CIVIL SERVICES MONTHLY

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ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR CIVIL SERVICES

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MISCELLANEOUS

PEGASUS SPYWARE

WHY IN NEWS
The Israeli spyware, is believed to have been used to target hundreds of phones in India.

ABOUT
Any malicious software which is designed to gather user data, enter user computer device and without user consent, forward it to a third-party is called spyware.

Pegasus is a spyware which is developed by an Israeli company, NSO Group.

Without the target's engagement or knowledge, Pegasus can infect a device.

It gain access to smartphones and turn it into surveillance devices.

WHAT THE COMPANY CLAIM
- It as a tool to track criminals and terrorists is claimed by the Israeli company
- The software is sold only to governments by NSO Group.
- Up to Rs 70 lakh for a single license, which can be used to infect several smartphones can cost.
- 2016 price list
  $650,000 to gain access to 10 devices, NSO Group charged its customers plus an installation fee of $500,000.

HOW IT WORKS
- By calling the target phone on WhatsApp, the code is transmitted.
- Even if the call is not answered, the code enters the phone.
- The log of that call can gets erased.
- To click on a link, by SMSs.

WHAT IT CAN DO
- To the spyware's controller Pegasus can send the target's contacts, calendar events, phone calls, messages of WhatsApp, Telegram.
- Even services that offer encryption it could steal messages from it since it was taking the messages before the encryption process.
- By switching on its camera or microphone, the controller can also turn the phone into a spying device.

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TARGETS
- Across the globe, over 100 human-rights activists, lawyers, journalists, etc., were targeted.

2016

Pegasus on smartphone of human rights activist Ahmed Mansoor was come across by researchers at Canadian cybersecurity organisation The Citizen Lab first time.

September 2018

Countries in which Pegasus was being used was identified by The Citizen Lab which publish a report.

▶ The list also included India, as with the latest exposes.

October 2019

Journalists and human rights activists in India had been targets of surveillance by operators using Pegasus, WhatsApp revealed it.
▶ WhatsApp identified that in the app's call function a bug was used to install a malicious code into users' phones in May 2019.
▶ Later it recognized the malicious code as Pegasus, on Oct. 29.
▶ In a U.S. court WhatsApp and its parent company Facebook have sued NSO group.

July 2021

Various governments used the software to spy on government officials, opposition politicians, journalists, activists and many others, The Pegasus Project, an international investigative journalism effort, revealed this information.
▶ Around 300 people b/w 2017 and 2019, Indian government used it to spy on various people.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT
- Government say no unauthorised interference by them.
- Government surveillance on specific people has no actual truth, allegation is false.
- Any software allegedly used by government to counter terrorism any disclosure about it would compromise national security.

COURT STATEMENT
- In the Pegasus issue any decision would have a pan-India impact, so we expect everyone to wait.

CHALLENGES
- Creation of a surveillance state.
- Mass data analysis can be harmful.
- Forms of behaviour collection can be misused.

CONCLUSION
- There is a public life, a private life and a secret life all need to be respected and government has to ensure no one interfere in any part of individual privacy.
- Under surveillance our work is less efficient and we are less free.
- Without privacy, little man will have no faith in democracy anymore.

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MISSION KARMAYOGI

WHY IN NEWS

The Union Cabinet has approved Mission Karmayogi a new capacity-building scheme for civil servants.

ABOUT

01 It is a scheme for civil servants for their capacity-building

02 For officers and employees at all levels, improvement in the post-recruitment training mechanism.

03 To increase the capacity of civil servants, it will use state-of-the-art infrastructure.

04 Biggest bureaucratic transformation initiative, labelled by central government.
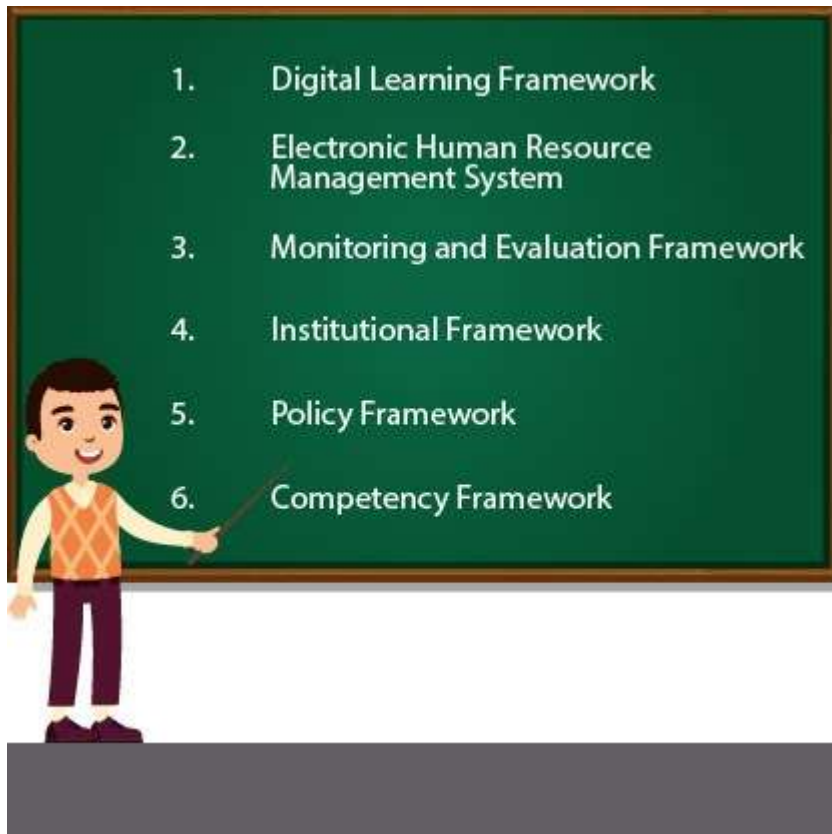
WORKING MECHANISM

- By setting up a digital platform called iGOT (Integrated Government Online training) Karmayogi, Mission Karmayogi Programme will be conveyed.
- IGOT-Under Ministry of Human Resources and Development, it is an Integrated Government Online Training digital platform.
- iGOT-Karmayogi platform will be govern by wholly-owned Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)
- Under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, it will be established.
- IGOT-Karmayogi platform will be own and manage by the SPV (not-for-profit) company.
- Making and operationalizing, market place, content and manage important business services of iGOT-Karmayogi stage, regarding content validation, independent proctored assessments and telemetry data availability will be done by the SPV.
- All Intellectual Property Rights will be own by the SPV, on behalf of the Government of India.

KEY POINTS

- For the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), the platform will act as a Launchpad.
- Prime Minister's Human Resource Council will oversee NPCSCB, which will also include:
  - State Chief Ministers
  - Union Cabinet ministers
  - Specialists
  - Thinkers
  - Public service functionaries
  - Global thought leaders
  - Eminent public HR practitioners

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OUR BRANCHES: New Delhi | Mumbai | Kolkata | Chennai | Ahmedabad | Bengaluru | Bhilai | Bhubaneswar | Chandigarh | Dehradun | Gandhinagar | Guwahati | Hyderabad| Kanpur | Lucknow | Mehsana | Nagaland | Patna | Raipur | Rajkot | Ranchi | Surat | Vadodara |

WhatsApp no: 7284911227 - 7284811227 chahalacademy@gmail.com

- They will evaluate and accept civil service capacity building programmes.
- Cabinet Secretary Coordination Unit will include select secretaries and Cadre controlling authorities.
- Specialists in related fields and global professionals will be in Capacity Building Commission. They will audit human resources, monitor annual capacity building plans.
- For performance assessment of all users of the iGOT-Karmayogi platform so as to produce a dashboard view of Key Performance Indicators, a suitable monitoring and assessment framework will also be made.

SIX PILLARS OF MISSION KARMAYOGI

1. Digital Learning Framework
2. Electronic Human Resource Management System
3. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
4. Institutional Framework
5. Policy Framework
6. Competency Framework

FUNDING
From 2020-21 to 2024-25, a sum of Rs 510.86 crore will be spent over a period of 5 years, which will cover around 46 lakh central employees.

Around $50 million expenditure is partly funded by multilateral assistance.

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS
Government's human resource management practices fundamentally will improve.

An inclusive reform of the capacity building apparatus at the development levels, institutional and individual, this mission will support.

Rules based to Roles based evolution of bureaucracy by matching their capabilities to the necessities of the post.

CIVIL SERVANT BENEFITS
- Under Mission Karmayogi, officers and employees in the government will get a chance to improve their performance.
- Civil servant will be able to ensure efficient service delivery of the highest quality standards by enabling them with specific role-abilities.

CHALLENGES
- Anything that challenges the status quo of bureaucracy, they always try to resist the change.
- From ordinary to professional method of dealing with the situation according to the changing environment bureaucracy need to evolve itself.

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WHY MISSION KARMAYOGI

➢ For the future so that Indian civil servants can be more
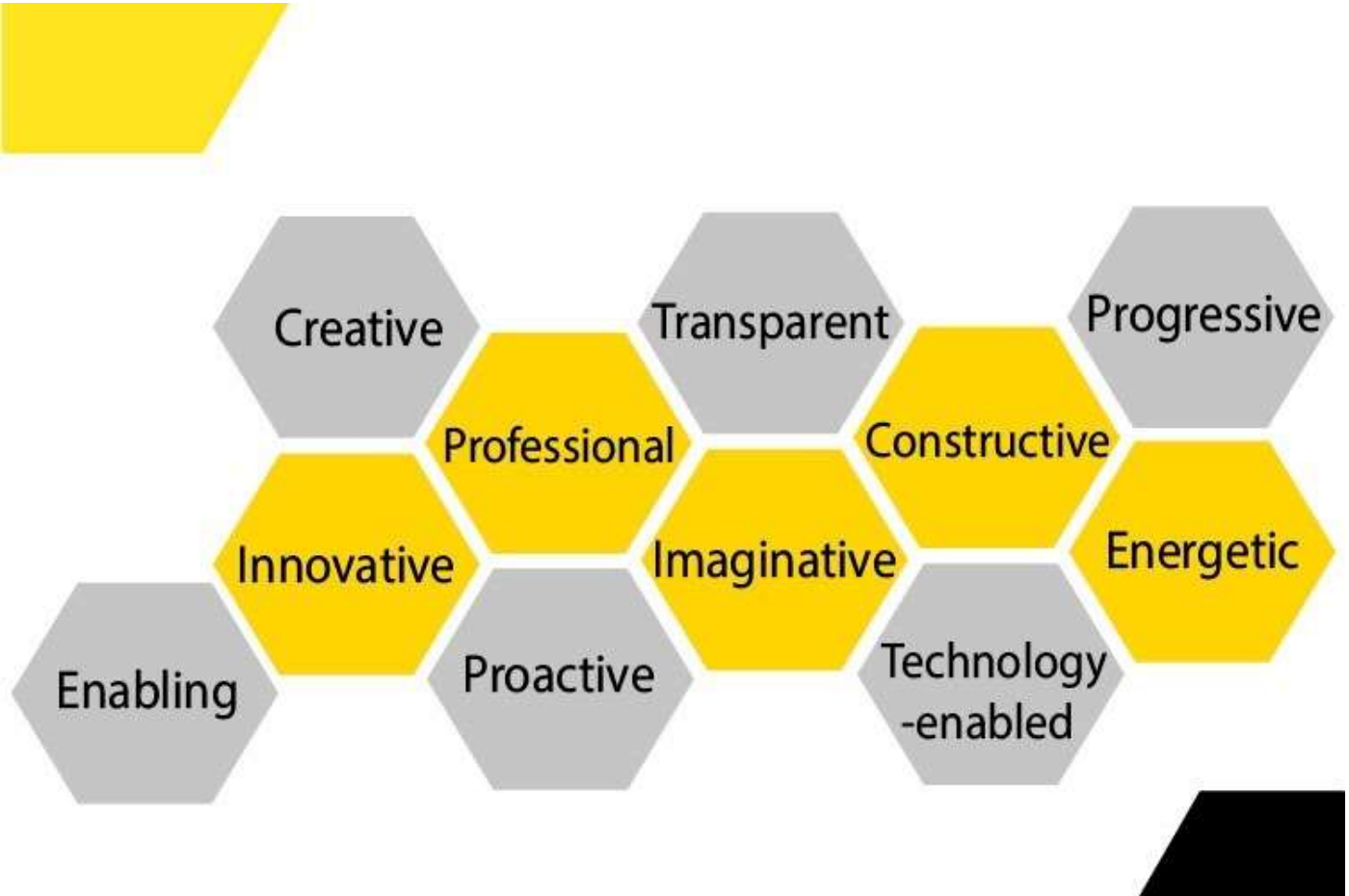
CONCLUSION
- Courses offered by government should be seen as an opportunity to learn and not an excuse to take time out of work.
- Attitude change is required in bureaucracy who forgets that they are servants of society not the master.
- Empathy need to be develop in them so they can feel the problem rather than escaping the situation.
- Bureaucracy transformation is good move but the real culprits are the politicians who interfere in transfers and put pressure on the bureaucrats.
- Most of the bureaucrats are trap in a bubble and a wall is created among it so they never realize their full potential.
- They forgets their purpose to serve the humanity and they become a puppet of misguided souls.

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COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

WHY IN NEWS

All nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for appointment to the top court, the Centre government has approved.

ABOUT COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

A system of transfer and appointment of judges, where judges appoint judges.

Through judgments of the Supreme Court it has evolved, in the so-called Judges Cases and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

COLLEGIUM SYSTEM CONSIST OF
- The Chief Justice of India as head and four other senior most judges of the court, the Supreme Court collegium is made up.
- The Chief Justice of high court as head and four other senior most judges of the court, the High Court collegium is made up.
- Only after approval by the CJI and the Supreme Court collegium, names suggested for appointment by a High Court collegium reaches the government.
- Through the collegium system, judges of the higher judiciary are appointed.

GOVERNMENT ROLE
- After names have been decided by the collegium, the government has a role to play.
- If a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court, government's role is in getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- Regarding the collegium's choices, government can also raise objections and seek clarifications.
- But the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges, if the collegium re send the same names.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION
- By the President under Articles 124(2) and 217 of the Constitution, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed.
- Consultations with such of the judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts as he may deem necessary, the President is required to hold.

Article 124(2) says:
- Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- After consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years.
- Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted.

Article 217 says:
- Every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court.

EVOLUTION OF COLLEGIUM SYSTEM
- The Judges Cases is where the origin of the collegium system can be seen.
- Through various interpretations of relevant constitutional provisions by the Supreme Court in the Judges Cases, the collegium came into existence.

FIRST JUDGES CASE
- 1981, S P Gupta Vs Union of India, by a majority judgment the Supreme Court held that in the Constitution the idea of primacy of the Chief Justice of India was not really to be found.
- It held that the suggestion for appointment to a High Court can originate from any of the constitutional functionaries mentioned in Article 217 and not essentially from the Chief Justice of the High Court.
- The term consultation used in Articles 124 and 217 was not concurrence the Constitution Bench said.
- Which means that President Decision was not bound to be in concurrence with all of the functionaries, although the President will consult these functionaries.
- In favour of the executive, this judgment tilted the balance of power in appointments of judges of High Courts.
- For the next 12 years, this condition prevailed.

SECOND JUDGES CASE
- In 1993 the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association Vs Union of India, the decision in S P Gupta was overruled by a nine-judge Constitution Bench.
- A definite process called Collegium System for the appointment and transfer of judges in the higher judiciary was created.
- In the petition filed by the National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms, it was this judgment that was required to be reviewed.
- It also said that the court should protect the integrity and safeguard the independence of the judiciary.
- The majority verdict in the Second Judges Case accorded primacy to the CJI in matters of appointment and transfers.
- The term consultation would not reduce the primary role of the CJI in judicial appointments.
- The executive cannot have an equal say in the matter, the role of the CJI is primal in nature because this being a topic within the judicial family.
- Indiscipline would grow in the judiciary, if executive have an equal role.

- The recommendation should be made by the CJI in consultation with his two senior most colleagues, and that such recommendation should normally be given effect to by the executive.
- The executive can ask the collegium to review the matter if it had an objection to the name recommended, and if on review the collegium repeated the recommendation, the executive has to make the appointment.

THIRD JUDGES CASE
- President K R Narayanan in 1998, delivered a Presidential Mention to the Supreme Court over the meaning of the term "consultation" under Article 143 of the Constitution (advisory jurisdiction).
- The question was:
  ➢ whether the sole opinion of CJI could by itself establish a consultation
  ➢ Consultation required consultation with a number of judges in forming the CJI's opinion.
- For the working of the Coram for appointments and transfers the Supreme Court laid down guidelines.

This views placed were:
- By the CJI and his four senior most colleagues, instead of two, the recommendation should be made.
- Supreme Court judges should also be consulted who hailed from the High Court for which the proposed name came.
- The CJI should not send the recommendation to the government, even if two judges gave an adverse opinion

CHALLENGES
- Battle between the judiciary and the executive in appointment.
- Appointment in judiciary in slow pace.
- Nepotism is increasing.
- Lack of transparency.

CONCLUSION
- To solve this issue of collegium system government tried to bring National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).
- But a five-judge Constitution Bench in 2015 declared it as unconstitutional.
- The essence of democracy lies in its independence, transparency, accountability, integrity of institutions.
- Any institution where nepotism is favoured over talent its downfall is guaranteed and it can be seen in judiciary where cases are pending, justice is denied and nepotism has played some role in it.
- An independent body for the whole process is required so that judiciary can act independently not exclusively or else it will hurt coming generation faith in judiciary.
- Without transparency justice is illusion.

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VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE POLICY

WHY IN NEWS

For unfit vehicles PM Narendra Modi while addressing the Investor Summit in Gujarat via video conferencing launched Vehicle scrapping policy/Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Programme.

For setting up vehicle scrapping infrastructure under the Vehicle Scrapping Policy summit was organized to invite investment.

ABOUT VEHICLE SCRAPPING POLICY

Over a certain age all automobiles should be off the roads in the interest of better pollution control and safety, which new vehicles ensure.

Personal vehicles over 20 years old and Commercial vehicles over 15 years old are marked for scrapping.

- If they fail an automated fitness test they will be marked for scrapping and it doesn't matter whether they run on diesel or petrol.
- The owner can choose to scrap them but these will be deregistered and cannot be used on the road.

CURRENT SITUATION OF VEHICLES IN INDIA
- Over 15 years old currently India has 34 lakh light motor vehicles and 51 lakh light motor vehicles that are more than 20 years old.
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways data says around 17 lakh medium and heavy commercial vehicles are older than 15 years without valid fitness certificates.

WHEN WILL IT START
- In April 2023, mandatory testing of heavy commercial vehicles will start.
- In a phased manner in June 2024, Personal vehicles testing will start.
- Older than 15 years all government and PSU-owned vehicles will be scrapped by October 1, 2022.
- Gently without the consumer facing risk, India Inc. time to come up with an ecosystem wherein testing and next scrapping can happen.
- To alter the rollout plan by a few months, there are talks within the government.

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FITNESS CENTRES
- Various criteria like emission norms, braking and other parameters, without human intervention, automated Fitness Centers will have in it.
- Providing land for free for these centers, government has requested states to consider this option.
- The number and concentration of fitness centers in an urban area will depend on market demand.
- Model Inspection and Certification Centers worth Rs 17 crore in all states, the Centre is promoting this idea.
- Around 26 such model centers has been sanctioned.
- Vehicle owners do not have to travel great distances, so Centre want these facilities to be near city centers.
- Without valid fitness about 1 crore vehicles in India that are plying on the roads.
- Those vehicles that fail a fitness test that would be scrapped under the new policy.
- For scrapping a vehicle the primary criterion would be its fitness not its age.
- Setting up of automated fitness centers in the PPP mode in every district in the country is government aim.

CHARGES FOR REREGISTRATION
- The charges for reregistration will be high, in case, the owner chose to continue using old vehicle.
- Around eight to around 20 times, depending on the type of vehicle, the charges for reregistration will be.
- These charges will kick in from October this year (2021).
- After they have completed 15 years, Personal vehicles, can be reregistration.

ABOUT CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- Reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling of resources a circular economy depends on them.
- Aim is to create a closed-loop system, reducing the use of resources, generation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions.
- Many other parts may emerge that can be refurbished and ploughed back into use when a car is scrapped, apart from metals including iron and steel.
- There is a value in the scrap economy for recycled steel from scrap and even seats and plastic parts.

- Like in Alang shipbreaking yard in Gujarat it is similar to scrappage of old ships.
- Productivity improves in a circular economy because products, materials, equipment and infrastructure are kept in use for longer.

WHY VEHICLE SCRAPPING POLICY
- The scrapping that currently happens in India is not productive because last year (2020) around Rs 23,000 crore worth of scrap steel was imported.
- So by this policy more scrap yards will be created in the country and waste from old vehicles will be effectively recovered.
- A new identity to mobility of New India, and the automobile sector will be ensure by this policy.
- In modernizing the country's vehicle population it will play a big role and removing unfit vehicles from the roads in a scientific manner.
- Country's automobile and metal industries will get a boost.

BENEFITS TO CITIZENS
- Tax rebate, sops, and a discount on the new car, to help vehicle owners find a reason to retire old vehicles, the government envisages that the scrappage certificate will entitle the owner with these extra benefits.
- It can be used by anyone, the certificate is tradable not necessarily by the owner of the scrapped vehicle.
- While buying a new vehicle those having this certificate will not need to pay any registration fee.
- A waiver on the registration fee for their new vehicle, and will be entitled to relief in road tax those who scrap their old vehicles.
- In payment of road tax some allowances will be given.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS
- The consequence of the policy can be that it can attract investment worth Rs 10,000 crore and create 35,000 new jobs.
- In Europe and the US, a scrappage policy has been followed by boost in demand in the auto manufacturing sector
- Due to recession it can be used as a tool to deal with economic slowdown in the manufacturing sector and consumption.
- It will reduce cost of travel and transportation and also help in economic growth.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
- Newer cars come with better emission standards and better fuel efficiency.
- Road accidents will be reduced and improve health by new policy because of the reduction in vehicular pollution.
- 10-12 per cent more polluting are the old vehicles and these old vehicles also pose a safety hazard.
- It will make India clean, congestion-free and convenient mobility in the 21st century.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT
- In long term making India the scrapping hub (integrated scrapping hub for both ships and vehicles) of Southeast Asia (countries that do not have scrapping facilities) is government aim.
- From Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka scrapped vehicles can be brought to Kandla.
- A viable circular economy creation is government aim and to bring value for all stakeholders while being environmentally responsible.

CHALLENGES
- Road tax and registration fees on replacement vehicles have been advised to waive off but they are part of revenue of state.

CONCLUSION
- Vehicle manufacturers has to be made responsible for generating the waste and action should be taken against them.
- After the pandemic period it is required for centre government to financially support the state (for their loss in tax collection and registration charge) and manufactures for success of vehicle scrapping policy.

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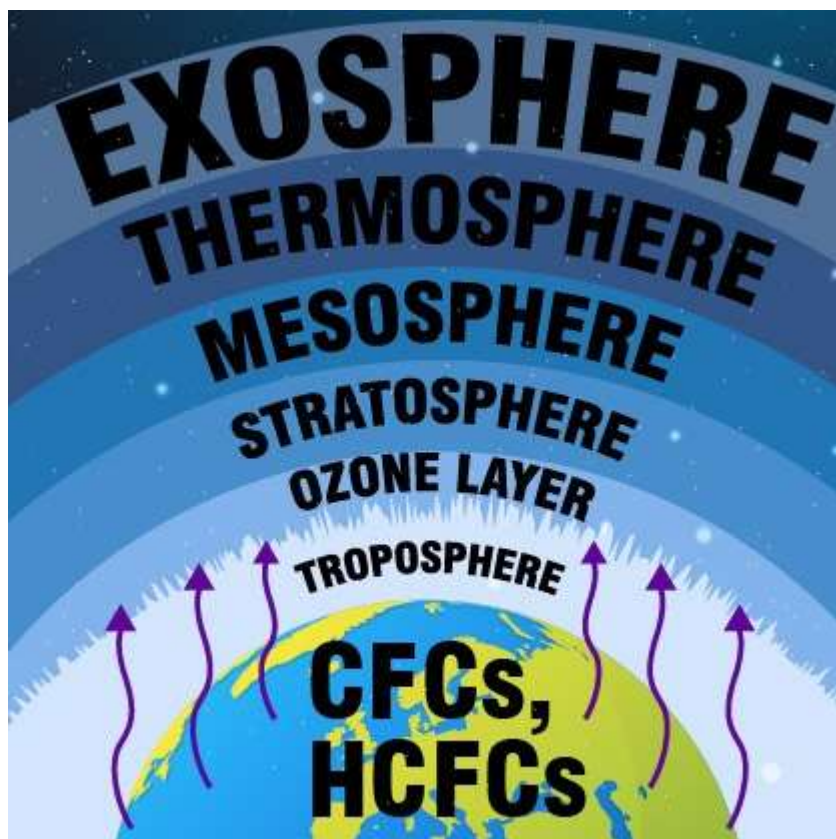
KIGALI AMENDMENT

WHY IN NEWS
A key amendment to the 1989 ozone-saving Montreal Protocol, India decided to ratify it.

ABOUT KIGALI AMENDMENT
More than 170 countries agreed to amend the Montreal Protocol, in October of 2016, during 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Kigali/Rwanda, aiming at protecting the climate and the ozone layer.

It was negotiated in the Rwandan capital so it was named after the Rwandan capital.

It will enter into force on 1 January 2019, provided it has been ratified by at least 20 parties.

By 2047 the goal is to achieve over 80% reduction in HFC consumption.

- It is an amendment to Montreal Protocol.
- Between the signatory parties with non-compliance procedures, it is a legally binding agreement.

WHAT IS HFCs
- They are Organic compounds which contain Carbon, hydrogen, and fluorine.
- They used for cooling and refrigeration
- Ozone depleting substances like Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) they are used as substitutes for it.

BACKGROUND OF HFCs
- In the 1970s and 1980s, HFCs came in to replace the CFCs, or chlorofluorocarbons, gases that were being used extensively in the air conditioning and refrigerant industries, and also for some other applications.
- For a hole in the ozone layer of the atmosphere, CFCs were found to be primarily responsible and this could have dangerous health impacts.
- The world negotiated the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to phase these chemicals out in 1987.
- In 1989 the Protocol became effective, and in the next 25 years, has succeeded in eliminating, almost completely, the use of CFCs.

- For industrial use HFCs were effective and replaced the CFCs all but seamlessly.
- Later it was realized that HFCs did not deplete the ozone layer (which, incidentally, has been repaired considerably in the last quarter century) but these were very powerful greenhouse gases, much more dangerous than carbon dioxide, which is mainly blamed for global warming.
- In different applications, a set of 19 HFCs are used and many of them are several hundreds or thousands of times more potent than CO2.
- Currently these gases account for a very small fraction of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the world, less than 5%, (Despite their high global warming potential) mainly because they are used in very few sectors of industry.
- In India, they constitute around 1-3% of total emissions.

HOW KIGALI AMENDMENT CAME

- In a global agreement on climate change to cut emissions of all greenhouse gases, including HFCs, it was realized that HFCs needed to be treated on a higher priority.
- To deal with only ozone-depleting substances there was Montreal Protocol a legally-binding agreement.
- But HFCs were not an ozone-depleting substances.
  So, proposal to amend the Montreal Protocol to enable it to phase out HFCs was made.

THE DEAL IN KIGALI AMENDMENT

- A 'baseline year' (or three-year period), and a 'freeze year', both sets of countries are assigned.
- The harmful substance, like HFC its production or consumption in the baseline year (or the average of three-year period) serves as the baseline amount against which reductions are assigned in the phasedown schedule.
- A few years after the baseline period is the freeze year which is the time from when the use of the harmful chemical must begin to go below the average amounts used in the baseline period.
- Chemical use can grow between the baseline year and the freeze year, but must come down to at least baseline levels in the freeze year.
- Mostly all country Kigali meeting were agreed on a 2011-13 baseline period for developed countries and a 2020-22 baseline for developing countries.
- But India and some other countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, argued for a later baseline period of 2024-26 for developing countries.
- A delayed baseline period will let them use HFC unrestrained for a few more years, giving them more time to start making reductions.
- Few other countries and India agreed to advance their freeze year to 2028 while managing to get a 2024-26 baseline period.
- Other developing countries, including China, Brazil and South Africa, stuck to their earlier baseline period of 2020-22, and freeze year of 2024.
- With different phasedown schedules, first time in the Montreal mechanism, developing countries got divided into two different groups.
- In 2019, amendment came into force, and ensure that the developed countries eliminate at least 85% of their HFCs from the baseline period of 2011-13 by the year 2036.
- Chinese group of developing countries has target of eliminating 80% of their 2020-22 baseline HFC use by the year 2045,
- Indian group have to phase out 85% of their baseline HFCs by the year 2047.

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WHY WAS KIGALI AMENDMENT DONE
- For the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by cutting their production and consumption is its aim.
- HFCs are currently used as replacements of hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), because of their zero impact on the depletion of the ozone layer, however they are powerful greenhouse gases.
- 0.5 °C increase in global temperature by the end of the century, by this amendment it can be avoid.
- Kigali Amendment + the Montreal Protocol = more powerful instrument against global warming.

CHALLENGES
- The rapid growth of the air conditioning industry, particularly in developing countries like India, has made it the fastest growing greenhouse gases.
- These gases would account for 19% of global emissions by the year 2050, if this is not checked.

CONCLUSION
- Epic global action is required to reduce emission and at all levels efficiency needs to be improved.
- To achieve the target major lifestyle and behavioural changes is required and this need to happen for at least 50-70 year period.
- But why only HFCs, we all know that air conditioner and refrigerator sectors are going to grow in future but same is for electronics sector which include solar photovoltaic cells, and NF3 (nitrogen trifluoride) is used in it which is a global warming causing gas.
- From CFCs to HCFCs to HFCs to a new alternative 30 years ago, earth was killed by the patent masters of developed countries when they started this game of making money by putting burden on developing countries and closed their eyes to reduce emissions at their own backyard.

JALLIANWALA BAGH SMARAK

WHY IN NEWS

• The renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak at Amritsar was dedicated to the nation through video conference, by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

• PM also inaugurated the Museum Galleries at the Smarak.

• The event showcased the multiple development initiatives taken by the government to upgrade the complex.

ABOUT
- On April 13, 1919, the monument was first opened by then President Dr Rajendra Prasad as a grateful nation's tribute to the victims of the massacre on April 13, 1919, when a large crowd had gathered at the Bagh to protest the arrest of nationalist leaders Saifuddin Kitchlu and Satya Pal.

WHAT'S NEW AT JALLIANWALA BAGH

- A 28-minute Sound and Light show re-enacted the events of April 13, 1919, to be shown free of cost every evening.

- A Salvation Ground has been built for visitors to sit in silence to honour the martyrs.

- Several new sculptures of martyrs have come up on the high walls of the narrow lane through which visitors enter the complex.

- These represent ordinary Punjabis from different walks of life, who walked into the park on that fateful day, but never returned.

- Four new galleries have been created through adaptive re-use of underutilised buildings in the complex to showcase the historical value of events that took place in Punjab during that period.

- The galleries depict the history of Punjab, history of the freedom movement, and the Gadar movement.

- It also has a sculpture of Guru Nanak Dev, Sikh warrior Banda Singh Bahadur, and a statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

ABOUT JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE
- To protest against the arrest of leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlu and Dr. Satya Pal crowd was gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh.
- On a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the Jallianwala Bagh British troops fired on them on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar in Punjab.
- Jallianwala Bagh Massacre also known as Massacre of Amritsar.

MARTYRS OF VARIOUS UPRISINGS TO BE CONSIDERED FREEDOM FIGHTERS

WHY IN NEWS
- A 3 member committee was appointed for identification of freedom fighters of India for the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947).

ABOUT
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle dictionary which contains of the martyrs from India's First War of Independence in 1857, to India's Independence in 1947, it is compiled into 5 volumes.
- The project for compilation of "Dictionary of Martyrs" of India's Freedom Struggle was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, to the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) to commemorate the 150th anniversary of uprising of 1857.
- Malabar Rebellion leaders Variamkunnath Kunhamed Haji, Ali Musaliar and 387 other 'Moplah martyrs' will be removed from the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle as per the recommendations made by a three-member panel.
- After the recommendation the controversy started and again A three-member committee was appointed by the Indian Council of Historic Research (ICHR) to review the entries of the fifth volume of the 'Dictionary of Martyrs India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)'.
- The committee after the review recommended that Martyrs of the communist movement of Kerala, including the ones killed at the Punnapra-Vayalar, Kayyur, Karivelloor, and Kavumbayi uprisings, will remain as freedom fighters of the India's struggle for Independence.

DETAILS ABOUT DICTIONARY OF MARTYRS OF INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE (1857-1947)

The publication has been brought out in five volumes (zone wise) as given below:
- "Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)", Volume 1, Parts I & II. In this volume, more than 4400 martyrs of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have been entered.
- "Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)", Volume 2, Parts I & II. In this volume more than 3500 martyrs of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir have been entered.

- "Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)", Volume 3. The number of martyrs covered in this volume is more than 1400. This volume covers the martyrs of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Sind.
- "Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)", Volume 4. The numbers of martyrs covered in this volume is more than 3300. This volume covers the martyrs of Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura.
- "Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)", Volume 5. The number of martyrs covered in this volume is more than 1450. This volume covers the martyrs of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

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PUNNAPARA-VAYALAR REVOLT
- It was an organized communist working class uprising in the Princely State of Travancore, British India against the Prime Minister of Travancore C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the state against exploitative diwan of Travancore and of exploitative taxation policy of the govt.

MALABAR REBELLION
- The Malabar rebellion started in August 20, 1921 to 1922 in the Malabar region of Kerala, India.
- The Malabar rebellion of 1921 (It is also known as Moplah massacre, Moplah riots, Mappila riots).
- The rebellion started as a resistance against the British colonial rule in Malabar region of Kerala.
- The popular uprising was against the prevailing feudal system mostly controlled by elite Hindus.
- This led to rebellion turn religious colour against Hindu. The leader was Variamkunnath Kunhamed Haji, Ali Musaliar.

KAYYUR INCIDENT
- In 1940, peasants under the leadership of communists rose against the two local jenmis, Nambiar of Kalliat and the Nayanar of Karakkatt Edam.
- Several people were killed and four communist leaders were found guilty and hanged by the government, (Madathil Appu, Podavara Kunhambu Nair, Koithattil Chirukandan and Pallickal Abu Bakr) found the guilty.
- A fifth instigator (Choorikadan Krishnan Nair) was sentenced to life imprisonment and spared from the death penalty, since he was under the age of criminal liability.

ADVANTAGES
- We learn about our great freedom fighters at one place.

CONCLUSION
- It is the good initiative which give us opportunity to learn about our freedom fighters at one place.

ABANINDRANATH TAGORE

WHY IN NEWS

- To mark 150 years of iconic artist Abanindranath Tagore celebrations were made.
- The celebration, titled Abanindranath at 150: Bichitra Revisited, was organised jointly by Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, and DAG.
- Victoria Memorial Hall is the custodian of the Rabindra Bharati Society collection, the single-largest collection of works by the artist.

ABOUT

- To modernise the Mughal and the Rajput styles in order to counter the influence of Western models of art under the colonial regime, Abanindranath Tagore was arguably the first major exponent of an artistic who did that.

- A new awakening was created by his unique interpretation of swadeshi themes.
- He was the leading light of the Bengal School of Art.
- He helped shape modern Indian art.
- He was the creator of the iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting.
- In modern Indian art, Abanindranath Tagore is a singular figure.
- A range of subjects was painted by Abanindranath Tagore.
- He Painted images with historic or literary allusions and theatrical subjects.
- For examples a theme or a text such as the 'Arabian Nights' or the 'Krishna Leela' he likes to paint.
- He was an elegant and accomplished writer.
- He transformed the post-Renaissance academic realism into which he was trained with his series of contacts with oriental art into something more supple and responsive to the imaginative flights of his mind.

DHOLAVIRA

WHY IN NEWS

- India gets its 40th World Heritage Site.
- Dholavira, the Harappan City in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

FEATURES OF THE DHOLAVIRA SITE:

- Unique designs with nine gates.
- Like in the Buddhist Stupas, it has hemispherical structures.
- A flowing series of outer fortification, water reservoirs, two multi-purpose grounds.

ABOUT

- In Kutch district, it is located on a hillock near present-day Dholavira village.
- In 1968 by archaeologist Jagat Pati Joshi, it was discovered.
- Under the supervision of archaeologist Ravindra Singh Bisht the sites was excavation between 1990 and 2005.
- It was a manufacturing and commercial hub for about 1,500 years before its decline and eventual ruin in 1500 BC.

KEY POINTS

- Dholavira is the fifth largest metropolis of IVC, after Mohen-jo-Daro, Ganweriwala and Harappa in Pakistan and Rakhigarhi in Haryana of India.

- Instead of mud bricks in many other Harappan sites, the site has a fortified citadel, a middle town and a lower town with walls made of sandstone or limestone.

- Dholavira became 40th from India to make the list and the fourth site from Gujarat.

- No mortal remains of humans have been discovered at Dholavira, unlike graves at other IVC sites.
- Those who lived in Dholavira, knew metallurgy because remains of a copper smelter indicates that.
- From present-day Rajasthan and Oman and UAE Dholavira traders used to source copper ore and export finished products.
- With the collapse of Mesopotamia, its decline coincided which indicates the integration of economies.

Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana (PM DAKSH YOJANA)

WHY IN NEWS

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App, developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with NeGD, to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups.
- Through these portal and app the youth of the target groups will now be able to avail the benefits of skill development training programmes more easily.

BACKGROUND

- PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.

OBJECTIVES:

- To improve all-round competency & adeptness of 2.7 lakh persons, over the next 5 years, beginning with nearly 0.5 lakh youth in the first year i.e. 2021-22, from the following sections of the target group:

Artisans	Women	Youth from the target group
May be able to improve their revenue generation capacities within their practicing vocations.	May be able to enter into self-employment thereby financially empowering themselves without neglecting their domestic activities.	May acquire long-term training and specialization in employable vocations giving them better standing in the job market.

OUR BRANCHES: New Delhi | Mumbai | Kolkata | Chennai | Ahmedabad | Bengaluru | Bhilai | Bhubaneswar | Chandigarh | Dehradun | Gandhinagar | Guwahati | Hyderabad| Kanpur | Lucknow | Mehsana | Nagaland | Patna | Raipur | Rajkot | Ranchi | Surat | Vadodara |
WhatsApp no: 7284911227 - 7284811227 chahalacademy@gmail.com

TYPES OF SKILLING PROGRAMMES:

1. Up-skilling/Re-skilling:

- The training for rural artisans, domestic workers, sanitation workers etc. on the vocation of practice, such as pottery, weaving, carpentry, waste segregation, domestic workers, etc. along with financial and digital literacy.
- Duration: 32 to 80 hours and spaced over up to one month.
- Training cost will be limited to the extent of Common Cost Norms, besides Rs.2,500/- to trainees towards compensation of wage loss.

2. Short Term Trainings (focus on wage/self-employment):

- Various job roles as per National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF)/ National Occupational Standard (NOS), issued by MSDE.
- Focus on wage/self-employment opportunities such as self-employed tailors training, furniture making, food processing, etc. along with financial and digital literacy.
- Duration: Normally 200 hours to 600 hours and upto6 months, as stipulated in National Occupational Standards (NOS) and Qualification Packs (QPs).
- Training cost will be limited to the extent of Common Cost Norms, besides stipend to trainees in case of non-residential training.

3. Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP):

- SC and OBC youth who have preferably undergone skill training under the PMKVY and are having an entrepreneurial bent of mind.
- Curriculum to be modelled on the programmes of MoRD being implemented by the RSETIs. To be conducted by RSETIs, NIESBUD, IIE and other similar organizations.
- Sessions on Business Opportunity Guidance, Market Survey, Working Capital and its Management, Business Plan Preparation etc.
- Duration: Normally 80-90 hours (10-15 days) or as stipulated by MoRD.
- Training cost as per norms of MoRD/Common Cost Norms (CCN).

4. Long Term Courses (focus on wage/self-employment):

- Long Term Training in sectors having good demand in job market for wage-placement of trained candidates.
- Training programmes will be as per NSQF, NCVT, AICTE, MSME etc. in areas such as production technology, plastic processing, apparel technology, health care sector, etc.
- Duration: 5 months and above and usually up-to 1 year (upto 1000 hours), as stipulated by the concerned board/regulatory body of the training centre.
- Training cost as per CCN or as stipulated by concerned Board besides stipend for non-residential programmes.

KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

- Training free of cost for the trainees, 100% grants by Government.
- Stipend of Rs.1,000/- to Rs.1,500/- per month per trainee for trainees having 80% and above attendance in short term and long term training.

- Wage compensation @ Rs.3000/- per trainee (Rs.2500/- as per PM-DAKSH and Rs.500/- as per Common Cost Norms for trainees having 80% and above attendance in Reskilling/Up-skilling.
- Trained candidates will be provided certification after successful completion of training and assessment.
- Trained candidates will be provided placement after assessment and certification.

SANKALP

WHY IN NEWS
- Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship reviewed the Ministry's World Bank loan assisted "Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)" programme at the first Program Governance Board Meeting, which is the apex body for governance of the scheme.

ABOUT
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Scheme is a World Bank loan assisted programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

WITH THREE KEY RESULT AREAS

THE POSITIVE OUTCOME SO FAR IS SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
- Strengthening of the District Skill Committees leading to demand-driven approach for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- District-level skill planning through District Skill Development Plans.
- Focus on improving access to skill training for Women, SC/ST and other marginalized weaker sections of the society.

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THE INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED SO FAR UNDER SANKALP ARE AS UNDER:
- State Skill Development Missions through State Incentive Grants.
- District Skill Committees through Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) program and capacity building training.
- Gram Panchayats by bringing skill training and certification within their ambit.
- Sector Skill Councils by linking them up with opportunities for industry-skilled manpower connection in districts.
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) being an important implementing partner of pilot projects.
- National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI) by augmenting resources through their management of the MGNF Program.

KEY POINTS
- SANKALP is a supporting programme to skill training schemes which focuses inter-alia on improvement of quality, strengthening of institutions and inclusion of weaker sections in skill training.
- The implementation period of SANKALP is till March, 2023.
- SANKALP has undertaken several initiatives to contribute to improvement in employability, some of which are asunder:
- Strengthening of District Skill Committees for improved access to and demand driven skill trainings for employment.
- Emphasis on skill certification in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at Gram Panchayat level for improving employment qualitatively.
- Funded development of an IT system namely "Skill India Portal" to capture the data for skilling related activities across the country.
- Global Skill Gap study was conducted to identify the global gaps in demand and supply of skilled manpower as well as overseas employment opportunities for skilled workers from India.
- The Report helped in identifying important countries of interest as destination and job roles of interest.
- Released Rs. 273.49 Crore as State Incentive Grants to 30 States/ UTs and Rs. 13.91 Crore to aspirational districts for implementation of SANKALP Scheme in the States/UTs.
- Improving quality of trainers in Auto sector in collaboration with Automotive Skill Development Council (ASDC), Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Maharashtra State Skill Development Society (MSSDS) at Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- A Gender Action Plan (GAP) has been prepared for promoting inclusion of women in Short term skilling and livelihood opportunities.

TAPAS (TRAINING FOR AUGMENTING PRODUCTIVITY AND SERVICES)

WHY IN NEWS

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launches TAPAS.

ABOUT

- TAPAS is the initiative of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- There is no fee for joining and anyone who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics they can take the course.
- As a standard MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform, TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services) offers various courses in the field of social defence for the capacity building of stakeholders

OBJECTIVE

- The main objective of introducing the course modules is to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants.
- To provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching.

THE FIVE BASIC COURSES ARE ON:

Issues related to Women & Women Empowerment

CURRENT ISSUE

- Even after 75 years of Independence, 65 years of passing of Hindu Succession Act 1956, 15 years after enactment of the Hindu Succession Amendment Act 2005, Indian women are nowhere near equal in owning agricultural land.

OWNING LAND BY WOMEN BENEFITS:

- Women's well-being is enhanced
- Children's health & education is improved
- Domestic violence is reduced
- Farm productivity is raised
- Family food security is increased
- Women is empowered socially & politically.
- Sdg 5 on gender equality, gender–equal land rights is also a key target.

DATA ON OWNERSHIP

- 16% of the sampled 1114 rural household's women own land.
- Across the state 8.4% of all females owned land averaged
- Overall women constituted only 14% of all landowners & owned only 11% of the land
- An average of 1.24 ha relative to 1.66 ha for men.
- Through their marital families as widows but not as daughters through parents, most of the landowning women had acquired land.
- Co-owners in joint family property, were very few women.
- 50 or more aged were, over half the owners of both genders.
- Some women who own land receive it too late in life.

STATE-WISE DIFFERENCES:
- In Odisha only 6%, female landowners
- In Telangana female landowners constituted 32%

REASONS
- Political will missing.
- Losing control over land fear by father.
- Damaging family relations fear by daughter.
- Land fragmentation fear by policymakers
- Regarding coparcener's provisions, lack of awareness among people.

CHALLENGES

Two inequalities remained despite the Hindu Succession Act 1956 had given Hindu women substantial rights in property:

1. Gendered unequal are most of the inheritance of agricultural land devolved according to land reform laws.
2. In the joint family property, daughters were excluded from coparcenary rights.
   - To recognize unmarried daughters as coparceners on par with sons, some states in 1970s have abolished joint property together & amended the Hindu Succession Act 1956.
   - But the unfair clause for agricultural land remained.
   - Hindu Succession Amendment Act 2005 was brought to gender equality laws on both counts across all states, with a civil society campaign.

CONCLUSION

- Innovative policies and more gender-disaggregated data on land ownership to increase women's actual ownership is required.
- Among the political class, need to build strong character & will
- Till equality achieves, strengthening of civil society movement is required.
- Women need to raise their claims more vocally.
- Joint ownership & group cultivation, ideas can be used.
- Group ownership practice across India need to be expand.

QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ELDERLY INDEX

WHY IN NEWS

- Quality of Life for Elderly Index was released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
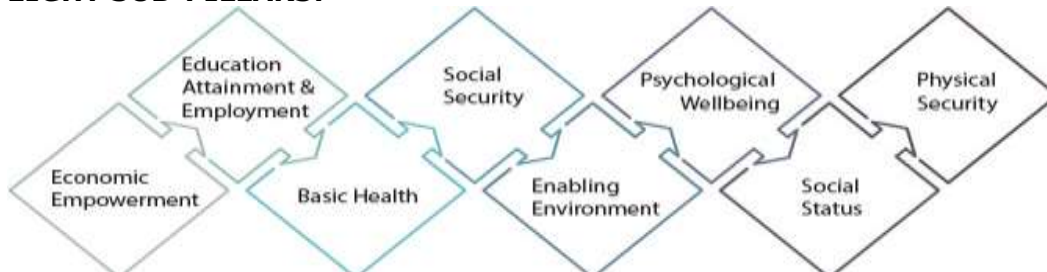
CREATED BY

- The Institute for Competitiveness at the request of EAC-PM.

THE INDEX FRAMEWORK INCLUDES FOUR PILLARS:

EIGHT SUB-PILLARS:

KEY POINTS

- It sheds light on an issue often not mentioned problems faced by the elderly.
- The regional patterns of ageing across Indian States and assesses the overall ageing situation in India, the report identifies.
- The report presents a deeper insight into how well India is doing to support the well-being of its ageing population.
- The Health System pillar observes the highest national average, 66.97 at an all-India level, followed by 62.34 in Social Well-being.
- Financial Well-being observes a score of 44.7, which is lowered by the low performance of 21 States across the Education Attainment & Employment pillar, which showcases scope for improvement.
- States have performed particularly worse in the Income Security pillar because over half of the States have a score below the national average, i.e., 33.03 in Income Security, which is the lowest across all pillars.
- These pillar-wise analyses help States assess the state of the elderly population and identify existing gaps that obstruct their growth.
- Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are top-scoring regions in Aged and Relatively Aged States, respectively.
- Chandigarh and Mizoram are top-scoring regions in Union Territory and North-East States category.
- The Aged States refer to States with an elderly population of more than 5 million, whereas Relatively Aged States refer to States with an Elderly population of less than 5 million.

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

WHY IN NEWS

The Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ms. Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on Annual Report published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe informed India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index (GHI).

As per GHI Reports, the composite GHI scores of India have improved from 38.9 in 2000 to 27.2 in 2020. Thus, the country has shown consistent improvement over the years.

ABOUT COMPOSITE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool to measures and tracks hunger globally, regional and country hunger etc.

- Created in 2006, the GHI was initially published by the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Germany-based Welthungerhilfe.
- In 2007, the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide also became a co-publisher.

In 2018, IFPRI stepped aside from its involvement in the project and the GHI became a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide. The index is published on the following criteria.
1. The proportion of the undernourished as a percentage of the total population of the country.
2. The proportion of children under the age of five suffering from wasting.
3. The proportion of children under the age of five suffering from stunting, a sign of chronic undernutrition.
4. The mortality rate of children under the age of five.

ADVANTAGES
- We as a country able to know what the problem of hunger in our country is.
- After knowing problem proper policy can be implemented to solve the problem.

DISADVANTAGES
- Some time it seems that some of the favour of country at time of preparing index.
- Many time many country does not give proper data without which proper assessment is not possible.

CHALLENGES
- To make index without favour of any country and the government.
- Proper data collection from all the country.

CONCLUSION
- The index is one of the good criteria by which we can understand what is problem in the country and we can make policy to solve the problem.

SCHEME FOR MANUAL SCAVENGERS

WHY IN NEWS
- The Minister of State Social Justice and Empowerment Shri. Ramdas Athawale in in a written reply in the Lok Sabha reply said that the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) worked well and rehabilitate several manual scavengers across the states.

ABOUT
- Scheme for Self-Employment and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers help manual scavengers for rehabilitation.
- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 prohibits construction or maintenance of insanitary latrines, and employment of any person for manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, also proposes to completely mechanise sewer cleaning and provide better protection at work and compensation in case of accidents.

OUTCOME OF THE SCHEME
- Total 58,098 manual scavenger have been paid one-time cash assistance of Rs. 40,000 for facilitating switch to alternative occupations.
- Out of Total 58,098 manual scavenger 16,057 of them were given skill training.
- Out of Total 58,098 manual scavenger 1,387 persons were given Capital subsidy for self-employment projects and sanitation related projects.

ADVANTAGES
- The scheme can save many death causing due to poisonous gas releases at time of cleaning safety tank.
- It will improve standard of life of manual scavengers.
- It will help heath of the scavengers.

CHALLENGES
- Even law has passed but manual scavenging is still at the grass root level.
- Due to fear of caught in the law, officers even not register the death of the scavenger.
- It becomes difficult for scavengers to work in other occupation even after training because of his past works.

CONCLUSION

- The scheme is very good for empowerment of scavenger and live a dignified life in the society.
- It can be made better if the scheme is implemented successfully at grass root level.

TRIBUNAL REFORMS

WHY IN NEWS

- Recently Parliament passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill 2021.
- SC bench led by CJI has expressed its discontentment over the functioning of tribunals in the country, given that several of these are understaffed.
- Also questioned government intention to shut down tribunals that have several key vacant posts.
- This came on the backdrop of the passing of a Bill to dissolve at least eight tribunals.

ABOUT THE TRIBUNALS REFORMS BILL 2021:

- It replaces a similar Ordinance promulgated in April 2021 that sought to dissolve 8 tribunals that function as appellate bodies to hear dispute under various statutes.
- And also transferred their functions to a civil court or a High Court.
- The Bill states that the Chairpersons & Members of the tribunal being abolished shall cease to hold office & they will be entitled to claim compensation equivalent to three months' pay & allowances for their premature termination.
- It also proposes changes in the process of appointment of certain other tribunals.

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THE CHANGES:

- The bill provides for uniform pay & rules for the search & selection committees across tribunals.
- It also provides for the removal of tribunal members.
- It states that the central government on the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee remove from any Chairperson or a Member who has:
- Been adjudged as an insolvent; or
- Been convicted of an offence which involves moral turpitude; or
- Become physically or mentally incapable of acting such Chairperson or Member; or
- Acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as such Chairperson or Member; or
- So abused his position to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.
- While the move brings greater accountability to the functioning of the tribunals, it also raises questions on the independence of these judicial bodies.
- In the Search-Cum-Selection Committee, the government has an upper hand with voting rights while the Chief Justice of HC who heads the committee does not have a casting vote.

EIGHT TRIBUNALS DISSOLVED VIA BILL:

PICT UNDER WHICH TRIBUNAL WAS SET UP	ABOLISHED TRIBUNAL	WHERE DISPUTES ARE HEARD AFTER ABOLITION
The Cinematograph Act. 1952	Film Certification Appellate Tribunal	High Court
The Trademarks Act. 1999	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	High Court
The Copyright Act, 1957	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	Commercial Division of High Court
The Customs Act 1962	Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	High Court
The Patents Act, 1970	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	High Court
The Airports Authority of India Act 1994	Airports Appellate Tribunal	Central government (disposal of properties on airport premises left by unauthorized occupants) High Court (appeals against eviction orders)
The Control of National Highways (Land & Traffic) Act, 2002	The National Highways Tribunal	Civil Court
The Geographical Indicators of Goods (Registration and protection) Act	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	High Court

CONCLUSION:

- Under the dissolved tribunals the pending cases will be transferred to the HCs or commercial civil courts immediately.

- Still there is a fear that lack of specialization in regular courts could be detrimental to the decision-making process.

GUARDIAN OF THE HOUSE

WHY IN NEWS
- Recently, the Indian public has witnessed disturbing scenes in state assemblies & Parliament.
- For the last 2 decades, paralyzing Parliament has become the standard operating procedure of every Opposition party.

ROLE OF SPEAKER:

01 Indian forefathers, after extensive debate, adopted the Westminster model of governance.

02 MPs were granted the same powers, privileges & immunities that were enjoyed by the House of Commons.

03 Speaker has been given supreme authority.

04 Speaker has vast powers & it is his primary duty to ensure the orderly conduct of the House.

SPEAKER HAS TWO ESSENTIAL QUALITIES:
- Independence & Impartiality.
- Speaker is expected to be above parties & politics.
- Speaker holds the scales of justice evenly, irrespective of party or person.
- Speaker is the conscience & guardian of the house.
- Speaker is the principal spokesperson of the Lok Sabha & he represents its collective voice.
- The decline in the functioning of India's Parliament & state assemblies is caused by the lack of independence & impartiality of the Speaker.
- Speaker has to decide regarding issues that will be taken up for discussion.
- Speaker has the sole discretion to permit an adjournment motion to be tabled or to admit a calling attention notice in case of urgent public importance.
- Several judgments on the anti-defection law have been rendered by the SC.
- The common factor among those is the blatant, partisan conduit of the speakers.
- Over the last decade, being an impartial & independent Speaker is an oxymoron.
- It should be made mandatory that the Speaker ought to resign from his party & his sole allegiance must be to the Constitution & to maintaining the dignity of the House.
- However, the present practice of the Speaker continuing to be an active member of the ruling party disallows any debate or discussion that is essential in the national interest.
- This leads to constant disruption of Parliament by the Opposition.

CONSEQUENCES OF PARLIAMENT DISRUPTIONS:
- The persistent disruptions of Parliament cause extensive damage not only to the prestige of the house but also frustrates the primary function of any legislature:
- The responsibility to make laws for the good governance of the country after careful debate & deliberation which represents the wisdom of Parliament.
- However, the stalling of parliamentary proceedings has led to the passing of important bills without any discussion.
- There will be deleterious effects of no discussion taking place when important bills are being passed.
- The most dangerous consequence is the vastly increased powers that the executive begins to command by default.
- SC in 1951 held that essential legislation cannot be delegated to the bureaucracy, law-making must remain the domain of the legislature.
- However, this constitutional mandate is now increasingly & consistently being violated by issuing rules & notifications that have far-reaching consequences.

CONCLUSION:
- The separation of powers is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Anything that makes Parliament irrelevant, then the foundation of India's democracy will progressively get weaker.
- Therefore the speaker of every legislature must resign from his party to honour his constitutional independence & impartiality.
- Making Speaker truly independent & let every legislature perform its constitutional function of deliberating on matters of public importance & passing laws after the proper debate.

NO OPPOSITION IN NAGALAND ASSEMBLY

WHY IN NEWS
- NPF joins Neiphiu Rio government to resolve peace process with extremist groups

KEY POINTS
- The 60 member Nagaland Assembly now has no MLA in the Opposition.
- The Naga People's Front (NPF) the State's only Opposition party inducted into the State government, headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, to work collectively towards achieving a peaceful and amicable solution to the protracted Naga political issue.
- The issue pertains to the peace process with several extremist groups, primarily the IsakMuivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, which has been hanging fire for more 24 years.
- The Nagaland House has an effective strength of 59 after the death of an MLA.
- The NPF had won 25 seats in the 2018 Assembly election but suspended seven MLAs for hobnobbing with the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP).

127ᵀᴴ AMENDMENT BILL 2021

WHY IN NEWS

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has called Passage of the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill, 2021 in both Houses a landmark moment for the nation.

ABOUT

- The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 Empower states and union territories to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes.

BACKGROUND

- The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was established under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 gave constitutional status to the NCBC under (Article 338B), and empowered the President to notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes of citizen even for any state or union territory of India under Article 342A.
- Supreme Court by 3-2 majority, given the verdict, unanimously struck down a state law granting reservation to the Maratha community in government jobs and education in Maharashtra -- held that state governments must convince the Union government to include or exclude any community for granting reservation to socially and educationally backward classes of citizen (SEBCs).
- After Maharashtra government request, central government file a review petition but Supreme Court has Union government's petition for a reconsideration of its earlier judgement on Maratha reservation.
- In the judgement court rule that state governments have no power to draw state lists of backward classes after 102 constitutional amendment act passed in 2018.
- The 2021 Bill amends this to provide that the President may notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes only for purposes of the central government.
- This central list will be prepared and maintained by the central government.
- The Bill enables states and union territories to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes.
- This list must be made by law, and may differ from the central list.
- Consultation with the NCBC: under Article 338B of the Constitution central and state governments have to consult the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR

- State can identify its socially and educationally backward of citizen its own, which means state can identify local backward community, who may not socially and educationally backward class in other state.

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ARGUMENT AGAINST

- State may arguably include any community in socially and educationally backward class for his political benefit.

CHALLENGES

- Challenge in choosing socially and educationally backward class.

CONCLUSION

- This is the good steps in federal structure of India but at the same time state government should keep in mind about any favour of any community while making its own list.

RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

WHY IN NEWS
- Ashutosh Kaushik, a Bollywood actor wants videos, photographs and articles of him to be removed from the internet, cited his "Right to be forgotten".

BACKGROUND
- In 2017 the Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in its landmark judgement.
- At that time the court said that "the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution".
- The Right to be forgotten falls under the purview of an individual's right to privacy, which is governed by the Personal Data Protection Bill that is yet to be passed by Parliament.
- So the demand of right to Forgotten increased after Personal Data Protection Bill.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION
- Right to be Forgotten gained currency after the 2014 decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union ("CJEU") in the Google Spain case.
- According to the EU GDPR's website, the right to be forgotten appears in Recitals 65 and 66 and in Article 17 of the regulation, which states, "The data subject shall have the right to obtain from the controller the erasure of personal data concerning him or her without undue delay and the controller shall have the obligation to erase personal data without undue delay"

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL ABOUT RIGHT TO FORGOTTEN
- The Personal Data Protection Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 2019 aims at security of personal data of individuals.
- Under Clause 20 of Chapter V draft bill titled "Rights of Data Principal" mentions the "Right to be forgotten."
- It states that the "data principal (the person to whom the data is related) shall have the right to restrict or prevent the continuing disclosure of his personal data by a data fiduciary".
- Therefore, broadly, under the Right to be forgotten, users can de-link, limit, delete or correct the disclosure of their personal information held by data fiduciaries.

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- The sensitivity of the personal data and information cannot be determined by the person independently, but will be overseen by the Data Protection Authority (DPA).
- Some data can be forgotten only by Adjudicating Officer who works for the DPA but not by self.
- While assessing the data principal's request, this officer will need to examine the sensitivity of the personal data, the scale of disclosure, degree of accessibility sought to be restricted, role of the data principal in public life and the nature of the disclosure among some other variables.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR
- Delete sensitive and humiliating data over the internet.

ARGUMENT AGAINST
- It may led to a plethora of complaints about deleting of data.

CHALLENGES
- What data should be forgotten its identification is a challenge.
- Company can remove data from the internet but it can be uploaded by person frequently.

CONCLUSION
- Recognition of right to forgotten will strengthen fundamental right of privacy given under part-III of the constitution.

GOA BHUMIPUTRA ADHIKARINI BILL 2021

WHY IN NEWS
- The Goa Assembly passed the Goa Bhumiputra Adhikarini Bill, 2021, granting Bhumiputra (son of the land) status to a person residing in Goa for at least 30 years.

ABOUT
- It provides for a mechanism to give ownership right to the self-occupied dweller of a small housing unit who was living in goa from at least last 30 years.
- According to the Bill, the Bhumiputra, defined as resident of Goa for at least last 30 years and the ownership of land does not more than 250 sq. m, they may apply to the committee if his dwelling unit is constructed before April 1, 2019.
- The Bhumiputra Adhikarini may by an order declare a Bhumiputra to be the owner of the dwelling unit occupied by him upon payment of an amount equivalent to the value of land calculated at the market rate.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR
- It give legitimacy and ownership of land.
- It removed fear of being exploited by the officials.

ARGUMENT AGAINST
- It raises ethical issue of illegal occupation made as legal.
- It demotivate people to be honest as who occupied land illegally gets legal ownership.
- It motivate people to occupy land illegally.

CHALLENGES
- Identifying real beneficiaries is a challenge.

CONCLUSION
- It is one of the good step of giving land honourship to the occupied honour which give them legitimacy but it should have keep in mind that fake people cannot get benefit of the scheme.

PM CARES FUND

WHY IN NEWS

- Children upto the age of 18 years, who were orphaned due to the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic central government has decided to give free health insurance of ₹5 lakh.
- To pay the premium Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES) will be used.

BACKGROUND

- Set up in 2020 PM CARES Fund is a public charitable trust.
- After the coronavirus outbreak, it was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The objective was to deal with any kind of emergency like Covid and also to accept donations and provide relief during the Covid-19 pandemic and similar pandemic-like situations in the future.
- Chairperson Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Senior cabinet members as trustees (Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, and Minister of Finance)

KEY POINTS

- Voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations make up the fund.
- In a pro bono capacity any person appointed as Trustee shall act.
- NO budgetary support.
- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India will not audit it.
- The audit will be by independent auditors who will be appointed by the trustees.
- 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961 can be avail if donated to this fund.
- For receiving foreign donations a separate account has been opened and the fund has also got exemption under the FCRA (Foreign Contribution and Regulation Act), 1976.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013 - donations to the fund would qualify for 80G benefits.
- Foreign countries individuals and organizations can also donate.
- In Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 PM CARES Fund has received an exemption from the operation of all provisions.
- Indian Trust Act, 1882 in section 3 defines trust as the means the transfer of property by one person (the settlor) to another (the trustee) who manages that property for someone else (the beneficiary) benefit.
- Private trusts and public trusts, two types of trusts in India.
- Private trusts are govern by Indian trusts Act, 1882.
- Laws like The Charitable and Religious Trust Act, 1920, The Charitable Endowments Act, 1890 etc., governs the Public trusts which include religious and charitable trusts.
- Under Section 2(15) of the Income Tax Act, Charitable purpose includes relief to the poor in the form of medical aid, education, or through any other object of public utility.

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- Prime Minister can nominate three trustees to the Board of Trustees who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, law, health, science, social work, public administration, and philanthropy.
- SDMAs are not dependent on donations.
- State laws governed CM's Relief Funds.
- Central laws governed PM CARES and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs)
- CM's Relief Fund donation is not qualified as CSR while donations to PM CARES Fund and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) qualify as CSR.

SECTION 2(H) OF RTI ACT, 2005

- Meaning of Public authority is any foundation or authority or self-government body established or constituted—
(a) By or under the Constitution;
(b) By any law made by Parliament;
(c) By any law made by State Legislature;
(d) By notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government,

And includes any—
(i) controlled, body owned, or substantially financed;
(ii) Non-Government organization substantially financed,
Directly or indirectly by funds delivered by the suitable Government;

PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND (PMNRF)

- In the year 1948 to assist displaced people from Pakistan after the partition of India Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) was established
- Later it was extended to provide immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities, to the victims of major accidents, riots medical treatment like heart surgeries, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment, and acid attack, etc.
- NO budgetary support only voluntary contribution
- It is documented as a Trust under the Income Tax Act.
- 100% deduction from taxable income under section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Prime Minister is the Chairperson
- Helped by Officers/ Staff on an honorary basis.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR

- Need of the hour due to corona pandemic claimed by the government.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

- Why establishing a new fund when PMNRF already exists several opposition leaders and other prominent people have questioned.
- Trust deed has not been made public some have questioned the opacity surrounding the PM-CARES fund.
- Weather Voting rights are given to a member or not is not told to public.

RELEVANCE OF TOPIC RELATED TO POLITY

- Article 266(2) of the Constitution says
- All other public moneys received by or on behalf of the Government of India or the Government of a State shall be credited to the public account of India or the public account of the State, as the case may be.
- For this Auditing is a must.

CHALLENGES

- Many reports say that it has received a huge amount of donations.
- As being a public account PM CARES vast sums of money have been collected by the government of India.
- But the accountability of money is not known.

CONCLUSION BETWEEN PM CARES FUND AND PMNRF

PM CARES FUND	PMNRF
Set up as trust	Set up as trust
2020 establish	1948 establish
Donation as low as Rs 10 in the PM CARES Fund.	The minimum amount one can donate is Rs 100.
Exclusively used for COVID-19 purposes, to help people affected by COVID-19 pandemic.	to support the displaced people from Pakistan during Partition it was created by Jawaharlal Nehru Later to provide support for people affected by natural and manmade disasters.
voluntary donations	voluntary donations
No budgetary support.	No budgetary support.
Chairman Prime Minister of India.	Chairman Prime Minister of India.
Can receive foreign contribution	Can receive foreign contribution
Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister are also members of the PM CARES Fund	Tata Trusts, representatives of FICCI, Congress President are also members

CONCLUSION

- PM-CARES fund lacks transparency.
- In registering the trust, accepting foreign contributions under FCRA, obtaining exceptions under the Income Tax Act, and more whether due process of law was followed or not is known only when it comes under RTI truth will be known to the public.
- Auditing is required so the public can also have faith in government.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairperson, senior cabinet members as trustees(Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, and Minister of Finance), and by saying that PM CARE FUND is not a public authority the government has killed the essence of democracy.

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEME

WHY IN NEWS
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given approval for continuation of the revised Samagra Shiksha Scheme for a period of five years.
- The scheme will work in 2021-26 with a total financial outlay of Rs.2,94,283.04 crore, in which Central government share is Rs.1,85,398.32 crore**.**

ABOUT
- The Samagra Shiksha scheme is an integrated scheme for school education covering from pre-school to class XII.
- The scheme treats school education as entire band accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4).
- The scheme will provide support for the implementation of the RTE Act aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment.
- The scheme will take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

BENEFITS
- All child centric interventions such as scholarship, money for dress etc. will be directly provided to the students through DBT mode on an IT based platform over a period of time.
- Provision of training of Master Trainers for training of Anganwadi workers and In-service teacher training for ECCE teachers.
- NIPUN Bharat, National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy to ensure that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy at the end of grade III and not later than grade V has been launched under the scheme with provision of TLM upto Rs 500 per child per annum, Rs 150 per teacher for teacher manuals and resources, Rs 10-20 lakh per district for assessment.
  - Specific   training NISHTHA by NCERT to train Secondary and Primary school teachers.
  - Strengthening the infrastructure of the schools from pre-primary to senior secondary, earlier pre-primary was excluded.
  - Holistic, 360-degree, multi-dimensional report showing progress/ uniqueness of each learner understanding of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains will be introduced in the form of Holistic Progress Card (HPC).
  - Provision of ICT labs, Smart classrooms including support for digital boards, smart classrooms, virtual classrooms and DTH channels have been provided.
  - Support for activities of PARAKH, a national assessment centre (Performance, Assessments, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development).
  - Additional Sports grant of upto Rs. 25000 to schools in case at least 2 students of that school win a medal in Khelo India school games at the National level.

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The major interventions, across all levels of school education under the scheme are;

(i)   Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention
(ii) Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
(iii) Gender and Equity
(iv) Inclusive Education
(v)   Quality and Innovation
(vi) Financial support for Teacher Salary
(vii) Digital initiatives
(viii) RTE Entitlements including uniforms, textbooks etc.
(ix) Support for ECCE
(x)   Vocational Education
(xi) Sports and Physical Education
(xii) Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training
(xiii) Monitoring
(xiv) Programme Management
(xv) National Component

CHALLENGES

- To motivate teachers which came in the field of teaching not as passion but for only getting government job.

- In online medium in Covid time socio economic backward section child along with SC, ST Child unable to have smartphone left from attaining lecture.

CONCLUSION

- It is one of the life changing policy, but it is only possible when we ensure its coverage at grassroots level.

INLAND VESSELS BILL 2021

WHY IN NEWS

- Parliament passes landmark 'Inland Vessels Bill, 2021' to repeal and replace the existing Inland Vessels Act, 1917

BACKGROUND

- To realise the potential of inland water transport and promote it as a supplementary and eco-friendly mode of transport to the congested road and rail network for movement of cargo and passenger,the Government had taken several initiatives and had declared 111 waterways as national waterways.
- The Inland Vessels Act of 1917 was conceived to be a pure consolidating legislation having limited applicability and purposes.
- This Act had undergone several amendments and last major amendments done in 1977 and 2007.
- This Act had provisions for restrictive movement of mechanically propelled vessels within the jurisdiction of the State Government, requirement of endorsements, limited applicability and validity of certificates, non- uniform standards and regulations that varied from one State to another led to hindrances and hurdles in seamless navigation
- The requirement of a new legal regime, which is adaptive and favourable for future technological developments, capable of facilitating present and future prospects of trade & transportation and safe navigation by inland vessels was required.

KEY POINTS

- The Inland Vessels Bill, 2021, which aims to replace over 100 years old Inland Vessels Act, 1917 and usher a new era in the inland water transport sector.
- The initiative taken is a part of the pro-active approach by repealing colonial laws and replacing them with legislation catering to modern and contemporary needs and development of the maritime sector.
- The uniform applicability of rules and regulations will ensure seamless, safe and economical trade and transportation by inland vessels using the inland waterways.

BENEFITS

The new Act will facilitate harmonised and effective regulation of the inland vessels and their seamless and safe navigation across the States. The benefits include:

a. Uniform applicability of rules and regulations to ensure seamless, safe and economical trade and transportation by using inland waterways.
b. Prescribing of standards for classification and categorization of mechanically propelled vessels, standards and processes involved in registration of vessel; standards for identification and categorization of special category vessels etc. by the Central Government and implementation of the provisions in compliance with the prescribed standards by State Governments.
c. Preserving the positions of authorities established by the respective State Governments and thereby ensures the effective administration of the provisions of the proposed legislation.
d. Provides for a Central Data Base /E-Portal for registration/crew database thereby imbibing the spirit of Digital India Campaign.
e. Stipulating higher standards to ensure safety of navigation, protection of life and cargo, prevention of environmental pollution, providing for healthier trade practices, constitution of the welfare fund, transparency and accountability of administrative mechanism, training and development of efficient and skilled workforce.

f. Covers the future developments and technological advancements in vessel construction and usage. Regulating the technologically advanced vessels of the present and future identified as 'Special Category Vessels'.
g. Provisions regarding Wreck and Salvage introduced. Receiver of Wreck to be appointed by the State Government.
h. Provisions regarding principles of liability and limitation of liability introduced. To ensure secure trade and trade practices, concept of insurance improvised and expanded.
i. Provisions relating to casualties and investigation improvised.
j. Ease of compliance for service provider and service users.
k. Provides a platform for the State Governments to regulate the unregulated sector of non-mechanically propelled vessels.

SMART ANGANWADI PROJECT

WHY IN NEWS

- Smart Anganwadi Project was launched in Kerala.

ABOUT

- Anganwadi Services comes under ICDS Umbrella Scheme.
- It is one of the ongoing flagship programmes of the Government of India for early childhood care and development.
- The beneficiaries under this scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Under Anganwadi Services, a package of six services, namely,

Three of the six services, viz.
-Immunization
-Health check-up
-Referral services, are related to health and are provided by NRHM & Public Health Infrastructure.
- Smart Anganwadi Project is an initiative of Government of Kerala for improving the service delivered at Anganwadi Centre for overall physical and mental development of children.
- The State has finalized 6 types of plans and estimates for the construction of Anganwadi Buildings on the basis of availability of land.
- It provides space for class rooms, dining hall, kitchen, store room, creative zone, and indoor and outdoor play area.

ADVANTAGES
- Learning among children increases.
- Children learn education happily with playing.
- Nutrition of children increases.
- Nutrition of lactating and pregnant mother increases.

CHALLENGES
- To deliver benefit of the scheme to beneficiary efficiently.

CONCLUSION
- It is one of the good initiative where all nutritional development among children and mother gets all its benefits.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT 2006

WHY IN NEWS
- Minister of Tribal Affairs, Sh. Arjun Munda inaugurated a 'Three day National level Virtual Training of Trainers Programme on Forest Rights Act, 2006,' as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav/Parv in New Delhi.

ABOUT THE TRAINING
- Three day National level Virtual Training of Trainers Programme on Forest Rights Act, 2006 as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav/Parv.
- The virtual training programme was organized jointly by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, National Tribal Research Institute New Delhi, Tribal Research and Training Institute Chhattisgarh and UNDP from 2nd- 4th August, 2021.
- This training programme will cover topics such as Overview on Forest Right Act, Interface of FRA with Laws Regulating Land and Forest Land in India, Institutional Mechanisms: Role and functions of mandated institutions, issues related to diversion of forest land identification of CWH and relocation and rejection of claims, grievances and appeal, post rights recognition issues, Records of Rights and Conversion of Forest villages into Revenue villages etc.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV/PARV
- 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence (Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav/Parv).
- To commemorate the monumental occasion, all Department and Ministries will host a set of activities for a resurgent, Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006
- The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

The Act encompasses Rights of Self-cultivation and Habitation which are usually regarded as Individual rights; and Community Rights as
- ➢ Grazing,
- ➢ Fishing and access to Water bodies in forests,
- ➢ Habitat Rights for PVTGs,
- ➢ Traditional Seasonal Resource access of Nomadic and Pastoral community,

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- ➢ Access to biodiversity,
- ➢ Community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge,
- ➢ Recognition of traditional customary rights and right to protect,
- ➢ Regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource for sustainable use.
- It also provides rights to allocation of forest land for developmental purposes to fulfil basic infrastructural needs of the community.
- In conjunction with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Settlement Act, 2013 FRA protects the tribal population from eviction without rehabilitation and settlement.

ADVANTAGES
- The Three day National level Virtual Training of Trainers Programme on Forest Rights Act will help in enhancing the knowledge base of Forest Rights Act and ensuring development of tribal community.

CHALLENGES
- As per Census 2011, literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes (STs) was 59% whereas the overall literacy rate was 73% at all India level which makes tribal people unaware about his right.
- Make tribal aware about their rights is a challenge.

CONCLUSION
- Training of Trainers Programme on Forest Rights Act, 2006 is a good step but without education and awareness on the ground training does not change tribal status substantially.

SAMVAD

WHY IN NEWS
- The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, on Independence Day, launched 2nd phase of SAMVAD programme on successful completion of one year.
- SAMVAD - Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress.

ABOUT

- ▶ SAMVAD's is the new programme related to mental health and psychosocial care of children in difficult circumstances encompasses a specialized training curriculum on childhood trauma, interventions for children in conflict with the law, forensics in child and adolescent psychiatry and mental health, education and mental health support to children with special needs, protection and care in the context of adoption and foster care and integration of child protection and mental health in the Panchayati Raj systems.

- ▶ The programme helps child which is in distress.

- ▶ It strengthen psychological health of the vulnerable children by giving them support.

- ▶ SAMVAD's programme will provide mechanism for children in distress by training close to 1 lakh stakeholders comprising of Child Protection Functionaries, tele-counsellors, educators, and law professionals among others.

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ADVANTAGES
- Helps vulnerable children which are in distress.

CHALLENGES
- Implementation of the programme at grass root level.
- Tracking of vulnerable children and remove them from vulnerability.

CONCLUSION
- The scheme is very helpful for children who are in distress.

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

WHY IN NEWS
- NITI Aayog in collaboration with La Foundation Dassault Systems (Dassault Systems Foundation) launched the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) third series for the 'Student Entrepreneurship Program' (SEP 3.0) for the young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).

ABOUT
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship programme to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country.
- Its aim is to create new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation & entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.
- Under this program, a team from each school (6 students and a teacher)who will get seed funding towards creating pseudo start-up, design and prototype their innovation using 3D printing, prepare marketing campaign, define product pricing and create expansion strategy.
- With this they will receive real feel of 'How a start-up works'.
- At the end of the program, each school's pseudo start-up will participate in a playful competition and present their marketing campaign in front of experts from industry and academia.
- SEP3.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dassault Systems Foundation volunteers and gain - Mentoring support, Prototyping and testing guidance, End-User feedback, and guidance on Intellectual Property Rights, by working as pseudo start-ups through a hands-on and structured program.
- Total 51 teams from 28 states are selected for the "Made in 3D - Seed the Future Entrepreneurs Program' under SEP 3.0.
- Top 20 teams of ATL Marathon 2019, 10 teams selected by Dassault Systems Foundation, 10 teams from Aspirational Districts and 10 teams from Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and North east regions are selected.
- Out of these 16 schools will have 'all girls' teams to motive them to be future women entrepreneurs.
- One of the important parts of the program will be interaction of students and teachers, between French and Indian schools.

ADVANTAGES
- Help students learn about innovation.
- Motivate students across the India about critical scientific thinking to solve the problems.

CHALLENGES
- Motivating parents mostly from remote area to send their children out of their home town for learning which will give them life learning skill of entrepreneurship.

CONCLUSION
- It is an innovative and good step which will help students learn and develop scientific techniques.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

WHY IN NEWS
- Prime Minister Modi was presiding over the UN Security Council debate on 'Enhancing Maritime Security — A Case for International Cooperation.
- The rotating Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August taking over from France, India assumed.

PM MODI FIVE BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR MARITIME SECURITY
For maritime security, PM Modi put forth five basic principles:
1. As to establish legitimate trade, free maritime trade sans barriers.
2. Peaceful Settlement of maritime disputes and on the basis of international law only.
3. Encourage responsible maritime connectivity.
4. Maritime threats posed by non-state actors and natural calamities need to be collectively combat it.
5. Preserve maritime environment and maritime resources.

ABOUT UNITED NATION
- Six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, established by the United Nations Charter.
- Primary tasks includes continuing international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

BACKGROUND OF UNITED NATION
- First session of the Security Council was held on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, and London.
- The Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.
- In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1972, in Panama City, Panama, and in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1990, it has travelled to many cities and have hold session.
- The Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises so a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at UN Headquarters.

FOUR PURPOSES
United Nations has four purposes, according to its Charter:
1. Maintaining international peace and security.
2. Developing friendly relations among nations.
3. Cooperating to solve international problems and in promoting respect for human rights.
4. Centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

ORGANS OF UNITED NATION
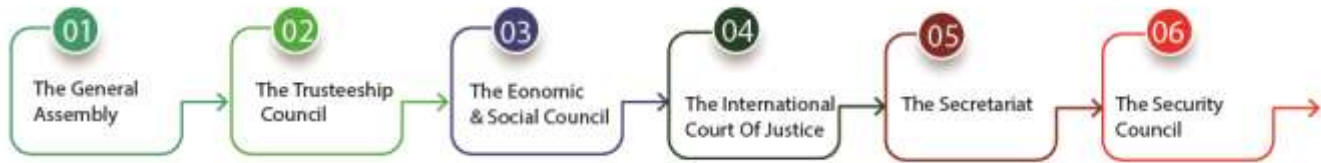
KEY POINTS
- For the month of August 2021, India assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- 2 year tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in January 2021 India began.
- As a non-permanent member of the Security Council it will be the country's first presidency during its 2021-22 tenure.
- One vote to each member of the Security Council.
- By an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent member's decisions of the Security Council on matters are made.
- The passage of the resolution is block by a No vote from one of the five permanent members.
- A permanent seat in UNSC has been advocated by India.
- India has contributions to UN activities especially to UN peacekeeping operations and various other activities wherever possible.
- To accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council, all members of the United Nations agree to it.
- Only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter, while other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states.

Headquarter
- New York.

Members
- The UNSC composed of 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent.

Permanent members of united nation security council

Ten non-permanent members
- For two-year terms the General Assembly elected them.
- The General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of ten in total) for a two-year term, each year.
- On a regional basis the ten non-permanent seats are distributed.
- Every month among its 15 members the council's presidency is a capacity that rotates.

ROLE OF SECURITY COUNCIL

- Primary duty for the preservation of international peace and security.
- It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.
- All Member States are obligated to obey with Council decisions, under United Nations Charter.
- Existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression the Security Council determine it.
- To settle a dispute by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.
- It can imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain/restore international peace and security, according to situation.

CHALLENGES

Following reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are required:

- Why only 5 permanent members?
- Membership category.
- Five permanent members veto power.
- Representation regional wise.
- Working methods of it.

CONCLUSION

- After the terror of World War II United Nations was born. It's primarily goal was of maintaining world peace and saving innocent souls from the evils of war by making policies and having good coordination among nation.
- But even since its existence united nation has act as a puppet of the developed world and failed to address the underdeveloped countries problems.
- Once in a century global crisis like the coronavirus UN has failed to respond effectively.
- US walked out of the World Health Organization and China blocked a discussion on the origin and sources of the pandemic has made united nation a joke in dealing with the global crisis.
- Cold blooded people at the United Nation need to focus on security, development and human rights, all have to be interlinked and then a global policy has to be frame that is going to benefit the coming generation.

REFUGEE CONVENTION

WHY IN NEWS

- Demand of refugee status in India by hundreds of Afghans living in India due to Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

ABOUT

- It is a convention for international refugee protection.
- It is a status as well as rights-based instrument.
- Adopted in 1951.
- On 22 April 1954, the Convention entered into force.

BACKGROUND
- Persons escaping events occurring before 1 January 1951 and within Europe, originally it was for them.
- **Amendment:** one amendment is made to the convention in the form of a 1967 Protocol which removed the temporal and geographic limits of the 1951 Convention.
- By this it gave the Convention universal coverage.
- To United Nations General Assembly resolution 2198 (XXI) of 16 December 1967, the Protocol of 1967 is attached.
- At the international level it provides the most inclusive codification of the rights of refugees.

WHO IS A REFUGEE
Someone who is incapable or unwilling to return to their country of origin due to an originated terror of being ill-treated for reasons of:

1. Race
2. Religion
3. Nationality
4. Membership of a particuler social group
5. Political Opinion

PRINCIPLES OF THIS CONVENTION
The Convention is supported by a number of fundamental principles like:
- non-discrimination
- non-penalization
- non-refoulement
- Various safeguards against the expulsion of refugees it contains.
- No reservations or derogations may be made to the principle of nonrefoulement.
- For their illegal entry or stay Refugees should not be penalized (subject to specific exceptions).

RIGHTS OF REFUGEE
- To work
- Access to the courts
- To primary education
- The provision for documentation (in passport form a refugee travel document), etc.

EXCLUDED GROUPS
- Those who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity, serious non-political crimes, or are guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, this Convention does not apply to them.
- Those refugees who benefit from the protection/assistance of a United Nations agency other than UNHCR, such as refugees from Palestine who fall under the supports of the United Nations Relief as well as Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, this Convention also does not apply to them.
- Those refugees who have a status equal to nationals in their country of asylum, it does not apply to them.

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KEY POINTS

- Promoting international instruments for the protection of refugees, and supervising their application, United Nations Human Commission for Refugees work on this.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- By various regional organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the African Union, and the Organization of American States etc. this has been recommended.
- Those Countries that ratified it also latter promise to apply the requirements of the Convention.
- 148 States Parties are currently to both or one of the Convention and the Protocol.
- Countries voluntarily agree to be bound through this convention and protocol.
- Countries become a party to a treaty by ratification or accession.

INDIA'S STATUS

- A national framework regarding refugees India does not have that and not a party to the 1967 Protocol and the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- From neighbouring States, India is asylum to a large number of refugees.
- A large population of displaced people, no accurate estimates of the number are available are in India and UNHCR is working to identify them.

CHALLENGES

- Both by refugees and by all those concerned with refugee problems, the convention provision has to be known as broadly as possible.
- Most of the refugees are treated as terrorist in some places and they became a victim of it.

CONCLUSION

- A refugee lives in fear, who have lost a place as well as the precious memories that can't be back.
- Refugees are not born they are made by the ill policies and irresponsible behaviour of the so called developed nations who wants to create a hegemony in the world in the name of human rights that is not controlled by humans anymore.
- Still they wake up every day looking up in the sky, ready for the distance to travel and hoping that someday broken dreams will be no more, one day they will find a home.

USA- CHINA- TAIWAN STAND OFF

WHY IN NEWS

- Recent reports suggest Chinese can take advantage of the ongoing crisis of Afghanistan and is eying Taiwan with a possible threat of invasion.

BACKGROUND

- From 1683 to 1895, Taiwan was administered by China's Qing dynasty.
- Lots of migrants staring coming from china during 17th Century due to turmoil in the region.
- The Qing government had to surrender Taiwan to Japan, after Japan won the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895.
- Japan give up control of territory it had taken from China and surrendered after Second World War.

- With the support of the US and UK, the Republic of China began ruling Taiwan.
- Mao Zedong's Communist armies beat Chiang Kai-shek's troops when a civil war broke out in few year later.
- In 1949, after civil war some people of Kuomintang (KMT) government and Chiang fled to Taiwan and China and Taiwan were separated.
- They were only 14% of the population, but they end up building up 1.5m people, dominated Taiwan's politics for many years.
- Chiang rule was dictatorship but Chiang's son, Chiang Ching-kuo, began allowing a process of democratisation.
- Later constitutional changes were made by President Lee Teng-hui, known as Taiwan's "father of democracy".
- Chen Shui-bian, first non-KMT president, was elected in 2000.
- Chen Shui-bian was succeeded by Ma Ying-jeou.
- In 2016 and again in 2020 Tsai Ing-wen was elected as president (currently also).

WHAT IS TAIWAN

- Because of China most counties don't take a proper stand on Taiwan.
- Many countries feel Taiwan is confusion and confusion is Taiwan.
- China claim Taiwan as part of its territory.
- But Taiwan say it is a sovereign state.
- It claim to have its own constitution, elected- leaders, troops.
- Around 20 million plus people lives in Taiwan.
- With 15 countries, 38 intergovernmental organizations and their subsidiary bodies, including Asian Development Bank, the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the ROC (Taiwan) government has relation.
- It is not a member of united nation.
- IT hardware, chip manufacture etc., is Taiwan strength.

CHINA TAIWAN RELATION

- Reports of talks between two sides (unofficial) but china claim Taiwan is illegitimate, so government-to-government meetings couldn't happen.
- More than $60bn investment already been done by Taiwanese companies in china.
- Between China and Taiwan relations improve in the 1980s.
- One country, two systems formula was given by china to Taiwan for reunification of china.
- Taiwan, rejected the offer.
- But investment in China, and rules on visits were relaxed.

CHINA STAND ON TAIWAN

- China claims, One China policy makes Taiwan a province of China.
- Anti-secession law was passed by china in 2005 which says China's right to use non-peaceful means against Taiwan if it tried to separate from China.
- In 2018 China threated to block international companies and said they will stop doing business with them if they not list Taiwan as a part of China on their websites.
- National security law in Hong Kong in 2020 implemented by china shows its aggression in claiming Taiwan.

TAIWAN STAND ON CHINA

- DPP (Democratic Progressive Party) favours independence for Taiwan.
- Other group the KMT (the Kuomintang party) wants re-unification.
- Chen Shui-bian was succeeded by Ma Ying-jeou.
- Later in 2016 and again in 2020 Tsai Ing-wen was elected as president (currently also).
- She is from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which support official independence from China.
- In 2014 Sunflower Movement, parliament occupied by students and activists, protesting against what they called China's growing influence over Taiwan.
- Opinion poll in March 2021 says people want an independent country.

USA STAND ON THE ISSUE

- If China attack Taiwan then USA will defend Taiwan as part of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) 1979.
- USA has said its commitment to Taiwan is "rock solid".
- USA support Taiwan and supply them with defensive weapons.

INDIA STAND ON THE ISSUE

- Taiwan and Tibet as part of China, has been accepted by India.
- India believes in One China policy, but says China should also believe in a One India policy.
- Since 1995 No formal diplomatic relations between India and Taiwan.
- Representative offices in each other's capitals, both sides have maintained.

POSSIBLE OUTCOME DUE TO THE ONGOING TENSION

- China can attack Taiwan and take over.
- USA can help Taiwan attain independence so that Taiwan can be an Independent country.
- A new group can emerge due to the ongoing tension and they can become the next Taliban.
- Pakistan can plant seeds of terrorism there and use it against India.

CHALLENGES

- Currently Indian approach is defensive because they know any advance step toward Taiwan is going to get sharp reactions from Beijing, but India's need to change this approach.
- China will use force for unification with Taiwan, we all must work to prevent it.

CONCLUSION

- India need to break the Chinese Prism and look Taiwan differently, as an Independent country.
- What an independent state need to be Taiwan has all of the characteristics of it.
- Taiwan can be added in the Quad group (USA, Australia, japan, India) and we can fight for their independence in it.
- People in Taiwan say they are Taiwanese, rather than Chinese.
- These words are the voices of their heart, ignoring them can have catastrophic end.

CHINA'S THREE CHILD POLICY
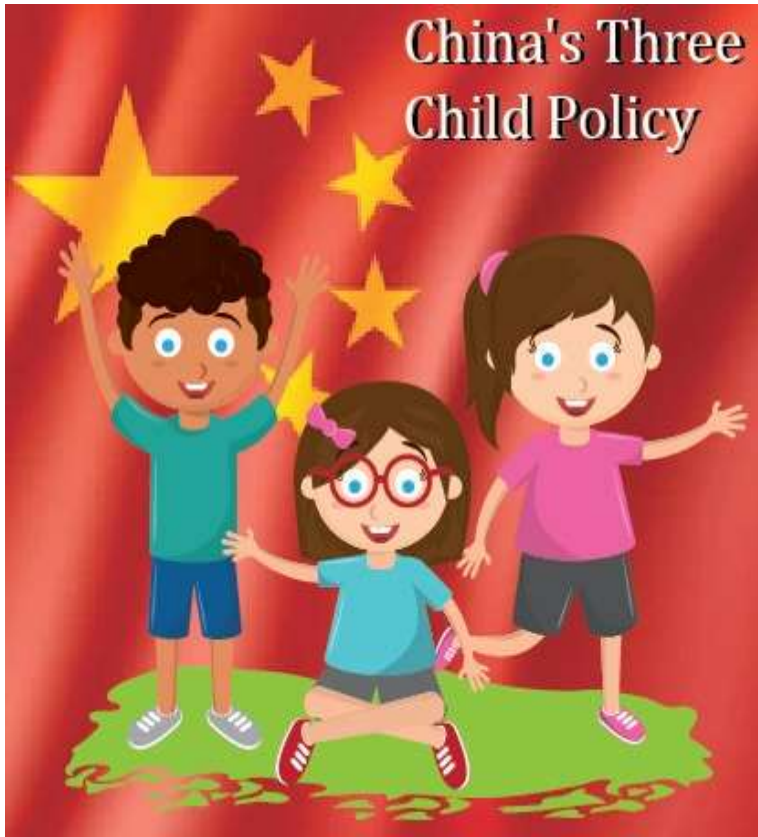
WHY IN NEWS
China has announced that it will allow couples to have up to three children, after census data showed a steep decline in birth rates.

ABOUT
China has announced that it will allow couples to have up to three children, after census which is done once in 10 years showed a steep decline in birth rates.

The data shows that 12 million babies born last year is lowest since 1961.

BACKGROUND
In the fear of billion population along with fear of slow down economic growth China adopted one child policy in 1979.

China's population was shaped by one-child policy introduced in 1979 for slow population growth had over the years shaped its population.

- China scrapped its decades-old one-child policy in 2016, replacing with two-child policy, which has failed to sustained upsurge in births.
- Now China has adopted 3 child policy.

DISADVANTAGES ASSOCIATED WITH ONE CHILD POLICY OF CHINA
- Skewed sex ratio has emerged over the years.
- The policy implanted forcefully led to woman right violation many times.
- Female infanticide in favour of boy baby.

ADVANTAGES ASSOCIATED WITH ONE CHILD POLICY OF CHINA
- China economy grow at faster pace.
- China was able to manage population load that helped in eradication of poverty to some point.

CHALLENGES
- Census has recorded 264 million population more than 60 plus age group.
- About 18.7 % of total population up by 5.44 % of 2010 census and it will increase further with the time.
- Ageing of the couple along with rising cost of education and increasing cost of living prevent couple to have more children.

CONCLUSION
- Forced one child policy led to many problem, it will be better if citizens are made aware about family planning.

ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDER DISPUTE

WHY IN NEWS
- After the old boundary dispute between Assam and Mizoram exploded in violent clashes at a contested border point at least five Assam Police personnel were killed.
- A betel nut plantation and a farm hut belonging to two Mizoram residents were set on fire.
- Some people from Lailapur had pelted Mizoram police personnel and Mizoram residents with stones in Cachar.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE
- According to an agreement between the governments of Assam and Mizoram some years ago, status quo should be kept in no man's land in the border area.
- But status quo was broken by people from Lailapur broke and allegedly constructed some temporary huts.
- From Mizoram's side, people went and set fire on them.

ROOT CAUSE OF DISPUTE
- A notification of 1875 that differentiated the Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar the dispute stems from and another of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between the Lushai Hills and Manipur.
- The boundary should be demarcated based on the 1875 notification, which is derived from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873 Mizoram believes.
- In the past against the demarcation notified in 1933 Mizo leaders have argued because Mizo society was not consulted.
- The point of conflict was that the Assam government follows the 1933 demarcation.
- Mizoram leaders say they were not consulted on the 1933 demarcation.

KEY POINTS
- Assam's Barak Valley is border by Mizoram.
- Mizoram and Assam both border Bangladesh.
- Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam that dates back to the colonial era.

ARGUMENT BY ASSAM
- Assam officers say the land belongs to Assam as per the state's records.

ARGUMENT BY MIZORAM
- The land claimed by Assam has been cultivated for a long time by residents of Mizoram according to Mizoram officials.
- Mizoram's civil society groups blame illegal Bangladeshis (alleged migrants from Bangladesh) on the Assam side for the trouble.

CONCLUSION

- Stakeholders from both sides should be consulted and a proper solution based on facts and people's sentiments should be taken.
- Zonal council help can also be taken to find a solution.
- Using satellite mapping help to find the exact disputed reason and solution.
- The interstate council's help can be taken to find a solution to the problem.

THE TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021

WHY IN NEWS

- The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha has been introduced by the government.
- The Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Finance Act, 2012, are amended by it.
- Under the retrospective law brought in 2012, on companies like Cairn Energy and Vodafone, etc., the Indian government proposed to withdraw all tax demands and will refund the money collected to enforce such levies.

BACKGROUND

- The retrospective taxation power was introduced by the former Finance Minister, the late Pranab Mukherjee after the Supreme Court held that Vodafone could not be taxed for a 2007 transaction involving its purchase of a 67% stake in Hutchison Whampoa for $11 billion.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BILL

- The Bill proposes to amend the Income Tax Act 1961 and the Finance Act, 2012.
- Before May 2012 if any tax demand is made on transactions then it shall be dropped, and if any taxes already collected shall be repaid, albeit without interest.

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OUR BRANCHES: New Delhi | Mumbai | Kolkata | Chennai | Ahmedabad | Bengaluru | Bhilai | Bhubaneswar | Chandigarh | Dehradun | Gandhinagar | Guwahati | Hyderabad| Kanpur | Lucknow | Mehsana | Nagaland | Patna | Raipur | Rajkot | Ranchi | Surat | Vadodara |

WhatsApp no: 7284911227 - 7284811227 chahalacademy@gmail.com

- All pending cases against the government have to be dropped by the concerned taxpayers to be eligible.
- Taxpayers have to promise not to make any demands for damages or costs.
- Only of the principal amount, not the interest, the Bill allows for the refund.

WHAT IS A RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION?
- From a time behind the date on which the law is passed it allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items, or services, and deals and charge companies.
- To correct any anomalies in their taxation policies countries use this route.
- Many countries including India, the USA, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia, and Italy have retrospectively taxed companies, which had taken the benefit of loopholes in the previous law.
- Around Rs 8,100 crore collected by government in taxes under the existing law, out of which Rs 7,800 crore from Cairn Energy alone.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS
- May 2007: For 11 billion dollars. Hutchison Whampoa's controlling stake in Hutchison Essar brought by Vodafone.
- Sept 2007: Citing alleged failure to deduct withholding tax from Hutchison Telecommunications International Ltd the IT Department serves notice to Vodafone International Holdings BV. The UK firm later moves to Bombay High Court.
- Sept 2010: Stating it has jurisdiction over the deal the Bombay High Court rules in favour of the I-T Department. Vodafone challenges the ruling in the Supreme Court
- Jan 2012: Saying the transaction is not taxable In India and hence the company is not responsible for deduction of withholding tax the Supreme Court rules In favour of Vodafone,
- April 2012: Issue raised with then Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee by George Osborne, UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- April 2014: Vodafone Group moves the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague
- Sept 25, 2020: The arbitration tribunal ruled in favour of Vodafone in a 20,000 crore tax case
- The equitable and fair treatment standard under the bilateral investment treaty was violated the Hague court said in favour of Vodafone.
- Later in a similar manner tax claims were also raised on Cairn Energy.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR OF RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION
- India's sovereign right to taxation cannot be questioned overseas as claim by the government

ARGUMENT AGAINST RETROSPECTIVE TAXATION
- It will only scare investors away
- Foreign investors are discouraged from coming to India and that the Centre should look to resolve the case at the earliest.
- Tax terrorism, The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which was in the Opposition earlier has termed this.

CONCLUSION
- After facing multiple setbacks in international arbitrations government has finally done the right thing.
- It will have a positive impact on the ease of doing business.
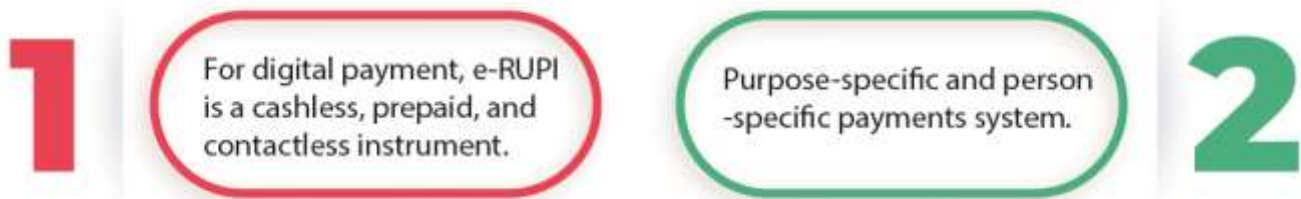- For a healthy investment climate, the amendment was needed.

- For promoting economic growth and development foreign investment is going to be very crucial in the coming times so it is a welcome move from the government and it will send a positive message to all the investors.

E-RUPI

WHY IN NEWS
- Launched by the Prime Minister e-RUPI which is a person and purpose-specific digital payment solution.

ABOUT

1 | For digital payment, e-RUPI is a cashless, prepaid, and contactless instrument. | Purpose-specific and person -specific payments system. | 2

BACKGROUND
- The National Health Authority and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has developed it.
- Under their employee welfare and corporate social responsibility programs, private sector can also leverage these digital vouchers

HOW IT WORK
- It is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries as a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher.
- Without a card, digital payments app, or internet banking access, at the service provider users will be able to redeem the voucher of this seamless one-time payment mechanism
- Without any credit or debit card, mobile app, or internet banking it will be like a prepaid gift-voucher that can be redeemed at specific accepting centers.

WHO CAN GENERATE VOUCHERS
- Along their partner banks any government agency and corporation can generate.
- These banks have come on board as partners:
  Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Canara Bank, IndusInd Bank, and ICICI Bank.

KEY POINTS
- It will connect sponsors of the services with beneficiaries and service providers digitally without any physical interface.
- It is pre-paid in nature so timely payment and no intermediary involvement.
- Only after the transaction is completed it also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made
- US, Colombia, Chile, Sweden, Hong Kong, etc. already are using the voucher system
- With the details of specific persons and the purpose for which payments have to be made any corporate or government agency will have to approach the partner banks, which are both private and public-sector lenders.

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- Using a voucher and their mobile number allocated by a bank to the service provider in the name of a given person would only be delivered to that person this way the beneficiaries will be identified.
- Cryptocurrencies and e-RUPI both do not rely on middlemen.

RBI STATEMENT
- RBI Deputy Governor had said earlier before its launch that they were working towards a phased implementation strategy of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), instigation words of e-RUPI's links to the CBDC.

HOW IT IS DIFFERENT FROM DIGITAL CURRENCY
- Without any discrepancies and delay to ensure the reach of particular benefits to the eligible beneficiaries is its objective.
- It is government-controlled.
- It is a social service voucher system not a digital currency.
- It can be said that it is the first step towards launching digital currency in India.

SIGNIFICANCE
- It is a leak-proof delivery of welfare services
- As the underlying asset, it is backed by the existing Indian rupee
- It is different from a virtual currency specificity of its purpose puts it closer to a voucher-based payment system.
- Schemes that are meant to provide, drugs & diagnostics under schemes such as Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, fertilizer subsidies, drugs & nutritional support under Mother and Child welfare schemes and TB eradication programs this platform will be used to deliver services.

CHALLENGES
- The beneficiary not required to disclose their identity, so it can be claimed by other people.

CONCLUSION
- The government claim it to be easy, safe and secure.
- But its future will depend on the end-use cases.

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA (PMUY)

WHY IN NEWS
- The second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) or Ujjwala 2.0 Scheme by the Prime Minister.

PMUY-I
- Tagline: "Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan"
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG), introduced the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY) in May 2016, as a flagship scheme with an objective to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG open to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using old-style cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.
- Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as well as on the environment.
- The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi.

- The target under the scheme was to release 8 Crore LPG Connections to the deprived households by March 2020.
- On 7th September 2019, Prime Minister of India handed over the 8th Crore LPG connection in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- The release of 8 Crore LPG connections under the scheme has also helped in increasing the LPG coverage from 62% on 1st May 2016 to 99.8% as on 1st April 2021.

PMUY-II
- Without being required to submit additional documents as proof of address, migrant workers will be able to get a free gas connection on the basis of a "self-declaration".
- To provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of PMUY with new one crore additional connections under Ujjwala 2.0.
- Require minimum paperwork in the enrolment procedure

MINISTRY
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

REASON TO LAUNCH UJJWALA
- Protecting women health and empowering them.
- Due to unclean cooking fuel reducing the number of deaths in India
- To stop acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.
- Reducing serious health dangers linked with cooking based on fossil fuel.

BENEFITS TO CUSTOMERS
- Cash assistance for PMUY connections is provided by Government of India - Rs. 1600 (for a connection 14.2kg cylinder/ Rs. 1150 for a 5 kg cylinder). The cash assistance covers:
- Security Deposit of Cylinder – Rs. 1250 for 14.2 kg cylinder/ Rs. 800 for 5 kg cylinder
- Pressure Regulator – Rs. 150
- LPG Hose – Rs. 100
- Domestic Gas Consumer Card – Rs. 25
- Inspection/ Installation/ Demonstration charges – Rs. 75
- Additionally, All PMUY beneficiaries will be provided with first LPG refill and Stove (hotplate) both free of cost along with their deposit free connection by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO AVAIL CONNECTION UNDER UJJWALA 2.0
- Applicant (woman only) must have attained 18 years of age.
- There should not be any other LPG connection from any OMC in the same household.
- Adult woman belonging to any of the following categories – SC, ST, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), Most Backward Classes (MBC), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Tea and Ex-Tea Garden tribes, Forest Dwellers, People residing in Islands and River Islands, enlisted under SECC Households (AHL TIN) or any Poor Household as per 14-point declaration.

DOCUMENT REQUIRED
- Know Your Customer (KYC)
- Aadhaar Card of applicant as Proof of Identity and Proof of Address in case applicant is residing at the same address as mentioned in Aadhaar (not mandatory for Assam and Meghalaya).

- Ration Card issued by the State from which application is being made/ other State government document certifying family composition/ Self-Declaration as per Annexure I (for migrant applicants)
- Aadhaar of beneficiary and adult family members appearing in document at Sl. 3.
- Bank Account Number and IFSC
- Supplementary KYC to support status of the family.
- Applicants may apply to any distributor of her choice either by submitting application at the distributor or by submitting a request through Online Portal.

CHALLENGES
- Providing cylinders to households is one thing and making them use it is another thing.
- Recovery of outstanding loans spent under the scheme are delayed due to Low consumption of refills.
- On 31th December 2018 the annual average refill consumption was only 3.21.

CONCLUSION
- From the suppliers side the figures of refilling are coming some economist have questioned.
- The following company Many Oil Marketing Companies like Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited were linked in to implement the scheme on the ground.
- The figure are by the oil marketing companies and don't provide the clarity.
- To know the reality of the Ujjwala scheme Consumer-side of data is also needed.
- In urban and semi-urban slum areas its cover to poor households can be extended.
- Need to achieve a higher LPG coverage of the households that do not have LPG by providing connections to them.

NATIONAL MONETISATION PIPELINE

WHY IN NEWS
- Union finance minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities: 'National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP Volumes 1 & 2).

ABOUT
- National Monetisation Pipeline is government policy under which national pipeline project will be funded by leasing out government brown field assets which is either loss making or nor using its full potential or not fully constructed.
- The pipeline is developed by NITI Aayog, in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation' under Union Budget 2021-22.
- National Monetisation Pipeline estimates that about Rs 6.0 lakh crores monetisation potential of core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.

Roads Rs. 1,60,200 crore	**NMP Period : Co-terminus with NIP, 4 years (FY 22-25)**		**Telecom** Rs. 35,100 crore	
Railways Rs. 1,52,496 crore			**Warehousing** Rs. 28,900 crore	
Power Transmission Rs. 45,200 crore			**Mining** Rs. 28,747 crore	
Power Generation Rs. 39,832 crore	**Total NMP ~ Rs. 6.0 lakh crore**		**Aviation** Rs. 20,782 crore	
Natural Gas Pipelines Rs. 24,462 crore			**Ports** Rs. 12,828 crore	
Product pipeline/ others Rs. 22,504 crore	**Urban Real estate** Rs. 15,000 crore		**Stadiums** Rs. 11,450 crore	

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR
- Derisk brownfield asset will stabilise revenue of the government.
- The assets which is not tapping its potential, the potential will be used which will generate revenue.
- Monetisation of assets only by leasing for a period but the ownership ultimately lies with government.

ARGUMENT AGAINST
- It is seen that if lease is given to private entity even after expiration of lease the party not vacating the place or renew the lease without revised rent.
- Government has already invested lots of money in the brownfield project, and its true assets value will not be intact in lease process.

CHALLENGES
- The monetisation policy will favour big pocket capitalist.
- It may lead to cartelisation of assets value.
- No separate dispute resolution mechanism, so the court burden will increase.

CONCLUSION
- NMP is a good concept to raise the money from risky assets.
- But before leasing out there should be proper evaluation of assets value.
- In bidding process fair number of private entity should involve for this in bidding process foreign company can also bid.

AIRPORTS ECONOMIC REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL 2021

WHY IN NEWS

- Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 got approval of both houses of Parliament and send for signing of the president.

ABOUT

- Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 1st time introduced in March 2021 and send to standing committee for review.
- It amended Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.
- Bill amends definition of 'major airport' allowing tariff determination of a 'group of airports'.
- The bill also encourages for the development of smaller airports.
- Major airport –it is the airport whose passenger handling capacity is more than 35 lakh or manages more than 35 lakh passengers annually.
- Smaller airport-less than 35 lakh passenger handling capacity or handle less than 35 lakh passenger.
- Group of airport-under this club the smaller airports. This is done mainly for tariffing the group of airport.

ADVANTAGES

- It will increase regional connectivity under UDAN scheme.

DISADVANTAGES

- Lack of clarity in grouping of airport can led to ambiguity.

CHALLENGES

- Building of the regional airport.

CONCLUSION*

- It is a good step which can increase regional connectivity.

GATI SHAKTI

WHY IN NEWS

- Addressing a virtual dialogue on 'Transforming India's Mobility' Union Minister for Road transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has said that National Monetisation Program will build on reliability and confidence of Developers and financing institutions as the identified projects are likely to be better prepared, exposure less likely to the risk given active project monitoring, management, and accountability.

ABOUT

- PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan will be launched which will be Rs. 100 lakh-crore project for 'holistic infrastructure' development plan.
- It will give an integrated pathway for economic development.
- The plan will help raise the global profile of local manufacturers and help them compete with their counterparts worldwide.

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- National Monetisation Plan is a plan under which infrastructure development will be financed by leasing out risky brownfield projects of various ministries and department.

ADVANTAGES
- Help in the growth of infrastructure.
- The development will generate employment.
- It will decrease transport cost of the product.

CHALLENGES
- Financing of the product is a big challenge.
- Complete the project on time.

CONCLUSION
- It is the good initiative which have capacity to boost economy and helps in generating lakhs of job.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC

WHY IN NEWS

- The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 were notified by the Ministry Of Environment Forest And Climate Change.
- From the start of July 2022 the Centre has banned particular single-use plastic items that have "low utility and high littering potential".

BACKGROUND

- 1950s to the 1970s- small amount of plastic was produced, so plastic waste was manageable.
- 1990s, more than tripled in two decades had plastic waste generation, following a similar rise in plastic production.
- 2000s, plastic waste rise more in a single decade than it had in last 40 years.
- For pledging to eliminate all single-use plastic by 2022, Prime Minister Modi was also conferred the "champions of the earth" award by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2018.
- India piloted a resolution on addressing single-use plastic products pollution, at the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019.

ABOUT SINGLE USE PLASTIC

- Normally used for packing they are disposable plastics (use-and-throw items) and include items planned to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.
- These comprise of carry bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery etc.

WHAT IS BANNED

- Ear buds with plastic sticks,
- Plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks,
- Thermocol for decoration, plates, cups, glasses,
- Cutlery such as knives, straws, forks, spoons, trays,
- Around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets wrapping or packing films

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- Stirrers and plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns.
- This will also let reuse of plastic carry due to increase in thickness.
- **Commodities made of compostable plastic, the ban will not be applicable to them.**

REASON FOR BAN

- Petroleum-based plastic is non-biodegradable.
- It takes hundreds of years to break down.
- It find its way into the ocean.
- It releases toxic chemicals, in breaking down process.
- Single use plastic pollution is a major threat to environment.
- They are only use for one time before they are thrown away.
- From the packaging industry, it has replaced all other materials.

KEY POINTS

- With thickness less than 50 microns polythene bags are already banned in the country.
- Banning-single use carry bags as well as other commodities in a phased manner ministry has drawn out.
- From 50 microns to 75 microns the thickness of plastic carry bags will be increased from September 30, 2021, and to 120 microns from December 31, 2022.
- Under the phase-out of single-use plastic items plastic packaging waste isn't yet covered.
- From 1st July, 2022 the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited.
- One million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year around the world.
- Since 1950s more than 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced according to researchers.

CHALLENGES

- From plastics about 41% of the waste picker incomes come from it.
- It is necessary to work with waste pickers and dealers so that the transition is safe, fair and agreeable to them, to manage India's transition to a low-plastics economy.

CONCLUSION

- Research & Development for more alternative option is required.
- Biodegradable plastics, cotton, khadi bags etc., need to be promoted and seen as an alternative.
- Attitude change of people is key for the long term waste management.
- We don't need few people do it rightly for few days we need all of them to do it consistently forever so changing their mind-set is the key in managing the waste.

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NATIONAL HYDROGEN MISSION

WHY IN NEWS
- National Hydrogen Mission was announced by PM Narendra Modi during the Independence Day address.
- PM Narendra Modi said in the years to come, India will become world's largest exporter of green hydrogen.
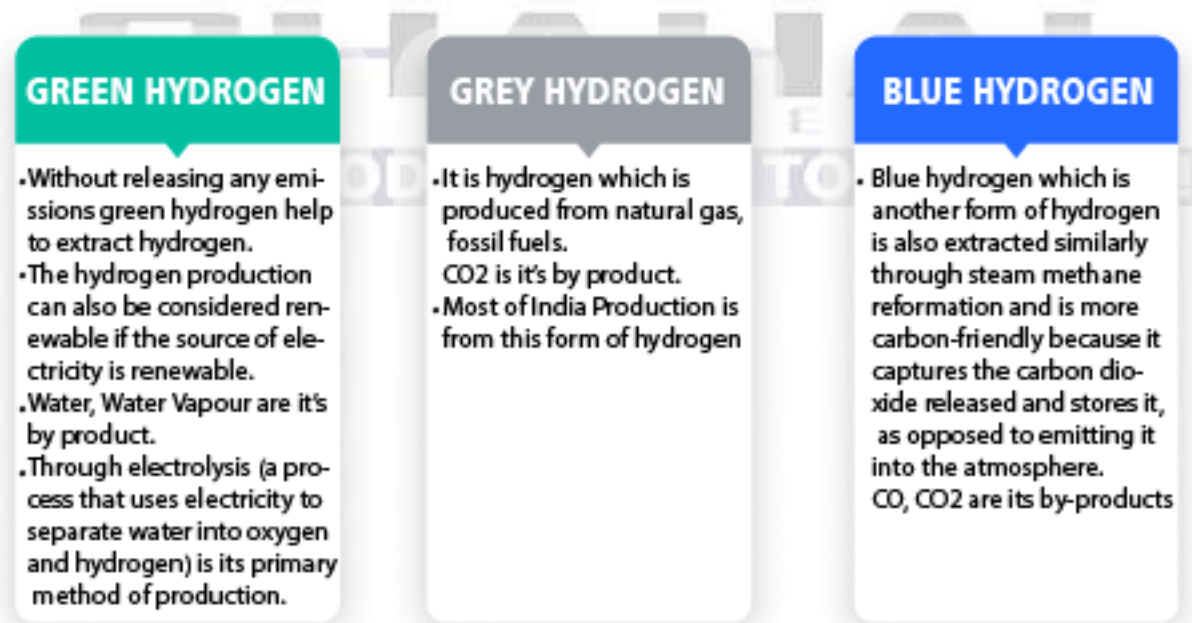
ABOUT NATIONAL HYDROGEN MISSION
- From green power resources hydrogen generation.
- Making India a Hydrogen economy.
- Under the Paris Agreement, it will help in achieving its emission goals.
- Reduce import dependency on fossil fuels of India.

ABOUT HYDROGEN
- It is an odourless, colourless gas, which is abundant in the Earth's atmosphere.
- The first element on the periodic table is Hydrogen.
- Hydrogen is the lightest element.
- It is uses in petroleum refining, aerospace applications and manufacturing of chemicals, steel, and ammonia fertilisers.
- Hydrogen is extracted primarily through two methods, for industrial processes:
  Coal gasification or through a process called steam methane reformation (SMR).
- In steam methane reformation, methane from natural gas, when heated with steam, produces carbon monoxide and hydrogen which can be used as fuel.
- But they cause vast emissions of greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide because these methods is not carbon-friendly.

TYPES OF HYDROGEN

GREEN HYDROGEN
- Without releasing any emissions green hydrogen help to extract hydrogen.
- The hydrogen production can also be considered renewable if the source of electricity is renewable.
- Water, Water Vapour are it's by product.
- Through electrolysis (a process that uses electricity to separate water into oxygen and hydrogen) is its primary method of production.

GREY HYDROGEN
- It is hydrogen which is produced from natural gas, fossil fuels.
  CO_2 is it's by product.
- Most of India Production is from this form of hydrogen

BLUE HYDROGEN
- Blue hydrogen which is another form of hydrogen is also extracted similarly through steam methane reformation and is more carbon-friendly because it captures the carbon dioxide released and stores it, as opposed to emitting it into the atmosphere.
  CO, CO_2 are its by-products

WHY NATIONAL HYDROGEN MISSION
- India is the world's third-largest oil importer.
- India imports 85% of its oil and 53% of gas demand so green hydrogen can play a crucial role in fulfilling India oil and gas demand.
- To meet India's Nationally Determined Contributions Green hydrogen energy it is vital step.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS
- Green hydrogen energy could be produced and used in different ways so it allowed the formation of a circular economy, which primarily focussed on ensuring energy security, by utilisation of all the resources possible.
- It will also ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
- As an energy storage option Hydrogen can act, which would be essential to meet intermittencies of renewable energy in the future.
- India's transition from fossil fuels like petroleum to renewable energy sources it is another step.
- India has pledged to generate 40 per cent of its power through renewable energy as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement and aim to fulfil it by 2030.
- Not only Green Hydrogen Mission is essential to decarbonise heavy industries like steel and cement but it also holds the key to clean electric mobility that doesn't depend on rare minerals.

STEPS TAKEN IN INDIA
- The country's first green hydrogen plant is planned to be set up by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited at its Mathura refinery.
- Rs 600 billion will be invested by Reliance Energy in building factories to produce green hydrogen among other carbon friendly technologies.
- The government scaling up the gas pipeline infrastructure and introducing reforms for the power grid such steps can be seen as to integrate renewable energy in the present energy mix.

INTERNATIONAL STEPS
Australia
- Hydrogen importance Australia has identified it, with the goal of producing clean/green hydrogen for under $2 per kilogram.

European Union
- A clean hydrogen alliance has been formed by the European Union.
- Hydrogen valleys which use the offshore wind capacity of the North Sea to power electrolysers, they are developing.
- To use the current natural gas pipeline network to allow the transportation of hydrogen across the continent is their longer term plan.

Saudi Arabia
- Bringing to bear their enormous solar power potential and expertise in the development of major energy projects, Saudi Arabia announced its intention to enter the market.

Japan
- Turning sewage into hydrogen via a carbon-neutral process, Japan have developed a project which could have wide-ranging potential, this could reduce the need to transport it.

USA
- A report commissioned last year (2020) urging policymakers to "follow the lead of the European Union", USA are lagging a little behind.

CHALLENGES
- There are a range of demonstration and real-world live applications currently operating across the world, in terms of reaching commercial viability.
- Cost of renewable electricity is the main problem.
- Green hydrogen price per kilogram has to reduce to a benchmark.
- Public investments need to channelled and strategized well.
- Electrolysers need to be built on a scale larger for green hydrogen.

CONCLUSION
- In the coming years Green hydrogen, produced with renewable electricity, is projected to grow rapidly.
- To create a legislative frameworks that facilitate hydrogen-based sector link, government need to focus on it.
- It is going to be a costlier process that many other scheme but it's a matter of political will to move this forward.

RICE FORTIFICATION

WHY IN NEWS
- Fortification of rice distributed under various government schemes, including the public distribution system (PDS) and midday meals in schools, by 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced.

ABOUT RICE FORTIFICATION
- Increasing the content of essential micronutrients in a food deliberately so as to improve the nutritional quality of food and to provide public health benefit with minimal risk to health.
- Rice fortification means adding micronutrients to regular rice.
- Keeping in mind dietary requirements the micronutrients are added.

RICE FORTIFICATION TECHNOLOGIES
- Rice fortification technologies are coating, extrusion and dusting.
- Extrusion is considered to be the best technology, for rice fortification in India.
- From a mixture using an extruder machine, it involves the production of fortified rice kernels (FRKs).
- To produce fortified rice the fortified rice kernels are then blended with regular rice.

HOW EXTRUSION TECHNOLOGY WORKS
- Dry rice flour is mixed with a premix of micronutrients, and water is added to this mixture, in extrusion technology.
- Into a twin-screw extruder with heating zones this mixture then goes to it, which produces kernels similar in shape and size to rice.
- These kernels are dried, cooled and packaged for use.
- At least 12 months FRK has a shelf life

- The fortified rice kernel the shape and size should resemble the normal milled rice as closely as possible, as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- The grain the length and breadth should be 5 mm and 2.2 mm respectively.

COOKING METHOD OF FORTIFIED RICE
- No special procedure is required for the cooking of fortified rice.
- In a normal way before cooking, it needed to be cleaned and washed.
- It had before cooking, after cooking fortified rice retains the same physical properties and micronutrient levels.

HOW TO IDENTIFY FORTIFIED RICE
- In jute bags with the logo ('+F') Fortified rice will be packed
- Mandatorily printed on the pack the line "Fortified with Iron, Folic Acid, and Vitamin B12"

STANDARDS FOR FORTIFICATION
- 10 g of FRK must be blended with 1 kg of regular rice, under the Ministry's guidelines.
  1 kg of fortified rice will contain the following:
- iron (28 mg-42.5 mg),
- folic acid (75-125 microgram),
- Vitamin B-12 (0.75-1.25 microgram).
  Rice may also be fortified with
- zinc (10 mg-15 mg),
- vitamin A (500-750 microgram RE),
- vitamin B-1 (1 mg-1.5 mg),
- vitamin B-2 (1.25 mg-1.75 mg),
- vitamin B-3 (12.5 mg-20 mg),
- Vitamin B-6 (1.5 mg-2.5 mg) per kg, according to FSSAI norms.

COST OF FORTIFICATION
- Around Rs 0.60 per kg will be the cost of producing FRK with three micronutrients
  1. Iron
  2. Folic acid
  3. Vitamin B-12
- The Centre and the states will shared the cost.
- To rice millers the government will pay this cost

WHY RICE FORTIFICATION REQUIRED
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI), India ranks 94 out of 107 which puts India in the 'serious hunger' category.
- Among women and children India has very high levels of malnutrition.
- In India every third child is stunted and every second woman in the country is anaemic.
- To combat malnutrition fortification of food is considered to be one of the most suitable methods.
- Consumed by about two-thirds of the population, rice is one of India's staple foods.
- In India is 6.8 kg per month is per capita rice consumption
- To supplement the diet of the poor, fortifying rice with micronutrients is an option

CURRENT SITUATION ON RICE FORTIFICATION

- For production of fortified rice, nearly 2,690 rice mills have installed blending units and 13.67 lakh tonnes the current blending capacity in 14 key states.
- Within 2 years, FRK production has gone up from 7,250 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes.
- To fortification facilities, present rice mills need to be upgraded
- Depending on the volume of fortified rice produced, the cost of the upgrade varies from mill to mill.
- To upgrade a rice mill of operating capacity 4-5 tonnes/hour, an investment of around Rs15-20 lakh would be required.

GOVERNMENT STEPS IN RICE FORTIFICATION

- For three years with a total budget outlay of Rs 174.64 crore in 2019-20 a centrally sponsored pilot scheme, 'Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under PDS', was launched by central government.

    On 15 districts in 15 states the pilot scheme focused:
- Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka , Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh.
- As part of the pilot scheme, with approximately 2.03 lakh tonnes distributed until June 2021 six states, including Maharashtra and Gujarat, have started distributing fortified rice.
- By September (2021), four more states are expected to start.

INTERNATIONAL STEP IN RICE FORTIFICATION
Rice fortification have been mandated by seven countries

CHALLENGES

- 15,000 tonnes of rice kernels is current national capacity a year which is far from adequate.
- The annual capacity has to be around 130,000 tonnes to cover the PDS, anganwadis and MMS in at least the 112 aspirational districts.
- At least 350,000 tonnes of fortified kernels would be needed to cover the PDS across the country.
- Meeting the 2024 deadline is the biggest challenge.

CONCLUSION

- Awareness creation about the benefits of fortified foods is required.
- A risk to food safety despite the safeguards of food laws by mandatory fortification of rice can be seen.
- Since the implementation machinery in many states is weak the implementation of food safety laws is a big problem.

NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS

WHY IN NEWS

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given approval to launch a new Mission on palm Oil to be known as the National Mission on Edible Oils.

ABOUT

- It is Centrally Sponsored Scheme which have given special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Under the scheme the financial outlay of Rs.11,040 crore out of which Rs.8,844 crore is the shared by central government.
- The Focus on increasing area and productivity of oilseeds and Oil Palm.
- Under this scheme, it is assumed that an additional 6.5 lakh hectare (ha.) area for oil palm till the year 2025-26 will increase and reach the target of 10 lakh hectares ultimately.
- The production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is expected to go upto 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and upto 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.
- Assistance to seed gardens specially for North-East and Andaman regions.
- Price Assurance to Oil Palm farmers for Fresh Fruit Bunches.

ADVANTAGES

- Increase productivity of the oilseeds and Oil Palm.
- Decrease import bill.
- Increase farmer's income.
- Stabilise in oil price.

CHALLENGES

- To provide input support procurement of the produce immediately in cash.

CONCLUSION

- The scheme is good for price stabilisation of edible oil and reduce import bill of palm oil.
- It will help farmers with alternative choice and help in upliftment of the standard of living of the farmers.

PM-KUSUM AND ROOFTOP SOLAR PROGRAMME PHASE-II

WHY IN NEWS
- The Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh has reviewed the progress of implementation of PM-KUSUM and Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II with States/UTs.

ABOUT
- PM-KUSUM Scheme is aimed at ensuring energy security for farmers in India, along with honouring India's commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
- Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II is a Grid Connected Rooftop Solar power Programme for achieving cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW from Rooftop Solar (RTS) Projects by the year 2022.
- 2nd phase of the scheme was launched in 2019.
- Central government will support the programme with total Rs.11,814 crore.

ADVANTAGES
- Increase power generation without increasing air pollution.
- Waste land and waste space on the rooftop can be utilised.
- Help India in achieving climate change mitigation pledge.

DISADVANTAGES
- Fluctuation of sun light led to fluctuation of power generating capacity.
- Power storing battery come at high cost.
- After achieving the lifetime of solar power, it will led to scrapping problem of PV cells in huge amount.

CHALLENGES
- Qualitative PV panel for the use.
- Price of solar power.

CONCLUSION
- The programme will save life by increasing power generation without compromising air quality in long run it will be game changer.

CRYPTOCURRENCY

WHY IN NEWS

- The Supreme Court of India has recently lifted the ban on cryptocurrencies imposed by the Reserve Bank of India.

ABOUT

- ▶ A virtual currency secured by cryptography is a Cryptocurrency or Crypto.
- ▶ Encryption techniques are used to secure the network.
- ▶ Block chain is a system of tapering data in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system.
- ▶ In simple words block chain is a simple decentralized digital public ledger (a book or other collection of accounts).
- ▶ It stores transaction record.
- ▶ Individual ownership records are stored in a computerized database and it is designed to work as a medium of exchange.
- ▶ They are immune against any interference and manipulation as they are not issued by the government agency of any country.
- ▶ Block chain technology is used in cryptocurrencies work which is spread across many computers that manage and records transactions.

TIMELINE OF CRYPTOCURRENCY IN INDIA

- The government does not consider cryptocurrencies as legal tender and will take all measures to eliminate their use in financing illegitimate activities or as a part of the payment system, the Finance Minister announced that In the 2018-19 budget speech.
- Entities regulated by RBI should not deal in virtual currencies or provide services for facilitating any person or entity in dealing with or settling virtual currencies in April 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified.
- The ban on the trading of virtual currencies in India, which was imposed by the RBI earlier was struck down by the Supreme Court in May 2020.
- Cryptocurrencies are like commodities and hence they cannot be banned the court said.
- Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, to create a sovereign digital currency and simultaneously ban all private cryptocurrencies the government has announced to introduce a bill about it.
- But the government continues discussions with stakeholders so it was held up.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR

- NO third party is needed, funds transfer between two parties will be easy.
- Minimal processing fees for funds transfer.
- As peer to peer transaction so corruption is limited.
- Cheaper alternative as compares to other transaction systems.
- Safe and secure payment.

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ARGUMENT AGAINST

- Money laundering, tax evasion, and possibly even terror financing are at their very high.
- Cyber Crime is enabled more.
- Some says anarchy will be encouraged.
- Payments are not irreversible as no resolution mechanism is available.
- It has limited value and is not accepted everywhere.
- Power consumption is high in mining cryptocurrency.

CHALLENGES

- Not legal tender as no sovereign guarantee so poses risks to consumers.
- If the user loses their private key they lose access to their cryptocurrency.
- There are high Malware threats.
- Money laundering can be at its peak.
- Regulatory bypass can be used for the cyber-attack.

CONCLUSION

- To ensure that cryptocurrencies are not misused, we need proper regulation but regulation has to be transparent to protect from market volatility and possible scams.
- Policymaking is key to accept the change and move on with the technological change which the new century poses in front of us.
- The cryptocurrency which is a part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and is going to play a major role in advancement in human capital development in India.

SMOG TOWER

WHY IN NEWS
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav dedicates first functional Smog Tower of India, at Anand Vihar New Delhi.

ABOUT

- Smog towers are structures designed as large-scale air purifiers to reduce air pollution.
- It works on the principle of air ionisation technology to remove PM2.5 particles which is air flowing through a smog tower passes through a filter to provide clean air coming out of it. 71
- The first prototype of a smog tower was built in 2017 by Dutch artist Daan Roosegaarde in Beijing as a demonstration and art project that converts the carbon in filtered particles into diamonds.

ADVANTAGES
- Filter the Nano particles present in the air on large scale.

DISADVANTAGES
- It cannot clean air in large area, cleans air only a few meter.

CHALLENGES
- For making large number of tower it need heavy capital investment.

CONCLUSION
- Smog tower is good for clean environment in highly congested populated area but it cannot be solution for large area.
- For clean environment afforestation should be promoted.

INDIA TO HOST THE FIRST INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM IN THE COUNTRY

WHY IN NEWS
- Shri Anil Kumar Jain, the CEO, National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and the Chairman of Coordination Committee, India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IGF), jointly will launch India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) -2021 and will organise at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi.
- IIGF- 2021 will run three days, starting 20th October, 2021. The theme of this year's meeting is Inclusive Internet for Digital India.

ABOUT
- It is an Internet Governance policy discussion platform to bring all stakeholders at a platform.
- It will discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

ADVANTAGES
- Help towards digital economy.
- Help in making policy and taking decision about internet.
- Policy oriented toward that how digital India campaign would be inclusive.

CHALLENGES
- Awareness of the people at grass root level about security of internet and policy towards internet.

CONCLUSION
- The policy is important step towards helping Internet related issues in india.

INDIGAU

WHY IN NEWS
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh released "IndiGau', India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.

ABOUT
- Goal of the scheme is conservation of India's indigenous cow breeds, which will help better characters of the cow and help farmers to double their income by 2022.
- IndiGau is purely indigenous and the largest cattle chip of the world with 11,496 markers (SNPs) more than that of Illumina chip of US & UK breeds which contains 777K breeds.
- National Dairy Development Board has well organized in collection of phenotypic record, NIAB(National Institute of Animal Biotechnology) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- It complement each other for research generating information for low density SNP chip for that contains trait detection, like high milk yield or heat tolerance etc.
- This will eventually help in elite bull selection and improvement in productivity of Indian cattle.
- NIAB has also entered into a MoU with private industry to generate capability within India for designing and making our own SNP chips.
- These may be very low density SNP chips in the beginning and slowly this technology can be further strengthened for bigger chips, making India self-reliant in this field.

ADVANTAGES
- It will help India in achieving Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- It is the step towards doubling farmer's income by 2022.
- It will help increase of milk yield of Indian cattle.

Conservation of cows

CHALLENGES
- Awareness creation among farmers about good bull semen and its impact on milk production.

CONCLUSION
- It is one of the good initiative which have to potential to increase the farmer's income.

POROUS CARBON NANO-PARTICLES

WHY IN NEWS
- Using porous carbon nanoparticles from waste onion peels, a team of scientists have developed soft robotic actuators with enhanced photomechanical capacity.
- The actuators can act as efficient traps for the illuminating low-power near-infrared (NIR) light and can convert a control signal into mechanical motion with bioengineering applications such as drug delivery, wearable and assistive devices, prostheses, and even artificial organs.

ABOUT
- Soft robots or actuators consisting of rubber-like polymer with embedded nanomaterials which convert source of energy into mechanical motion have been attracting much interest with targeted applications in areas including bio-medical, military, and remote space operations.
- Generation of predesigned motion facilitated by their flexibility, affordability, and easy customization are the main reasons for the interest.
- The high thermal conductivity of these Nano forms results in rapid distribution of the heat generated locally by thermal and photo-thermal stimuli.

- To take these actuators to the next level of development, heat traps can be created to capture and contain the generated heat for slightly longer durations such that the achieved photomechanical actuation can be enhanced.

ADVANTAGES
- Can be used as Nano robot for targeted drug delivery.
- It can also be used for chemotherapy.

CHALLENGES
- It is new technology, and how this technology be useful for the medical field and efficiency of work is to be proved.

CONCLUSION
- It is the good research which may help in Nano robotics advancement.

SOLAR ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATION

WHY IN NEWS
- Union Minister of Heavy Industries Inaugurates Solar Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station at Carnal Lake Resort Carnal.

ABOUT

- The Delhi-Chandigarh Highway has become the first e-vehicle friendly highway in the country, with a network of Solar-based Electric Vehicle Charging stations (SEVCs).

- It was set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under the FAME-1 [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles in India].

- The scheme run by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

ADVANTAGES
- Clean and green energy we will get.
- Noise pollution curtailed.

DISADVANTAGES
- High cost in setting infrastructure.

CHALLENGES
- Fund for such project in large number.
- Motivate people to move to electric vehicle.

CONCLUSION
- Electric vehicle is future of the world and we can solve the twin problem of pollution along with climate change and its impact on the country with its help.

INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PROJECT

WHY IN NEWS
- The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd, has commissioned India's largest floating solar project of 25 MW on the reservoir of Simhadri thermal power station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

ADVANTAGES
- This floating solar power project has the potential to generate electricity, what is more than 1 lakh solar PV module will generate.
- It will help India to achieve its climate pledge.
- It will use upper open portion of reservoir which else has no use.

DISADVANTAGES
- The project is costly and fluctuation of power generation can happen.
- India does not have made scrapping policy of PV cell till time.

CHALLENGES
- Difficulties in Maintenance of photo voltaic cell.

CONCLUSION
- It is one of the good project in which resources is use efficiently.
- It will be better if government empower local company to meet demand of photovoltaic cell at cheap rate.

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES PREVENTION ACT (UAPA)

WHY IN NEWS
- Recently three student activists, who were arrested under the rigorous Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), bail was granted to them by Delhi High Court.
- Terrorist activity cannot be largely defined to include ordinary penal offences the Court also said.
- Various other people including Retired SC judges Gopala Gowda, Aftab Alam, M.B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta said definition of terror under UAPA and sedition vague, needs to be defined through judicial pronouncements.

BACKGROUND
- Introduced in 1967, UAPA purpose was to target separatist organizations.
- It is an anti-terror law which aimed at preventing certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations.
- Investigation by the State police and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- The investigating agency has up to 180 days to file a charge sheet so getting bail is very tough.

Background of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act

01 Introduced in 1967, UAPA purpose was to target separatist organizations.

02 It is an anti-terror law which aimed at preventing certain unlawful activities of individuals & associations.

03 Investigation by the State police and the National Investigation Agency (NIA)

KEY POINTS

- The union government may title an organization as a terrorist organization if it
    - (i)   Commits or participates in acts of terrorism,
    - (ii)   Prepares for terrorism,
    - (iii)   Promotes terrorism, or
    - (iv)   Is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- Individuals as terrorists can be designated by the government on the same grounds.
- Death penalty and life imprisonment the highest form of punishment under UAPA.
- Foreign and Indian and nationals both can be charged under UAPA.

- The offenders will be charged in the same manner and it doesn't matter whether the act is performed in a foreign land or outside India.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR

- To enable speedy investigation and action on terrorist offences.
- Preventing certain illegal acts of people and organizations especially related to terrorism can be prevented.
- India's integrity and sovereignty cannot be undermining at any cost so it gives power to state (government) to deal with illegal acts of people.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

- Rule of law, fair trial is violated using this act.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that between 2016 and 2019, a total of 4,231 FIRs were filed under various sections of the UAPA, of which 112 cases have resulted in convictions.
- Our fundamental right to protest is violated.

CHALLENGES

- Innocent people can also be targeted, and their life can be in danger.
- Many opposition parties says No pre-legislative consultation were done which is against the federal structure of the country enshrined in the Constitution of India.
- Misuse of the act is more as an individual can be designated terrorist. This has to be done in court of law but there are no such provision in this act.
- An innocent person's career livelihood and reputation will be damaged by this.

EXAMPLES OF FAILED APPLICATION OF UAPA

- Cases that do not automatically fall in the category of "terrorism" cases, Delhi High Court has called out for alleged misuse of the UAPA against individuals.
- The Delhi High Court granted bail to three student activists, who were earlier booked the UAPA anti-terror law.
- The court said "in its nervousness to quash dissent, in the mind of the State, the line between terrorist activity and the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest seems to be getting somewhat blurred. It would be a sad day for democracy, if this mind-set gains traction."

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF UAPA

- It is helpful in creating a deterrence in stopping criminal activities and also it will be helpful in tacking the insurgent groups.

RELEVANCE OF TOPIC RELATED TO POLITY

- Due process of law is not followed if this act is used.

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RELEVANCE OF TOPIC RELATED TO ETHICS
- Liberty of an individual is compromised if this act is followed.

CONCLUSION
- Terrorism is a very serious issue but in the name of terrorism an individual right to speech and liberty cannot be compromised.
- Balance between security of nation and individual rights is the moral duty of the government.
- Any law if not followed in letter and spirit is a threat not only to democracy but to whole humanity.

MALABAR EXERCISE 21

WHY IN NEWS
- Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt arrived at Guam, an Island Territory of the USA in August as part of annual MALABAR Exercise 21.

ABOUT
- Recently MALABAR Exercise held between quad navies of USA, JAPAN, and INDIA AND AUSTRALIA.
- MALABAR-21 would witness high-tempo exercises conducted between Destroyers', Frigates, Corvettes, Submarines, Helicopters and Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the participating navies.
- Complex surface, sub-surface and air operations including Live Weapon Firing Drills, Anti-Surface, Anti-Air and Anti-Submarine Warfare Drills, Joint Manoeuvres and Tactical exercises will be conducted during the exercise.

ADVANTAGES
- The exercise will provide an opportunity for common minded navies to enhance inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.
- It will help navies to cooperate in emergency situations.
- It will help India to have practices of its navy personals on different advanced navy's infrastructure.
- It will help India to counter common concern such as free passage in South China Sea, countering china influence in Indian Ocean etc.
- It will strengthen relationship between quad countries.

CONCLUSION
- The exercise help in knowing best practices among navies and know one of the advance infrastructure of the world.

DRONE RULES 2021

WHY IN NEWS
- In March 2021, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) released the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021.
- They were perceived by academia, Start-ups, end-users and other stakeholders as being restrictive in nature as they involved considerable paperwork, required permissions for every drone flight and very few "free to fly" green zones were available.

- Based on the feedback, the Government repealed the UAS Rules, 2021 and replace the same with the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021.

ABOUT

The new UAS Rules, 2021 designed as super-normal growth while balancing safety and security considerations.

- Several approvals abolished: unique authorisation number, unique prototype identification number, certificate of manufacturing and airworthiness, certificate of conformance, certificate of maintenance, import clearance, acceptance of existing drones, operator permit, authorisation of R&D organisation, student remote pilot licence, remote pilot instructor authorisation, drone port authorisation etc.
- Number of forms reduced from 25 to 5.
- Types of fee reduced from 72 to 4.
- Quantum of fee reduced to nominal levels and delinked with size of drone. For instance, the fee for a remote pilot license fee has been reduced from INR 3000 (for large drone) to INR 100 for all categories of drones and licence is valid for 10 years.
- Digital sky platform shall be developed as a user-friendly single-window system.
- There will be minimal human interface and most permissions will be self-generated.
- Interactive airspace map having green, yellow and red zones will be displayed on the digital sky platform within 30 days of publication of these rules.
- No permission required for operating drones in green zones.
- Green zone means the airspace up to a vertical distance of 400 feet or 120 metre and the airspace up to a vertical distance of 200 feet or 60 metre above the area located between a lateral distance of 8 and 12 kilometre from the perimeter of an operational airport.
- Yellow zone reduced from 45 km to 12 km from the airport perimeter.
- No remote pilot licence required for micro drones (for non-commercial use) and Nano drones.
- No requirement of Type Certificate, unique identification number and remote pilot licence by R&D entities operating drones in own or rented premises, located in a green zone.
- No restriction on foreign ownership in Indian drone companies.
- Import of drones to be regulated by DGFT.
- Manufacturers and importers may generate their drones' unique identification number on the digital sky platform through the self-certification route.
- Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries.
- Drone promotion council to be set up by Government with participation from academia, start-ups and other stakeholders to facilitate a growth-oriented regulatory regime.

ADVANTAGES

- Drone is useful in the fields of agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, defence, and law enforcement etc.

DISADVANTAGES

- There may be security threat by robot which can be misused by terrorists.
- It can be used for smuggling by non-state actors.
- There are threat of man and property loss in crashing of the drone.

CHALLENGES

- Security fixation from use of robot.
- Fixing of responsivity for damage done by crash.

CONCLUSION
- It is good step as India need to prepare next level of unmanned aerial vehicles attack and defence system.
- But without proper research and promotion of robot we cannot achieve the goal.

KAZIND-21

WHY IN NEWS
- As part of military diplomacy and strengthen the growing strategic relation with Kazakhstan, the 5th edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, "KAZIND-21" will be conducted at Training Node, Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan from August 30 to September 11.

ABOUT
- The exercise is a joint training between both Indian and Kazakhstan Armies.

ADVANTAGES
- The exercise will provide an opportunity to enhance inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Security Operations.

CONCLUSION
- It will help boost ties between both the countries.

VIKRANT

WHY IN NEWS
- Indigenous build Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' send for sea trials in the Indian Ocean.

ABOUT
- Indigenously build Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' was designed by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design(DND) and is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited(CSL), which is a Public Sector unit of Shipyard under Ministry of Shipping(MoS).
- This is the trial attempt of the Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier.
- The 'Vikrant' Aircraft Carrier is 262 m long, 62 m at the widest part and height of 59 m including the superstructure.
- There are total 14 decks at all, including five in the superstructure.
- The ship has over 2,300 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1700 people, including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers.
- The ship has been designed with a very high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability.
- 'Vikrant' has a top speed of around 28 knots and cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles.
- The ship can accommodate an assortment of fixed wing and rotary aircraft.

ADVANTAGES
- Aircraft making need heavy investment.
- Which requires high degree of advanced technology, successful trial will put India into line of advance navy technology capable country.
- It will save millions of rupees which, when we buy from foreign country.

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CONCLUSION
- It is one of the good step to boost make in India and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat`compaign as the carrier has used 76% indigenous component.
- It will help India less relied for carrier on foreign county.

VIGRAHA

WHY IN NEWS
- Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has commissioned indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship Vigraha.

ABOUT
- ICGS Vigraha is seventh in the series of Offshore Patrol Vessels
- It is Indigenously built by L&T Ship Building Limited
- It is fitted with advanced fire power system.
- It has been designed to carry one twin-engine Helicopter & four high speed boats.
- It will be based in Visakhapatnam & operate on eastern seaboard
- Vigraha is 98-meter long OPV, with a complement of 11 officers and 110 sailors.
- It is fitted with advanced technology radars, navigation & communication equipment, sensors and machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions.
- The vessel is armed with a 40/60 Bofors gun and fitted with two 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun with fire control system.
- The ship is also equipped with integrated bridge system, integrated platform management system, automated power management system and high-power external fire-fighting system.

ADVANTAGES
- It will save millions of rupees which, when we buy from foreign country.
- It will boost make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign.
- It will reduce India's dependence on the foreign country for its security.

CONCLUSION
- It is the step in the direction of India's achieving self-sufficiency in defence.

MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD

WHY IN NEWS
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be called as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: PM

ABOUT
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- It is the highest sporting honour of the Republic of India in Sports and Games.
- It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The recipient(s) is/are selected by a committee constituted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. And is honoured for their "spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years" at international level.
- As of 2020, the award comprises a medal and certificate, and a cash prize of ₹25 lakh (US$35,000).
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award Instituted in 1991–1992, the award was given for the performance by a sportsperson in a year.
- It recognise performance and labour of sportsperson.

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ABOUT MAJOR DHYAN CHAND

- Major Dhyan Chand (29 August 1905 – 3 December 1979) was a greatest player in the history of the sport hockey.
- He was known for his extraordinary goal-scoring, and win three Olympic gold medals, in 1928, 1932 and 1936.
- His influence extended beyond these victories, as India won the hockey in seven out of eight Olympics from 1928 to 1964 .

CHALLENGES

- To keep award without any favour and dispute across the games and player.

CONCLUSION

- It is important award which encourage our young talent to increase performance in their respective field.

CYCLONE YAAS

WHY IN NEWS

- Farmers affected by Cyclone Yaas

ABOUT CYCLONE

- A cyclone is a large scale air mass that rotates around a strong centre of low atmospheric pressure, Anti clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas (Arabic pronunciation was a relatively strong and very damaging tropical cyclone that made landfall in Odisha and brought significant impacts to West Bengal and Jharkhand during late May 2021.

CHALLENGES

- Affects economic activity.
- Damage man and animal along with infrastructure.
- Damage environment by flood and uprooting trees.

NAMING OF CYCLONE

- 'Yaas' (pronounced as Yass) got its name from Oman

The guidelines to name the cyclones are as follows:
1. The proposed name must be neutral to politics and political figures, religious beliefs, cultures and genders.
2. It must not hurt the sentiments of any group of people across the world.
3. It must not be rude and cruel in nature.
4. The name must be short, easy to pronounce and inoffensive to any member.
5. It must be of a maximum of eight letters and be given with its pronunciation and voice over.
6. The names of cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean will not be repeated. Once used, it will cease to be used again.

NATIONAL TRUST ACT, 1999

WHY IN NEWS

- The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, department Of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, ministry of

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Social Justice & Empowerment had organized a meeting with Govt. Officials, NGOs, parents and professionals from UT's of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and for implementation of National Trust Act, 1999 in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

ABOUT

The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities act 1999, make National Trust to enable persons with disability to live independently by
- (i)   promoting measures for their protection in case of death of their parents
- (ii)   evolving procedures for appointment of their guardians and trustees
- (iii)   Facilitating equal opportunities in society.

Officers visited to J & k for implementing National trust act as soon as possible after division of J&K state into UT of J & k and Ladakh.
- For this officials meet with civil societies, govt. officers and other stakeholders for implement of the act.
- As soon as possible because due to Covid-19 the divyangjan faces more difficulty in living independently.
- Persons with Disabilities should also aware about scheme for taking benefit of the scheme.

OTHER INDIAN INITIATIVE FOR HELPING PWD
- As India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- India ratified the Convention on 2007.
- India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India in November 2015.
- 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. was parts of easiness of the of Pwd.

BENEFITS
- It help Persons with Disabilities to have equal opportunity which normal people get**.**

CHALLENGES
- Implementing the scheme at grass root level.

CONCLUSION
- It is the good step towards empowering Persons with Disabilities so that they can achieve its dream and contribute in nation building.

OPERATION BLUE FREEDOM

WHY IN NEWS
- People with disabilities from across the country will undertake an expedition till Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record under **Operation Blue Freedom.**
- The team of people are largest group with disabilities who has to reach the world's highest battlefield at Siachen glacier.

ABOUT
- People with disabilities from across the country will undertake an expedition till Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record with the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.

- Recently, the Government of India has given permission to the team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.
- The team of people with disabilities trained by 'Team CLAW' a team of Armed Forces veterans.
- The selection of people with disabilities has been done across the country will undertake an expedition till Kumar Post (Siachen Glacier) to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.
- The successful execution of this pioneering expedition, 'Operation Blue Freedom', shall firmly place India on the global stage as a leader in empowering Divyangjan and set a benchmark for other nations to emulate.

CHALLENGES
- The challenge is that divyangjan who faces problem in normal situations have to cross harsh cold and one of the high mountains.

CONCLUSION
- The government has taken this initiative in good faith and keeping in mind that this will boost morale of person with disability across the world.

EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME
WHY IN NEWS
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was announced by the government as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package in 2020.
- The objective of the policy was to help businesses including MSMEs to meet their operational liabilities and resume businesses in view of the distress caused by the COVID-19 crisis, by providing Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), 100 percent guarantee against any losses suffered by them due to non-repayment of the ECLGS funding by borrowers.
- Currently in news because 2020 scheme even continued in 2nd wave of covid-19

ABOUT
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) will help businesses and MSME to work and paid liability in long term. Govt. is giving 100% guaranteed by the government if businesses not able to pay.

The eligibility criteria for availing credit under ECLGS are:
- For ECLGS 1.0 , MSME units, Business Enterprises, Mudra Borrower and individual loans for business purpose having loan outstanding upto Rs.50 crore and days past due upto 60 days as on 29.02.2020.
- For ECLGS 2.0; Borrower belonging to 26 stressed sectors identified by Kamath Committee & Healthcare sector having loan outstanding above Rs.50 crore and upto Rs.500 crore and days past due upto 60 days as on 29.02.2020.
- For ECLGS 3.0; Borrower belonging to Hospitality, Travel & Tourism, Leisure & Sporting and Civil Aviation sector having days past due upto 60 days as on 29.02.2020.
- For ECLGS 4.0; Existing Hospitals/Nursing Homes/Clinics/Medical Colleges/units engaged in manufacturing of liquid oxygen, oxygen cylinders etc. having credit facility with a lending institution with days past due upto 90 days as on March 31, 2021.
- The overall ceiling initially announced for ECLGS was Rs 3 lakh crore which was subsequently enhanced to Rs 4.5 lakh crore.

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BENEFITS
- Help MSME to again start business as usual.
- The businesses will help in getting employment to the unemployed person who have lost their job due to Covid**.**

CONCLUSION
- This is good step to support businesses without giving them free reverie but help them the ability to recover.

FOUR MORE SITES OF INDIA ADDED TO RAMSAR LIST AS WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

WHY IN NEWS
- Four more wetlands from India get recognition from the Ramsar Secretariat as Ramsar sites. These sites are Thol and Wadhwana from Gujarat and Sultanpur and Bhindawas from Haryana.
- With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,083,322 hectares.
- While Haryana gets its first Ramsar sites, Gujarat gets three more after Nalsarovar which was declared in 2012.

ABOUT
- Wetlands provide a wide range of important resources and ecosystem services such as food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood moderation, erosion control and climate regulation.
- They are, in fact, are a major source of water and our main supply of freshwater comes from an array of wetlands which help soak rainfall and recharge groundwater.

AIM
- The aim of the Ramsar list is "to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits".

NEW SITES
- **BHINDAWAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**, the largest wetland in Haryana is a human-made freshwater wetland.
- Over 250 bird species use the sanctuary throughout the year as a resting and roosting site.
- The site supports more than ten globally threatened species including the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Black-bellied Tern.
- **SULTANPUR NATIONAL PARK** from Haryana supports more than 220 species of resident, winter migratory and local migratory waterbirds at critical stages of their life cycles.
- More than ten of these are globally threatened, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing, and the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Black-bellied Tern.
- **THOL LAKE** Wildlife Sanctuary from Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found here.
- The wetland supports more 30 threatened waterbird species, such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing , and the vulnerable Sarus Crane, Common Pochard and Lesser White-fronted Goose.

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- **WADHVANA WETLAND** from Gujarat is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway.
- They include some threatened or near-threatened species such as the endangered Pallas's fish-Eagle, the vulnerable Common Pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck.

PARTITION HORRORS REMEMBRANCE DAY

WHY IN NEWS
- Prime Minister declares 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day to be observed every year.

ABOUT
- India's partition into 2 countries, India and Pakistan in a very less time led to cruel bloodshed horror for the people.
- The horror was mainly due to enmity among communities.
- It was the result of divide and rule policy of the colonial government.

CONCLUSION
- We should learn from horror events but at the same time we should not develop hate towards any community or person, for cruel act of the past.

RAJBHASHA KIRTI AWARD

WHY IN NEWS
- Deendayal Port Trust, consecutively second time, bagged the highest "Rajbhasha Kirti Award (Third prize in 'B' region)" for the year 2020-21.

ABOUT
- Rajbhasha Kirti Award is the prize for the implementation of Official Language Policy of Government of India in the institution.
- Deendayal Port Trust, located in Kandla, in Kutch district of Gujarat.
- It is Located on the Gulf of Kutch, it is one of major ports on the western coast.
- Kandla Port was constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving Western India, due to the partition of India leaving the port of Karachi in Pakistan.
- It is the largest port of India by volume of cargo handled. Kandla Port Trust, India's busiest major port in recent years.
- The Kandla port renamed as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in the year 2017.

BENEFITS
- The prize incentivises institutions to implement official language in the institution properly.
- It will help promotion of official language.

SONCHIRAIYA

WHY IN NEWS
- MoHUA launches one brand -'SonChiraiya' - for Urban SHG products
- Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, ShriDurga Shanker Mishra, launched 'SonChiraiya' – (A brand and logo) - for marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- Logo was part of State Urban Livelihoods Missions.

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BENEFITS
- It will help urban Self-Help Group (SHG) to sell its products with unique identity.
- It help the SHG to register e-commerce website easily and sell its product.
- The logo will benefit Over 5.7 lakh SHGs across various States/ UTs with 60 lakh members.
- It will help unique recognition of Over 2,000 products.

STARTING OF FREIGHT TRAINS VIA RESTORED HALDIBARI (INDIA) – CHILAHATI (BANGLADESH) RAIL LINK

WHY IN NEWS
- Starting of freight trains between Haldibari (India) – Chilahati (Bangladesh).

ABOUT
- It is a significant step to boost railway connectivity between India and Bangladesh the Haldibari (India)-Chilahati (Bangladesh) rail link was reopened by both the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh.
- The route was closed from time Bangladesh liberation war in 1971.

BENEFITS
- Increase the people to people connectivity.
- Increase the trade between both the countries.

CONCLUSION
- This route will benefit both the countries, but we should vigilant that the route will not use for illegal activities.

COIR GEO-TEXTILES

WHY IN NEWS
96.69 Km roads constructed using coir geo-textiles in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

ABOUT
- 96.69 Km roads constructed using coir geo-textiles in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu which is locally green material which are used in road construction under PMGSY.
- In order to encourage locally available materials and use of green technologies, guidelines were issued by the Ministry in May 2013, whereas the State Governments are required to propose minimum 15% of total length of annual proposals under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) under new technologies such as cement stabilization, lime stabilization, cold mix, waste plastics, cell filled concrete, panelled cement concrete pavement, fly ash, coir geo-textiles, etc.

BENEFITS
- It is locally available green material.
- The strength of road is maintained even in low construction cost.

KUTHIRAN TUNNEL

WHY IN NEWS
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari instructed to open one side of the Kuthiran Tunnel in Kerala.

ABOUT
- Kuthiran Tunnel is a twin-tube highway tunnel in the Southern parts of Indian state of Kerala.
- The tunnel is located on the National Highway 544 and it is owned and operated by the National Highways Authority of India.
- This is first-ever tunnel for road transport in Kerala's, South India's longest six-lane road tunnel.
- Construction of the tunnel started in 2016 but it is not completed yet.
- Kuthiran tunnel is situated in the Kuthiran Hills, it is situated in the western part of Annamalai Hills. The hills are a notified Wild Life Sanctuary.
- Tunnel passes through Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary.

BENEFITS
- It will reduce travel time between Thrissur-Palakkad stretch of the National Highway 544 which was very narrow pass, which led to congestion and traffic jam.
- It will reduce distance of 3 km between Kochi to Coimbatore.

CONCLUSION
- The tunnel will help reducing time and distance along with curtailing the pollution due to jam.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA LAUNCHED MOBILE APP

WHY IN NEWS
- Geological Survey of India launched Mobile App. It is Innovative Step towards Making GSI Digitally Accessible by the people.

ABOUT
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) is a scientific agency founded in 1851, it comes under Ministry of Mines Government of India.
- One of the oldest of organisations of its kind in the world and the second oldest survey in India after Survey of India (founded in 1767), for conducting geological surveys and studies of India, and also as the prime provider of basic earth science information to government, industry and general public, as well as the official participant in steel, coal, metals, cement, power industries and international geoscientific forums.

BENEFITS
- It will also provide knowledge about India's mineral resources.

CONCLUSION
- It is one step forward in digital India complain which will benefit masses but at the same time misusing challenges should be keep in mind.

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ADI-PRASHIKSHAN PORTAL

WHY IN NEWS
- Tribal affairs Ministry has launched 'Adi-Prashikshan Portal' to create an end-to-end centralized online interactive training platform on tribal development

ABOUT
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has launched 'Adi-Prashikshan Portal' to act as a central repository for all training programs conducted by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), National Society for Education of Tribal Students (NESTS) and other organizations funded by the Ministry for strengthening the capacities (in terms of knowledge, skills, attitude) of government functionaries, ST PRI members, Teachers, SHG women, Youth and Tribal Communities.
- The main objective of the portal is to create an end-to-end centralized online interactive training platform on tribal development which brings together training organizers, thematic experts/resource persons, master trainers, trainees and training material at one place.
- All Tribal Research Institutes including Gujarat Tribal Research & training Society, Gandhinagar have been given training on the functionality of the portal.
- All trainers, trainees and master trainers related to the training programs organized or funded by the Ministry are required to be registered through the portal.

E-SHRAM PORTAL

WHY IN NEWS
- Government to launch e-Shram portal – National Database on Unorganized Workers (NDUW)

ABOUT
- E-Shram portal, will identify unorganized workers `Shram Yogis' Minister for Labour and Employment is the nodal agency.
- It will help welfare schemes to their doorstep, who are the builders of our Nation i.e. Shram Yogis'.
- Identification of unorganised workers will help government to take appropriate policy for their upliftment.

YUKTDHARA

WHY IN NEWS
- Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj minister Giriraj Singh launched Yuktdhara GIS-based planning Portal.

ABOUT
- Yuktdhara is GIS based portal which will help Ministries and Departments to see the geographical location of planned assets on a map in the web-based system.
- Yuktdhara portal will help department and ministry to plan monitor and improvement of project on ground through GIS based system.
- It will work like a pool resource from where ministry/department observe holistic development.

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