

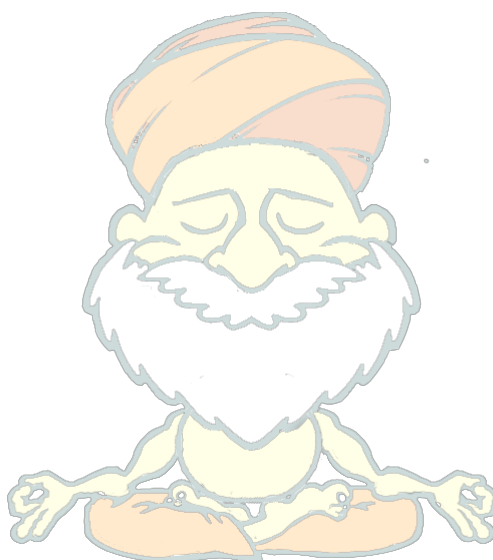


# **IASBABA'S PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME (PEP) 2021**

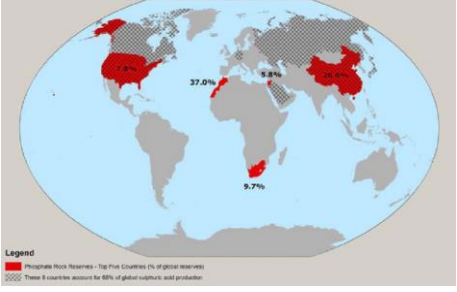
**CURRENT AFFAIRS HANDOUTS  
JANUARY 2020**



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## GEOGRAPHY & PLACES IN NEWS




Topic	Key Aspects	Value Addition
<b>Phosphorus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> Phosphorus, which is present in DNA and cell membranes of all living organisms, may have been delivered by comet strikes billions of years ago.</li> <li>• It is the second most abundant mineral in the body (mostly found in bones &amp; teeth) and makes up 1% of the person's total body weight</li> <li>• In minerals, phosphorus generally occurs as phosphate.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of economic phosphorus reserves in the top five countries containing 90% of the capacity (marked in Red) including the 8 countries that dominate sulphuric acid production.</li> <li>• The top five phosphate rocks holders — Morocco and Western Sahara, China, Algeria, Syria, and Brazil — account for 84 per cent of the world reserves.</li> </ul>
<b>Ghataprabha River</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a tributary of Krishna river that flows in Karnataka</li> <li>• Ghataprabha has a hydroelectric and irrigational dam at Hidkal, Karnataka</li> <li>• Krishna is the second largest river in peninsular India</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krishna river rises in the Western Ghats at an altitude of 1337m. near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.</li> <li>• Krishna flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and finally drains into the Bay of Bengal.</li> </ul>
<b>Mandu Festival</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandu Utsav was celebrated in Dhar, <b>Madhya Pradesh</b> from 28<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.</li> <li>• The festival is the amalgamation of cultural activities as well as adventure sports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandu City is a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh and adorned with <b>Afghan architecture</b> surrounded by baobab trees, native to Africa.</li> </ul>
<b>Dnyanganga Wildlife Sanctuary</b>  <b>In News:</b> A Tiger travelled 1300km distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Dnyanganga Sanctuary is situated in the Buldhana district of <b>Maharashtra</b>.</li> <li>• It is a part of the Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tipeswar Tiger Reserve is located in Yawatmal (Maharashtra)</li> <li>• The rivers such as Purna, Krishna, Bhima, and Tapti flow through this Tiger Reserve.</li> </ul>


between Maharashtra and Telangana passing through Dnyanganga Wildlife Sanctuary & Tipeswar Tiger reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is located near the Dnyanganga River which is a <b>tributary of the Tapti River</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the presence of a sufficient quantity of water, it is also popularly known as <b>Green Oasis</b> of Maharashtra.</li> </ul>
<b>Black Sea</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In News:</b> Russia launches missiles in Black Sea during naval drills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Black Sea a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean, is located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia</li> <li>Neighbouring countries: It is bordered by six countries – Romania and Bulgaria to the west; Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia to the north and east; and Turkey to the south.</li> <li>Five major rivers empty into the Black Sea, the largest of which is the <b>Danube River</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Bosphorus Strait</b> connects Black sea to the Sea of Marmara</li> <li>The Black Sea is also connected to the Sea of Azov by the <b>Strait of Kerch</b>.</li> <li>The Black Sea is the world's largest body of water with a <b>meromictic basin</b>. A meromictic lake has layers of water that do not intermix.</li> </ul> 
<b>Z-Morh Tunnel &amp; Zoji-la Tunnel</b> <p><b>In News:</b> Concession Agreement was signed for completing the 6.5-kilometre long Z-Morh tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Z-Morh Tunnel will provide all-weather road connectivity to <b>between Srinagar and Kargil in Ladakh region</b> of India.</li> <li>The tunnel gets its name from its Z formation between Sonamarg and Gagangir.</li> <li>The tunnel would avoid the regions of snowfall and avalanches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along with <b>Zoji-la Tunnel</b> (which is 22 km from Z-Morh tunnel towards Leh), the Z-Morh tunnel will ensure year-long road connectivity between Srinagar and Kargil which currently remains closed for about seven months due to snow.</li> </ul>
<b>Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a <b>landlocked exclave</b> of the <b>Republic of Azerbaijan</b>.</li> <li>It is an autonomous area of Azerbaijan, governed by its own elected legislature.</li> <li>It borders <b>Armenia</b> to the east &amp; North, <b>Iran</b> to the South &amp; East and <b>Turkey</b> to the North-West</li> <li>An <b>exclave</b> is a portion of a state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlike an enclave, an exclave can be surrounded by several states</li> </ul> 



	separated from the main part by surrounding alien territory (of one or more states)	
<b>Anchar Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in the city of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.</li> <li>The lake is connected with the famous Dal Lake via a channel "Amir Khan Nallah"</li> <li>In case of flooding, the excessive water of Dal is diverted here.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like the Dal lake and Wular Lake, it is <b>home to the Hanji community</b> which live near the lake in an area called as Anchar among the locals</li> <li>Over the years Anchar Lake has deteriorated owing to pollution, large scale encroachment, and illegal constructions in its surroundings.</li> </ul>
<b>Krishnapatnam Port</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Krishnapatnam Port is located in Nellore District in <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>.</li> <li>The Port has been named so as <b>the Vijayanagar Emperor, Sri Krishnadevaraya</b> used to operate this port.</li> <li>In the 1980s, the Government of India declared the Port as a 'minor port'</li> <li>The Union Government is responsible for development of 12 Major ports whereas minor ports are under the jurisdiction of respective State Governments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vijayanagar empire was founded in 1336 AD by Harihara and Bukka of Sangama dynasty.</li> <li>It stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula.</li> <li>Vijayanagar Empire was ruled by four important dynasties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sangama</li> <li>Saluva</li> <li>Tuluva</li> <li>Aravidu</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Krishnadevaraya (1509-29)</b> of the <b>Tuluva dynasty</b>, composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the <b>Amuktamalyada</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Sonowal Kacharis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sonowal Kachari are one of the <b>Indigenous peoples of the state of Assam</b></li> <li>They are of Tibeto-Burman origin, and are closely associated with the other ethnic groups of Assam which are commonly referred to as <b>Bodo race</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are accorded Scheduled Tribe Status in Assam.</li> <li>In 2019, they were provided with Permanent Residence certificate in Arunachal Pradesh, as they are generally considered as non-native communities in Arunachal Pradesh.</li> </ul>
<b>Sirte</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In News:</b> Forces aligned with Libya's internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) withdrew from the strategic <b>coastal city of Sirte</b> to avoid bloodshed, after their eastern rivals rapidly entered and took control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UN-backed government is supported by Turkey and its ally Qatar, while Gen Haftar is backed by Egypt and the UAE.</li> <li>Libya has been torn by violence since long-time, ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011 by NATO-backed forces.</li> </ul>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sirte is a City in Libya located on the Mediterranean coast</li> <li>• It was also the site of <b>Muammar Gaddafi's death</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Bibi Ka Maqbara</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is located in Aurangabad, <b>Maharashtra</b>.</li> <li>• It was commissioned by Emperor <b>Aurangzeb</b> in 1660 in the memory of his wife Dilras Banu Begum.</li> <li>• The domes, minarets and the marble screens inside are built in <b>marble</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The structure is known as the '<b>Taj of the Deccan</b>' because of its striking resemblance to the Taj Mahal.</li> </ul> 
<b>Lamu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> Islamist militant group al-Shabab attacked Camp Simba in the popular coastal region of <b>Lamu</b></li> <li>• Lamu town is situated on the coast of <b>Kenya</b> and is a <b>UNESCO World Heritage site</b>.</li> <li>• Camp Simba is used by Kenyan and US forces to fight against Al-Shabab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Al-Shabab is linked to al-Qaeda and is headquartered in Somalia.</li> </ul> 
<b>Mahadei Wildlife Sanctuary – Goa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary formed in 1999 is located in <b>North Goa</b></li> <li>• It has been declared an <b>International Bird Area</b> because of the presence of the Nilgiri wood-pigeon, Malabar parakeet, Malabar grey hornbill etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owing to the presence of Bengal Tigers, it can be declared as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger.</li> <li>• The Mhadei River, known downstream as the Mandovi River, the lifeline of the state of Goa, originates in Karnataka, passes through the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and meets the Arabian Sea</li> </ul>
<b>Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY Lands)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a large, sparsely populated local government area for <b>Aboriginal Australians</b>, located in the remote north west of South <b>Australia</b></li> <li>• A large portion of it was formerly the <b>North-West Aboriginal Reserve</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra anangu are indigenous groups who inhabit these lands.</li> </ul>

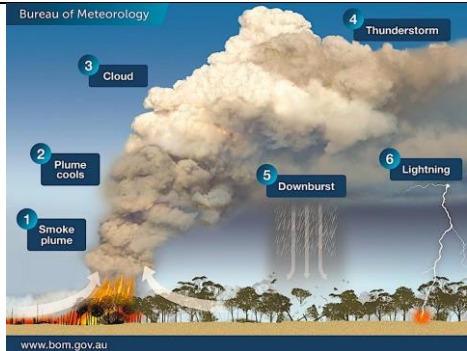
		
<b>Al-Asad and Erbil</b>  <b>In News:</b> Tehran launched "tens" of surface-to-surface missiles at Iraq's Erbil and Al Asad airbases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Al-Asad and Erbil military bases are <b>located in Iraq</b></li> <li>Both these bases are being used as launch pad by US and coalition partners to fight against ISIS</li> <li>Al-Asad airbase was constructed in 1980s located in <b>Western Iraq</b></li> <li>Erbil airbase is located in <b>Iraqi Kurdistan</b>.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The attacks by Iran on these airbases was in response to the US assassination of Iranian military general Qassem Soleimani.</li> </ul>
<b>Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is <b>located in Goa</b></li> <li>It is predominantly moist <b>deciduous forests</b> with patches of semi-evergreen forest in the valleys.</li> <li>It has two important waterfalls namely, Savari and Mainapi.</li> <li>Notable fauna in this sanctuary are Leopard, Giant Squirrel, Mouse Deer, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon and Ceylon Frogmouth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Netravati Wildlife Sanctuary is bounded by Cotigao wildlife sanctuary on the eastern side and Bhagwan Mahaveer wildlife sanctuary on the northern side.</li> <li>People/activists from Goa have been demanding it be notified as a tiger reserve.</li> </ul> 
<b>Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is <b>located in GOA</b></li> <li>It was established in 1968-69 to protect a remote and vulnerable area of forest lining the Goa- Karnataka border.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vegetation is mostly moist-deciduous type, interspersed with semi-evergreen and evergreen patches.</li> <li>People/activists from Goa have been demanding it be notified as a tiger reserve.</li> </ul>
<b>Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries of <b>Goa</b> and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sanctuary is heavily forested and contains tropical evergreen</li> </ul>

	<p>contains within it the <b>Mollem National Park</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was formed to protect the vast biodiversity of the <b>Western Ghat</b>.</li> <li>• Originally known as the Mollem Game Sanctuary, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1969 and thence renamed the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary.</li> </ul>	<p>forests, semi-evergreen forests and moist deciduous forests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People/activists from Goa have been demanding it be notified as a tiger reserve.</li> </ul>
<b>Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a protected area in the Western Ghats in Karnataka</li> <li>• Mahadayi river, originates in Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary</li> <li>• It consists of tropical and sub-tropical forest areas</li> <li>• The forests are a <b>part of vital tiger corridors</b> – one linking the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra and the other linking Dandeli and the Molem Wildlife Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bhimgad forests are notable for the <b>Barapede Caves</b>, the only known breeding area of the Wroughton's free-tailed bat, a threatened species on the verge of extinction.</li> </ul>  <p>Location in Karnataka, India</p>
<p><b>Bojjannakonda</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Due to efforts of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), the stone pelting ritual is almost stopped in Bojjannakonda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bojjannakonda and Lingalakonda are two Buddhist rock-cut caves situated in <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> near Vishakhapatnam</li> <li>• The sites are believed to date between 4th and 9th Century A.D.</li> <li>• On the <b>Kanuma day</b> (4<sup>th</sup> day) during Sankranti, the villagers used to pelt stones at a belly-shaped object in Bojjannakonda, believing it to be a part of a demon.</li> </ul>	<p>These sites have seen three forms of Buddhism –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Theravada</b> period when Lord Buddha was considered a teacher</li> <li>• <b>Mahayana</b>, where Buddhism was more devotional</li> <li>• <b>Vajrayana</b>, where Buddhist tradition was more practised as Tantra and esoteric form.</li> </ul> <p>Visakhapatnam is famous for <b>Buddhist sites at Thotlakonda, Appikonda, and Bavikonda too</b></p>
<b>Bhils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bhil are <b>one of the largest tribal groups</b>, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bhil are known to be excellent archers coupled with deep knowledge about their local geography</li> </ul>



	<p>Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name is derived from the word '<b>billu</b>', which means bow.</li> <li>• They speak the Bhil languages, a subgroup of the Western Zone of the Indo-Aryan languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, most of them today are farmers and agricultural labourers. They are also skilled sculptors.</li> </ul>
<b>Moghalmari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moghalmari is a Buddhist monastic site of the early medieval period in <b>West Bengal's</b> Paschim Medinipur district.</li> <li>• Famous Chinese traveller Xuanzang (known as <b>Huen Tsang</b>), who visited India in the 7th century CE, referred to the existence of 'ten monasteries' within the limits of <b>Tamralipta</b>. However, he did not refer to any specific name or location.</li> </ul>	<p>Study of inscription from excavations at Moghalmari have confirmed the presence of two monasteries —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mugalayikaviharika</li> <li>○ Yajñapindikamahavihara.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These monasteries at Moghalmari date from 6th century CE and were functional till the 12th century CE.</li> <li>• Tamralipta was the name of city in ancient India located on Bay of Bengal. The Tamluk town in present-day <b>West Bengal</b> is identified as the site of Tamralipta</li> </ul>
<b>Bru Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Brus, also referred to as the <b>Reangs</b>, are spread across the north-eastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.</li> <li>• In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.</li> <li>• They speak the Reang dialect of Kokborok language which is locally referred to as <b>Kau Bru</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• '<b>Buisu</b>', not 'bihu' is the most popular festival of Reang tribes.</li> <li>• Their <b>Hojagiri</b> folk dance is well known all over the world.</li> <li>• In Mizoram, Brus form the second largest ethnic group. However, they are not considered as indigenous to Mizoram which led to ethnic violence in 1997 and Brus taking refuge in neighbouring Tripura</li> </ul>
<b>Zaskar River</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> Tourists who were stranded in the icy heights of Zaskar River in Ladakh were rescued by the Army</li> <li>• The Zaskar River is a north-flowing tributary of the Indus.</li> <li>• This river 150km long originates from the high-altitude Plateau of Sarchu at the border of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zaskar river takes a north-eastern course through the dramatic Zaskar Gorge <b>until it joins the Indus near "Nimmu"</b> in Ladakh</li> <li>• The river is known for its gorges and adventure activities like rafting during summer months &amp; trekking (Ex Chadar trek) during winters months</li> </ul>

<p><b>Kuki Tribe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> Naga and Kuki Tribes Signs for Truce</li> <li>• The Kukis constitute one of several <b>hill tribes</b> within India, Bangladesh, and Burma.</li> <li>• Kuki tribe is majorly found in Manipur along with other states of North Eastern India</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>'Mim Kut'</b> is the main festival of the Kuki tribe.</li> <li>• The term Chin is used for the people in the neighbouring Chin state of Myanmar whereas Chins are called Kukis in the Indian side.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Karwar Port</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karwar is located in <b>Karnataka</b> at the Southern side of the <b>Kali River</b></li> <li>• It is the only <b>all-weather natural port</b> out of 10 minor ports of Karnataka.</li> <li>• It is sandwiched between the Arabian sea on one side and the Western Ghats on the other.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Kundavada lake and Kondajji Lake</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Kondajji lake has replaced Kundavada lake as the new nesting place for bar-headed geese</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kundavada lake is on the outskirts of Davangere city in <b>Karnataka</b> and source of drinking water for the city</li> <li>• Kundavada lake was the winter abode for many <b>bar-headed geese from Mongolia</b></li> <li>• The bar-headed geese, known for their ability to fly in extreme altitude and weather conditions, used to arrive at Kundavada lake in the third week of November.</li> <li>• However, change in the land use in Kundavada has prevented these birds from coming here.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the temperature declines in Mongolia in the last week of October, these birds migrate to comparatively warmer places in India.</li> <li>• Following the loss of habitat in Kundavada, the bar-headed geese have made the <b>Kondajji lake</b>, located in a forest 14 km from Davangere, their new abode.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pyrocumulonimbus clouds</b></p> <p>Also known as the cumulonimbus flammagenitus cloud (CbFg)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is a type of cumulonimbus cloud that forms above a source of heat, such as a wildfire or volcanic eruption</li> <li>• The pyrocumulonimbus clouds are essentially a thunderstorm that <b>forms from the smoke plume of a fire</b> as intense heat from the fire causes air to rise rapidly, drawing in cooler air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Australian bushfires generated "pyrocumulonimbus" clouds, which created their own thunderstorms that can start more fires (due to lightening)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the cloud climbs and then cools in the low temperatures of the upper atmosphere, the collisions of ice particles in the higher parts of the cloud <b>build up an electrical charge</b>, which can be released as lightning.</li> </ul>	 <p>The diagram illustrates the stages of a thunderstorm: 1. Smoke plume, 2. Plume cools, 3. Cloud, 4. Thunderstorm, 5. Downburst, 6. Lightning. Source: Bureau of Meteorology, www.bom.gov.au</p>
<b>Challakere</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In news:</b> Challakere to be ISRO's astronaut training hub</li> <li>Challakere will be the single-stop consolidating infrastructure and activities related to space travellers.</li> <li>Challakere is a shrubby, arid oilseeds town on the Bengaluru-Pune NH4 in <b>Karnataka</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everything connected with events and planning of the <b>Human Spaceflight Programme</b> will shift to ISRO campus at Challakere.</li> <li>Presently, four astronaut candidates for the first <b>Gaganyaan mission of 2022</b> are being trained in Russia.</li> </ul>
<b>Kamarajar Port</b>  <b>In News:</b> NGT slams Kamajar Port Ltd. for polluting Ennore Creek and imposes fine of Rs. 8.35 Crore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is Located on Coromandel Coast about 24 km <b>north of Chennai Port</b>.</li> <li>The port was declared as a <b>major port</b> under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 in Mar 1999</li> <li>The port was incorporated as Ennore Port Limited under the Companies Act, 1956 in October 1999.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kamarajar Port is the <b>only corporatized major port</b> and is registered as a company</li> <li>It is based on <b>Landlord Port model</b>, where port authority retains the port infra-structure and regulatory functions, whereas the port services are provided by private operators.</li> </ul>
<b>Nagoba Jatara</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nagoba Jatara is a tribal festival held in Keslapur village of Adilabad district in <b>Telangana</b>.</li> <li>The festival is also known as <b>Keslapur Jatara</b>.</li> <li>It is a huge religious and cultural event of the Boigutta branch of Mesram clan of the <b>aboriginal Raj Gond and Pradhan tribes</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the festival, the maha puja of serpent god Nagoba is held.</li> <li>Gonds, one of the largest tribal groups in the world, are subdivided into four tribes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raj Gonds</li> <li>Madia Gonds</li> <li>Dhurve Gonds</li> <li>Khatulwar Gonds</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Haram-esh-Sharif</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Temple Mount</b> known to Muslims as the Haram-esh-Sharif is a hill located in the <b>Old City of Jerusalem</b> that for thousands of years has been</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is revered by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, the location of Muhammad's journey to Jerusalem and ascent to heaven</li> </ul>

	<p>venerated as a holy site, in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam alike.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amongst Sunni Muslims, it is considered the third holiest site in Islam (after Mecca &amp; Medina)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to Jewish tradition and scripture the first temple by King Solomon was built in this place</li> </ul>
<b>Madhavpur Mela</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an annual fair held in Madhavpur Ghed in Porbandar district of <b>Gujarat</b></li> <li>• Madhavpur lies on the seashore, close to Porbandar.</li> <li>• A 15th century Madhavrai temple marks the site.</li> <li>• A colourful chariot carrying the idol of Lord Krishna circumnavigates the village and the festivities usually continue for five days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Madhavpur Ghed, a small but culturally significant village, is the place where, according to folklore, Lord Krishna married Rukmini, the daughter of King Bhishmaka.</li> <li>• This event is commemorated by a cultural fair held every year, commencing on Ram Navami</li> </ul>
<b>Satopanth Glacier</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> Scientific study carried out in Satopanth glacier in order to model the melting of debris-covered glaciers.</li> <li>• Satopanth glacier is located in Garhwal in Central Himalaya, in <b>Uttarakhand</b>.</li> <li>• It is the origin of the river <b>Alaknanda</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alaknana</b> is one of the two main tributaries of Ganga</li> <li>• The other tributary is <b>Bhagirathi</b>, which originates from the Gangotri glacier.</li> <li>• These two rivers join at <b>Devprayag</b>, around 70 km upstream of Rishikesh.</li> </ul>



## ECONOMY

Topic	Key Aspects	Value Addition
<b>FDI in Coal Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> Cabinet nod for ordinance enabling <b>FDI in Coal Mining</b>.</li> <li>• The decision was taken to boost domestic production of Coal to one billion tonnes by 2023-24 as it leads to cheaper inputs and increase in competitiveness.</li> <li>• Through the ordinance the “end-use restrictions” has been done away with allowing “anyone to participate in the auction of coal blocks”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the coal sector, for sale of coal, 100% FDI is now allowed under automatic route for coal mining, activities including associated processing infrastructure.</li> <li>• Ordinances are laws that are <b>promulgated by the President of India</b> on the <b>recommendation of the Union Cabinet</b>, which will have the same effect as an Act of Parliament.</li> <li>• They can only be issued when <b>Parliament is not in session</b>.</li> </ul>
The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> BEE has provided for New Energy Performance Standards for Room ACs- they should have a default temperature of 24°Celsius.</li> <li>• The BEE is a <b>statutory</b> body under the <b>Ministry of Power</b>, Government of India.</li> <li>• It develops policies and strategies with the objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BEE launched a voluntary star-labelling programme for fixed-speed Room ACs in 2006 and this programme became mandatory on January 12, 2009.</li> <li>• These star ratings are given out of 5 where <b>higher the rating, lower is the energy consumption</b></li> <li>• The star-labelling programme for Room ACs has led to saving of an estimated 4.6 billion units of energy in 2017-18</li> </ul>
<b>India's Model Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIT or Bilateral Investment Protection Agreements (BIPAs) are agreements between two countries for the <b>reciprocal promotion and protection of investments</b> in each other's territories by individuals and companies situated in either State</li> <li>• The government had brought a new Model BIT in 2016 and it became effective from April 2017 onwards, replacing the earlier 1993 framework</li> </ul>	<p>Some of the features of new Model BIT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enterprise based definition of investment</b> instead of asset-based definition.</li> <li>• <b>Exclusion of MFN treatment</b></li> <li>• <b>State government as stake holders:</b> Actions of the state Governments are included under the Model BIT</li> <li>• <b>Fair and equitable treatment</b> to international law. This is aimed to counter a broad interpretation and risk misuse</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main reason for bringing the Model BIT was the constant suing of the country by foreign firms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Non-Discriminatory treatment</b> for compensation of losses.</li> <li>• <b>Corporate Social Responsibility</b> mandates foreign investors to voluntarily adopt internationally recognized standards of corporate social responsibility.</li> <li>• <b>Conditions for initiating arbitrations at international arbitrations-</b> Investor can use outside remedies only five years after resorting to all domestic arrangements.</li> </ul>
<b>National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RBI has released NSFI for the period 2019-2024.</b></li> <li>• The strategy aims to strengthen the ecosystem for various modes of digital financial services in all Tier-II to Tier VI centres</li> <li>• And to create the necessary infrastructure to move towards a less-cash society by March 2022.</li> </ul>	<p>Some of other objectives in NSFI :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every adult had access to a financial service provider through a mobile device by March 2024.</li> <li>• Every willing and eligible adult, who has been enrolled under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana, be enrolled under an insurance scheme and a pension scheme by March 2020.</li> <li>• To make the Public Credit Registry fully operational by March 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Zeroing Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A country has the right to impose anti-dumping duties on foreign products that enter its market at prices lower than the normal value of the product on the foreign market.</li> <li>• Zeroing is a calculation methodology used by the <b>United States</b> to establish this anti-dumping duty.</li> <li>• However, <b>WTO rulings</b> have stated that this methodology will lead to increase in tariffs and hence held it as an <b>unfair trade practice</b>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example to illustrate Zeroing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China's Mobile handset has home market price of \$500 per piece</li> <li>• When exports the same handset to US at \$400 per piece, then it is a dumping with a margin of +\$100. In such a case, USA can impose anti-dumping duties</li> <li>• If China is charging \$600 from some of its exported handsets, then dumping margin is negative i.e. -+\$100.</li> <li>• Therefore, when China is selling half of its product at \$400 and the next half at \$600, the net dumping margin will be zero and here the US need not impose any anti-dumping duty.</li> <li>• However, USA's zeroing methodology <b>disregards all the</b></li> </ul>

		<p><b>negative dumping margins by considering them as zero.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the other hand, it imposes anti-dumping duties on imports where dumping margin is positive.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supervisory Action Framework (SAF)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In News:</b> RBI has revised the SAF for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).</li> <li>The move comes in the backdrop of the alleged irregularities in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank causing distress to over 9 lakh depositors.</li> <li>SAF is <b>similar to the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)</b> framework which is imposed on commercial banks.</li> <li>According to revised SAF, UCBs will face restrictions for worsening of <b>three parameters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) exceed <b>6% of net advances</b>,</li> <li>When losses are incurred for two consecutive financial years or losses have accumulated on the balance sheets, and</li> <li>If Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) falls below <b>9%.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Co-operative Banks</b> were born out of the concept of co-operative credit societies where members from a community group together to extend loans to each other, at favourable terms.</li> <li>Unlike commercial banks, UCBs are only partly regulated by the RBI.</li> <li>Their banking operations are regulated by the RBI, which lays down their capital adequacy, risk control and lending norms.</li> <li>However, their management and resolution in the case of distress is regulated by the <b>Registrar of Co-operative Societies</b> either under the State or Central government</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> UJALA and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) of the central government has completed five successful years on January 5, 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UJALA scheme was launched in 2015 to provide <b>LED bulbs</b> to domestic consumers with a target to replace 770 million incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs by March, 2019.</li> <li>The objective of UJALA is to <b>promote efficient lighting</b>, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment that will reduce electricity bills and preserve the environment.</li> <li>UJALA is implemented by <b>Energy Efficiency Services</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For domestic lights, EESL service model enables domestic households to procure LED lights at an affordable price of \$0.154/- each and the balance on easy instalment from their electricity bill.</li> <li>Through the UJALA initiative, over <b>36.13 crore LED bulbs have been distributed</b> across India.</li> <li>This has resulted in estimated energy savings of 46.92 billion kWh per year and an estimated</li> </ul>

	<b>Limited (EESL)</b> , a joint venture of PSUs under the <b>Ministry of Power</b> , Government of India.	GHG emission reduction of 38 million tonnes CO2 annually.
<b>Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> Indian Army has initiated the process of identifying potential industry partners to implement GOCO model for its base workshops and ordnance depots.</li> <li>• In GOCO model, the assets owned by government is operated by the private industries.</li> <li>• The private players are given full autonomy in implementing the vision set by the government, using their best practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was one of the recommendations of the <b>Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (Retd.) committee</b> to enhance combat capability and re-balancing defence expenditure.</li> <li>• The main advantage of the model is that it is efficient and will boost competitiveness among the private entities, while retaining the ownership with government.</li> </ul>
<b>Green Credit Scheme</b>  <b>In News:</b> The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has approved the Green Credit Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Credit Scheme allows agencies (private companies, village forest communities etc.) to identify land and grow plantations. After three years, the land would be eligible to be considered as compensatory forest land (upon meeting certain criteria)</li> <li>• An industry needing forest land could then approach the agency and pay it for parcels of such forested land and this would then be transferred to the Forest Department and be recorded as forest land.</li> <li>• The scheme allows “forests” to be traded as a commodity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the current system, industry needs to compensate the loss of forest acquired for its commercial activity by paying the Forest department a fee. The department is then responsible for reforestation on other patch of land acquired by industry.</li> <li>• Green Credit Scheme will allow the Forest Department to <b>outsource the responsibility of reforestation</b> to non-government agencies.</li> <li>• The scheme <b>helps fast track industrial projects</b> and enhances ease of doing business without compromising on the environmental assets of the Nation.</li> </ul>



## INTERNATIONAL

Topic	Key Aspects	Value Addition
<b>Hashed al-Shaabi</b> also known as <b>Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> A US strike killed top Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani and the deputy head of Iraq's Hashed al-Shaabi military force</li> <li>• <b>PMF is an Iraqi paramilitary force</b> with close ties to Iran.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMF is an umbrella military organization composed of approximately 40 militia groups which were predominantly Shia.</li> <li>• PMF is sponsored by Iran and was instrumental in the <b>defeat of ISIS</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A notice to airmen (NOTAM) is a notice filed with an aviation authority to alert aircraft pilots of potential hazards along a flight route or at a location that could affect the safety of the flight</li> <li>• The authority in turn provides a means of disseminating relevant NOTAMs to pilots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In January, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued a notice to airmen (NOTAM) to not permit landing and take-off for around two hours at the Delhi International Airport, in view of Republic Day preparations.</li> </ul>
<b>WHO - Year of the Nurse and Midwife</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The World Health Organization has declared 2020 the year of the nurse and midwife.</li> <li>• The International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife marks the <b>bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale</b>, the founder of modern nursing.</li> <li>• Besides preventing, diagnosing and treating diseases and providing expert care during childbirth, nurses and midwives also serve people caught in humanitarian emergencies and conflicts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, there are 22 million nurses and two million midwives worldwide, accounting for half of the global health workforce</li> <li>• According to WHO, world will need an additional nine million nurses and midwives to achieve the commitment of providing all people with access to health care by 2030.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement</b>  <b>In News:</b> Pakistan shares list of nuclear installations with India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is also known Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities</li> <li>• The agreement is a bilateral and nuclear weapons control treaty between <b>India and Pakistan</b>, on the reduction (or limitation) of nuclear arms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting in January 1992, India and Pakistan have annually exchanged lists of their respective military and civilian nuclear-related facilities.</li> <li>• The exchange is done each year on January 1.</li> <li>• The need for the agreement had been felt against the backdrop of Israel's 1981 bombing of Iraq's</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both pledged not to attack or assist foreign powers to attack on each's nuclear installations and facilities.</li> <li>The treaty was signed in 1988 by Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi &amp; Pakistan PM Benazir Bhutto</li> <li>It entered into force on January 27, 1991</li> </ul>	Osirak reactor near Baghdad. The strike, carried out by Israeli fighter jets over hostile airspace, had set Iraq's nuclear weapons programme significantly
<b>Yuelu Proclamation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In News:</b> Growing demand to include Tulu in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.</li> <li>It is a document on protection and promotion of the world's <b>linguistic diversity</b>.</li> <li>Yuelu Proclamation was adopted at the first international conference on language resources protection in Changsha, Central China's Hunan province in 2018 by <b>UNESCO</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It calls upon the international community, states, governments and non-governmental organizations, among others, to reach a consensus on the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity in the world.</li> </ul>
<b>Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between India and France</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In News:</b> Cabinet approves ratification of the said agreement</li> <li>The agreement is aimed at <b>enhancing people-to-people contacts</b>, fostering Mobility of students, academics, researchers and skilled professionals between India and France</li> <li>It will also help in strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Agreement was <b>signed in March, 2018</b> during the State Visit of the French President to India.</li> <li>The Agreement is initially valid for a period of seven years, incorporates provision for automatic renewal and a monitoring mechanism through a Joint Working Group.</li> </ul>
<b>Antarctic Treaty and Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antarctic is governed through consensus by an international consortium of nations through the <b>Antarctic Treaty System</b>.</li> <li>The Antarctic Treaty was <b>signed in Washington on 1 December 1959</b> by the twelve countries whose scientists had</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty prohibits the introduction of any non-native species, unless if is for scientific purposes and a permit has been issued.</li> </ul>

	<p>been active in and around Antarctica.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total number of Parties to the Treaty is now 54.</li> </ul> <p>Some important provisions of the Treaty</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only</li> <li>2. Freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica and cooperation toward that end shall continue</li> <li>3. Scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India officially acceded to the <b>Antarctic Treaty System on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1983</b></li> <li><b>Dakshin Gangotri</b> is the first Indian base established in Antarctica in 1984.</li> <li>The newest base commissioned in <b>2015 is Bharati</b></li> </ul>
<b>Levels and Trends in Child Mortality' report, 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is released by <b>UNICEF and United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)</b></li> <li>India's under-5 mortality of girls exceeded that of boys in 2018.</li> <li>The majority of child mortality cases in India are attributable to deaths during the neonatal period (birth to 1 month)</li> <li>India's neonatal mortality rate is 23 per 1,000 live births.</li> <li>In the post-neonatal period, the major direct causes of death are diarrhoea and pneumonia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One child or young adolescent died every five seconds in 2018.</li> <li>The vast majority of these deaths (85%) occur in the first 5 years of life, of which almost half (47%) happen during the first month, largely due to treatable causes such as infectious diseases.</li> <li>According to the report, half of all under-5 deaths in 2018 occurred in five countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Government of National Accord (GNA)</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Libya conflict: Turkey sends troops to shore up UN-backed government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GNA is an interim government for Libya</b> that was formed under the terms of the Libyan Political Agreement, a United Nations-led initiative, signed on 17 December 2015.</li> <li>Libya has been torn by violence since long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011 by NATO-backed forces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Libyan government is fighting an insurgency by rebel forces under Gen Khalifa Haftar, based in eastern Libya.</li> <li>Gen Haftar is backed by Egypt and the UAE</li> <li>While the UN-backed government is supported by Turkey and its ally Qatar.</li> </ul>
<b>Foreign Military Sales (FMS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In News:</b> AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to be made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purchaser does not deal directly with the defense</li> </ul>

	<p>in India. The \$ 930 million deal will be through the FMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FMS is <b>U.S. Department of Defense's</b> program that facilitates sales of U.S. arms, defense equipment, defense services, and military training to foreign governments.</li> </ul>	<p>contractor; instead, the <b>US Defense Security Cooperation Agency</b> serves as an intermediary, usually handling procurement, logistics and delivery and often providing product support, training, and infrastructure construction</p>
<b>Blue Dot Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted <b>standards for global infrastructure development</b>.</li> <li>The BDN was formally announced on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. It will be led by the <b>US along with Japan and Australia</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected to serve as a globally recognised evaluation and certification system for roads, ports and bridges with a <b>focus on the Indo-Pacific region</b>.</li> <li>Infrastructure projects would be graded on debt, environmental standards, labour standards etc</li> <li>It seems to be planned as a direct counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, unlike the BRI, the BDN would <b>not offer public funds or loans for the project</b></li> </ul>
<b>Safe Third Country Agreements by USA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the "safe third country" agreement, migrants have to apply for asylum in the first country they land in. If they fail to do so and proceed to the second country, they can be sent back to the first country.</li> <li>In 2019, the Trump administration signed "safe third country" agreements with the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guatemala is the only country which has implemented the agreement with USA so far.</li> <li>Unless migrants apply for protection in Guatemala before proceeding to the US, they are sent back to Guatemala.</li> </ul>
<b>Corruption Perceptions Index, 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is released by <b>Transparency International</b>, an international NGO based in Berlin</li> <li>The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The top countries</b> are New Zealand and Denmark, with scores of 87 each, followed by Finland (86), Singapore (85), Sweden (85) &amp; Switzerland (85).</li> <li><b>India's</b> ranking has slipped from 78 to 80 compared to the previous year. Its score of 41 out of 100 remains the same.</li> </ul>

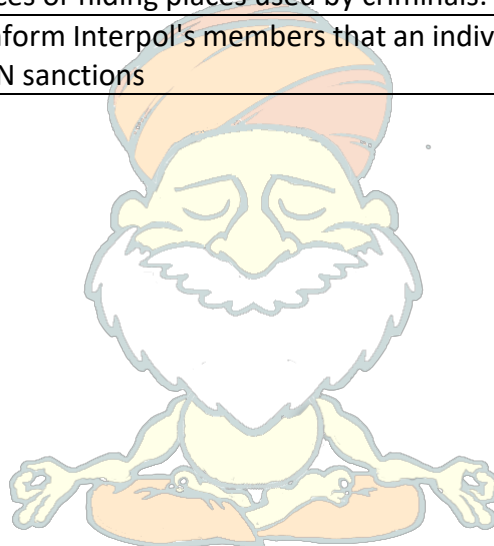


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>China</b> has improved its position from 87 to 80 with a score of 41 out of 100.</li> <li><b>The bottom countries</b> are Somalia, South Sudan and Syria with scores of 9, 12 and 13, respectively.</li> </ul>
<b>Sagarmatha Sambaad</b>  <b>In News:</b> Nepal has invited Indian PM to Sagarmatha Sambaad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an initiative of the <b>Government of Nepal</b> to host a permanent biennial global dialogue starting from 2020.</li> <li>It is a <b>multi-stakeholder dialogue forum</b> committed to deliberate on the most prominent issues of global, regional and national significance</li> <li>Its first edition will be held in Kathmandu from 2 - 4 April 2020 featuring the theme 'Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sambaad (dialogue) is named after the world's tallest mountain <b>Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest)</b> which is also a symbol of friendship and is meant to promote the notions of the common good and collective well-being of humanity.</li> <li>It is <b>expected to be the biggest diplomatic initiative</b> in Nepal's recent history.</li> </ul>
<b>Oslo Accords</b>  <b>In News:</b> Palestine has threatened to withdraw from key provisions of the Oslo Accords if the US announces its Middle East Peace Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oslo Accords are a series of agreements between <b>Israel and the Palestinians</b> signed in the 1990s.</li> <li><b>Oslo I (1993)</b> formally known as the Declaration of Principles (DOP) established a timetable for the Middle East peace process. It planned for an interim Palestinian government in Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank.</li> <li><b>Oslo II</b> officially called the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza (1995), expanded on Oslo I. It included             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisions for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from six West Bank cities and about 450 towns.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The interim pact was only supposed to <b>last five years</b> while a permanent agreement was finalised but it has tacitly been rolled over for more than two decades.</li> <li>The question of Jerusalem was left undecided under the Oslo Accords</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Timetable for elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council.</li> </ul>	
<b>International Maritime Organization (IMO) Rules 2020</b>  <b>In News:</b> On January 1, the IMO has issued new rules aiming to reduce sulphur emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMO has banned ships from using fuels with a <b>sulphur content above 0.5%</b>, compared with 3.5% previously.</li> <li>• Under the new policy, only ships fitted with sulphur-cleaning devices, known as scrubbers, are allowed to continue burning high-sulphur fuel</li> <li>• Alternatively, they can opt for cleaner fuels, such as marine gasoil (MGO) and very low-sulfur fuel oil (VLSFO).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new limits are monitored and enforced by national authorities of countries that are members of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI</li> <li>• The IMO is <b>not</b> responsible for enforcing its policies. There is <b>no enforcement mechanism</b> to implement the policies of the IMO.</li> <li>• Its main role is to create a <b>regulatory framework</b> for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.</li> </ul>
<b>MARPOL Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 at IMO.</li> <li>• It includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships from operational or accidental causes.</li> <li>• All ships flagged under countries that are signatories to MARPOL are subject to its requirements, regardless of where they sail and member nations are responsible for vessels registered on their national ship registry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARPOL Convention is formally known as International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.</li> <li>• <b>MARPOL</b> is short for maritime pollution</li> </ul>
<b>Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference</b>  <b>In News:</b> 5th Edition of Asia Pacific Drosophila Conference at Pune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is being organised in the country for the first time by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune</li> <li>• It is a <b>biennial conference</b> and it aims to promote the interaction of Drosophila researchers in the Asia-Pacific region with their peers in the rest of the world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drosophila is one of the most widely-used and preferred model organisms in <b>biological research</b> across the world for the last 100 years.</li> <li>• Its <b>genome</b> is <b>entirely sequenced</b> and there is enormous information available about its biochemistry, physiology and behaviour,</li> </ul>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Drosophila</i> is a genus of two-winged flies commonly known as <b>fruit flies</b>.</li> <li>• The last <b>four editions</b> of this conference took place in <b>Taipei, Seoul, Beijing and Osaka</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 60% of a group of readily identified genes that are mutated, amplified, or deleted in a diverse set of human diseases have a counterpart in <i>Drosophila</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020 (WESO) Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is released by <b>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</b></li> <li>• The annual WESO Trends report analyses key labour market issues, including unemployment, labour underutilisation, working poverty, income inequality, labour income share and factors that exclude people from decent work.</li> <li>• The number of people unemployed around the world stands at some 188 million</li> <li>• <b>Working poverty</b> is defined as earning less than USD 3.20 per day in purchasing power parity terms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Labour Organisation (ILO) was <b>created</b> in <b>1919</b>, as part of the <b>Treaty of Versailles</b> that ended World War I.</li> <li>• It became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.</li> <li>• It is a <b>tripartite organization</b>, the only one of its kind bringing together representatives of governments, employers and workers in its executive bodies.</li> <li>• India is a founder member of ILO</li> <li>• In <b>1969</b>, ILO received the <b>Nobel Peace Prize</b> for improving fraternity and peace among nations and pursuing decent work and justice for workers.</li> </ul>
<b>International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Notices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>INTERPOL Notices (color coded)</b> are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.</li> <li>• Notices can also be used by the UN, International Criminal Tribunals and the International Criminal Court to seek persons wanted for committing crimes within their jurisdiction, notably genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>INTERPOL</b> is an <b>intergovernmental organization</b> that helps coordinate the police force of 194 member countries.</li> <li>• Each of the member countries hosts an <b>INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)</b>. This connects their national law enforcement with other countries and with the General Secretariat.</li> <li>• <b>CBI</b> is designated as the INTERPOL NCB of India.</li> </ul>


Types of INTERPOL Notices	Objective
<b>Red Notice</b>	To seek the location and arrest of a person wanted by a judicial jurisdiction or an international tribunal with a view to his/her extradition. It is the "closest instrument to an international arrest warrant."
<b>Blue Notice</b>	To locate, identify or obtain information on a person of interest in a criminal investigation
<b>Green Notice</b>	To warn about a person's criminal activities if that person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
<b>Yellow Notice</b>	To locate a missing person or to identify a person unable to identify himself/herself
<b>Black Notice</b>	To seek information on unidentified bodies.
<b>Orange Notice</b>	To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing an imminent threat and danger to persons or property.
<b>Purple Notice</b>	To provide information on modus operandi, procedures, objects, devices or hiding places used by criminals.
<b>Interpol-UNSC Special Notice</b>	To inform Interpol's members that an individual or an entity is subject to UN sanctions


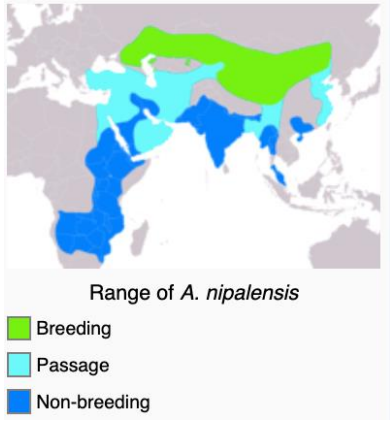









## ENVIRONMENT

Topic	Key Aspects	Value Addition
<b>Senna Spectabilis</b>  <b>In News:</b> Kerala takes steps to prevent the spread of Senna spectabilis in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senna Spectabilis is an <b>invasive plant species</b> found in India forests.</li> <li>It is native to native to South and Central America.</li> <li>Moreover, wildlife will <b>not feed on the leaf</b> of the tree as it is not palatable for them</li> <li>An adult tree grows up to 15 to 20 metres in a short period of time and distributes thousands of seeds after gregarious flowering.</li> <li>The thick foliage <b>arrests the growth of other indigenous</b> tree and grass species and causes food shortage for the wildlife population, especially herbivores.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plant has started to invade the adjacent Bandipur and Nagarhole tiger reserves in Karnataka and the Mudumalai tiger reserve in Tamil Nadu,</li> </ul> 
<b>One Trillion Trees Initiative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The initiative is launched by <b>World Economic Forum</b> in its 2020 meeting to grow, restore and conserve 1 trillion trees across the world by 2030.</li> <li>It is also aimed at uniting governments, NGOs, businesses and individuals in mass-scale nature restoration</li> <li>The global initiative is aimed at <b>restoring biodiversity</b> and help fight climate change.</li> </ul>	<b>One Trillion Trees: Key actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To unite and promote reforestation efforts worldwide.</li> <li>To mobilise funds and political support.</li> <li>To plant, restore and conserve trees and forests.</li> <li>To lock up carbon in the world's forests, grasslands and wetlands</li> <li>Even climate sceptic US President Trump has pledged to back its work.</li> </ul>
<b>Indian Skimmer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Skimmer (Rynchops albicollis) is a waterbird species.</li> <li>In India, the species can be sighted near the Chambal river in Central India, in few parts of Odisha and in Andhra Pradesh.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Godavari mangroves</b> is one among the few places where the Indian Skimmer can be spotted.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IUCN Red List Status-</b> Vulnerable.</li> <li>• <b>CITES Status:</b> Not listed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Coral Restoration in Gulf of Kachchh and Biorock Technology</b> (also known as Mineral Accretion Technology)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is attempting for the first time a process to restore coral reefs using <b>biorock technology</b>.</li> <li>• The technology works by passing a small amount of electrical current through structures (steel) lowered in sea.</li> <li>• Due to electric current flowing between them, calcium ions and carbonate ions in sea combine to form calcium carbonate and adhere to the structures</li> <li>• The formed material is similar to coral structures</li> <li>• Coral larvae adhere to the CaCO<sub>3</sub> and grow quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biorock, also known as Seacrete or Seament, refers to the substance formed by electro-accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater.</li> <li>• Biorock projects <b>can be powered by a wide range of electrical sources</b> including renewable energy like windmills, photovoltaic solar panels and tidal current generators</li> <li>• The calcification (conversion into calcium carbonate) has started in Gulf of Kachchh but real success will come when attached and new organisms (corals) start to grow faster.</li> <li>• India has four major coral reefs areas: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gulf of Mannar and the Gulf of Kachchh.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mugger Crocodile</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Mugger Crocodile is on the rise in <b>Odisha's Ghodahada reservoir.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mugger is an egg-laying and hole-nesting species.</li> <li>• It is mainly restricted to the Indian subcontinent</li> <li>• Found in a number of <b>freshwater habitat</b> types including rivers, lakes &amp; marshes and also in coastal <b>saltwater lagoons</b> and <b>estuaries</b>.</li> <li>• IUCN status: <b>Vulnerable</b></li> <li>• It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.</li> <li>• It is also listed under <b>CITES Appendix I</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ghodahada</b> reservoir is located close to the Lakhari Valley Sanctuary, Odisha and is a part of the Eastern Ghats.</li> <li>• Mugger is one of the three crocodile species found in Odisha, the others being <b>gharial in Satkosia</b> and Saltwater crocodile in Bhitarkanika.</li> <li>• Mugger is already <b>extinct</b> in Bhutan and Myanmar.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Steppe Eagle</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> A Steppe Eagle (<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>) has been sighted in Andhra Pradesh during Asian Bird Census.</li> <li>• The Steppe Eagle is a <b>migratory raptor</b> which has undergone extremely rapid population declines within all its range.</li> <li>• It breeds from Romania, Russia, Central Asian Steppes, and Mongolia</li> <li>• The bird winters in Africa and India</li> <li>• Throughout its range it favours open dry habitats, such as desert, semi-desert, steppes, or savannah.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bird has moved from 'Least Concern' to Endangered under IUCN Red List.</li> <li>• The steppe eagle has a crop in its throat allowing it to store food for several hours before being moved to the stomach.</li> </ul>  <p>Range of <i>A. nipalensis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Breeding</li> <li>■ Passage</li> <li>■ Non-breeding</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hydro-chloro-flouro carbon (HCFC)-141 b</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India has successfully phased out HCFC-141b</li> <li>• It is mainly used as a blowing agent in the <b>foam manufacturing industries</b>.</li> <li>• HCFC-141 b is not produced domestically and <b>all requirements were met through imports</b>.</li> <li>• HCFC-141 b is one of the most powerful ozone-depleting chemicals after Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Environment Ministry notified that the issuance of import license for HCFC-141b is prohibited from 01/01/2020 under Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019.</li> <li>• The rules have been issued under the <b>Environment (Protection) Act, 1986</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Irrawaddy dolphin</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> During the Dolphin Census in <b>Chilika lake</b>, direct sighting of 146 Irrawaddy dolphins has been reported</p> 	<p>They are found in coastal areas in <b>South and Southeast Asia</b>, and in three rivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrawaddy river in Myanmar</li> <li>• Mahakam river in Indonesia</li> <li>• Mekong river in China</li> <li>• Total estimated population of Irrawaddy dolphins in world is less than 7500</li> <li>• Status: <b>Endangered</b></li> <li>• Habitats: Lakes, Rivers, Estuaries, and Coasts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dolphin distribution in Chilika</b> is considered to be the <b>highest single lagoon population</b>.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Gangetic Dolphins</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ganges river dolphin was officially discovered in 1801.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ganges river dolphin <b>can only live in freshwater</b></li> </ul>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ganges river dolphins once lived in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.</li> <li>• But the species is extinct from most of its early distribution ranges.</li> <li>• IUCN Status: <b>Endangered</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are essentially <b>blind</b>.</li> <li>• They hunt by emitting <b>ultrasonic sounds</b>, which bounces off of fish and other prey, enabling them to “see” an image in their mind.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Brown-headed barbet</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The call of the Brown-headed Barbet is one of the most familiar sounds of India</li> <li>• They have the ability to walk vertically up and down the trunk and branches of a tree, hunting for insects</li> <li>• They are primarily frugivores (fruit eaters), but are often observed feeding on insects,</li> <li>• They have cavity-nesting behaviour and wood-pecking behaviour of making holes in trees (for nesting)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barbets are invariably mistaken to be woodpeckers, as they have similar characteristics.</li> <li>• The species is purely arboreal, living high from the ground in heavy foliage, making it hard to spot.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Ophichthus kailashchandrai: Snake Eel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a newly discovered snake eel species residing in <b>the Bay of Bengal</b></li> <li>• It has been named to honour the vast contributions of <b>Dr Kailash Chandra</b> (Director of Zoological Survey of India-ZSI) to Indian animal taxonomy.</li> <li>• It is the eighth species of the Ophichthus genus found on the Indian coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The discovery was made by the Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (regional centre of ZSI) at Gopalpur in Odisha.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Hominins and Homo Erectus</b></p> <p><b>In news:</b> The last known settlement of Homo erectus was situated in Ngandong on the Indonesian island of Java.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hominin</b> is any member of the zoological “tribe” Hominini (family Hominidae, order Primates), of which only one species exists today—Homo sapiens, or human beings.</li> <li>• Hominins are part of the family, or larger group of primates, called hominids.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Homo erectus</b> (meaning upright man) is an extinct species of the human genus (Homo), perhaps an ancestor of modern humans (Homo sapiens).</li> <li>• Homo erectus belongs to Hominini tribe</li> <li>• Fossil remains from H. erectus are found in Africa and Eurasia</li> </ul>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hominids</b> include orangutans, gorillas, chimpanzees, and human beings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies indicate H.Erectus had adapted to walking on two feet in a more open, grassland environment, rather than swinging from tree branch to branch.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tyler Prize-2020</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Indian environmental economist <b>Pavan Sukhdev</b> was awarded the 2020 Tyler Prize alongside conservation biologist Gretchen C Daily.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tyler prize is one of the first international premier environmental awards and is often described as <b>Nobel Prize for Environment</b></li> <li>• The Tyler Prize was established by the late John and Alice Tyler in 1973 and is administered by the University of Southern California.</li> <li>• It aims to recognise individuals who have made outstanding contribution to preserve and enhance the global environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavan Sukhdev was the lead expert on the first report of <b>The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)</b> published in 2008 as an initiative of UNEP.</li> <li>• This report became a foundation for the global Green Economy movement.</li> <li>• He was also the head of UNEP's '<b>Green Economy Initiative</b>'</li> <li>• For the first time, this initiative quantified the economic value of 'natural capital' and how moving towards a green economy could be a source of new employment and a means to alleviate poverty.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reintroduction of Cheetahs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme Court has lifted its seven-year-long stay on a proposal to introduce <b>African Cheetahs from Namibia</b> into the Indian habitat.</li> <li>• African Cheetah is bigger in size as compared to Asiatic Cheetah.</li> <li>• IUCN Status of African Cheetah- <b>Vulnerable</b></li> <li>• There are around 6,500-7,000 African cheetahs present in the wild.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Cheetahs are planned to be re-introduced into the <b>Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh</b> on an experimental basis.</li> <li>• In 1952, the Asiatic Cheetah was officially declared extinct from India</li> <li>• Only 40-50 Asiatic Cheetahs are estimated &amp; that too only in <b>Iran</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10 New Ramsar Sites added in India</b></p>	<p>These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maharashtra:</b> Nandur (state's first).</li> <li>• <b>Punjab:</b> Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal.</li> <li>• <b>Uttar Pradesh:</b> Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• <b>Montreux Record</b> under the Ramsar Convention is a register of</li> </ul>




	<p>Samaspur, Sandi and Sarsai Nawar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar for preserving the ecological character of wetlands.</li> <li>• Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected <b>under strict guidelines</b> of the convention</li> </ul>	<p>wetland sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, two wetlands of India are in Montreux record: Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur).</li> </ul>
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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Topic	Key Aspects	Value Addition
<p><b>Moderate resolution imaging spectroradiometer (MODIS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MODIS instrument is a polar orbiting, high temporal, moderate <b>spatial resolution optical sensor</b> that acquires remote sensing data for monitoring the Earth's land, ocean and atmosphere.</li> <li>• The MODIS instrument is currently on <b>board two NASA EOS satellites</b>: Terra, launched in 1999, and Aqua, launched in 2002.</li> <li>• Due to its enormous coverage, it enables us to monitor activities such as <b>active fires, land use change and volcanic activity</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MODIS provide complete daily coverage of the earth</li> <li>• MODIS is playing a vital role in the development of validated, global, interactive Earth system models able to predict global change accurately</li> </ul>
<p><b>Saras MK-2</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a light transport aircraft which is indigenously developed by <b>National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL)</b></li> <li>• The 19-seater aircraft, developed with a target cost of ₹50 crore, is at least 20-25% lower in cost than other aircraft in the similar category.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAL is been pitching Saras Mk-2 for the government's UDAN scheme since it has the capacity to operate in "ill-equipped", "semi-prepared" and "unpaved airstrips".</li> <li>• NAL is India's first largest and only government <b>aerospace R&amp;D</b> laboratory in the country's <b>civilian sector</b>.</li> <li>• NAL was established by the Council of Scientific and Industrial</li> </ul>

		Research ( <b>CSIR</b> ) at Delhi in 1959 and its headquarters was later moved to <b>Bangalore</b> in 1960.
<b>AK-203 assault rifles</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In News:</b> One lakh AK-203 rifles will be imported from Russia in the first phase while the remaining 6.5 lakh rifles will be manufactured in India (<b>Amethi Ordnance Factory</b>)</li> <li>• The AK-203 is a convertible rifle. It can be used in semi-automatic and automatic ways.</li> <li>• It can fire 600 bullets in a minute and ten bullets can be fired in a second.</li> <li>• Its new range will be up to 400 meters so that a soldier can hit a target from a long distance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be <b>manufactured in India</b> by a joint venture, <b>Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited</b>, established between the Ordnance Factory Board (50.5%), Kalashnikov Concern (42%), and Rosoboronexport (7.5%), the Russian state agency for military exports.</li> <li>• There is an agreement for complete Transfer of Technology and the provision for export is also included</li> <li>• The famous AK-47 is the most basic model, followed by 74, 56, 100 series, and 200 series.</li> </ul>
<b>Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India plans to bring in its own system of <b>space-to-space tracking and communication</b> of its space assets by putting up a new satellite series called IDRSS.</li> <li>• It is basically a set of satellites that will track, send and receive information from other satellites.</li> <li>• <b>The two-satellite IDRSS</b> is planned to track and be constantly in touch with Indian satellites, in particular those in low-earth orbits (LEO) which have limited coverage of earth</li> <li>• The first satellite will be sent towards the end of 2020. It will precede the pre-Gaganyaan experimental unmanned space flight.</li> <li>• The second one will follow in 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDRSS satellites of the <b>2,000 kg class</b> would be launched on the <b>GSLV launcher to geostationary orbits</b> around 36,000 km away</li> <li>• The first beneficiary would be the prospective crew members of the Gaganyaan mission of 2022 who can be fully and continuously in touch with mission control throughout their travel.</li> <li>• IDRSS will be useful in monitoring space missions of ISRO</li> <li>• The <b>U.S. and Russia</b> started relay satellite systems in the late 1970s and 80s</li> <li>• <b>Europe</b> is building its own European Data Relay System.</li> <li>• <b>China</b> is into its second generation Tianlian II series.</li> </ul>

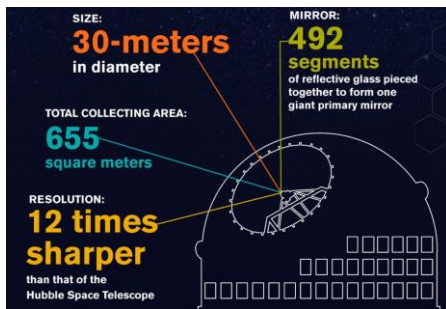
<p><b>Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coronavirus is a large family of viruses that are often the source of respiratory infections, including the common cold.</li> <li>• A coronavirus has many “regularly arranged” protrusions on its surface, because of which the entire virus particle looks like an crown, hence the name “coronavirus”.</li> <li>• It <b>contains ribonucleic acid (RNA)</b> as its genetic material instead of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). That means the virus blends with its host’s DNA and can <b>mutate rapidly</b>.</li> <li>• There are four common disease-causing coronaviruses, while the two others are the <b>Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus</b> and the <b>Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus</b>, both of which can cause <b>severe respiratory diseases</b>.</li> <li>• A novel coronavirus - 2019-nCoV -is a new coronavirus first identified in Wuhan China in Dec 2019.</li> <li>• The disease caused by this new coronavirus is named <b>COVID-19</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The virus that causes COVID-19 likely originated in an animal and spread to humans</li> <li>• nCoV-19 is related to the SARS-associated coronavirus which caused an outbreak in 2003. however, it is not the same virus</li> <li>• Most of the Coronaviruses are common among animals, but sometimes, an animal-based coronavirus mutates and successfully finds a human host</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="949 696 1412 1093" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SARS Coronavirus was identified in 2003. infected around 8,000 patients and claimed nearly 800 lives.</li> <li>• The global economic loss due to SARS was estimated at between \$30-\$100 billion.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nilavembu kudineer</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>Siddha medicine</b> recommended for prevention and management of all types <b>of viral infections/fevers</b>.</li> <li>• It acts as immunostimulant and immunomodulator, which boosts immunity and modulates defence response in the body</li> <li>• It contains herbal ingredients, which have antipyretic, anti-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nowadays, it became famous for viral fevers, especially for <b>dengue fever and chikungunya</b>.</li> <li>• It reduces symptoms associated with fever, which include – a headache, body aches, muscle aches, loss of energy, fatigue, weakness etc.</li> <li>• It is also effective for reducing joint pain, joint swelling, muscle pain,</li> </ul>


	inflammatory, antiviral, and immunomodulatory actions.	headache and rashes associated with chikungunya infection.
<b>Indian Coast Guard Ships (ICGS) — Annie Besant and Amrit Kaur ICG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICGS Annie Besant will be based at Chennai and ICGS Amrit Kaur will be based at Haldia.</li> <li>The ships are fitted with state-of-the-art technology, and navigation equipment, along with Bofors 40/60 guns and 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote-Controlled Guns for enhanced fighting efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p><b>About Rajkumari Amrit Kaur</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kaur co-founded the All India Women's Conference along with Margaret Cousins in 1927.</li> <li>She was also a member of Constituent Assembly and a member Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights and Sub-Committee on Minorities.</li> <li>She went on to become <b>independent India's first health minister</b></li> </ul>
<b>INS Vikramaditya</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is modified Kiev-class <b>aircraft carrier</b></li> <li>It was built in 1987 and had served the Soviet navy (named as Baku). It was later renamed Admiral Gorshkov under the Russian navy.</li> <li>The Indian navy purchased the vessel in 2004 and was commissioned in Nov 2013</li> <li>The vessel can carry more than 30 long-range multi-role fighters with anti-ship missiles, air-to-air missiles, guided bombs and rockets</li> <li>It was retrofitted with a Barak missile system (joint development with Israel)</li> <li>It is based at its home port at Karwar in Karnataka.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.</li> <li>Prior to the INS Vikramaditya, both of the Indian Navy's previous aircraft carriers—the Vikrant and Viraat—were ships that were formerly in service with the Royal Navy of Britain.</li> <li>INS Vikrant, also known as <b>Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 (IAC-1)</b>, is the India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (currently being built at the Cochin Shipyard Limited) which will be delivered to the Indian Navy by 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>High Flash High-Speed Diesel (HFHSD - IN 512)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a special class diesel conforming to NATO grade for use in ships and vessels of Indian Navy.</li> <li>HFHSD- IN 512 has the unique combination of low pour and Cold filter plugging point and High Flash Point</li> <li>It also has lesser environmental impact due to low Sulphur content and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has been developed by State-owned Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and is being supplied from Haldia and Paradip refinery.</li> </ul>

	would result in the better performance of engines.	
<b>TrueNat</b>  <b>In News:</b> WHO has endorsed TrueNat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an indigenous molecular diagnostic tool for tuberculosis diagnosis.</li> <li>It was developed by <b>Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics</b>.</li> <li>TrueNat is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test that, by assaying the genes present in the TB bacteria, can not only detect the presence of the bacteria but can <b>also detect drug resistance</b> with the use of chips.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TrueNat test can easily and cost-effectively be done in the primary health care setup.</li> <li>According to the Global Tuberculosis Report 2019, India had 26.9 lakh TB patients in 2018.</li> <li>According to the National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination 2017-2025, TB kills an estimated 4,80,000 Indians every year and over 1,400 every day.</li> </ul>
<b>K-9 Vajra-T</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>K-9 Vajra-T Gun is a 155-mm, 52-calibre <b>self-propelled artillery howitzer</b></li> <li>The fire control system has been customised for desert conditions.</li> <li>The gun weighs 50 tonnes and can fire 47kg bombs at <b>43-kilometre distant</b> targets.</li> <li>It can also turn around at zero radius.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a variant of k9 Thunder which is a <b>South Korean</b> self-propelled howitzer. The manufacturer joined hands with L&amp;T (Indian company) to produce Indian variants of the gun for Indian Army.</li> <li>Under the Centre's 'Make in India' initiative, L&amp;T won the Rs 4,500-crore contract from the Ministry of Defence to supply 100 units of K9 Vajra-T</li> </ul>
<b>GSAT-30</b>  ISRO launched <b>telecommunication satellite GSAT-30</b> into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched from:</b> Kourou launch base, French Guiana (Africa)</li> <li><b>By:</b> Ariane-5 launch vehicle, European Space Agency</li> <li>GSAT-30 satellite will <b>replace INSAT-4A</b> which was launched in 2005.</li> <li>It will provide DTH television services, connectivity to VSATs for ATM, stock exchange, television uplinking and teleport services, digital satellite news gathering and e-governance applications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was launched from the foreign launcher because it is much heavier than the lifting capacity of its geostationary launch vehicle GSLV-MkII (It has the capacity to lift 2500kg).</li> <li>GSAT-30 provides Indian mainland and islands coverage in Ku-band and extended coverage in C-band covering Gulf countries, a large number of Asian countries and Australia.</li> <li>A European communication satellite named <b>EUTELSAT KONNECT</b> was also launched with GSAT-30</li> </ul>
<b>Yada Yada Virus (YYV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YYV is an <b>alphavirus</b>, a group of viruses that the researchers described as small, single-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The virus was detected in mosquitoes trapped in three locations in <b>Victoria, Australia</b>.</li> </ul>



	<p>stranded positive-sense RNA viruses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alphaviruses are transmitted primarily by mosquitoes and are pathogenic in their vertebrate hosts.</li> <li>Unlike some other alphaviruses, <b>Yada Yada Virus does not pose a threat to human beings.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researchers who reported the discovery of a new virus conceded that the <b>discovery wasn't a big deal</b>, with new viruses being announced every day. Therefore, they named it as Yada Yada virus</li> <li>Merriam-Webster says yada yada is "boring or empty talk" a way to recount words that are "too dull or predictable to be worth repeating"</li> </ul>
<b>K-4 Missile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>K-4 is one of the two <b>underwater missiles</b> that were being developed by <b>DRDO</b>.</li> <li>The other one is the over 700 km strike range BO-5 missile.</li> <li>Once inducted, these missiles will be the mainstay of the <b>Arihant</b> class of indigenous ballistic missile <b>nuclear submarines (SSBN)</b> and will give India the stand-off capability to launch nuclear weapons submerged in Indian waters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INS Arihant, the first and only operational SSBN, is armed with K-15 Sagarika missiles with a range of 750 km.</li> <li>INS Arihant It has a displacement of 6,000 tonnes and is powered by an 83 MW pressurised light-water reactor with enriched uranium.</li> <li>Because they are powered by nuclear reactors, these submarines can stay underwater indefinitely without the adversary detecting it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>East Asian Observatory</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> India is in preliminary discussions to be a part of East Asian Observatories Consortium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formed by EACOA (<b>East Asian Core Observatories Association</b>) for the purpose of pursuing joint projects in astronomy within the East Asian region.</li> <li>The EAO is chartered as a non-profit Hawaii corporation</li> <li>EAO is committed to build large telescopes and pool resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EACOA now consists of China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea as full members and Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia as 'observers',</li> <li>Having India join the group could mean the establishment of new kinds of telescopes — one <b>proposed being in Tibet</b> — that could aid the observation of new black holes and throw light on cosmic phenomena.</li> </ul>
<b>Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TMT is a <b>proposed</b> extremely large telescope planned on <b>Mauna Kea</b>, island of <b>Hawaii</b>.</li> <li>TMT is being designed and developed by the TMT International Observatory LLC (TIO).</li> <li>TIO is non-profit international partnership between USA,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The TMT would become the <b>largest visible-light telescope</b></li> <li>It would provide unparalleled resolution with images more than 12 times sharper than those from the Hubble Space Telescope.</li> <li>It has become <b>controversial</b> due to its location on Mauna Kea a</li> </ul>

	<p>Japan, USA, China, India and Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observing in wavelengths ranging from the ultraviolet to the mid-infrared, TMT will allow astronomers to address fundamental questions in astronomy</li> </ul>	<p>mountain which is considered sacred to Native Hawaiians</p>  <p>The infographic shows a cross-section of the TMT mirror. It is 30-meters in diameter and has a total collecting area of 655 square meters. The mirror is made of 492 segments of reflective glass pieced together to form one giant primary mirror. Its resolution is 12 times sharper than that of the Hubble Space Telescope.</p>
<p><b>Air Defence Tactical Control Radar (ADTCR)</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Displayed during the 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day parade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>It is developed by DRDO</b></li> <li>ADTCR is used for volumetric surveillance, detection, tracking and friend/foe identification of aerial targets of different types</li> <li>Also used for transmission of prioritised target data to multiple command posts and weapon systems.</li> <li>It is capable of detecting very small targets and low flying targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Radar can be deployed in plain lands, deserts and in the mountain regions for the purpose of tactical early warning for Ground based Weapon Systems.</li> <li>On Republic Day, DRDO also showcased its <b>Anti- Satellite (A-SAT) missile</b> used in Mission Shakti.</li> </ul>
<p><b>India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INO Project is aimed at building a world-class <b>underground laboratory</b> with a rock cover to conduct basic research on neutrino.</li> <li>INO is proposed to be constructed in the <b>Bodi West Hills (Theni district) of Tamil Nadu</b>.</li> <li>The INO will study atmospheric neutrinos only. Solar neutrinos have much lower energy than the detector can detect.</li> <li>The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is the nodal institution.</li> <li>The observatory is to be built jointly with the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not a weapons laboratory and will have no strategic or defence applications.</li> <li>Proton, neutron, and electron are tiny particles that make up atoms. The <b>neutrino is also a tiny elementary particle</b>, but it is not part of the atom. Such particles are also found to exist in nature.</li> <li>Neutrino has a <b>very tiny mass and no charge</b>.</li> <li>It <b>interacts very weakly with other matter particles</b>. So weakly that every second trillions of neutrinos fall on us and pass through our bodies unnoticed.</li> <li>Neutrinos comes from sun, stars, cosmic ray beyond solar system and from the Big Bang times. They <b>can also be produced in the lab</b>.</li> </ul>

<b>Super Fab Lab</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fab Labs are fabrication laboratories offering digital fabrication and computation.</li> <li>• A Super Lab lets you make a Fab Lab i.e. it makes the tools which can make things</li> <li>• India's <b>first Super Fab Lab</b> was launched in <b>Kochi, Kerala</b></li> <li>• The Super Fab Lab will function in collaboration with the <b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</b>.</li> <li>• It will encourage startups in printed electronics and related fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fab Labs concept, <b>the only one outside the U.S.</b>, is the brainchild of Dr Neil Gershenfeld, presently the Director of MIT Centre for Bits and Atoms, who set up the first Fab Lab in the U.S. about 17 years ago</li> <li>• The Super Fab Lab will allow the state to produce machines locally and will give India's hardware industry a giant leap.</li> </ul>
<b>Yellow Rust</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow Rust is a <b>fungal</b> disease where yellow stripes of powder or dust appears on <b>leaves and leaf sheaths of the wheat crop</b>.</li> <li>• This occurs when the fungal colonies in the leaves drain the carbohydrates from the plant and reduce the green leaf area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The disease affects crop development, and eventually the yield (5-30%)</li> <li>• In India, it is a major disease in the Northern Hill Zone and the North-Western Plain Zone and spreads easily during the <b>onset of cool weather</b> and when wind conditions are favourable.</li> <li>• Rain, dew and fog favour the disease's development.</li> </ul>
<b>Xenobot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xenobots are world's first <b>"living robots"</b> created by US Scientists</li> <li>• The tiny robots have been built from the cells of the <b>African clawed frog</b></li> <li>• Scientists have repurposed living cells scraped from frog embryos &amp; assembled them into entirely new life-forms.</li> <li>• The xenobots can move toward a target, perhaps pick up a payload (like a medicine that needs to be carried to a specific place inside body) — and heal themselves after being cut.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many useful <b>applications</b> of these living robots include searching out nasty compounds or radioactive contamination, gathering microplastic in the oceans, travelling in arteries to scrape out plaque, etc.</li> <li>• The robots have been named after the species of <b>aquatic frog Xenopus laevis</b>, found across sub-Saharan Africa from Nigeria and Sudan to South Africa.</li> </ul>

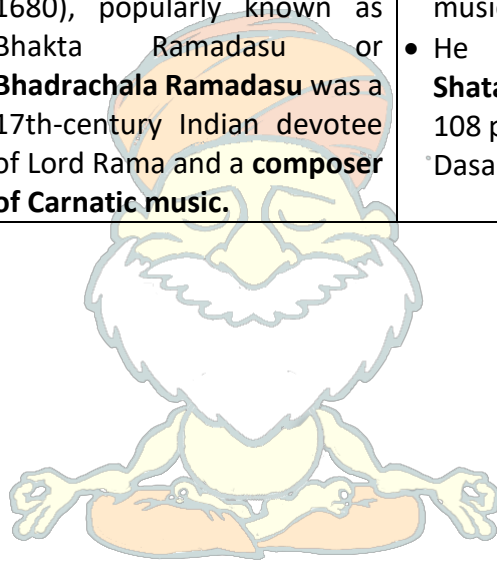
## HISTORY & CULTURE

Topic	Key Aspects	Value Addition
<b>Treaty of Amritsar (1846)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J&amp;K was annexed by the Sikhs in 1819 and Gulab Singh was made Raja of the state by Sikhs in 1820</li> <li>In the First Sikh War (1845–46), Maharaja Gulab Singh held aloof and then appeared as a mediator.</li> <li>Treaty of Amritsar was executed by the <b>British East India Company</b> and <b>Raja Gulab Singh</b> of Jammu after the First Anglo-Sikh War</li> <li>As per Treaty, Jammu &amp; Kashmir was given to Gulab Singh by the British for a cash payment of 75 Lakh Rupees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The treaty established the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir under the suzerainty of the British Indian Empire.</li> <li>It marked the beginning of <b>Dogra rule</b> in Kashmir.</li> </ul>
<b>Treaty of Amritsar (1809)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was an agreement between the British East India Company and Ranjit Singh, founder of the Sikh empire.</li> <li>Both pledged friendship to each other.</li> <li>The terms of the treaty <b>prevented Ranjit Singh</b> from any further <b>expansion south of the Sutlej</b> but it permitted him complete freedom of action to the north of it.</li> <li>This enabled him to extract tribute from less powerful chieftains, including Jats and other Sikhs, and ultimately to <b>gain control of areas such as Peshawar and Kashmir</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The immediate occasion was the French threat in north-western India, following Napoleon's expansions. The British wanted a defensive treaty (with Ranjit Singh) and control of Punjab up to the Sutlej River.</li> <li>It was a pact between Charles T. Metcalfe and Maharaja Ranjit Singh.</li> <li>The Treaty resulted in unification of the territories North of Sutlej by Ranjit Singh which formed the Sikh empire that last until British subjugation in 1849.</li> <li>Lord Minto was the Governor General.</li> </ul>
<b>Treaty of Sugauli</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was signed between East India Company and King of Nepal following the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16</li> <li>The treaty established the boundary line of Nepal, was signed on 2 December 1815</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Treaty of Sagauli defined Gandak as the international boundary between India and Nepal.</li> <li>The treaty also maps the Makhali river as the western boundary with India</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kalapani and Susta Dispute</b> between India and Nepal has its roots in this treaty. The rivers have changed course which has caused confusion between the countries</li> </ul>
<b>Book- India Wins Freedom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This book is written by <b>Maulana Abul Kalam Azad</b> which deals about his political life</li> <li>• His another famous book <b>Ghubar-e-Khatir</b> deals with his social and spiritual life</li> <li>• He was the first Education Minister of independent India, who served from 15 August 1947 until 2 February 1958.</li> <li>• He also worked for Hindu-Muslim unity through the <b>Al-Hilal newspaper</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Education Day</b> was celebrated on November 11 to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad,</li> <li>• Under his leadership, the Ministry of Education established the first Indian Institute of Technology in 1951 and the University Grants Commission in 1953.</li> </ul>
<b>Treaty of Yandabo, 1826</b>  In Context of protest against outsiders (anti-CAA) in Assam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Treaty of Yandabo was the peace treaty that ended the <b>First Anglo-Burmese War (1824-26)</b></li> <li>• Treaty was signed between East India Company and King of Ava (Ava was the capital of Burma from 1364-1841).</li> </ul> <p><b>The Govt of Burma agreed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to cede its coastal provinces of Arakan and Tenasserim;</li> <li>• to abandon all claims to Assam, Cachar, and Jaintia;</li> <li>• to recognize Manipur as an independent state;</li> <li>• to negotiate a commercial treaty with Britain; and</li> </ul> <p>By this treaty, the British <b>deprived Burma of most of its coastline</b>, and acquired a firm base in Burma for future expansion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the Treaty, British controlled Assam and thus became the masters of Brahmaputra Valley and they began to consolidate their rule.</li> <li>• With the British rule, two sectors viz., tea gardens and crude oil sector developed in a massive way as a sequel many outsiders time to time came and settled in Assam.</li> <li>• After Second Burmese War (1852) and Third Burmese War (1885), whole of Burma came under the control of British.</li> </ul>
<b>Lal Bahadur Shastri-Sirimavo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sirimavo Bandaranaike was Sri Lankan PM at that time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the Pact, it was agreed that Sri Lanka would accept and grant</li> </ul>



<b>Bandaranaike Pact of 1964</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officially, it was known as Agreement on Persons of Indian Origin in Ceylon.</li> <li>• It was a significant agreement in determining the status and future of <b>people of Indian origin in Ceylon</b>.</li> <li>• By late 1960s, there were nearly 10 Lakh people of Indian Origin (mostly Tamils) living in Sri Lanka</li> </ul>	<p>citizenship to 3,00,000 Indian Origin Tamils (IOTs) and their natural increase, while 525,000 IOTs would be repatriated to India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that the citizenship of the remaining 150,000 Indian residents of Ceylon would be negotiated at a later point</li> </ul>
<b>Bhakta Ramadasu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 11-foot imposing bronze statue of Bhakta Ramadasu was unveiled at his birthplace Nelakondapalli in <b>Telangana</b></li> <li>• Kancharla Gopanna (1620 – 1680), popularly known as Bhakta Ramadasu or <b>Bhadrachala Ramadasu</b> was a 17th-century Indian devotee of Lord Rama and a <b>composer of Carnatic music</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is a famous Vaggeyakara (classical composer) from the Telugu classical era.</li> <li>• His devotional lyrics to Rama are famous in South Indian classical music as Ramadaasu Keertanalu.</li> <li>• He also wrote <b>Dasarathi Shatakamu</b>, a collection of nearly 108 poems dedicated to the son of Dasaratha (Lord Rama).</li> </ul>



## POLITY, POLICIES, SCHEMES, DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL ISSUES

Topic	Key Aspects	Value Addition
<b>DigiLocker</b>  <b>In News:</b> Petition was filed in Delhi HC as DigiLocker does not provide a nomination facility under this rule.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</b> under 'Digital India' programme.</li> <li>This is government's effort to create an <b>electronic version of documents</b>, which can be easily verified and stored in printable format</li> <li>The users can <b>store their documents</b> such as insurance, medical reports, PAN card, passport, marriage certificate, school certificate and other documents in the digital format.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The locker <b>can be accessed by individuals</b>, using their <b>mobile number</b>.</li> <li>Apart from e-documents, DigiLocker can store a <b>Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)</b> link of e-documents issued by various issuer departments.</li> </ul>
<b>All India Judicial Service (AIJS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AIJS is a <b>proposed</b> judicial service for appointing lower court judges</li> <li>Original constitution didn't provide for creation of AIJS.</li> <li>After the <b>Swaran Singh Committee's</b> recommendations in 1976, Article 312 was modified by the 42<sup>nd</sup> constitution (amendment) act in 1977 to provide for an AIJS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law commission in its 116<sup>th</sup> report suggested the Direct recruitment of judges from the entry level onwards would be through an open competition and this would be handled by an independent and impartial agency.</li> </ul>
<b>Vanga Nari Jallikattu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is jallikattu-like event using <b>foxes</b> (vanga nari in Tamil)</li> <li>It is organised on Kaanum Pongal in <b>Tamil Nadu</b> villages as people believe it will bring bountiful rain and good fortune.</li> <li>The animals are muzzled and their hind legs tied with rope. After special rituals are conducted, the hapless animals are chased through</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foxes are a protected species under the <b>Wildlife Protection Act, 1972</b>, and hunting or capturing them is prohibited.</li> </ul>

	<p>the streets, much like bulls in the more conventional jallikattu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the event, the animals are released into the forest</li> </ul>	
<b>Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The act introduced provide <b>10% reservation</b> in government jobs and education (except in minority educational institutions) to <b>economically backward section</b> in the general category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The act inserted <b>Articles 15(6) and 16(6)</b> of the Constitution that provided for these reservations.</li> <li>• <b>Article 46 of the Constitution (DPSP)</b> enjoins that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people.</li> </ul>
<b>North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 1,656-km pipeline will connect Guwahati in Assam to major cities in the region such as Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizawl and Agartala covering <b>all eight states in North-Eastern region</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is critical towards implementing the government's <b>Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for the North-East</b></li> <li>• <b>Implementation Agency:</b> Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL)- a joint venture company of five CPSEs (IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and NRL)</li> </ul>
<b>Amma Vodi Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a Scheme by <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> Government</li> <li>• Under the scheme, a financial assistance of ₹15,000 will be given (directly deposited into bank account) to nearly 43 lakh mothers or guardians who send their children to school (government, private aided, private unaided schools/junior colleges)</li> <li>• Orphans and street children studying in schools through voluntary organisations have also been covered under the scheme and the money will be given to the organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Only for the deserving sections:</b> School and college dropouts are not eligible for this scheme and neither are government employees and income-tax payers.</li> <li>• <b>Impact of the Scheme:</b> Student enrolment has already increased by 30% in the current academic year after the announcement of the scheme.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> I4C is inaugurated by Union Home Minister</p>	<p>The <b>I4C is a seven-pronged system</b>, which includes a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit</li> <li>• National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal</li> <li>• National Cyber Crime Training Centre</li> <li>• Cyber Crime Ecosystem Management Unit</li> <li>• National Cyber Crime Research &amp; Innovation Centre</li> <li>• National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem</li> <li>• Platform for Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I4C is located in <b>New Delhi</b></li> <li>• The scheme to set up I4C was <b>approved in October 2018</b>, to deal with all types of cybercrimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.</li> <li>• In Aug 2019, the MHA had unveiled its <b>National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal</b> through which citizens can report any kind of cybercrime irrespective of the place where it has occurred</li> <li>• So far, more than 700 police districts and more than 3,900 police stations have been connected with this portal</li> </ul>
<p><b>State Energy Efficiency Index</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Index tracks the progress of Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives in states and union territories based on 97 significant indicators.</b></li> <li>• The index is developed by <b>Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)</b> in association with Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).</li> <li>• The first such Index was launched on August, 2018.</li> <li>• The 2020 index incorporates <b>qualitative, quantitative and outcome-based indicators</b> to assess energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in five distinct sectors – buildings, industry, municipalities, transport, agriculture, and DISCOMs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For rational comparison, States/UTs are categorised as Front Runner, Achiever, Contender and Aspirant based on their efforts and achievements towards energy efficiency implementation.</li> <li>• The top performing states in the State EE Index 2019 – <b>Haryana, Kerala and Karnataka – are in the 'Achiever' category.</b></li> <li>• The BEE is a <b>statutory body</b> under the <b>Union Ministry of Power.</b></li> <li>• It assists in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mission Purvodaya</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was launched in 2020 for the <b>accelerated development of eastern India</b> through the establishment of an <b>integrated steel hub.</b></li> <li>• The hub will encompass Odisha, Jharkhand,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The region focused in the mission collectively hold <b>~80% of the country's iron ore</b>, ~100% of coking coal and significant portion of chromite, bauxite and dolomite reserves.</li> </ul>

	<p>Chhattisgarh, West Bengal &amp; Northern Andhra Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It aims to <b>attract investment of nearly \$70 billion</b> in the steel sector and spur economic growth across eastern India</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out of the 300 mt steel capacity by 2030-31, the region alone is capable of contributing over 200 mt.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NCSK was constituted on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament viz. 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993</b></li> <li>The act lapsed in February 2004.</li> <li>The Commission is acting as a non-statutory body of the <b>Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment</b> whose tenure is extended from time to time through Government Resolutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to NCSK a total of <b>53,598 people</b>, of which 29,923 were in Uttar Pradesh alone, had been identified as <b>engaged in manual scavenging</b> after surveys in 2013 and 2018</li> <li>Since 1993, a total of 926 deaths related to the manual scavenging is reported in the country, out of which 172 families are yet to receive compensation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a web-based <b>central accident database management system</b> that will help in analysing causes of road crashes and in devising safety interventions to reduce such accidents in the country.</li> <li>It is developed by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)</li> <li>Implemented by the <b>National Informatics Centre</b>.</li> <li>Project is supported by the <b>World Bank</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Informatics Centre (NIC)</b> is an attached office under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</li> <li>It was established in <b>1976</b> and is located in <b>New Delhi</b>.</li> <li>NIC provides infrastructure to help support delivery of Government IT services and delivery of some of the initiatives of Digital India</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) hall mark</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Consumer Affairs Ministry released Mandatory Gold Hallmarking norms from January 15, 2021, onwards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold hallmarking is a <b>purity certification</b>.</li> <li>No jeweller will be allowed to sell gold jewellery or artefacts without hallmark from BIS</li> <li>Consumers have to watch out for four marks on hallmarked gold jewellery: (1) BIS mark, (2) purity in carat, (3) assay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory hallmarking will protect the public against substandard/fake gold products.</li> <li>Failure to adhere to the guidelines will attract penalty five times the cost of the object or even given imprisonment up to one year.</li> </ul>



	<p>centre's name and (4) jewellers' identification mark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of 10 grades earlier, hallmarked gold jewellery will now be available in three caratage of 14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016 established BIS as the National Standards Body of India.</li> <li>• <b>Aim of BIS:</b> Harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.</li> </ul>
<b>Quadripartite Pact (Brus)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreement signed between <b>Centre</b>, State government of <b>Tripura &amp; Mizoram</b> and representatives of <b>Brus Organisation</b> to <b>settle Brus refugees in Tripura</b>.</li> <li>• The Brus, also referred to as the <b>Reangs</b>, are spread across the north-eastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brus are the second largest ethnic group in Mizoram.</li> <li>• They are ethnically different from the Mizos, with their own distinct language and dialect</li> <li>• In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).</li> </ul>
<b>National Cyber Forensic Lab (NCFL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is one of the seven systems of Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)</li> <li>• NCFL will have equipment's to deal with memory forensics, image enhancement, crypto currency forensics, recovery of damaged hard drive and advanced mobile forensics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lab will also function as an all-India base to deal and coordinate with cyber threats, where nation-wide information will be generated and stored at the National Cyber Reporting Portal.</li> <li>• State police units will have access to the facilities and can get their forensic samples analyzed.</li> </ul>
<b>National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEAT is a <b>PPP Scheme</b> by Ministry of Human Resource Development (<b>MHRD</b>)</li> <li>• The scheme aims to use <b>Artificial Intelligence</b> to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.</li> <li>• There are a number of start-up companies developing this and MHRD aims to bring them under a <b>common platform, through NEAT</b>, so that learners can access it easily.</li> <li>• MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal. They would be free to charge fees as per their policy.</li> <li>• As their contribution towards the National cause, they would have to offer free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution through NEAT portal.</li> <li>• MHRD would distribute the free coupons for learning to the most socially/economically backward students.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) (IMDT) Act</b></p> <p>It was an <b>Act of the Parliament</b> of India enacted in 1983 by the Indira Gandhi government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMDT Act was enacted to put forward the procedures to detect illegal immigrants (from Bangladesh) and expel them from Assam.</li> <li>• It was <b>applicable to the state of Assam only</b> whereas in other states, detection of foreigners is done under The Foreigners Act, 1946.</li> <li>• Tribunals under IMDT Act only considered the cases of those who had allegedly entered India after March 25, 1971.</li> <li>• The <b>act was struck down</b> by the Supreme Court in Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India (2005).</li> <li>• The Supreme Court also closed all tribunals in Assam functioning under IMDT Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The absence of any provision related to the '<b>burden of proof</b>' in the IMDT Act had put a very heavy burden upon the authorities to establish whether a person is an illegal migrant.</li> <li>• The Supreme Court, transferred all pending cases at the IMDT to the Foreigners Tribunals constituted under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commission for Sub-Categorisation of OBCs</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> Cabinet extends tenure of the commission by six months till 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission, headed by <b>Justice (Retd) G Rohini</b> was constituted on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017 under <b>article 340</b> of the Constitution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Terms of reference include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among OBCs (Central List)</li> <li>• To work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within OBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cabinet has also approved an <b>addition to the terms of reference of the commission</b>, which will now also study various entries in the 'Central list of OBCs and recommend correction of any repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and errors of spelling or transcription.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CARA is statutory body of Ministry of Women &amp; Child Development</li> <li>• It is established under Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.</li> <li>• It is a nodal body for adoption of Indian children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It deals in orphan, abandoned or surrendered children.</li> <li>• It deals with inter-country adoptions according to Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993 ratified by India in 2003.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Article 256</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerala has filed a case in Supreme Court against CAA, 2019 arguing that it would be compelled to implement CAA provisions under Art 256 but the State is of opinion that CAA is arbitrary &amp; violative of fundamental rights</li> <li>Article 256 states that the executive power of every State must ensure compliance with the laws made by the Parliament.</li> <li>If it does not follow the same, the repercussions could be seen in form of Article 365.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Article 365:</b> In case of failure to comply with, or to give effect to, directions given by the Union, the President is empowered to make a decision thinking that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. Hence, the <b>President's rule could be enacted.</b></li> </ul>
<b>National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) Vision Document</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vision document is released by <b>NITI Aayog</b></li> <li>The platform aims to democratize access to publicly available government data.</li> <li>It will host the latest datasets from various government websites, present them coherently, and provide tools for analytics &amp; visualization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NDAP will follow a <b>user-centric approach</b> and will enable data access in a simple and intuitive portal tailored to the needs of a variety of stakeholders.</li> <li>The first version of the platform is expected to be launched in 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017 – (EPAV Act)</b>  <b>In News:</b> Group of Minister headed by Home Minister will monitor the disposal of over 9,400 enemy properties, which is estimated to be about Rs 1 lakh crore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPAV Act amended <b>The Enemy Property Act, 1968</b>, and The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971</li> <li>The amended Act expanded the definition of the term “enemy subject”, and “enemy firm” to include the legal heir and successor of an enemy</li> <li>EPAV Act, 2017 basically denied legal heirs any right over enemy property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the wake of the India-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971, there was migration of people from India to Pakistan.</li> <li>As a result, the Government of India took over the properties and companies of those who took Pakistani nationality.</li> <li>The same was done for property left behind by those who went to China after the 1962 Sino-Indian war</li> <li>The Enemy Property Act of 1968, provided for the vesting of enemy property in the <b>Custodian of Enemy Property for India.</b></li> </ul>

<b>Bharat Parv</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a five-day festival organised by <b>Union Ministry of Tourism</b> to showcase the <b>cuisine and culture</b> of different states of India.</li> <li>The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage Indians to visit different tourism places of India and to inculcate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The festival is held annually at the end of January</li> <li>Central theme of Bharat Parv 2020, held in Delhi, is 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and 'Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi'</li> </ul>
<b>Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ordinance amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 (<b>CMSP Act</b>)</li> <li>The ordinance <b>permits commercial coal mining</b> for local and global firms without imposing any end-user restrictions.</li> <li>The Ordinance also extends the validity of clearances for mining leases expiring in 2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ordinance adds that companies need not possess any prior coal mining experience in India to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks.</li> <li>The Ordinance provides for an additional prospecting license-cum-mining lease. This <b>composite license</b> will allow both prospecting &amp; mining activities.</li> <li><b>The CMSP Act</b> provides for the auction and allocation of mines whose allocation was cancelled by the Supreme Court in 2014.</li> </ul>
<b>Operation Vanilla</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is launched by <b>Indian Navy</b> to assist the population of <b>Madagascar</b> affected by Cyclone Diane.</li> <li><b>Cyclone Diane</b> is a tropical Cyclone whose origin was North-west off the coast of Mauritius in the South-western Indian Ocean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Navy also diverted a large amphibious ship viz. <b>INS Airavat</b> carrying clothing, medicines, and other relief material to provide assistance and support in the relief operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual status of Education Report (ASER) 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASER is an annual survey (since 2005) that aims to provide reliable estimates of children's enrolment and basic learning levels across rural India (State-wise and district wise)</li> <li>ASER is a <b>household-based</b> rather than school-based survey. This design enables all children to be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children in the age group <b>5 to 16 are assessed one-on-one</b> to understand their basic reading and arithmetic abilities.</li> <li>It is also the only annual source of information on children's learning outcomes available in India today</li> <li>ASER 2019 report focuses on the <b>"early years" (0-8 years)</b> and lays emphasis on developing</li> </ul>

	<p>included – whether not going to school or dropped out or going to private/government/religious school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the largest citizen-led survey in India facilitated by <b>Pratham NGO</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>problem-solving faculties and building memory of children, and not content knowledge</p>
<p><b>Western Zonal Council</b></p> <p><b>In News:</b> The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the western zonal council was held under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister and co-chaired by Maharashtra Chief Minister</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western Zonal Council comprises of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, the Union Territories of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli</li> <li>Zonal Councils are the <b>statutory</b> (and not the constitutional) bodies established by States Reorganisation Act of 1956.</li> <li>The act divided the country into <b>five zones</b> (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>North-Eastern Council</b> was created by a separate Act of Parliament, the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971.</li> <li>The <b>Union Home Minister</b> is the chairman of all Zonal Councils</li> </ul> <p>Each zonal council consists of the following members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Home Minister</li> <li>Chief Ministers of all the States in the zone.</li> <li>Two other ministers from each state in the zone.</li> <li>Administrator of each union territory in the zone</li> </ul>

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