

PIB COMPILATION

NOVEMBER - 2018

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

1. AGRICULTURE

- New index to check ease of doing agri-business
- Mega Food Park Scheme
- Transgenic rice with reduced arsenic accumulation

2. GOVERNANCE

- Vehicle Location Tracking Devices and Emergency Buttons to be mandatory
- 1st Annual Senior Care Conclave
- UTS on Mobile
- Ayurveda Day
- The Key Initiatives of Government
- Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018
- Government approves mechanism for sale of enemy shares
- Global Cooling Innovation Summit, New Delhi
- Global Digital Content Market 2018
- UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation
- MNRE circulates draft Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS)
- Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme
- ISPRL signs MoU with ADNOC to explore storage of crude oil
- Aadi Mahotsav
- World Toilet Day
- Institution's Innovation Council
- International Tourism Mart
- Draft witness protection scheme
- Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund - Blue Revolution mission
- Sangai tourism festival

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- "She- Box " Awareness programmes on Sexual Harassment at Workplace
- Union Cabinet nod for term extension of OBC panel
- Information Platform to monitor public health surveillance - IHIP
- PAISA Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access launched under DAY-NULM
- HAUSLA 2018
- Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti Launched
- Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
- 'Heli-Clinics' for remote areas
- eDrishti software launched to help Railways Minister keep track of punctuality of train

3. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Indian Navy's Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV)
- Arihant - Nuclear Triad
- India joining as Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme
- IIT's researchers devise programme to maximise LPG connections
- Artificial intelligence in Healthcare
- World's standard definition of kilogram now redefined
- Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services
- Impact Based Forecasting Approach
- ISRO successfully launches hyperspectral imaging satellite HysIS

4.GEOGRAPHY / ENVIRONMENT

- Himalayan State Regional Council
- Invasive alien plants species
- NMCG approves composite sewerage projects for Agra to save Taj Mahal

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- India wins UN Environment award
- Biggest coral reseeded project launches on Great Barrier Reef

5. INDIAN ECONOMY

- 19th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)
- India at 77 Rank in World Bank's Doing Business Report, 2018
- Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)
- Promulgation of the Companies Amendment (Ordinance), 2018
- Outreach Initiative for MSME Sector
- Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN 3
- Eliminate Unmanned Level Crossings Mission
- Privatisation of Airports
- INSPIRE 2018
- 2nd Startup India Investment Seminar
- Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific
- India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited
- Credit scheme for cooperative start-ups
- Govt, ADB sign \$169 min loan to provide water, sanitation services in TN
- AirSewa 2.0
- Industrial Park Rating System Report
- Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge
- India's SEZ policy report
- Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project
- City Gas Distribution projects
- Quadricycles get go-ahead for pvt use, to boost connectivity
- IIM Cal Inks Pacts with ICC: Energising start up ecosystem in East and Northeast India
- NITI Aayog Organises Capacity Building Programme for Urban Water Management
- NPCC is now a Miniratna

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Logix India 2019
- India, ADB sign USD 200 million loan agreement to improve highways in Bihar
- 8 more States achieve 100% household electrification under Saubhagya

6. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- India to chair the Programme and Budget Committee of UNWTO
- India - Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council
- SIMBEX-18 - India-Singapore bilateral naval exercise
- UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation
- India votes against UNGA draft resolution on use of death penalty
- NITI Aayog organizes South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure
- Annual Defence and Security Dialogue - India & China
- India and UK sign MoU for collaboration in cancer research
- 27th BASIC Ministerial meeting
- India, Australia Sign Five Agreements
- AAI inks-pact with US Agency to Prepare Modernization Road-map
- India, Pakistan Dera Baba Nanak - Kartarpur corridor
- Protocol amending India-China DTAA
- Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue
- Sustainable Blue Economy Conference
- Exercise KONKAN-18



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

AGRICULTURE

New index to check ease of doing agri-business

GS 3: Agriculture | Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices

Prelims level: Particulars of the Ease of Doing Agri-Business Index

Why in news?

- The Centre expects to roll out a new Ease of Doing Agri-Business Index early next year.

Highlights:

- It will rank the States on the basis of such reforms, as well as their investment in agriculture, increased productivity, reduction of input costs, and risk mitigation measures.
- The proposed index will focus on reforms, with marketing reforms (25%) and governance and land reforms (20%) carrying almost half of the weight of the parameters in its scoring system.
- The Agri Ministry will consider rewarding the higher performing States both in absolute and incremental terms by linking the performance with allocation from flexi funds made available in various flagship.

Parameters:

- The parameters are process-oriented, and are meant to evolve as and when new reforms or initiatives are proposed.
- Another major parameter which States will be rated on is their success in reducing the cost of farm inputs (20%) by distributing soil health cards and encouraging organic farming and micro-irrigation.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Risk mitigation measures such as crop and livestock insurance carry a 15% weightage, while increased productivity and investment in agriculture carry a 10% weight each.

Mega Food Park Scheme

GS 3: Agriculture | Food processing & related industries in India- scope & significance, location, upstream & downstream requirements, supply chain management

Prelims level: Mega Food Park Scheme - Objectives, Importance

Mains level: Food Processing Industry in India

Why in news?

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated 2nd Mega Food Park in Maharashtra, in Wahegaon and Dhangaon village in Maharashtra.
- A 3rd Mega Food Park has been sanctioned by the Ministry in Maharashtra and is under implementation in Wardha District while the first Park was inaugurated on 1st of March 2018 in Satara district.

Paithan Mega Food Park:

- The Paithan Mega Food Park has been set up in 102 acre of land at a cost of Rs. 124.52 crore.
- The Mega Food Park will leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crore in 25-30 food processing units in the park and would eventually lead to a turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crore annually.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Significance:

- The modern infrastructure for food processing created at Park will benefit the farmers, growers, processors and consumers of Maharashtra and adjoining areas immensely and prove to be a big boost to the growth of the food processing sector in the State of Maharashtra.
- This mega food park will benefit the people of Aurangabad district as well as nearby districts of Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Buldhana, Jalna, Bid and Ahmedabad.

Mega Food Park Scheme:

- India aims to be a resilient food economy and the Food Factory of the World as the government has made Food Processing a major thrust area of 'Make in India'.
- Aimed at giving a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables MoFPI is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country.
- Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market with strong forward and backward linkages through a cluster based approach.
- Common facilities and enabling infrastructure is created at Central Processing Centre and facilities for primary processing and storage is created near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) and Collection Centers (CCs).
- Under the Scheme, Government of India provides financial assistance upto Rs. 50.00 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

Transgenic rice with reduced arsenic accumulation

Prelims Level: WaarsM Gene

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Mains Level: Increase in arsenic accumulation in rice - ways to control

Why in News?

- Arsenic accumulation in rice grains is one of the serious agricultural issues in India.
- To address this, researchers at Lucknow-based CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute have developed transgenic rice by inserting a novel fungal gene, which results in reduced arsenic accumulation in rice grain.

WaarsM Gene:

- Researchers have cloned Arsenic methyltransferase (WaarsM) gene from a soil fungus, *Westerdykellaaurantiaca*.
- They inserted the same into the rice genome with the help of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, a soil bacterium which has natural ability to alter the plant's genetic makeup.
- The newly developed transgenic rice along with normal rice was then treated with arsenic.
- Researchers found that the resulting transgenic plant acquired the potential for methylating inorganic arsenic to a variety of harmless organic species, including volatile arsenicals.
- This could be potential strategy for developing transgenic rice capable of low arsenic accumulation not only in grain but also in straw and feed which are used for livestock.

Significance of WaarsM Gene:

- The genetic modification of rice grain can be applied to develop practices to decrease accumulation of arsenic by molecular breeding, gene editing or transgenic approaches.
- As large numbers of people are affected by arsenic toxicity, it is imperative to develop rice with lesser arsenic content and high yield.

Other Researches:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- In the past, it has shown a transgenic approach in which phytochelatin synthase from *Ceratophyllum demersum* (an aquatic plant) was expressed in rice.
- Transgenic lines showed enhanced accumulation of arsenic in roots and shoot but less in grains.
- They also described that over expression of OsGrx_C7 (protein found in rice) enhanced tolerance to arsenite and reduced arsenite accumulation in seeds and shoots of rice.
- Recently, they have showed that OsPRX38 transgenics accumulate less arsenic due to high lignification in root which acts as a barrier for arsenic entry in transgenic plants.
- In this background, biotechnological methods such as modulating the expression of Arsenic metabolism-related genes in rice will be a fruitful and practical approach to decrease arsenic accumulation.

GOVERNANCE

Vehicle Location Tracking Devices and Emergency Buttons to be mandatory

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Prelims & Mains level: Women and passenger safety

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has mandated that all new public service vehicles except auto rickshaws and eRickshaws, registered on and after 1st January 2019, will have to be equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking (VLT) with emergency buttons.
- In case of older public service vehicles –those registered up to 31st December, 2018, the respective State/ UT Governments will notify the date by which these vehicles have to install them.

VLT Command Centres:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Command and Control Centres will be setup by the State or VLT manufacturers or any other agency authorised by the State Government.
- These centres will provide interface to various stakeholders such as state emergency response centre, the transport department or RTOs, Transport Ministry, device manufacturers and their authorised dealers, testing agencies, permit holders, etc.
- These centres will also provide feed to the VAHAN data base or the relevant data base of the State with regard to the over speeding, device health status.
- The details of each VLT device will be uploaded on the VAHAN database by the VLT device manufacturer using its secured authenticated access.

More thrust on VLTs:

- The VLT device manufacturers or their authorised dealers will install the VLT devices in public service vehicles and register the devices along with details of vehicle on the corresponding backend systems in real-time.
- The public service vehicle owners have to ensure that the VLT devices installed in their vehicles are in working condition and regularly send required data to the corresponding backend system through cellular connectivity.
- VLT device manufacturers will get their devices tested for conformity of production every year after the first certification, from the testing agencies referred to in rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- The State or Union Territories will publish Internet Protocol address (IP address) and Short Message Service Gateway (SMS gateway) details of their respective emergency response system.

1st Annual Senior Care Conclave

GS 2: Governance | Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Prelims level: Senior Care Conclave

Mains level: Various initiatives for elderly population

Why in News?

- The '1st Annual Senior Care Conclave' was recently organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The event marked release of a CII Report "Igniting Potential in Senior Care Services".
- It urged corporates to explore opportunities of investment in the emerging field of Senior Care.

Healthcare initiatives for Ageing Population:

- The National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) addresses various health related issues of the elderly.
- The programme is State oriented and basic thrust of the programme is to provide dedicated health care facilities to the senior citizens (>60 year of age) at various levels.
- The basic aim of the NPHCE Programme is to provide dedicated, specialized and comprehensive health care to the senior citizens at various levels of state health care delivery system including outreach services.
- Preventive and promotive care, management of illness, health manpower development for geriatric services, medical rehabilitation & therapeutic intervention and IEC are some of the strategies envisaged in the NPHCE.
- The NPHCE was launched in 100 identified districts of 21 States and Eight Regional Geriatrics Centres in selected medical colleges as referral units during the 11th Plan period.
- Two National Centres for Ageing (NCA) in AIIMS Delhi and Madras Medical College, Chennai have been sanctioned to be developed as centres of excellence for geriatrics.

UTS on Mobile



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Prelims level: UTS on Mobile

Mains level: Digitization of Railways ticketing service

Why in News?

- Ministry of Railways has introduced Unreserved Mobile Ticketing with a view to promote three C's- Cashless transactions, Contact less ticketing and Customer convenience and experience.

UTS on Mobile:

- Booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways has been made available from November , 1st.
- It enables seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways which will obviate the need for passengers to wait in queues for purchasing the tickets.
- The facility of booking unreserved tickets, including season tickets and also platform tickets is available through the 'UTSONMOBILE' app available for Android, IOS and Windows phones.

Details of the app:

- 'UTSONMOBILE' application is available for Android, IOS, Windows phones and can be downloaded from Google play or window store.
- It is developed by Indian Railway- CRIS.

Features:

- The process of ticket booking involves downloading the application and registration by furnishing the requisite details.
- After successful registration, the user is given credentials to book ticket through this application within the ticketing area and outside the Geo-fenced area.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Geo-fenced area is station premises and train route within which ticket cannot be booked.
- The facility of making payment through all types of digital modes i.e. debit card, credit card, net-banking, UPI and other e-wallets has been introduced.

Benefits:

- Mobile Ticketing shall promote 3C's- Cashless transactions, Contact less ticketing and Customer convenience.
- Seamless booking of unreserved tickets all over Indian Railways.
- Obviate the need for passengers to wait in queues for purchasing the tickets and enhance the experience for booking unreserved tickets – journey, season tickets, platform tickets.
- Environment friendly.

Ayurveda Day

GS 2: Governance | Issues relating to development & management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

Prelims level: Ayurveda Day, A-HMIS

Mains level: Need of promoting AYUSH system of medicines

Why in News?

- Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).

Ayurveda Day:

- This year Ayurveda Day was observed on 5th November 2018.
- On this occasion, Ministry also organised a “National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Ayurveda” in association with NITI Aayog.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The seminar is expected to develop awareness among stakeholders about the business opportunities, encouraging young entrepreneurs to use of modern technologies and modern innovations in business development in the sector and to highlight opportunities at a global level.

AYUSH-Health Management Information System (A-HMIS):

- It is a dedicated software application for Electronic Health Record (EHR) for the AYUSH systems of Healthcare.
- A-HIMS was launched across 15 AYUSH units in different parts of the country in the first phase on 5th November 2018.
- It is expected to revolutionise the way Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy are practised in the country, by inducting modern IT-solutions into these systems.

The Key Initiatives of Government

GS 2: Governance | Issues relating to development & management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

Nai Manzil:

- It aims to engage constructively with Poor Minority youth and help them obtain sustainable and gainful employment opportunities that can facilitate them to be integrated with mainstream economic activities.
- Integrated Skill Training is being provided to the youth in market driven skills.
- The other objectives include, raise awareness and sensitization in health and life skills, Mobilize school dropout minority youths with formal education and certification upto level 8th or 10th through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) or other State open schooling systems.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- It was launched for the first time in J&K in 2016, where girls from minority communities are being imparted three-month skill development training in seven identified sectors relevant to the region.

Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY):

- It is the flagship programme of Ministry of Power to provide 24X7 power supply to rural areas.
- It focuses on feeder separation (rural households & agricultural) and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas.
- This will help in providing round the clock power to rural households and adequate power to agricultural consumers.
- Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been subsumed in it.
- Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) - It isto provide 24x7 power supply in the urban area.
- Remote Village Electrification Programme (RVEP) is a scheme implemented by Ministry of New & Renewable energy in various states to provide basic lighting through Renewable Energy Sources in unelectrified villages and hamlets of electrified census villages.

Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities, 2018

GS 2: Governance | Issues relating to development & management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

Prelims level: Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities

Mains level: Initiatives for disabled persons

Why in News?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The event is being organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Highlights of the event:

- India is hosting the event in collaboration with Government of Korea and Rehabilitation International (RI).
- The Global IT Challenge for disability is a capacity building project that helps youth with disabilities to overcome their limitations and challenges for a better future through access to ICT.
- It will alleviate the digital divide and expand participation of youth with disabilities in the society.
- It propagates implementation of United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) - Article 21 relates to access to information.
- The competition will be held on the following aspects:-
 - E-tool (competition on application of MS-Excel, MS-Word etc) - individual event
 - E-life map challenge (ability to respond to specific situation) - individual event
 - E-creative (ability to create animated story or game) - group event (country wise)
 - E-content (ability to make video) - group event (country wise)

Participation:

- About 100 youth with disabilities in the age group of 13-21 years in the category of visual disability, hearing disability, locomotors disability and developmental disorder from 18 will participate.
- These youths with disabilities have been selected on the basis of National IT Challenge conducted through National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra in June, 2018.

ICT for the Divyangjans:

- There are about 1 billion i.e. about 15% of the world population persons with disabilities.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Majority of this population live in developing countries with low ICT development indexes.
- Because of this information divide, persons with disabilities are being excluded from society suffering inequality and poverty.
- The Global IT Challenge was initially designed to enhance the information utilisation skill of youths with disabilities and to encourage their social participation.
- The event started in the year 1992 in Korea. Subsequently it expanded to the neighbouring countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region and since 2011 it has become a global event.

Government approves mechanism for sale of enemy shares

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Prelims Level: Significance and key features of the act.

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved a mechanism for sale of enemy shares which at the current price is estimated at around Rs 3,000 crore.
- Sale proceeds are to be deposited as disinvestment proceeds in the government account maintained by the Ministry of Finance. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management has been authorised to sell the shares.
- A total number of 6,50,75,877 shares in 996 companies of 20,323 shareholders are under the custody of Custodian of Enemy Property of India (CEPI).
- The decision will lead to monetisation of movable enemy property lying dormant for decades and the proceeds will be used for development and social welfare programmes.

Enemy properties:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Enemy properties were those left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China. There are 9,280 properties left behind by Pakistani nationals and 126 properties which belonged to Chinese nationals, a ministry official said.
- The government has vested these properties in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, an office instituted under the Central government.
- A list of all vested enemy properties (movable and immovable) shall be prepared by the custodian for its submission to the Central government within three months from the publication of this order.
- For the purpose of valuation of the immovable enemy property, a valuation committee will be constituted at the district level with the district magistrate as the chairman besides two other official members.
- The committee shall consider the circle rate of the area where the property is situated or a rate fixed by the district administration as a mode of valuation of the property along with other valuation modes.
- The custodian will prepare and submit the state-wise list of the enemy properties along with their valuation to the Central government within one month from the date of receipt of the valuation report from the valuation committee.
- Among the 9,280 properties left behind by Pakistani nationals, the highest 4,991 properties are located in Uttar Pradesh followed by West Bengal which has 2,735 such estates. There are 487 such properties in Delhi. Among the 126 properties left behind by Chinese nationals, the highest 57 are located in Meghalaya followed by West Bengal with 29.

Global Cooling Innovation Summit, New Delhi

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Prelims level: Global Cooling Innovation Summit and Prize

Mains level: R&D in the field of climate resilient cooling technology

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Why in News?

- Two-day summit will be inaugurated by Union Science & Technology Ministry in New Delhi.
- The Summit is a first-of-its-kind solutions-focused event that will bring together leaders from around the world to explore means and pathways to address the climate threat that comes from the growing demand from room air conditioners.

Global Cooling Prize:

- The Global Cooling Prize – Mission Innovation challenge aims to spur development of a residential cooling solution that has at least five times (5x) less climate impact than today's standard.
- It is a competition with global reach and participation to achieve dramatic breakthroughs in cooling technologies.
- The competition aims to develop a cooling technology that requires radically less energy to operate, utilizes refrigerants with no ozone depletion potential and with low global warming potential, and has the potential to be cost-effective at scale.

The Key Initiatives of Government

National LED Programme:

- It is to ensure promotion of energy efficiency in the country.
- It has two components – Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP).
- DELP – UJALA Scheme was launched to provide LED bulbs to domestic consumers.
- SLNP – It aims to replace conventional street light with smart and energy efficient LED street lights by March, 2019.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The project is funded by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a Public Energy Services Company under the administration of the Union Ministry of Power.

UJALA Scheme:

- UJALA - UnnatJyoti by Affordable LEDs for All is an energy efficiency scheme to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.
- Under this scheme, LED bulbs at 40% of the market price will be distributed to every grid connected consumer.
- It is implemented by the Electricity Distribution Company and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY):

- It is to provide financial and operational turnaround of power distribution companies and aims at long term affordable and accessible 24x7 power supply to all.
- It has target of making all DISCOMs profitable by 2018-19 through four initiatives such as Improving operational efficiencies of Discoms, Reduction of cost of power, Reduction in interest cost of Discoms, Enforcing financial discipline on DISCOMs through alignment with state finances.
- Under this programme, States shall take over 75% of DISCOM debt over two years i.e 50% of DISCOM debt shall be taken over in 2015-16 and 25% in 2016-17.
- Government of India will not include the debt taken over by the states as per the above scheme in the calculation of fiscal deficit of respective states in the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- States will issue non-SLR including SDL bonds in the market or directly to the respective banks / financial institutions (FIs) holding the DISCOM debt to the appropriate extent.
- DISCOM debt not taken over by the state shall be converted by the banks / FIs into loans or bonds.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Mobile Applications launched by Ministry of Power:

- Grameen Vidyutikaran (GARV) app to help citizens track rural electrification under DDUGJY.
- Vidyut Pravah app to provide real time information of electricity price and availability
- URJA (Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan) app for Urban Power Distribution Sector to enhance Consumer Connect, Project Monitoring of projects and providing information on the monthly performance on parameters like Consumer complaints redressal, Release of New service connection etc.
- E-Tarang app to monitor the real time status of Transmission System.
- E-Trans app to help in better price discovery in respect of Inter State Transmission projects.

Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP):

- The programme is aimed at enhancing the freight transportation in India through improving cost, time, tracking and transferability of consignments through infrastructure, procedural and Information Technology (IT) interventions.
- The parks are expected to serve four key functions – freight aggregation and distribution, multimodal freight movement, storage and warehousing, and value-added services such as custom clearances.

Kaushal Panjee:

- Kaushal Panjee (Skill Register) is a mobilisation platform for skill development.
- The skill register aims to be citizen centric end-to-end solution to aid mobilization of candidates for Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI).
- It facilitates mobilization through Self Help Group members, Gram Panchayat Functionaries, Block Officials, and Common Service Centres and directly by the candidate.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- RSETIs and DDU-GKY Partners can access the Kaushal Panjee to connect with the mobilized rural youth.
- Kaushal Panjee is connected to the Social Economic Caste Census 2011 which will help the States plan and target their mobilizations based on the socio-economic profile of households in their State.

Global Digital Content Market 2018

GS 2: Governance | Government policies & interventions for development in various sectors & issues arising out of their design & implementation

Prelims level: GDCM 2018

Mains level: Governance of broadcasts and creative industries in India

Why in News?

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is hosting a conference on Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) 2018 in New Delhi.

Global Digital Content Market (GDCM) 2018:

- The conference will feature sessions on music, film, broadcasting and publishing, as well as collective management, emerging models and the implications for the market and policy makers.
- India has been chosen as a host nation for the conference by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) due to the strong creative industry in the country in films, music and media.
- The focus for this year's conference is the Asia Pacific region.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Aim and Objectives:

- GDCM is a platform to discuss vital issues and enhance development of the digital and IP generating industries such as publishing, films, music, and gaming all of which are major contributors to the Indian GDP.
- The aim of GDCM 2018 is to give industry stakeholders a platform to come together and discuss new avenues in the films, music, gaming and creative industry.
- It shall also discuss points of challenge that is presented due to the changing creative landscape because of the disruption brought about by digital technologies.

Digital Content Copyrights and India:

- GDCM 2018 is the second edition of the conference. The first conference was held in Geneva 2016.
- It is organised by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva.
- The aim of GDCM is to ensure that a creative artist continues to be protected and receives better remuneration on the digital platform.
- India has recently approved accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) that has increased the coverage of protection of copyrights in the international IP regime.
- This will bring the Indian creative industry under and international copyright system, secure distribution of their work and provide them with a level playing field.
- India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2018 has improved by 24 places from that of 2015 and now ranks 57th.
- India is the top-ranked economy in Central and Southern Asia and has now outperformed on innovation relative to its GDP per capita for seven years in a row.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation



VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

GS 2: Governance | Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Prelims level: LEAP and ARPIT Programmes

Mains level: Transforming quality of teaching in India

Why in news?

- Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched two new initiatives LEAP and ARPIT.

Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP):

- LEAP is a three weeks Flagship leadership development training programme (2 weeks domestic and one week foreign training) for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions.
- The main objective is to prepare second tier academic heads who are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.
- The programme would provide senior faculty, with high academic credentials, the required leadership and managerial skills including skills of problem-solving, handling stress, team building work, conflict management.
- It will also focus on developing communication skills, understanding and coping with the complexity and challenges of governance in HEIs, financial & general administration.
- The implementation of LEAP Programme will be through 15 NIRF top ranked Indian Institutions.
- The foreign Universities identified for the training are also within the top 100 in the world global rankings.

Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT):

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- ARPIT is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.
- For implementing ARPIT, 75 discipline-specific institutions have been identified and notified as National Resource Centres (NRCs) in the first phase.
- They are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.
- The course is a 40 hour module with 20 hours of video content and 20 hours of non-video content. They are offered in a highly flexible format and can be done at one's own pace and time.
- There are built-in assessment exercises and activities as part of the academic progression in the course.
- At the end of the course, there will be a terminal assessment which can be either online or a written examination.
- All faculties who have successfully completed the online refresher course will be certified.

MNRE circulates draft Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS)

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Prelims level: IWTCS

Why in News?

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in consultation with National Institute of Wind Energy, has prepared a draft of new Scheme called Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS) incorporating various guidelines Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS).

Indian Wind Turbine Certification Scheme (IWTCS):

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The IWTCS is a consolidation of relevant National and International Standards (IS/IEC/IEEE), Technical Regulations and requirements issued by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), guidelines issued by MNRE and other international guidelines.
- It also incorporates various best practices from other countries to ensure the quality of the wind energy projects.
- The draft Scheme enlists the guidelines for the benefit of all the stakeholders from concept to lifetime of wind turbine including:
 - Indian Type Approved Model (ITAM),
 - Indian Type Certification Scheme (ITCS),
 - Wind Farm Project Certification Scheme (WFPCS)
 - Wind Turbine Safety & Performance Certification Scheme (WTSPCS)

Why need such Scheme?

- Wind sector in India is growing at a rapid pace with increased utilization of wind energy for the power development.
- The modern wind turbines have higher dimensions and capacity and improved Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF) along with technological improvements.
- Under these developments, there was a need for comprehensive document which provides the complete technical requirements which shall have to be complied by the wind turbines for the safe and reliable operation by all the stakeholders.
- Also, there is a need for technical regulations.

Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors

Prelims level: Particulars of the Scheme

Mains level: Promoting cooperatives business venture

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Why in News?

- To cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has come up with a youth-friendly this scheme for attracting them to cooperative business ventures.
- The newly launched scheme would encourage cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.
- The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC.

Funding:

- The funding for the project will be up to 80% of the project cost for these special categories as against 70% for others.
- The scheme envisages 2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal.

Eligibility:

- It would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.
- All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible.

Sahakar 22:

- The NCDC, being the most preferred financial institution in the world of cooperatives, has embarked on Sahakar 22, a Mission for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022.
- To achieve the Mission of New India by 2022 in Cooperatives, through Doubling The Farmers Income, NCDC would launch a new Mission Mode activity,
- SAHKAR 22 would include:
 - **FOCUS 222:** Converge NCDC assistance for Cooperatives in 222 Districts

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- **PACS HUB:** Transform PACS and other Coops as APNA KISAN Resource Centres
- **AENEC:** ACT East and North East Coops
- **CEMtC:** Centres of Excellence to Market through Coops
- **SAHAKAR PRAGYA:** Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research & Development as Capacity Development base for SAHKAR 22

NCDC:

- Nodal Agency: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- The NCDC has the unique distinction of being the sole statutory organisation functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector.
- It supports cooperatives in diverse fields apart from agriculture and allied sectors.
- It is an ISO 9001:2015 compliant organisation and has a distinctive edge of competitive financing.

ISPRL signs MoU with ADNOC to explore storage of crude oil

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Prelims Level: India's strategic oil reserves- locations.

Mains Level: Need for Strategic Petroleum Reserves - Energy Security

Why in news?

- Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to explore storage of crude oil at Padur underground facility in Karnataka.
- This follows arrival of final shipment of initial delivery of ADNOC crude to be stored in another ISPRL underground facility in Mangaluru, which will store 5.86 million barrels.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Highlights of the MoU:

- The MoU mandates ADNOC to store crude oil at the Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserve which has a storage capacity 2.5 million-tonne (~17 million barrels) capacity for emergency needs.
- ADNOC will store crude in two compartments at Padur.
- ADNOC is the only foreign oil and gas company, so far to invest, by way of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves program.
- This will help to ensure energy security to India and enable ADNOC to efficiently and competitively meet Indian market demand.

Petroleum Reserves Program Phase 1:

- Under the Phase I of Strategic Petroleum Reserves Program, SPRL has already built 5.33 million tons of underground storage capacity at three locations, Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tons), Mangalore (1.5 million tons) and Padur (2.5 million tons), that can meet around 10 days of the country's oil needs.
- In June 2018, Government announced phase II of program for creation of two new reserves, a 4-million-tons storage facility at Chandikhol in Odisha, and an additional 2.5-million-tons facility at Padur.
- The combined strategic reserve capacity of existing and newly announced facilities will be 15.33 million tons and will provide around 22 days of emergency coverage for India's crude oil requirements.
- **ISPRL** is Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Aadi Mahotsav

GS 2: Governance | Mechanisms, laws, institutions & Bodies constituted for the protection & betterment of these vulnerable sections



VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Prelims level: Aadi Mahotsav - Tribal Festivals in India

Mains level: Tribal welfare development & Schemes

Why in news?

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs inaugurated the “Aadi Mahotsav” a National Tribal Festival to celebrate, cherish and promote the spirit of tribal craft, culture, cuisine and commerce.
- The theme of the festival is: “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce”.

Aadi Mahotsav:

- The Mahotsav comprises of display and sale of items of tribal art and craft, tribal medicine & healers, tribal cuisine and display of tribal folk performance, in which tribal artisans, chefs, folk dancers/musicians from 23 States of the country are participating and providing glimpse of their rich traditional culture.
- The Mahotsav features exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more through 100 stalls. Over 200 tribal artisans and artists from different States creating a Mini-India are participating in the festival.
- Tribal artisans, chefs, folk dancers/musicians from 23 States of the country shall participate and provide glimpse of their rich traditional culture.
- Over 200 tribal artisans and artists from different States creating a Mini-India will be participating in the festival.

Significance of the festival:

- The Adivasi way of life is guided by primal truths, eternal values and a natural simplicity.
- The greatness of the tribes lies in this that they have managed to retain the primal skills and natural simplicity.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- This quality gives their arts and crafts a timeless appeal. So, this festival seeks to channelize and promote their natural skills and provide them sources of income.
- The Government has formed the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) for achieving this. TRIFED is working in this this direction and now has embraced e-commerce and digital platforms to take the business forward.

World Toilet Day

GS 2: Governance | Issues relating to development & management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

Prelims level: World Toilet Day

Mains level: Need of promoting and awareness of sanitation

Why in News?

- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) will celebrate the World Toilet Day with mass awareness and mobilization activities across States and districts.
- The day's main focus is to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and ensure that everyone has a safe toilet by 2030.
- This is part of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: sanitation and water, which aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of sanitation and water for all by 2030.

Highlights:

- The focus is on usage of toilets, which is closely linked to the Prime Minister's call for a Swachh Bharat by October 2019.
- The key objective of the observance is to engage with communities and reaffirm the national resolve to sustain the Sanitation achievement.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The 2018 theme of the International Day is 'toilets and nature'. This year's campaign is based on the narrative: When nature calls, we have to listen and act.
- The theme focuses on the need to build toilets and sanitation systems that work in harmony with the environment.
- Organizing grassroots activities involving district, block and panchayat level teams, swachhagrahis and swachhata champions.
- In recognition to the work done by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, is receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the World Toilet Summit.

Institution's Innovation Council

GS 2: Governance | Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Prelims level: IIC Programme

Mains level: Institutionalizing innovation in India

Why in news?

- The Union Human Resource Development Ministry launched the 'Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) Program' in Delhi on November 21, 2018.
- The program was launched under Innovation Cell of the ministry which was established by the MHRD at AICTE with an aim to systematically foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions in the country.

Objective of the council:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The main purpose behind the formation of the network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years.

Highlights:

- The programs will help in institutionalizing innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country.
- More than 1000 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have already formed IICs in their campuses and enrolled for the IIC network managed by MHRD's Innovation cell to promote innovation through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in their campuses.
- The programs will help Indian universities are in setting up research centers which will help to encourage researches and innovative studies.
- The program will help for the educational advancement in higher education by encouraging best practices in innovation and advance research.
- Before this, the Innovation Cell of the MHRD has undertaken many initiatives in this direction such as implementing programs like Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA), and Smart India Hackathon (SIH) - 2019.

International Tourism Mart

GS 2: Governance | Development processes and the development industry- the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

Prelims level: International Tourism Mart

Mains Level: Need for redefining, about the new system, significance and the process of redefining.

Why in news?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the Department of Tourism, Government of Tripura and the North Eastern States is organizing the 7th “International Tourism Mart” in Agartala, Tripura.

Objective:

- The objective of IMT will be to create annual Global Tourism Mart for India in line with major international travel marts being held in countries across the world.
- It will provide platform for all stakeholders in tourism and hospitality industries to interact and transact business opportunities.
- It will provide platform for States to showcase their products to international buyers, opinion makers and bloggers and attract more tourists to their respective states.

International Tourism Mart -7th edition:

- The 7th edition of the International Tourism Mart, an annual event organised in the North Eastern region with the objective of highlighting the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.
- It brings together the tourism business fraternity and entrepreneurs from the eight North Eastern States.
- The event has been planned and scheduled to facilitate interaction between buyers, sellers, media, Government agencies and other stakeholders.
- The International Tourism Marts are organised in the North Eastern States on rotation basis. The earlier editions of this mart have been held in Guwahati, Tawang, Shillong, Gangtok and Imphal.

Draft witness protection scheme

GS 2: Governance | Mechanisms, laws, institutions & Bodies constituted for the protection & betterment of these vulnerable sections



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Prelims level: Draft witness protection scheme

Mains level: Importance of protection for Witness in major trials

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court of India on November 19, 2018 said that it would direct all the states to implement the draft witness protection scheme framed by the Centre in consultation with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

Background:

- The issue of witness protection scheme had cropped up earlier when the top court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking protection for witnesses in rape cases involving a self-styled preacher.
- The court had asked the Centre to a draft scheme for witness protection in the country as specific provisions in this regard were already there in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act.
- The SC was told that the draft scheme has now been finalised and would be made into a law in due course.
- However till then the court should direct the states to start implementing it.

Witness Protection Scheme-2018:

- To enable a witness to give testimony in a judicial setting or to cooperate with law enforcement and investigations without fear of intimidation or reprisal.
- To ensure that the investigation, prosecution and trial of criminal offences is not prejudiced because witnesses are intimidated or frightened to give evidence without protection from violent or other criminal recrimination

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- To promote law enforcement by facilitating the protection of persons who are involved directly or indirectly in providing assistance to criminal law enforcement agencies and the overall administration of Justice.
- To give witnesses the confidence to come forward to assist law enforcement and Judicial Authorities with full assurance of safety.
- To identify a series of measures that may be adopted to safeguard witnesses and their family members from intimidation and threats against their lives, reputation and property.

Other Provisions:

- **Witness Protection Fund** means the fund created for bearing the expenses incurred during the implementation of Witness Protection Order passed by the Competent Authority under this scheme;
- **Witness Protection Order** means an order passed by the Competent Authority detailing the steps to be taken for ensuring the safety of witness from threats to his or his family member's life, reputation or property. It also includes interim order, if any passed, during the pendency of Witness Protection Application;
- **Witness Protection Cell** means a dedicated Cell of State/UT Police or Central Police Agencies assigned the duty to implement the witness protection order. It shall be responsible for the security as per witness protection order

Proposed Rights to be entitled to the Witness:

- Right to give evidence anonymously
- Right to protection from intimidation and harm
- Right to be treated with dignity and compassion and respect of privacy
- Right to information of the status of the investigation and prosecution of the crime
- Right to secure waiting place while at Court proceedings
- Right to transportation and lodging arrangements

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018

GS 2: Governance | Mechanisms, laws, institutions & Bodies constituted for the protection & betterment of these vulnerable sections

Prelims level and Mains level: Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill & Particulars

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018 for regulation and standardisation of education and services by allied and healthcare professionals.

Highlights:

- The Bill provides for setting up of an Allied and Healthcare Council of India and corresponding State Allied and Healthcare Councils which will play the role of a standard-setter and facilitator for professions of Allied and Healthcare.
- The Bill also empowers the Central and State Governments to make rules.
- Central Govt. has the power to issue directions to the Council, to make regulations and to add or amend the schedule.

Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill:

- The bill provides for the establishment of central and corresponding state allied and healthcare councils and 15 major professional categories including 53 professions in allied and healthcare streams.
- It provides for structure, constitution, composition and functions of the central council and state councils such as framing of policies and standards, regulation of professional conduct, creation and maintenance of live registers, provisions for common entry and exit examinations.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The professional advisory bodies under central and state councils will examine issues independently and provide recommendations relating to specific recognised categories.
- The bill will also have an overriding effect on any other existing law for any of the covered professions.
- The state council will undertake recognition of allied and healthcare institutions.
- The clause of offences and penalties has been included in the bill to check mal-practices. The bill also empowers the central and state governments to make rules.
- Under the bill's provisions, the central government will also have the power to issue directions to the council, to make regulations and to add or amend the schedule.
- The bill calls for the constitution of an interim council within 6 months of its passing, which will hold the charge for a period of two years until the establishment of the Central Council.
- The council at the centre and the states are to be established as body corporate with a provision to receive funds from various sources.
- The councils will also be supported by central and state governments respectively through grant-in-aid as needed. However, if the state government expresses inability, the central government may release some grant for initial years to the state council.

Composition of the Council:

- **The central council:**
 - Comprises of 47 members, of which 14 members shall be ex-officio representing diverse and related roles and functions and remaining 33 shall be non-ex-officio members who mainly represent the 15 professional categories.
- **The state council:**
 - It is also envisioned to mirror the central council, comprising 7 ex-officio and 21 non-ex officio members and a chairperson to be elected from amongst the non-ex officio members.

Targets:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- An Interim Council will be constituted within 6 months of passing of the Act holding charge for a period of two years until the establishment of the Central Council.
- The Council at the Centre and the States are to be established as body corporate with a provision to receive funds from various sources.
- Councils will also be supported by Central and State Governments respectively through Grant-in-aid as needed. However, if the State Government expresses inability, the Central Government may release some grant for initial years to the State Council.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund - Blue Revolution mission

GS 2: Governance | Mechanisms, laws, institutions & Bodies constituted for the protection & betterment of these vulnerable sections

Prelims level & Mains level: Blue Revolution Mission, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund

Why in news?

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare at his inaugural address on Fifth World Fisheries Day, said that under the Blue Revolution scheme, 29,128 hectares has been developed for aquaculture and fishermen are being benefitted. And 7441 traditional boats have been modernized and converted into motorized boats.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF):

- Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) will create employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakhs fishers/ fishermen/ fisher folks and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities and attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- FIDF would help in the creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in marine and inland fisheries sectors.
- It aims to achieve a sustainable growth of 8% to 9% in a move to augment fish production to the level of about 20 million tonnes by 2022-23.

World Fisheries Day & Forum:

- It is celebrated to commemorate the event of meeting of the working fishermen and women representing 'World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers' from 18 countries in New Delhi on November 21, 1997.
- World Fisheries Forum (WFF) was established to advocate a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.
- **World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF)** is an international organization that brings together small scale fisher organization for the establishment and upholding of fundamental human rights, social justice and culture of artisanal/small scale fish harvesters and fish workers, affirming the sea as source of all life and committing themselves to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for the present and future generations to protect their livelihoods.

Sangai tourism festival

GS 2: Governance | Mechanisms, laws, institutions & Bodies constituted for the protection & betterment of these vulnerable sections

Prelims level: Sangai tourism, Sangai Deer, Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP)

Mains level: Wildlife welfare development and Conservation Schemes

Why in news?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The annual Sangai Festival was celebrated in northeastern state of Manipur. It is grandest festival of state named after state animal, Sangai, the critically endangered brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
- The festival is labelled as the grandest festival of the State today and helps promote Manipur as a world class tourism destination. Every edition of the festival showcases the tourism potential of the state in the field of Arts & Culture, Handloom, Handicrafts, Indigenous Sports, Cuisine, Music and Adventure sports of the state etc.

Sangai Tourism Festival:

- The 'Festival' is named after the State animal, Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
- It was started in 2010 and has grown over years into big platform for Manipur to showcase its rich tradition and culture to the world.
- The focus areas of festival reflect Manipur's rich cultural heritage and love for art of various tribes inhabiting state. It also showcases 'Ras Leela', state's classical dance form along with various other folk dance performances like Bamboo dance, Maibi dance, Kabui Naga dance, Lai Haraoba dance, etc.
- Indigenous sports will also be a major highlight of the State's biggest tourism festival this year. Manipur's famous martial arts- Thang Ta (a combination Spear & Sword skills), Yubi-Lakpi (a game played with greased coconut like rugby), Mukna Kangjei (a game that combines hockey and wrestling), and Sagol Kangjei- Modern Polo (believed to have evolved in Manipur) will all form part of the festival.

Sangai Deer:

- Sangai Deer (*Rucervus eldii*) also called the Dancing Deer. It is the state animal of Manipur.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Once it was found across Manipur Valley in abundant now only its remaining natural habitat is found in Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP), only floating national park in the world.
- It is listed as critically endangered species by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). KLNP is floating biomass in Manipur's Loktak Lake.
- It is known around the world for its unique composition which is made up of biomass vegetation (locally called phumdis) that floats on surface of lake.

“She- Box “ Awareness programmes on Sexual Harassment at Workplace

GS 1: Society | Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Prelims & Mains level: She- Box, objectives and significance.

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has empanelled institutions and organisations to conduct awareness exercises on the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, in order to ensure security of women at all workplaces.
- Around 223 institutes and organisations have been empanelled from across the country to impart training in local languages as of November 2018.

Key Highlights:

- The empanelled institutes will be required to submit quarterly reports through SHe-Box, an online complaints portal, of all the training programmes and workshops conducted by them under the SH Act.
- The empanelled institutes, organisations and companies have so far organised over 700 capacity building exercises that were attended by nearly 50,000 participants.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 mandates all the workplaces that include any department, organisation, undertaking, establishment, enterprise, institution, office, branch or unit with more than 10 workers to constitute an Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) to receive complaints of sexual harassment.
- The complaints can be registered on SHe-Box, a single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.
- Any woman facing sexual harassment at workplace can register her complaint through the portal.
- Once a complaint is submitted on the online portal, it will be directly sent to the authority concerned having jurisdiction to take action in the matter.
- The WCD Ministry has published a handbook and training module on the SH Act to provide information about the provisions of the Act in an easy-to-use practical manner.
- The private organizations are encouraged to customise the Training Module as per their extant service rules and disciplinary procedures prescribed therein.

She-Box:

- The comprehensive online complaint management system- 'SHe-Box'- was launched by WCD Minister Maneka Sanjay Gandhi on November 7, 2017 for women working in both public and private organisations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
- The portal was launched to ensure the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (SH Act), 2013.
- The SH Act defines "sexual harassment at the workplace" in a comprehensive manner, to cover circumstances of implied or explicit promise or threat to a woman's employment prospects or creation of hostile work environment or humiliating treatment, which can affect her health or safety.

Union Cabinet nod for term extension of OBC panel



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

GS 2: Governance | Mechanisms, laws, institutions & Bodies constituted for the protection & betterment of these vulnerable sections

Prelims & Mains level: National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)- Mandate of Sub-categorisation commission

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended the term of Commission constituted to examine the Sub-Categorization within Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Central List for a total of six months beyond 30th November 2018 and till 31st May 2019. It is the fourth extension which has been given to the commission for the submission of its report on the creation of quotas with quotas.

Highlights:

- With the approval of President, a five-member commission was constituted under article 340 of the constitution by the Union Government in October 2017.
- This commission is headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice (Retd.) G Rohini. The report of the commission is likely to recommend sub-quotas for the extremely backward classes in the OBCs.
- The article 340 of the constitution was used to constitute landmark Mandal Commission in 1979 which recommended 27 percent reservation for the socially and educationally backward classes in higher education and government jobs.
- In 2015, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) had recommended for OBCs to be categorized under the extremely backward, more backward classes and backward classes.
- Around 11 states have already sub-categorized OBCs for their state services. The Union Government is adopting the same methodology for the central OBC list.

Mandate of Sub-categorisation commission:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- It is tasked to examine extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among castes included in broad category of OBC in central government jobs and educational institutions especially with reference to OBCs included in Central list.
- It is also tasked to take up exercise of identifying respective castes, sub-castes, communities' synonyms in Central List of OBCs and classify them into their respective sub-categories. It is mandated was to work out mechanism, norms, criteria and parameters, in scientific approach, for sub-categories.
- It is mandated was to work out mechanism, norms, criteria and parameters, in scientific approach, for sub-categorization within such OBCs.

Information Platform to monitor public health surveillance - IHIP

GS 2: Governance | Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Prelims level: IHIP

Mains level: Need to monitor public health surveillance & information system.

Why in news?

- Union Health Secretary did soft-launch of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) segment of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) in seven states today.
- The first one-of-its-kind initiative by the Government of India, IHIP uses the latest technologies and digital health initiatives.

Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP):

- IHIP is real time, village-wise, case based electronic health information system with GIS tagging which will help in prompt prevention and control of epidemic prone diseases.

VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The initiative will provide near-real-time data to policy makers for detecting outbreaks, reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden in the populations and better health systems.
- The primary objective of IHIP is to enable the creation of standards compliant Electronic Health Records (EHRs) of the citizens on a pan-India basis.
- The EHRs aims to build a comprehensive Health Information Exchange (HIE) as part of this centralized accessible platform.
- The success of this platform will depend primarily on the quality of data shared by the states.
- For effective implementation of the platform, 32,000 people at the block level, 13,000 at the district level and 900 at the state level have been trained.

PAISA Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access launched under DAY-NULM

GS 3: Governance | Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

Prelims level: PAISA Portal, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)

Why in News?

- A centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) named “PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access”, was launched.

PAiSA – Portal:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- PAiSA stands for Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- It is a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- The web platform has been designed and developed by Allahabad Bank which is the Nodal bank.
- PAiSA is an effort by the government to connect directly with the beneficiaries, ensuring that there is greater transparency and efficiency in delivery of services.
- DBT of subvention on monthly basis under DAY-NULM will give the necessary financial support to small entrepreneurs in a timely manner”.
- All 35 states / UTs & all scheduled commercial banks, RRBs and Cooperative Banks are expected to be on board the PAiSA portal the year end.

National Urban Livelihoods Mission:

- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA), Government of India in 23rd September, 2013 by replacing the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).
- The NULM will focus on organizing urban poor in their strong grassroots level institutions, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment venture by ensuring easy access to credit.
- The Mission is aimed at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. In addition, the Mission would also address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors

Features of NULM:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- In the 12th Five Year Plan, NULM will be implemented in all districts headquarter towns(irrespective of population) and all other towns with population of 1 lakh or more as per Census 2011.
- At present 790 cities are under NULM. However, other towns may be allowed in exceptional cases on request of the States.
- The primary target of NULM is the urban poor, including the urban homeless.
- Funding will be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25.
- For North Eastern and Special Category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), this ratio will be 90:10.

HAUSLA 2018

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Prelims Level: HAUSLA 2018

Why in news?

- The National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)- “Hausla 2018” of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) was inaugurated by the Secretary, Shri Rakesh Srivastava, in New Delhi.

VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018



Highlights:

- The inter-Child Care Institution festival is witnessing participation of more than 600 Children drawn from CCIs from 18 states in the various events like painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing as part of the Festival.
- The idea behind the entire event is to provide a national platform for the children from CCIs across India to showcase their talent, to make them realise the hidden talent they possess and to help take it forward in their life.
- This event would instil confidence in them to achieve greater heights in life.
- The event shall inspire children of Child Care Institutions so that they can reach the National Stage for expressing their capabilities. The theme for the event is “Child Safety”.

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti Launched

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Prelims Level: Intellectual Property Right



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Mains Level: Indian Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem

Why in News?

- The Union Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' on November 27, 2018. The programme will aim to strengthen the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) culture in the indigenous defense industry. It was started by the Department of Defence Production for enhancing the self-resilience in the defense sector.

Objective:

- Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti will aim to give a boost to IPR culture in the defence sector.
- Under this programme, the Internet Protocol system will be strengthened in the defence manufacturing sector of the country.
- The programme will be implemented with the coordination of the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA).
- The end objective of the programme is to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Highlights:

- In the event organised on the launch of the programme, the inventions, and innovations of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories (OFs) in the area successful IPR applications filing were showcased.
- India has always been a knowledge hub since ancient times, but due to lack of awareness on modern legal framework for protection of IP rights, the nation's knowledge and creativity have often not been utilised to its full potential.

Intellectual Property Right:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), IPRs are the rights given to persons over the creations of their minds. They usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.
- The Intellectual Property Right has emerged as a key ingredient of an ecosystem which stimulates innovation and ingenuity.
- It was highlighted the need to migrate from the culture of seeking Transfer of Technology (ToT) from foreign sources to generating Intellectual Property in India, to achieve the goal of self-reliance in Defence sector.
- An **IP Facilitation Cell** was established in April 2018, which has worked tirelessly to achieve ambitious targets of training 10,000 personnel of OFB and DPSUs on IPR and facilitate filing of at least 1,000 new IPR applications.

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors

Prelims level: ERSS, SHOUT

Mains level: Pan-India emergency response system.

Why in news?

- The Union Home Ministry has launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for Himachal Pradesh.

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS):

- Central Government has allocated ₹321.69 Crore under Nirbhaya Fund for implementation of ERSS project across the country.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Himachal Pradesh is the first state to launch pan-India single emergency number '112' under ERSS.
- Under this project, a single number based 112 emergency services which will connect to Police, Fire, Health and other help lines through an Emergency Response Centre in the State.
- The service also includes a '112 India' mobile app integrated with Panic Button of smartphones and ERSS State website for ease of citizen in availing immediate assistance.
- To increase the effectiveness of Emergency Response, the ERC has also been integrated with Location Based Services provided by Telecom Service Providers.
- The '112 India' mobile app will be subsequently rolled out in all States & Union Territories to help people across the country access the unified emergency services.

SHOUT feature:

- To ensure safety of women, a SHOUT feature has been introduced in '112 India' mobile app.
- It helps seek immediate assistance from registered volunteers in the vicinity apart from the immediate assistance from Emergency Response Centre.

Nirbhaya Fund:

- In order to eradicate violence against women and girls, Central Government has set up Nirbhaya Fund.
- It is administered by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. It can be utilized for projects for women safety and security.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal authority for appraising/recommending the proposals/schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya fund.

'Heli-Clinics' for remote areas



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

Prelims Level: Ayushman Bharat

Mains Level: Accessible health care to remote region

Why in news?

- Union Minister has mooted “Heli-Clinics”/Helicopter Clinics for remote areas, which could help to provide specialized medical care to people living in inaccessible hilly terrains of the States like Jammu & Kashmir and Northeast.

Highlights:

- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empaneled hospitals across the country.
- Ayushman Bharat will be an entitlement based scheme with entitlement decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database.
- One of the core principles of Ayushman Bharat is to co-operative federalism and flexibility to states.
- For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between Centre and States, it is proposed to set up Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPMC) at apex level Chaired by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.
- States would need to have State Health Agency (SHA) to implement the scheme.
- In partnership with NITI Aayog, a robust, modular, scalable and interoperable IT platform will be made operational which will entail a paperless, cashless transaction
- In the last four years, which include opening of Dialysis Centres in every district hospital, setting up of Wellness Centres and, launch of “Ayushman Bharat”.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The Minister emphasized the need to incentivize medical practitioners to go to remote rural areas and to provide adequately satisfactory facilities for the government doctors to be able to serve in the rural areas.

Ayushman Bharat:

- Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes - Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

eDrishti software launched to help Railways Minister keep track of punctuality of train

GS 2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

Prelims Level: eDrishti software

Why in news?

- Indian Railways unveiled 'eDrishti' software that will help Union Railway Minister to keep track of punctuality of trains as well as freight and passenger earnings and much more from anywhere in the country.
- The software has been developed by Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) to help Minister keep track of all information related to Indian Railways, one of the world's largest rail networks.

eDrishti software:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Using this software, Railway Minister can track any information with just a click of mouse – whether from his office or while on the move.
- It will also enable Minister to know at any given point of time day's freight and passenger earnings, freight loading and unloading, punctuality, progress of major projects, public grievances, movement of trains across the country, details of railway stations and much more.
- It also has been connected with base kitchens of Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC) as many complaints comes regarding the quality of food served on trains.
- Through live video, Minister will be able to monitor the goings on in IRCTC kitchens.
- It will also provide the live status of reserved and unreserved passengers travelling on trains besides providing the exact location of trains at any point of time.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Navy's Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV)

GS 3: Science & Technology | Indigenization of technology & developing new technology

Prelims level: DSRV

Mains level: Advancements in Indian Navy

Why in News?

- The Indian Navy has inducted a Submarine Rescue System with a Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) along with associated equipment.

Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV):

- The Indian DSRV has the capability to rescue personnel from a distressed submarine (DISSUB) up to a depth of 650 m and it is the latest in terms of technology and capabilities.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- It has been designed and supplied to meet unique requirements of our submarines by M/s James Fishes Defence, UK.
- This System has a Side Scan Sonar for locating the position of the submarine in distress at sea.
- It will be providing immediate relief by way of posting Emergency Life Support Containers with the help of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for the rescue.
- To ensure early mobilization, the System permits rapid transportation of the Rescue System from the base to the exact location of the distressed submarine by transportation using air/land/sea vessels.

Arihant - Nuclear Triad

GS 3: Science & Technology | Achievements of Indians in science & technology

Prelims level: INS Arihant, India's nuclear triad

Mains level: India's nuclear triad Shortcomings and its near advancement

Why in News?

- India achieved a significant milestone in its strategic nuclear posture when it announced the completion of its survivable nuclear triad by adding maritime strike capability to land and air-based delivery platforms for nuclear weapons
- With the country's first nuclear ballistic missile submarine, **INS Arihant**, completing its maiden "**deterrence**" patrol, India joined the select group of five – **US, Russia, China, France and UK** – which can boast of this capability

Importance of INS Arihant's deterrence patrol:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- A deterrence patrol, as the term signifies, is meant to deter the adversary from conducting the first nuclear strike, as a nuclear ballistic missile submarine provides India with an assured second-strike capability.
- The success of INS Arihant gives a fitting response to those who indulge in nuclear blackmail.
- As a nation committed to “no first use” (NFU), it is of critical importance that an adversary contemplating a nuclear (first) strike should never be in doubt about the credibility of India’s nuclear deterrent and the assurance of a swift, devastating response.
- Given the kind of transparency provided by satellites and other technical means, the land-based legs of our nuclear triad (missile sites and air-bases) remain exposed to enemy attack.
- Once the submarine disappears underwater, it becomes virtually impossible to locate and can remain on patrol for months, with its ballistic missiles ready for launch on the PM’s orders.
- This is the kind of credibility that Arihant and other submarines will provide to India’s nuclear deterrence in the future.

Some shortcomings still present:

The issue of missile ranges:

- From a submarine patrol area in mid-Bay of Bengal, Islamabad is 2,500 km, while Beijing and Shanghai are over 4,000 km.
- Therefore, to target cities and nuclear forces deep inside China or Pakistan, from a “safe haven”, India needs a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) of 6,000-8,000-km range.
- The missile, reportedly, carried by the Arihant is the K-15, whose range falls below 1,000 km.

Lack of coordination:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- India has, so far, followed an unorthodox system, in which the National Command Authority (NCA) manages the nuclear deterrent through a “troika” consisting of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), the Department of Atomic Energy and DRDO.
- While scientists are the custodians of nuclear warheads and help mate them with the SFC’s missiles and IAF fighter-bombers, the MoD and Raksha Mantri remain out of the loop.
- Since Arihant and her sisters will carry “cannisterised” missiles, with pre-mated warheads, scientists have been eliminated from the chain, with custody and control of weapons devolving on the submarine’s captain.
- Although “fail-safe” electronic permissive action links (PAL) have been installed to ensure instant compliance with an authorised “launch” command from the NCA, while preventing accidental launch, structural and doctrinal changes are also urgently required.

Effective command and control structure:

- The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) is, notionally, a key functionary in the nuclear command chain, responsible to the PM for the functioning of the SFC.
- With the operationalisation of Arihant, his role assumes greater criticality.
- Under existing rules, the appointment of chairman is tenable by the senior-most service chief who may (depending on his retirement date) serve for durations, varying from 30 days to 18 months.
- He discharges this duty on a part-time basis, in addition to running his own service.
- No other nuclear weapon state has such a farcical arrangement, and this impinges on the credibility of our deterrent.
- Given the gravity and magnitude of his responsibilities, in the context of the nuclear triad, the Chairman COSC, in his current avatar, needs to be urgently replaced either by a Chief of Defence Staff or a Permanent Chairman COSC, with an independent charter and a fixed tenure.

Need of more submarines:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The nuclear-reactors of our SSBNs will need re-fuelling (with fresh Uranium rods) every few years.
- The process being a rather lengthy one, India would require an inventory of at least 3-4 SSBNs to maintain one on deterrent patrol off each seaboard.
- A small force of nuclear attack submarines (SSN) would be required for the protection of SSBNs and other roles.
- Thus, in a 50-60 year perspective, India should be looking at a nuclear submarine force of 8-12 SSBNs and SSNs.

INS Arihant's role in Make in India:

- Apart from its strategic significance, the Arihant is a live manifestation of PM Modi's "make in India" vision.
- A number of major private-sector companies contributed to the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) programme by mastering esoteric technologies to design and fabricate systems for the vessel.
- This Navy-managed DRDO project has also spawned a huge country-wide indigenisation process by which small and medium industries, have contributed components manufactured to high precision and reliability specifications.

Way forward:

- India's nuclear triad and its accessories are going to cost the nation trillions of rupees in the decades ahead.
- It would be delusionary to imagine that a large military, and nuclear weapons, just by themselves, can assure India's security and bequeath "great power" status on it.
- A grand-strategic vision that integrates military power with a national security doctrine will certainly achieve both.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

India joining as Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme

GS 3: Science & Technology | Achievements of Indians in science & technology

Prelims level: AMF TCP

Mains level: Introduction of Advanced motor fuels & Alternate fuels to bring down emissions.

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet has been apprised of India joining as Member of Advanced Motor Fuels Technology Collaboration Programme (AMF TCP) under International Energy Agency (IEA).

Key Facts:

- The primary goal of joining AMF TCP by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) is to facilitate the market introduction of Advanced motor fuels/ Alternate fuels with an aim to bring down emissions and achieve higher fuel efficiency in transport sector.
- Provides an opportunity for fuel analysis, identifying new/ alternate fuels for deployment in transport sector and allied R&D activities for reduction in emissions in fuel intensive sectors.
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India has joined AMF TCP as its 16th member on 9th May, 2018.
- The other member Countries of AMF TCP are USA, China, Japan, Canada, Chile, Israel, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Spain, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Thailand.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

The benefits:

- The shared costs and pooled technical resources.
- The duplication of efforts is avoided
- National Research and Development capabilities are strengthened
- The information exchange about best practices, network of researchers and linking research with practical implementation
- After becoming member, India will initiate R&D in other areas of its interest in advanced biofuels and other motor fuels in view of their crucial role in substituting fossil fuel imports.

AMF TCP:

- It an international platform for co-operation among countries to promote cleaner and more energy efficient fuels & vehicle technologies.
- The activities of AMF TCP relate to R&D, deployment and dissemination of Advanced Motor Fuels and looks upon the transport fuel issues in a systemic way taking into account the production, distribution and end use related aspects.
- The R&D work in AMF TCP is carried out within individual projects called "Annex".

IIT's researchers devise programme to maximise LPG connections

GS 3: Science & Technology | Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Prelims level: Decision Support System (DSS)

Why in news?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Researchers from IIT Kharagpur have devised decision support system (DCS) to help maximise LPG connections in BPL (below poverty line) households Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
- It is a first of its kind for analysis of a national level energy policy, it said.

Decision Support System (DSS):

- A decision support system (DSS) is a computer programme that helps in making sound rational decisions using mathematical programming and operation research techniques.
- The DSS for such policies can provide us the exact values of important parameters over the prescribed policy time period, which in turn will help us to take important measures to ascertain the proper functioning (monitoring) of the policy towards the desired goal.
- The DSS devised at the IIT uses mixed integer linear programming to mathematically formulate the policy using input parameters, decision variables and their relationships.
- The mathematical model has found the optimum number of total (BPL) connections required in a region, number of dealerships that need to be commissioned in a region over the policy time frame.
- The research has done sensitivity analysis with the mathematical model – change in a decision variable with respect to the change in parameter.

Significance of the System:

- With this, they can predict not only how the number of household connections can be increased but also the critical region that contributes most in each zone of LPG distribution.
- The DSS for such policies can provide the exact values of important parameters over the prescribed policy time period.
- This in turn will help researchers to take important measures to ascertain the proper functioning (monitoring) of the policy towards the desired goal.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- This kind of DSS can be developed for various federal and state level policies for various commodities like solar panels distributions, agricultural commodities and so on.

Artificial intelligence in Healthcare

GS 3: Science & Technology | Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Prelims level: AI in Healthcare and advantages in treatments and diagnosis

Why in news?

- Artificial intelligence (AI) systems poses an opportunity for medical professionals to learn more than before, the enormous amount of medical information can overwhelm the decision-making processes.

AI in healthcare:

- AI in healthcare can help to leverage technology to deploy efficient, impactful interventions at exactly the right moment in a patient's care.
- Artificial intelligence can provide insights into diagnostics, care processes, treatment variability, and patient outcomes.
- AI systems can bring in better standardisation of processes, and therefore subjectivity in interpreting information will be reduced.
- AI-assisted robotic surgery, where robots are able to analyse pre-op medical data and guide a surgeon's instrument during surgery, ensures patients develop fewer complications than otherwise.
- AI is that it can significantly improve efficiency, while reducing wastage and costs.

Significance:

- Low doctor-patient ratio.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- To deliver remote medicine and create virtual access in an effective manner.
- Doctors with AI can treat and monitor patients across geographies .
- Healthcare organisations can plan policies, guidelines, strategies and infrastructure to address health needs in a precise manner, thereby optimising the resources and delivery.
- The State can prioritise plans, budgetary allotments with greater understanding and in optimal utilisation.
- The auto diagnosis tool is an AI-powered tool that runs on actual diagnostic tests results and provides probable risks factors.
- It also suggests users change their lifestyle by recommending diet and exercise plans.
- Further investigations (if any) and a list of repetitive examinations for regular health tracking and monitoring are also suggested.

World's standard definition of kilogram now redefined

GS 3: Science & Technology | Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Prelims level: Kilogram and Weighing system, Planck's constant

Mains Level: Need for redefining, about the new system, significance and the process of redefining.

Why in news?

- The 26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) was held during November at Palais des Congr s, Versailles, France.
- In the meeting, the members have voted for the redefinition of 130 years old "Le grand K – the SI unit of kg" in terms of the fundamental Planck's constant (h).
- The new definitions will come into force on 20 May 2019.

Why to redefine standards?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- In a world where accurate measurement is now critical in many areas, such as in drug development, nanotechnology and precision engineering - those responsible for maintaining the international system had no option but to move beyond Le Grand K to a more robust definition.
- The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), the main executive body of CGPM has the responsibility of defining the International System of Units (SI).
- This revision of the SI is the culmination of many years of intensive scientific cooperation between the National Metrology Institutes (The national Physical Laboratory for India) and the BIPM.
- The dissemination of SI units for the welfare of society and industries in the country is the responsibility of Legal Metrology, Department of Consumer Affairs, GoI.

How effective is the new system?

- Electromagnets generate a force. Scrap-yards use them on cranes to lift and move large metal objects, such as old cars. The pull of the electromagnet, the force it exerts, is directly related to the amount of electrical current going through its coils. There is, therefore, a direct relationship between electricity and weight.
- So, in principle, scientists can define a kilogram, or any other weight, in terms of the amount of electricity needed to counteract the weight (gravitational force acting on a mass).
- The fluctuation is about 50 parts in a billion, less than the weight of a single eyelash. But although it is tiny, the change can have important consequences.

Planck's constant:

- There is a quantity that relates weight to electrical current, called Planck's constant - named after the German physicist Max Planck and denoted by the symbol h .
- But h is an incredibly small number and to measure it, the research scientist Dr Bryan Kibble built a super-accurate set of scales. The Kibble balance, as it has become known, has

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

an electromagnet that pulls down on one side of the scales and a weight – say, a kilogram – on the other. The electrical current going through the electromagnet is increased until the two sides are perfectly balanced.

- By measuring the current running through the electromagnet to incredible precision, the researchers are able to calculate h to an accuracy of 0.000001%. This breakthrough has paved the way for Le Grand K to be deposed by “die kleine h ”.

New Universal System of standard:

- After the kilogram's definition is changed officially- on 20th May, 2019, also known as World Metrology Day- most people will never notice the difference.
- It would not change baking ingredients on a kitchen scale, or even have an effect on the tons of goods shipped globally every day.
- For astronomers calculating the movements of stars and galaxies or for pharmacologists trying to define doses of medications down to the molecule, the new standard of measurement could change the way they work.
- The metric system was intended to be rational, universal set of units “for all people, for all time”.
- The SI unit will finally be truly universal system, free of any human artifacts.

Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services

GS 3: Science & Technology | Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Prelims level: ACROSS

Why in news?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of the nine sub-schemes of the umbrella scheme “Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)” during 2017-2020.
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its institutes namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service(INCOIS).

Objective:

- As the objective of the ACROSS scheme is to provide a reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society, the scheme will aim at improving skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations, intensive R & D.
- This scheme involves multi-institutes wherein each unit has a designated role for accomplishing the aforesaid tasks. As a result, all these schemes with specific objectives and budget are implemented in an integrated manner and are put together under the umbrella scheme “ACROSS”.

ACROSS Scheme:

- ACROSS scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- It addresses different aspects of weather and climate services, which includes warnings for cyclone, storm surges, heat waves, thunderstorms etc.
- Each of these aspects is incorporated as nine sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme “ACROSS” and is implemented in an integrated.
- The ACROSS scheme consists of nine sub-programmes which are multi disciplinary and multi institutional in nature and will be implemented in an integrated manner.

Significance of the Scheme:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The scheme will provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services, thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services.
- It will also provide a sizable number of scientific and technical staff along with requisite administrative support, thereby generating employment.
- To ensure last-mile connectivity of the weather based services to the end -user, a large number of agencies like the Krishi Vigyana Kendras of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Universities and local municipalities are roped in thus generating employment opportunities to many people.

Impact Based Forecasting Approach

GS 3: Disaster Management | Disaster & disaster management

Prelims level: Impact Based Forecasting Approach

Mains level: Flood Monitoring using Impact Based Forecasting Approach

Why in news?

- A new technology has been developed by IMD to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain and can help state governments to minutely monitor the impact of rainfall.

Impact Based Forecasting Approach:

- The technology shows “pre-event scenario which can help authorities in taking real-time decisions.
- With this the government can be able to generate a scenario where it can take decisions to release water or not release it.
- It will be helpful for every state authority to take a decision.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- There is another technology which would help in identifying warm ocean segments that are contributing to the rapid intensification of the systems.

Recent Kerala Floods:

- This system will help to avoid a disastrous situations similar to Kerala floods.
- The heavy downpour which had ravaged Kerala in August 2018, had caused death of around 500 people and economic damages worth over Rs 40,000 crore.
- Excessive rainfall had led to floods in Kerala and was the result of climate change.
- State Government had blamed IMD for lapses in its part for wrong rain forecast.
- IMD had forecasted estimated 98.5 mm rain in the state between 9 and 15 August, 2018 but Kerala received was 352.2 mm of rainfall resulting in severe flooding.

India Meteorological Department (IMD):

- It is the national meteorological service of the country and chief government agency dealing in everything related to meteorology, seismology and associated subjects.
- It was formed in 1975.
- It functions under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Mandate of IMD:

- Undertake meteorological observations and provide current information and forecasting information for most favourable operation of weather-dependent activities such as irrigation, agriculture, aviation, shipping etc.
- Offer warning against severe weather phenomenon such as tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms, heat waves, cold waves, heavy rains, heavy snow, etc

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Provide met-related statistics needed for agriculture, industries, water resources management, oil exploration, and any other strategically important activities for the country.
- Engage in research in meteorology and allied subjects.
- Detect and locate earthquakes and evaluate seismicity in various parts of the country for developmental projects.

ISRO successfully launches hyperspectral imaging satellite HysIS

GS 3: Science & Technology | Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology

Prelims level: PSLV-C43, HysIS

Mains level: Important missions of ISRO

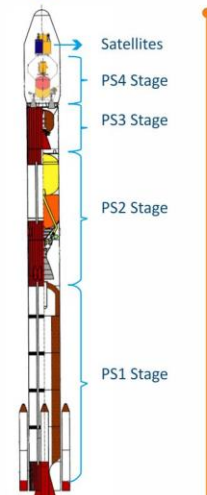
Why in news?

- The ISRO has successfully launched the PSLV-C43/HysIS mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota late.
- This mission, the sixth one this year that will use a polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV), will see the launch of HysIS - India's own earth observation satellite.

VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The satellite will be accompanied by 29 other satellites developed by various nations, including 23 from the US.

PSLV-C43 successfully launches HysIS and 30 satellites into Sun Synchronous Orbits



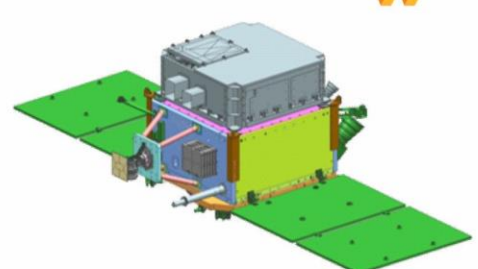
Satellites
PS4 Stage
PS3 Stage
PS2 Stage
PS1 Stage

- ▶ PSLV-C43 is the 45th Flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and 13th flight of its Core-Alone variant
- ▶ PSLV-C43 was launched from First Launch Pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota

PSLV-C43 Stages at a Glance

Parameters	Stages			
	Stage 1 (PS1)	Stage 2 (PS2)	Stage 3 (HPS3)	Stage 4 (PS4)
Length (m)	20	12.8	3.6	3.0
Diameter (m)	2.8	2.8	2.0	1.34
Propellant	Solid (HTPB based)	Liquid (UH25+N2O4)	Solid (HTPB based)	Liquid (MMH+MON3)
Propellant Mass (t)	138.2	42	7.65	2.5

HysIS




Salient Features of HysIS

- Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite
- Satellite Mass : ~380 kg
- Power : 730 W
- Payload : Two spectrometers in VNIR & SWIR bands
- Mission life: 5 years

30 co-passenger satellites

Country	Name	Satellites (Nos)
Australia	Centauri – 1	1
Canada	Kepler (CASE)	1
Colombia	FACSAT	1
Finland	Reaktor Hello World	1
Malaysia	InnoSAT-2	1
Netherlands	HIBER-1	1
Spain	3Cat-1	1
USA	CICERO-8	1
USA	Flock 3R	16
USA	Global-1	1
USA	HSAT-1	1
USA	LEMURs	4

www.isro.gov.in @isro www.facebook.com/ISRO/



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

PSLV-C43 mission:

- The PSLV launcher has a total length of 39.4m and consists of a four-stage rocket, that has alternating solid and liquid stages.
- PSLV-C43 is a core-alone version of the launch vehicle, and the lightest one in operation. The combined weight of the satellites is 641.5kg.
- PSLV-C43 mission's payload consists of the HysIS satellite, one micro-satellite and 29 nano satellites.
- While the 30 foreign satellites will be launched at an altitude of 504 km from the Earth's surface, ISRO's HysIS satellite will be launched at an altitude of 636 km.
- The satellite will be put into a polar synchronous orbit, which sets it in motion along the axis that runs along the Earth's geographic North and South Pole.

HysIS:

- HysIS stands for Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite.
- The objective of the probe is to provide observations within the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared bands of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- The imaging tools will help the HysIS satellite monitor atmospheric activity and climate change, while also assisting studies of Earth's magnetic field.
- These observations will have a host of applications, prime among which relate to agriculture, forestry, water management, and coastal patterns.
- The satellite's payload also consists of a 730W power backup, and a 64Ah Li-ion battery.
- It will continue to make observations till 2023, when the mission ends.
- After this launch, the next big event for the Indian space organisation will be its awaited mission to the moon – Chandrayaan-2 – in early 2019.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

INDIAN ECONOMY

19th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

GS 3: Economy | Mobilization of resources

Prelims level: Everything about FSDC

Mains level: Mandate of the FSDC

Why in News?

- The 19th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) to review the current global and domestic economic situation and financial sector performance was held

Highlights of the Meet:

- The Council discussed at length the issue of real interest rate, current liquidity situation, including segmental liquidity position in NBFCs and mutual fund space.
- The Council decided that the Regulators and the Government would keep a close watch on the developing situation and take all necessary measures.

Cyber Security:

- FSDC took note of the developments regarding strengthening of Cyber Security in Financial Sector.
- It included progress made towards setting up of a Computer Emergency Response Team in the Financial Sector (CERT-Fin) under a Statutory Framework.
- The Council also deliberated on the need for identifying and securing critical information infrastructure in financial sector.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Cryptocurrency:

- The Council also deliberated on the issues and challenges of Crypto Assets/Currency and decided to devise an appropriate legal framework to ban use of private crypto-currencies in India.
- The panel encouraging the use of Distributed Ledger Technology, as announced in the Budget 2018-19.

Other discussions:

- Other issues discussed include market developments and financial stability implications of the use of RegTech and SupTech (IT enabled regulatory process) by Financial Firms and Regulatory and Supervisory Authorities.
- It also discussed implementing the Recommendations of the Sumit Bose Committee Report on measures, such as, promoting appropriate disclosure regime for financial distribution costs.

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):

- FSDC is an apex-level body constituted by the Government of India to create a super regulatory body as mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.
- Finally in 2010, the then Finance Minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
- An apex-level FSDC is not a statutory body. No funds are separately allocated to the council for undertaking its activities.

Responsibilities:

- Financial Stability
- Financial Sector Development

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Inter-Regulatory Coordination
- Financial Literacy
- Financial Inclusion
- Macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates
- Coordinating India's international interface with financial sector bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Financial Stability Board (FSB) and any such body as may be decided by the Finance Minister from time to time.

India at 77 Rank in World Bank's Doing Business Report, 2018

GS 3: Indian Economy | Issues relating growth and development.

Prelims: Ease of Doing Business Report 2018

Mains level: Factors leading India to improve its ranking on Ease of Doing Business index and the problems that needs to be solved to further improve its performance.

Why in News?

- The World Bank released its latest Doing Business Report (DBR, 2019) in New Delhi.

India's Performance:

- India has recorded a jump of 23 positions against its rank of 100 in 2017.
- It is placed now at 77th rank among 190 countries with a leap of 23 ranks.
- The DBR ranks countries on the basis of Distance to Frontier (DTF), a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice.
- This year, India's DTF score improved to 67.23 from 60.76 in the previous year.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- As a result of continued efforts by the Government, India has improved its rank by 53 positions in last two years and 65 positions in last four years.

Doing Business Assessment of India:

- The Doing Business assessment provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies on ten parameters affecting a business through its life cycle.
- India has improved its rank in 6 out of 10 indicators and has moved closer to international best practices (Distance to Frontier score) on 7 out of the 10 indicators.

Important features of India's performance this year are:

- The World Bank has recognized India as one of the top improvers for the year.
- This is the second consecutive year for which India has been recognized as one of the top improvers.
- India is the first BRICS and South Asian country to be recognized as top improvers in consecutive years.
- India has recorded the highest improvement in two years by any large country since 2011 in the Doing business assessment by improving its rank by 53 positions.
- As a result of continued performance, India is now placed at first position among South Asian countries as against 6th in 2014.

Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)

GS 3: Economy | Mobilization of resources

Why in News?

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has launched another process re-engineering by making incorporation of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) through a complete online system

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

through a web service titled "RUN-LLP (Reserve Unique Name - Limited Liability Partnership)"

- The Limited Liability Partnership Rules have been amended on 18th September 2018 which would come into effect from 02nd October 2018.

The amendment rules changes:

- Introduction of a Web Service titled 'RUN-LLP (Reserve Unique Name - Limited Liability Partnership)' replacing the erstwhile Form 1 (Application for reservation or change of name).
- Introduction of a new integrated Form christened FiLLiP (Form for incorporation of Limited Liability Partnership) replacing the erstwhile Form 2 (Incorporation document and subscriber's statement) combining therein 3 services i.e.
 - Name reservation
 - Allotment of Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN/DIN).
 - Incorporation of the LLP

LLP:

- LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership.
- The LLP can continue its existence irrespective of changes in partners.
- It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.
- The LLP is a separate legal entity, is liable to the full extent of its assets but liability of the partners is limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP.

Advantages of LLP:

- It is organized and operates on the basis of an agreement.
- It provides flexibility without imposing detailed legal and procedural requirements

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- It enables professional/technical expertise and initiative to combine with financial risk taking capacity in an innovative and efficient manner

Promulgation of the Companies Amendment (Ordinance), 2018

GS 3: Economy | Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth

Prelims level: Particulars of the Ordinance

Mains level: Easing norms for minor corporate offences

Why in News?

- The recommendation of the Union Cabinet for promulgation of the Companies Amendment (Ordinance), 2018 has been assented to by the President of India.
- The Ordinance is promulgated to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013.

Key Amendments:

- Shifting of the jurisdiction of 16 types of corporate offences from the special courts to in-house adjudication, which is expected to reduce the case load of Special Courts by over 60%, thereby enabling them to concentrate on serious corporate offences.
- The penalty has been reduced to half for small companies and one person companies of that applicable to normal companies.
- Instituting a transparent and technology driven in-house adjudication mechanism on an online platform and publication of the orders on the website.
- Strengthening in-house adjudication mechanism by necessitating a concomitant order for making good the default at the time of levying penalty, to achieve the ultimate aim of achieving better compliance.
- Declogging the NCLT by:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- enlarging the pecuniary jurisdiction of Regional Director by enhancing the limit up to Rs. 25 Lakh as against earlier limit of Rs. 5Lakh under Section 441 of the Act;
- vesting in the Central Government the power to approve the alteration in the financial year of a company under section 2(41); and
- vesting the Central Government the power to approve cases of conversion of public companies into private companies.

Outreach Initiative for MSME Sector

GS 3: Indian Economy | Planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment

Prelims level: Various initiatives for supporting MSME Sector

Mains level: Facilitating MSMEs in India

Why in News?

- Hon'ble PM has launched a historic support and outreach programme for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
- As part of this programme, the Prime Minister unveiled 12 key initiatives which will help the growth, expansion and facilitation of MSMEs across the country.
 - Five key aspects for facilitating the MSME sector
 - Access to credit,
 - Access to market
 - Technology upgradation
 - Ease of doing business and
 - Security for employees
 - Key Initiatives

Access to Credit:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

59 minute loan portal:

- Loans upto Rs. 1 crore can be granted in-principle approval through this portal, in just 59 minutes.
- This portal will be made available through the GST portal.
- 2 percent interest subvention for all GST registered MSMEs, on fresh or incremental loans.

TReDS compliance:

- All companies with a turnover more than Rs. 500 crore, must now compulsorily be brought on the Trade Receivables e-Discounting System (TReDS).
- Joining this portal will enable entrepreneurs to access credit from banks, based on their upcoming receivables.
- This will resolve their problems of cash cycle.

Access to Markets:

- The public sector companies have now been asked to compulsorily procure 25 percent, instead of 20 percent of their total purchases, from MSMEs.
- Out of the 25 percent procurement mandated from MSMEs, 3 percent must now be reserved for women entrepreneurs.
- He said transactions worth more than Rs. 14,000 crore have been made so far through GeM (Govt. E Market).
- All public sector undertakings of the Union Government must now compulsorily be a part of GeM.

Technology Upgradation:

- PM announced establishment of tool rooms across the country as they are a vital part of product design.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- 20 hubs will be formed across the country, and 100 spokes in the form of tool rooms will be established.

Ease of Doing Business:

- Clusters will be formed of pharma MSMEs and 70 percent cost of establishing these clusters will be borne by the Union Government.
- The announcement focused on simplification of government procedures. The return under 8 labour laws and 10 Union regulations must now be filed only once a year.
- As part of establishing a unit, an entrepreneur needs two clearances namely to establish.
- The Environmental clearance and consent under air pollution and water pollution laws have been merged as a single consent and self-certifications.
- For minor violations under the Companies Act, the entrepreneur will no longer have to approach the Courts, but can correct them through simple procedures

Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN 3

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims level: UDAN scheme

Mains level: Need and importance of better air connectivity in India

Why in News?

- Opening the third round of the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), the Ministry of Civil Aviation has invited proposals for air routes that include tourist destinations

Eye for seaplanes:

- Seaplanes may soon be operating commercial passenger flights in India with the Centre inviting bids for connecting selected destinations under the RCS

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Few destinations that the government proposes to connect through seaplanes are the recently unveiled Statue of Unity at Sardar Sarovar Dam, Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand and Nagarjuna Sagar in Telangana.

RCS in phase 3:

- In the latest phase, the Centre is reoffering 34 airports that weren't successfully connected.
- Some destinations have been put on the block again as helicopter operations failed to take off.
- The Centre has also offered 23 tourist destinations including Bodh Gaya, Agra, Kanha, Varanasi, Hampi, Mysore and Kullu.
- The previous two rounds saw a total of 428 routes awarded to 17 airlines and helicopter operators.

Eliminate Unmanned Level Crossings Mission

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

Mains level: Eliminating UMLCs to prevent deadly accidents

Why in News?

- Indian Railway has taken a mission area to eliminate all Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge and accordingly special efforts have been made so that elimination can be completed at the earliest.

What numbers say?

- As on April 2019, there were 3479 Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge routes.
- Total 3402 UMLCs have been eliminated in last seven months.
- Balance 77 UMLCs have also been planned to be eliminated by December 2018.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Most of the UMLCs have been eliminated either by provision of Subway/RUBs or by manning.

Progress till date:

- All Unmanned level crossings on routes having speed more than 130KMPH and on Sub-urban routes have been eliminated.
- 12 Zonal Railways have now become UMLC free on Broad Gauge route.
- By elimination of UMLCs on war footing, accidents at UMLCs have reduced from 65 in 2009-10 to 3 in 2018-19.

Privatisation of Airports

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

Prelims Level: PPP Model

Mains Level: PPP in infrastructure projects bringing efficiency and profitability.

Why in News?

- Union Cabinet has recently given in principle approval for operating, managing and developing 6 non-metro airports under Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Key Facts:

- The airports are Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru.
- At present, airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin are managed under the PPP model.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will hold a minor stake in 6 new airports under PPP, just like it does at the Delhi and Mumbai airports.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The private player will hold at least 75 per cent stake.
- PPP bidding model - It will be held in a revenue-sharing model, where bidders are required to pay a specified share of gross revenue to the AAI.

Benefits:

- PPP in infrastructure projects brings efficiency in service delivery, expertise, enterprise and professionalism apart from harnessing the needed investments in the public sector.
- The PPP in airport infrastructure projects has brought World class infrastructure at airports, delivery of efficient and timely services to the airport passengers, augmenting revenue stream to the Airports Authority of India without making any investment, etc.
- The PPP airports in India have been ranked among the top 5 in their respective categories by the Airports Council International (ACI) in terms of Airport Service Quality (ASQ).
- PPP experiments have helped create world class airports, it has also helped AAI in enhancing its revenues and focusing on developing airports and Air Navigation infrastructure in the rest of the country.

INSPIRE 2018

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims level: INSPIRE 2018

Mains level: Promoting innovation ecosystem for efficient energy systems in India

Why in News?

- INSPIRE 2018 has been organised in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), ADB, UNEP, and the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI).

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The three-day symposium will focus on enhancing grid management, e-Mobility, financial instruments and technologies for energy efficiency in India.
- The event is bringing together policy-makers, innovators and various stakeholders to deliberate on key energy policies, market transformation strategies, and sustainable business models.
- This will help leverage the full potential of energy efficiency and bring its multiple co-benefits to the fore.

Innovate To Inspire Challenge:

- The #InnovateToINSPIRE challenge was organized by EESL and World Resources Institute (WRI).
- The challenge invited participants to submit sustainable and scalable solutions to seven specific challenges spanning grid management, e-Mobility, energy efficient technologies and financial instruments.
- The winning entries received an award of Rs. 5 lakhs each along with mentoring and guidance from EESL to help them bring their solutions to market.

Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF):

- To support investments in new, innovative and scalable business models, EESL and ADB signed an agreement for a GEF grant of USD 13 million to establish an EERF.
- EERF aims to expand and sustain investments in the energy efficiency market in India, build market diversification, and scale up existing technologies.

Other Agreements:

- During INSPIRE 2018, EESL and GAIL, a wholly owned subsidiary of GAIL (India) Limited signed a MoU.
- The MoU is aimed to develop natural gas based cogeneration and tri-generation projects in Commercial & Industrial Sectors in India.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- This MoU is set to benefit industries such as Hotels, Hospitals, Airports, Commercial Malls, Commercial/Government Buildings and other infrastructure with the advantages of Combined Heat & Power technology.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):

- EESL under the administration of Ministry of Power is working towards mainstreaming energy efficiency and is implementing the world's largest energy efficiency portfolio in the country.
- EESL aims to create market access for efficient and future-ready transformative solutions that create a win-win situation for every stakeholder.
- EESL has pioneered innovative business approaches to successfully roll-out large-scale programs that allow for incentive alignment across the value chain and rapidly drive transformative impact.
- EESL aims to leverage this implementation experience and explore new overseas market opportunities for diversification of its portfolio.
- As on date, EESL has begun its operations in UK, South Asia and South-East Asia.

2nd Startup India Investment Seminar

GS 3: Economy | Development and Employment

Prelims level: Particulars of the seminar, Difference between VCs and Angel Investors

Mains level: Boosting the startup ecosystem in India

Why in News?

- Embassy of India in China in partnership with Startup India Association (SIA) and Venture Gurukool organized 2nd Startup India Investment Seminar in Beijing for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among Indian youth.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Highlights:

- The event was planned to expose Chinese VCs and investors to the promising Indian startups
- Help Indian startups to reach out to the large Chinese investors for receiving investment for their companies.
- To discuss effective strategy for Chinese VCs to enter the Indian startup market and share their experiences about the Indian startup ecosystem.

Start Up India Scheme:

- It aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive for growth of Start-ups.
- According to the scheme, an entity headquartered in India shall be considered as a Startup up to seven years from the date of its incorporation/ registration
- However, in the case of Startups in the Biotechnology sector, the period shall be up to ten years from the date of incorporation/ registration.

It provides:

- Simple Compliance Regime for startups based on Self-certification
- Single window clearance based on mobile App.
- Startup India Hub to handhold startups during various phases of their development
- Legal support and fast-track patent examination by reducing 80% of the patent cost.
- Faster exit for startups through modified new bankruptcy code ensuring 90 days exit window.
- Credit Guarantee Fund for startups through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- Providing funding support through a Fund of Funds with a corpus of Rupees 10,000 crore
- Tax exemption on capital gains invested in Fund of Funds.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Tax exemption to startups for 3 years.
- Exemption from labour inspection for 3 years.
- Launch of innovation hub through Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with Self -Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) Program of NITI Aayog
- Harnessing private sector expertise for setting up incubators.
- No letter of recommendation from an incubator/industry association shall be required for either recognition or tax benefits.
- The initiative is also aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among SCs/STs, women communities.
- Rural India's version of Startup India was named the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Swaniyojan Yojana.

Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific

GS 3: Indian Economy | Planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment

Mains level: Role of agricultural cooperatives in promoting agricultural and rural development

Why in news?

- The inaugural session of the General Assembly of Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific(NEDAC) in New Delhi .

Highlights:

- The sessions are going to be held on 'Cooperatives to Cooperative Trade' and 'Capacity Development partnerships in NEDAC'.
- The ultimate aim would be to bring about an increase in farmers income and raise their economic standard by bringing cooperative trade in the mainstream and enhance cooperative professionalism.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The general assembly of 22 prominent cooperative organizations from eight countries unanimously decided to focus on C2C and capacity development to meet challenges of climate change as transformative cooperatives.

NEDAC:

- NEDAC was set up in 1991 by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- NEDAC sensitises Governments in the region on the role of agricultural cooperatives in promoting agricultural and rural development to ensure rural food and livelihood security for millions of people in Asia and Pacific.

India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

GS 3: Indian Economy | Planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment

Prelims level: IFFCL, ADB Projects & Infrastructure

Why in News?

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed here in national capital a \$300 million Loan Agreement to support lending by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).

Significance:

- The loan will enhance availability of long-term finance for PPP projects, improve operational capacity of IIFCL.
- It will expand portfolio of infrastructure financing instruments available to IIFCL.
- It is expected to compliment Government's infrastructure building efforts.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Key Highlights:

- ADB funding is expected to fund at least 13 sub-projects through IIFCL, involving roads and renewable power generation, under the last tranche. It is expected to help catalyze the financial closing of \$2.4 billion in investments. In addition, attached technical assistance will support IIFCL capacity development and will focus on IIFCL's financial management and social and environmental safeguards.
- It will support renewed effort of Central Government in accelerating infrastructure growth through increased Private Sector investment.
- The Project undertaken it will be relevant and responsive to constraints to bank based infrastructure financing, fiscal space creation, and repercussions on GDP growth.

India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited:

- IIFCL is a wholly-owned Government of India company set up in 2006.
- It has been registered as a NBFC-ND-IFC with RBI since September 2013.
- It provides long term finance to viable infrastructure projects – Both Greenfield and Brownfield projects.
- It provides refinance to banks and other eligible financial institutions for their loans to infrastructure projects.
- The sectors eligible for financial assistance from IIFCL are as per the harmonized list of Infrastructure Sub-Sectors as approved by the Government and RBI.
- It broadly includes transportation, energy, water, sanitation, communication, social and commercial infrastructure.

Credit scheme for cooperative start-ups

GS 3: Indian Economy | Planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment

Prelims level: Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme.



VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Mains Level: Schemes and govt initiatives to encourage cooperative start-ups and business ventures

Why in News?

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh launched Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- It is a youth-friendly scheme aimed at attracting youth to cooperative business ventures.

Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme:

- The scheme is linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC.
- It aims to encourage cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.
- It envisages 2% less than applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal.
- All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible to avail the scheme.
- Under this scheme, more incentives will be provided for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST members.
- The funding for the project under this scheme will be up to 80% of the project cost for these special categories against 70% for others.

Govt, ADB sign \$169 min loan to provide water, sanitation services in TN

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims level: Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program

Why in news?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Union Government has inked \$169 Million Loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program. It is tranche of \$500 million multi-tranche financing to provide water and sanitation services in Tamil Nadu.

Significance:

- The programme will develop climate-resilient sewerage collection and treatment and drainage systems in 10 cities, and install the country's first solar-powered sewage treatment plant.
- Introduction of smart water management systems will help reduce non-revenue water and strengthen operational efficiency.
- Around 4 million people will benefit from piped water and sewerage connections and improved drainage. The program will boost institutional capacity, public awareness, and urban governance as part of a comprehensive approach for developing liveable cities.
- The first tranche of ABD loan will target cities of Chennai, Coimbatore, Rajapalayam, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, and Vellore. Moreover, \$2 million grant from Asian Clean Energy Fund, established by Government of Japan will fund solar energy pilot project.

Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program:

- The program will develop priority water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities located within strategic industrial corridors of Tamil Nadu.
- It will support innovative pilots, including India's first solar-powered sewage treatment plant (STP) to offset greenhouse gas emissions and enhance operational efficiency; strengthen urban governance; and build capacity of state and local institutions to enhance urban service delivery, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience.

AirSewa 2.0



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

Prelims level: AirSewa 2.0

Mains level: Passengers grievances addressing system in aviation sector

Why in News?

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha on November 19, 2018 launched the upgraded version of AirSewa 2.0 web portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- AirSewa 2.0 operates through interactive web portal as well as through a mobile app for both android and iOS platforms.

AirSewa 2.0:

- A need was felt for development of an upgraded version of AirSewa to provide a superior user experience with enhanced functionalities.
- Major improvements include features such as secure sign-up and log-in with social media, chatbot for travellers support, improved grievance management including social media grievances, real-time flight status and details flight schedule.

Features of the Portal:

- It will offer passengers a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience.
- The web portal and application will help to capture air travellers' feedback for policy interventions.
- The focus is on improving the quality of services so that passengers who are travelling have a safe and comfortable experience.

Addressing Passenger's Grievances:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Air passengers face issues like flight delays, problem in refunds, long queues, inadequate facilities at airports and complaints of lost baggage.
- The Ministry launched AirSewa web portal and mobile app in November 2016 to address this need.
- The AirSewa 1.0 was received well, with around 30,000 app downloads and around 75,000 web portal hits since its launch.
- It has helped significant number of air passengers to get their concerns resolved with 92 % closure rate for grievance solutions.
- In addition to grievance redressal, AirSewa also provides real-time flight status and flight schedules.

Industrial Park Rating System Report

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims level: Industrial Park Rating System Report

Why in news?

- The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, released the report prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, on Industrial Park Rating System.

Significance of the report:

- The Industrial Park Rating System is proposed to be translated into an annual exercise covering all the parks across India.
- The coverage would be widened and updated to bring in deeper qualitative assessment feedback and technological intervention and develop it as a tool that effectively helps for demand-driven and need-based interventions both by policymakers and investors.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Key Highlights:

- To optimise resource utilisation and enhance the efficiency of the manufacturing sector, DIPP launched the Industrial Information System (IIS), a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas and clusters across the country in May 2017.
- The portal serves as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information including availability of raw material – agriculture, horticulture, minerals, natural resources, distance from key logistic nodes, layers of terrain and urban infrastructure.
- The Ministry has undertaken the exercise of studying infrastructure across states and in 3354 industrial clusters in order to assess the quality of infrastructure in industrial parks, to ensure that India moves into the top 50 countries in Ease of Doing Business.
- The portal has been actively used by the State Governments and Industrial Development Corporations over the last one year and they have nominated over 200 parks for assessment along the above parameters.
- The database includes 3000 parks and all the industrial parks will be rated on the following 4 points:
 - Internal infrastructure
 - External infrastructure
 - Business services and facilities
 - Environment and safety management

Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge

GS 3: Indian Economy | Issues relating growth and development.

Prelims Level: Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge

Mains Level: Various initiatives to increase Ease of Doing Business rankings

Why in news?

Vetrii IAS Study Circle

The Best Academy for IAS & TNPSC Exams

www.vetriias.com



VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled the Ease of Doing Business grand challenge aimed at attracting innovative ideas on artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, big data analytics, blockchain and other cutting edge technology to reform government processes.

EoDB Grand Challenge:

- The objective of this challenge is to invite innovative ideas based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Blockchain and other cutting edge technology to reform Government processes.
- It is in pursuance of Government's resolve to make India one of the easiest places to conduct business in the world. Government has made efforts to ensure that India consistently improves its business environment.
- The aim is to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy in the shortest possible time.
- The platform for the Grand Challenge is the Startup India Portal.

Improving EoDB in India:

- India's EoDB rank has improved by 65 spots in past few years.
- India now ranks first in South Asia, and is just some steps away from the Top 50 target.
- The Prime Minister said that the Union Government has laid stress on Policy Driven Governance and Predictable Transparent Policies. He said
- In the last four years, more than 1400 archaic laws have been repealed.
- Dramatic reductions have been achieved in areas such as time taken for resolution of commercial disputes, and time taken for clearing imported goods.
- Organizations such as IMF and Moody's appear confident and optimistic about India's future.

India's SEZ policy report

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Prelims Level: SEZ policy reports and findings

Mains Level: Ensuring effective implementation and utilization of SEZ lands to boost growth

Why in News?

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry to study the existing SEZ policy of India constituted Baba Kalyani led committee which submitted its report to the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, in New Delhi.

Key Highlights:

- India is going to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 then the current environment of manufacturing competitiveness and services has to undergo a basic paradigm shift.
- The report notes that the success seen by services sectors like IT and ITES has to be promoted in other services sector like health care, financial services, legal, repair and design services.
- The Union Government has set the target of creating 100 million jobs and achieving 25 per cent of GDP from the manufacturing sector by 2022, as a part of its flagship 'Make in India' programme.
- The Government also plans to increase manufacturing value to USD 1.2 trillion by 2025.
- While these are ambitious plans to propel India into a growth trajectory, it requires an evaluation of existing policy frameworks to catalyse manufacturing sector growth.
- At the same time, the policy needs to be compiled with the relevant WTO regulations.
- The suggestions and findings of the committee constructive will be sent to the Commerce Ministry will immediately begin formal consultations with the Finance Ministry and other Ministries so that implementation of the committee's recommendations may be done without any delay.

The key findings of the committee:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- To evaluate the SEZ policy and make it WTO compatible
- To suggest measures for maximising utilisation of vacant land in SEZs
- To suggest changes in the SEZ policy based on international experience
- To merge the SEZ policy with other Government schemes such as coastal economic zones, Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor, national industrial manufacturing zones and food and textiles parks.

History of India's SEZ Policy:

- India's SEZ Policy was implemented from April 1, 2000. Subsequently the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 was passed by Parliament in May 2005 and received presidential assent on the June 23, 2005 and the Special Economic Zone Act was enacted.
- The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on February 10, 2006.
- The commerce ministry has been consistently lobbying with the finance ministry to exempt units in the SEZs from the minimum alternate tax (MAT), imposed on them in 2011.
- In June 2018, the Union Commerce Ministry set up a committee headed by Bharat Forge chairman Baba Kalyani to make its special economic zone (SEZ) policy compatible with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules after the US challenged India's export subsidy programme at the multilateral trade body.

Jharkhand Power System Improvement Project

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

Prelims level: Power System Improvement Project and particulars

Why in News?

- The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$ 310 million loan agreement for the Jharkhand Electricity System Improvement Project in Delhi on November 20, 2018.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

The project will aim to provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24x7 electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand.

Significance:

- Jharkhand Electricity System Improvement Project will help in creating new power transmission structure in Jharkhand, and will also improve technical efficiency and commercial performance of the state's power sector.

Jharkhand Electricity System Improvement Project:

- Under this project, the automated sub-stations, network analysis, and planning equipment will be used which will help in ensuring the customers' satisfaction.
- The project will help to improve the institutional capabilities of public sector companies for power transmission and distribution.
- Under the project, new sub-stations with 132 KW voltage transmission line will be constructed for strengthening the operation of Jharkhand Power Corporation Limited (JPCL). The project will also help in integrating the renewable energy with the state grid. The concession period for this loan is 5 years, and the last maturity period is 25 years.
- This project is part of a "Sabke Liye Bijli" launched by the Indian Government in 2014. With the private and public investment, the scheme is expected to produce around 4.5 GW electricity by 2022.

City Gas Distribution projects

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

Prelims level: CGD Projects in India

Mains level: Promoting usage of environment-friendly clean fuel and to reduce carbon emissions

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stones of City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in 129 districts from New Delhi which will herald the availability of convenient, environment-friendly and cheaper natural gas for almost half of the country's population spread across 26 States and Union Territories.

Objective:

- To promote the usage of environment-friendly clean fuel like natural gas as a fuel across the country to move towards a gas based economy.
- The development of city gas distribution networks has been focused to increase the availability of cleaner cooking fuel and transportation fuel to the citizens of the country.
- The expansion of city gas distribution, CGD network will also benefit industrial and commercial units by ensuring the uninterrupted supply of natural gas.

CGD Networks as of now:

- Till September 2018, 96 cities/districts were covered for development of CGD networks.
- About 46.5 lakh households and 32 lakh CNG vehicles are availing the benefit of clean fuel through existing CGD networks.
- As per commitment made by various entities in this bidding round, around 2 crore PNG (Domestic) connections and 4600 CNG stations are expected to be installed in next 8 years across the country (This expanded the coverage of CGDs to about 50% of the population over 35% of India's area).
- Additionally, PNGRB has also initiated the process of 10th CGD bidding round for additional 50 new GAs covering 124 districts in 14 States to increase the coverage to nearly 53% of the country's area covering 70% of the population.

Background:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- As per WHO database released in May 2018, India has 14 out of 15 world's most polluted cities in terms of PM 2.5 concentration.
- India has made a commitment in COP21 Paris Convention in December 2015 that by 2030; it would reduce carbon emission by 33% of 2005 levels.
- Large number of industries also consumes polluting fuels like pet coke and furnace oil which emit polluting CO₂. Some of the courts recently ordered for banning use of pet coke in states within their jurisdiction.
- Natural Gas (as CNG) is cheaper by 60 per cent as compared with petrol and 45 per cent with rest to Diesel.
- Similarly, Natural Gas (as PNG) is cheaper by 40 per cent as compared with market price.
- Natural gas, as domestic kitchen fuel, as fuel for transport sector and fuel for industries and commercial units, will play an imperative role in reducing carbon emission.

Quadracycles get go-ahead for pvt use, to boost connectivity

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, and Railways etc.

Prelims Level: Quadracycle, Motor Vehicles Act 1988

Mains Level: Road Safety in India

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified inclusion of the 'Quadracycle' as a 'non-transport' vehicle under the Motor Vehicles Act 1988 on November 23, 2018.
- Following a notification amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the Supreme Court approved the classification of Quadracycles under a new category.

Quadracycle:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- A Quadricycle is a vehicle of the size of a 3-wheeler but with 4 tires and fully covered like a car. It has an engine like that of a 3-wheeler. This makes it a cheap and safe mode of transport for last mile connectivity.

Highlights:

- The Quadricycles were allowed for transport usage under the Act in June but now has also been made usable for non-transport purposes.
- Following a notification amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the Supreme Court approved the classification of Quadricycles under a new category.
- The Quadricycles are different from regular four-wheelers. They weigh almost half of an entry-level car. The car has a smaller and more frugal engine. It is equipped with basic features.
- The Quadricycle was unveiled in 2012 but could not officially be launched due to some safety concerns cited by the Bajaj's rivals and industry body in the Supreme Court.
- According to the order issued in June, the passenger vehicle should not weigh more than 475 KGs while the goods vehicle can weigh up to 550 kg.

Motor Vehicle Act, 1988:

- It was an act of Parliament of India which regulates all aspects of road transport vehicles.
- It was preceded by Motor Vehicle Act, 1939 and Motor Vehicles Act, 1914.
- This act provides in detail the legislative provisions regarding licensing of drivers/conductors, registration of motor vehicles, control of motor vehicles through permits, special provisions relating to state transport undertakings, traffic regulation, insurance, liability, offences and penalties, etc.
- For exercising the legislative provisions of the Act, the Government of India made the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- There is provision to provide 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakhas interim relief to the family of victim of fatal accidents. The cases of road accident compensation claims are decided in the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal.

IIM Cal Inks Pacts with ICC: Energising start up ecosystem in East and Northeast India

GS 3: Indian Economy | Planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment

Mains Level: Schemes and govt initiatives to encourage cooperative start-ups and business ventures

Why in news?

- IIM Calcutta Innovation Park and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for energising the start-up ecosystem in East and Northeast India.
- The MoU will bring the incubator and industry together in a more formal way. IIM Innovation Park is currently incubating 40 start-ups with almost half from West Bengal.

Highlights:

- ICC has a wide industry connect which will help IIM Calcutta Innovation Park to promote start-ups whom it is incubating.
- It will offer a platform for market linkage for start-ups and promote their products and services especially from eastern and northeastern region which need greater attention in the startup growth story of the country.
- ICC is currently working on a new program that aims to offer all key services under a single roof at a very low cost for start-ups beginning from initial advisory, market linkage, fundraising and legal service.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC):

- It is a premier body of business and industry in Eastern and North-Eastern India.
- Its membership comprises several of largest corporate groups in the country, with business operations all over country and abroad.
- It was established in 1925 by a group of pioneering industrialists led by Mr G D Birla.
- It is the only National Chamber of Commerce operating from Kolkata.
- It is also the only chamber from India to win first prize in World Chambers Competition in Quebec, Canada.

NITI Aayog Organises Capacity Building Programme for Urban Water Management

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Mains level: India's projected water demand and need for sustainable use of water

Why in News?

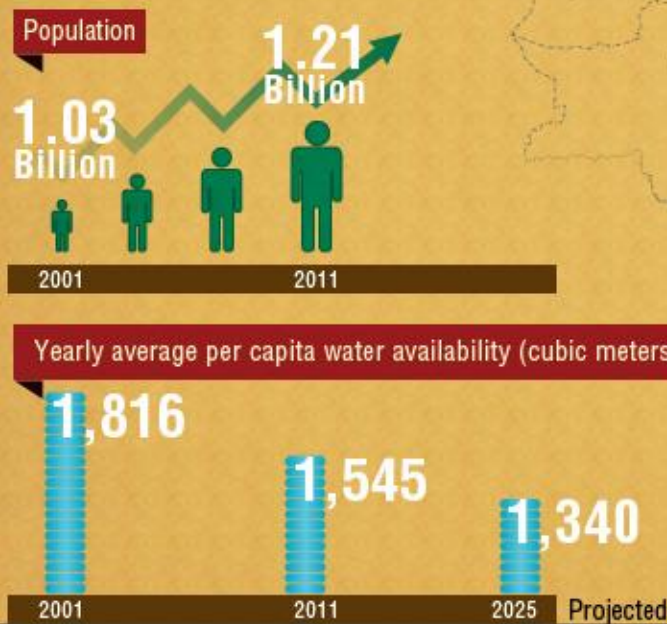
- The Second Phase of Urban Management Programme on 'Water Recycling and Reuse' was organized by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise & TF International at the Indian Habitat Centre in New Delhi on November 26, 2018.

VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Water Crisis around the world

INDIA

India faces a water crisis that's been building for decades, and may soon reach a flash point



Depletion of groundwater is a concern, with 60% agriculture dependent on it

Significance of the program:

- Highlighting the importance of this capacity building programme on management of water, particularly its recycling & reuse, as crucial for future urban planning and policy
- The attaining high rates of economic growth for India will directly be a function of the sustainable use of water.
- NITI's Composite Water Management Index, launched earlier this year, is a step toward increasing awareness and promoting best practises in water management throughout the country.

Highlights:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog have signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise- Temasek Foundation International to launch the second Phase of Urban Management Programme on 'Water Recycling And Reuse.'
- A total of eight States including UTs have been selected for the capacity building workshops. Senior officials from Municipal and Parastatal Bodies of the Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Puducherry, and West Bengal participated in the workshop.
- With a steady rise in Urban population from 29 crores in 2001 to 37.7 in 2011, the demand for the water in the urban areas is increasing rapidly.
- To ensure the availability of the water in the Urban areas where people face acute water shortage, the Government is going to implement rainwater harnessing schemes for groundwater improvement.

Recycle and Reuse:

- The 'Recycle and Reuse' technique has been widely practiced in Singapore where the water is recycled for the use. Such an approach is expected not only to reduce pressure on the water sources but is also expected to offer a sustainable solution for water resources management.
- Nearly 30% of urban water supply and 70% of rural water supply in the country comes from groundwater, which is depleting day by day.

NPCC is now a Miniratna

GS 3: Economy | Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy & their effects on industrial growth

Prelims level: NPCC

Mains level: Contribution of India's PSUs



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Why in news?

- The Union Government conferred the 'Miniratna status: Category -I' on the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC).
- The empowerment of Miniratna Status will help NPCC in taking speedy decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board.
- NPCC has also been awarded with the ISO 9001:2015 Certification.

National Projects Construction Corporation Limited:

- National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), a schedule 'B' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of Ministry of Water Resources, was incorporated in 1957.
- It is a premier construction company having mandate with creation of infrastructure to provide impetus for economic development of the country.
- The Corporation is making continuous profit since 2009-10, having positive networth for the last six years and has ambitious business plan with enhanced order book position of Rs 11833 crore.

Department of Public Enterprises:

- The Public Sector Enterprises are run by the Government under the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) of Union Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is the Nodal Government agency to issue guidelines and regulation for the various state-owned CPSEs in India.
- The DPE also makes policies and guidelines for the performance evaluation and improvement of the PSUs/ CPSEs.
- The government grants the status of Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) based upon the profit made by these enterprises.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The Maharatna category has been the most recent one, created in 2009, while the other two have been in function since 1997.
- Apart from these, PSUs in India are also categorised based on their special non-financial objectives and are registered under Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013.

Eligibility criteria:

Maharatna status of CPSEs:

- The CPSEs shall fulfill the following eligibility criteria to be considered for grant of Maharatna status:
 - Should already hold the Navratna status.
 - Should be listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under SEBI regulations
 - Average annual turnover of more than Rs 25000 crore during the last 3 years
 - Average annual net worth of more than Rs 15000 crore during the last 3 years
 - Average annual net profit after tax of more than Rs 5000 crore during the last 3 years
 - Should have significant global presence or international operations
 - Maharatna Status raises a company's investment ceiling from Rs 1000 crore to Rs 5000 crore. The Maharatna firms can decide on investments of up to 15 percent of their net worth in a project.

Navratna status of CPSEs:

- The CPSEs shall fulfill the following eligibility criteria to be considered for grant of Navratna status:
 - Must have 'Miniratna Category - I' status along with a Schedule 'A' listing.
 - Should have obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' rating under the Memorandum of Understanding at least thrice in the last five years of operations

VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Should have a composite score of 60 or above out of possible 100 marks in the 6 selected performance parameters:-
 - Net profit to net worth
 - Manpower cost to total cost of production/services
 - Profit before depreciation, interest and taxes to capital employed
 - Profit before interest and taxes to turnover
 - Earnings per share
 - Inter-sectoral performance
- Navratna Status allows the companies to invest up to Rs 1000 crore or 15 percent of their net worth on a single project or 30 percent of their net worth in the whole year (not exceeding Rs 1000 crores).

Miniratna Status of CPSEs:

- The CPSEs which have made profits in the last three years continuously and have positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna status.
- The Miniratnas are divided in two categories - I and II.
 - **Category I:** Miniratnas that have made profits for the last three years continuously or earned a net profit of Rs 30 crores or more in one of these three years. There are 60 such companies.
 - **Category II:** Miniratnas that have made profits continuously for the last three years and must have a positive net worth. There are 15 such companies in this category.
- The Miniratna Category - I PSEs are allowed to invest up to Rs 500 crore or equal to their net worth, whichever is lower. The Miniratna Category - II PSEs can invest up to Rs 300 crore or up to 50 percent of their net worth, whichever is lower.

Logix India 2019

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims level: Logix India

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Mains level: Logistics sector of India

Why in News?

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched the logo and brochure of 'Logix India 2019'.
- Logix India will enable effective international trade logistics and help provide efficient and cost-effective flow of goods on which other commercial sectors.

Logix India 2019:

- The logistics event is being organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) as a major initiative to improve logistics cost effectiveness and operational efficiencies for India's global trade.
- Over 20 countries are sending delegations to explore logistics partnerships with India and FIEO is focusing on logistical solutions for difficult to reach markets.
- Over 100 international delegates are expected to attend Logix India 2019.
- FIEO will also focus on investment opportunities in infrastructure development, warehouse consolidation, technology integration and IT enablement and skilling of manpower at the three-day meet.
- Logix India will enable effective international trade logistics and help provide efficient and cost-effective flow of goods on which other commercial sectors depend.

India's Logistics Sector:

- India ranked 44 in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2018.
- As per the Economic Survey 2017-18, India's logistics industry which is worth around USD 160 billion is likely to touch USD 215 billion in the next two years.
- This sector provides employment to more than 22 million people and is expected to grow at the rate of 10.5 per cent over the next 5 years.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Way forward:

- Considering the need for India to have more robust trade relations with countries in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, Middle East and ASEAN, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry is working on an integrated logistics strategy.
- The need for integrated Logistics sector development has also been felt for in view of the fact that the logistics cost in India is very high compared to developed countries.
- High logistics cost reduces the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export market.
- Logistics is the backbone of EXIM trade and creates business opportunities and employment. Logistics sector is expected to grow to USD 360 billion by 2032 from the current USD 115 billion.

India, ADB sign USD 200 million loan agreement to improve highways in Bihar

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims Level: Asian Development Bank, Bihar State Highways III Project

Why in news?

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Union Government on November 26, 2018 signed a USD 200 million loan agreement to finance widening and upgrading of about 230 kilometers state highways in Bihar to all-weather standards with road safety features.

Bihar State Highways III Project (BSHP-III):

- The project involves upgrading State Highways to standard two-lane width with road safety features and paved shoulders including reconstructing, widening, and strengthening culverts and bridges.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The Project will also build institutional capacity of the State for road design and maintenance and incorporate appropriate new technologies in the State's road sub-sector.
- The improved roads will contribute to savings in vehicle operating cost and travel time, reduce vehicle emissions, and improve road safety.
- It will establish a State-level Road Research Institute to improve technical and management capacity of the Road Agency Staff.
- The loan will complement the efforts of Bihar Government to upgrade all State Highways to meet the minimum two-lane standard with better surfaces and improved road safety.
- Since 2008, ADB has provided four loans to Bihar, amounting to \$1.43 billion, to upgrade about 1,453 km of State Highways and to construct a New Bridge over the Ganga River near Patna.

8 more States achieve 100% household electrification under Saubhagya

GS 3: Economy | Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

Prelims level: Saubhagya' scheme

Mains level: Attaining 100% Household Electrification

Why in News?

- 8 States have achieved 100% saturation in household electrification under Saubhagya namely Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Bihar, J&K, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana and West Bengal.

100% Electrification:

- The Minister informed that as many as 2.1 crore connections have been released under Saubhagya so far.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Many more State like Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh etc. are left with small number of un-electrified households and expected to achieve saturation any time.
- Nation is expected to achieve 100% saturation in the country by 31st December, 2018.

Saubhagya - 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana':

- Its objective is to provide access to electricity connections to all the remaining households in the country.
- Scheme will provide subsidy on equipment such as transformers, wires and meters.
- Ministry of Power would be the implementing authority.
- Power connection will be provided in both rural and urban areas of the country.
- The scheme was launched on the occasion of the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya on 25th.

Award Scheme under Saubhagya:

- For creating healthy competition amongst various DISCOMs, an award scheme has been instituted with awards of more than Rs 300 crore to be won by States/Discoms.
- The first DISCOM/Power Departments to complete 100% household electrification will be felicitated with cash award of Rs. 50 Lakh for the employees and Rs.100 crore grant to be spent for distribution infrastructure.
- For the purpose of award, States have been divided into 3 categories and award would be given in each of these categories.
- The States completing 100% household electrification by 31st 2018 will also receive additional grant of 15% of the project cost (5% for special category States) sanctioned under Saubhagya.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

India to chair the Programme and Budget Committee of UNWTO

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Prelims level: UNWTO

Why in News?

- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Shri. K. J. Alphons presides over the Program and Budget Committee meeting of UNWTO.
- The Minister highlighted the role of tourism in socio-economic development through job creation, enterprise and environment development and foreign exchange earnings.

Programme and Budget Committee of UNWTO:

- India's tourism minister chaired the 'Programme and Budget Committee' meeting of UNWTO.
- It highlighted the role of tourism in socio-economic development through job creation, enterprise and environment development and foreign exchange earnings.
- As the chair of the Committee, the Minister informed the session that for the first time, UNWTO had a surplus budget and most of the arrears due have been paid.
- India will be the chair of Programme and Budget Committee of UNWTO Executive Council till 2021.

UNWTO:

- The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- The UNWTO Executive Council represents the Organization's governing body whose task is to take all necessary measures in consultation with the Secretary-General, for

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

implementation of its own decisions and recommendations of the Assembly and report thereupon to the Assembly.

- The Council meets at least twice a year, the next to be held in Bahrain.
- The council consists of 35 Full Members elected by the assembly in proportion of one member for every Five Full Members, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Assembly with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution.

India - Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests

Prelims level: ITU - International Telecommunications Union

Mains level: Importance of ITU.

Why in News?

- India has been elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022).
- By securing 165 votes, India ranked third among the 13 countries elected to the Council from the Asia-Australasia region, and eighth among the 48 countries elected to the Council globally. The ITU has 193 member states who elect representatives to the Council.

India and ITU:

- India has been an active member of the ITU since 1869, earnestly supporting the development and propagation of telecom in the global community of nations.
- It has been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952, and has played an important role in upholding principles of equality and consensus-building.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- India's strong partnership with the ITU was also demonstrated in the recent ITU decision to set up the ITU South Asia Area Office and Technology Innovation Centre in New Delhi by Jan 2019.

International Telecommunication Union:

- ITU is a United Nations specialised agency for Information and Communication Technologies, with membership of 193 countries and nearly 800 private sector entities and academic institutions.
- The body freezes international standards on telecom technologies that are to be used globally.
- ITU, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is a member of the United Nations Development Group and has 12 regional and area offices in the world.
- The ITU coordinates the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promotes international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, works to improve telecommunication infrastructure in the developing world.
- The ITU is active in areas including broadband Internet, latest-generation wireless technologies, aeronautical and maritime navigation, radio astronomy, satellite-based meteorology, convergence in fixed-mobile phone, Internet access, data, voice, TV broadcasting, and next-generation networks.
- India has been member of ITU since 1869 and has also been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952.

SIMBEX-18 - India-Singapore bilateral naval exercise

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Prelims Level: SIMBEX 2018

Mains Level: India-Singapore strategic relations



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Why in News?

- The 25th edition of the India-Singapore bilateral naval exercise, SIMBEX, has begun at the tri-services command in Port Blair.

SIMBEX 2018:

- Started as basic Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercises in 1994, today these exercises have graduated to complex maritime combat drills, including missile and torpedo firings, and shore-based intensive professional exchanges.
- Seven ships from the Indian Navy and five ships from the Singapore Navy along with an Archer class submarine and a Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle will take part in the exercise.
- The number of missiles and torpedo firings being undertaken are in fact unprecedented and perhaps the largest the Indian Navy has undertaken with any foreign Navy till date.

India's Collaborations:

- The two countries have vastly expanded their military cooperation in recent years under India's Act East policy.
- Late last year, the two countries signed a naval agreement which has a provision for mutual logistical support and gives India access to the Changi naval base.
- India and Singapore are working on a trilateral exercise with an Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) country, likely Thailand, and eventually plan to scale it up to a multilateral format.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for conservation

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Prelims Level: UNESCO Asia-Pacific awards and important sites in India.

Mains Level: Significance of these sites and challenges in conservation of these sites.

Why in news?

- The restoration of an aristocratic house project from partial ruin state in Ladakh undertaken by LAMO (Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation) Center has won 2018 UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for Cultural Heritage conservation in Award of Distinction category.
- LAMO is public charitable trust established to articulate an alternative vision for the arts and media in Ladakh.

Details:

- The restored structure is strategically located at the foot of Leh palace, contributes to continuity of historic townscape of 17th century.
- Its recovery establishes precedent for conserving non-monumental urban fabric of Leh Old Town.
- Under restoration project, LAMO had used salvaged and local building materials and indigenous construction techniques and skilfully introduced modern amenities to assure its ongoing use.

Other Category awardees:

- **Award of Excellence:**
 - It was awarded to restoration project of early 20th-century Shijo-cho Ofunehoko Float Machiya in Japan.
 - It celebrates Kyoto culture by safeguarding city's endangered wooden townhouse typology as well as iconic annual Gion Festival.
- **Award of Distinction:**

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- LAMO Center, Ladakh, India.
- **Award of Merit:**
 - 5 Martin Place, Sydney (Australia); Aijing Zhuang, Fujian (China); Commercial Bank of Honjo Warehouse, Saitama (Japan).
- **Honourable Mention:**
 - Hengdaohezi Town, Heilongjiang (China), Rajabai Clock Tower & University of Mumbai Library Building, Mumbai (India), Ruttonsee Muljee Jetha Fountain, Mumbai (India).
- **New Design in Heritage Contexts:**
 - Kaomai Estate 1955, Chiang Mai (Thailand) and Harts Mill, Port Adelaide, (Australia).

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation:

- It was established in 2000.
- It recognizes efforts of private individuals and organizations that have successfully conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.
- It aims to encourage other property owners to undertake conservation projects within their communities, either independently or by seeking PPP (public-private partnerships).

India votes against UNGA draft resolution on use of death penalty

GS 2: IR | Important International institutions, agencies & fora, their structure, mandate

Mains level: Debate over ban on death penal

Why in news?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- India has voted against a United Nations General Assembly draft resolution on the use of death penalty, saying it goes against the statutory law of the country where an execution is carried out in the “rarest of rare” cases.

UN Against Death Penalty:

- The draft resolution, taken up in the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, Cultural) of the General Assembly was approved with a recorded vote of 123 in favour, 36 against and 30 abstentions.
- India was among the countries that voted against the resolution, which would have the Assembly call on all States to respect international standards on the rights of those facing death penalty.
- The draft aimed to ensure that it is not applied on the basis of discriminatory laws or as a result of discriminatory or arbitrary application of the law.

India's Stance of Death Penalty:

- The resolution sought to promote a moratorium on executions with the aim of abolishing death penalty.
- India has voted against the resolution as a whole, as it goes against statutory law in India.
- The death penalty is exercised in ‘rarest of rare’ cases, where the crime committed is so heinous that it shocks the conscience of the society.
- Indian law provides for all requisite procedural safeguards, including the right to a fair trial by an independent Court, presumption of innocence, the minimum guarantees for defence, and the right to review by a higher court.
- Indian delegation has argued for the sovereign right to determine its own legal system and appropriate legal penalties.

Singapore brings in Amendment:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Singapore's delegate decried the draft resolution's "one-size-fits-all" approach to a delicate question, which seeks to impose a particular vision of the world onto others.
- The representative of Singapore said the amendment aimed to ensure respect for the diversity of views.
- The amendment is simple and neutral and it does not take a position on the substance of the draft resolution, nor make judgments about State policies.

Voting for Sovereignty over Legal System:

- The draft resolution's passage followed an intense debate and Singapore introduced an amendment on behalf of 34 countries that reaffirmed the countries' sovereign right to develop their own legal system.
- The Committee then approved this amendment by a recorded vote of 96 in favour to 73 against, with 14 abstentions.
- India voted in favour of this amendment.
- By its terms, the Assembly would reaffirm the sovereign right of all countries to develop their own legal systems, including determining appropriate legal penalties, in accordance with their international law obligations.

NITI Aayog organizes South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure

GS 2: IR | Important International institutions, agencies & fora, their structure, mandate

Prelims level: WCO- objectives, functions and significance.

Mains level: Effective management of urban infrastructure

Why in News?

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- NITI Aayog partnered with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to host a South Asian regional conference.

Objective:

- The Conference aims to review overall issues and assess the sustainability of PPPs and urban finance in South Asia, specifically India, while broadening the knowledge base and engaging on international best practices.
- The conference will emphasize the need to ensure adequate return on investments in infrastructure through properly structured Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and de-risking of projects.
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been one such option that enables governments to optimally share the risks associated with a project's life cycle.

Need for implementing and financing urban infrastructure:

- Considering the quantum deficit in infrastructure implementation vis-à-vis the demand, it is urgently needed to focus on newer means of implementing and financing urban infrastructure.
- In India alone, until 2040, estimated investments of around \$4.5 trillion are required in the infrastructure space.
- With respect to urban needs, the population in South Asia is expected to grow by around 250 million till 2030, while that in India is expected to reach around 590 million during the same period.
- There are an estimated 98 million people who reside in the slums of Indian cities and are disproportionately deprived of access to basic services and infrastructure.
- These gaps must be addressed, so that the cities grow equitably and in an environmentally responsible way.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The South Asian regional conference is a first of its kind, with participation from across the South Asian region including leaders from the government, industry, research organizations, academia, think tanks and civil society.
- To implement urban infrastructure in India, a deeper deliberation is required on the means of democratizing the governance at the city level.
- It shall provide greater operational and fiscal autonomy to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Annual Defence and Security Dialogue - India & China

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Mains level: India-China bilateral talks for security cooperation

Why in news?

- India and China held the ninth Annual Defence and Security Dialogue here after a one-year gap due to the Doklam standoff, as both countries agreed to enhance military exchanges and interactions.
- The meeting held in Beijing was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of Central Military Commission Shao Yuanminga.
- At the 9th edition of the dialogue two countries agreed for increasing defence exchanges and interactions at different levels between the two militaries.
- The defence dialogue was held ahead of 21st round of border talks between the special representatives of the two countries in Chinese city of Dujiangyan on November 23-24, 2018.

Outcomes of the Dialogue:

- Both India and china agreed to enhance exchanges and interactions through reciprocal high-level visits between two ministries of defence as well as between commands, joint

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

training exercises, mutual visits by defence personnel including mid-level and cadet officers were also agreed upon.

- They also reiterated importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in border areas, implementing (Wuhan) consensus reached between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping and specific additional confidence-building measures at the operational level.
- They underlined importance of this dialogue as important mechanism between two countries for consultations on defence and security matters.
- They emphasised need to further strengthen military-to-military ties in order to strengthen political and strategic mutual trust between the two countries.
- Both sides also had an exchange of views on regional and global issues. Both sides agreed to hold the next round of the dialogue at mutually convenient time in India in 2019.

India and UK sign MoU for collaboration in cancer research

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Prelims Level: India-UK Cancer Research Initiative, Significance

Why in news?

- India and United Kingdom have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in cancer research.
- It is a follow-up to the joint statement issued by Prime Ministers of India and UK during the visit of PM Narendra Modi to the UK in April 2018.

Highlights of the MoU:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The MoU was signed between Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) for India-UK Cancer Research Initiative for collaboration in cancer research for the next five years.
- Under the MoU, both CRUK and DBT will invest 5 million pounds each in this five-year pilot project and seek further investment from other potential funding partners.
- India-UK Cancer Research Initiative will identify core set of research challenges that address issues of affordability, prevention and care of cancer patients by bringing together leading Indian and UK experts in clinical research, demographic research, new technologies and physical sciences.
- The initiative will provide funding to develop new research alliances and undertake impactful research to enable significant progress against cancer outcomes.
- It will also provide a catalysing platform for scientists and researchers in India and UK to co-create solutions for affordable cancer care that will improve cancer outcomes around the globe.

27th BASIC Ministerial meeting

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests

Prelims Level: BASIC, COP24, Paris Agreement

Mains Level: Global action initiatives against climate change

Why in news?

- The 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi. In this meeting, the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement to combat climate change was discussed by the member countries.

Objective:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) group recently met to put pressure on developed countries to meet pre-2020 climate efforts, and to “**progressively**” and “**substantially**” scale up their financial support for future action.

Highlights:

- The 24th Session of the of the Conference of the Parties to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24)** is scheduled to be held in Katowice, Poland in December 2018. The COP24 will work out and adopt a package of decisions to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- In the meeting, the Paris Agreement was considered as the significant step to advance global action against climate change by the participating BASIC countries.
- The member countries also reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.
- BASIC member countries will continue to remind developed countries about their earlier commitment to provide \$100 billion annually from 2020.
- The participating BASIC counties also requested developed countries to take actions to fill pre-2020 implementation gaps by 2023 which according to them can be used for first Global Stocktake (GST). Brazil will host the next BASIC Meeting.

Global Stocktake:

- It refers to a proposed five-yearly review of the impact of countries' climate change actions.
- Under the Paris Agreement, every country must present a climate action plan in five-yearly cycles.
- Under the Paris Agreement, the first global stocktake will happen in 2023.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- It will assess whether the net result of the climate actions being taken was consistent with the goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature from pre-industrial times to within 2 degree Celsius.

BASIC:

- BASIC is a group of four large industrialized countries which comprise Brazil, South Africa, India, and China. It was formed under an agreement in November 2009 wherein the member countries committed to acting at Copenhagen climate summit 2009 jointly.

India, Australia Sign Five Agreements

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests

Prelims level & Mains level: India and Australia cooperation in agricultural and educational sectors

Why in News?

- India and Australia signed five agreements to increase investment and improve cooperation in disability, agricultural research and education sectors. The agreements were signed when President Ram Nath Kovind met Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Sydney on November 22, 2018. President Ram Nath Kovind, who is on a two-nation trip is the first-ever Indian state head to visit Australia.

Five pacts agreements - Highlights:

- The first agreement will aim to improve the cooperation in the area of disability so that better service can be provided to the differently-abled people.
- The second agreement was signed between Invest India and Austrade which will facilitate bilateral investment between two countries.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Ranchi, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation, Canberra signed the third agreement which will foster scientific collaboration and innovation between the organizations based in two countries.
- The fourth agreement was signed between the Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Guntur, and the University of Western Australia, Perth, for cooperation in researches related to agriculture and education. This agreement will encourage cooperation between two educational institutes based in two countries.
- The fifth agreement signed between the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, New Delhi, and the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane will facilitate joint Ph.D. programmes.
- Besides this agreement, an announcement related to the release of Australia's response to 'Indian Economic Strategy' was also made by Prime Minister Scott Morrison.
- Indian Economic Strategy is a detailed blueprint for the transformation of the economic engagement.

AAI inks-pact with US Agency to Prepare Modernization Road-map

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests

Prelims Level: India-US Trade pacts

Mains Level: Roadmap of modernisation of air traffic services - Significance

Why in news?

- Authority of India (AAI) has inked an agreement with the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) to develop a roadmap for modernisation of its air traffic services. Air traffic services (ATS) comprises air traffic management (ATM) and communication, navigation and surveillance (CNS).

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Key- Highlights:

- The collaboration is aimed at developing CNS/ATM roadmap for the AAI for modernisation of the national airspace system (NAS).
- Under the agreement, US aircraft manufacturer Boeing will provide technical assistance, thus create a roadmap to enhance communications, expand existing systems and airspace capacity and invest in CNS/ATM facilities.
- It will help in improving safety and reducing congestion for flights in India.
- At the same time, it will create market access for high quality US exports that can advance India's aviation goals.

Significance of this pact:

- This initiative will upgrade network operations, enhance security, and improve the performance, reliability and quality of India's air traffic management communications network, while reducing the telecommunication costs.
- This communication backbone infrastructure will also play a pivotal role in deployment of remote towers for managing air traffic services at Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) airports.
- In the long run the implementation of Futuristic Telecommunications Infrastructure (FTI) network would result in enhanced air traffic safety, increase in airspace capacity by allowing the controllers to reduce the separation limits and accommodating the aircrafts to more economical and environment friendly flight levels thus reducing the overall carbon footprint.

Need for Modernisation:

- The air passenger traffic over last 49 months has double folded in India has brought several challenges with it, including maintaining safe and efficient aircraft operations.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- In this backdrop, AAI has decided to draw robust roadmap for sustained ANS infrastructure to meet the growth challenges in a planned way.
- By utilising global and regional best practices as benchmark technical help will recommend roadmap and implementation plan to AAI for improving airspace utilisation and implement CNS/ATM air and ground equipage in short, medium and long term.

Airports Authority of India (AAI):

- It is a statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- It is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India.
- It was founded in 1995 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It also provides Air traffic management (ATM) services over Indian airspace and adjoining oceanic areas.
- It manages around 125 airports in India, which include 18 International Airport, 07 Customs Airports, 78 Domestic Airports and 26 Civil Enclaves at Defense airfields.

India, Pakistan Dera Baba Nanak - Kartarpur corridor

GS 2: IR | India & its neighborhood- relations

Prelims level: Kartarpur Sahib - Location & Significance

Mains level: India-Pakistan Cultural Relation

Why in News?

- Marking a new beginning in India-Pakistan relations and heralding the possibility of reducing the tensions between the two countries, the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has laid the foundation stone for construction of Dera Baba Nanak -

VETRI'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Kartarpur Sahib corridor on the Indian side that will provide a passage to Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy site of Gurudwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan.



Kartarpur Sahib Corridor:

- India and Pakistan exchanged letters committing to build the required infrastructure for visa-free direct travel by Indian Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan's Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.
- The Kartarpur corridor will be implemented as an integrated development project with Government of India funding, to provide smooth and easy passage, with all the modern amenities.
- Government of India will put in place suitable facilities for smooth passage of pilgrims. Government of Pakistan will be urged to recognize the sentiments of the Sikh community and to develop a corridor with suitable facilities in their territory as well.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- In a rare sign of concord between the two countries, the letters were exchanged on the same day.

Corridor - History & Inception:

- The Kartarpur Sahib corridor was first proposed in 1999 when former PM Vajpayee took a bus ride to Lahore.
- He raised a long-standing demand from the Sikh community for easy access to the revered shrine across the border where Guru Nanak spent the last 18 years of his life.
- The pilgrims will traverse on the Indian side from Dera Guru Nanak Dev in Gurdaspur district directly to the border and from the Pakistani side of the border directly to Kartarpur Darbar Sahib Gurdwara.
- This has been done to allow them to mark the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in November 2019.
- This corridor will be a historical landmark between India and Pakistan and will also boost tourism as more pilgrims would visit the holy shrine throughout the year between two countries.

Protocol amending India-China DTAA

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests

Prelims Level: India-China Trade pacts

Mains Level: Double taxation recent amendments - Significance

Why in news?

- The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China have amended the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, by signing a Protocol.

Significance:

- Avoidance of double taxation
- Prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income

Highlights:

- Section 90 of Income-tax Act, 1961 allows India to enter into agreements with countries or specified territories for the avoidance of double taxation, for the exchange of information and for the prevention of the evasion.
- The signed Protocol will update the existing provisions for the exchange of information.
- It will incorporate required changes for the implementation of standards related to the treaty under the Action reports of Base Erosion & Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project.
- It will also bring in changes as per BEPS Action reports as agreed upon by the two sides. The protocol amending DTAA will help to prevent tax evasion by allowing the exchange of information.

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA):

- The DTAA, or Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement is a tax treaty signed between India and another country (or any two/multiple countries) so that taxpayers can avoid paying double taxes on their income earned from the source country as well as the residence country.
- A DTAA applies in cases where a tax-payer resides in one country and earns income in another.
- DTAAs can either be comprehensive to cover all sources of income or be limited to certain areas such as taxing of income from shipping, air transport, inheritance, etc.
- India has DTAAs with more than eighty countries.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests

Prelims Level: India- Russia Economic partnership

Mains Level: Double taxation recent amendments - Significance

Why in News?

- India and Russia attended first-ever Strategic Economic Dialogue held at St. Petersburg in Russia. The Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar led the Indian side while Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin headed Russian delegation.

Objectives:

- The delegations from both of the countries discussed the development of bilateral ties in trade, investment, and industry at the platform provided by the two-day forum.
- The two-day forum aimed to bring together key business figures from both the countries while focusing on Transport, agriculture, and agro-processing, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), digital transformation and frontier technologies and industrial cooperation.

Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue:

- Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue was created by PM Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin in their informal summit held at Sochi in May 2018.
- The main objective of this forum is to improve the economic partnership between both countries which has begun to gain momentum since 2017.
- The forum also aims to improve economic partnership and also explore partnership and joint ventures in the service and IT sectors.

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- To improve bilateral trade to \$ 30 billion by 2025, India and Russia have agreed to alienate of obstacles to trade. Both the countries are aiming to improve bilateral trade which was recorded with 21.5 percent growth last year.
- India has already launched Strategic Economic Dialogue with China

Sustainable Blue Economy Conference

GS 3: IR | Bilateral, regional & global groupings & agreements involving India &/or affecting India's interests

Prelims Level: Sustainable Blue Economy Conference. IORA

Why in News?

- The Sustainable Blue Economy Conference was held with the theme of 'The Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference was organized for the first time by Kenya and co-hosted by Japan and Canada.
- India endorses the growth of the Blue Economy in a sustainable, inclusive and people centered manner through the framework of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)".



Highlights:

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Sustainable Blue Economy Conference was held on the momentum of agenda of United Nations (2030) for the Climate Change Conference 2015 (Paris) and UN Ocean Conference 2017 (Call to Action) and Sustainable Development.
- More than 17,000 delegates from a total of 184 countries had participated in this conference where India was represented by the Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari.
- Besides them, the representatives from World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Seabed Authority (ISA), World Bank, AFRIEXIMBANK, and Ocean Foundation were also present in the conference.
- Blue Economy is the economic benefit that comes from Earth's coastal and marine environment. Marine-based economy, the Blue Economy provides social and economic benefits to the people while restoring, protecting and maintaining the diversity of marine ecosystems.
- With its strategic location in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), India encourages the growth of Blue Economy inclusively and sustainably. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) has developed a framework which is supposed to help India achieve its Marine-Based-Economic-goals.
- India is developing an infrastructure for its sea-borne-trade, and seafaring under an ambitious 'Sagarmala Programme.' The programme will improve maritime logistics and port led developments.

Sagarmala Programme:

- It has identified 600 plus projects entailing a huge investment of \$120 billion (nearly Rs. 8 lakh crore) by 2020.
- It saves India \$6 billion per annum in logistics costs besides creating 10 million new jobs and boosting port capacity by 800 Million Metric Tonne per Annum (MMTPA) to an overall 3500 MMTPA.

Exercise KONKAN-18

VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

GS 2: IR | Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Prelims level: Exercise Konkan

Mains level: India-UK strategic relations

Why in news?

- The naval exercise Konkan 18 between India and United Kingdom will be conducted from November 28 to December 6, 2018 off Goa with units participating from both navies. The harbour phase is scheduled from November 28 to November 30 2018 followed by the sea phase from 2-6 December, 2018.

Fleets in exercise:

- The Royal Navy will be represented by HMS Dragon, a Type 45 Class Destroyer equipped with an integral Wildcat helicopter.
- The Indian Navy will field INS Kolkata, the first ship of latest Kolkata class destroyers, equipped with integral Seaking and an IN submarine.
- The thrust of the exercise this year would be on Anti-Air warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) and Seamanship Evolutions.

Background and objectives:

- Naval cooperation between India and United Kingdom is based on long term strategic relationship between both countries.
- Both Navies have, over years have undertaken bilateral activities such as training exchanges and technical cooperation.



VETRII'S UPSC PIB COMPILATION November - 2018

- Bilateral KONKAN exercise was started in 2004 and since then has grown in scale. It provides platform to periodically exercise at sea and in harbor so as to build interoperability and share best practices.
- The exercise is aimed at deriving mutual benefit from each other's' experiences and is indicative of continuing cooperation between two countries.
- The inter-operability achieved over years as result of such exercises has proved to be operationally beneficial to both navies.
- The naval cooperation is tangible symbol of commitment of both nations in ensuring a positive climate at sea for enhancing strategic stability and promoting economic prosperity.