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RAPID REVISION (RaRe) SERIES - UPSC 2021

RaRe Notes

DAY 57 - POLITY

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401. Committee on Public Sector Undertakings

Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1964 (On the recommendation of Krishna Menon Committee) ▪ With 15 members (10 from Lok Sabha and 5 from Rajya Sabha.)
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 22 (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 Rajya Sabha)
Election of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By Parliament every year with proportional representation through a single transferable vote
Term of Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One Year ▪ After a year, a new election takes place and members are changed or re-elected.
Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lok Sabha speaker has the authority to appoint the chairman of the committee. ▪ The Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings is appointed from amongst the members of Lok Sabha. ▪ Member from Rajya Sabha is not chosen as Chairman
Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The functions of this committee are mentioned in the fourth schedule of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. ▪ To examine the accounts, CAG reports, policy measures and performance of the Public Sector Undertakings. ▪ The committee checks upon the credibility of the business of public sector undertakings. ▪ It checks the efficiency and autonomy of PSUs ▪ It performs those functions related to PSUs that are given to it by the Lok Sabha speaker
Limitation on Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The committee cannot examine any reports of government related to policies that are not concerned with PSUs. ▪ It has no role in matters of day-to-day administration. ▪ The committee also cannot take up reports of any such PSU which are established by a special statute and for which another machinery is responsible to report.
Limitation of Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It only examines the reports. It has no role in deciding the functioning of PSUs. Hence, its work is only like a post-mortem. ▪ The committee is not concerned with any technical matters of PSUs as there are no technical experts as members of the committee. ▪ All the recommendations put forward by the committee are advisory and ministers are not bounded by any of those.

402. Committee on Subordinate Legislation

- **Each House** has its own Committee on Subordinate Legislation
- The functions are to scrutinize and report to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised within such delegation.
- The Committee shall consist of **fifteen members** who shall be **nominated** by the Speaker of LS/Chairman of RS.
 - Provided that a **Minister shall not be** nominated a member of the Committee

- The Chairman of the Committee shall be **appointed** by the Speaker/Chairman from amongst the members of the Committee:
 - Provided that if the Deputy Chairman of RS is a member of the Committee, he shall be appointed Chairman of the Committee.
- The term of office of members of the Committee shall not exceed **one year**.
- The committee is governed by the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of each House.
- **Quorum:** In order to constitute a meeting of the Committee, the quorum shall be five.
 - The Chairman of the Committee shall not vote in the first instance but in the case of an equality of votes on any matter, he shall have, and exercise, a casting vote.
- The **Speaker of LS/Chairman of RS may issue such directions** as may be considered necessary for regulating the procedure in connection with all matters connected with the consideration of any question of Subordinate Legislation either in the Committee or in the House.
- **Report:** If the Committee is of opinion that any order should be annulled wholly or in part, or should be amended in any respect, it shall report that opinion and the grounds thereof to the House.
- On the recommendations contained in the reports of the Committee, the Government is required to **take action within six months** and keep the Committee informed of the action taken or proposed to be taken in each case.
 - The Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee are examined and included in the Action taken Report which is also presented to the House.

Department Related Standing Committees.

- **Origin:** On the recommendation of the Rules Committee of the Lok Sabha, **17 DRSCs** were set up in the Parliament in **1993**. In **2004**, seven more such committees were set up, thus increasing their number from **17 to 24**.
- **Departmental Standing Committees:** Out of the 24 standing committees, 8 work under the Rajya Sabha and 16 under the Lok Sabha.
- Each have 31 members – **21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha**.
- These members are to be **nominated** by the Speaker of Lok Sabha or the Chairman of Rajya Sabha respectively.
 - A **minister is not eligible** to be nominated as a member of any of the standing committees.
- The term of office of these committees **does not exceed one year**.
- These committees are serviced either by Lok Sabha secretariat or the Rajya Sabha secretariat **depending on who has appointed the chairman** of that committee.

Role:

- They assist the Parliament in thoroughly and systematically scrutinising the matters which could not be discussed on the floor at length.
- The Committees **aid and assist the Legislature in discharging its duties** and regulating its functions effectively, expeditiously and efficiently.
- They secure more **accountability of the Executive** to the Parliament.
- The Committees also provide the **expertise on a matter** which is referred to them.

New Draft Guidelines:

- Recently, Rajya Sabha secretariat prepared **new draft guidelines for its standing committees**. The guidelines are still under review by the Lok Sabha Speaker. This may include:
- A minimum 15 days' notice and confirmation by one-third of the members before holding a panel meeting.
- Nomination of members based on their qualifications, interests and occupations.
- At least 50% attendance while collecting evidence and adopting reports.

403. Production Linked Incentive Scheme

- It is a scheme that aims to give companies **incentives on incremental sales** from products manufactured in domestic units.
- The scheme **invites foreign companies** to set up units in India, however, it also aims to **encourage local companies to set up or expand** existing manufacturing units and also to generate more employment
- It aims to **cut down the country's reliance on imports** from other countries.
- It was launched in April 2020, for the Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing sector, but later towards the end of 2020 was introduced for 10 other sectors.
 - It gave incentives of 4-6% to electronic companies, manufacturing electronic components like mobile phones, transistors, diodes, etc.
- This scheme was introduced in line with India's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** campaign.
- The government aims to make India an integral part of the global supply chain and enhance exports
- And **Rs. 1.97 lakh crores** have been allocated for this scheme from Financial Year 2022

These 13 sectors include

- Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components
- Drug Intermediaries and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
- Manufacturing of Medical Devices
- Automobiles and Auto Components
- Pharmaceuticals Drugs
- Specialty Steel
- Telecom and Networking Products
- Electronic/Technology Products
- White Goods (ACs and LEDs)
- Food Products
- Textile Products and technical textiles
- High efficiency solar PV modules
- Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery.

Example of PLI Scheme for Active Pharmaceutical Industries:

- Selected manufacturers for 41 products which cover all the identified 53 APIs.
- Rate of incentive will be **20 % for fermentation** based bulk drugs.
- **10%** for chemical synthesis based bulk drugs.
- The scheme is applicable **only for greenfield projects**.
- Financial incentive shall be given on the **incremental sales** over the base year (2019-20) for a period of 6 years.
- The scheme shall be implemented through a **Project Management Agency (PMA)** to be nominated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- The tenure of the scheme is from **FY 2020-21 to FY 2029-30**.

404. SVAMITVA

- **In News:** On October 11, 2021 Prime Minister Modi launched the distribution of property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme through video conferencing.

SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas.

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% by Union Government) implemented by **Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj**
- It is aimed at **providing 'record of rights' to village household owners** (SVAMITVA Property Card) possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages and issuance of property cards to the property owners.
- The government aims to provide such property cards to each household in the next three to four years in every village across the country.
- The plan is to **survey all rural properties using drones** and prepare **GIS based maps** for each village.

How is a SVAMITVA property card generated?

1. **MoU with States:** The framework for implementation of SVAMITVA scheme provides a multi-stage process of generating a property card, which starts with signing of a memorandum of understanding between Survey of India (Sol) and respective state governments.
2. **Use of technology:** The Sol is responsible for preparing the National Topographic database on all scales, using technology (drones, Satellite images)
3. **Setting up of Network:** Once the MOU is done, a Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) network is established that supports in establishing ground control points, which is an important activity for accurate Geo-referencing
4. **Public Awareness:** The next step is the identification of villages to be surveyed during the pilot phase, and make people aware of the process of mapping properties.
5. **Preparation of GIS Database:** The abadi area (residential area) of the village is demarcated and each rural property is marked with limestone (chunna). Then, drones are used for large scale mapping of rural abadi areas. Based on these images, a GIS database on 1:500 scale, and village maps — **Gram Manchitra** — are drawn.

6. **Verification:** After creation of maps, a ground verification process by drone survey teams follows, on the basis of that corrections, if any, are made. At this stage, inquiry/objection process – conflict/ dispute resolution is completed
7. **Issuance of Property Cards:** After verification, final Property Cards/Title deeds or “Sampatti Patrak” are generated. These cards will be available on digital platforms or as hard copies to the village household owners.

How will the SVAMITVA property data and maps be updated in the future?

- The framework states, “Once the GIS database is prepared encompassing the 6.62 lakh villages, state governments will be responsible for conducting future surveys and updating the GIS database.” They will also decide the update frequency of the re-survey.

Who will own the SVAMITVA data?

- According to the framework, the orthorectified base maps shall be jointly owned by the Survey of India, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the state government. The GIS data will also be jointly owned by Centre and State.
- However, the **data related to property details** will be owned by the State Revenue Department as it has the authority to mutate the Right of Records (RoRs) and update the maps.
- Hence, the State Revenue Department will be the owner/host of this data and **others will have a right to view**

405. Aspirational districts program

- Aspirational Districts are those districts in India, that are affected by poor socio-economic indicators. The programme aims to quickly and effectively transform these districts.
- These are aspirational in the context, that improvement in these districts can lead to the overall improvement in human development in India.
- The 115 districts were identified from 28 states, at least one from each state.
- At the Government of India level, the **programme is anchored by NITI Aayog**. In addition, individual Ministries have assumed responsibility to drive the progress of districts.
- The objective of the program is to **monitor the real-time progress** of aspirational districts.
- ADP is based on 49 indicators from the 5 identified thematic areas, which focuses closely on improving
 - People's Health & Nutrition
 - Education
 - Agriculture & Water Resources
 - Financial Inclusion & Skill Development
 - Basic Infrastructure.
- With States as the main drivers, ADP seeks to focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and **rank districts**.
- Districts are prodded and encouraged to first catch-up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism

- The broad contours of the programme are:
 - **Convergence** (of Central & State Schemes) which brings together the horizontal and vertical tiers of the government.
 - **Collaboration** (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors) which enables impactful partnerships between government, market and civil society.
 - **Competition** among districts driven by a spirit of the mass movement, it fosters accountability on district governments.
- The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is one of the largest experiments on **outcomes-focused governance** in the world.

406. Ranked Choice Voting System

Context: Ranked choice voting made its debut in New York City's mayoral polls.

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

- Rather than pick just one candidate, voters in this system get to rank several in order of preference
- The system is based on a simple premise: Democracy works better if people aren't forced to make an all-or-nothing choice with their vote.
- **Popular overseas:** It has also been used by Australia, Ireland and Malta since the early 20th century. Northern Ireland, New Zealand and Scotland have all adopted it as well.
- The Oscars have also been using it since 2009 for its Best Picture category

How does ranked choice voting work?

- In New York City's version, voters get to rank up to five candidates, from first to last, on their ballot.
- If someone gets 50% plus one after all the **first-choice votes** are counted, then the election is over and that candidate wins.
- But if no one gets 50% plus one, it's on to Round 2.
- The person with the **lowest number of first-place votes is eliminated**, and that candidate's voters' **second choices get redistributed** as votes for other candidates.
- This reallocation of votes goes on until someone reaches 50% plus one.

Merits of this system

- **People's Voice Counted:** Even if a voter's top choice doesn't have enough support to win, their rankings of other candidates still play a role in determining the victor.
- **More moderate candidates:** It's tough for someone to get elected through this system without broad support. In a traditional election, it's possible for someone with fringe political views to win even if they are deeply disliked by a majority of voters.
- **Less negative campaigning.** The argument goes that candidates need a majority of voters to like them (at least more than the next person) and to cater to wider group, candidates mellow down their polarising nature of campaigning.

- **Possibility of increased voter turnout:** People can feel good about casting their vote. Instead of holding their nose for that one choice they get, voters can express at least a first choice for the person they really like.

Demerits of ranked-choice voting:

- **It is Complicated:** It requires voters to do a lot more research. It also makes races less predictable.
- **Some argue it's less democratic** because it goes against the idea of one person, one vote.
- **Transparency and trust** are also potential problems. Under the modern ranked choice system, the process of redistributing votes is done by computer. Outside groups will have a harder time evaluating whether the software sorted the ranked votes accurately.
- **Lots of people don't fill out all the choices:** It is difficult to know the true will of a majority of the people if everyone isn't filling out all the choices
- **It could encourage horse-trading.** Ranked-choice voting could open the door for candidates to make deals with one another about who their voters should go for as a second choice.
- **It might not necessarily reduce negative campaigning:** Much of the negative campaigning is done by outside groups, and nothing in ranked-choice voting stops those entities from continuing to do so.

407. Bodoland Territorial Council

- Bodoland Territorial Council is an **autonomous region in the state of Assam** in India.
- The **second Bodo accord, 2003** led to the formation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) under the provisions of the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution**
- The area under the BTC jurisdiction is now officially called the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)** comprising of 3,082 villages in four districts— Kokrajhar, Chirang, Udalguri and Baska, on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river, by the foothills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh
- BTC is an exception to the constitutional provision under the 6th schedule.
 - As it can constitute up to 46 members out of which 40 are elected.
 - Of these 40 seats, 35 are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and non-tribal communities, five are unreserved and the rest six are nominated by the governor from underrepresented communities of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD).

- Bodos are the **single largest community** among the **notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam**.
- Bodos are a part of **Bodo-Kachari** and constitute about **5-6%** of Assam's population.
- The first organised demand for a **Bodo state** came in 1967-68.
- The Assam Accord of 1985, gave rise to Bodo aspirations and in 1987, All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) revived the **Bodo statehood demand**.
- The militant Bodo Security Force which arose in 1986 as an armed group demanding Bodo Statehood, renamed itself militant National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), and later split into factions.
- The **first Bodo accord** was signed with the **ABSU in 1993**. It led to the creation of the **Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC)** with some limited political powers.

- In **2003**, the **second Bodo Accord** was signed by the extremist group **Bodo Liberation Tiger Force (BLTF)**, the Centre and the state.

Sixth schedule of the Constitution:

- It contains provisions as to the Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India (Articles 244(2) and 275(1)) provides for decentralized self-governance and dispute resolution through local customary laws in parts of the North East which are mainly tribal areas.
- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).
- In all, there are 10 areas in the Northeast that are registered as autonomous districts – three in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram and one in Tripura.
- ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.
- The governors of these states are empowered to reorganise boundaries of the tribal areas.

408. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council

- KAAC is an autonomous district council in the state of Assam, India for the development and protection of tribals living in area namely Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district.
- The council is constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India and administratively functions under the Government of Assam.

Under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule, autonomous district councils can make laws, rules and regulations in the following areas:

- Land management
- Forest management
- Water resources
- Agriculture and cultivation
- Formation of village councils
- Public health
- Sanitation
- Village and town level policing
- Appointment of traditional chiefs and headmen
- Inheritance of property
- Marriage and divorce
- Social customs
- Money lending and trading
- Mining and minerals

Judicial powers

- Autonomous district councils have powers to form courts to hear cases where both parties are members of Scheduled Tribes and the maximum sentence is less than 5 years in prison.

Taxation and revenue

- Autonomous district councils have powers to levy taxes, fees and tolls on; building and land, animals, vehicles, boats, entry of goods into the area, roads, ferries, bridges, employment and income and general taxes for the maintenance of schools and roads.

409. Ladakh autonomous hill development council

In news: NTPC recently signed a MoU with UT of Ladakh and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) to set up India's first [Green Hydrogen](#) Mobility project.

- LAHDC, Leh is an autonomous district council that administers the Leh district of Ladakh.
- The council was created under the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act** of 1995.
- LAHDC-Leh has a **total of 30 seats** and four councillors are nominated by the government.
- The executive arm of the council consists of an executive committee composed of a Chief Executive Councillor and four other executive councillors.
- The **autonomous** hill council work with village panchayats to take decisions on economic development, healthcare, education, land use, taxation, and local governance which are further reviewed at the block headquarters in the presence of the chief executive councillor and executive councillors.
- The administration of Union Territory of Ladakh looks after law and order, communications and the higher education in the districts.
- Leh, which is a **Buddhist-dominated district of Ladakh**, has demanded the implementation of the **sixth schedule** for the Union territory to guard against demographic change and dilution of the unique cultural and tribal identity.
- The democratic constitution of the Council has heralded **democratic decentralization** of planning process with the involvement of people at the grass root level.
- An Autonomous Hill Council has also been established in neighboring Kargil District. The **Hill Council in Kargil** came in to existence in July 2003.

410. Right to Recall

- **In News:** Recently, Haryana Assembly passed Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020, which provides the right to recall members of Panchayati Raj institutions.

The Bill:

- Provides the right to recall the elected members of Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Gives women **50% reservation in these rural bodies.**
- Provides **8% reservation to the “more disadvantaged”** among the Backward Classes.
- Allows the recall of **village sarpanches** and **members of the block-level panchayat samitis** and **district-level zila parishads** if they fail to perform

About Right to Recall

- Right to Recall is a process whereby the **electorate has the power to remove the elected officials before the expiry** of their term.
- It is an example of **instrument of direct democracy.**

Procedure to be followed for Right to Recall as provided in Bill

- To recall, **50% members of a ward or gram sabha have to give in writing** that they want to initiate proceedings.
- This will be followed by a secret ballot, in which their recall **will require two-third members voting against them.**

Direct Democracy

- Direct democracy describes those rules, institutions and processes that enable the public to vote directly on a proposed constitutional amendment, law, treaty or policy decision.

Various instruments of direct democracy include:

- **Referendums-** Allows the electorate a direct vote on a specific political, constitutional or legislative issue. The **outcome is binding** on the Government
- **Citizens' initiatives-** Allows the electorate to vote on a constitutional/legislative measure proposed by the people if the proponents of the measure gather enough signatures to support it.
- **Plebiscite-** It is a kind of referendum held by the government on the strength of the Right of Self-Determination enjoyed by the section of people. It **may or may not be binding.**



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411. Abraham Accord

- **In News:** Recently, **Israel, UAE and Bahrain** signed Abraham Accord that aims at establishing formal relations between the countries.
- The agreement that will be called the 'Abraham Accord' was brokered by US President Donald Trump.

What are the clauses of this agreement?

- The deal states that UAE would **recognise the state of Israel** and establish formal diplomatic relations with it, while Israel would halt its controversial plan to annex swathes of the Palestinian West Bank.
- In the next few weeks, Israel and the UAE will **finalise bilateral ties** and cover areas of investment, tourism, security, technology, energy, environmental issues, and the establishment of embassies, in addition to other areas of cooperation.
- The joint statement mentioned that Israel and the UAE would also be "forging closer people-to-people relations".
- The statement also said that Israel will focus its efforts now on **expanding ties with other countries in the Arab and Muslim world**, and that the US and UAE would be assisting it in achieving that goal.

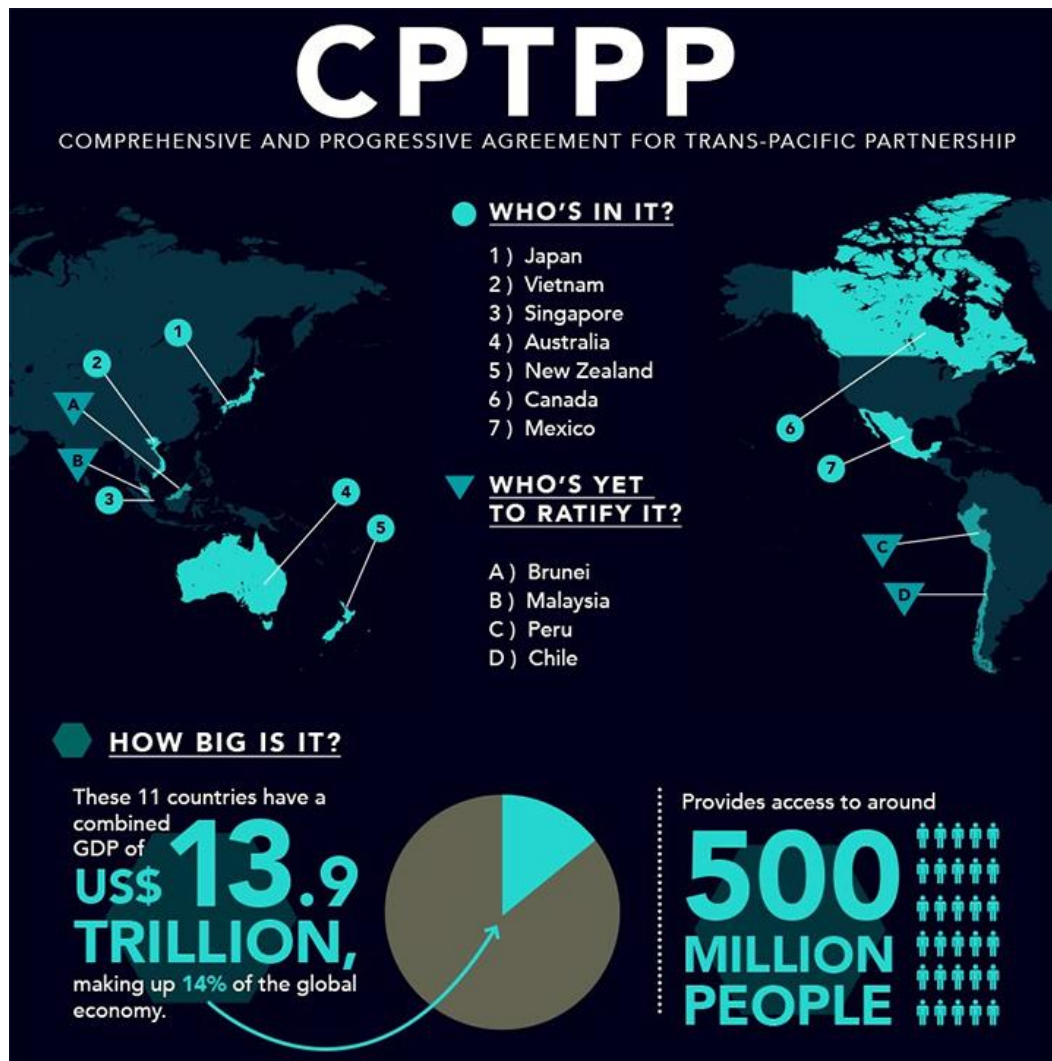
Do You Know?

- Except with Jordan and Egypt, Israel does not have diplomatic relations with Gulf Arab states owing to its long-standing conflict with Palestinians
- Israel had signed peace agreements with Egypt in 1979 and with Jordan in 1994.
- However, despite the absence of official diplomatic relations, Israel has been engaging with its neighbours with regard to issues like trade.

Significance of the agreement

- The agreement shows how the Arab countries are gradually **decoupling themselves from the Palestine question**
- The deal buys UAE a lot of goodwill in the US, where its image has been tarnished by its involvement in the Yemen war
- Other gulf states in the region like Oman could follow suit and sign similar agreements with Israel
- UAE and Bahrain **do not have any territorial dispute** with Israel, nor have they ever been at war with it.
- Although formally committed to an **Arab consensus** (two-state resolution of the Palestine cause) UAE & Bahrain have steadily moved towards having substantive links with Israel in recent years.
- Hence, the 'Abraham Accords' entered with the UAE and Bahrain are 'peace-for-peace' deals without any physical quid pro quo by Israel

412. Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)



- **CPTPP** is a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** between **11 countries** around the **Pacific Rim** which are:
- Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan.
- After the US withdrew from negotiations of **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)**, the remaining 11 participants scrambled to amend the text of the agreement, and the newly renamed **CPTPP was signed in March 2018**.
- The CPTPP removes 99% of tariffs on goods and services, just like the original TPP did.
- The CPTPP covers a broad range of goods and services. These include financial services, telecommunications, and food safety standards.
- All **countries agreed to cut down on wildlife trafficking**. That helps elephants, rhinoceroses, and marine species the most.
- It **prevents environmental abuses**, such as unsustainable logging and fishing. Countries that don't comply will face trade penalties.
- **India's Stand:** India did not join CPTPP as it seeks to place greater labor and environmental standards on its other partners and CPTPP draft includes narrowly detailed qualifications on standards for investment protection, provisions to protect the host state's right to regulate, and the imposition of detailed transparency requirements.

413. Extradition

- **In News:** In April 2021, UK's Home Department has approved the extradition of Nirav Modi, a diamond merchant to India in connection with the Rs. 13,758-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud.

About:

- Extradition is the process by which one state (here UK), upon the request of another (India), affects the **return of a person** (Nirav Modi) for trial for a crime punishable by the laws of the requesting state and committed outside the state of refuge.
 - Here Nirav Modi has been accused of Crime but has fled India and taken refuge in UK. So Indian authorities have to extradite Nirav Modi from UK to be tried in Indian Courts of Law
- The Supreme Court defined extradition as the delivery on the part of one State to another of those whom it is desired to deal with for crimes of which they have been accused or convicted and are justifiable in the Courts of the other State.
- Extraditable persons include those **charged with a crime but not yet tried, those tried and convicted** who have escaped custody, and those **convicted** in absentia.
- The basis of the extradition could be a treaty between India and another country.

In India, the extradition of a fugitive criminal is governed under the **Indian Extradition Act, 1962**.

- This is for both extraditing persons to India and from India to foreign countries.
- Also, at present India has an Extradition treaty with more than 40 countries and Extradition agreement with 11 countries.
- **Principles Followed in Extradition Treaty**
 - The extradition **applies only to such offences which are mentioned in the treaty**.
 - It applies the **principle of dual criminality** which means that the offence sought to be an offence in the national laws of requesting as well as requested country.
 - The requested country must be satisfied that there is a **prima facie case made against the offender**.
 - The extradition should be made **only for the offence for which extradition was requested**.
 - The accused must be provided with a **fair trial**.
- **Nodal Authority: Consular, Passport and Visa Division** of the Ministry of External Affairs, administers the Extradition Act and it processes incoming and outgoing Extradition Requests.

A few common bars on extradition:

- Failure to fulfil **dual criminality** – if the act for which the criminal's extradition is requested **is not a crime** in the requested state, then the state can refuse extradition.
- **Political crimes** – most nations refuse the extradition of political criminal suspects. This excludes terrorist offences and violent crimes.
- The possibility of **certain forms of punishment** – if the accused is likely to **receive capital punishment or torture** in the requesting State, the requested state can refuse extradition.
- Jurisdiction – **lack of jurisdiction** over a crime can be invoked to refuse extradition.
- The **absence of an extradition treaty**.
- Indian nationals who return to India after committing offences in **West Asia/Gulf countries** are not extradited to those countries. They are liable to be **prosecuted** in India in accordance with Indian Law. Because the bilateral treaties with these countries bar (except Oman) **extradition of own nationals**.

414. Iran Nuclear Agreement

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or Nuclear deal:

- Under JCPOA, Iran agreed to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, cut its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduce by about two-thirds the number of its gas centrifuges for 13 years.
- For the next 15 years Iran will only enrich uranium up to 3.67%.
- Iran also agreed not to build any new heavy-water facilities for the same period of time.
- Uranium-enrichment activities will be limited to a single facility using first-generation centrifuges for 10 years.
- Other facilities will be converted to avoid proliferation risks.
- To monitor and verify Iran's compliance with the agreement, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will have regular access to all Iranian nuclear facilities.

What will Iran get in return?

- The agreement provides that in return for verifiably abiding by its commitments, Iran will receive relief from U.S., European Union, and UNSC nuclear-related sanctions.
- This would have helped Iran integrate more closely into world economy & boost its economic growth.

However, US President Donald Trump withdrew from this deal and imposed crippling sanctions on Iran.

- Iran waited for other members of Agreement to convince US to re-join the deal but could not revive the deal. In this backdrop, Iran announced it would abandon limitations on enriching uranium, refusing to adhere to the 2015 nuclear deal but would continue to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog.

Timeline:

- Iran ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970, and planned to expand its nuclear power.
- After the Islamic Revolution, these plans were discontinued, and in the late 1980s, Iran established an undeclared nuclear weapons program called the AMAD project.
- In 2003, under international pressure, Iran halted the program, and signed an Additional Protocol to its NPT safeguards agreement, giving the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) greater powers in verifying the program.
- In 2006, the US, Russia and China joined Britain, France and Germany to form the P5+1 group of nations trying to persuade Iran to curb its nuclear program.
- In 2009, under President Barack Obama, the US conducted extensive one-on-one talks with Iran's top nuclear negotiator.
- In 2013, Iran and the six powers announced an interim agreement that temporarily curbed Tehran's nuclear program and unfroze some Iranian assets, setting the stage for extended negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear accord.
- In 2015, the Iran nuclear deal (formally the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) was signed between Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) plus Germany and the European Union.

415. New START Nuclear Arms Treaty

- In News: Recently, Russia approved the extension of the New START treaty. It is the last remaining nuclear Russia-USA arms control treaty which was about to expire in February 2021.

The New START Treaty:

- It came into force on 5th February, 2011.

- It is a treaty between the **United States of America and the Russian Federation** on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.
- The term 'strategic offensive arms' applies to nuclear warheads **deployed by Strategic Nuclear Delivery Vehicles ('SNDVs')**.
- **SNDVs are Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles ('ICBMs')** with a range exceeding 5,500 kilometres, strategic bombers, warships (including strategic submarines) and cruise missiles, including air and sea-launched cruise missiles.
- It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.
- It continues the process of verifiably reducing the USA and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals by limiting both sides to 700 strategic launchers and 1,550 warheads.

416. Indus Water Treaty

- In News: The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan marks its 60th anniversary on 19th September 2020.

About

- The Indus system comprises of main **Indus River, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej**. The basin is mainly shared by India and Pakistan with a **small share for China and Afghanistan**.
- Under the treaty signed between India and Pakistan in **1960, all the waters of three rivers, namely Ravi, Sutlej and Beas (Eastern Rivers) were allocated to India for exclusive use**.
- While, the waters of **Western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab** were **allocated to Pakistan** except for specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the Treaty.
- India has also been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run of the river (RoR) projects on the Western Rivers which, subject to specific criteria for design and operation is unrestricted.

Present Developments

- To utilize the waters of the Eastern rivers which have been allocated to India for exclusive use, India has constructed following dams:
 - Bhakra Dam on Satluj.
 - Pong and Pandoh Dam on Beas and
 - Thein (Ranjit Sagar) on Ravi.
- Other works like Beas-Sutlej Link, Madhopur-Beas Link, Indira Gandhi Nahar Project etc has helped India utilize nearly entire share (95 %) of waters of Eastern rivers.
- However, about 2 Million Acre Feet (MAF) of **water annually from Ravi** is reported to be still flowing unutilized to Pakistan below Madhopur.
- In 2016, Pakistan had approached the World Bank raising concerns of India's **Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power projects**. The World Bank permitted India to proceed with the projects.
- The **Tulbul project** was suspended in 1987 after Pakistan objected to it. Recently, the government decided to review this suspension not taking into account Pakistan's protests.
- Pakistan's **Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) project** passes through the Rann of Kutch in India's Gujarat. **India opposed for constructing without India's consent** as it can cause floods in Gujarat.
- In the wake of the Uri attacks on India, Prime Minister Modi remarked that **blood and water cannot flow simultaneously**.

417. Generalized System of Preferences

- **In news:** Recently, the European Union (EU) Parliament has adopted a resolution which has urged the EU Commission to consider temporary withdrawal of the GSP+ status given to Sri Lanka.

About Generalized System of Preferences (GSPs)

- It was **instituted in 1971** under the aegis of **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.
- It is aimed at creating an **enabling trading environment for developing countries**.
- The countries which grant GSP preferences are Australia, Belarus, Canada, Japan, the United States of America, etc.
- **Istanbul Program of Actions** adopted at the 4th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries, also provides for Preferential trade.

European Union's Generalized System of Preferences (GSPs)

- It is a **set of EU rules** allowing exporters from developing countries to **pay less or no duties on their exports** to the European Union
- **Criteria for GSP**
 - **Respecting arbitral awards** in favor of US citizens or corporations.
 - Combatting child labor.
 - Respecting internationally recognized **worker rights**.
 - Providing adequate and effective **intellectual property protection**.
 - Providing the US with **equitable and reasonable market access**.
 - Countries can also be graduated from the GSP program, depending on factors related to economic development.

418. Special 301 report by USTR

- The report is released **annually by the United States Trade Representative (USTR)**.
- The Special 301 Report identifies trading partners that
 - Do not adequately or effectively protect and enforce Intellectual Property (IP) rights or
 - Otherwise deny market access to U.S. innovators and creators that rely on protection of their IP rights.
- In other words, it identifies trade barriers to United States companies and products due to the **intellectual property laws** in other countries.
- Trading partners that currently present the most significant concerns regarding IP rights **are placed on the Priority Watch List or Watch List**.
 - Algeria, Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Venezuela are on the **Priority Watch List**.
 - Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vietnam are on the **Watch List**.

India continues to be on the **'Priority Watch List'** for **lack of adequate intellectual property (IP) rights protection and enforcement**.

Issues with India:

1. Difficulty to enforce patents particularly in the pharmaceutical sector.

2. An outdated trade secrets framework.
3. High customs duties on medical devices and Information and Communications Technology.
4. No centralized **IP enforcement agency**.
5. India was ranked among the top five source economies for fake goods by the **Organization of Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)** in 2019.
6. **"Excessive delays"** in obtaining trademarks.
7. The government's **2019 draft Copyright Amendment Rules**, broadened the scope of compulsory licensing from radio and television broadcasting to online broadcasting.

419. Supply Chain Resilience initiative (SCRI)

- **In News:** The Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in April 2021.

Concept of Supply chain resilience:

- It is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has **diversified its supply risk** across a few of supplying nations instead of being dependent on just one.
- Any unanticipated events that disrupt supplies from a particular country or even intentional halts to trade, could adversely impact economic activity in the destination country. To minimize the adversity, diversity of supply chain is required.

About SCRI

- The SCRI, first **proposed by Japan, aims to reduce dependence on China** amid a likelihood of recharging of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The Covid-19 pandemic was having an unprecedented impact in terms of lives lost, livelihoods and economies affected, and that the pandemic had revealed supply chain vulnerabilities globally (China centric).
- Initially, SCRI will focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience and holding investment promotion events and buyer-seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to explore the possibility of diversification of their supply chains.
- Joint measures may include supporting the enhanced utilisation of digital technology and trade and investment diversification.
- **Objective of SCRI:**
 - To attract **foreign direct investment** to turn the Indo-Pacific into an economic powerhouse
 - To build on the **existing bilateral supply chain networks**.
 - India and Japan already have an **Indo-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership** that deals with locating Japanese firms in India.
 - After an understanding emerges among India, Japan and Australia, the initiative could also be thrown open for the ASEAN countries.

420. Regional Organizations

Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

- is a multilateral initiative led by China for cooperation between the riparian states of the Mekong river. Lancang is that part of the Mekong that flows through China.

- The member countries of this mechanism are Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- The LMC was founded by China in 2016 to basically lend itself a voice on the Mekong river issues.
- The objective of the LMC is to deepen good-neighborliness and pragmatic cooperation among the six member states.
- The other goals include:
 - Make collective efforts to the socio-economic development of the LMC countries.
 - Improve the well-being of the people and narrow the development gap among its members.
 - Support the ASEAN community.
 - Advance South-South cooperation
 - Enhance the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- China also seeks to bolster its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) through this mechanism.

Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

- **Membership:** The MGC, is a sub-regional cooperation organization comprising India, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- **History:** MGC was launched in 2000 at Laos capital Vientiane.
- **Mandate:** The MGC aims at enhancing cooperation in tourism, culture, education, transport and communications.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

- Established in 1985 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 8 Member Countries – India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Pakistan.
- 9 Observers – Australia, European Union (E.U), Iran, Japan, Mauritius, South Korea, United States of America (USA), China, Myanmar
- SAARC Headquarters: Kathmandu, Nepal

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- Its members lie in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- This sub-regional organization came into being in 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**
- Out of the 7 members,
 - Five are from South Asia –
 - **Bangladesh**
 - **Bhutan**
 - **India**
 - **Nepal**
 - **Sri Lanka**
 - Two are from Southeast Asia –
 - **Myanmar**
 - **Thailand**
- BIMSTEC not only connects South and Southeast Asia, but also the ecologies of the Great Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal.

- It mainly aims to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development; accelerate social progress; and promote collaboration on matters of common interest in the region.

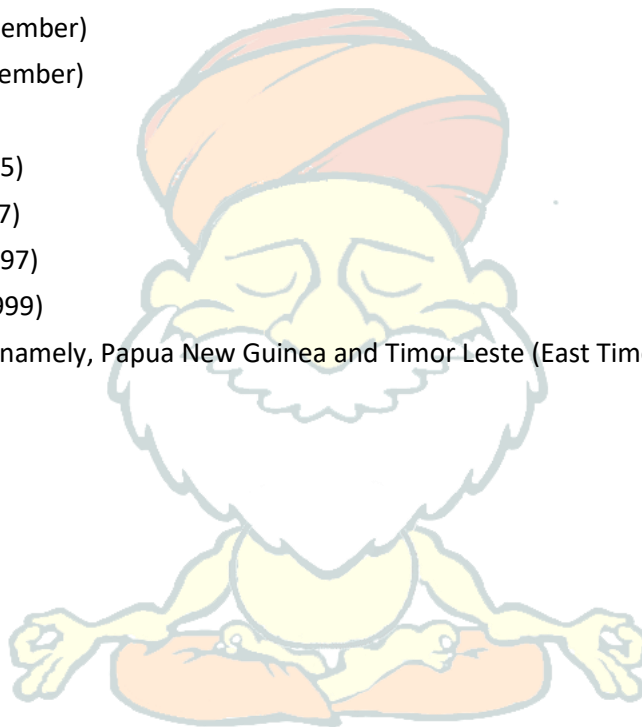
Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN)

- ASEAN was established on 8th August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand
- with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
- The preceding organization was the Association of Southeast Asia (ASA).
- Five other nations joined the ASEAN in subsequent years making the current membership to ten countries.

ASEAN Members

- Thailand (founding member)
- The Philippines (founding member)
- Malaysia (founding member)
- Singapore (founding member)
- Indonesia (founding member)
- Brunei (joined in 1984)
- Vietnam (joined in 1995)
- Lao PDR (joined in 1997)
- Myanmar (joined in 1997)
- Cambodia (joined in 1999)

There are two observer States namely, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste (East Timor)





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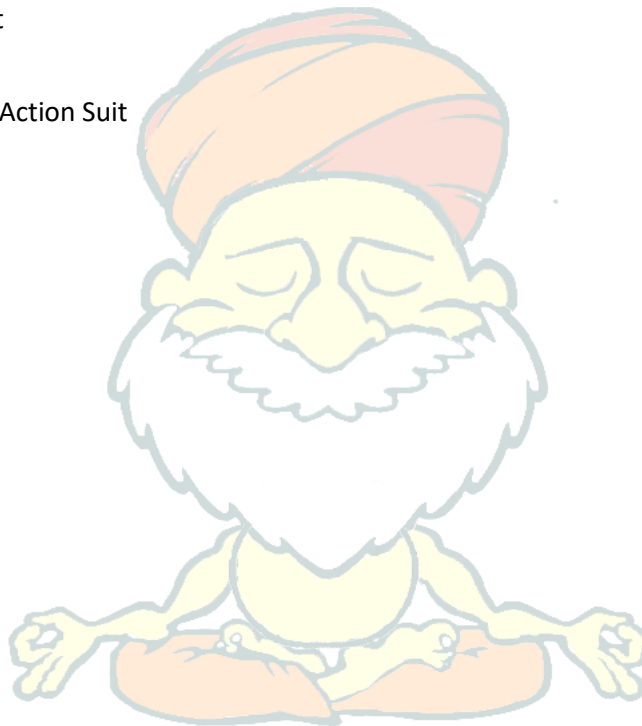
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501. AI Portal SUPACE

- **In New:** Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal 'SUPACE' in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research.
- **SUPACE** is short for **Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency**.
- It is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
- It is **not designed to take decisions**, but only to process facts and to make them available to judges looking for an input for a decision.
- Initially, it will be used on an experimental basis by the judges of Bombay and Delhi High Courts who deal with criminal matters.
- **Significance**
 - It will produce results customized to the need of the case and the way the judge thinks.
 - This will be time saving. It will help the judiciary and the court in reducing delays and pendency of cases.
 - AI will present a more streamlined, cost effective and time bound means to the fundamental right of access to justice.

E-Courts Project

- It was conceptualized with a vision to transform the Indian Judiciary by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of Courts.
- It is a pan-India Project, monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, for the District Courts across the country

502. Contempt of Court

- Contempt of Court refers to the offence of showing disrespect to the dignity or authority of a court.
- The objective for contempt is stated to be to safeguard the interests of the public if the authority of the Court is denigrated and public confidence in the administration of justice is weakened or eroded.
- The Supreme Court and High Courts derive their contempt powers from the Constitution.
- The Contempt of Court Act, 1971, outlines the procedure in relation to investigation and punishment for contempt.
- In the case of the Supreme Court, the **Attorney General or the Solicitor General**, and in the case of High Courts, the **Advocate General**, may bring in a motion before the court for initiating a case of contempt.
- However, if the motion is brought by any other person, the **consent in writing of the Attorney General or the Advocate General is required**.
- The motion or reference made for initiating the case will have to **specify the contempt of which the person charged** is alleged to be guilty.
- The objective behind this is to save the time of the court.
- If the AG denies consent, the **matter all but ends**.
- However, when the court itself initiates a contempt of court case the AG's consent is not required.
- **Article 129 of the Constitution** gives the Supreme Court the power to initiate contempt cases on its own.

The Contempt of Court Act, 1971 divides contempt into civil and criminal contempt.

- Civil contempt refers to the willful disobedience of an order of any court.
- Criminal contempt includes any act or publication which:
 - Scandalises the court,
 - Prejudices any judicial proceeding
 - Interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.

- 'Scandalising the Court' broadly refers to statements or publications which have the effect of undermining public confidence in the judiciary.

503. Right to Change Name

In New: Supreme Court struck down a **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** rule that prohibited students from changing or correcting their names on Board certificates.

- CBSE rule had prohibited students from changing or correcting their names on Board certificates, based on a presumption that it would affect **"administrative efficiency"**.
- SC said that the above rule was far-removed from social realities and even "absurd". It said that administrative efficiency cannot be the sole concern of CBSE.
- SC noted that "Every institution desires efficiency in their functioning. But it does not mean that efficiency is achieved by curbing their basic functions"
- Court illustrated how a juvenile accused of being in conflict with the **law or a sexual abuse victim whose identity is compromised** due to lapses by the media or the investigative body may consider changing the name to seek rehabilitation in the society in exercise of their right to be forgotten. Hence, it **involves right to be forgotten**.
- An individual must be in **complete control of her name**. The law must enable her to retain as well as exercise such control freely for all times. Such control would inevitably include the aspiration of an individual to be recognised by a different name for a just cause. For example, 'Gender' is an evolving concept which could warrant changes in identity documents.
- The court said one's name is an intrinsic element of identity. The right to change our name is part of the right to **freedom of speech and expression**.
- Noting that the CBSE was a **'State' in the Constitution** due its public function,
- And the State instrumentalities should play the role of enablers in the exercise of citizens' rights.

504. Tribunal Reforms

In New: The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, on Feb 13, 2021.

About Bill

- It seeks to dissolve certain existing appellate bodies and transfer their functions (such as adjudication of appeals) to other existing judicial bodies.
- The **Finance Act, 2017** empowered the central government to notify rules on qualifications of members, terms and conditions of their service, and composition of search-cum-selection committees for 19 tribunals (such as Customs, Excise, and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal).
- The Bill amends the 2017 Act to include provisions related to the composition of search-cum-selection committees, and term of office of members in the Act itself.
- **Search-cum-selection committees:** The Chairperson and Members of the Tribunals will be appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee.
- **The Committee will consist of**
 - The Chief Justice of India, or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by him, as the Chairperson (with casting vote),
 - Two Secretaries nominated by the central government,
 - The sitting or outgoing Chairperson, or a retired Supreme Court Judge, or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court,
 - The Secretary of the Ministry under which the Tribunal is constituted (with no voting right).

- **Term of office:** Term of office for the Chairperson of the tribunals will be of four years or till the attainment of the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier. For other members of the tribunals, the term will be of four years or till the age of sixty-seven years, whichever is earlier.
- Bill includes the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 within the purview of the Finance Act, 2017.
- **The Bill removes**
 - The Airport Appellate Tribunal established under The Airports Authority of India Act, 1994,
 - The Appellate Board established under the Trade Marks Act, 1999,
 - The Authority of Advanced Ruling established under the Income Tax Act, 1961, and
 - The Film Certification Appellate Authority established under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, from the purview of the Finance Act, 2017.

Transfer of functions of key appellate bodies as proposed under the Bill

Acts	Appellate body	Proposed entity
The Cinematograph Act, 1952	Appellate Tribunal	High Court
The Trade Marks Act, 1999	Appellate Board	High Court
The Copyright Act, 1957	Appellate Board	Commercial Court or the Commercial Division of a High Court
The Customs Act, 1962	Authority for Advance Rulings	High Court
The Patents Act, 1970	Appellate Board	High Court
The Airports Authority of India Act, 1994	Airport Appellate Tribunal	Central government, for disputes arising from the disposal of properties left on airport premises by unauthorised occupants. High Court, for appeals against orders of an eviction officer.
The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002	Airport Appellate Tribunal	Civil Court
The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999	Appellate Board	High Court

505. Shreya Singhal Judgement

In New: The Union Home Ministry has asked the States and the Union Territories to withdraw immediately the cases registered under the Repealed Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000

- Recently, The Supreme Court (SC) has expressed shock that the provision was still being used to book people, though SC held it as unconstitutional and a violation of free speech in the Shreya Singhal judgment, 2015

About Shreya Singhal judgment

- Section 66(A) of the Act criminalizes the sending of offensive messages through a computer or other communication device.
- Section 66A gives arbitrary powers to the police to make arrests for any “offensive” message – an entirely subjective term. This has the potential for being abused by authorities for curbing dissent
- Over the past few years, incidents related to comments, sharing of information, or thoughts expressed by an individual on the Internet have attracted criminal penalties under Section 66(A)

- Aseem Trivedi, a cartoonist, was arrested invoking the same provision for making sketch on the state of parliamentary conduct of the politicians and was charged with sedition
- In **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India case**, the entire provision was struck down by Supreme Court, which is considered a watershed moment for online free speech in India.
- The judgment had found that Section 66A was contrary to both **Articles 19** (free speech) and **Article 21** (right to life) of the Constitution.
- Describing the law as “vague in its entirety,” the Supreme Court said, it encroaches upon the **public's right to know**.
- Further, the mere causing of annoyance, inconvenience, danger, etc., or being grossly offensive or having a menacing character are not offences under the Indian Penal Code at all.

506. Collegium System

It is the **system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC**, and not by an Act of **Parliament** or by a provision of the Constitution.

Evolution of the System:

First Judges Case (1981):

- It declared that the “**primacy**” of the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**s recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for “**cogent reasons**.”
- The **ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments** for the next 12 years.

Second Judges Case (1993):

- SC **introduced the Collegium system**, holding that “consultation” really meant “**concurrence**”.
- It added that it was not the CJI's individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.

Third Judges Case (1998):

- SC on President's reference **expanded the Collegium to a five-member body**, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

The **SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges** of the court.

A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.

- Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the **government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium**.
 - The **government's role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB)** if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.
 - It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges.

Procedure for Various Judicial Appointments:

For CJI:

- The **President of India appoints the CJI and the other SC judges**.
- As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.

- In practice, it has been strictly by seniority ever since the supersession controversy of the 1970s.

For SC Judges:

- For other judges of the SC, the proposal is initiated by the CJI.
- The **CJI consults the rest of the Collegium members**, as well as the senior-most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs.
- The consultees must record their opinions in writing and it should form part of the file.
- The Collegium sends the recommendation to the Law Minister, who forwards it to the Prime Minister to advise the President.

For Chief Justice of High Courts:

- The Chief Justice of High Court is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States.
- The Collegium takes the call on the elevation.
- High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.
- The proposal, however, is initiated by the outgoing Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues.
- The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister.

507. Plea bargaining and Class Action Suit

In New: Incidents such as the recent ONGC barge disaster underline the absence of effective class action suits in India.

About class action suit

- It is a legal action or claim that allows one or many plaintiffs to file and **appear for a group of people** with similar interests. Such a group forms a "class".
- A class action, also known as a **class-action lawsuit, class suit, or representative action**, is a type of lawsuit where one of the parties is a group of people who are represented collectively.
- A class action suit derives **from representative litigation**, to ensure justice to the ordinary individual against a powerful adversary.
- These were formally incorporated into law in the **United States in 1938 under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure**.
- **Examples in India** – Bhopal gas tragedy case, Satyam computers case etc.

Plea Bargaining:

- Here a person charged with a criminal offence **negotiates with the prosecution**.
- He demands for a lesser punishment by pleading guilty.
- It primarily involves pre-trial negotiations between the **accused and the prosecutor**.
- It may involve bargaining on the charge or in the quantum of sentence.
- **In India** it was introduced in 2006 as part of a set **of amendments to the CrPC**.
 - There has always been a provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure for an accused to plead 'guilty' instead of claiming the right to a full trial, but it is not the same as plea bargaining.
 - The Law Commission of India, in its 142nd Report, mooted the idea of **"concessional treatment"** of those who plead guilty on their own volition.

- But underscored that it would not involve any plea bargaining or **“haggling” with the prosecution.**

508. Writ Petitions

- Writs are a **written order from the Supreme Court or High Court** that commands constitutional remedies for Indian Citizens against the violation of their fundamental rights.
- Article 32 in the Indian Constitution deals with constitutional remedies that an Indian citizen can seek from the Supreme Court and High Court against the violation of his/her fundamental rights.
- The same article gives the Supreme Court power to issue writs for the enforcement of rights whereas the High Court has the same power under Article 226.
- The writs- Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Certiorari, Quo Warranto, and Prohibitio

Habeas Corpus

- The Supreme Court or High Court can issue this writ against both **private and public authorities.**
- Habeas Corpus can not be issued in the following cases:
 - When detention is lawful.
 - When the proceeding is for **contempt of a legislature or a court.**
 - Detention is by a competent court.
 - Detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.

Mandamus

- This writ is used by the court to order the public official who has failed to perform his duty or refused to do his duty.
- Unlike Habeas Corpus, Mandamus **cannot be issued against a private individual.**
- To enforce departmental instruction that does **not possess statutory force.**
- To order someone to work when the kind of work is discretionary and not mandatory.
- To enforce a contractual obligation.
- Mandamus can't be issued against the **Indian President or State Governors.**
- Against the Chief Justice of a High Court acting in a judicial capacity.
- Continuing mandamus or structural interdict or structural injunction is a relief given by a court of law through a series of ongoing orders over a long period of time.

Prohibition

- **'To forbid'** a lower court from exceeding its jurisdiction.
- Writ of Prohibition can only be issued against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities.
- It can't be issued against administrative authorities, legislative bodies and private individuals or bodies.

Certiorari

- **'To be certified' or 'To be informed.'** This writ is issued by a higher court to a lower court quash their order in any case.
- **Pre-1991:** The writ of Certiorari used to be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities and not against administrative authorities
- **Post-1991:** The Supreme Court ruled that the certiorari can be issued even against administrative authorities affecting the rights of individuals
- It cannot be issued against legislative bodies and private individuals or bodies.

Quo-Warranto

- **'By what authority or warrant.'** It is issued to prevent illegal usurpation of a public office by a person.
- Quo-Warranto can be issued only when the substantive public office of a permanent character created by a statute or by the Constitution is involved.
- It can't be issued against private or ministerial office.

509. Grama Nyayalayas (Village Courts)

- These village courts are established under the **Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008** for speedy and easy access to the justice system in the rural areas of India.
- A Gram Nyayalaya has jurisdiction **over an area specified by a notification by the State Government** in consultation with the respective High Court.
- The Court **can function as a mobile court** at any place within the jurisdiction of such Gram Nyayalaya, after giving wide publicity to that regard.
- They have **both civil and criminal jurisdictions over the offences.**
- Appeals to Sessions Court in Criminal matters and to District Court in Civil matters
- **Pecuniary jurisdiction** of the Nyayalayas -fixed by respective High Courts.
- GM are presided over by a Nyayadhipari, who will have the same power, enjoy same salary and benefits of a Judicial Magistrate of First Class.
- Such Nyayadhipari are to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court
- Civil suits are proceeded on a day-to-day basis, with limited adjournments and are to be disposed **of within a period of six months** from the date of institution of the suit.
- In execution of a decree, the Court can allow special procedures following **rules of natural justice.**
- Gram Nyayalayas allow **for conciliation of the dispute and settlement** of the same in the first instance.
- Gram Nyayalayas has been given **power to accept certain evidences** which would otherwise not be acceptable under Indian Evidence Act.
- The **Gram Nyayalaya Portal** helps online monitoring of working of the Gram Nyayalayas by the implementing states.
- However, the Act has not been enforced properly, with only 208 functional GM in the country (Sept. 2019) against a target of 5000 such courts.
- The major reasons behind the non-enforcement include financial constraints, reluctance of lawyers, police and other government officials.

510. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

- **In New:** Essar case, Cyrus Mistry case, etc.

NCLAT is a statutory body constituted under **Companies Act, 2013.**

Functions:

- It hears appeals against the orders of:
- NCLT under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Composition:

- The President of the Tribunal and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be **appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.**
- The Members of the Tribunal and the Technical Members shall be **appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of:**
 - Chief Justice of India or his nominee—Chairperson.

- A senior Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of High Court— Member.
- Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs—Member.
- Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice—Member.
- Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance— Member.

Eligibility:

- Chairperson – Should be/been judge of the Supreme Court or should be/been Chief Justice of the High Court.
- Judicial Member – Is/has been a judge of a High Court or is a judicial member of a tribunal for 5 years or more.
- Technical member– Person with proven ability, integrity and standing having special knowledge and experience of 25 years or more (in specified areas).

Term:

- Term of office of chairperson and members is 5 years and they can be reappointed for additional 5 years.





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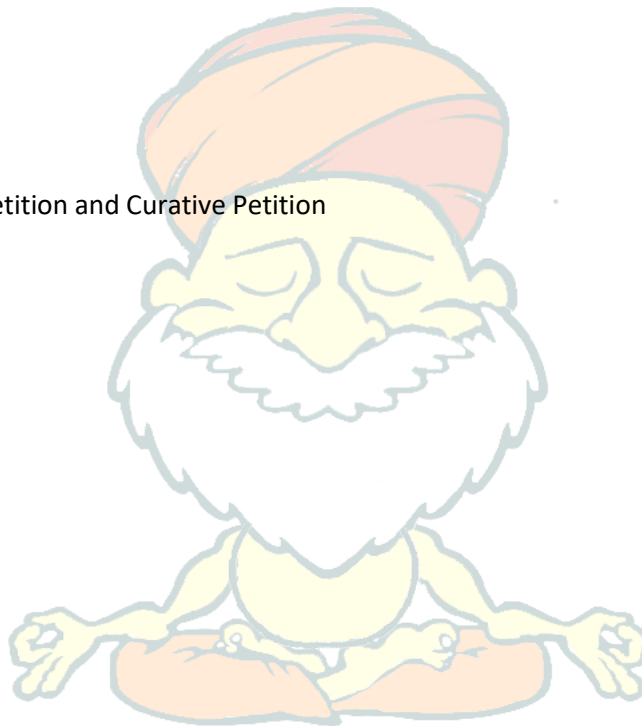
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511. Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

In New: New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act (NDIAC), 2019 was passed.

- It provides for the establishment of the NDIAC.
- It envisaged the NDIAC as an **institution of national importance**.
- The Ordinance seeks to transfer the existing **ICADR (International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution) to the central government**.
- All the rights, title and the interest in the ICADR will be transferred to the NDIAC.

ADR is a technique to resolve disputes and disagreements between the parties by arriving at an amenable settlement through negotiations and discussions. It is an attempt to establish an alternative mechanism other than the traditional methods of dispute resolutions.

- ADR is a mechanism of dispute resolution that is non adversarial, i.e. working together co-operatively to reach the best resolution for everyone.
- ADR can be instrumental in reducing the burden of litigation on courts, while delivering a well-rounded and satisfying experience for the parties involved.

Various Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms can be classified as:

- **Arbitration** – Process in which a neutral third party or parties render a decision **based on the merits of the case**. Arbitrator renders a binding award on parties.
- **Mediation** – Aims to facilitate the development of a **consensual solution** by the disputing parties. It is overseen by a non-partisan third party (Mediator).
- **Conciliation** – Process by which resolution of disputes is achieved by **compromise or voluntary agreement**. In contrast to arbitration, the conciliator does not render a binding award. The parties are free to accept or reject the award rendered.
- **Lok Adalats**: The establishment of Lok Adalat system of dispute settlement system was brought about with the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 for expediting the system of dispute settlement. In Lok Adalats, disputes in the pre-litigation stage could be settled amicably.
- **Negotiations**: It is a non-binding procedure in which discussions between the parties are initiated without the intervention of any third party with the object of arriving at a negotiated settlement to the dispute. Negotiation occurs in business, non-profit organizations, government branches, legal proceedings, among nations and in personal situations such as marriage, divorce, parenting, and everyday life.

ADR in India

- The Legal Services Authorities Act was passed in 1987 to encourage out-of-court settlements, and the new Arbitration and Conciliation Act was enacted in 1996.
- Procedure for plea-bargaining was included in the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2005. {Plea-bargaining is best described as a *"pre-trial negotiation between the accused and the prosecution during which the accused agrees to plead guilty in exchange for certain concessions by the prosecution."*}
- Lok Adalat or "people's court" comprises an informal setting which facilitates negotiations in the presence of a judicial officer wherein cases are dispensed without undue emphasis on legal technicalities. The order of the Lok-Adalat is final and binding on the parties, and is not appealable in a court of law.

512. Law Commission of India

In News: Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the constitution of the 22nd Law Commission of India for a period of three years.

- The Law Commission is an **executive body** which is established by the government for a fixed tenure. It acts as an advisory body to the Law Ministry.
- The Law Commission is neither a statutory nor a constitutional body.
- It works as an **advisory body** to the **Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- The Law Commission undertakes research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu.
- The first Law Commission in India was formed in 1955 for a three-year term with its chairman being the then Attorney-General of India, **M. C. Setalvad**.
 - The **first Law Commission** was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the **Charter Act of 1833** and was **chaired by Lord Macaulay**.

Law Commission Members

- The Commission comprises of legal and judicial experts.
- 1 Permanent Member, 1 Member Secretary, 2 Part-time Members, 2 ex-officio members.
- There is a **Chairperson** and other members in the Commission.
- The Law Secretary and the Secretary (Legislative) under the Law Ministry are ex-officio members.

The other functions of the Law Commission include:

- Identification of laws which are no longer relevant and recommending for the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments.
- Examines the Laws which affect the poor and carries out post-audit for socio-economic legislations.
- Suggesting enactment of new legislation as may be necessary to **implement the Directive Principles** and to attain the **objectives set out in the Preamble** of the Constitution.
- Considering and conveying to the Government its views on any subject relating to **law and judicial administration** that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).
- Considering the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through the Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).
- Examine the existing laws with a view of promoting **gender equality** and suggesting amendments thereto.
- Examine the **impact of globalization** on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalized.
- **Preparing and submitting to the Central Government**, from time to time, reports on all issues, matters, studies and research undertaken by it and recommending in such reports for effective measures to be taken by the Union or any State.
- Performing such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Central Government from time to time.
- Before concretizing its recommendations, the Commission consults the nodal Ministry/Departments and such, other stakeholders as the Commission may deem necessary for the purpose.

513. Rights available only to Citizens

In New: Recently, in its order in **Mohammad Salimullah v. Union of India**, the Supreme Court rejected an application to **stay the deportation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar**.

Key arguments:

- SC noted the petitioners' reliance on a judgment of the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** dated January 23, 2020, which recorded the **genocidal conditions** that resulted in 7.75 lakh Rohingyas being forced to take refuge in Bangladesh and India.
- SC relied on the word of the government that the principle of non-refoulement, or forcible repatriation to a place where the refugee's life is in danger, **applies only to signatories to the UN's Refugee Convention of 1951 or its 1967 Protocol.**
- It must be stated that a **UN Special Rapporteur** was not heard, as the Court felt that serious objections had been raised to her intervention.
- SC accepted that the right not to be deported flows **not from the right to life and liberty under Article 21, which applies to all human beings**, but from the right to reside and settle in India under Article 19(1)(g), which applies to citizens alone.

The following is the list of fundamental rights that are available **only to citizens** (and not to foreigners):

- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste, gender or place of birth (**Article 15**).
- Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (**Article 16**).
- Protection of freedom of: (**Article 19**)
 - Speech and expression
 - Association
 - Assembly
 - Movement
 - Residence
 - Profession
- Protection of the culture, language and script of minorities (**Article 29**).
- Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (**Article 30**).

514. Nyaya Bandhu App

In New: Department of Justice launched the iOS version of the Nyaya Bandhu Application on UMANG platform (MeiTY)

- The Nyaya Bandhu mobile app **facilitates the provision of free legal services.**
- The app aims to **connect litigants in need with lawyers willing to offer such pro bono services.** Lawyers willing to offer free legal services may register themselves with the app.
- Litigants in need can thereby access free legal advice through the app.
- By maintaining a database of lawyers who volunteer to give pro bono service, the Department hopes to inculcate a pro bono culture in the legal domain.
- It has been developed in collaboration with **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited** and is available in Hindi and English.

Pro Bono legal service:

- Pro Bono comes from the Latin expression "**pro bono publico**" meaning "**for the public good**".
- Many lawyers provide poor and underprivileged clients with valuable legal advice and support without seeking any professional fee.

About Nyaya Bandu program

- The Pro Bono Legal services program was launched by the **Minister for Law & Justice in April 2017.**
- It would ensure that lawyers who volunteer their valuable time and service, towards this public service, are duly recognized for their contribution.
- **Eligible beneficiaries:**
- As per the Section 12 of The Legal Services Authority Act of 1987. These include:

- Member of a Scheduled Caste
- Member of a Scheduled Tribe
- Victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred in article 23 of the Constitution
- Woman or a Child
- Person with disability
- Person in custody
- An industrial workman
- Victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster
- Person with annual income less than as specified under law

515. Under Trails

In New: Kerala Union of Working Journalists v. Union of India : While deciding a petition seeking release of Kerala journalist Sidique Kappan , the Supreme Court held that the fundamental right to life is available to undertrial prisoners as well.

- Under trails refer to a person who is being held in custody (jail) awaiting trial for a crime i.e. awaiting final judgement by Court.

Supreme Court Directives:

- Guidelines issued by SC in a landmark **judgement on inhuman conditions of prisons in 2013.** (Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons vs. State of Assam)
- The **Under Trial Review Committee to be set up** in every district should meet every quarter.
- The Under Trial Review Committee should specifically look into aspects pertaining to effective implementation of **Section 436** of the CrPC (prisoners to be released on bail except for non-bailable offences) and **Section 436A** of the CrPC so that undertrial prisoners are released at the earliest.
- **State Legal Service Authority** of every state should ensure that an adequate number of competent lawyers are provided to assist undertrial prisoners and convicts, particularly the poor and indigent
- **District Legal Services Committee** should also look into the issue of the release of undertrial prisoners in compoundable offences.

Government steps:

- Establishing **fast-track courts** to speed up the resolution of cases involving undertrial prisoners.
- **Mission Mode Programme for Delivery of Justice & Legal Reforms–Undertrial Programme:** It aimed to resolve 2/3rd of all undertrial cases and ease congestion in jails by 2010.
- Introducing the **concept of plea bargaining through Section 265 of CrPC:**
- Insertion of **Section 436A of CrPc**– It states that if an accused is detained for more than half the maximum period of imprisonment associated with the crime, he/she has the right to be released on the presentation of a personal bond.
- **Free legal services** are provided to all undertrial prisoners by NALSA's legal service clinics.

516. Article 29 & 30

- **In New:** VHP demanding to amend Article 29 and 30 so that all the educational institutes would be treated equally.
- **The Supreme Court in Christian Medical College Vellore Association v. Union of India** - Rights conferred on religious and linguistic minorities is **not an absolute right** and is not free of regulation from the State.

- Article 30 does not prevent the State from imposing reasonable regulations to make the administration of minority institutions transparent.

Article 29 – Protection of Interests of Minorities

- Article 29(1):** All citizen groups that reside in India having a distinct culture, language, and script, the right to conserve their culture and language. This right is absolute and there are **no 'reasonable restrictions'** in the interest of the general public here.
- Article 29(2):** The State shall not deny admission into educational institutes maintained by it or those that receive aids from it to any person based on race, religion, caste, language, etc. This right is given to individuals and not any community.

Article 30 – Right of Minorities to Establish and Administer Educational Institutions

- Article 30(1):** All religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- Article 30(2):** The State should not, when granting aid to educational institutions, **discriminate against** any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.

517. e-Courts

- In New:** The High Court of Punjab and Haryana to launch its **first virtual court (e-Court) at Faridabad.**

e-Courts Project

- The e-Courts project was conceptualized on the basis of the **“National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary – 2005”** submitted by e-Committee, Supreme Court.
- The e-Courts Mission Mode Project, **is a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India** for the District Courts across the country.

The project envisages:

- Virtual courts.
- To develop, install & implement decision support systems in courts.
- To automate the processes of information disclosure to its stakeholders.
- To enhance judicial productivity.

E-committee

- The E-Committee **was set up in 2004** to provide a guide map for the use of I-T and administrative reforms in the judiciary.
- All expenditure in connection with the functioning of the e-Committee is met from the sanctioned budget of the Supreme Court of India.

518. All India Judicial Service (AIJS)

In New: Recently the Law Minister recommended giving more representation to SC/STs in judicial service through creation of All India Judicial Service.

About AIJS:

- AIJS is a **proposed cadre of judicial officers** to be recruited for the judiciary at the lower levels (below High Courts)
- They are to be recruited through an open competitive national level exam conducted on the lines of Civil Services Exam.
- It is mooted to be an **All India Service under Article 312**.
- A National Judicial Commission will also be constituted to oversee the AIJS, working on the lines of UPSC.
- Currently, the recruitment of lower level judicial officers is conducted by the respective **state governments** in consonance with the **State High Courts**.

A Brief History:

- **Article 235** puts the lower judiciary under the control of the High Court.
- The idea of formation of AIJS first came out as a proposal by the Law Commission of India in 1958.
- After the **Swaran Singh Committee's** recommendations in 1976, **Article 312 was modified** to include the judicial services, but it excluded anyone below the rank of district judge.
- The **Chief Justices Conferences in 1961, 1963 and 1965** favoured the creation of an AIJS.
- But the proposal had to be shelved after some **States and High Courts opposed it**, as it takes away their powers to recruit lower level judiciary.
- **Government of India comes up with the white paper on the creation of All India Judicial services.**

519. Master of Roster

- **'Master of Roster'** refers to the privilege of the Chief Justice to constitute Benches to hear cases.
- This includes allocation of matters before a judge as well.
- The CJI, also has the right to **mark the sensitive cases** to specific benches.

Issues:

- First, can the chief justice be part of the hearing, **a scandal that allegedly implicates him**.
- Second, could a constitution bench be constituted by by-passing the chief justice in violation of the current procedure through which such benches are constituted?
- Justice Chelameswar's order setting up a constitutional bench.
- Third, this violates the basic principle of law: **Nemo Judex In Causa Sua**, that no one should be a judge in his own case.

Legal base:

- Supreme Court **Handbook On Practice and Procedure and Office Procedure (Chapter VI – Roster)** Rule 29: Registrar shall prepare roster under the directions of the Chief Justice of India, and all such powers, are subject to general orders of the Chief Justice of India.
- **State of Rajasthan v. Prakash Chand:** Regarding the matters of the High Court, the Chief Justice is the master of the roster.

520. Review Petition, Mercy Petition and Curative Petition**Review Petition:**

- Under **Article 137**, the Supreme Court has the power to review any of its judgments or orders.
- **Scope for review:**

- Not to take fresh stock of the case but **to correct grave errors that have resulted in the miscarriage of justice.**
- In a 1975 ruling, **Justice Krishna Iyer** said a review can be accepted “only where a glaring omission or patent mistake or like grave error has crept in earlier by judicial fallibility”.

Mercy petition:

- A mercy petition is filed by a convict to change his/her punishment into a lesser form of punishment.
- **Scope of mercy petition:**
 - The death sentence by the Session Court must be confirmed by the High Court.
 - The convict can appeal to the **Supreme Court.**
 - If the Supreme Court refuses to hear the appeal or upholds the death sentence.
 - A mercy petition can be submitted to the President of India under **Article 72** of the Indian Constitution or to the Governor of state under **Article 161** of the Indian Constitution.

Curative Petition

- A curative petition is a petition which requests the court to review its own decision even after a review petition is dismissed.
- During the **Nirbhaya Case** when two of the convicts filed the same petition against the Supreme Court's decision after the mercy and review petition had been rejected.
- **Procedure of a Curative Petition**
 - A curative petition is supported by **Article 137 of the Constitution of India.**
 - A curative petition needs to be made **within 30 days** from the date of the judgement passed.
 - A petitioner can file a curative petition **only if the review petition has been dismissed.**
 - A curative petition is entertained if it has been established that there has been a violation of the **principles of natural justice.**
 - Additional grounds of considering the petition is that he/she **was not heard** by the court when passing the judgement.
 - If the petition lacks any grounds for reasonable consideration then the court could impose “**exemplary costs**” on the petitioner.

Special Leave Petition:

- Under **Article 136**, the Constitution of India provides power to the Supreme Court to grant special permission or leave to an aggrieved party to appeal against an order passed in any of the lower courts or tribunals in India.
- The appeal **need not be against a high court** unlike the appeals.
- It is to be used in case any substantial constitutional **question of law is involved, or gross injustice** has been done.
- It is a discretionary power vested in the Supreme Court of India and the court **may in its discretion refuse to grant leave** to appeal.
- The aggrieved party cannot claim special leave to appeal under Article 136 as a right, but it is privilege vested in the Supreme Court of India to grant leave to appeal or not.
- Leave Petition can be filed **when a High Court refuses to grant the certificate of fitness** for appeal to the Supreme Court.



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601. & 602. MCQs**Q.1) When reference to carbon nanotubes, consider the following statements:**

1. They can be used as carriers of drugs and antigens in the human body.
2. They can be made into artificial blood capillaries for an injured part of human body.
3. They can be used in biochemical sensors.
4. Carbon nanotubes are biodegradable.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

- Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are cylindrical large molecules consisting of a hexagonal arrangement of hybridized carbon atoms, which may be formed by rolling up a single sheet of **graphene (single-walled carbon nanotubes, SWCNTs)** or by rolling up multiple sheets of graphene (**multiwalled carbon nanotubes, MWCNTs**). Hence structurally, carbon nanotubes (CNTs) can be viewed as wrapped from graphene sheets

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
<p>CNTs have a large surface area that allows them to attach a wide range of biological substances. In addition, CNTs are able to penetrate through cell membranes, capillaries, and accumulated in cells and tissues.</p> <p>It is expected that enabling technology would facilitate the making of nanodevices using these blood-compatible nanomaterials as building blocks for biomedical applications such as artificial implants, including structural tissue replacements, that is, artificial blood vessels, or functional devices such as drug delivery matrixes.</p> <p>Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.</p>	<p>NASA has demonstrated the use of carbon nanotube arrays as biosensors.</p> <p>Hence option 3 is correct.</p>	<p>Carbon nanotubes were once considered to be resistant to chemical damage due to their rigid and perfect chemical structure, which rendered them immune to biodegradation. However, enzymes like peroxidase were found to play an important role in the process of biodegradation of carbon nanotubes. Hence option 4 is correct.</p>	

Q.2) Consider the following activities:

1. Spraying pesticides on a crop field
2. Inspecting the craters of active volcanoes
3. Collecting breath samples from spouting whales for DNA analysis.

At the present level of technology, which of the above activities can be successfully carried out by using drones?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Drone technology has been used by defense organizations for quite some time. However, the benefits of this technology extends well beyond just these sectors e.g. emergency response, humanitarian relief, healthcare, disease

control, weather forecasting etc.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Recently, the use of drones to spray pesticides (in Telangana) was in the news. It is considered illegal in India. But in the US it is legally practised in many states. Hence option 1 is correct	Drones have also been used to study the craters of active volcanoes to know about their recent activities, a place which human beings cannot directly access. Hence option 2 is correct.	Recently, Australian scientists used drones (that flew 200 metres above the blowholes of whales) to collect the mucus of whales from their water sprays to examine their health. The whale spray collected by a drone contains DNA, proteins, lipids and types of bacteria. Hence option 3 is correct.

Q.3) The experiment will employ a trio of spacecraft flying in formation in the shape of an equilateral triangle that has sides one million kilometers long, with lasers shining between the craft." The experiment in question refers to

- (a) Voyager - 2
- (b) New Horizons
- (c) LISA Pathfinder
- (d) Evolved LISA

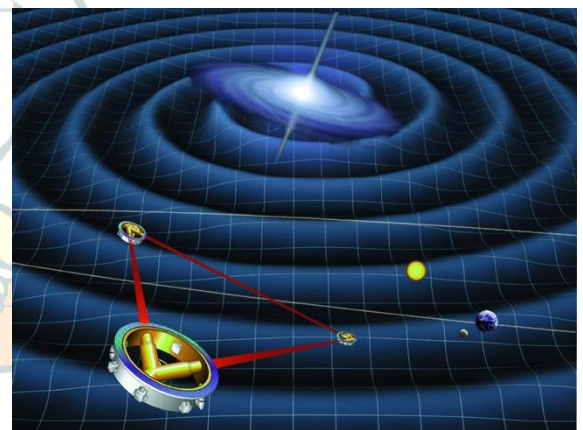
Answer: (d)

The experimental research on black holes using gravitational waves expanded following the second detection of gravitational waves by the LIGO detector.

After the success of the LISA Pathfinder experiment, **the evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)** project is a plan of setting into space three spacecraft, a mother and two daughter spacecraft, which will fly in a triangular formation, trailing the earth in its orbit around the sun at a distance of over 50 million km.

Each arm of the imaginary triangle, from the mother to each daughter spacecraft, will measure about a million km. Inside these spacecraft will float "freely falling" test masses – cubes with sides measuring about 46 mm. Laser interferometers will accurately measure changes in the distance between these cubes. If they should be affected by a gravitational wave, the minute changes in this distance are measured by the interferometer.

Hence option (d) is the correct answer.



Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Genetic changes can be introduced in the cells that produce eggs or sperms of a prospective parent.
2. A person's genome can be edited before birth at the early embryonic stage.
3. Human induced pluripotent stem cells can be injected into the embryo of a pig.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Germline gene therapy targets the reproductive cells, meaning any changes made to the DNA will be passed on to the next generation. Consequently, the practice has dramatically divided opinion. Germline gene therapy is when DNA is transferred into the cells that produce reproductive cells, eggs or sperm, in the body. Hence statement 1 is correct.	Although germline gene therapy is illegal, embryonic genetic editing is different from that and is possible to make genome changes to eliminate the vertical transfer (through inheritance) of certain diseases and medical conditions. Hence statement 2 is correct.	Human-animal chimeras are animals bearing human cells and organs. They offer insights into early human development and disease onset and provide a realistic drug-testing platform. Researchers have experimented by injecting several different forms of human stem cells into pig embryos to see which cell-type would survive best. The cells that survived longest and showed the most potential to continue to develop were intermediate human pluripotent stem cells. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Q.5) What is the importance of using Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines in India?

1. These vaccines are effective against pneumonia as well as meningitis and sepsis.
2. Dependence on antibiotics that are not effective against drug resistant bacteria can be reduced.
3. These vaccines have no side effects and cause no allergic reactions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

A conjugate vaccine is a type of vaccine which combines a weak antigen with a strong antigen as a carrier so that the immune system has a stronger response to the weak antigen.

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
A Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) is a pneumococcal vaccine which gives prevention against pneumococcal diseases, that are infections caused by bacteria called <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , or pneumococcus. Pneumococcal infections can range from ear and sinus infections to pneumonia and bloodstream infections. A pneumococcal vaccine is also commonly called pneumonia vaccine and can prevent septicaemia (a kind of blood poisoning, also called sepsis) and meningitis. Hence statement 1 is correct.	While vaccines are not intended to replace antibiotics, they can contribute to reduce AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance or drug resistance) by preventing (resistant) bacterial diseases and their transmission, and by reducing antibiotic use and misuse. PCVs for pneumococcus can potentially reduce the dependence on antibiotics by nearly fifty percent per year. Hence statement 2 is correct.	Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines can have side effects ranging from fever, loss of appetite to headache, fussiness. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

603. Central Information Commission

Why in news: Recently, the Supreme Court asked the Central government to give details about the pendency of cases in the Central Information Commission(CIC).

About Central Information Commission

- It was established by the Central Government in 2005.
- It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).

Composition

- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner(CIC) and not more than ten Information Commissioners (ICs)
- Appointed by the President on recommendation of a committee consisting of
- Prime Minister as Chairperson
- Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
- Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
- They should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
- They should not be a MP or MLA.
- They should not hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

Tenure and Service Condition

- CIC and ICs shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government (2019 Amendment Act) or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They are not eligible for reappointment
- President can remove CIC or any IC from the office under the following circumstances:
- if he is adjudged an insolvent; or^[SEP]
- if he has been convicted of an offence which (in the opinion of the President) involves a moral turpitude;
- if he engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or^[SEP]
- if he is (in the opinion of the President) unfit to continue in office due to infirmity of mind or body; or
- if he has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his official functions.^[SEP]
- In addition to these, the president can also remove on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity (must refer SC)
- The salary, allowances and service conditions of the CIC and ICs shall be prescribed by Central Government (cannot be varied to his disadvantage during service)

Powers and Functions

- The Commission has the power to secure compliance of its decisions from the public authority. Some of which includes:^[SEP]
- providing access to information in a particular form;
- publishing information or categories of information;^[SEP]
- directing the public authority to appoint a Public Information Officer where none exists;
- imposing penalties under this Act
- rejecting the application.
- The Commission can order inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-moto power).^[SEP]
- While inquiring, the Commission has the powers of a civil court^[SEP]
- The Commission submits an annual report to the Central Government on the implementation of the provisions of RTI Act. The Central Government places this report before each House of Parliament.

- When a public authority does not conform to the provisions of Act, the Commission may recommend (to the authority) steps which ought to be taken for promoting such conformity.

604. Election Commission

Why in news: Recently, Election Commission of India revised its rules with respect to **polling agents**

New rules:

- Now a political party can now nominate a polling agent for **any booth within the assembly segment** in which the individual is a voter.
- Earlier, the polling agent had to be a **voter of the booth or an adjoining booth** that he/she is working at.
- It will help any political party to appoint a polling agent amid the COVID-19 **pandemic since getting one agent at this hour may be difficult.**

Polling agent

- Polling agent is a person appointed as a **representative of a political party.**
- As it is not possible for a candidate **to be physically present** at every polling booth on the day of the elections.
- Therefore, the Election Commission allows a candidate to appoint a polling agent **who keeps an eye on the voting process.**

Role of polling agent

- A polling agent should be familiar with the **rules and procedures for conducting elections** using EVMs and VVPATs, etc.
- Those holding **government positions** and those who have been given security cover at the state's expense, including Ministers, are not allowed to be polling agents.
- Polling agent **attends the demonstrations arranged** by the Polling Officer, where the functioning and operation of these machines are explained.
- The task of the **Presiding Officer and the Polling Officers** at the polling station will be made easy and smooth if the polling agents discharge their duties sincerely.

Election Commission – Chief Electoral Officers – Election Observers – Returning Officers – Presiding Officer – Polling Officer

605. NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog

- Prime Minister** of India is the Chairperson
- Governing Council** consists of the Chief Ministers of all the States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in India.
- Regional Councils** will be created to address particular issues and possibilities affecting more than one state.
- These will be formed for a fixed term.
- It will be summoned by the Prime Minister. It will consist of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories. These will be chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.
- Special invitees:** Eminent experts, specialists with relevant domain knowledge, who are nominated by the Prime Minister.

The full-time organizational framework will include, in addition to the Prime Minister as the Chairperson:

- Vice-Chairperson** (appointed by the Prime Minister)
- Members:**

- **Full-time members:** retired bureaucrats.
- **Part-time members:** Maximum of 2 members from foremost universities, leading research organizations, and other innovative organizations in an ex-officio capacity. Part-time members will be on a rotational basis.
- **Ex Officio members:** Maximum of 4 members of the Council of Ministers which is to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Chief Executive Officer:** CEO will be appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure. He will be in the rank of **Secretary to the Government of India**.

606. Public Service Commissions: Union and State

- Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution deals with **Union Public Service Commission**
- It is the central recruiting agency in India.
- **Composition:** Chairman and other members appointed by President (strength of the Commission is left to the discretion of the President)
- No qualifications are prescribed for the Commission's membership **except** that one-half of the members of the Commission should be such persons who have held office for at least ten years either under Central or State government
- The Constitution also authorises the **President** to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.
- Six years or until they attain the age of 65 years
- **Removal:** by the president under following circumstances
 - if he is adjudged an insolvent
 - if he engages in paid employment outside the office
 - If he is, in the opinion of the president, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.
- In addition to these, the President can also remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC for misbehaviour (Supreme Court has to be referred, binding on President)
- Defining the term 'misbehaviour' in this context, the Constitution states that the chairman or any other member of the UPSC is deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour if he (a) is concerned or interested in any contract or agreement made by the Government of India or the government of a state, or (b) participates in any way in the profit of such contract or agreement

Independence of UPSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conditions of service of the chairman or a member, though determined by the president, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. • Entire expenses are charged on CFI • Chairman of UPSC is not eligible for reappointment to that office (not eligible for second term) • Chairman of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state • Member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It conducts examinations for appointments to the all-India services, Central services and public services of the centrally administered territories. • The additional functions relating to the services of the Union can be conferred on UPSC by the Parliament • It is consulted on the following matters related to personnel management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principles to be followed in making appointments to services and posts and in making promotions and transfers • Suitability of candidates for appointments to civil service and posts; for promotions and transfers from one service another

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under Government of India [SEP] • Matters of temporary appointments for period exceeding one year and on regularisation of appointments [SEP]
Position of UPSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC has held that if the government fails to consult UPSC in the matters (mentioned above), the aggrieved public servant has no remedy in a court (provision is directory and not mandatory) • Similarly, the court held that a selection by the UPSC does not confer any right to the post upon the candidate. However, the government is to act fairly and without arbitrariness • Present annual report to President who then places it before both LS & RS. The report contains explanation of cases where the advice of the Commission was not accepted and the reasons for such non-acceptance

STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (SPSC)

- Same set of Articles (i.e., 315 to 323 in Part XIV) of Constitution also deal with SPSC
- SPSC performs all those functions in respect of the state services as the UPSC does in relation to the Central services.
- Tenure: Six years or until 62 years (in case of UPSC it is 65 years)
- Removal, Independence, Functions and Limitation is similar to UPSC (Governor & State Legislatures in place of President & Parliament)

Additional Points regarding SPSC are

- The chairman of a SPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman or a member of the UPSC or as the chairman of any other SPSC, but not for any other employment under the Government of India or a state.
- A member of a SPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman or a member of the UPSC, or as the chairman of that SPSC or any other SPSC, but not for any other employment under the Government of India or a state.
- The chairman or a member of a SPSC is (after having completed his first term) not eligible for reappointment to that office (that is, not eligible for second term).

JOINT STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (JSPSC)

- The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.
- While the UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned
- Thus, a JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body
- The chairman and members of a JSPSC are appointed by the president.
- Term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
- The number of members of a JSPSC and their conditions of service are determined by the president
- A JSPSC presents its annual performance report to Governor of each of the concerned state. Each governor places the report before the state legislature.
- The UPSC can also serve the needs of a state on the request of the state governor and with the approval of the president.

Do You Know?

- As provided by the Government of India Act of 1919, a Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 and entrusted with the task of recruiting civil servants.
- The Government of India Act of 1935 provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission.

607. FSSAI – Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.
- **Headquarters:** Delhi.
- FSS Act, 2006 consolidates various acts & orders that had earlier handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments, such as–
 - Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
 - Fruit Products Order, 1955
 - Meat Food Products Order, 1973
 - Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947
 - Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1988
 - Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992
 - These were repealed after commencement of FSS Act, 2006.
- FSSAI was consequently established in 2008 but work within the Food Authority effectively began in 2011 after its Rules and key Regulations were notified.
- This marked a shift from a multi-level to a single line of control with focus on self-compliance rather than a pure regulatory regime.

Composition of FSSAI

- **Chairman** – Appointed by the Central Government
- **22 other members**, of which one-third must be women
- A strong team of scientists and researchers for the testing of food quality.
- **Separate committees** of experts with scientific backgrounds.

Functions of FSSAI

- **Setting Rules and Guidelines** for all food manufacturing companies, keeping into consideration hygiene and food safety.
- **Granting License** to pursue any food related business.
- **Test the Standard of Food.**
- **Proper inspection** is done for food-producing and manufacturing companies to ensure the standards are at par with the guidelines.
- **Spreading Food Safety Awareness**
- **Maintain Records and Data** of all the registered organizations.
- **Keeping the Government Updated** – Any food safety-related threat must be informed to the Government authorities for further action.
- Assist the government in framing food standard policies

FSSAI Initiatives

- **Heart Attack Rewind** – It is the first mass media campaign of FSSAI. It is aimed to support FSSAI's target of eliminating trans fat in India by the year 2022.
- **FSSAI-CHIFSS** – It is collaboration between FSSAI and CII-HUL Initiative on Food Safety Sciences to promote collaborations between Industry, Scientific Community, Academia for food safety.
- **Swasth Bharat Yatra** – It is a Pan-India cycle movement called as 'Eat Right India' aimed to create consumer awareness about eating safe and nutritious food.

608. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NDRC)

- Established in 1988, it is a quasi-judicial commission established as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- The NCDRC is headed by a **retired or a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.**

- Currently, the NCDRC is headed by a former SC judge and comprises seven other members.
- The NCDRC is at the apex while it has **35 state commissions and 629 district fora under it.**

NCDRC Jurisdiction

- **As per the 2019 Amendment Act, the NCDRC will entertain complaints valued above Rs. 10 Crore.**
- Also, the **Commission has appellate as well as revisional jurisdictions** from the orders of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and the District Fora.
- Any person who is aggrieved by an order of the NCDRC may appeal against the order in the **Supreme Court within a period of 30 days.**
- The State commissions will entertain cases between Rs. 1 Crore and Rs. 10 Crore.
- The District fora will look into cases up to Rs. 1 Crore.
- The complainant can make the complaint in the place where he/she works or **resides rather than where the opposite party resides.**

609. Bharatiya Shiksha board

Why in news: Recently, the Union government gave its approval to Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust to set up the Bharatiya Shiksha Board (BSB).

About Bharatiya Shiksha Board (BSB)

- The idea to establish a new national school board for "swadeshikaran (indigenization)" of education was first mooted by Ramdev.
- BSB has been **registered as a society** and set up an office in Haridwar.
- A sum of Rs 71 crore as **corpus fund and development fund** has been deposited in its bank account and the Executive Board of BSB has also been constituted.
- BSB, a national school board on Vedic education will be set up on the lines of **CBSE.**

Functions:

- BSB was conceived to standardize "Indian traditional knowledge" and "blend it with modern education" by way of **drafting curriculum, affiliating schools, conducting examinations and issuing certificates.**
- The BSB is likely to affiliate Ramdev's Acharyakulam; Vidya Bharati schools (run by the RSS); and gurukuls run by the Arya Samaj.

610. Comparison of selection committees

Lokpal Selection Committee	The Selection Committee for the Lokpal shall comprise of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prime Minister, • Speaker of the Lower House (Lok Sabha) • Leaders of the Opposition of the Lower House, • The Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him, and • An eminent jurist nominated by the President (Governor).
CIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee. • The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. • A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
NHRC	The Selection Committee includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister (Chairman) • Speaker of Lok Sabha

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Home Minister • Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha • Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses of the Parliament
CVC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister (Chairperson), • The Minister of home affairs (Member) • The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha.
CBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister – Chairperson • Leader of Opposition of Lok Sabha or the Leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha, if the former is not present due to lack of mandated strength in the Lok Sabha – a member. • Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge recommended by the Chief Justice – member





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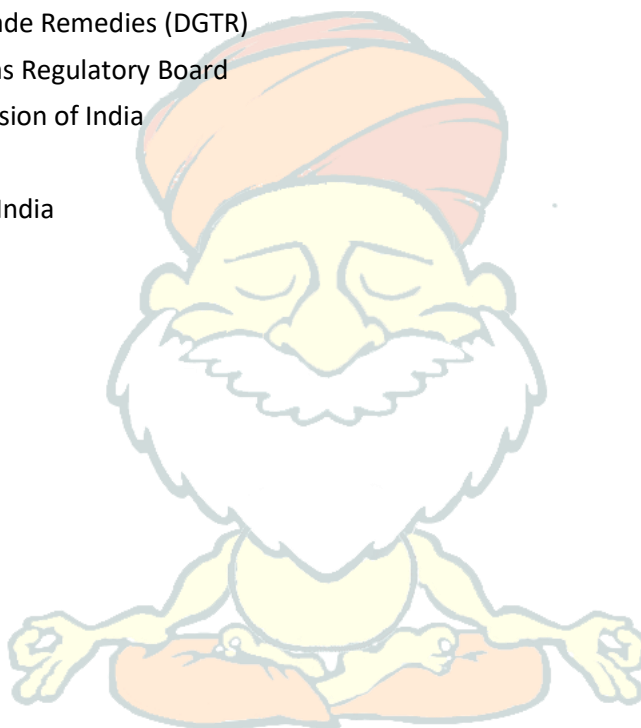
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611. & 612. MCQs

Q.1) In India, the term "Public Key Infrastructure is used in the context of

- a) Digital security infrastructure
- b) Food security infrastructure
- c) Health care and education infrastructure
- d) Telecommunication and transportation infrastructure

Answer: (a)

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is a technology for authenticating users and devices in the digital world. The basic idea is to have one or more trusted parties digitally sign documents certifying that a particular cryptographic key belongs to a particular user or device

Q.2) Which of the following are the reasons/factors for exposure to benzene pollution?

- 1. Automobile exhaust
- 2. Tobacco smoke
- 3. Wood burning
- 4. Using varnished wooden furniture
- 5. Using products made of polyurethane

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (d)

- Benzene is a chemical that is a colorless or light yellow liquid at room temperature. It has a sweet odor and is highly flammable.
- Benzene evaporates into the air very quickly.
- Its vapor is heavier than air and may sink into low-lying areas.
- Benzene dissolves only slightly in water and will float on top of water.
- Benzene is formed from both natural processes and human activities.
- Natural sources of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires. Benzene is also a natural part of crude oil, gasoline, and cigarette smoke.
- Some industries use benzene to make other chemicals that are used to make plastics, resins, and nylon and synthetic fibers. Benzene is also used to make some types of **lubricants**, rubbers, dyes, detergents, drugs, and pesticides.
- Wood finishes can contain and emit various chemicals. For example, paints and some wood treatments can contain formaldehyde, acetone, toluene or butanol.
- Wood dyes can contain: nonane, decane, undecane, dimethyloctane, dimethylnonane, trimethylnonane, trimethylbenzene.

- During fires, **polyurethane foams** burn rapidly and produce dense smoke, toxic gases and intense heat. Carbon monoxide is most common, but smoke also contains **benzene**, toluene, nitrogen oxides and hydrogen cyanide.
-

Q.3) Which of the following statements are correct regarding the general difference between plant and animal cells?

1. Plant cells have cellulose cell walls whilst animal cells do not.
2. Plant cells do not have plasma membrane unlike animal cells which do.
3. Mature plant cell has one large vacuole whilst animal cell has many small vacuoles.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<p>The most important difference between a plant cell and an animal cell is that the former has a cell wall.</p> <p>A cell wall gives mechanical support to a plant cell.</p> <p>Animal cells do not have cell walls. The cell wall is, a rigid membrane matrix found on the surface of all plant cells whose primary role is to protect the cell and its content</p> <p>Plants have both a cell wall that is made up of cell membrane (plasma membrane) and cellulose.</p> <p>Hence statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.</p>		<p>Plant cells have a large central vacuole that can occupy up to 90% of the cell's volume. Animal cells may have many small vacuoles, a lot smaller than the plant cell. Hence statement 3 is correct.</p>

Q.4) If another global financial crisis happens in the near future, which of the following action/policies are most likely to give some immunity to India?

1. Not depending on short - term foreign borrowings
2. Opening up to more foreign banks
3. Maintaining full capital account convertibility

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
<p>Short-term borrowings would lead to the burden of paying back the debt, and could result in stressful conditions for the borrowing economy/ India.</p> <p>Hence, not depending on it will give some immunity for India in future global financial crisis.</p>	<p>Opening up to more foreign banks would lead to an enhanced exposure to the global economy, and hence an increased risk.</p> <p>Therefore, option 2 is not correct.</p>	<p>Currency convertibility refers to a situation in which a currency can be converted into a foreign currency, and vice-versa at the prevailing exchange rate without any government intervention.</p> <p>In India, we cannot completely convert rupees to dollars- There are restrictions to the same.</p> <p>Now, capital account convertibility is the freedom to convert domestic currency into a foreign currency, and vice-versa wrt capital account transactions of the Balance of Payments accounts.</p> <p>It is more risky, as the foreign investors can withdraw all their money at once which called capital flight. Hence, option 3 is not correct.</p>

Q.5) If you withdraw Rs. 1,00,000 in cash from your Demand Deposit Account at your bank, the immediate effect on aggregate money supply in the economy will be

- (a) to reduce it by Rs. 1,00,000
 (b) to increase it by Rs. 1,00,000
 (c) to increase it by more than Rs. 1,00,000
 (d) to leave it unchanged

Answer: (d)

There are 4 concepts of money supply: M1, M2, M3 and M4

1) $M1 = C + DD + OD$

- C- Is the currency held by the public. (Public money means that money which is held by everybody other than the government and the banks. It includes companies, general organisations, households. It does not include inter-bank or government deposits in banks)
- DD- Means net demand deposits with banks. 'Net' here indicates the deposits of only the public in banks.
- OD- Means other deposits. These are the deposits with the RBI, held by certain individuals and institutions
 Individuals - like the former governors of the RBI • institutions- like IMF deposits

2) $M3 = M1 + TD = C + DD + OD + TD$ (Broad money)

- 'TD' means time deposits
- M3 shows the total purchasing power in the economy. Therefore, when we say money supply in general, it means M3. So, normally, in newspapers etc. when the word money supply is used, it means M3 (Sometimes, M1 is also used- meaning 100% liquid money- but overall PP is shown by M3)

Now, in the given case, **while the 'DD' component will fall by Rs. 1,00,000, the 'C' component will increase by Rs. 1,00,000, thereby, leaving the money supply unchanged. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

613. National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions

Context: Indian Parliament passed the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020.

- The Bill seeks to regulate and standardise the education and practice of allied and healthcare professionals
- The Bill provided set up for the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions

The Commission consist

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson
- Five members (at the level of Joint Secretary) representing various Departments/ Ministries of the central government, One representative from the Directorate General of Health Services
- Three Deputy Directors or Medical Superintendents appointed on a rotational basis from amongst medical institutions including the AIIMS, Delhi and AIIPMR, Mumbai
- 12 part-time members representing State Councils.

Functions of the Commission

- Framing policies and standards for regulating **education and practice.**
- Creating and maintaining an **online Central Register** of all registered professionals.
- Providing basic standards of education, courses, **curriculum, staff qualifications, examination, training, maximum fee payable** for various categories.
- Providing for a **uniform entrance and exit examination.**

Some of the Key Features of the Bill

Healthcare Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes a scientist, therapist, or any other professional who studies, advises, researches, supervises, or provides preventive, curative, rehabilitative, therapeutic, or promotional health services. ▪ Such a professional should have obtained a degree under this Bill and duration of the degree should be at least 3,600 hours (over a period of three to six years).
Allied Health Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defines 'allied health professional' as an associate, technician, or technologist trained to support the diagnosis and treatment of any illness, disease, injury, or impairment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allied Health Professional should have obtained a diploma or degree under this Bill and duration of the degree /diploma should be at least 2,000 hours (over a period of two to four years).
Allied and Healthcare Professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bill specifies certain categories of allied and healthcare professions as recognised categories. These are mentioned in the Schedule to the Bill and include life science professionals, trauma and burn care professionals, surgical and anaesthesia related technology professionals, physiotherapists, and nutrition science professionals. The central government may amend this Schedule after consultation with the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Profession.
Professional Councils:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission will constitute a Professional Council for every recognised category of allied and healthcare professions. The Professional Council will consist of a president and four to 24 members, representing each profession in the recognised category. The Commission may delegate any of its functions to this Council.
State Councils:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within six months from the passage of the Bill, state governments will constitute State Allied and Healthcare Councils. <p>The State Councils will consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the Chairperson (at least 25 years of experience in the field of allied and healthcare science), one member representing medical sciences in the state government, two members representing state medical colleges, two members representing charitable institutions, and two members from each of the recognised categories of allied and healthcare professions, nominated by the state government, among others. <p>The State Councils will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> enforce professional conduct and code of ethics to be observed by allied healthcare professionals, maintain respective State Registers, inspect allied and healthcare institutions, ensure uniform entry and exit examinations.

614. Central Board for Film Certification

Why in News: in the context of censoring the OTT platform.

About Central Board for Film Certification(CBFC)

- CBFC is a statutory film-certification body in the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**
- It is tasked with regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the **Cinematograph Act 1952**.
- Films screened in **cinemas and on television** may only be publicly exhibited in India after certification by the board.

- **Composition:** CBFC consists of **non-official members** and a **Chairman** all of whom are appointed by the Central Government.
- **Regional offices:** It has nine Regional offices, one each at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack and Guwahati.
 - The Regional Offices are assisted in the examination of films by **Advisory Panels**.
 - The members of the panels are nominated by Central Government by drawing people from different walks of life for a period of 2 years.

615. Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)

- It is an overarching Council that facilitates the Principal Scientific Adviser's Office to assess the status in specific science and technology domains, comprehend challenges in hand, formulate specific interventions, develop a futuristic roadmap and advise the Prime Minister accordingly.
- It is a 21-member advisory panel on **science, technology and innovation**.
- It will be headed by **Principal Scientific Advisor** to government.
- It will coordinate implementation of PM's scientific vision.
- It will also advise government on developing '**Clusters of Excellence**' in science including city-based R&D clusters.
- It will work to bring together all science and technology partners from **academia and institutes to industries** near such centers or cities.

Nine Missions under PMSTIAC

- **Natural Language Translation:** will enable access to **teaching material bilingually** i.e. in English and one's native Indian language.
- **Quantum frontier:** aims to initiate work in **quantum mechanical systems**.
- **Artificial intelligence:** improving healthcare, education, agriculture, smart cities and infrastructure, including smart mobility and transportation.
- **National biodiversity mission:** cataloguing and mapping **all lifeforms in India**.
- **Electric vehicles:** making Electric Vehicles (EVs) economically viable and scalable.
- **BioScience for Human Health:** to construct comprehensive reference maps of genomes.
- **Waste to Wealth:** deploy technologies to treat waste.
- **Deep Ocean Exploration:** improving our understanding of the blue frontier.
- **AGNI** (Igniting Ideas): connecting innovators across industry, individuals and the grassroots to the market; and helping commercialize innovative solutions.

616. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

- It is the **apex national authority** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** for administering all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures.
- Earlier, the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) dealt with anti-dumping and CVD cases, the Directorate General of Safeguards (DGS) dealt with safeguard measures and DGFT dealt with quantitative restriction (QR) safeguards. The DGTR brings DGAD, DGS, and Safeguards (QR) functions of DGFT into its fold by merging them into one single national entity.

Organization	Functions
Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties [DGAD]	Dealing with Anti-Dumping and CVD Cases
Directorate General Safeguards [DGS]	Dealing with Safeguard measures

Directorate General of Foreign Trade [DGFT] –
Safeguards Function

Dealing with Quantitative Restriction Safeguards

- Now, the DGTR is a professionally integrated organization with multi-spectrum skill sets emanating from officers drawn from different services and specializations. Its functions can be listed as follows:
 - Dealing with Anti-Dumping, CVD, and Safeguard measures.
 - **Providing trade defense support** to the Indian domestic industry and exporters in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by foreign countries.
 - **Providing a level playing field** to the country's domestic industries against the adverse effects of Unfair Trade Practices. This is implemented by:
 - Using the Trade Remedial methods that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework provides.
 - Using Customs Tariff Act & Rules and other Laws and International agreements related to the matter.
 - Providing all of this in a transparent and time-bound manner.
- **Other Functions:**
 - Conducting anti-dumping, anti-subsidy/CVD and safeguard investigations and recommendation to Govt.
 - Handling Litigation matters before CESTAT (**Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal**), High Courts and Supreme Court of India.
 - Conducting Outreach program to create and spread conceptual awareness and **explain the working of DGTR**
 - Exchange of information with WTO.

617. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board

- PNGRB works under **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- It was constituted under **The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006**.
- It aims to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets in the petroleum sector.
- It also regulates the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas; excluding production of crude oil and natural gas.
- It aims to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country.
- PNGRB authorizes the **CGD (City Gas Distribution) networks**, natural gas and petroleum product pipelines, determines tariff, lays down the technical and safety standards etc.

618. Higher Education Commission of India

Context: The ministry of education is preparing to take to cabinet a Bill to set up the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)- which will come with a clause to allow foreign varsities into India.

Functions of the HECI

- The HECI will recommend ways to promote **autonomy of higher educational institutions** and ensure maintenance of academic standards in higher education.
- **It will specify norms for:**
 - learning outcomes for courses
 - standards of teaching and research

- evaluation procedure to measure yearly academic performance of institutions,
- accreditation of institutions
- ordering closure of institutions.
- **Further, the HECI may specify norms for:**
 - granting authorisation to institutions to commence academic operations, award of degree or diploma
 - affiliation of institutions with universities,
 - grant of autonomy & graded autonomy
 - eligibility criteria for appointment of Vice Chancellors
 - Setting & winding up of institutions and
 - fee regulation.

Composition of the HECI

- The HECI will consist of 14 members.
- A **Search Committee** will recommend names to the central government for the post of Chairperson, and members of the HECI.
- The Search Committee will consist of five members including the **Cabinet Secretary (Chairperson), Higher Education Secretary, and three eminent academicians.**
- For the appointment of the Vice Chairperson and the members of the HECI, the Search Committee will include the **Chairperson of the HECI as well.**
- To become a member an individual should be professors **for at least ten years**, or eminent administrators with proven capacity for institution building.

Members of the HECI include:

- The Chairperson,
- The Vice Chairperson,
- Three Secretaries of the central government,
- Chairpersons of All India Council of Technical Education and National Council of Teacher Education,
- Chairpersons of any two accreditation bodies,
- Two Vice Chancellors of universities of academic excellence,
- Two serving professors of universities, and
- An experienced person from the industry.

619. Sangeet Natak Akademi

- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** – India's national academy for music, dance and drama – is the first National Academy of the arts set-up in India.
- It was created by a resolution of the (then) Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 1952.
- Later, Sangeet Natak Akademi was reconstituted by the Government as a society and registered under the **Societies Registration Act of 1860.**
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is presently an **Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture**, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programs.
- It acts at the national level for:
 - Promotion and growth of Indian music, dance and drama.
 - Maintenance of standards of training in the performing arts.
 - Revival, preservation, documentation and dissemination of materials as well as instruments relating to various forms of music, dance and drama.
 - Recognition of outstanding artists.

- The Akademi establishes and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the field of the performing arts. Few important ones are:
 - National School of Drama, New Delhi was set up in 1959,
 - Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy in Imphal- 1954,
 - Kathak Kendra (National Institute of Kathak Dance) in New Delhi- 1964.
 - National Projects of Support to Kutiyattam (Sanskrit theatre of Kerala), Chhau dances of eastern India, Sattriya traditions of Assam, etc.
- Some of the functions of the Akademi are
 - Subsidizes the work of institutions engaged in teaching, performing, or promoting music, dance or theatre;
 - Gives grants-in-aid for research, documentation, and publishing in the performing arts
 - Organizes and subsidizes seminars and conferences of subject specialists;
 - Documents and records the performing arts for its audio-visual archive.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards** are the highest national recognition conferred on practising artists. The Akademi also confers **Fellowships** on eminent artists and scholars of music, dance and drama. The Akademi's Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) carry a purse of Rs 3,00,000 and the Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) a purse of Rs 1,00,000.
- In 2006, the Akademi also instituted annual awards to **young artists - the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar**. These awards carry a purse of Rs 25,000.

620. Animal Welfare Board of India

- The Animal Welfare Board of India is a **statutory advisory body** on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.
- Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960** (No. 59 of 1960), the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late **Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale**, well known humanitarian.
- The Board consists of 28 Members. The term of office of Members is for a period of 3 years.
- **Mandate:** To prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals, in terms of the provision of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.
- **Functions Of Animal Welfare Board Of India:**
 - To study the **Prevention and Cruelty to Animals Act** and advise the Government on the amendments to be undertaken.
 - To **lessen the burden of Draught animals**, by improving in the design of vehicles.
 - To prevent pain or suffering to animals while they are kept in **Captivity or confinement** or while transportation.
 - To advice the Government in the design of **slaughter house** and its improvement so that unnecessary pain or suffering is eliminated at pre slaughter stage .
 - Financial assistance for the establishment of **shelter homes, rescue homes, pinjrapoles, sanctuaries and Animal Welfare organizations**.
 - To grant assistance to **Animal Hospital** and advice Central Government in such matters.
 - To give awareness and education about the animal welfare and **Animal protection**.



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701. & 702. MCQs

Q.1) With reference to the book "Deshar Kather" written by Sakham Ganesh Deuskar during the freedom struggle, consider the following statement :

1. It warned against the Colonial States hypnotic conquest of the mind.
2. It inspired the performance of swadeshi street plays and folk songs.
3. The use of desh' by Deuskar was in the specific context of the region of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Sakham Ganesh Deuskar (1869-1912) a close associate of Sri Aurobindo. A Marathi Brahmin who had settled in Bengal, Sakham was born in Deoghar. He studied in the Deoghar School and later became a teacher there. He published a book entitled Desher Katha describing in exhaustive detail the British commercial and industrial exploitation of India.

It summarized the work of M. G. Ranade and D. Naoroji in a popular idiom and warned in its concluding chapter against the colonial state's "hypnotic conquest of the mind."

This book had an immense repercussion in Bengal, captured the mind of young Bengal and assisted more than anything else in the preparation of the Swadeshi movement." Published first in June 1904, Desher Katha sold ten thousand copies in four editions within the year. The fifth edition came out in 1905. The government of Bengal banned the book in 1910 and confiscated all the copies. Deuskar was the first to bring in the name of Swaraj, and Sri Aurobindo was the first to endow it with its English equivalent, 'Independence.' The Nationalists adopted this word, and Swaraj became the chief item of the fourfold Nationalist programme.

The colonial state proscribed the text in 1910, but by then it had sold over 15,000 copies, informed swadeshi street plays and folk songs, and had assumed the status of mandatory reading for an entire generation of swadeshi activists.

Q.2) The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following?

1. Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference.
2. Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement.
3. Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses.
4. Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Solution (b)

Proposed conditions:

- Discontinuation of Salt March by the Indian National Congress
- Participation by the Indian National Congress in the Second Round Table Conference

- Withdrawal of all ordinances issued by the Government of India imposing curbs on the activities of the Indian National Congress
- Withdrawal of all prosecutions relating to several types of offenses except those involving violence
- Release of prisoners arrested for participating in the Salt March.
- Removal of the tax on salt, which allowed the Indians to produce, trade, and sell salt legally and for their own private use

Agreements

- Withdraw all ordinances and end prosecutions
- Release all political prisoners, except those guilty of violence
- Permit peaceful picketing of liquor and foreign cloth shops
- Restore confiscated properties of the satyagrahis
- Permit free collection or manufacture of salt by persons near the sea-coast
- Lift the ban over the Congress.

The Viceroy, however, turned down two of Gandhiji's demands

- Public Inquiry into Police Excesses
- Commutation of Baghat Singh and his comrades' death sentence to life sentence

Q.3) The Vital-Vidhvansak, the first monthly journal to have the untouchable people as its target audience was published by

- (a) Gopal Baba Walangkar
- (b) Jyotiba Phule
- (c) Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
- (d) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

Solution (a)

Gopal Baba Walangkar, also known as Gopal Krishna, (ca. 1840-1900) is an early example of an activist working to release the untouchable people of India from their historic socio-economic oppression, and is generally considered to be the pioneer of that movement. He developed a racial theory to explain the oppression and also published the first journal targeted at the untouchable people.

In 1888, Gopal Baba Walangkar began publishing the monthly journal titled Vital-Vidhvansak (Destroyer of Brahmanical or Ceremonial Pollution), which was the first to have the untouchable people as its target audience.

He also wrote articles for Marathi-language newspapers such as Sudhakar and Deenbandhu, as well as composing couplets in Marathi that were intended to inspire the people.

Q.4) With reference to the history of India, the terms "kulyavapa" and "dronavapa" denote

- (a) Measurement of land
- (b) Coins of different monetary value
- (c) Classification of urban land
- (d) Religious rituals

Answer: (a)

Texts and inscriptions during Gupta period mention various land measure terms

- The angula (probably 3/4 inch) was the smallest measure.

- The hasta (cubit) was the standardized distance between the tip of the elbow and the middle finger (18 inches).
- Larger units of measure included the dhanu/danda and nala.

The land measures used in eastern India included the adhavapa (3/8–1/2 acre), **dronavapa (11/2–2 acres)**, and **kulyavapa (12–16 acres)**. These were the areas required to sow one adhaka, drona, and kulya of grain respectively. Pataka was another land measure, and seems to have been equivalent to 60–80 acres.

Other terms included pravartavapa (this was much smaller than a kulyavapa), padavarta (over 1 ft), and bhumi. The large number of land measure terms indicate that there was no single standard set of measurement and that different measures were current in different regions.

Therefore, the correct answer is (a)

Q.5) With reference to India's Desert National Park, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is spread over two districts.
2. There is no human habitation inside the Park.
3. It is one of the natural habitats of Great Indian Bustard.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution (c)

EXPLANATION:

Desert National Park, Rajasthan, is situated in the Indian state of Rajasthan near the towns of Jaisalmer and Barmer. The endangered great Indian bustard is a magnificent bird found in relatively fair numbers. People and animals can co-exist in the Buffer Zone of the National Park so Statement 2 is wrong.

703. 127th CA Bill

In news: Union Government is planning to bring a Bill to Parliament to clarify some provisions in the 102nd Constitutional amendment Act (CAA) **to restore the power of the states to identify backward classes.**

- In India, separate OBC lists are drawn up by the Centre and each state concerned. Articles 15(4), 15(5) and 16(4) expressly conferred power on a state to identify and declare the list of socially and educationally backward classes.
- The amendment was necessitated after the [SC in its Maratha reservation](#) ruling upheld the 102nd CAA but said the President, based on the recommendations of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), would determine which communities would be included on the state OBC list.

What is the 102nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2018?

- It inserted Articles 338B and Article 342A (with two clauses) after Article 342.
- **Articles 338B** deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes.
- **Article 342A** says that the President, in consultation with the governor, would specify the socially and educationally backward classes.

About the Constitutional (127th) Amendment Bill, 2021:

- It will amend clauses 1 and 2 of Article 342A and also introduce a new clause 3.
- The bill will also amend Articles 366 (26c) and 338B (9).
- It is designed to clarify that **the states can maintain the "state list" of OBCs** as was the system before the Supreme Court judgment.
- Articles 366 (26c) defines socially and educationally backward classes.
- The "state list" will be completely taken out of the ambit of the President and will be **notified by the state assembly**.

As per the procedure laid down in the Constitution, **Constitution Amendment Bills can be of three types viz.**

- requiring a **simple majority** for their passage in each House.
- requiring a **special majority** for their passage in each House i.e., a majority of the total membership of a House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting (**article 368**).
- requiring **special majority** for their passage and ratification by Legislatures of **not less than one-half of the States** by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures (clause (2) of **article 368**).
- A Constitution Amendment Bill under article 368 can be introduced in either House of Parliament and has to be passed by each House by special majority.
- There is **no provision of joint sittings** on a Money Bill or a Constitution Amending Bill.

704. Preventive detention

In news: Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) ruled that a preventive detention order can only be passed if the detention is likely to adversely affect the maintenance of public order.

- The judgment came in an appeal filed by the wife of a man placed under preventive detention under the Telangana Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act shortly after he was granted bail in a cheating case.

What is Preventive detention?

- It is the practice of detaining the accused individuals before trial on the assumption that their release would not be in the best interest of society—specifically, that they would be likely to commit additional crimes if they were released
- An 'arrest' is done when a person is charged with a crime. An arrested person is produced before a magistrate within the next 24 hours.
- In case of preventive detention, a person is detained as he/she is simply restricted from doing something that might deteriorate the law and order situation.

Supreme Court's ruling & directions

- The **court must ensure that the facts brought before it directly and inevitably lead to**
 - **A harm,**
 - **Danger or alarm**
 - **Or feeling of insecurity among the general public.**
- While deciding preventive detention court must ask whether: the ordinary law of the land was sufficient to deal with the situation? If the answer is in the **affirmative, the detention order will be illegal.**

- To invoke a public detention law against someone, it is not enough that his/her actions pose a threat to **law and order** but must affect **the public order**.
- Preventive detention must fall within the framework of **Article 21** (due process of law) read with **Article 22** (safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention) and the **statute in question**.
- It **directed the state that it should not arbitrarily resort to “preventive detention”** to deal with all and sundry “law and order” problems, which could be dealt with by the ordinary laws of the country.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.** Detention is of two types, namely, **punitive and preventive**.
 - Punitive detention is to punish a person for an offence committed by him after trial and conviction in a court.
 - Preventive detention, on the other hand, means detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court.
- Article 22 has two parts—the **first part deals with the cases of ordinary law** and the **second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law**.

Rights Given Under Punitive Detention	Rights Given Under Preventive Detention
Right to be informed of the grounds of arrest.	The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. The board is to consist of judges of a high court.
Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner.	The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu. However, the facts considered to be against the public interest need not be disclosed.
Right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the journey time.	The detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order.
Right to be released after 24 hours unless the magistrate authorises further detention.	
These safeguards are not available to an enemy alien.	This protection is available to both citizens as well as aliens.

Issues related to Preventive Detention Laws in India:

- No democratic country in the world has made preventive detention as an integral part of the Constitution as has been done in India.
- The governments sometimes use such laws in an extra-judicial power. Also, there remains a fear of arbitrary detentions.
- The **44th Amendment Act of 1978** has reduced the period of detention without obtaining the opinion of an advisory board from three to two months. However, this **provision has not yet been brought into force**, hence, the original period of three months still continues.

The preventive detention laws made by the Parliament are:

- ✓ Preventive Detention Act, 1950. Expired in 1969.
- ✓ Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), 1971. Repealed in 1978.
- ✓ Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974.
- ✓ National Security Act (NSA), 1980.
- ✓ Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act (PBMSECA), 1980.
- ✓ Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA), 1985. Repealed in 1995.
- ✓ Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PITNDPSA), 1988.
- ✓ Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2002. Repealed in 2004.

705. & 706. Article 371

Context: Northeastern states of India have expressed apprehension that with abrogation of **Article 370**, the government might similarly abrogate or dilute **Article 371**.

- However, the government has clarified that it had no intention of removing **Article 371 of the Constitution**.

About

- ✓ Articles 369 through 392 appear in Part XXI of the Constitution, titled 'Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions'.
- ✓ Article 371 of the Constitution includes "special provisions" for 11 states, including six states of the Northeast.
- ✓ Articles 370 and 371 were part of the Constitution at the time of its commencement on January 26, 1950; Articles 371A through 371J were incorporated subsequently.

Article 371	Maharashtra and Gujarat:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada & rest of Maharashtra + Kutch & rest of Gujarat. • Equitable arrangements providing adequate facilities for technical education, vocational training & adequate opportunities for employment in state services.
Article 371A	Nagaland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced by 13th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962. • Inserted after a 16-point agreement between the Centre and the Naga People's Convention in 1960, which led to the creation of Nagaland in 1963. • Parliament cannot legislate in matters of Naga religion or social practices, Naga customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law, and ownership and transfer of land without concurrence of the state Assembly. • It shall apply to Nagaland only after the state Assembly passes a resolution to do so.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and its resources in the state belong to the people and not the government.
Article 371B	Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced by 22nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1969. To give autonomy and voice to tribes. The President may provide for the constitution and functions of a committee of the Assembly (tribal welfare committees) consisting of members elected from the state's tribal areas.
Article 371C	Manipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced by 27th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1971. The President may provide for the constitution of a committee of elected members from the Hill areas in the Assembly, and entrust "special responsibility" to the Governor to ensure its proper functioning The governor must submit an annual report regarding the administration of hill areas.
Article 371D	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inserted by 32nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1973; substituted by The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 President must ensure "equitable opportunities and facilities" in "public employment and education to people from different parts of the state". He may require the state government to organise "any class or classes of posts in a civil service of, or any class or classes of civil posts under, the State into different local cadres for different parts of the State". He has similar powers vis-à-vis admissions in educational institutions.
Article 371E	Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for the establishment of a university in Andhra Pradesh by a law of Parliament. But this is not a "special provision" in the sense of the others in this part.
Article 371F	Sikkim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced by 36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975. The Legislative Assembly of the State of Sikkim shall consist of not less than thirty members; until other provisions are made by Parliament by law, there shall be allotted to the State of Sikkim one seat in the House of the People and the State of Sikkim shall form one parliamentary constituency to be called the parliamentary constituency for Sikkim; To protect the rights and interests of various sections of the population of Sikkim, Parliament may provide for the number of seats in the Assembly, which may be filled only by candidates from those sections. Article 371F bestows on Sikkim government the right of ownership of all land in the state, even if it was owned by private individuals prior to the state's merger with India. The President may, by public notification, extend with such restrictions or modifications as he thinks fit to the

		State of Sikkim any enactment which is in force in a State in India at the date of the notification;
Article 371G	Mizoram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inserted by 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986 An act of Parliament would not apply to Mizoram in matters relating to religious or social practices of Mizo, Mizo customary law, ownership and transfer of land and its resources.
Article 371H	Arunachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inserted by 55th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986 The governor has special powers on the state's law and order situation And can overrule the chief minister's decision on the basis of this provision.
Article 371I	Goa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Legislative Assembly of the state of Goa must consist of not less than 30 members
Article 371J	Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inserted by 98th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2012 Article 371J grants special status to six backward districts of Hyderabad-Karnataka region. A separate development board be established for these regions And ensures local reservation in education and government jobs.

707. National Commission for Women (NCW)

Context: The National Commission for Women (NCW) has recorded a more than twofold rise in gender-based violence.

- It has been argued that the national lockdown has left many people jobless, uncertain over salaries, in forced isolation and in stressed households which have resulted in a steep rise in violence against women.

About NCW

- It was set up as a **statutory body** in January 1992 under the NCW Act, 1990.
- Its **mission** is to strive towards enabling women to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life by securing her due rights and entitlements through suitable policy formulation, legislative measures, etc.
- Composition:**
 - The commission consists of a chairperson, a member secretary and five other members.
 - The **chairperson of the NCW is nominated by the Central Government**.
 - The Central Government also nominates the member secretary.
 - The five members nominated by the Central Government should have experience in law, legislation, management, women voluntary organization, economic social development and so on.
- Functions** of NCW are to:
 - Review the **constitutional and legal safeguards for women**.
 - Recommend remedial legislative measures.
 - Facilitate redressal of grievances.
 - Advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.
- Powers of NCW:**

- **Issuing summons** for the examination of documents and the witnesses.
- Receiving evidence on affidavits.
- Discovery and **production of documents**.

708. Ujjwala 2.0

In news: PM Modi will launch Ujjwala 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – PMUY) by handing over LPG connections, at Mahoba Uttar Pradesh on 10th August, 2021.

The journey from Ujjwala 1.0 to Ujjwala 2.0

Ujjwala 1.0

- It is implemented by **Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
- Ujjwala 1.0 was launched in 2016, during which a target was set to **provide deposit-free LPG connections to 5 crore women members** of BPL households.
 - Applicants (woman only) must have attained 18 years of age.
- Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers etc).
- EMI facilities will be given for stove and refill cost (Interest-free loan).
- The scheme is complementary to the Prime Minister's 'Give It Up Campaign' through which a huge number of middle-class families have voluntarily surrendered their cooking gas subsidy.
- The target was revised to 8 Crore LPG connections and this target was achieved in August 2019, seven months ahead of the target date.

Ujjwala 2.0

- In the Union budget for FY 21-22, provision for an additional one crore LPG connection under the PMUY scheme was announced.
- This **one crore additional PMUY connections (under Ujjwala 2.0)** aim to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of PMUY.
- Along with a deposit free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide **first refill** and hotplate (stove) free of cost to the beneficiaries.
- Also, the enrolment procedure will require minimum paperwork.
- In Ujjwala 2.0, migrants will not be required to submit ration cards or address proof.
- A self-declaration for both 'family declaration' and as a 'proof of address' will suffice. Ujjwala 2.0 will help achieve the Prime Minister's vision of universal access to LPG.

709. Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA)

Government of India had launched **GKRA in six States of Bihar**, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

- Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan' is a massive rural public works scheme of Government of India to empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens.
- The Abhiyaan was launched on 20th June, 2020 from Village – Telihar, Block- Beldaur of Khagaria District of Bihar.

More on GKRA

- Aim: To provide gainful employment to the migrant labourers who had returned to their native villages due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** undertook facilitation of two activities namely,
 - 'Construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawans' and
 - 'Works under Central Finance Commission Grants.
- The Panchayats in the 116 GKRA Districts were provisioned with the funds to the tune of **Rs.9554.97 crore** for undertaking 'Works under Finance Commission Grants' in the rural areas.

710. TAPAS Initiative

Context: Recently, the **Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched an online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services).

- The idea of TAPAS was conceptualised at a time when exploring the online medium for work and education had become imperative due to the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic.

About the initiative

- It is an initiative of National Institute of Social Defense (NISD) whereby various courses in the **field of social defence** for the capacity building of stakeholders are offered.
- **Objective:** To impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants.
- It is a standard MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform with course material such as filmed lectures and e-study material.
- MOOC is a free Web-based distance learning program that is designed for the participation of large numbers of geographically dispersed students.
- It also includes discussion forums to support and encourage interactions among students and course coordinators.
- It will provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching.
- It **can be taken up by anyone** who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics and there is no fee for joining.
- The platform has been made with a **quadrant approach**, which is: Video, Text, Self-Assessment and Discussions.
- **Courses:** The five basic courses are on Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and on comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.



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711. & 712. MCQs**Q.1) Siachen Glacier is situated to the**

- (a) East of Aksai Chin
- (b) East of Leh
- (c) North of Gilgit
- (d) North of Nubra Valley

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

Siachen Glacier is one of the world's longest mountain glaciers, lying in the Karakoram Range system of Kashmir near the India– Pakistan border, extending for 70 km from north-northwest to south-southeast.

It is the source for the 50-mi-long Nubra River, a tributary of the Shyok, which is part of the Indus River system. Siachen Glacier lies to the north of the Nubra valley. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

**Q.2) With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:**

Famous Place Present State

1. Bhilsa : Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra : Maharashtra
3. Girinagar : Gujarat
4. Sthanesvara : Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

Vidisha (formerly known as **Bhilsa**) is a city in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is an archaeologically important site known for inscriptions regarding the ancient history of India. As a general of Sultan Jalaluddin, Alauddin Khalji raided the Paramara city of Bhilsa in 1293 CE. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

Halebidu (which used to be called **Dwarasamudra**) was the regal capital of the Hoysala Empire in the 12th century. It is located in Hassan District of **Karnataka**. In late 1310, the Delhi Sultanate ruler Alauddin Khalji sent his general Malik Kafur on an expedition to the southernmost regions of India. In 1311, Malik Kafur besieged the Hoysala capital Dwarasamudra, and the defending ruler Veera Ballala III surrendered without much resistance. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

Girnar or Girinagar is a group of mountains in the Junagadh District of **Gujarat**. This place is sacred to the Jains because it is the place where Lord Neminatha (22nd Jain Tirtankar) went to attain salvation. It is also known for Ashoka's Major Rock Edicts XIV, dating to circa 250 BCE. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Sthanesvara site is located at modern-day Thanesar in Kurukshetra district of **Haryana**. It is a historic town and an important Hindu pilgrimage centre on the banks of the Saraswati River. It was also sacked and many of its temples

were destroyed by Mahmud of Ghazni. Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. 36% of India's districts are classified as "overexploited" or "critical" by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to regulate and control development and management of ground water resources in the country. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

India's irrigation is mostly groundwater well based. At 39 million hectares (67% of its total irrigation), India has the world's largest groundwater well equipped irrigation system (China with 19 mha is second, USA with 17 mha is third). Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Jet streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.
2. Only some cyclones develop an eye.
3. The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10°C lesser than that of the surroundings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Solution (c)

EXPLANATION:

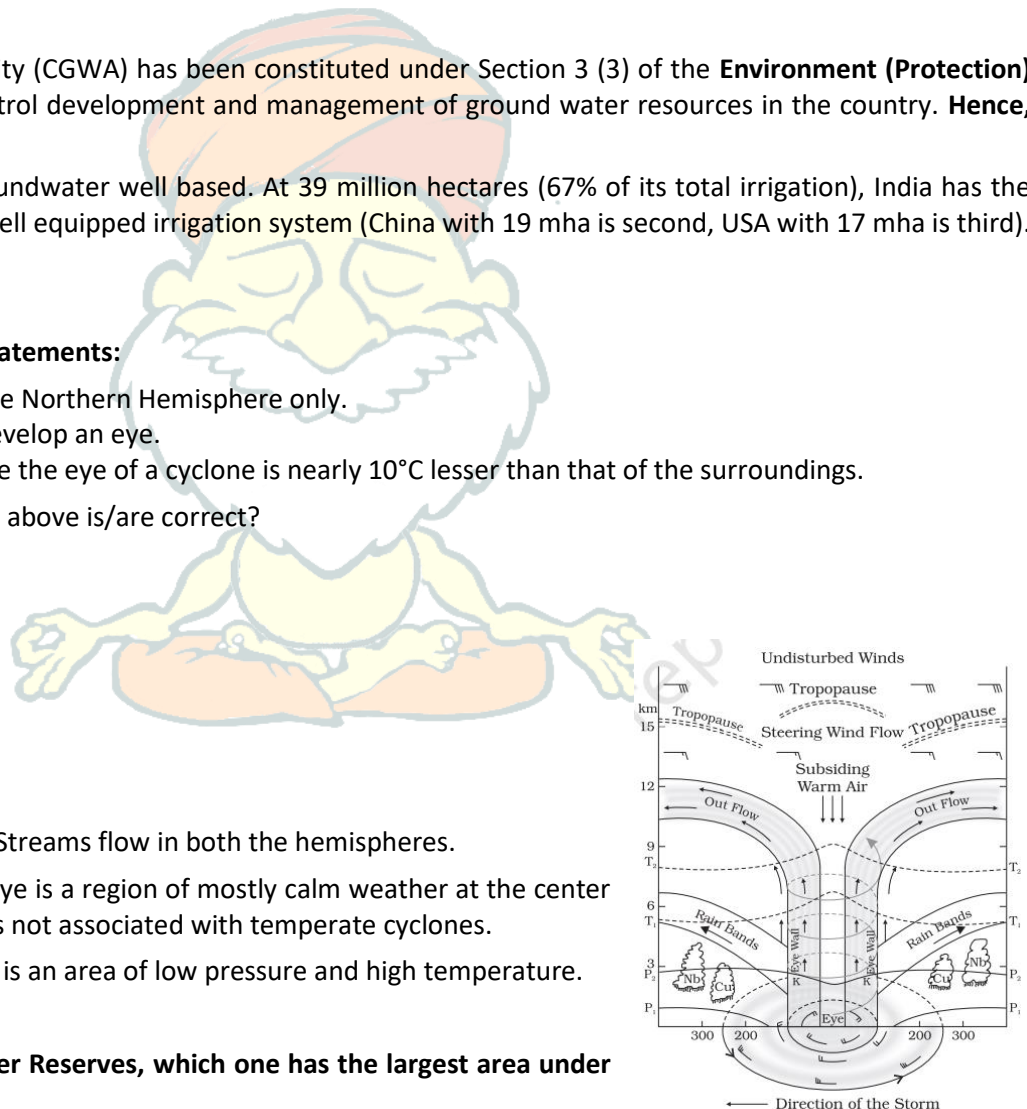
Statement 1 is incorrect – Jet Streams flow in both the hemispheres.

Statement 2 is correct – The eye is a region of mostly calm weather at the center of strong tropical cyclones. It is not associated with temperate cyclones.

Statement 3 is incorrect – Eye is an area of low pressure and high temperature.

Q.5) Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat"?

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore



- (c) Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem
(d) Sunderbans

Answer: (c)

Explanation

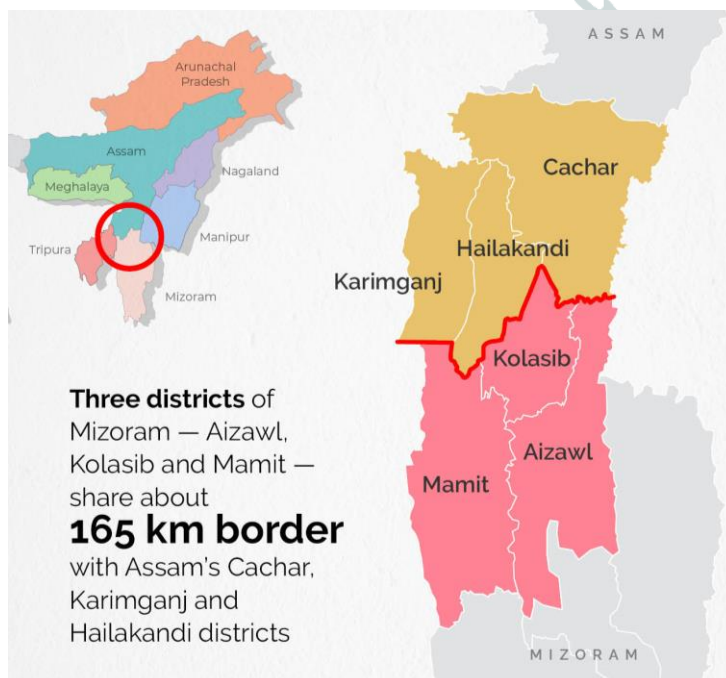
Tier Reserve	Area of the Core / Critical Tiger Habitat (in sq. Km)
Corbett	821.99
Ranthambore	1113.364
Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem	2595.72
Sunderbans	1699.62

713. Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute

Why in news: Chief ministers of Assam and Mizoram attempted to defuse tensions between their people and security forces.

History of the dispute

- **Boundary demarcations in 1875 and 1933**, particularly the second one, are **at the heart of the dispute**.
- The 1875 demarcation, derived from the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873**.
- It differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar in Assam's Barak Valley.
- This was done in consultation with Mizo chiefs,
- And it became the basis for the **Inner Line Reserve Forest** demarcation in the Gazette two years later.



- The 1933 demarcation marks a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.

- **The Mizos do not accept this demarcation** on the ground that their chiefs were not consulted this time.
- **The tensions have peaked** after the **clashes between the police forces of the states** at the contentious border point Lailapur.

714. Model Panchayat Citizens Charter

Why in news: Union **Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj** released a Model Panchayat Citizens Charter recently

- It was prepared in collaboration with **National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**
 - NIRDPR is an **autonomous organisation** under the **Union Ministry of Rural Development**.

About Model Panchayat Citizens Charter

- **Aim & Objective**
 - To provide services to the people in a time bound manner, redressing their grievances and improving their lives.
 - To empower the citizens in relation to **public services**.
- A Model Panchayat Citizens Charter/ framework for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The charter would ensure transparent inclusive and accountable Local Self Governments.
- It is expected that the Panchayats utilizing this framework, and with the due approval of **Gram Sabha**, would draw up the Citizens Charter.
- It will help in **making the citizens aware of their rights** on the one hand, and to make the **Panchayats and their elected representatives directly accountable** to the people, on the other hand.

What is Citizen's Charter?

- It is a **voluntary and written document** that spells out the service provider's efforts taken to focus on their commitment towards fulfilling the needs of the citizens/customers.
 - It preserves the trust between the service provider and the citizens/users.
 - It includes what the citizens can expect out of the service provider.
 - It also includes how citizens can redress any grievances.
- The concept was **first articulated and implemented in the United Kingdom** by the Conservative Government of John Major in 1991 as a national Programme.
- Citizen's charters are **not legally enforceable documents**. They are **just guidelines to enhance service delivery to citizens**.
- **Originally Framed Principles:**
 - Quality – Improving service quality.
 - Choice – Wherever possible.
 - Standards – Specifically mention what to expect and how to go about if standards are not met.
 - Value – For taxpayers' money.
 - Accountability – At the level of the individual and the organization.
 - Transparency –in rules/schemes/procedures/grievances.

715. Article 240 (2)

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is administered as a union territory of India by virtue of Article 240 (2) of the Constitution of India.

The President of India appoints an administrator to administer the territory on behalf of the central Government of India.

The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019

- The Bill amended the First Schedule to merge the territories of the two UTs:
 - **(a) Dadra and Nagar Haveli.**
 - **(b) Daman and Diu.**
- The First Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides one seat in Lok Sabha to each of the two UTs.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Schedule to allocate **two Lok Sabha seats** to the merged UT
- The Bill provides that the jurisdiction of the **High Court of Bombay** will continue to extend to the merged UT.

History of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

- Daman and Diu were **under Portuguese administration from the 1500s to 1961.**
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli were under Portuguese administration from **1818 to 1961.**
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli was administered as a de facto state, **Free Dadra and Nagar Haveli**, before becoming a union territory in 1961.
- Daman and Diu were administered as part of the **union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu** between 1962 to 1987.
- In 1987, became a separate union territory when Goa was granted statehood.

716. Amendment to NCC Act proposed

Why in news: Recently, the High Court of Kerala asked National Cadet Corps (NCC) to amend its act to allow transgender persons to apply for enrolment into NCC.

Background:

- A writ petition was filed in 2020 by a student **opposing her exclusion from the NCC** unit at the college on the basis of her gender (Transgender).
- The petition challenged **Section 6 of the NCC Act, 1948** which only allows either 'male' or 'female' cadets.
- Central government **argued** that transgender persons **cannot be allowed into the NCC as there is no provision for the same.**

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

- It can be traced back to the '**University Corps**', which was created under the **Indian Defence Act 1917.**
- The National Cadets Corps came into existence under the **National Cadet Corps Act 1948.**
- In 1949, the Girls Division was raised.
- The NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis.

- The NCC **cadets receive basic military training** at various levels and also have academic curriculum basics related to Armed forces and their functioning.
- Various training camps, adventure activities and military training camps are an important aspect of NCC training.
- The students have no liability for active military service.
- During **Indo-Pakistani war of 1965 & Bangladesh-Pakistani war of 1971**, NCC cadets were the second line of defense.

The NCC is headed by the **Director General (DG)**, an officer of three-star rank.

- **Directorate** –headed by a Maj Gen.
- **Division / Regimental Corps** –headed Lt. General.
- **Group** –headed by Brigadier.
- **Battalion**- commanded by Colonel/Lt.Col.
- **Company** –commanded by major.

717. Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav

Why in News: The Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries has carried out the cleanliness drive under the Mera Gaon, Mera Gaurav Program.

About Mera Gaon, Mera Gaurav

- It is the national innovative initiative of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and operational in many villages.
- It is a farm-centric mission **translating knowledge at farmer's doorstep** so as to address his farm-oriented.
- The ICAR Institutes and Universities have **to provide financial support** because it does not have a separate budget.
- It has enriched the farmers **with the latest technology**.

Objectives of this scheme

- To provide farmers with required **information, knowledge and advisories** on a regular basis by adopting villages.
- To promote the direct interface of scientists with the farmers.
- To create awareness among **farmers about the organizations** and their program.

Selection of village:

- The groups of 4 scientists at every Institute/University will adopt villages within a radius of 50-100 km from their place of working.
- **KVKs, Panchayats** and other related departments may provide necessary cooperation to the scientists at the local level in the selected villages.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- ICAR was **established on 16 July 1929** as a **registered society** under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi**. With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.
- It is the **apex body** for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.
- The ICAR has played a pioneering role in **ushering Green Revolution** and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development.

718. ARISE-ANIC Initiative

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) Program, launched by the government, is a national initiative to **promote research & innovation and increase** competitiveness of Indian startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Key Points

- **Objective:** To proactively collaborate with Ministries and the associated industries to **catalyse research, innovation and facilitate innovative solutions** to sectoral problems.
 - The objective is also to provide a steady stream of innovative products & solutions where the Central Government Ministries/Departments will become the **potential first buyers**.
- The initiative will be carried under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM - an initiative by the NITI Aayog).
- The program is driven by **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and four ministries—
 - Ministry of Defence
 - Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- It is a national initiative to **promote research & innovation** and increase **competitiveness of Indian startups and MSMEs**.
- It supports deserving applied research-based innovations by providing **funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh**.
- It aims to proactively **collaborate with esteemed Ministries** and the associated industries to catalyze research, innovation.
- To provide a **steady stream of innovative products** where the Central Government Ministries / Departments will become the potential first buyers.

719. Mission Purvodaya

Why in News: Recently, the **Union Minister of Steel** has emphasized the role of SAIL steel plants in Mission Purvodaya to drive development of eastern India.

Mission Purvodaya

- It was launched in 2020 for the accelerated development of eastern India through the establishment of an **integrated steel hub** in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The focus will be on eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal) and northern part of Andhra Pradesh.
 - They collectively hold **~80% of the country's iron ore, ~100% of coking coal**.
 - Significant portion of chromite, bauxite and dolomite reserves are also found.
- The objective of this hub would be to enable swift capacity addition and improve overall competitiveness of steel producers both in terms of cost and quality.

The Integrated Steel Hub would focus on 3 key elements:

- Easing the setup of **Greenfield steel plants**.
- Development of steel clusters **near demand centers**.
- Transformation of logistics and utilities infrastructure.

National Steel Policy 2017

- More than doubling the domestic steel capacity **to 300 MTPA by FY2031**.
- Investment to the tune of ₹10-lakh crore to scale up crude steel production by 2030-31.
- To set up fresh capacities of 12 million **tones (MT) every year till 2031**.

720. UNATI Atal Jai Anusandhan Mission

Why in News: It is expected to transform the Health, Agriculture and Energy sectors during the next 5 years.

About Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission

- **Implemented by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.**
- It is expected to transform Health, Agriculture and Energy sectors during the next 5 years.

This mission includes:

- **GARBH-ini (interdisciplinary Group for Advanced Research in Birth outcomes- DBT India Initiative)**
 - To study aim to facilitate timely referral and birth care.
- **Ind-CEPI MISSION**
 - Is an India centric collaborative mission of DBT aligned to the global initiatives of CEPI (Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations).
 - Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development
 - Strengthening Clinical Trial Research Capacity in Neighboring Countries.
- **Fortified Wheat Nutritional Improvement**
 - Addressing micronutrient malnutrition problems and help the progressive farmers to grow improved wheat.
- **UNATI Mission Clean Technologies for Swachh Bharat**
 - To promote bio-methanation, constructed wetland, bio-toilets, chemical & membrane free water purification etc.
- **Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub**
 - Working to improve coordination and collaboration in global AMR R&D.