

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE for



U.P.S.C. - C.S.E.

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Success is born of action...

Topic 1: TRIFED

Importance for Prelims: Government organization



Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs reiterated its commitment towards the transformation of tribal lives on the occasion of its 33rd Foundation Day on August 6, 2020.

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) **came into existence in 1987**. It is a **national-level apex organization** functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.
- The ultimate objective of TRIFED is **socio-economic development of tribal people in the country by way of marketing development of the tribal products** on which the lives of tribals depends heavily as they spend most of their time and derive major portion of their income.
- It empowers tribal people with knowledge, tools and pool of information so that they can undertake their operations in a more

systematic and scientific manner.

- It involves capacity building of the tribal people through sensitization,
- **formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and imparting training to them for undertaking a particular activity, **exploring marketing possibilities in national as well as international markets**, creating opportunities for marketing tribal products on a sustainable basis, creating a brand and providing other services.
- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs shall announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the selected MFPs with the technical support from TRIFED.**

Topic 2: K V. Kamath committee

Importance for Prelims: Economy

HELPING OUT THE ECONOMY

➤ In addition to veteran banker **K V Kamath**, the panel's other members are Diwakar Gupta (of ADB), T Manoharan (Canara Bank), and Ashvin Parekh (a consultant)

➤ The CEO of the Indian Banks' Association will also be a member



➤ The panel will submit its recommendations on the financial parameters to the central bank

➤ The RBI, in turn, will notify these along with any modifications, if needed, within 30 days

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a **five member committee under the chairmanship of former ICICI Bank CEO KV Kamath.**

- The immediate task of the committee is to **recommend a list of financial parameters to be factored into the assumptions that go into each resolution plan**, and the sector specific benchmark ranges for such parameters.
- The parameters will include aspects related to **leverage, liquidity, debt serviceability**
- The expert committee shall submit a list of financial parameters and the sectorspecific desirable ranges for such parameters to the Reserve Bank, which, in turn, will notify the same, along with modifications, within 30 days.

Topic 3: TRAFFIC

Importance for Prelims: Environment



A recent study by TRAFFIC India on the seizure and mortality of ‘common leopards’ revealed that of the total of 747 leopard deaths between 2015-2019 in India, 596 were linked to illegal wildlife trade and activities related to poaching.

- TRAFFIC is a **leading non-governmental organisation** working globally **on trade in wild animals and plants** in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. It is a **joint program of WWF and IUCN**.
- TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC has gained its greatest reputation from **supporting CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species**.
- TRAFFIC focuses on leveraging resources, expertise and awareness of the latest globally urgent species trade issues such as tiger parts, elephant ivory and rhino horn.
- Large scale commercial trade in commodities like timber and fisheries products are also addressed.

Topic 4: DGCA

Importance for Prelims: Government organization



Aircraft shot past runway in rainy conditions and fell into a gorge and DGCA issued notice to Kozhikode airport over safety lapses

- Directorate General of Civil Aviation is an **attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the **regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation primarily dealing with safety issues**.
- It is responsible for **regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards**.
- It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Gorge

- A deep and narrow ‘V’ shaped valley is also referred to as **gorge** and may result due to **down cutting erosion** or because **of the recession of a waterfall** (the position of the waterfall receding due to erosive action).

Topic 5: GAVI

Importance for Prelims: IR



Serum Institute ties up with Gavi for 10 crore of corona vaccine doses in India

- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization is a **public-private global health partnership** committed to **increasing access to immunization** in poor countries.
- It is a **global Vaccine Alliance with the goal of creating equal access** to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.
- It does this by bringing together all the stakeholders – **donor governments, developing countries, World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, international finance and development organizations, and pharmaceutical

industry – in one decision making body Gavi was launched in 2000.

- It is based in Geneva, Switzerland India started receiving support for its immunization programme from GAVI in 2002. Apart from that, India is the largest supplier of vaccines to GAVI

GAVI'S IMPACT

- **More children survive.** The increase in immunisation has helped halve childhood mortality by preventing approximately 13 million deaths and dramatically driven down the incidence of deadly and debilitating infectious diseases.
- **Nation building thrives.** As children become healthier, they, their families, communities and countries are more able to be economically prosperous and socially stable.
- **Global health security improves.** In the face of global challenges, such as climate change, urbanisation, human migration, fragility and conflict, Gavi has helped countries broaden vaccine coverage and improve their health systems. This makes them less susceptible and better able to prevent disease outbreaks that pose a threat to people in these countries, protecting millions of others around the world.

Topic 6: Business Confidence Index

Importance for Prelims: Economy



NCAER's Business Confidence Index (BCI), an indicator of the business sentiment across the Indian industry, **stood at 46.4 in the first quarter of 2020-21, a drop of 40.1 per cent from its level of 77.4 in the previous quarter.**

- **Business sentiment across Indian industry fell to its lowest level in the first quarter of this fiscal since 1991, according to the National Council of Applied Economic Research's (NCAER) Business Confidence Index (BCI).**

Topic 7: August Revolution/ Quit India

Importance for Prelims: History



The 78th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, famously known as the August Revolution in the history of India's freedom movement, falls on August 9.

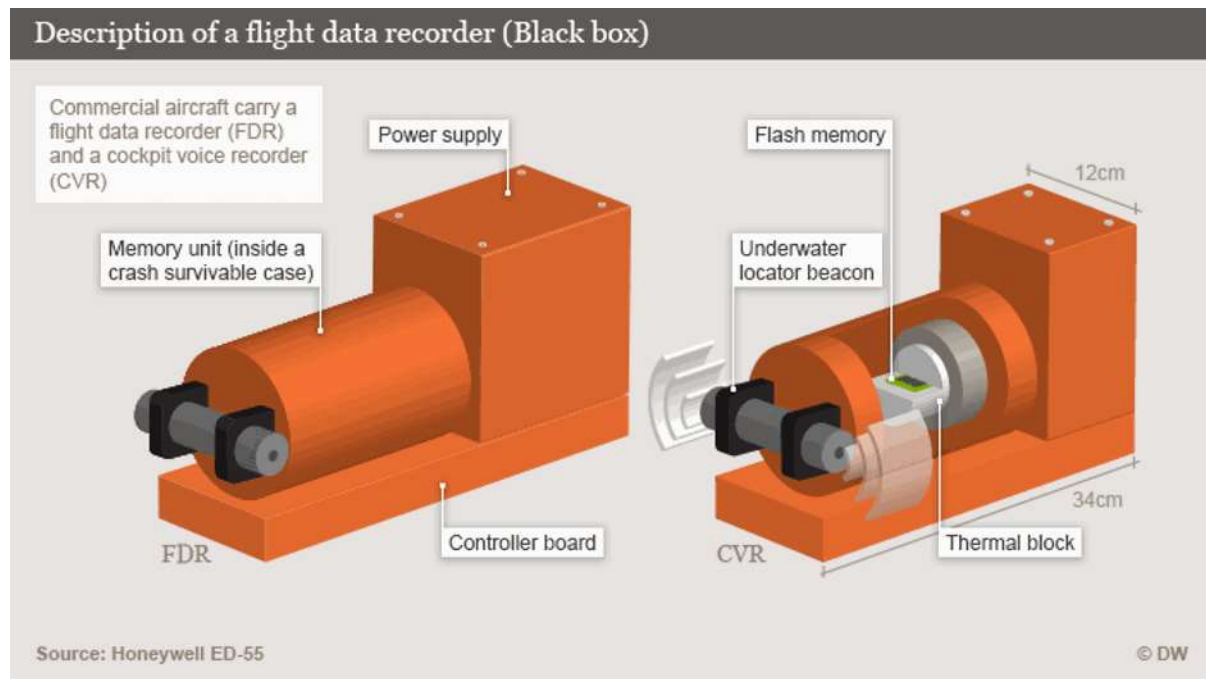
- In July 1942, the Congress Working Committee met at Wardha and resolved that it would authorise Gandhi to take charge of the non-violent mass movement. The resolution generally referred to as the 'Quit India' resolution.
- Proposed by Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Sardar Patel, it was to be approved by the All India Congress Committee meeting in Bombay in August.
- The Quit India Resolution was ratified at the Congress meeting

at **Gowalia Tank, Bombay, on August 8, 1942.**

- The meeting also resolved to demand an immediate end to British rule in India, declare commitment of free India to defend itself against all types of Fascism and imperialism form a provisional Government of India after British withdrawal and sanction a civil disobedience movement against British rule.
- The Quit India resolution was **passed on August 8, 1942.**
- Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the tricolour on the Gowalia Tank ground and on August 9 night, the **senior leaders of the Congress were arrested.**
- Many nationalists went underground and took to subversive activities. The **participants in these activities were the Socialists, Forward Bloc members, Gandhi ashramites, revolutionary nationalists** and local organisations in Bombay, Poona, Satara, Baroda and other parts of Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra, United Provinces, Bihar and Delhi.
- The main personalities taking up underground activity **were RammanoharLohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, ArunaAsaf Ali, Usha Mehta, BijuPatnaik, ChhotubhaiPuranik, AchyutPatwardhan, SuchetaKripalani and R.P. Goenka.** Usha Mehta started an underground radio in Bombay.
- This phase of underground activity was meant to keep up popular morale by continuing to provide a line of command and guidance to distribute arms and ammunition.

Topic 8: Black boxes

Importance for Prelims: Science and Technology



Investigators have found the “black boxes” of the ill-fated Boeing 737-800 aircraft which got crashed at Kozhikode

- The black boxes are **two orange metallic boxes containing the recorders** which date back to the early 1950s, when, following plane crashes, investigators were **unable to arrive a conclusive cause for the accidents** and deemed it necessary to install the said recorders on aircraft.
- In the initial days of the black box, the information was recorded on to a metal strip, which was then upgraded to magnetic drives succeeded by solid state memory chips.
- Most aircraft are required to be equipped with two black boxes — the **cockpit voice recorder (CVR)** and the **flight data**

recorder (FDR) that record the information about a flight and help reconstruct the events leading to an aircraft accident.

- While the **CVR records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit** such as conversations between the pilots and engine noises, **the flight data recorder records more than 80 different types of information** such as altitude, airspeed, flight heading, vertical acceleration, pitch, roll, autopilot status etc.

Table top runaway

- Table top runways are generally constructed by **chopping off the top of a hill, and are often thought of as tricky for landings** because of the lack of any margin for overshooting the runway.
- In addition to the **airports at Kozhikode and Mangaluru, the Lengpui airport in Mizoram, Pakyong airport in Sikkim, and Simla and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh** are built on tabletops. Other tabletop airports outside India include Paro in Bhutan and Kathmandu in Nepal.

Topic 9: National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

Importance for Prelims: Government organisation



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are now a familiar sight at most of the natural calamities or man-made disasters in India.

- The Disaster Management Act has **statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** for the purpose of **specialized response to natural and man-made disasters**.
- The practice of “proactive availability” of this Force to the States and that of “prepositioning”, in a threatening disaster **situations have immensely helped minimise damage, caused due to natural calamities in the country**.
- Besides the professionalism shown during rescue operations in floods and cyclones and collapsed structure search and rescue

(CSSR) operations, **NDRF** has also acquired considerable expertise in facing **CBRN** (Chemical, Biological, Radiological& Nuclear) challenges.

- It is unique force across the country **functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India, within the overall command, control and leadership of the Director General, NDRF.

Topic 10: Microlithic age and iron age

Importance for Prelims: History



Several stone **tools and artefacts belonging to microlithic age and iron age** were found at the foothills of the Western Ghats in Manuthu – Paraipatti village near **Usilampatti block in Madurai**

Microlithic age

- The Mesolithic Age, also known as Middle Stone Age, was the second part of the Stone Age.
- In India, it spanned from **9,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C.**
- This age is characterized by the appearance of **Microliths (small bladed stone tools)**.
- The Mesolithic Age was a transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age.
- The people of this age lived on **hunting, fishing, and food gathering; later on they also domesticated animals.**

Topic 11: CAG

Importance for Prelims: Polity



Former Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor GC Murmu sworn-in as India's 14th CAG

- The Constitution of India (**Article 148**) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. He is the **guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country** at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
- His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
- The CAG is **appointed by the president of India by a warrant**

under his hand and seal.

- He holds office for a **period of six years or upto the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- He can resign any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to the president. He can also **be removed by the president on same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court.**
- The **Constitution (Article 149)** authorises the **Parliament to prescribe the duties and powers of the CAG** in relation to the accounts of the Union and of the states and of any other authority or body.
- Accordingly, the Parliament enacted the **CAG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) act, 1971**. This Act was amended in 1976 to separate accounts from audit in the Central government.

Topic 12: Seed Balls

Importance for Prelims: Environment



Odisha's Athagarh Forest Division has begun casting seed balls inside different reserve forest areas to enrich food stock for wild elephants.

- Seed balls, also known as “earth balls” consist of a **variety of different seeds rolled within a ball of clay**. Various additives may be included, such as humus or compost.
- These are placed around the seeds, at the center of the ball, to provide microbial inoculants.
- Cotton-fibres or liquefied paper are sometimes mixed into the clay in order to strengthen it, or liquefied paper mash coated on the outside to further **protect the clay ball during sowing by throwing, or in particularly harsh habitats**.

Topic 13: Subordinate Legislation

Importance for Prelims: Polity



Former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said that the Environment Impact Assessment Act (EIA) 2020 as a subordinate legislation violates the parent Environment Protection Act.

- Under the general law, the term ‘subordinate legislation’ is often used to refer to a **legislative instrument made by an entity under a power delegated to the entity by the Parliament.**
- It can be necessary for legislative power to be delegated for any of the following reasons:
 - ✓ to save pressure on parliamentary time the legislation is too technical or detailed to be suitable for parliamentary consideration
 - ✓ to deal with rapidly changing or uncertain situations
 - ✓ to allow for swift action in the case of an emergency.

Topic 14: Negative import list

Importance for Prelims: Economy

ATMANIRBHAR GAMBIT

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said the import embargo is meant to spur the Indian defence industry into meeting the anticipated requirements of the armed forces

WHAT'S BANNED

The list includes artillery guns, missile destroyers, ship-fired cruise missiles, light combat aircraft, light transport aircraft, communication satellites, basic trainer aircraft, multi-barrel rocket launchers, a variety of radars, assault rifles, sniper rifles, mini UAVs.

MAKE IN INDIA PUSH

India will have to compulsorily develop technology for the defence systems and boost indigenous military and defence weapons and equipment.

MONEY INVOLVED

Singh said the government estimates contracts worth almost ₹4 lakh crore will be placed upon the domestic industry in 6-7 yrs. He said the ministry has split the capital budget for 2020-21 between domestic and foreign procurement, with ₹52,000 crore set for domestic procurement this fiscal.



▪ The move is expected to give a push to state-run HAL which makes Dhruv choppers for IAF. ANI Prime Minister Narendra Modi will present before the nation some new outline for a self-reliant India in his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the Independence Day
-Rajnath Singh, defence minister

LIST TO BE REVIEWED EVERY YEAR

Key equipment	Import embargo from
Light combat aircraft	December 2020
Conventional submarines	December 2021
Artillery ammunition	December 2022
Basic trainer aircraft	December 2023
Land attack cruise missiles	December 2025

Defence Minister has announced a list of 101 items that the Defence Ministry will stop importing

- Items in negative list **cannot be imported**.
- India has been among the **top three defence importers in the world**. So the government wants to **reduce the dependence on imported items in defence** and give a shot in the arm to the domestic defence manufacturing industry.
- As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks defence exports and imports globally, **India has been the second largest importer between 2014 and 2019** with US\$ 16.75 billion worth of imports during this period.

Topic 15: Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Importance for Prelims: Schemes



Prime Minister has launched a new financing scheme under the ₹1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

- Government has launched **Central Sector Scheme of financing facility** under “Agriculture Infrastructure Fund” of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore.
- The Fund will catalyze the **creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming** assets such as cold storage, collection centres, processing units, etc.
- These assets will **enable farmers to get greater value for their produce**, as they will be able to store and **sell at higher prices, reduce wastage, and increase processing and value addition.**
- The **beneficiaries of the scheme** will include farmers, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects.

Topic 16: Indus Water Treaty

Importance for Prelims: IR

URI CASTS SHADOW ON INDUS TREATY
The Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, explained

1 What is the treaty?
The Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, is a water sharing pact between India and Pakistan that covers six rivers beginning in India and flowing into Pakistan. The treaty was signed on September 19, 1960.

2 What is the foundation of the treaty?
The preamble to the treaty aims at satisfactory utilisation of the Indus system of rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) based on the goodwill between the two countries. It was essentially a confidence building measure between the two neighbours.

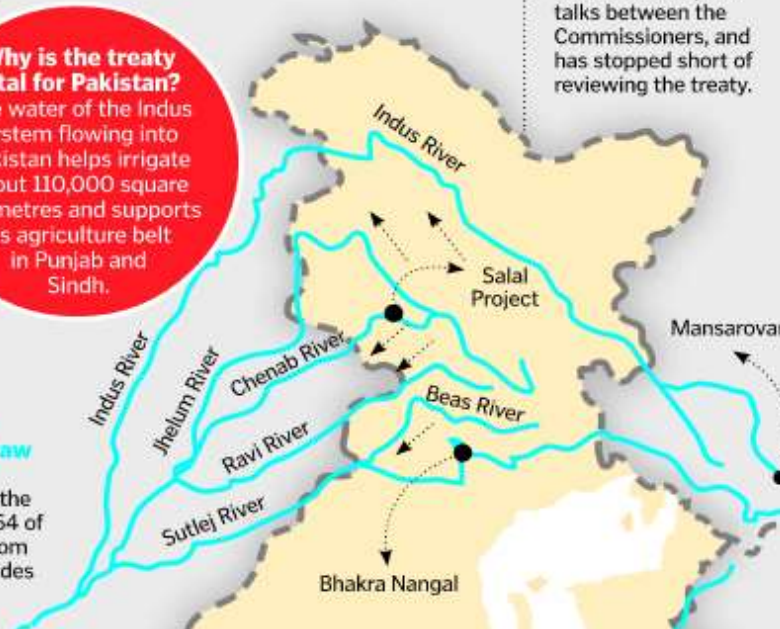
6 Can India abrogate or withdraw from the treaty?
Experts suggest that India can exercise the sovereign right of a state under Article 64 of the "Vienna Convention" to withdraw from any international treaty. Article 64 provides for sovereign states to withdraw from international treaties.

3 What are the Indian and Pakistani shares in the Indus rivers system?
The treaty divides the Indus system into two segments: Eastern Rivers – Sutlej, Beas and Ravi and Western rivers – Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. India gets right of unrestricted use over the Eastern rivers. Pakistan is entitled to "unrestricted" use of the Western rivers. India is under obligation to let flow the western rivers unrestricted.

4 What are the limits in using the treaty?
Both India and Pakistan have the right to non-consumptive use. However, both sides have the rights of drainage issues and river conservation aspects. Both sides are mandated to prevent pollution of the rivers. As responsible partners, both sides are expected to create permanent Indus Commissions with Commissioners in charge.

5 What is the dispute resolution mechanism mentioned in the treaty?
Any dispute will have to be examined by the Commissioners. Under Article 8 of the treaty, both sides are expected to meet at least once a year to discuss bilateral problems. However, after the Uri attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to suspend talks between the Commissioners, and has stopped short of reviewing the treaty.

Why is the treaty vital for Pakistan?
The water of the Indus system flowing into Pakistan helps irrigate about 110,000 square kilometres and supports its agriculture belt in Punjab and Sindh.



COMPILED BY KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE

Image : The Hindu

India has suggested to Pakistan that the talks for discussing pending issues under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) be held through video-conferencing in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

- In the year 1960, India and Pakistan signed a water distribution agreement came to be known as Indus Waters Treaty which was orchestrated by the World Bank.

- This agreement took nine years of negotiations and **divides the control of six rivers between the two nations once signed.**
- Under this treaty, India got control over: Beas, Ravi Sutlej while Pakistan got control over: Indus, Chenab, Jhelum
- Under the treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the three eastern rivers, averaging around 33 million acre-feet (MAF), were allocated to India for exclusive use.
- The waters of the western rivers – Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab – averaging to around 135 MAF, were allocated to Pakistan except for ‘specified domestic, non consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India,’ according to the treaty.
- **India has also been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through the run of the river (RoR) projects on the western rivers which, subject to specific criteria for design and operation, is unrestricted.**

Topic 17: Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO)

Importance for Prelims: Government organization



Ten containers of ammonium nitrate were moved by Customs officials from the Manali Sattva Container Freight Station to a Hyderabad-based buyer. The transfer was done **with 12-point instructions by the Chennai police and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) officials.**

- With an overall objective of **ensuring safety and security of public and property from fire and explosion**, the **Organisation as a statutory authority** is entrusted with the administration of Explosives Act, 1884, Petroleum Act, 1934; Inflammable Substances Act, 1952.
- It **administers the usage of explosives & petrol stations in India.**
- Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) formerly Department of Explosives, with its Head Office at Nagpur had completed its hundred years on 9th September 1998.
- This Organization comes under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

Topic 18: India rupee appreciation/depreciation factors

Importance for Prelims: Economy

Importance for Mains: Economy



The Indian currency is trading relatively weaker compared with emerging market peers such as the Brazilian real and the South African rand

- **Currency appreciation** is an increase in the value of currency comparing to another currency.
- **Currency depreciation** is an opposite of currency appreciation, it is a **fall in the value of a currency**.
- Numerous factors determine exchange rates.

- Many of these factors are related to the **trading relationship between the two countries.**
- **Exchange rates are relative, and are expressed as a comparison of the currencies of two countries.**
- The following are some of the principal determinants of the exchange rate between two countries.
 - ✓ Differentials in Inflation
 - ✓ Differentials in Interest Rates
 - ✓ Current Account Deficits
 - ✓ Public Debt
 - ✓ Terms of Trade

Topic 19: Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)

Importance for Prelims: Government organization



निक्षेप बीमा और प्रत्यय गारंटी निगम

DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION

(भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के संपूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहयोगी) Wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India

Government had recently **upped the deposits insured by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** from ₹1 lakh (fixed in 1993 when the insurance scheme was started) to ₹5 lakh following the PMC Bank fiasco of 2019

- Deposit insurance is a **protection cover for deposit holders** in a bank when the bank fails and does not have money to pay its depositors.
- This insurance is provided by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) which is a **wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI**.
- DICGC insures all bank deposits, such as **savings, fixed, current and recurring deposit for up to the limit of Rs 5 lakh per bank**.
- DICGC covers depositors of **all commercial banks and foreign banks** operating in India, state, central and urban co-operative banks, local area banks and regional rural banks provided the bank has bought the cover from DICGC.
- The DICGC does not include the following types of deposits:

- ✓ Deposits of foreign governments.
- ✓ Deposits of central/state governments.
- ✓ Inter-bank deposits.
- ✓ Deposits of the state land development banks with the state co-operative bank.
- ✓ Any amount due on account of any deposit received outside India.
- ✓ Any amount specifically exempted by the DICGC with previous approval of RBI.

Topic 20: GI Tag for basmati

Importance for Prelims: Economy



Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Basmati produced in 13 districts of Madhya Pradesh has been granted

- A geographical indication (GI) is a **sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin
- A geographical indication right enables those who have the right to use the indication **to prevent its use by a third party** whose product does not conform to the applicable standards.
- Geographical indications are typically used for **agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.**

Validity:

- In much sui generis legislation, registrations for geographical indications are **not subject to a specific period of validity**. This means that the protection for a registered geographical indication will remain valid unless the registration is cancelled.
- Geographical indications registered as collective and certification marks are **generally protected for renewable ten-year periods**.

Enforcement:

- Under Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the **Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property**, geographical indications are covered as an element of IPRs.
- They are also covered under Articles 22 to 24 of the **Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement**, which was part of the Agreements concluding the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.
- India, as a member of World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999** has come into force with effect from 2003.
- This Act seeks to provide for registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India. The Act would be **administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks- who is the Registrar of GI**.

Topic 21: COVAX facility

Importance for Prelims: IR

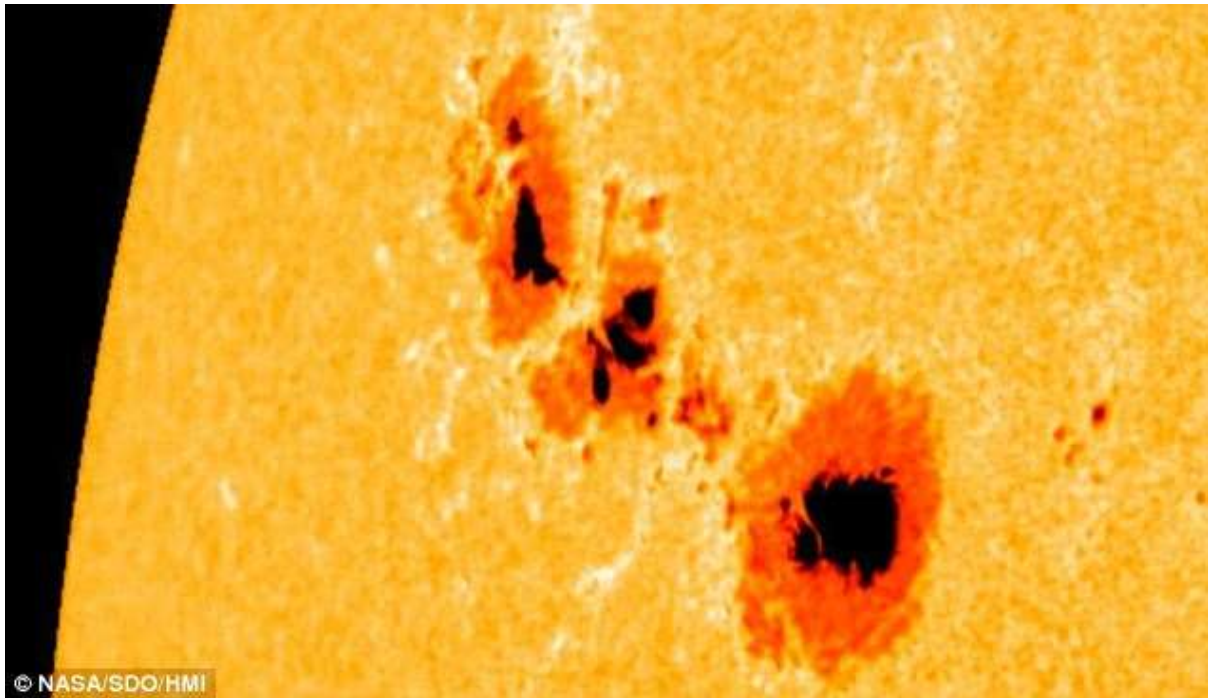


World Health Organization has renewed its invite to countries to join its COVAX facility.

- Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility is a **mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines**
- The goal of COVAX is to deliver **two billion doses of safe, effective vaccines** that have passed regulatory approval and/or WHO pre-qualification **by the end of 2021.**
- Earlier, **as many as 75 countries expressed interest** to protect their populations and those of other nations through joining the vaccine facility, WHO said in a 15 July statement.
- COVAX is **co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO**, working in partnership with developed and developing country vaccine manufacturers. **The shots will be delivered equally to participating countries proportional to their populations** and deployed initially for healthcare workers.

Topic 22: Sunspots

Importance for Prelims: Science and Technology



A massive Sunspot group, AR2770, was observed last week, claimed using images of the Sun's surface from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO).

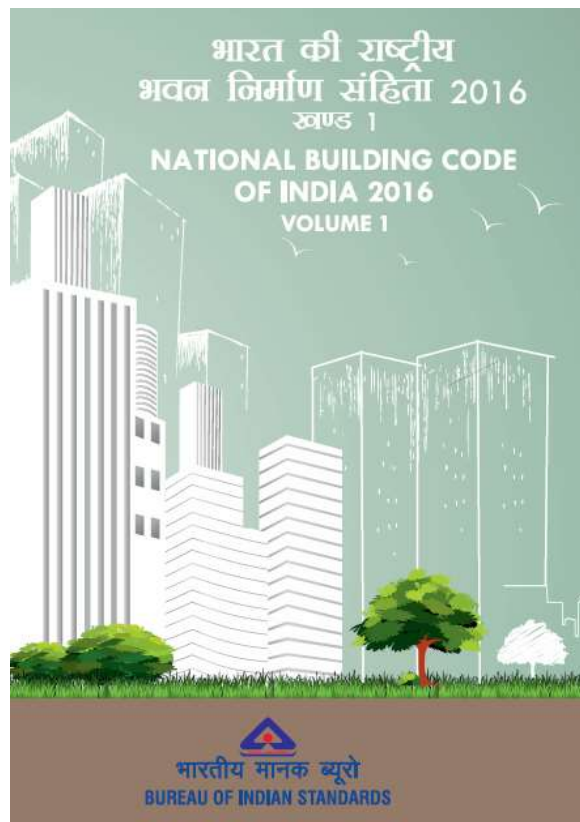
- Sunspots are **areas that appear dark on the surface of the Sun.**
- They appear dark because they are cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface.
- It's cool because they form at areas **where magnetic fields are particularly strong.** These magnetic fields are so strong that they keep some of the heat within the Sun from reaching the surface.
- Most Sunspots appear in groups that have their own magnetic

field, whose polarity reverses during every solar cycle, which **takes around 11 years**. In every such cycle, the number of Sunspots increases and decreases.

- The magnetic field lines near sunspots often tangle, cross, and reorganize. This can cause a sudden explosion of energy called a **solar flare**.
- Solar flares release a lot of radiation into space. If a solar flare is very intense, the radiation it releases **can interfere with our radio communications here on Earth**.
- Solar flares are sometimes **accompanied by a coronal mass ejection (CME for short)**.
- **CMEs are huge bubbles of radiation and particles from the Sun**. They explode into space at very high speed when the Sun's magnetic field lines suddenly reorganize.
- When charged particles from a CME reach areas near Earth, they can trigger intense lights in the sky, called auroras.
- When particularly strong, a **CME can also interfere in power utility grids, which at their worst can cause electricity shortages and power outages**.
- Solar flares and CMEs are the most powerful explosions in our solar system.

Topic 23: National Building Code of India

Importance for Prelims: Government laws



Tragedies like Ahmedabad hospital fire keep occurring regularly in India

- National Building Code of India covers the **detailed guidelines for construction, maintenance and fire safety of the structures.**
- National Building Code of India is **published by Bureau of Indian Standards** and it is **recommendatory document.**
- Guidelines were issued to the States to incorporate the recommendations of National Building Code into their local building bylaws making the recommendations of National Building Code of India as mandatory requirement.

Topic 24: World Elephant Day

Importance for Prelims: Environment



Compendium on best practices of Human-Elephant Conflict Management in India was launched on eve of World Elephant Day

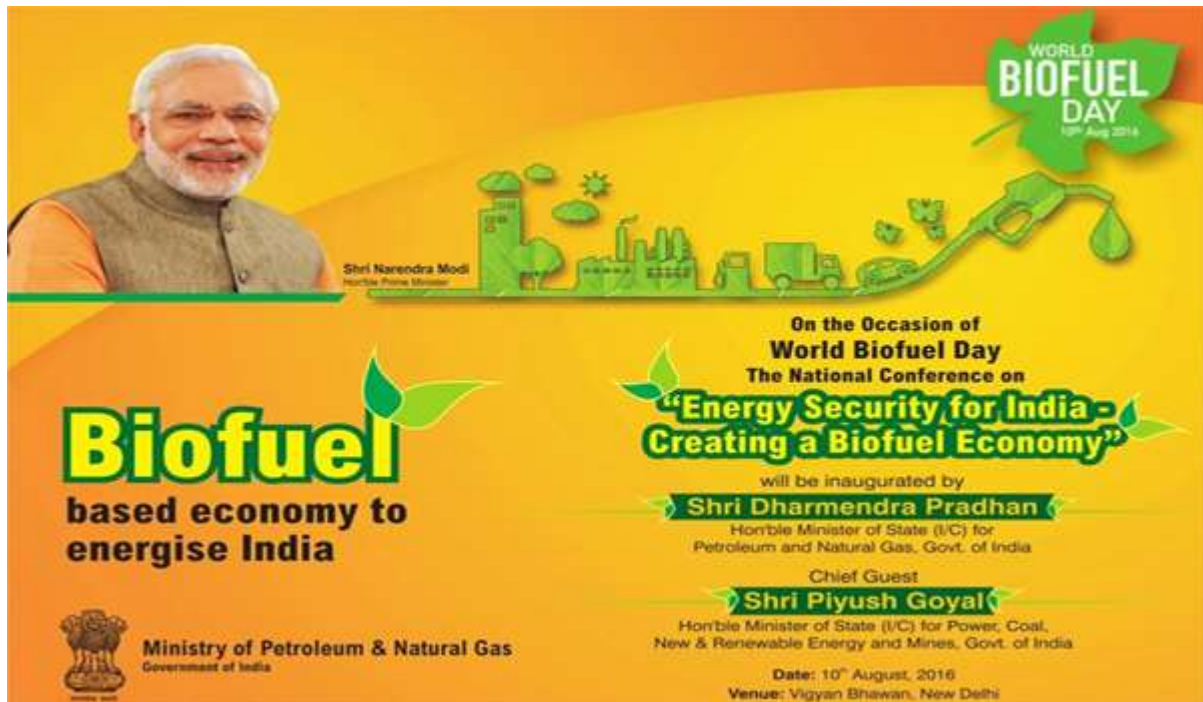
- World Elephant Day **celebrated on August 12** is an international annual event, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.
- The goal of World Elephant Day is to **create awareness on elephant conservation, and to share knowledge and positive solutions** for the better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.
- **Asian elephants are listed as “Endangered”** on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- The current population estimates indicate that there are about 50,000 -60000 Asian elephants in the world. More than **60 % of**

the population is held in India.

- Indian Elephant has also been listed in **the Appendix I of the Convention of the Migratory species** in the recently concluded Conference of Parties of CMS 13 at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat in February 2020.
- Elephant is the **Natural Heritage Animal of India** and India also celebrates this day to spread awareness towards conservation of the species.

Topic 25: World Biofuel day

Importance for Prelims: Environment/ Economy



A webinar on the occasion of the World Biofuel day was organized by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, with the theme “**Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat**”.

- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the Biofuel sector.
- World Biofuel Day is being celebrated by **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** since 2015.
- Biofuels have multiple benefits such as **reduction on import dependence, ensuring a cleaner environment, generating additional income for farmers and employment generation.**

- Since, 2014, the Government of India has taken a number of initiatives to **increase blending of biofuels**.
- The major initiatives include **administrative price mechanism for ethanol, simplifying the procurement procedures by OMCs**, amending the provisions of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, **Long term ethanol procurement policy, ethanol distillation capacity addition** and enabling lignocellulosic route for ethanol procurement.

Topic 26: No Confidence Motion

Importance for Prelims: Polity



The coalition government in Manipur won the confidence motion moved by Chief Minister N Biren Singh through a voice vote in the monsoon session of the Assembly

- A government can function only when it has majority support in the legislature.
- The party can remain in power when it shows its strength through a floor test which is primarily taken to know whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature.
- If any member of the House feels that the government in power does not have a majority then he/she can move a no-confidence motion.
- If the motion is accepted, then the party in power has to prove its majority in the House. **The member need not give a reason for moving the no confidence motion.**

Topic 27: Cellular Jail

Importance for Prelims: History



Ministry of Tourism presents

Dekho Apna Desh
a webinar on

Cellular Jail: Letters, Memoirs & Memories

Incredible India | Ministry of Tourism
Government of India | N2GD
National Digital Governance Directorate

Ministry of Tourism organises Independence Day themed webinar titled “ **Cellular Jail: Letters, Memoirs & Memories**” under **Dekho Apna Desh** webinar series

- The lives and stories of some of the most **famous political prisoners like Veer Savarkar, B.K.Dutt, Fazl-e-HaqKhairabadi, Barindra Kumar Ghose, Sushil Dasgupta** were presented.
- The important **contribution made by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** in Andaman towards India’s independence also had a mention in the presentation.
- The **Cellular Jail in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands** is a prison where Indians fighting for freedom from the British

were exiled and incarcerated under very inhuman conditions.

- The construction of the prison started in 1896 and was completed in 1910.
- The architecture of Cellular Jail was conceptualized on the basis of ‘Pennsylvania System or Separate System’ theory in which separate confinement is necessary for each inmate for complete isolation from other inmates. No communication of any kind was possible between prisoners in the same or different wings.
- Each and Every brick of the Cellular Jail has got a **heart rendering stories of resistance, sufferings and sacrifices**. Cellular Jail stands as a **mute spectator to the inhuman sufferings of the patriots, freedom fighters who were imprisoned in these cells**. They even had to sacrifice their precious lives as victim of tyranny.

Famous freedom fighters

- **Veer Savarkar** – In 1911, freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was sentenced to 50 years in the cellular jail of Andamans **for revolting against the Morley-Minto reforms** (Indian Councils Act 1909). He was released in 1924. He was known for his bravery and hence nicknamed ‘Veer’.
- **Batukeshwar Dutt**, also known as B K Dutt, was a Revolutionary Freedom Fighter. He, along with Bhagat Singh was involved in the **Central Legislative Assembly Bombing**

Case of 1929, passed away on 20th July 1965 after an illness at the age of 54. Dutt was sentenced to life imprisonment and deported to the Cellular Jail in Port Blair.

- **Fazl-E-Haq Khairabadi**– After the Indian Rebellion of 1857 failed, Fazl-E-Haq was covered by an amnesty and was arrested by the British authorities on 30 January 1859 at Khairabad for inciting violence. He was tried and found guilty of encouraging murder and role in the ‘jihad’. He was sentenced for life to the prison at Kalapani (Cellular Jail) on Andaman Island, and his property was confiscated by the judicial commissioner of Awadh court.
- **Barindra Kumar Ghose** – Following the **attempted killing of Kingsford by two revolutionaries Khudiram and Prafulla** on 30 April 1908, the police intensified its investigation which led to the arrest of Barin and Aurobindo Ghosh on 2 May 1908, along with many of his comrades. The trial (known as **the Alipore Bomb Case**) initially sentenced Barin Ghosh and Ullaskar Datta to death. However, the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment, by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Barin was deported to the Cellular Jail in Andaman in 1909 along with other convicts.
- **Sushil Dasgupta** – He was a **member of the revolutionary Yugantar Dal of Bengal**, and the Putiya Mail Robbery case of 1929 took him to Medinipur prison. From there, he escaped

along with fellow revolutionaries, Sachin Kar Gupta and Dinesh Majumdar. They were absconding for seven months. Eventually Dinesh was caught and hanged, Sushil was sent to Cellular Jail, and Sachin first to Mandalay Jail and, then, to Cellular Jail..

On December 29, 1943, **political control of the islands was passed to the Azad Hind government of Subhas Chandra Bose**. Bose visited Port Blair to raise the tricolour flag of the Indian National Army.

Topic 28: Krishi Megh

Importance for Prelims: Schemes



Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare virtually launched the **KrishiMegh (National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services)**.

- **KrishiMegh is a new chapter in digital India enabling the farmers, researchers, students and policy makers more equipped with updated and latest information regarding agriculture, research, education and extension in digital form generated by ICAR institutes and State Agriculture Universities**
KrishiMegh is to protect the precious data of the government's premier research body ICAR.
- The data recovery centre has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad.

- ICAR-KrishiMegh at NAARM Hyderabad is synchronized with ICAR-Data Center at ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi has been **built to mitigate the risk, enhance the quality, availability and accessibility of e-governance, research, extension and education in the field of agriculture in India.**
- This new Centre **has latest AI/Deep learning software/tools kits for building and deploying of deep learning** based applications such as disease and pest identification using image analysis, detection of maturity and ripening of fruits through image analysis, disease identification in livestock etc.

Topic 29: Student Entrepreneurship Programme

Importance for Prelims: Schemes



Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

- **SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers.**
- **They will receive mentor support; prototyping and testing support; enduser feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; manufacturing support; as well as the launch support of the product in the market.**
- **It encourages young aspiring school students, as well as creates a valueadding recognition platform for innovative**

talent across the country.

- **SEP 1.0 began in January 2019.** Through a 10-month-long rigorous programme, the top 6 teams of ATL Marathon—a nationwide contest where students identify community challenges and **create grassroots innovations and solutions within their ATLs**—got a chance to transform their innovative prototypes into fully functioning products, which are available in the market.

Topic 30: Tyagaraja

Importance for Prelims: Arts and culture



Ram temple in news has brought focus on Tyagaraja and his devotion to Lord Rama

- In India, there are **two dominant styles of classical music – Hindustani Music whose domain is the North and Carnatic Music, largely confined to the South.**
- By all accounts, **Saint Purandaradasa is acknowledged as the Father of Carnatic Music.**
- Although, PurandaraDasa gave Carnatic Music a start, it was the **musical trinity of Tyagaraja, MuthuswamiDikshatar, and SyamaSastri really helped to bring structure to Carnatic Music, besides raising it to truly exalted levels.**
- Tyagraja is known for **his life and his exemplary devotion to Lord Rama, via the path of soulful music.**
- Born in Thanjavur in 1767, Tyagaraja is credited with creating thousands of devotional compositions mostly in praise of Lord Rama, of which his most famous is called the **The TyagarajaAradhana, a music festival, is held every year at Thiruvaiyaru in his honour.**

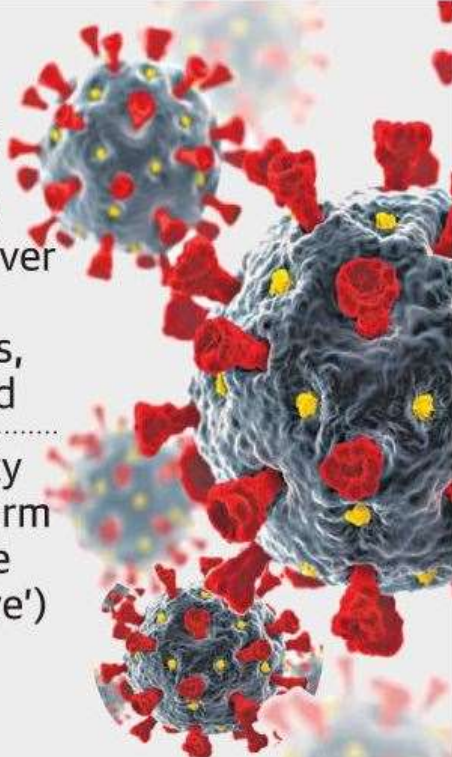
Topic 31: Mega lab and Genome sequence

Importance for Prelims: Science and Technology

Genome study

| A look at how Next Generation Sequencing works

- Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) involves scanning the entire virus genome
- This can help identify more places where the SARS-CoV-2 virus differs from related viruses and can also help develop new diagnostic tests
- Two lineages of the virus, never seen before in Indian genomes, were also found
- The sensitivity (ability to confirm those who have virus as 'positive') of NGS was 97.53%



The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is working on developing “mega labs” to ramp up testing for COVID-19 as well as improve the accuracy rate.

- These labs will be repurposing large machines, **called Next Generation Sequencing machines (NGS)**, which are normally used for sequencing human genomes, **to sequence 1,500 to 3,000 viral genomes at a go to detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus.**
- They can **substantially detect the presence of the virus even in several instances** where the traditional RT-PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) tests fail.
- **RT-PCR test identifies the SARS-CoV-2 virus by exploring**

only specific sections, whereas the **genome method** can read a **bigger chunk of virus genome** and thereby provide more **certainty** that the virus is present

- It can also **trace the evolutionary history of the virus** and **track mutations** more reliably.
- Unlike the **RT-PCR that needs primers and probes**, a key hurdle in operationalizing such tests on a mass scale early on in the pandemic, **the NGS only needs custom reagents**.

Topic 32: Transparent Taxation – Honouring the Honest

Importance for Prelims: Economy

MAXIMUM GOVERNANCE WITH
MINIMUM GOVERNMENT

**PM Modi Launches
Platform for
'Transparent Taxation -
Honouring the Honest'**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS (3/3)

- Emphasis is on making every law & policy People Centric & Public Friendly rather than Power Centric
- Initiatives like 'Vivaad Se Vishwas' Scheme pave the way for most of the cases to be settled out of court
- Scrutiny of the cases reduced by at least 4 times in last 6 years, from 0.94% in 2012-13 to 0.26% in 2018-19
- Number of people filing income tax returns increased by about 2.5 crores in last 6-7 years

my GOV
मेरी सरकार

Date: 13 August 2020

Prime Minister has launched “ **Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest**” platform through video conferencing which will honor the honest taxpayers.

- The new platform will be having **faceless assessments, faceless appeal and taxpayer charter.**

- The faceless assessment and taxpayer charter came to effect immediately, while the faceless appeal is going to be applicable from September 25.
- It is the latest in a **series of measures finance ministry** has taken to eventually get rid income tax department off its legacy **from intrusive tax collector to tax facilitator.**
- The focus is on **making the tax system people-centric and public friendly**, banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured, funding the unfunded and honoring the honest.
- In a country of 130 crore people **only 1.5 crore citizens were paying taxes.**
- **Taxpayers' charter** is a big step in the development journey of the nation. It is a step towards bringing together **rights and duties of the taxpayer and fixing the government's responsibilities towards the taxpayer**

Reforms already taken

- To unfold more **transparency in official communication**, **Document Identification Number (DIN)** was introduced some time back to ensure that every communication of the department would carry a computer generated unique document identification number.
- Last year, the **corporate tax rates were reduced from 30 percent to 22 percent** and for new manufacturing units the rate was reduced to 15 percent.

- **Dividend distribution tax was also abolished to reduce the unwanted burden** With a view to **provide for resolution of pending tax disputes** the department also brought out the **Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020** under which declarations for settling disputes are being filed.
- **Digital transactions and electronic modes of payment** too have been encouraged to cutdown red tapism.

Tax base

- The tax base is the **total amount of assets or revenue that a government can charge tax on.**
- For example, the assessed value is the tax base for property taxes and taxable income is the tax base for income tax.
- It can also be defined as the **total of taxable income, taxable assets, and the assessed value of property** within the government tax jurisdiction.

Topic 33: Organic farming

Importance for Prelims: Agriculture/Schemes



In a world battered by the COVID pandemic, the **demand for healthy and safe food is already showing an upward trend** and hence this is an opportune moment to be captured for a win-win situation for Indian farmers, consumers and the environment.

- Organic farming is a farming method that involves **growing and nurturing crops without the use of synthetic based fertilizers and pesticides**. Also, **no genetically modified organisms** are permitted.
- It relies on ecologically balanced agricultural principles like **crop rotation, green manure, organic waste, biological pest**

control, mineral and rock additives.

Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD)

- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER) is a **Central Sector Scheme**, a sub-mission under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) launched in the states of **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura**, during the 12th plan period.
- The scheme aims to **development of certified organic production in a value chain mode** to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification, to the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative.

Paramparagat Krishi VikasYojana (PKVY)

- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) is a **sub-component under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture(NMSA)** aims at **development of sustainable models of organic farming** through a mix of traditional wisdom and modern science to ensure long term soil fertility buildup, resource conservation and helps in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- It primarily **aims to increase soil fertility and thereby helps in**

production of healthy food through organic practices without the use of agro-chemicals.

- PKVY also aims at **empowering farmers through institutional development through clusters approach** not only in farm practice management, input production, quality assurance but also in value addition and direct marketing through innovative means.

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

- PGS is a **process of certifying organic products**, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards. The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement.
- PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System of India) is a **quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant, emphasize the participation of stakeholders**, including producers and consumers and operate outside the frame of third party certification.
- PGS India system is based on **participatory approach, a shared vision, transparency and trust**. In addition it gives PGS movement a National recognition and institutional structure.

National Program for Organic Production (NPOP)

- The Government of India has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

- The national programme involves the **accreditation programme for Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming etc.**
- The NPOP standards for production and accreditation system have been **recognized by European Commission and Switzerland** for unprocessed plant products as equivalent to their country standards.
- Similarly, **USDA has recognized NPOP conformity assessment**

procedures of accreditation as equivalent to that of US. With these recognitions, Indian organic products duly certified by the accredited certification bodies of India are accepted by the importing countries.

Topic 34: Sivaganga- Velu Nachiar, Mumbai- Benjamin Horniman

Importance for Prelims: History



Ministry of Tourism presents

Dekho Apna Desh

a webinar on

Lesser-known stories of India's struggle for Independence

Incredible India | Ministry of Tourism
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National e-Governance Data Center

As India gears up to celebrate its 74th Independence Day celebrations, the Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series presented a webinar titled "Lesser known stories of India's struggle against the British"

Sivaganga- Velu Nachiar

- It was in Sivaganga, during the rule of Muthu Vaduganatha Peria Odaya Thevar.
- He was **married to the princess of Ramanathapuram, Velu Nachiar.**
- King Muthu came into conflict with his neighbour, the powerful king of Arcot. At that time, the British power too was rising in

South India, and the **British had a strong ally in the Nawab of Arcot.**

- In 1772, the **British attacked Sivaganga, intending to capture it for the Nawab.**
- Muthu sent out emissaries to negotiate with them. It seemed though the British agreed to talk with them, so the Sivaganga forces relaxed their guard.
- **The British forces swept in and massacred all of them, including King Muthu.**
- The crux of the story was the **heroic battle waged by Velu Nachiar.**
- She was **determined to avenge her husband's death. She had the support of the Marudu Brothers**, fierce warlords who stood by her, along with a band of loyalists.
- Velu Nachiar was protected by Udaiyal, the leader of her bodyguards.
- The British captured her and tortured her to get her to reveal the whereabouts of Velu Nachiar. Udaiyal did not give in, and was killed.
- **The brave Velu raised one more battalion of women and named it Udaiyal Regiment.** It was commanded by the fiercely loyal Kuyili.
- **Velu Nachiar met Haidar Ali, the king of Mysore, and convinced him to help her.** Haider Ali sent 5,000 men to help

Velu Nachiar to get back Sivaganga.

- But, by now, Sivaganga had been handed over to the British, and they had fortified the place.
- Kuyili smuggled some female guerillas in, and while they held the British at bay she entered the ammunition store, and set it on fire. She died in the process.
- Velu Nachiar became Queen of Sivaganga and ruled for ten years. **Sivaganga remained under the rule of her family until the merger of princely states happened in 1947.**

Mumbai- Benjamin Horniman

- The Horniman Circle Gardens is a large park in South Mumbai, situated in the busy Fort district of Mumbai. It got its name in honour of **Benjamin Horniman, the British editor of a newspaper called The Bombay Chronicle.**
- **The Bombay Chronicle was begun by Sir Pherozeshah Mehta.** As its editor, **Horniman spoke up against colonialism.** He used the Bombay Chronicle to speak about Indian nationalist causes.
- Then in 1919, the JallianwalaBagh massacre happened in Amritsar. The British knew that there would be a terrible backlash over the incident. They immediately clamped down on the press. **Horniman defied the censorship.** He **smuggled a first-hand report of the massacre out of Punjab and published it.** He continued publishing follow ups to the story

and got the British really worried. They **deported Horniman to England.**

- **Horniman continued to protest against the cruelties of the British rule in India in all his writings from England.** In 1926, he exploited a loophole in his deportation order and returned to India to continue his work.

Topic 35: ILO Convention 182

Importance for Prelims: IR



ILO Convention No. 182 on the **Worst Forms of Child Labour** has become the **first international labour standard ever to achieve universal ratification**.

- Ending child labour has been one of the main goals of the ILO, which was founded in 1919.
- The UN agency estimates that 152 million children worldwide are affected, with 73 million in hazardous work.
- Most child labour takes place in the agriculture sector, mainly due to poverty and parents' difficulties in finding decent work.
- **Convention No. 182 calls for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, which includes slavery, forced labour and trafficking.**

- It **forbids the use of children under 18** in armed conflict, prostitution, pornography, illicit activities such as drug trafficking, and in hazardous work.
- The Convention was **adopted by ILO member states meeting in Geneva in 1999**.
- It is **one of the organization's eight Fundamental Conventions**, which cover issues such as the elimination of forced labour, the abolition of work-related discrimination and the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- The **Pacific island nation Tonga** deposited its ratification instruments with the ILO on Tuesday, becoming the final country to do so.
- The ILO said incidence of child labour and its worst forms dropped by almost 40 per cent between 2000 and 2016 as ratification rates increased and countries adopted laws and policies, including relating to minimum age to work.

Topic 36: National Health Authority

Importance for Prelims: Government organisation



Building on the Ayushman Bharat platform, the Centre is looking to **further expand health insurance to cover the “missing middle”**.

- National Health Authority (NHA) is the **apex body responsible for implementing India’s flagship public health insurance/assurance** scheme called **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.

Functions of NHA

- Determine the **central ceiling for premium** (or maximum central contribution for trusts) per family per year to be provided to the States/UTs and review it from time to time, based on field evidence and actuarial analysis.
- **Develop and enforce compliance with standards** for treatment

protocols, quality protocols, minimum documentation protocols, data sharing protocols, data privacy and security protocols, fraud prevention and control including penal provisions etc.

- **Develop mechanisms for strategic purchasing of health care services** through PM-JAY, so as to get best return on Government's investment.
- Create conducive conditions for strategic purchasing by preparing a list of packages and their rates and updating them from time to time using a transparent, predictable and evidence-based process.
- Build a **state of the art health information technology ecosystem** with requisite foundational components on which PM-JAY and other health systems can be hosted/linked; Information Technology standards will be developed in consultation with Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Coordination with various State Governments on regular basis for implementation of PM-JAY. Capacity building of State Health Agencies and other stakeholders continuously** carrying out awareness activities for informing beneficiaries and other stakeholders about the scheme.
- Prevention, detection and control of fraudulent activities and abuse. **Grievance redressal for all the stakeholders at various levels.** Set up an efficient monitoring system for the scheme.

- Stimulate cross learning, sharing of best practices amongst States and documentation of these practices. Ensure interoperability, standardization and convergence amongst schemes of Central Ministries.
- Generate evidence for the policy makers from schemes' data and other research/evaluations so as to facilitate evidence-based decision making and policy formulation by the Government.

Topic 37: Telecommunication Engineering Centre

Importance for Prelims: Government organisation



India has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) its intention to **make it mandatory for telecom products sold, imported or used in the country to be tested and certified by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC)** under the Department of Telecommunications. Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) is a **technical body representing the interest of Department of Telecom (DoT), Ministry of Communications and IT, Government of India.**

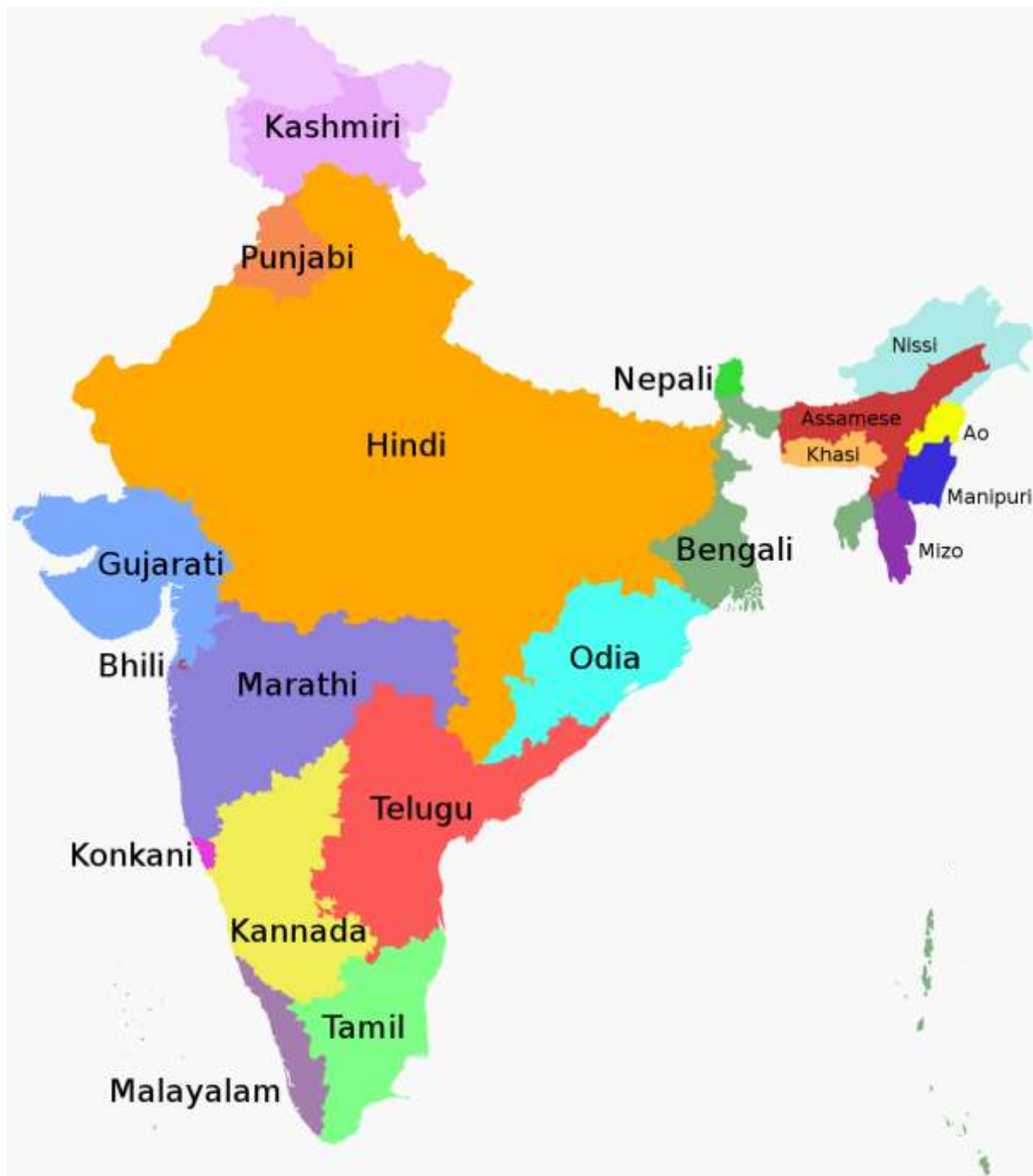
- TEC deal with **visualization and strategic positioning of future telecom sector**, technological forecasting, assessment, and specification of next generation network elements

Standardization activities of TEC:

- **Prepare specification of common standards with regard to Telecom network equipment**, services and interoperability. Published specifications of TEC are of three types namely Generic Requirements (GRs), Interface Requirements (IRs) and Service Requirements (SR).
- Providing **technical support to DoT and technical advice to TRAI & TDSAT** and interact with multilateral agencies like APT, ETSI and ITU etc. for standardisation.

Topic 38: Official language

Importance for Prelims: Polity



The Supreme Court Thursday advised government to **amend the Official Languages Act, 1963** to allow publication of official notifications in languages other than Hindi and English.

The constitutional provisions dealing with **the language of the courts and legislation** are as follows:

- **Until Parliament provides otherwise, the following are to be in the English language only:** All proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every high court and the authoritative texts of all bills, acts, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and byelaws at the Central and state levels.
- However, the **governor of a state, with the previous consent of the president, can authorise the use of Hindi or any other official language of the state, in the proceedings in the high court of the state**, but not with respect to the judgments, decrees and orders passed by it. In other words, the judgments, decrees and orders of the high court must continue to be in English only (until Parliament otherwise provides).
- Similarly, a **state legislature can prescribe the use of any language (other than English)** with respect to bills, acts, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations or bye-laws, but a translation of the same in the English language is to be published.