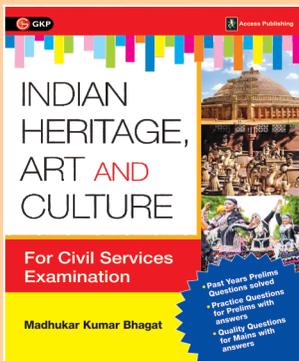
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