

#### **4. Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)**

**Prelims: Governance**

**Mains: GS-III- Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks, role of Media and Social Networking sites in Internal Security Challenges.**

#### **Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR):**

- ▶▶ International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is supposed to be a unique identity of a mobile phone device.
- ▶▶ IMEI number being programmable, some miscreants do reprogram the IMEI number, which results in cloning of IMEI causing multiple phone devices with same IMEI number.
- ▶▶ As on date, there are many cases of cloned/duplicated IMEI handsets in the network.
- ▶▶ If such IMEI is blocked, a large number of mobile phones will get blocked being handsets with same IMEI causing inconvenience to many genuine customers.
- ▶▶ Thus, there is a need to eliminate duplicate/fake IMEI mobile phones from the network.
- ▶▶ Accordingly, a project called Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system has been undertaken by the DoT for addressing security, theft and other concerns including reprogramming of mobile handsets.

#### **Objectives:**

- ▶▶ Blocking of lost/stolen mobile phones across mobile networks thus discouraging theft of mobile phones.
- ▶▶ Facilitate in tracing of such reported lost/stolen mobile phones.
- ▶▶ Prevention of mobile devices with duplicate and fake IMEIs in the network.
- ▶▶ Curtail the use of counterfeit mobile devices.
- ▶▶ Reduced health risks to the users with the control of use of counterfeit mobile phones
- ▶▶ Improved QoS and reduced call drops with reduction in use of counterfeit mobile devices.