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PIB

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INDIAN POLITY

LAW COMMISSION SUBMITS REPORT ON “WRONGFUL PROSECUTION (MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE) LEGAL REMEDIES”

GS 2: Polity | Structure, organization & functioning of the Executive & the Judiciary

Prelims level: ICCPR, Provisions against Wrongful Prosecution / Mains level: Need for Compensation against Wrongful Prosecution.

Why in News?

- The Law Commission of India submitted its report titled ‘Wrongful Prosecution (Miscarriage of Justice): Legal Remedies’ to the Government of India.
- The Delhi HC in its Order in the case of Babloo Chauhan expressed grave concern about the state of innocent persons being wrongfully prosecuted, incarcerated for crimes that they did not commit.
- The Court highlighted the urgent need for a legislative framework for provided relief and rehabilitation to victims of wrongful prosecution, incarceration.

Global Scenario on Wrongful Prosecution:

- Internationally, the issue is identified as ‘miscarriage of justice’ that takes place after a person has been wrongfully convicted but is later found to be factually innocent basis a new fact / proof coming to light.
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (‘ICCPR’, ratified by India) also creates an obligation on the State parties to enact a law to compensate the victims of such miscarriage of justice.

Wrongful Prosecution:

- The panel recommended ‘wrongful prosecution’ to be the standards of miscarriage of justice, as against ‘wrongful conviction’ and ‘wrongful incarceration’.
- ‘Wrongful prosecution’ would include cases where the accused and not guilty of the offence, and the police and / or the prosecution engaged in some form of misconduct in investigating and / or prosecuting the person.
- It would include both the cases where the person spent time in prison as well as where he did not; and cases where the accused was found not guilty by the trial court or where the

accused was convicted by one or more courts but was ultimately found to be not guilty by the Higher Court.

Recommendations for Remedial Measures:

- The Report gives an overview of the remedies available under the existing laws and discusses their inadequacies.
- The panel recommends provision of relief to the victims of wrongful prosecution in terms of monetary and non-monetary compensation
- This may include counseling, mental health services, vocational / employment skills development etc. within a statutory framework.
- The Report enumerates the core principles of the recommended framework-
 - ✓ Defining 'wrongful prosecution' i.e., cases in which claim for compensation can be filed,
 - ✓ Designation of a Special Court to decide these claims of compensation,
 - ✓ Nature of proceedings - timeline for deciding the claim, etc.,
 - ✓ Financial and other factors to be considered while determining the compensation,
 - ✓ Provisions for interim compensation in certain cases,
 - ✓ Removal of disqualification on account of wrongful prosecution / conviction etc.
- A draft Bill, articulating the aforesaid, is annexed with the Report as the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

GS 2: Governance | Governance, Transparency & Accountability, Citizens Charters

Prelims level: Department of Official Language, Kanthastha, Lila and Pravah Mobile Apps

Mains level: Promotion of Hindi as an Official Language

Why in News?

- The Union Home Minister chaired first review meeting of the Department of Official Language of MHA to discuss the functioning and issues related to implementation of Hindi language in official work.

Promoting Hindi in Official Work:

- The Minister was informed that the department has developed a computer software called “Kanthasth”.
- It will be used for translating the all kinds of official files from English to Hindi and vice versa to make the translation work simpler and quicker.
- The Official language department has uploaded a dictionary of more than 15000 scientific and technical words on their website for technical usage.
- The Dept. has developed the Lila Mobile App for making the learning of Hindi language easier, which was launched on the occasion of Hindi Diwas last year.
- The Department has also started a virtual video conferencing for teaching Hindi in all the Indian language.

“Pravah” Mobile App:

- An E-learning platform called the “Pravah” also being developed by the department for use in 16 Indian languages including English.
- It will be launched on Hindi Diwas on 14th September, 2018.
- Anybody can learn Hindi through his mother tongue with the help of this E-learning platform.

Department of Official Language, MHA:

- With a view to ensuring compliance of the constitutional and legal provisions regarding official language and to promote the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union, the Department of Official Language was set up in June 1975.
- It is as an independent Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Department has been making efforts for accelerating the progressive use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union.
- In accordance with the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, this Department has been entrusted with the following items of work:-
 - ✓ Implementing the provisions of the Constitution relating to the Official Language and the provisions of the Official Languages Act, 1963 (19 of 1963), except to the extent such implementation has been assigned to any other Department.

- ✓ Prior approval of the President for authorising the limited use of a language, other than English, in the proceedings in the High Court of a State.
- ✓ Nodal responsibility for all matters relating to the progressive use of Hindi as the Official Language of the Union including Hindi Teaching Scheme for Central Government Employees etc.
- ✓ Constitution and cadre-management of the Central Secretariat Official Language Service.
- ✓ Matters relating to the Central Translation Bureau.
- ✓ Matters relating to the Regional Implementation Offices.
- ✓ Matters relating to the Committee of Parliament on Official Language.

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES FOR COFFEE STAKEHOLDERS

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

Prelims level: Read B2B, Coffee Connect and Krishi Tharanga / Mains level: Coffee Cultivation in India

Why in News?

- Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu has launched Coffee Connect - India coffee field force app and Coffee Krishi Tharanga - digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders.

Coffee Connect:

- The mobile app Coffee Connect has been developed to ease the work of field functionaries and to improve the work efficiency.
- This application provides solution by harnessing the power of mobility comprising the latest technology in easing the whole process of the field.
- This includes activities like digitization of Coffee Growers & Estates with Geo Tagging, collecting the Plantation details.
- It will also help in transparency in the activities of the extension officers and officials, transparency in subsidy disbursement and real time report generation.

Coffee Krishi Tharanga:

- The Coffee KrishiTharanga services are aimed at providing customized information and services to increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.
- The service is pilot tested in the Chikmagalur and Hassan districts of Karnataka State covering 30,000 farmers during the first year and will be extended to remaining growers in a phased manner.
- NABARD has partly funded the Pilot project.
- The solution will help in to reach maximum growers in limited period, efficient, timely, customised advisory, improve the efficiency through digitization and leverage existing mobile reach for wider delivery of improved technology.

Coffee cultivation in India:

- Coffee is cultivated in India in about 4.54 lakh hectares by 3.66 lakh coffee farmers and 98% of them are small farmers.
- Its cultivation is mainly confined to Karnataka (54%), Kerala (19%) and Tamil Nadu (8%) which form traditional coffee tracts.
- New fields are also developed in NE states.
- Indian coffee, grown mostly in southern states under monsoon rainfall conditions, is also termed as "Indian monsooned coffee".
- The two well known species of coffee grown are the Arabica and Robusta.
- The first variety that was introduced in the Baba Budan Giri hill ranges of Karnataka in the 17th century was marketed over the years under the brand names of Kent and S.795.

Coffee Board of India:

- The Coffee Board of India is an organisation managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the government of India to promote coffee production in India.
- Head Office is in Bangalore.
- The Coffee Board of India was established by an act of Parliament in 1942.
- Until 1995 the Coffee Board marketed the coffee of many growers from a pooled supply, but after that time coffee marketing became a private-sector activity due to the economic liberalisation in India. The Coffee Boards tradition duties included the promotion of the sale and consumption of coffee in India and abroad, conducting coffee research, financial

assistance to establish small coffee growers, safeguarding working conditions for labourers, and managing the surplus pool of unsold coffee.

GLOBAL SANITATION CONVENTION

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

Prelims level: Swachh Bharat Mission, Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC)

Mains level: Globalizing the success of SBM.

Why in News?

- Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation will organize a global sanitation convention to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC):

- It will be a 4-day international conference that will bring together Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) from around the world.
- The Convention will culminate on 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti, which is also celebrated as the Swachh Bharat Diwas.
- Several mass mobilization events and campaigns are being planned across the States in the run up to this Day.
- The global Convention will be aimed at sharing sanitation success stories and lessons across all participating countries.
- The success of the Swachh Bharat Mission will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the global achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 6.2), i.e. to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all.

INDIA AGREES TO END PISA BOYCOTT, TO PARTICIPATE IN 2021

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

Prelims level: PISA, OCED

Mains level: Competency of Indian Education System in the World.

Why in News?

- The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar in the first week of September 2018 decided to end the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) boycott.
- Resultantly, the ministry will send a team of officers to Paris this year to negotiate India's terms of participation in PISA 2021 with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD).

PISA:

- PISA introduced in the year 2000 by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) tests the learning levels of 15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science.
- The test is carried out every three years.
- India stayed away from PISA in 2012 and 2015 on account of its dismal performance in 2009, when it was placed 72nd among the 74 participating countries.
- Having not participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) since 2012, India has now decided to end its boycott of the examination.
- The ministry will dispatch a team of officers to Paris this year to negotiate India's terms of participation in 2021 with OECD.

Why did India boycott PISA?

- The decision to boycott PISA was taken by the UPA government, which had blamed "out of context" questions for the poor show in 2009.
- The country, subsequently, chose to not participate in the 2012 and 2015 cycle.
- As on date, there are 80 countries participating in PISA, including China and Vietnam.

Why Chandigarh?

- Chandigarh was selected for three reasons. Foremost is its compact area.
- Second, govt. wanted to keep number of languages (in which the test has to be administered) to a minimum. As Chandigarh schools students are taught in Hindi and English.
- Third, Chandigarh has a record of performing well in learning assessments. In addition to schools in Chandigarh, the HRD Ministry is keen that all Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs), funded and run by the Centre, also take the test.

Assessment through PISA:

- PISA is a competency-based test.
- The PISA assessments were started in 2000, but India made its debut in the “extended cycle” of the test for 2009 with 16,000 students from 400 schools across Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- In 2012, schools of Shanghai in China topped the reading, mathematics and science test, followed closely by Singapore.
- In 2015, Singapore, Japan and Estonia were ranked as top three countries, in that order.

4th WORLD SUMMIT ON ACCREDITATION (WOSA-2018)

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

Prelims level: WOSA, NBA / Mains level: Enhancing competency of Higher Educational Institutions through best global practices of Accreditation.

Why in News?

- Union Minister for HRD has inaugurated 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) at New Delhi.
- Ministry highlighted that we need to cover each and every institution under accreditation but right now the number of accredited institutions is very less.
- Only 15% institutions come under accreditation and 85% institutions are still not coming for accreditation.

World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA) 2018:

- It is a biennial Summit organised by NBA, which provides platform to stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation.
- NBA has already organised three Summits in 2012, 2014 and 2016.
- All these Summits were well attended (WOSA 2012 was attended by 800 participants, WOSA 2014 was attended by 850 participants and WOSA 2016 was attended by 800 participants).
- Continuing this tradition, NBA is organizing WOSA 2018 with focus on “CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTCOME BASED ACCREDITATION”. The Summit will

facilitate exchange of information on various challenges being faced during the transition between input-output based accreditation to outcome based accreditation.

- The discussion and global participation in WOSA 2018 will bring about new ideas and help in establishing new trends of identifying opportunities and challenges in professional and technical education world-wide.

Expected Outcomes:

- WOSA 2018 is an opportunity for academia and the industry to explore avenues for future partnerships and to create an environment for open dialogue to facilitate mobility of students and professionals world-wide to gain international experience.
- The educational institutions will have an opportunity to interact with industry, policy makers and accreditation agencies from the globe and learn about their perspectives.
- It will also be a unique chance for the educational institutions to develop and fortify ties with the industry.
- Industry would be able to interact with educational institutions and accrediting agencies for exchanging views on their requirements of quality manpower and accreditation parameters.

Why less accredited institutions in India?

- It may be for two reasons first some institutions do not want to come under accreditation.
- And the second we have some restriction in our own accreditation mechanism.
- Hence government wants to increase the strength of NBA and NAAC so that more number of institutions can be accredited.

Importance of Ranking:

- Ranking and rating increase competitiveness among institutions for better performance.
- Under NIRF every institute has constituted an internal committee to improve the ranking. Students also see institutions ranking before taking admission.
- The government wants to boost quality education in the country therefore every year it is closing some non-performing institutions.
- The Ministry is promoting expansion and autonomy of the institutions and benchmark for the same is quality. It has declared such Institutes of Eminence which are completely autonomous.

National Board of Accreditation (NBA):

- The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Engaged in quality assurance of the programs offered by the professional and technical institutions in India through accreditation.
- NBA has been accorded Permanent Signatory Status of Washington Accord since June, 2014.
- It has adopted internationally implemented outcome-based assessment and accreditation, to ensure that the graduates of the NBA accredited programs is globally competent and relevant.

HIV AIDS (PREVENTION AND CONTROL) ACT, 2017

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

Prelims level: Particulars of the Act / Mains level: Preventing discrimination against HIV/AIDS positive person

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a notification for bringing the HIV AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 in force from 10th September, 2018.
- The Act safeguards the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV.

Provisions of the Act:

- The provisions of the Act address HIV-related discrimination, strengthen the existing programme by bringing in legal accountability, and establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances.
- The Act lists various grounds on which discrimination against HIV positive persons and those living with them is prohibited.
- These include the denial, termination, discontinuation or unfair treatment with regard to:
 - ✓ Employment
 - ✓ Educational establishments
 - ✓ Health care services
 - ✓ Residing or renting property

- ✓ Standing for public or private office
- ✓ Provision of insurance
- The requirement for HIV testing as a pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education is also prohibited.

Other Provisions:

- Every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 years has the right to reside in a shared household and enjoy the facilities of the household.
- The Act also prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them.
- A person between the age of 12 to 18 years who has sufficient maturity in understanding and managing the affairs of his HIV or AIDS affected family shall be competent to act as a guardian of another sibling below 18 years of age.
- Every person in the care and custody of the state shall have right to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counselling services.

MODEL INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIVE AI (ICTAI)

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

Prelims level: International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) / Mains level: Building AI ecosystem in India

Why in News?

- NITI Aayog, Intel, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) has the collaboration to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI) towards developing and deploying AI-led application-based research projects. This initiative is part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' Discussion Paper that focuses on establishing ICTAI in the country through private sector collaboration.

International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI):

- Based in Bengaluru, the Model ICTAI aims to conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three important areas - healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility - by bringing together the expertise of Intel and TIFR.

- It aims to experiment, discover and establish best practices in the domains of ICTAI governance, fundamental research, physical infrastructure, compute and service infrastructure needs, and talent acquisition.
- The model ICTAI is chartered to develop AI foundational frameworks, tools and assets, including curated datasets and unique AI algorithms.
- The intent is to develop standards and support policy development related to information technology such as data-storage, information security, privacy, and ethics for data capture and use.

Other focus areas:

- Another key area of its focus will be collaboration with industry leaders, start-up's, and AI services and product companies to productize technologies and IP that are developed at the model ICTAI.
- And finally, the goal is to support skilling and talent development for world-class AI talent.
- The learning and best practices developed through this model ICTAI will be used by NITI Aayog to set up the future ICTAIs across country.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

GS 2: Governance | Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential

Prelims level: Capacity Development Scheme / Mains level: Importance of accurate data collection for better policy prescription.

Why in News?

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of the Capacity Development Scheme for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Capacity Development Scheme:

- The CDS is an Central Sector Scheme of MoSPI.
- The overall objective of the scheme is to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for making available credible and timely. Official Statistics for policy makers and public at large. The major ongoing activities under the CDS include

augmenting resources for bringing out important statistical products, such as GDP, CPI, IIP etc.

- It includes other statistical classifications such as conducting various Socio-Economic surveys, capacity building and strengthening statistical coordination, and improving IT infrastructure.
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), a continuous survey to assess quarterly labour data in urban areas and annual labour data for the whole country (urban and rural areas), was launched in April, 2017 under the scheme.

Sub-schemes under CDS:

- The CDS has two Sub-schemes, Economic Census and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS).
- Under Economic Census, listing of all non-agricultural establishments is undertaken periodically, which forms the basis for conducting detailed socio-economic surveys.
- The last (61) Economic Census was conducted during January, 2013 to April, 2014 and the Government now aims to conduct the Census once every three years in future.
- The SSS Sub-scheme is to strengthen State/ Sub-State level statistical systems/ infrastructure to facilitate development of a robust national system.
- Funds are released to States/ UTs for this purpose after detailed examination of their proposals.
- More Surveys in basket:
- In view of the requirement for better statistical coverage of sectors/areas, in addition to the regular ongoing activities, the Ministry proposes to also take up three new surveys under the CDS.
- These include Time Use Survey (TUS), Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE), and Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE).

UN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE (UNIATF) AWARD

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

Prelims level: UNIATF / Mains level: India's efforts for prevention and control of NCDs

Why in News?

- Shri Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the prestigious UNIATF Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related SDGs.

India's efforts for prevention and control of NCDs:

- It is in recognition of Government of India's efforts made in the field of prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases.
- National Programme to control NCDs has been scaled up by more than eight times in the past four years and covers all the 36 States/Union Territories now.
- The govt. has also initiated population level prevention, control, screening and management initiative in almost 200 districts under NHM which will cover people above 30 years of age.
- When fully rolled out, the population-based screening will reach over 500 million adults with health promotion, risk reduction, screening, early detection and management of common NCDs.
- Free diagnosis, treatment, follow-up, referral and back referral have been integrated into the program with an IT platform developed through a multi-stakeholder partnership.
- The intervention also forms the core of Ayushman Bharat, comprehensive primary health care program.

Addressing multi-sectoral nature of Health issues:

- The risk factors of NCDs are multi-sectoral and many of the interventions to control these lies outside the health sector.
- A National Multi-sectoral Action Plan has been developed which outlines the interventions for different sectors of the Government and other stakeholders.

United Nations Interagency Task Force (UNIATF):

- The UNIATF on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases was established by the UN Secretary-General in June 2013 and placed under the leadership of WHO. It aims to support governments, in particular in low- and middle-income countries, to tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease.

- Following the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, UNIATF's scope of work was expanded in 2016 to include "NCD related SDGs" – i.e. mental health, violence and injuries, nutrition, and environmental issues that impact on NCDs.
- The World Health Organization acts as a Secretariat and lead for the Task Force.
- The UNIATF coordinates the activities of relevant UN organizations and other inter-governmental organizations to support Governments to meet high-level commitments to respond to NCD epidemics worldwide.
- The Task Force reports once a year to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

FIRST TRIBAL CIRCUIT PROJECT UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME IN CHHATTISGARH

GS2: Governance | Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

Prelims level: Swadesh Darshan Scheme / Mains level: Expanding tourism in Tribal areas

Why in News?

- The Minister of State for Tourism will inaugurate the project for Development of Tribal Circuit in Chhattisgarh under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- This is the second project under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme being inaugurated in the country.

Particulars of the Project:

- The project covers thirteen sites in Chhattisgarh i.e. Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot, Tirthgarh.
- Chhattisgarh is known for its exceptional scenic beauty and uniquely rich cultural heritage and has always been synonymous with tribes and tribal culture.
- The project aims to acknowledge the sovereignty of tribes, promote the rich and diverse primitive assets in the state. Major components sanctioned include eco log huts, craft

haats, souvenir shops/ kiosk, tourist reception & facilitation centres, open amphitheatre, tribal interpretation centres, workshop centres, tourist amenities centres etc.

- These components are perceived to improve existing tourist facilities and enhance the overall tourist experience thereby help in getting more visitors which in return will increase job opportunities in the area.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of tourism, for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner. The scheme was launched in 2014 -15 as a Central Sector Scheme.
- It aims for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- “Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom” is the first project implemented under the Scheme. Development of Tribes and Tribal Culture is one of the prime areas of focus for the Ministry of Tourism.
- Under the tribal circuit theme of the scheme the Ministry has sanctioned 4 projects to Nagaland, Telangana and Chhattisgarh for Rs. 381.37 Crores.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT DISABILITY REHABILITATION CENTRES

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

Prelims level: DDRC / Mains level: Initiatives for Disabled Persons

Why in News?

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is organizing a ‘National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres’. The participants in this one-day conference include District Magistrates of 263 districts where DDRCs have been set up, Principal Secretaries Social Welfare, reputed NGOs, District Social Welfare officers, eminent Doctors etc.

District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC):

- DDRC provide comprehensive services to persons with disabilities and facilitate creation of infrastructure and capacity building at the district level for awareness generation, rehabilitation and training of rehabilitation professionals.

- The salient features of the District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are as under: -
 - ✓ 310 districts have been identified and 263 DDRCs have been set up
 - ✓ Awareness generation, early intervention and assessment of the need of assistive devices to divyangjans.
 - ✓ Therapeutic services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy etc. to divyangjans through rehabilitation professionals.
 - ✓ Equipment for rehabilitation services.
 - ✓ Cost norms of the Scheme has been revised and enhanced to 2.5 times.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL MOBILE APP

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

Prelims level: Particulars of the app / Mains level: Measures taken for the welfare of minorities.

Why in News?

- Union Minority Affairs Minister launched the country's first National Scholarship Portal mobile app that would make the government welfare schemes more accessible to needy students.
- This app will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor and weaker sections.

National Scholarship Portal:

- The students will get all the information regarding various scholarships on this mobile app. They will be able to apply for scholarships through the app.
- The students can also upload necessary documents on this app; can check the status of their application and scholarship disbursement status etc. All the scholarships are being given directly into the bank accounts of the needy students under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode through the National Scholarship Portal.
- It has ensured that there is no scope for duplication and leakage.

Success of such Scholarship:

- During the last four years, about three crore students belonging to the poor and weaker sections of minorities have benefited from various scholarship programmes. The beneficiaries include about 1.63 crore girls. The school dropout rate among Muslim girls,

which was earlier more than 70 per cent, has now been reduced to about 35-40 per cent due to awareness and educational empowerment programmes.

GOVERNMENT INITIATED CONSOLIDATION - AMALGAMATED ENTITY TO BE INDIA'S THIRD LARGEST BANK

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

Prelims level: MSME Udyamimitra / Mains level: Potential advantages of merger of the banks.

Why in News?

- The Alternative Mechanism comprising of its Chairperson, the Union Finance Minister decided that Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank may consider their consolidation.
- It will be the First-ever three-way consolidation of banks in India, with a combined business of Rs. 14.82 lakh crore, making it India's Third Largest Bank.

Impact of the Merger:

- It will help create a strong globally competitive bank with economies of scale and enable realization of wide-ranging synergies.
- Leveraging of networks, low-cost deposits and subsidiaries of the three banks has the potential for substantial rise in customer base, market reach, operational efficiency, wider products and services, and improved access for customers.
- Some of the strengths of the envisaged amalgamated entity are –
- Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) at 67.5% is well above Public Sector Banks (PSBs) average (63.7%), and steadily increasing
- Net NPA ratio at 5.71% significantly better than PSB average (12.13%), and declining further
- Gross NPAs for the combined entity have started declining (decline of Rs. 1,048 crore in Q1)
- Cost to income ratio of the combined entity at 48.94% better than the PSB average of 53.92%
- Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) at 12.25% is significantly above the regulatory norm of 10.875%, and stronger amalgamated bank will be better positioned to tap capital markets

Combined range of Services:

- Dena Bank's strength in MSME will further augment the strength of the other two to position the amalgamated bank for being an MSME Udyamimitra
- Larger distribution network will reduce operating and distribution costs with benefits for the amalgamated bank, its customers and their subsidiaries
- Global network strength of Bank of Baroda will be leveraged to enable customers of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to have global access.

ALL INDIA PENSION ADALAT

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

Prelims level: Various initiatives for Pensions mentioned in the news card / Mains level: Post-retirement security initiatives for pensioner's welfare.

Why in News?

- The All India Pension Adalat was inaugurated on September 18, 2018 by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh in New Delhi.
- The Pension Adalat, being organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoP&PW), is one of the largest exercises for pensioners' welfare ever undertaken by the Government as part of good governance dedicated to central government pensioners.

Pension Adalats:

- The Grievance Portal for the Central Government pensioners is also called CPENGRAMS.
- The Pension Adalats are being set up with the objective of bringing on a common table the aggrieved pensioner, the concerned department, the bank or CGHS representative so that such cases can be settled across the table within the framework of extant rules.

Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC):

- Besides the Pension Adalat, a Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) was also conducted for the Central Government employees who are about to retire in the next six months.
- The objective of the PRC Workshop is to create awareness about post-retirement entitlements as well as to educate them on advance planning for retirement including medical facilities and participation in voluntary activities after retirement.

Anubhav Awards:

- Under Anubhav, the retiring employees give an account of their experiences during service.
- These experiences are an important account for research and resource for administrative reference and thus will help in improving our working.
- The Anubhav scheme was instituted at the call of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the year 2015.
- Till date, more than 5,000 contributions have been made for Anubhavs by Government employees from 91 Departments.

Other reforms for Pensioners:

- A number of reforms have been undertaken by the Government to facilitate the pensioners.
- One of the main initiatives taken was to fix the minimum pension at Rs 1,000.
- Other initiatives such as Bhavishya, Sankalp, Jeevan Praman-digital life certificates, doing away with the obsolete laws and self-attestation, among others have also been taken.
- A mechanism has been put in place where pensioner will get PPO on the day of his retirement.

DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

Prelims level: DRIP / Mains level: Ensuring safety of downstream population

Why in News?

- The CCEA has approved the Revised Cost Estimate of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at the revised cost of Rs 3466 crore with the financial assistance of the World Bank.

Significance of the Project:

- The project will improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and mitigate risks to ensure safety of downstream population and property. The primary beneficiaries are both urban and rural communities dependent on reservoir and

downstream communities, who are prone to risk associated with dam failure or operational failure.

- Further effectiveness of Dam Safety Organisations will be increased to take the lead to make dams safe from structural and operational point of view through capacity building of staff and officials.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP):

- DRIP is a state sector scheme with central component to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.
- The project was launched in 2012 by Central Water Commission (CWC) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation with assistance from World Bank.
- The states included are Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- DRIP envisages following objectives: –
 - Component-I: – Rehabilitation of Dam and its Appurtenant Structures,
 - Component-II: – Institutional Strengthening and
 - Component-III: – Project Management.

‘E-SAHAJ’ PORTAL FOR GRANT OF SECURITY CLEARANCE

GS 2: Governance | Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential.

Prelims level: e- Sahaj Portal, National Security Clearance / Mains level: Importance of Security Clearance

Why in News?

- The Government has launched an online ‘e-Sahaj’ portal for grant of Security Clearance. The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.

Significance of the portal:

- The introduction of the online portal is expected to make the process of security clearance much faster, transparent and easy to monitor.

- The various functionaries would be able to access the application and documents online and take timely decisions.

National Security Clearance:

- MHA is the nodal Ministry for security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before issue of licence/permit, permission, contract etc, to companies/ bidders/individuals by the administrative Ministry.
- The objective of national security clearance is to evaluate potential security threats, including economic threats, and provide risk assessment before clearing investment and project proposals in key sectors.
- The aim is to strike a healthy balance between meeting the imperatives of national security and facilitating ease of doing business and promoting investment in the country.

E-Sahaj Portal:

- The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.
- The clearance has become standardized, resulting in a process which will be faster, transparent and easy to monitor.
- Various functionaries can access the application and documents online and take timely decisions. MHA has cleared about 1,100 cases of security clearance in the past one year.
- Although the given timeline is 90 days, MHA strives to decide Security Clearance cases in 60 days (average time per case in 2018 is 53 days), which is being reduced further.

POSTAL TRANSPORTATION OF SPUTUM

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

Prelims level: Sputum Test, Nikshay 2.0 / Mains level: TB elimination strategies

Why in News?

- A pilot project for utilising services of Department of Post for transport of sputum specimen for TB Diagnosis was launched by the Health Ministry.

TB Sputum Test:

- The sputum test is often the first TB test to be used in countries with a high rate of TB infection.

- Sputum is a thick fluid that is produced in the lungs and the airways leading to the lungs.
- A sample of sputum is usually collected by the person coughing.
- Sputum microscopy is inexpensive and simple, and people can be trained to do it relatively quickly and easily.
- In addition the results are available within hours.

Why postal transportation of Sputum?

- Most of the patients are not diagnosed because the specimen does not reach the laboratory due to non-availability of specimen transport mechanisms.
- Transport of collected specimen also spares the patient's from travelling to the reference laboratory.
- Prompt transport of specimen followed by efficacious testing will enable appropriate management of the TB patients and reduced disease transmission.

Nikshay Version 2.0:

- The web-based application of Revised National Tuberculosis Programme, Nikshay Version 2.0 with better user interface and data structures, was also launched.
- The web-application is also designed to be mobile friendly, enabling data entry also from the mobile browser.

ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA

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

Prelims level: ABVKY / Mains level: Various initiatives for pensioner's welfare.

Why in News?

- The Employee's State Insurance (ESI) has approved a scheme named 'Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna' for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna (ABVKY):

- The change in employment pattern and the current scenario in India which has transformed from a long term to fixed short term engagement in the form of contract is considerable. Taking this into account ESI has approved ABVKY for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement. ESI has approved the proposal for reimbursement of Rs. 10/- per person to the employers to encourage the seeding of Aadhar (UID) in ESIC database of their workers and their family members.
- It will curtail the multiple registrations of same Insured Persons and thus enable them to avail the benefits requiring longer contributory conditions.

Other Initiatives of ESIC:

- ESIC has approved the proposal for relaxing the eligibility conditions for availing Super Specialty treatment from earlier insurable employment of 2 years to 06 months with contribution requirement of only 78 days. Besides, the eligibility for availing Super Specialty treatment for dependents of Insured Person has now been relaxed to insurable employment of one year with 156 days of contributions. This relaxation will immensely help the Insured Persons and their beneficiaries to avail Super Specialty treatment free of cost as per revised eligibility.
- ESI Corporation has approved the proposal for increasing the Funeral Expenses from existing Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- being paid on the death of Insured Person.

ESI:

- ESI is self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers.
- It is autonomous corporation by statutory creation under Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
- It is managed by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) according to rules and regulations stipulated there in the ESI Act 1948.

MSME LOANS APPROVAL PORTAL

GS 2: Governance | Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential

Prelims level: Portal "PSBLoansin59min / Mains level: Various initiatives for MSME development

Why in News?

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs has launched a transformative initiative in MSME credit space.

Fastest Credit facility for MSMEs:

- The web portal psbloansin59minutes.com will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to Rs. 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- The Portal sets a new benchmark in loan processing and reduces the turnaround time from 20-25 days to 59 minutes.
- Subsequent to this in principle approval, the loan will be disbursed in 7-8 working days.

“PSBLoansin59min” Portal:

- It is one of its kind platforms in MSME segment which integrates advanced fintech to ensure seamless loan approval and management.
- The loans are undertaken without human intervention till sanction and or disbursement stage.
- A User-Friendly Platform has been built where MSME borrower is not required to submit any physical document for in-principle approval.
- The solution uses sophisticated algorithms to read and analyse data points from various sources such as IT returns, GST data, bank statements, MCA21 etc. in less than an hour while capturing the applicant’s basic details.
- The system simplifies the decision-making process for a loan officer as the final output provides a summary of credit, valuation and verification on a user-friendly dashboard in real time.

The key features of the contactless platform include:

- Majority stake of SIDBI & big 5 PSBs- SBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Vijaya and Indian Bank.
- A first for MSME borrowers-Connect with multiple banks without visiting the branch.
- Only Platform in the market with a Banker Interface which covers the Branch Level integrations (with maker-checker-approver) in tune with current systems of PSBs.
- Only Platform that enables Bankers to create Loan Products in line with the Scoring models & assessment methods within their approved credit policy.
- Only Platform that has an integrated GST, ITR, Bank Statement Analyzer, Fraud Check and Bureau Check.
- Only Platform that has been integrated with CGTMSE for checking the eligibility of Borrowers.

NATIONAL DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY-2018

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

Prelims level: Particulars of the Policy / Mains level: Need for application driven communication policy in India

Why in News?

- As the present world has entered the era of modern technological advancements in the Telecom Sector such as 5G, IoT, M2M etc.
- A need was being felt to introduce a 'customer focused' and 'application driven' policy for the Indian Telecom Sector, which can form the main pillar of Digital India.
- Hence the Union Cabinet has approved the National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018) and re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the "Digital Communications Commission".

National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) -2018 :

- The NDCP-2018 envisions supporting India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling the ICT needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment affordable digital communications infrastructure and services.
- The 'Customer focused' and 'application driven' NDCP-2018 shall lead to new ideas and innovations, after the launch of advanced technology such as 5G, IOT, M2M, etc. which shall govern the telecom sector of India.
- **The key objectives of the policy which are to be achieved by 2022 are:**
 - ✓ Broadband for all;
 - ✓ Creating four million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector;
 - ✓ Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from ~ 6% in 2017;
 - ✓ Propelling India to the Top 50 Nations in the ICT Development Index of ITU from 134 in 2017;
 - ✓ Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains; and
 - ✓ Ensuring Digital Sovereignty.

Major Features of the Policy:

- Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen

- Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022
- Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas
- Attract investments of USD 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector
- Train one million manpower for building New Age Skill
- Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices
- Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals

Strategy envisioned in the Policy:

- Establishment of a National Digital Grid by creating a National Fibre Authority;
- Establishing Common Service Ducts and utility corridors in all new city and highway road projects;
- Creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Rights of Way, standardization of costs and timelines;
- Removal of barriers to approvals; and
- Facilitating development of Open Access Next Generation Networks.

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

Prelims level: SATAT initiative

Mains level: Promoting Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative transport fuel

Why in News?

- Union Petroleum Minister has launched an innovative initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.

Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT):

- Union Petroleum Minister has launched an innovative initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels. This move has the potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, as well as to provide an additional revenue source to farmers. The initiative holds great promise for

efficient municipal solid waste management and in tackling the problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions.

- Use of CBG will also help bring down dependency on crude oil imports.

Benefits of the initiative:

- There are multiple benefits from converting agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste into CBG on a commercial scale:
- Responsible waste management, reduction in carbon emissions and pollution
- Additional revenue source for farmers
- Boost to entrepreneurship, rural economy and employment
- Support to national commitments in achieving climate change goals
- Reduction in import of natural gas and crude oil
- Buffer against crude oil/gas price fluctuations

INDIAN RELATIONS BIMSTEC SUMMIT: KATHMANDU DECLARATION

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

Prelims level: BIMSTEC Kathmandu Declaration / Mains level: India's role in regional connectivity & Outcomes

Why in News?

- The 4th BIMSTEC Summit concluded in Kathmandu on August 31, 2018 with the signing and adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration by all the seven members. The member states have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a Bimstec Gird Interconnection to enhance energy cooperation among the member states.
- The theme of the fourth BIMSTEC summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'.

BIMSTEC:

- The BIMSTEC is a regional grouping comprising Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal. BIMSTEC came into existence in 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration. The main objective of the group is technical and economic cooperation among South Asian and Southeast Asian countries along the rim of the Bay of Bengal.

- BIMSTEC has 14 priority areas of cooperation, namely i) Trade and Investment ii) Technology iii) Energy iv) Transportation and Communication v) Tourism vi) Fisheries vii) Agriculture viii) Cultural Cooperation ix) Environment and Disaster Management x) Public Health xi) People-to-People Contact xii) Poverty Alleviation xiii) Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime xiv) Climate Change.
- With the focus on trade, regional connectivity and countering terrorism, the grouping accounts for 22 percent of the global population and has a combined gross domestic product of \$2.8 trillion.
- Nepal has assumed the chairmanship of BIMSTEC since 2014. It will hand over the responsibility to Sri Lanka to conduct the fifth summit of the BIMSTEC.

Kathmandu Declaration:

- The Declaration stresses on ending poverty from the region by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- The declaration includes issues such as agricultural technology exchange, fight against terrorism, gradual reduction of the impact of climate change, increase trade and investment, and ease the visa processing for the people of BIMSTEC member states.
- It strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there can be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism.
- It underlines the importance of multidimensional connectivity as a key enabler to economic integration for shared prosperity of the region.
- It highlights the importance of trade and investment as one of the major contributing factors for fostering economic and social development in the region.

Importance of BIMSTEC for India:

- BIMSTEC assumes significance for India in terms of New Delhi's Act East Policy and Neighbourhood First Policy, with northeastern India acting as a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- With the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) virtually rendered ineffective as a bloc largely due to non-cooperation on the part of Pakistan on issues like connectivity and counter-terrorism, India has been giving more importance to BIMSTEC.
- **Highlights of the summit:**

- BIMSTEC Summit is the highest policymaking body in the BIMSTEC process and is comprised of heads of state/government of member states.
- The two-day summit witnessed participation from all member states and held discussions on trade, security, and development of the region.
- Though BIMSTEC has 14 priority sectors, the summit has integrated two more priority sectors- Mountain Economy and Blue Economy.
- It is the fourth BIMSTEC Summit whose theme is “Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region”.
- The first BIMSTEC summit was held in Thailand in 1997, second in 2008 in India and third in 2014 in Myanmar.

Key Issues:

- A BIMSTEC free trade agreement is under negotiation along with a customs cooperation agreement and a motor vehicles agreement.
- This year, the summit has two main agendas- Mutual legal assistance treaty to check terrorism and other crimes and enhancing connectivity in the region including coastal shipping.
- PM Narendra Modi talked about trade connectivity, economic, connectivity, transport connectivity, digital connectivity or people to people connectivity.
- The foreigner's secretaries of the BIMSTEC members states reviewed the progress achieved guidance to the future works of the regional grouping.

INDIA'S stand:

- PM Modi interacted with all the leaders of BIMSTEC “to further enrich our regional cooperation, enhance trade ties and advance collective efforts to build a peaceful and prosperous Bay of Bengal region”.
- India emphasized its “sincere and abiding” commitment to work with the BIMSTEC member states to make the region safer, stronger and prosperous.
- **Connectivity:** PM Modi stressed on boosting connectivity between the member states on different fronts. He said India is willing to encourage coastal shipping and motor vehicle agreements among BIMSTEC members.
- **Climate-smart farming:** PM Modi also talked about the effects of climate change on farming and urged the member countries to work together to counter global warming.

Specifying the need to counter the effects of climate change on farming, he announced that India will organize an International Conference on the issue of climate-smart farming.

- **Digital Connectivity:** On digital connectivity, India remains committed to propagating the country's national knowledge network to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. PM expressed hope that all BIMSTEC countries will become part of India Mobile Congress being organized in Delhi in October.
- **Science and Technology Interventions in the North East Region (STINER):** India proposed to extend the initiative called Science and Technology Interventions in the North East Region (STINER) to BIMSTEC member nations.
- **Invitation & proposal:** PM also extended an invitation to BIMSTEC members for being part of the International Buddhist conclave to be held next years and he also proposed that a special forum for women parliamentarian from BIMSTEC countries should be formed.
- **A slew of Initiatives:** PM also announced a slew of initiatives for BIMSTEC members including scholarships, research fellowship, and short-term training courses.
- 24 scholarships were announced to researchers, students, and professors from BIMSTEC members at India's North Eastern Space Application Centre.
- 30 scholarships to students from BIMSTEC nations at Nalanda University
- 12 research fellowships for advanced medicine was also announced apart from 100 short-term training courses on Tourism, Environment, Disaster Management, Agriculture, Renewable energy, trade etc.

EAST ASIA SUMMIT

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

Prelims level: ASEAN / Mains level: Importance of India-ASEAN Trade

Why in News?

- 15th ASEAN Economic Ministers - India Consultation was recently held in Singapore. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of ASEAN.

Significance of the meet:

- ASEAN has emerged as the second largest trade partner of India in 2017-18 with bilateral trade valued at USD 81.33 billion, comprising 10.58% of India's total trade with the world.

- The ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) presented their recommendations to the forum to sustain the momentum of trade and investment in the region.
- Issues related to promoting connectivity, collaboration on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development, blue economy, healthcare, and tourism as well as women and youth economic empowerment were discussed.

Outcomes of the meeting:

- The meeting attended by Economic Ministers from 10 ASEAN countries took stock of the current level of trade and economic engagement between India and ASEAN and reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen ASEAN-India economic relations.
- It was also announced in the Singapore meeting that the next ASEAN-India Business Summit will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2018 with the theme “Towards Building Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and India in the Era of the 4th IR and Digital Economy”.
- It will be followed by the 4th India-ASEAN Dialogue Partner Expo and Summit scheduled for 21-23 February 2019, in New Delhi.
- Issues related to promoting connectivity, collaboration on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development, blue economy, healthcare, and tourism as well as women and youth economic empowerment were discussed.

East Asia Summit:

- Established in 2005, EAS allows the principal players in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level.
- The membership of EAS consists of ten ASEAN Member States (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the USA.
- EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.
- The six priority areas of EAS are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity. India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas. Following the

12th EAS in November 2017 in Manila, Philippines and following the adoption of the Manila Plan of Action for Maritime Cooperation.

- In 2009, the EAS endorsed the proposal for the revival of Nalanda University by former president APJ Abdul Kalam.

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SUMMIT

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

Prelims and Mains Level: International Aviation Summit- key highlights, IATA.

Why in News?

- The International Aviation Summit is being held New Delhi. The summit has been jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Summit Key Highlights:

- Union Minister for Civil Aviation revealed that the Civil Aviation Ministry is coming up with Vision 2035 under which it plans to build 100 new airports across India in the next 10-15 years with an investment of USD 60 billion and address the major issues concerning aviation industry such as airport infrastructure, taxation and use of technology.
- The airports will be constructed through a public-private partnership. The Minister also said that India's economy is poised to grow to USD 10 trillion by 2035 and aviation sector will be one of the major contributors to that growth.
- The Indian Government is preparing for a massive air traffic surge to handle as many as 100 crore passengers in next 15-20 years, much above the 50 crore trips a year as predicted by IATA. According to IATA, India is expected to overtake Germany, Japan, Spain and the UK within the next ten years to become the world's third largest air passenger market.

Challenges to growth of the sector:

- India's aviation industry is showing contrast as on one hand there are infrastructural and economic issues plaguing the sector while on the other, airline companies are busy buying planes to meet the demand.
- With a surge in domestic air travel demand in India, the country's airlines are gearing up for a rise and have ordered around 1,000 aircraft over the next eight years. But despite

traffic growth, the financial outlook for domestic airlines has deteriorated dramatically since January.

- Imposing GST on international air tickets is being seen as a violation of international standards. The GST rate is 5% and 12% on economy and business class tickets respectively.

IATA:

- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is the trade association for the world's airlines, representing some 280 airlines or 83% of total air traffic. Formed in April 1945, it is the successor to the International Air Traffic Association, which was formed in 1919.
- It is headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Canada with Executive Offices in Geneva, Switzerland.
- IATA supports airline activity and helps formulate industry policy and standards. It also provides consulting and training services in many areas crucial to aviation.

INDO-KAZAKHSTAN JOINT EXERCISE KAZIND 2018

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

Prelims level: Exercise KAZIND / Mains level: Indo-Kazakhstan defence cooperation

Why in News?

- India, Kazakhstan joint army exercise KAZIND 2018 will be conducted between Indian and Kazakhstan Army in Otar region, Kazakhstan from 10 to 23 September 2018.
- This will be third joint military exercise between two countries which have a history of extensive cooperation in the defence arena.
- The second edition of the exercise was held in India in 2017.

Enhancing Defense cooperation - KAZIND 2018:

- The aim of the exercise is to build and promote bilateral army to army relations and exchange skills and experiences between armies of both countries.
- The exercise will also serve as a platform for exchange of drills and procedures.
- It will also follow graduated continuum from orientation to full scale mock exercise with an aim of achieving optimum integration among the two armies through enhanced mutual comprehension of each other's tactics, techniques and procedures.

- It will also set stage for greater defence cooperation and consequently manifest in stronger ties between two countries.
- Kazakhstan Army will also get vast knowledge from the experience and expertise of Indian troops in counter insurgency operations.

ASEM CONFERENCE ON 'GLOBAL AGEING AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS'

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

Prelims level: ASEM / Mains level: Importance of such international engagements

Why in News?

- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment left for Seoul (Korea) for the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'.
- The experience gained from the Conference will be beneficial for Policy formulation and implementation for welfare of senior citizens.

3rd ASEM Conference:

- The 3-day Conference will reaffirm the universal value of the human rights of older persons.
- It aims to share information on discrimination against the elderly and exemplary cases of long-term and palliative care in Asia and Europe.
- It will also discuss operation and tasks of the ASEM Global Ageing Centre as an implementing institution for mutual cooperation among ASEM members for the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons.

Asia-Europe Meeting:

- The ASEM is an Asian-European political dialogue forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners.
- It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand, by the then 15 members of the European Union (EU) and the European Commission, the then 7 members of the ASEAN and the individual countries of China, Japan, and Korea. A series of enlargements saw additional EU members join as well as India, Mongolia,

Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat in 2008, Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation in 2010, Bangladesh, Norway, and Switzerland in 2012 as well as Croatia and Kazakhstan in 2014.

- The main components of the ASEM process rest on the following 3 pillars:
 - ✓ Political & Security Pillar
 - ✓ Economic & Financial Pillar
 - ✓ Social, Cultural & Educational Pillar

CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF HAIFA CELEBRATED

GS 1: World History | History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization etc.

Prelims level: Battle of Haifa / Mains level: Contribution of Indian Soldiers in World Wars.

Why in News?

- The Embassy of India held a ceremony in Haifa to mark the Centenary of the Battle of Haifa when on 23 Sep 1918; Indian soldiers from the Jodhpur, Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers liberated the city of Haifa.

Battle of Haifa:

- Owing to its rail and harbour, Israeli port city of Haifa was a strategic supply base.
- In addition to Haifa, the Allied Forces also engineered a plan to annexe Nazareth and Damascus in present-day Israel and Syria.
- On September 23, 1918, the 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade comprising lancers from the regiments of princely states of Jodhpur and Mysore inflicted heavy assault on positions held by Ottoman Turks in and around the city of Haifa.
- Eventually, the Indian cavalry brigades fighting under the leadership of British General Edmund Allenby helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces.
- A total of 1,350 German and Ottoman prisoners were captured by the two Indian regiments.

Significance of Haifa war:

- The victory was more special as the Indian soldiers were armed only with lances (a kind of spear) and swords while the Turks had in their possession advance artillery and machine guns.

- The Indian troops displayed exemplary cavalry skills and valour during what was considered to be the last major cavalry campaign in military history.
- No more remarkable cavalry action of its scale was fought in the whole course of the campaign.

Haifa War in news:

- As a symbolic gesture of friendship with Israel, India renamed the iconic Teen Murti Chowk, a war memorial, during the visit of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as Haifa Chowk.
- Every year on September 23, the Indian Army celebrates 'Haifa Day' to commemorate the war dead during the Battle.

INDO-US JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'YUDH ABHYAS 2018'

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

Prelims level: Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2018'

Mains level: Indo-US defence cooperation

Why in News?

- The joint military training Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 will be conducted between India and the United States in Himalayas at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand from September 16 to 29, 2018.
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is a series of one of the longest running joint military training and a major ongoing bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and the US.
- This will be the 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both countries. The two-week exercise will witness participation of about 350 personnel of the US Army and similar strength of Garud Division of the Indian Army.

Highlights of the Exercise Yudh Abhyas:

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.
- Multiple scenarios will be rehearsed during the joint exercise with a view to understand each-other's organisational structure and battle procedures. The exercise is an ideal platform to learn from each-other's experiences of planning and execution of operations.

- Both the armies will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed operations for neutralisation of threats of varied nature.
- The combined exercise will simulate a scenario where both nations are working together in counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment in mountainous terrain under UN charter.
- Experts from both sides will hold expert academic and military discussions to share each other's experiences on varied topics for mutual benefit.

INDIA FOCUS COUNTRY IN IZMIR INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW

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

Prelims level: Source India Pavilion, Izmir International Trade Show / Mains level: India-Turkey Bilateral Relations

Why in News?

- India was the focus country of 87th Izmir International Trade Show held in Izmir, third most populous city in Turkey, after Istanbul and Ankara from from 7th to 11th September, 2018. Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) had led 75-member Indian delegation for this trade show.
- The delegation had several B2B meetings and business tie-ups with members of the Turkish business community.

Source India Pavilion:

- India is the Focus Country in the trade show with a standalone pavilion named 'Source India'.
- The India Pavilion is a multi-product pavilion, including companies displaying products like ceramics, cereals and mechanical appliances.
- These events serve the purpose of opening new areas for co-operation in trade and investment between India and the rest of the world.

India- Turkey Trade:

- Bilateral trade between the two countries was \$7 billion in 2017, an increase of 8% over the previous year. There is a huge potential for tie-ups between Indian and Turkish agriculture and food processing sectors.

- The collaborations may range from farming technology, high yielding varieties, farm machinery, food processing and cold storage.

Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI):

- TPCI is an apex trade and investment promotion organization notified in the Foreign Trade Policy. TPCI is also recognized and supported by the Department of Commerce, Govt. of India.
- It provides policy suggestions which are essentially based on inputs collated from research and industry stakeholders.
- Aim: To accelerate India's global trade through advanced research and trade promotion.
- Working: Creating global platform for the industry by organizing seminars, trade shows and business delegations through measures such as-
- Advanced Trade Research: - Supporting India's trade policy and economic diplomacy through research.
- Trade Promotion: - Exploring international trade opportunities in untapped markets and promoting new exporters.
- Trade Facilitation: - Identifying bottlenecks and bridging the gap between industry and authority by continuous interaction.
- Investment Promotion: - Exploring scope and facilitating investment in potential business and sectors.

INDIA TO PARTICIPATE IN G-20, TRADE AND INVESTMENT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ARGENTINA

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

Prelims level: G-20 / Mains level: Decline of WTO hegemony in global trade and prospects for India.

Why in News?

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry will participate in the G-20, Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting, being held in Mar del Plata in Argentina.

G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting:

- The meeting will provide an opportunity for a dialogue on current developments in international trade and its implications for the global economy.

- Trade and investment must benefit all and countries must jointly address both the opportunities and challenges of globalization, innovation and technological advancements.
- India looks forward to work along with other countries to reform WTO and ensure that it continues to be an engine for global trade.
- Further, the key issues that will be discussed include global value chains, the new industrial revolution and the international trade outlook.
- The multilateral trading system is facing unprecedented challenges in the wake of protectionist measures by some countries, which is not compatible with the WTO.

G-20:

- G-20 is made up of 19 countries and the EU.
- The countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The other invited members are Chile, Netherlands, Spain and representatives of regional groups of Jamaica, Rwanda, Singapore and Senegal.
- G-20 members represent 75% of international trade, half of foreign direct investment flows, half of foreign flows and 80% of global production.

INDIA-BANGLADESH JOINTLY UNVEIL E-PLAQUES FOR TWO PROJECTS

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

Prelims level: Details of the project particulars. / Mains level: India-Bangladesh bilateral relations.

Why in News?

- PM Modi, and the Bangladeshi counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, jointly unveiled e-plaques for two projects, via video conference. The projects include: (a) India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (b) Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur Railway Project

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline:

- The 129 km pipeline will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.

- The Rs 346 crore project will be completed in 30 months and the capacity of the pipeline will be one million metric tonnes per annum.
- The oil pipeline will supply high speed diesel to Bangladesh which is currently transported through cross-border train from Numaligarh refinery.
- Of the total length, 124 km will be constructed in Bangladesh and 5 km in India.
- The cross-border connectivity projects through Bangladesh complement India's Act East Policy and aim to smoothen connectivity with landlocked NE India.

Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur Railway Project:

- 80 km of the two new dual gauge rail lines would be constructed on the Dhaka-Tongi route while a 12.28 km new dual gauge railway double line on the Tongi-Joydebpur route.
- The railway project will bring relief to road traffic in Bangladesh.

India to use Chittagong and Mongla Ports:

- With these ports the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram will have another mode of transport, making the region more accessible.
- These accesses are granted as per GATT rules.
- The agreement, effective for five years initially, will be renewed automatically for another five years.
- While the pact will be signed between Bangladesh and India, later Nepal and Bhutan can join.

INDIA AND THE UN TO SIGN A FIVE-YEAR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (2018-2022)

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

Prelims level: UNSDF / Mains level: Sustainable development agenda of NITI Aayog.

Why in News?

- NITI Aayog and United Nations are set to sign the Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022.

India-UNSDF (2018-2022):

- The Framework outlines the work of UN agencies in India, to support the achievement of key development outcomes that are aligned to the national priorities.

- The NITI Aayog is the national counterpart for the UN in India for the operationalization of the UNSDF.
- Nineteen (19) UN agencies have signed on the UNSDF 2018-2022.

United Nations Sustainable Development Framework:

- The UNSDF 2018-22 comprises of seven priority areas that outline the work that UN agencies will undertake jointly or individually, fully aligned with the priorities of the GoI.
- The seven priority areas outlined in the UNSDF are:
 - Poverty and Urbanization;
 - Health, Water, and Sanitation;
 - Education and Employability;
 - Nutrition and Food Security;
 - Climate Change, Clean Energy, and Disaster Resilience;
 - Skilling, Entrepreneurship, and Job Creation;
 - Gender Equality and Youth Development.

INTERNAL SECURITY INDO-MONGOLIA JOINT EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT-2018

GS 3: Internal Security | Various Security forces & agencies & their mandate

Prelims level: Exercise Nomadic Elephant / Mains level: India-Mongolia Strategic Relations

Why in News?

- Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 has commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ullanbaatar.
- The 12 days long joint exercise is an annual, bilateral exercise since 2006 which is designed to strengthen the partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.
- The exercise will see them improve their tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario under United Nations mandate.

Details of the Exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018:

- The Indian contingent is represented by a contingent of 17 PUNJAB Regiment while the Mongolian contingent is represented by Unit 084 of the Mongolian Armed Forces. During the exercise both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed

tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats that may be encountered in urban warfare scenario.

- Experts from both sides will also hold detailed discussions to share their experience on varied topics for mutual benefits.
- The exercise will contribute immensely in developing mutual understanding & respect for each other's military and also facilitate in tackling the world-wide phenomenon of terrorism.

E-VBAB NETWORK & PAN-AFRICAN E-NETWORK PROJECT

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

Prelims level: E-VBAB, Pan-African e-Network Project / Mains level: India's recent Africa focus and its strategic as well as economic importance

Why in News?

- Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) signed an agreement with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for the implementation of e-VBAB Network Project.
- The two separate platforms, will link various educational institutions and hospitals in India and the participating African countries.

E-VBAB Network Project:

- E-VBAB Network Project is primarily a technological upgrade and extension of the Pan-African e-Network Project (Phase 1) which was implemented in 48 partner countries across Africa from 2009 till 2017.
- The Phase 1 of the Project successfully imparted tele-education and tele-medicine by linking educational institutions and hospitals in India with those from the participating African countries.
- The flagship e-VBAB project is a step towards capacity building in the field of education and medical science for all the 54 African Nations.
- It is fully funded by MEA, GoI and is envisaged to be implemented in 9 months followed by 5 years of operations and maintenance.
- The project aims to provide an opportunity for local employment and opens the door for access to education and medical expertise from India to African students, doctors, nurses and paramedical staff.

It will also give an opportunity for Global acceptance of Indian University Education system and Indian medical Health services.

Pan-African e-Network project:

- Pan African e-Network project is an ICT project between India and the African Union that seeks to connect the 55-member states of the Union through a satellite and fibre-optic network to India and It is aimed to enable access and sharing of expertise between India and African states in the areas of tele-education, telemedicine, Voice over IP, infotainment, resource mapping, meteorological services, e-governance and e-commerce services.
- The e-network is made up of a large undersea cable network and satellite connectivity provided through C-Band transponders of the INTELSAT-904 or RASCOM satellites. The project is often described as Africa's biggest ever in the ICT sector and is expected to extend ICT infrastructure to rural and previously underserved areas.
- The idea for the project came from the then President A P J Abdul Kalam who proposed such a network during his address to the Pan-African Parliament in Johannesburg in 2004.
- The project is seen as an example of India furthering its economic and strategic interests in Africa through the use of soft diplomacy and has been acclaimed as an instance of South-South cooperation, helping to overcome the digital divide in Africa.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DRAFT RULES ON SALE OF DRUGS BY E-PHARMACY

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

Prelims level: Particulars of the Draft Policy / Mains level: E-Commerce of Pharmaceuticals in India

Why in News?

- Ministry of health and family welfare has issued a draft notification recently on the sale of drugs by E-Pharmacies. The notification is about the amendment of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules amendment to enable registration of the e pharmacies and monitoring of their functioning.

Significance of these rules:

- With this, Rs 3000 crore online pharma business will be regularised from the day of final notification.
- These rules have been proposed to ensure accessibility and availability of drugs to the people across India.
- After the rules are finalised, people will be able to get genuine drugs through these online pharmacies.

Registration Mandatory for e-Pharmacy:

- The draft states that no person will distribute or sell, stock, exhibit or offer for sale of drugs through e-pharmacy portal unless registered.
- Any person who intends to conduct business of e-pharmacy shall apply for the grant of registration to the Central Licensing Authority in Form 18AA through the online portal of the Central Government.
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), the country's apex drug regulator and central licensing authority is the nodal agency.
- The application will have to be accompanied by a sum of Rs 50,000 while asserting that an e-pharmacy registration holder will have to comply with provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000).
- The supply of any drug shall be made against cash or credit memo generated through the e-pharmacy portal and such memos shall be maintained by the e-pharmacy registration holder as record.
- The registration will remain valid for a period three years from the date of its issuance and a renewal of registration will have to be done.

Patients Privacy:

- The details of patient shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person other than the central government or the state government concerned, as the case may be.

Certain Restrictions:

- Sale of tranquillisers, psychotropic drugs, narcotics and habit-forming drugs have been prohibited through these portals.

- The premises from where the e-pharmacy business is conducted shall be inspected, every two years, by a team of officers authorised by the Central Licensing Authority.
- It would be binding on the e-pharmacies to deliver the drugs in the specific time that will be told to the patient during the time of purchase.
- The e-portals are mandatorily required to have 24/7 call centres.
- No e-pharmacy shall advertise any drug on radio or television or internet or print or any other media for any purpose if it contravenes any provision of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

FACE RECOGNITION - 'BOARDING PASS' IN AIRPORTS

GS 3: Science & Technology | Awareness in the fields of IT

Prelims level: Voice Box System / Mains level: Uses of enhanced biometric identification

Why in News?

- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru is set to become the first airport in Asia next year to use face recognition as the boarding procedure for passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport.

Implementation details:

- Vision Box, a Portuguese software firm, signed an agreement to this effect to introduce face recognition technology at the airport from 2019.
- Voice Box, according to its website, showcased the face recognition-based passage system for the first time for Lufthansa which used a biometric boarding procedure instead of boarding passes.
- The first implementation will be completed in the first quarter of 2019, with Jet Airways, Air Asia and SpiceJet passengers as first users.

Importance of the Project:

- The goal of the programme is to simplify the journey by making it paperless from registration to boarding.
- Biometric technology will identify passengers by their face as they move across the airport, avoiding stops and the repeated presentation of boarding passes, passports or other physical identity documents.

- This is the first end-to-end face recognition-based walk through experience in Asia and the largest in the world.
- It is also one of the most significant steps towards the Digital India campaign endorsed by the Government.

C-DAC Information Media Server (CIMS)

GS 3: Science & Technology | Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology

Prelims level & Mains level: Particulars & Features of CIMS

Why in News?

- MEITY launches C-DAC Information Media Server (CIMS) for enhancing Good Governance.

C-DAC Information Media Server (CIMS):

- It is a dedicated computer appliance having specialized application software to provide audio and video on demand.
- This low-cost affordable system is built with single board computer having powerful and energy efficient multi-core processor.
- It does not require any special purpose internet service provider or data connectivity.
- The common feature includes displaying text, images for viewing, video streaming, e-brochure; for viewing or downloading for offline reference.

Utility of CIMS:

- CIMS is very easy to setup and configure for deployments at locations such as-
- Parliament (Today in Rajya Sabha, Members details),
- Education Institutes (eBooks, Timetable, news of the day, notices),
- Railways (Train running information, station layout maps),
- Hospitals (Doctors on duty, patient records).
- A user can connect via any smart device with WiFi capability and freely access the available information.
- Web pages are retrieved and deliver it across the Internet.
- In the simplest case, the video file is embedded in a web page and stored on the same host as the other components of the page.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

- The C-DAC is an Autonomous Scientific Society of Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India.
- It is headquartered in Pune.
- The setting up of C-DAC in 1988 was to build Supercomputers in context of denial of import of Supercomputers by USA.
- Since then C-DAC has been undertaking building of multiple generations of Supercomputer starting from PARAM with 1 GF in 1988.

MEDICAL CYCLOTRON FACILITY CYCLONE-30

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

Prelims level: Cyclone-30 and various Isotopes to be produced by it. / Mains level: Use of indigenous technology for the treatment of Cancer.

Why in News?

- Cyclone-30 equipment used for generating radio-isotopes became operational at a VECC, Kolkata, a Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) unit.
- Cyclone-30 commissioning re-emphasises the capability of Indian scientists and engineers to deliver at the highest level of science and technology.

Cyclone-30:

- Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.
- Radiations from these isotopes are used to destroy cancer cells.
- Cyclone-30, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational this month when 30 MeV beam reached the Faraday Cup for the first-time last week.

Isotopes to be produced:

- Subsequently, beam from this facility was used to produce ¹⁸F (Fluorine-18 isotope) for the preparation of ¹⁸F Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), a radio-pharmaceutical.
- Presently it produces liquid target (for FDG production) and solid targets (production of Germanium-68, Palladium-103 and other isotopes).

- Later on installation of Iodine isotope [1-123] production target, material study target and Accelerator Driven System target will also be taken up.

Importance of the project:

- This facility will provide for affordable radio isotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals for the entire country especially, for Eastern India.
- It will also have export potential for Germanium-68/Gallium-68 generator for in-situ production of Gallium-68 and Palladium-103 isotopes, used for breast cancer diagnosis and prostate cancer treatment, respectively.

DAC APPROVES PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT

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

Prelims level: Akash Missile Systems, IUWBA, T-90 Tanks / Mains level: India's strides in Defense Technology sector and need for further development

Why in News?

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri accorded approval for the procurement of equipment for the Defence Forces valued at over Rs 9,100 crores.

Upgraded Akash Missile Systems:

- Pursuing the goal of indigenization and self-reliance, the DAC approved procurement of two Regiments of Akash Missile Systems under 'Buy (Indian)'
- The Missile to be procured is an upgraded version of the previously inducted Akash missiles.
- The DRDO developed Akash as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme initiated in 1984.
- It is made by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- Akash has a range of 25 km and can engage multiple targets at a time in all-weather conditions.
- It has a large operational envelope, from 30 metre to a maximum of 20 km.

Individual Under Water Breathing Apparatus (IUWBA):

- The DAC also accorded approval for progressing Design and Development of Individual Under Water Breathing Apparatus (IUWBA) for T 90 Tanks.

- Developed by DRDO Lab DEBEL, the IUWBA is used by the crew of Tanks as a safety gear and is required by the Tank crew for emergency escape when negotiating water obstacles while deep fording.
- The DAC also accorded approval for Design and Development of Test Equipment for Guided Weapons System of T 90 Tank.
- The equipment is being developed by DRDO and will give an indigenous solution to the Test Equipment used for checking the Guided Weapon System of Tank T 90.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):

- To counter corruption and speed up decision- making in military procurement, the government of India in 2001 decided to set up an integrated DAC. It is headed by the Defence Minister.
- The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces, in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- The DAC is responsible to give policy guidelines to acquisitions, based on long-term procurement plans. It also clears all acquisitions, which includes both imported and those produced indigenously or under a foreign license.

SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TEST OF PRAHAR

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

Prelims level: Prahar Missile / Mains level: Utility of Prahar Missile in Army's arsenal

Why in News?

- DRDO successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore.

Prahar Missile:

- Prahar ("Strike") is an Indian solid-fuel road-mobile tactical ballistic missile developed by DRDO.
- Prahar is expected to replace the Prithvi-I short-range ballistic missile in Indian service.
- It is capable of filling the gap between the multi-barrel rocket system 'Pinaka' and medium-range ballistic missile 'Prithvi'.

- The missile is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance and electromechanical actuation systems with advanced on board computer.
- It is a quick-reaction, all-weather, all-terrain, highly accurate battlefield support tactical weapon system.
- The missile fills the short-range tactical battlefield missile role as required by the Indian Army to take out strategic and tactical targets.
- 'Prahar' is a contemporary weapon system capable of carrying multiple types of warheads and neutralizing a wide variety of targets.
- It can be launched from a road-mobile launch platform, which can carry six missiles at a time.
- It can be fired in all directions from the launcher. It could be used for striking both tactical and strategic targets.
- The indigenously developed Prahaar missile is expected to further strengthen the defence capabilities of the Indian Army.

ISRO TO SET UP AN INTEGRATED CONTROL ROOM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

GS 3: Science & Technology | Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology.

Prelims level: Integrated Control Room-ER

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on September 20, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up the state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Ministry of Home Affairs.

Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER):

- ISRO will render its technical expertise for setting up of proposed ICR-ER whereas the project will be executed under overall supervision of MHA.
- The ICR-ER will cater to the requirement of Disaster Management as well as Internal Security.
- ICR-ER will address the requirement of receipt of information on near real-time basis, strategic level monitoring, situation awareness, command and control.

- This will improve preparedness and response in the diverse internal security situation and disaster related emergencies.
- Resultantly, it will increase the operational effectiveness and will be helpful in rendering timely response and assistance during various emergency situations.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF DAKSHIN BHARAT HINDI PRACHAR SABHA

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

GS 1: Freedom Struggle | Various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.

Prelims level: Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha / Mains level: Hindi Movement in South India.

Why in News?

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha on September 22, 2018.

Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha:

- Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha is an organisation whose main goal is to improve Hindi literacy among the non-Hindi speaking people of South India and is headquartered in Chennai.
- The organisation was established by Annie Besant with support from Mahatma Gandhi, who became the founder president of the Sabha, who held the post till his death.
- The first Hindi class here was taken by M. Gandhi's son Devdas Gandhi.
- Institutions like the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha have played a very important role in strengthening the emotional unity of our country.
- The Sabha has developed a network of about 20,000 Hindi campaigners.
- In 1964, the institution was recognised by the Indian Government as one of the Institutes of National Importance.

Hindi Movement in South India:

- The Hindi movement in South India was started in the year 1918 by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi saw the need to unite the northern and southern states of the country in the

greatest interest of integration of the nation, as Hindi was spoken by the largest section of the people of India.

- Therefore, he founded this Sabha at Madras to propagate the study of Hindi in the then Madras Presidency and other princely states.
- Under this, Hindi training schools were started in Andhra and Tamil Nadu.
- By 1927, the Hindi Prachar Sabha emerged as an independent organization, and Mahatma Gandhi remained its president until his death in 1948.
- Gandhiji desired that the 'Hindi Prachar' in the south should be carried on by involving the local people of the respective area.

NATIONAL ORIENTATION WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL E-VIDHAN APPLICATION (NEVA)

GS 3: Science & Technology | Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology

Prelims level: Particulars of NeVA / Mains level: Utility of the NeVA in Legislation Projects

Why in News?

- Inaugural Session of the two-day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) and new website and app of NeVA was organized by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- The focus of the workshop would be to encourage all State Legislatures to move towards e-Vidhan platform.
- This will help bringing in transparency, accountability and responsiveness in their conduct of business, through the use of technology.

National e-Vidhan Application:

- NeVA is a member-centric, decentralized digital application that makes information available on digital platform about day to day functioning of Legislative Houses covering various businesses of the Houses.
- The application would host a secure page for each Member of the House for submitting Questions & other Notices. The mNeVA (NeVA-mobile app) is a device neutral and user

friendly app that has made information on conduct of business in Legislatures accessible anytime, anywhere to everyone.

- It is a work-flow based app deployed in Cloud (Meghraj) which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and the members to carry out their duties in the House efficiently.
- NeVA has made live for Rajya Sabha in respect of Monsoon Session 2018 and information in respect of Lok Sabha is being updated.

e-Vidhan Project:

- e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures paperless. This is part of Digital India programme and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, being the Nodal Ministry for this project.
- It desires to roll out e-Vidhan as NeVA covering all 40 Houses including two Houses of Parliament and thereby putting all them on a single platform and proving the theory of 'One Nation One Application'. It is to be used by the Legislatures as well as all the Government Departments.
- This journey began with a pilot project executed in Himachal Pradesh with the central assistance of Rs.8.12 crores which made the Shimla Legislative Assembly the first Assembly in India to go paperless in 2014.
- This project resulted into overall savings of about Rs.5.08 crores annually on account of expenditure on papers, printing, manpower costs and conservation of forests/ trees as ancillary benefits.

PRITHVI DEFENCE VEHICLE (PDV) MISSION

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

Prelims level: Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) Mission / Mains level: India's missile arsenal.

Why in News?

- India successfully conducted an interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast on Sunday night, achieving a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence

Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) Mission:

- This PDV mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 km of the earth's atmosphere.

- Both the PDV interceptor and the target missile were successfully engaged.
- In an automated operation, radar-based detection and tracking system detected and tracked the enemy's ballistic missile.
- The computer network with the help of data received from radars predicted the trajectory of the incoming ballistic missile.
- The interceptor guided by high-accuracy Inertial Navigation System (INS) supported by a Redundant Micro Navigation System moved towards the estimated point of the interception.
- Once the missile crossed the atmosphere, the Heat Shield ejected and the IR Seeker dome opened to look at the target location as designated by the mission computer.
- With the help of Inertial Guidance and IR Seeker the missile moved for interception.
- All events were monitored in real-time by the Telemetry/Range Stations, at various other locations.

ASTRA BVR AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE - FLIGHT TEST

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

Prelims level: Astra Missile / Mains level: Utility of Astra Missile in IAFs arsenal

Why in News?

- Astra, the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), was successfully test fired by the IAF from Su-30 aircraft.
- The missile successfully engaged a maneuvering target with high precision meeting the mission objectives.

Astra Missile:

- Astra is an all-weather beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, India.
- It is the first air-to-air missile developed by India.
- It features mid-course inertial guidance with terminal active radar homing.
- Astra is designed to be capable of engaging targets at varying range and altitudes allowing for engagement of both short-range targets at a distance of 20 km (12 mi) and long-range targets up to a distance of 80 km (50 mi). Astra has been integrated with Indian

Air Force's Sukhoi Su-30MKI and will be integrated with Dassault Mirage 2000 and Mikoyan MiG-29 in the future.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DATA ANALYTICS (CEDA)

GS 3: Science & Technology | Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology

Prelims level: CEDA / Mains level: Use of Machine Learning in Governance activities

Why in News?

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) and NIC Services Incorporated (NICSI) have jointly set up a Centre of Excellence for data analytics.
- This is aimed to support Government departments to unlock the hidden potential of the data that they are generating as part of the governance processes and use it to improve the overall governance.

Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA):

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) and NIC Services Incorporated (NICSI) have jointly set up a Centre of Excellence for data analytics.
- CEDA is envisaged to kick-start and fast track the adoption of advanced analytics and machine learning capabilities.
- It shall provide quality data analytic services to government departments at all levels by identifying appropriate tools and technologies and deploying people with right expertise.
- As part of its service offerings, it will help the departments
- Understand their business requirements and define their analytic needs
- Identify the data sets that are required to meet the analytic needs
- Determine access to the relevant data sources (both within as well as outside the government)
- Build the required data analytic solutions
- In integrating departmental data silos and deliver an integrated whole-of government analytics for an integrated policy

NIC:

- NIC as a premier technology advisor and ICT solution provider to Government at all levels.

- It has always taken the first step to introduce the latest technologies and services in government like establishment of NICNET or National Knowledge Network (NKN), development of critical e-Governance solutions and a host of other services required by the Government.
- NISCI is a trusted partner of NIC and has been instrumental in supporting all NIC's initiatives.
- NISCI provides resources and is responsible establishing & managing ICT infrastructure such as National Data Center, Development Center, Cloud infrastructure etc.

SOCIAL

KRISHNA KUTIR

GS 1: Social issues | Role of women & women's organization

Prelims level: Krishna Kutir / Mains level: Welfare measures for helpless, shelter less Women in India.

Why in News?

- The Minister for Women & Child Development, along with CM of Uttar Pradesh, inaugurated the widows' home 'Krishna Kutir' at a function at Vrindavan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

Krishna Kutir:

- Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows set up by the Ministry of WCD under Swadhar Greh scheme of the Ministry and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by a government organization. The Ministry took cognizance of this shocking condition of widows living in Vrindavan who refused to go back to their native place or their home.
- In order to provide dignified and humane living conditions to them, the Ministry, as a special case, constructed this Krishna Kutir at the temple town of Vrindavan with all the required facilities
- Widows will be a part of various committees which will be formed to manage the widows' home.

Particulars of the Krishna Kutir:

- Krishna Kutir has been constructed on 1.4 hectare of land through National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) with a capacity of 1000 inmates.

- It has beautifully made 100 rooms/dormitories.
- The design of the Home has been prepared in consultation with Helpage India and is old age friendly.
- The facility is also equipped with a large modern kitchen and a skill cum training centre.

Why shelter for Widows?

- The widows' home has been constructed by the WCD Ministry to mitigate the plight of widows living in pathetic condition in Vrindavan.

Other Initiatives:

- UP Government has become the first State to link the women's helpline 181 to the One Stop Centres.
- UP has also provided rescue vans for women in distress in every district.

RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH CELEBRATIONS

GS 2: Indian Society | Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

Prelims: Poshan Maah / Mains level: Mission Mode implementation of Poshan Abhiyaan.

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, has urged the Ministers of partner Ministries and all the Members of Parliament to extend full support to the ongoing Rashtriya Poshan Maah with outreach activities. The Government is celebrating the month of September, 2018 as the National Nutrition Month under the Poshan Abhiyan.

Poshan Maah:

- The Government is celebrating the month of September, 2018 as the National Nutrition Month under the Poshan Abhiyan.
- The key feature of this programme is mobilization of communities across the country and gets their participation in addressing various aspects of the nutritional challenges.
- The primary aim is to enable awareness on the importance of nutrition and how individual families can easily access government services to supplement nutrition for their children and pregnant/lactating mothers.
- National Nutrition Month has eight key themes-
 - ✓ Antenatal Care

- ✓ Optimal Breastfeeding
- ✓ Complementary Feeding
- ✓ Anaemia
- ✓ Growth Monitoring
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Diet and right age of marriage for girls
- ✓ Hygiene and Sanitation and Food fortification

Jan Andolan under the Project:

- POSHAN Abhiyaan seeks to synergise efforts of key stakeholders by leveraging technology and intends to take Nutrition Awareness to the level of Jan Andolan or People's Movement.
- This People's Movement intends to reach 11 crore beneficiaries during the Rashtriya Poshan Maah itself. Since the launch, Government has organised many Awareness Workshops with an aim to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight.
- Stakeholders across India will be encouraged to undertake activities ranging from State Level Workshops to Nomination of Brand Ambassadors to Multi-Media Campaigns.

MOBILISE YOUR CITY (MYC) PROGRAMME

GS 1: Population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Prelims and Mains Level: Significance and features of MYC programme, India's association.

Why in News?

- India and France have signed an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC) programme. Based on a proposal made by AFD in 2015, the European Union has agreed to provide funds of Euro 3.5 million through the AFD to contribute to specific investments and technical assistance components within the Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in India.

Mobilise Your City (MYC):

- MobiliseYourCity (MYC) is a global climate initiative for integrated urban mobility planning, and one of 15 international transport initiatives of the UN Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA).

- Mobilise Your City (MYC) is part of an international initiative which is supported by the French and the German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December, 2015.
- The MYC is an initiative combining urban mobility objectives and climate considerations.
- It aims at providing solutions in a fully integrated manner, analysing different modes of transportation within the urban fabric, with the objective of providing people long-term, sustainable, adequate, reliable and cost-efficient transportation opportunities.
- The project seeks to back 100 cities worldwide in three years, which are engaged in sustainable urban mobility planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- In India, the MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities viz. Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad in their efforts to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.
- The three pilot cities selected under the programme as well as MoHUA will benefit from the Technical Assistance activities.
- The main components of the proposed assistance are:
 - ✓ To support planning and implementation of sustainable urban transport projects
 - ✓ Support to strengthening institutional capacity for regulating, steering and planning urban mobility.
 - ✓ Learning and exchange formats with other cities across India for exchanges on best practices.

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

INDIA'S NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY

GS 3: Environment | Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Prelims level: REDD+ / Mains level: Climate Change Impact on India and World - International Reports, Key Observations, etc.

Why in News?

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) strategy for India.

-
- It aims at achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.
 - This strategy will soon be communicated to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

REDD+ Strategy:

- In simple terms, REDD+ means “Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation”, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.
- The strategy seeks to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also developing a roadmap for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and achieving sustainable management of forests through REDD+ actions.
- The National REDD+ Strategy will soon be communicated to the UNFCCC.

Involving Tribal Cooperation:

- MoEFCC has emphasized that the cooperation and involvement of the tribals, other forest dwelling people and the society as a whole, is crucial for the implementation of the REDD+ strategy.
- India’s National REDD+ strategy is one of the tools to achieve India’s commitment to Paris Agreement.
- The REDD+ strategy will help the country to fulfill its NDC commitments and will also contribute to the livelihood of the forest dependent population.

Governing under REDD+:

- A National Governing Council of REDD+ chaired by the Union Environment Minister at the national level and two technical committees are being established for supporting the REDD+ implementation in the country.
- The REDD+ actions at the State level will be coordinated by the committee headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & Head of Forest Force (HOFF) of the States.
- Paris agreement on climate change also recognizes role of forests in climate change mitigation and calls upon country Parties to take action to implement and support REDD+.

India's NDC:

- India has communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- India's first biennial update report to UNFCCC has revealed that forests in India capture about 12% of India's total GHG emissions.
- Thus, forestry sector in India is making a positive cost-effective contribution for climate change mitigation.
- Complying with the UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy.
- The strategy includes India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITATS SCHEME

GS 3: Environment | Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Prelims level: Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) / Mains level: Various efforts by the government to conserve wildlife through elephant corridors, project tiger and other wildlife habitats.

Why in News?

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond the 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH):

- The Scheme consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of-
 - ✓ Project Tiger (CSS-PT)
 - ✓ Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and
 - ✓ Project Elephant (CSS-PE)
- A total of 18 tiger range States, distributed in five landscapes of the country would be benefitted under the Project Tiger scheme.
- Similarly, for other two schemes, the coverage is entire country in case of Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH) and 23 elephant range States for Project Elephant.

Benefits of the Scheme:

- The schemes would result in overall strengthening/ consolidation of tiger, elephant and wildlife conservation in the country.
- The schemes would address the human wildlife conflict effectively.
- These schemes would generate employment opportunities resulting in economic upliftment of people in and around tiger reserves/ Protected Areas.
- It will generate direct employment of about 30 lakh mandays annually which shall include many local tribes besides non-tribal local workforce.
- Local populace would get opportunities to serve as guides, driver, hospitality personnel and in other ancillary jobs.
- These schemes would foster imparting various skills towards making people self-dependent through various eco-development projects, thereby enabling them to go for self-employment.
- These schemes would result in resource generation through tourist visits, thereby fostering in securing tiger source areas.

PRADHAN MANTRI ANNADATA AAY SANRAKSHAN ABHIYAN **(PM-AASHA)**

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

Prelims level: PM - AASHA and its components

Mains level: Various support schemes for farmers and their effectiveness

Why in News?

- Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives of the Government and in keeping with its commitment and dedication for the Annadata, the Union Cabinet has approved a new Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan’ (PM-AASHA).

Why such Scheme?

- Increasing MSP is not adequate and it is more important that farmers should get full benefit of the announced MSP. For this, government realizes that it is essential that if price of the agriculture produce market is less than MSP, then govt. should purchase either at MSP or work in a manner to provide MSP for the farmers through some other mechanism.

PM-AASHA:

- The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.
- Government has already increased the MSP of kharif crops by following the principle of 1.5 times the cost of production.
- It is expected that the increase in MSP will be translated to farmer's income by way of robust procurement mechanism in coordination with the State Governments.
- The new Umbrella Scheme includes the mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers and is comprised of-
- Price Support Scheme (PSS),
- Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
- Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).
- The other existing schemes of Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) for procurement of paddy, wheat and nutri-cereals/coarse grains and of Ministry of Textile for cotton and jute will be continued for providing MSP to farmers for these crops.

Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS):

- Cabinet has decided that for oilseeds, states have the option to roll out Private Procurement Stockist Scheme (PPSS) on pilot basis in selected district/APMC(s) of district involving the participation of private stockiest.
- The pilots district/selected APMC(s) of district will cover one or more crop of oilseeds for which MSP is notified. Since this is akin to PSS, in that it involves physical procurement of the notified commodity, it shall substitute PSS/PDPS in the pilot districts.
- The selected private agency shall procure the commodity at MSP in the notified markets during the notified period from the registered farmers in consonance with the PPSS Guidelines.
- But whenever the prices in the market fall below the notified MSP maximum service charges up to 15% of the notified MSP will be payable.

Price Support Scheme (PSS):

- In Price Support Scheme (PSS), physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with proactive role of State governments.

- It is also decided that in addition to NAFED, Food Cooperation of India (FCI) will take up PSS operations in states / districts.
- The procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by Central Government as per norms.

Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):

- Under PDPS it is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified.
- In this direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process.
- All payment will be done directly into registered bank account of the farmer.
- This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops as farmers are paid the difference between the MSP price and Sale/modal price on disposal in notified market.

DAIRY PROCESSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (DIDF)

GS 3: Agriculture | Economics of Animal-Rearing

Prelims level: National Action Plan Vision 2022, DIDF, Rashtriya Gokul Mission and various initiatives under RGM. / Mains level: Doubling Farmers income through Dairy entrepreneurship

Why in News?

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has inaugurated the Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF).
- Vast opportunities exist today for dairy entrepreneurs and in order to concretize these opportunities and help double the income of dairy farmers, huge outlay is needed to operationalize the National Action Plan (Vision-2022).

Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF):

- As announced in Union Budget 2017-18, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) started the DIDF with an outlay of Rs 10881 crore.
- Under this scheme, milk cooperatives will be provided financial assistance of Rs 8004 crore in the form of a loan at 6.5% interest, which will be reimbursed over a period of 10 years. Additional milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre per day, milk drying capacity of 210 MT per day, milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre per day shall be created.

- The government has also given a provision of interest subsidy on loans. With this scheme, 95, 00,000 farmers in about 50,000 villages will be benefitted. In addition to this, many skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers will get employment, directly and indirectly.

Implementing National Dairy Plan Phase-I Scheme:

- Implementation of the World Bank-funded National Dairy Plan Phase-I scheme is also being done by the NDDDB through the state government's cooperative milk organizations/milk federations. On the other hand, the implementation of the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) is being done by the state's cooperative/milk federations.
- Under this scheme special assistance was given for the development of cooperative milk committees, incentives to increase the number of milk producers and increase processing and refrigeration capacity.

Revitalizing the Rashtriya Gokul Mission:

- The ministry has said that in order to increase production, under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, 10 semen centers have been identified for the production of Sex Sorted Semen for the production of more female animals. Also, 20 Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) centers are being set up for the production of high genetic merit bulls of indigenous bovine breeds.
- Besides, INDUSCHIP has been developed for genomic selection of indigenous breeds and 6000 dairy animals have been genetically evaluated using INDUSCHIP. Under the flagship scheme 20 Gokul Grams are also being established.
- Apart from this, for the conservation of indigenous breeds, two National Kamdhenu Breeding Centres, one in Andhra Pradesh at Chintaladevi and other in Madhya Pradesh at Itarsi are being established.

e-Pashuhaat portal:

- The e-Pashuhaat portal is a landmark initiative, launched in 2016.
- It is playing an important role in connecting breeders and farmers.

National Action Plan Vision 2022:

- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF) is working on a National Action Plan Vision 2022. Under the plan, suitable provisions are being made to

build additional milk processing infrastructure for processing additional volume of milk (expected on account of higher milk production and meeting the increased demand for value-added products).

COOLING ACTION PLAN

GS 3: Environment | Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Prelims level: ICAP and its provisions / Mains level: India's efforts in phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances

Why in News?

- On the eve of the World Ozone Day (17th Sept.), MoEFCC underlined the need to work consistently under the aegis of the Montreal Protocol to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances.

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP):

- MoEFCC released the draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and a booklet on 'Montreal Protocol - India's Success Story'.
- India is the first country in world to develop such a document (ICAP), which addresses cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.
- The overarching goal is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society.
- The goals emerging from the suggested interventions stated in ICAP are:
 - Reduction of cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25 % by year 2037-38,
 - Reduction of refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by year 2037-38,
 - Reduction of cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by year 2037-38, and
 - Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by the year 2022-23, in synergy with Skill India Mission.

Long-term objectives of ICAP:

- The broad objectives of the India Cooling Action Plan include -
- Assessment of cooling requirements across sectors in next 20 years and the associated refrigerant demand and energy use,

- Map the technologies available to cater the cooling requirement including passive interventions, refrigerant-based technologies and alternative technologies such as not-in-kind technologies,
- Suggest interventions in each sector to provide for sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all,
- Focus on skilling of RAC service technicians, and
- Develop an R&D innovation ecosystem for indigenous development of alternative technologies.

Montreal Protocol:

- It is the only environmental treaty which enjoys universal ratification of 197 UN members countries.
- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has been recognized as the most successful international environment treaty in history.
- Its implementation has not only led to the phase-out of around 98% of ozone depleting chemicals, but also averted more than 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.
- Nearly 2 million cases of skin cancer per year have been averted globally.

PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)

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

Prelims level: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Mains level: Ensuring better implementation of PMFBY through additional provisions.

Why in News?

- The Government has decided to incorporate the provision of penalties for States and Insurance Companies for the delay in settlement of insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). This crucial provision is part of the new operational guidelines issued by the Govt for the implementation of PMFBY.

New Provision against Delay in Settlement:

- The Government has decided to incorporate the provision of penalties for States and Insurance Companies for the delay in settlement of insurance claims under the PMFBY.

- The farmers will be paid 12% interest by insurance companies for the delay in settlement claims beyond two months of prescribed cut-off date.
- State Governments will have to pay 12% interest for the delay in release of State share of subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut-off date submission of requisition by insurance companies.
- The guidelines also detail a Standard Operating Procedure for evaluation of insurance companies and remove them from the scheme if found ineffective in providing services.

Insuring Horticulture Crops:

- The Government has also decided to include perennial horticultural crops under the ambit of PMFBY on a pilot basis.
- The scheme as per the new guidelines provides add on coverage for crop loss due to attack of wild animals, which will be implemented on a pilot basis.
- Aadhaar number will be mandatorily captured to avoid duplication of beneficiaries.

Insuring more Non-loanee Farmers:

- The insurance companies are given a target of enrolling 10% more non-loanee farmers than the previous corresponding season.
- They will have to mandatorily spend 0.5% of gross premium per company per season for publicity and awareness of the scheme.

Settlement of Claims:

- The much-demanded rationalization of premium release process has been incorporated in the new guidelines.
- As per this, the insurance companies need not provide any projections for the advance subsidy.
- Release of upfront premium subsidy will be made at the beginning of the season based on 50% of 80% of total share of subsidy of corresponding season of previous year as GOI/State subsidy.
- Balance premium will be paid as a second installment based on the specific approved business statistics on the portal for settlement of claims.
- Final installment will be paid after reconciliation of entire coverage data on portal based on final business statistics. This will reduce the delay in settling the claims of farmers.

WAYU- AIR POLLUTION MITIGATION DEVICE

GS 3: Environment | Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Prelims level: WAYU / Mains level: Measures to curb Air Pollution in the national capital.

Why in News?

- Recently air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) for traffic junctions was inaugurated in Delhi today.

WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit):

- WAYU is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as a part of Technology Development Project funded by Department of Science and Technology. The device that has been indigenously developed has the capacity to purify air in an area of 500-meter square. The device consumes only half a unit of electricity for 10 hours of running and has a maintenance cost of only Rs. 1500 per month.

Working of the Device:

- The device works on two principles mainly Wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and Active Pollutants removal. The device has filters for Particulate Matter removal and activated carbon (charcoal) and UV lamps for poisonous gases removal such as VOCs and Carbon Monoxide. The device has one fan and filter for sucking and removing Particulate Matter. There are two UV lamps and half kg of activated carbon charcoal coated with special chemical Titanium Dioxide.

AGMARK ONLINE SYSTEM

GS 3: Agriculture | E-technology in the aid of farmers

Prelims level: Agmark Online System

Why in News?

- Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has launched the online software for Agmark.

Agmark Online System:

- The application processes related to Agmark certification are being done online by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI).

- The process of application will be simple, quick, transparent and 24×7.
- The Agmark online system is being implemented across the country to conduct quality control functions.
- Through the Agmark online system, certificate of authorisation (domestic), permission of printing press, permission of laboratories (domestic) and services related to laboratory information management system will be provided online.

Move for speedy certification:

- The existing procedures for Agmark certification were in physical form and time consuming.
- The use of modern technologies by the National Informatics Center has made these processes easy, reliable and cost effective by providing online electronic mode.
- In the new online application system, there are provisions for online receipt of fees from the applicants.
- Payment will be received in digital mode through bharatkosh.gov.in website.

INDIAN ECONOMY

IWAI MAKES INDIA'S FIRST STANDARDIZED MODERN SHIP DESIGN FOR GANGA A REALITY

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

Prelims level: Nwai

Mains level: Development of shipbuilding industry and waterways thereby reducing load of logistics and transportation from Roadways.

Why in News?

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1). This marks attaining a critical milestone in the growth of the country's Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector.

Boosting Domestic Shipbuilding and Navigation:

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 standardized state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga. It will help overcome the

unique navigation challenges river Ganga throws due to its complex river morphology, hydraulics, acute bends, shifting channels, meanders and current.

- It will serve as an enabler for domestic shipbuilding industry working on inland vessels and open huge possibilities for cargo and passenger movement on National Waterway-1.

Improving Carrying Capacity:

- The Government is implementing Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on NW-1 (Varanasi-Haldia stretch) with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank.
- The specially designed vessels will navigate on low drafts with high carrying capacity and at the same time, environment friendly.
- It is specialised in low draft and high carrying capacity vessels.
- The new designs will translate into a savings of Rs 30-50 lakhs in the building of a vessel.
- The new designs will obviate the dependence of Indian Ship builders on foreign ship designs for IWT and prove to be a boost to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government.

Freely Available Design for all:

- Available free on the IWAI website, the designs will remove ambiguity on the class and type of vessels that can sail on river Ganga with efficient maneuverability.
- They will help shipyards build vessels of standardized dimensions and capacity and make them available off the shelf besides developing the 'sale and purchase' market for inland vessels.
- The designs will lead to reduced fuel costs and in turn lesser logistics costs.

Details of the Design:

- The new designs for various categories of dry and liquid bulk carrier, Ro-Ro vessels, car carrier, container carrier, LNG carrier, Tug Barge flotilla (Table below) have been made by M/s DST, Germany.
- These vessels will sail even in depths of about two metres carrying about 350 cars on a five deck car carrier.
- Some of the designs would enable movement of bulk cargo carriers with capacity of 2500 tonnes at three metres depth. Thus it will help removing almost 150 truckloads of pressure from the road or one full rail rake with the plying of just one such vessel.

INDIAN RAILWAYS INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE TRAIN OPERATIONS AND PROVIDE BETTER PASSENGER EXPERIENCE

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

Prelims level: Various IT initiative mentioned in the news card

Mains level: An overview of various ICT initiatives by Indian Railways.

Why in News?

- Indian Railways has always focused on adoption of new technologies to improve train operations and provide better passenger experience to its customers. In this series, IR has introduced various IT initiatives.

Real Time Train Information System (RTIS):

- Railways have experimented with tracking of trains using GPS devices with these GPS devices located in the locomotive.
- For a sustainable solution, a Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) is being implemented, whereby GPS tracking devices would communicate using satellite communications. The trials have been successful.
- Apart from this, data logger systems already available in track circuited stations are being used at major interchange points to capture arrival/departure information on trains.

Computerised Train Signal Register:

- In an effort to computerise the transactions of the station master, a Computerised Train Signal Register is going live at 650 stations.
- This enables arrival/departure information to be transmitted to the Control Office Application (COA) and the National train Enquiry System (NTES) directly from the station master's desk.

Handheld Terminals for TTEs:

- Handheld Terminals (HHTs) are being provided to the Train Ticket Examiners (TTEs) to be able to check the reserved coaches, allot the vacant berths and transmit information on available berths to the subsequent stations.
- The HHT can also access the ticketing application and collect excess fares as per rules.
- The terminal can potentially connect to a Point of Sale (POS) machine and charges can be collected digitally.

Modernisation of Ticketing Website (IRCTC):

- Over the last four years, the capacity of the website has increased to 20,000 tickets per minute starting from 2000 tickets per minute in 2014, a ten-fold increase.
- Apart from the capacity, the entire user experience has been improved substantially with the launch a new interface with easier navigation and standard views that enable the passengers to transact smoothly.
- New features have been added that enable better planning of journeys aiding the passenger to obtain confirmed tickets.

Paperless Unreserved Ticketing through Mobile Phones:

- Paperless Unreserved ticketing on mobile phones was launched on 25.12.2014 at Mumbai.
- This has eliminated the need for passengers to stand in queue for getting tickets for journey in unreserved compartments of trains.
- The ticket is delivered on the Mobile Phone and is embedded with QR Code.
- This service has added to passenger convenience. About 4 lakh passengers per day are booking tickets on Mobile phones.

Indian Railway e-Procurement System (IREPS):

- Complete tendering activity of Indian Railways for procurement of goods, services & works and e-auction of scrap sale is on IREPS.
- IREPS system is largest such G to B portal in India.
- It has helped in achieving objectives of transparency, efficiency and improving of ease of doing business.
- 90,000 vendors have registered themselves on IREPS website.
- Central Vigilance Commission has recognized and awarded the system under “Vigilance Excellence Award – 2017” for outstanding contribution in the category of “IT initiatives for transparency in the organization” .

RAIL SAHYOG” WEB PORTAL

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

Prelims level: Rail Sahyog Portal

Mains level: ICT initiatives by Indian Railways

Why in News?

- The Minister of Railways and Coal has launched a web portal Rail Sahyog to provide a platform for the Corporates and PSUs to contribute to creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through CSR funds.

Rail Sahyog Portal:

- The portal has been envisaged as a platform for all including individuals as also private & public organisation to contribute towards CSR activities in association with Indian Railways.
- The companies desirous of contributing can show willingness on the portal by registering their requests which will be processed by Railway officials.
- This portal will provide an opportunity for Industry/ Companies/ Associations to collaborate with Railways. Individuals, Private companies have the freedom to execute projects in Railways.
- The main focus is on ensuring creation of good quality assets through this collaboration.

CSR Funded activities in Railways:

- Construction of toilets in circulating areas of all stations with provision of low cost sanitary pad vending machine & incinerator in female toilets and contraceptives vending machine in male toilets and initial one year maintenance.
- Providing free Wi-Fi at stations through setting up Hotspots.
- Provision of Benches at station Platforms as facility for senior citizens/ disabled.
- Bottle crushing machines at 2175 major stations for ensuring environmental sustainability.
- Dustbins at all stations for Swachh Bharat will help in preventing littering around.
- Separate dustbins for wet/dry waste need to be provided at circulating area of Station and Platforms.

CULTURE

CURRICULUM ON EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING - GANDHIJIS NAI TALIM

Prelims: Nai Talim

Why in News?

- Union HRD Ministry released the curriculum on Experiential Learning - Gandhijis Nai Talim.

- This curriculum was brought out simultaneously in 13 languages i.e., Assamese, Tamil, Bengali, Odiya, Kannada, Malyalam, Punjabi, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati, Urdu, Hindi and English.
- It is in consultation with the state councils of educational research and training along with the universities in the country.
- The curriculum was a holistic approach of developing body, mind and soul (hand, head and heart), by making a productive art, craft or community engagement activity as the centre of learning.
- On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's upcoming 150th birth anniversary celebrations, a movement is on across the educational institutions in the country to promote Nai Talim, Work Education and Experiential Learning.
- A special effort is on school and teacher education in the areas of work education and experiential learning through the education departments of Universities as well as Central and State Governments and the SCERTs.

Launching of the book:

- Marking the occasion of Teacher's Day, the book titled "Experiential Learning – Gandhiji's Nai Talim is launched today.
- The book contains basic principles of Gandhiji's Nai Talim (our notes and interpretations), along with the Work and Education curriculum for Schools, D.Ed, B.Ed and Faculty Development Programmes for teachers.
- This book and this project is a joint effort of the Universities in the state, state SCERT and Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), formerly known as National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI).

FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX

GS 3: Indian Economy | Inclusive growth & issues arising from it

Prelims level: Financial Inclusion Index

Mains level: Financial Inclusion

Why in News?

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs has launched the Financial Inclusion Index.

Financial Inclusion Index:

- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance will release an Annual Financial Inclusion Index (FII).
- The index will be a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services that includes savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products.
- The index will have three measurement dimensions:
 - Access to financial services
 - Usage of financial services
 - Quality
- The single composite index gives a snap shot of level of financial inclusion that would guide Macro Policy perspective.

Utility of the Index:

- The various components of the index will help to measure financial services for use of internal policy making.
- Financial Inclusion Index can be used directly as a composite measure in development indicators.
- It enables fulfillment of G20 Financial Inclusion Indicators requirements.
- It will also facilitate researchers to study the impact of financial inclusion and other macro-economic variables.

JAN DHAN DARSHAK - MOBILE APP

GS 3: Indian Economy | Inclusive growth & issues arising from it

Prelims level: Jan Dhan Darshak mobile app / Mains level: Financial Inclusion

Why in News?

- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) has jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative.

Jan Dhan Darshak App:

- This app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country. Jan Dhan Darshak app is a unique solution to

provide a citizen centric platform for locating financial service touch points across all providers such as banks, post office, CSC, etc.

- These services could be availed as per the needs and convenience of the common people.
- While over 5 lakh FI touch points (Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices) have been mapped on this App, approx. 1.35 lakh Bank Mitras would be on-boarded by 01.12.2018.

Salient features of the App:

- Find nearby Financial touch points, based on current location (Branches/ATM/Post offices)
- Search by place name
- Search by place name also available with Voice Interface
- Phone number of bank branches available in app, with the facility of call button for integrated dialing
- Users' feedback will go directly to the concerned bank for carrying out the necessary updation in data on financial touch points.

EASE OF LIVING INDEX

GS 3: Indian Economy | Inclusive growth & issues arising from it

Prelims level: Ease of Living Index

Why in News?

- Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of "Ease of Living Index" rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

Ease of Living Index:

- The Ease of Living Index is a transformative initiative of the MoHUA to help the cities assess their liveability vis-à-vis national and global benchmarks.
- The Index is aimed to encourage all cities to move towards an 'outcome-based' approach to urban planning and management and promote healthy competition among cities.
- It seeks to assist cities in undertaking a 360-degree assessment of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The MoHUA released the first ever 'Ease of Living Index' covering 111 Indian cities on 13 August, 2018, which serves as a litmus test to help assess the progress made in cities through various initiatives.

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- All cities were evaluated out of 100.

Parameters of the Index:

- The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given the highest weightage of 45, while institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. Economy was weighted 5.
- The framework comprised four pillars namely Institutional, Social, Economic and Physical which are further broken down into 78 indicators across 15 categories.
- These include governance, identity and culture, education, health, safety and security, economy, affordable housing, land use planning, public open spaces, transportation and mobility, assured water supply, waste-water management, solid waste management, power, and quality of environment.