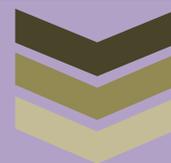


**WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE for**



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

**DECEMBER-VOL-III-2021**

16 December to 22 December



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*Success is born of action...*

## **Topic 1. SIXTH SCHEDULE**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Polity***

BJP MP from Ladakh demanded that the region be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard land, employment, and cultural identity of the local population

- The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous governmental divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and governmental autonomy inside a state.
- ADCs have up to thirty members with a term of 5 years, and may create laws, rules and laws with reference to land, forest, water, agriculture, village councils, health, sanitation, village- and town-level policing, inheritance, wedding and divorce, social customs and mining, etc.
- The Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam is an exception with over forty members and also the right to create laws on thirty-nine issues.
- The Sixth Schedule applies to the North-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram (three Councils each), and Tripura (one Council).

### **Why does Ladakh want to be part of the Sixth Schedule?**

- Buddhist-dominated Leh district had long demanded UT standing because it felt neglected by the erstwhile state government, that was dominated by politicians from Kashmir and Jammu.
- There was a lot of enthusiasm initially, the most of in Leh, when the August five, 2019 choices that created 2 new Union Territories.
- The enthusiasm waned because it was understood that whereas the UT of J&K would have a legislature, the UT of Ladakh wouldn't.
- There had been four MLAs from the region within the erstwhile J&K Assembly; the administration of the region is currently completely within

the hands of bureaucrats.

- To several in Ladakh, the govt currently looks even a lot of distant than Srinagar.
- Also, the modified domicile policy in Jammu and Kashmir has raised fears within the region regarding its own land, employment, demography, and cultural identity.
- The UT has 2 Hill councils in Leh and Kargil, however neither is under the Sixth Schedule.
- Their powers are restricted to collection of some local taxes like parking fees and allotment and use of land vested by the Centre.

### **Can Ladakh be included in Sixth Schedule?**

- In Sept 2019, the National Commission for scheduled Tribes suggested the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule, noting that the new UT was preponderantly tribal (more than 97%), individuals from different elements of the country had been restricted from buying or acquiring land there, and its distinct cultural heritage required preservation.
- Notably, no region outside the Northeast has been included within the Sixth Schedule.
- In fact, even in Manipur, that has preponderantly tribal populations in some places, the autonomous councils aren't included within the Sixth Schedule.
- Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, that are completely tribal, also are not within the Sixth Schedule.
- Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule would be difficult.
- The Constitution is very clear, Sixth Schedule is for the Northeast.
- For tribal areas in the rest of the country, there is the Fifth Schedule.

## **Topic 2. MARRIAGE AGE OF WOMEN FROM 18 TO 21**

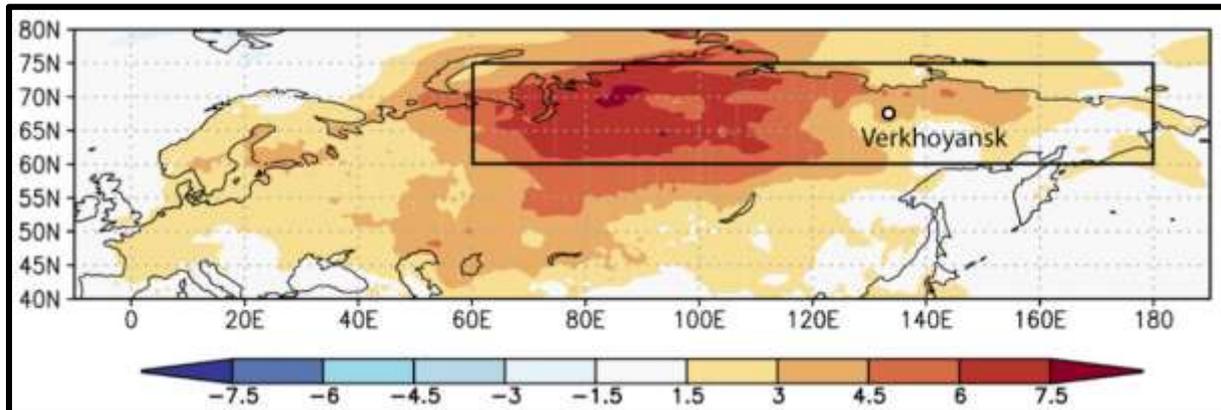
### ***Importance for Prelims:Governance***

Union Cabinet Wednesday passed a proposal to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years — the same as men.

- Following the Cabinet’s approval, the govt. can introduce an modification to the Prohibition of child wedding Act, 2006, and consequently bring amendments to the Special wedding Act and private laws like the Hindu marriage Act, 1955.
- It was supported recommendations submitted to Niti Aayog in Dec. 2020 by the Centre’s task force, headed by Jaya Jaitly, that was constituted to look at “matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate), improvement of nutritionary levels and connected issues”. Section 5(iii) of the Hindu marriage Act, 1955 sets eighteen years because the minimum age for the bride and twenty one for the groom.
- The Special marriage Act, 1954 and also the Prohibition of child marriage Act, 2006 additionally prescribe eighteen and twenty one years because the minimum age of consent for wedding for girls and men, respectively.
- Women’s age of wedding was increased from fifteen years to eighteen years in 1978, by amending the erstwhile Sharda Act of 1929.

### Topic 3. 2020 HEAT RECORD IN SIBERIAN TOWN

#### *Importance for Prelims:Environment*



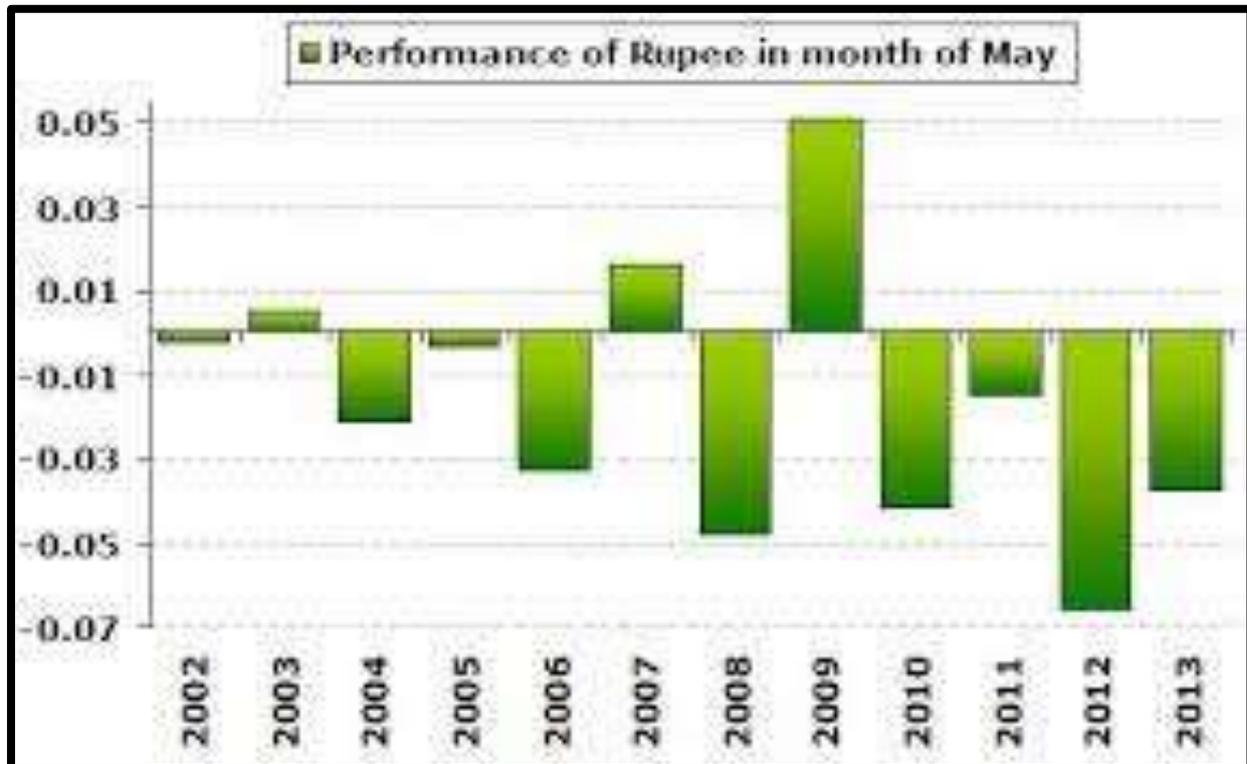
WMO confirms 2020 heat record in Siberian town

- Verkhoyansk, a city in Siberia, recorded a temperature of thirty-eight degrees Celsius on June twenty, 2020.
- It was then pushed because the highest temperature ever recorded within the Arctic region.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has currently confirmed that the Siberian city, one hundred fifteen kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, did experience the highest temperature ever recorded within the Arctic region.
- The Arctic region is warming at over double the rate because the rest of the planet, in the main due to human-made greenhouse gas emissions.
- The increased rate of warming is due to a phenomenon called Arctic amplification, wherein the melting ice hastens the method of warming by exposing areas that aren't good at reflective back heat into the atmosphere.
- The impact of warming on the region is such the World Meteorological Organization has also a new class — “highest recorded temperature at or north of 66.5°C, the Arctic Circle” — to its international Archive of Weather and Climate Extremes.

- Siberia Is an extensive geographical region, constituting all of North Asia, from the ural mountains within the west to the pacific ocean within the east.
- It has been an area of Russia since the latter half the sixteenth century, when the Russians conquered lands east of the ural mountains.
- Siberia is vast and sparsely populated.
- The river yenisey divides siberia into 2 parts, Western and eastern.
- Siberia stretches southward from the arctic ocean to the hills of north-central kazakhstan and to the northern parts of Mongolia and China.
- Siberia is thought worldwide primarily for its long, harsh winters, with a Jan average of  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- It is geographically situated in Asia; but, because of it being colonized and incorporated into Russia, it's culturally and politically a locality of Europe.
- International Archive of Weather and Climate Extremes The World Meteorological Organization Archive maintains official records of the globe, hemispheric and regional extremes related to a number of specific kinds of weather.
- Presently, the Archive lists extremes for temperature, pressure, rainfall, hail, wind, and lightning also as 2 specific sorts of storms, tornadoes and tropical cyclones.
- One common weather variable, snowfall, isn't listed due to potential problems in consistent official measuring around the world.

## Topic 4. RUPEE DEPRECIATION

*Importance for Prelims: Economy*



FPI outflow, fears over US Fed taper pull Re below 76-mark

- Currency depreciation may be a fall within the price of a currency during a floating rate of exchange system.
- In a floating rate of exchange system, market forces (based on demand and provide of a currency) determine the worth of a currency.
- Rupee depreciation that means rupee has become less valuable with relevance dollar.
- Some of the factors that influence the worth of a currency: Inflation Interest rates deficit macroeconomic policies Equity market Currency depreciation will increase a country's export activity as its product and services become cheaper to shop for.
- The Reserve Bank of India intervenes within the currency market to support the rupee as a weak domestic unit will increase a country's import bill.

- In News – The rupee fell below the seventy six per U.S. dollar level as foreign fund outflows intense following international strengthening of the U.S. dollar sooner than the United States Federal Reserve System meet.
- According to analysts, the rupee weakened because the dollar index surged when wholesale value within the United States rose to record highs.
- The rupee fall is predicted to push up import prices whereas exporters could benefit from the dollar's rise.
- The rate hike may spur capital outflows from rising markets like india and weigh on the native unit.

## Topic 5. SPEAKER OF LOK SABHA

### *Importance for Prelims: Polity*

The Speaker has ample power to quell disorderly behaviour, but thereafter, the House is the master

- The speaker of Lok Sabha is the chair person or presiding officer.
- The members of Lok Sabha elect speaker and deputy speaker from among its members after elections or when vacancy exists.
- To maintain independence of the office of speaker his salary on the consolidated Fund of India and the same is not subject to vote of Parliament.
- He is sixth in the Order of Precedence of Government of India.
- The speaker decides the agenda of discussions and has a casting vote (vote not in first place, but, only if tie exist).
- The Committees of the House perform under the general direction of the Speaker.
- He nominates the chairpersons of the committee. Committees just like the Business consultative Committee, the overall purposes Committee and also the Rules Committee work directly under her chairmanship the speaker has the ability to adjourn or suspend the house/meetings if the quorum isn't met. The Speaker ensures the discipline and decorousness of the house.
- If the speaker finds the behaviour and a Member of Parliament isn't good, he/she will penalize the unruly members by suspending.
- The Speaker of Lok Sabha doesn't leave the workplace just after dissolution of the assembly.
- He continues to be within the workplace until the recently formed assembly takes its 1st meeting and elects the new Speaker.
- The final power to make a decision whether a specific bill may be a cash

Bill or not is vested within the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

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## Topic 6. UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGES IN INDIA

### *Importance for Prelims: Art and Culture*

**NEWSICLE**

### KNOW YOUR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

In a recent interview, UNESCO director general Irina Bokova said that yoga is in the list of elements to be considered by the Intangible Heritage Committee for inscription on UNESCO's register. Following are the Indian elements that are already present on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

<p><b>Kutiyattam »</b> A form of Sanskrit theatre traditionally performed in Kerala 2001 2008 Year Year proclaimed Inscribed</p>	<p><b>Ramman »</b> A religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal region 2009 2009</p>	<p><b>Kalbelia »</b> Folk songs and dances performed in Rajasthan 2010</p>	 <p><b>Chhau »</b> A traditional dance from eastern India 2010</p>
<p><b>Vedic chanting »</b> The oral tradition of recitation of the Vedas 2003 2008</p>	<p><b>Mudiyett »</b> A ritual theatre of Kerala 2010</p>	<p><b>Buddhist chanting of Ladakh »</b> Recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu &amp; Kashmir 2010</p>	
 <p><b>Ramlila »</b> A theatrical performance of the Ramayana 2005 2008</p>	<p><b>Navroz »</b> The name of the Iranian new year. Observed by Parsis in India 2009</p>		

### Durga Puja gets intangible cultural heritage tag

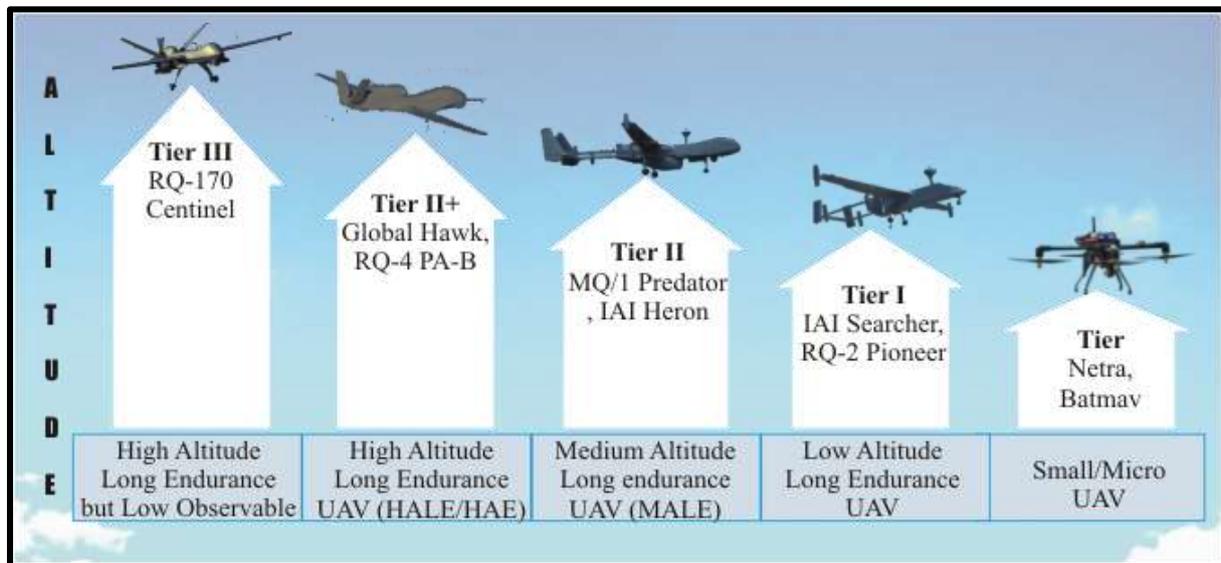
- This coveted list is created up of those intangible heritage parts that assist demonstrate diversity of cultural heritage and lift awareness regarding its importance.
- The list was established in 2008 once the Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into impact.
- This list conjointly encompasses living expressions and traditions.
- Intangible cultural heritage means that the talents, knowledge, expressions, representations, practices – also as the artifacts, objects, instruments, and cultural areas related to them that various teams, communities and in bound cases » people recognize as a part of their cultural heritage.

- This list is penalisation by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Its members are elective by State parties meeting within the UN General Assembly.
- UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages in india|Bharat|Asian country|Asian nation} India, known as for its heritage and cultural diversity, has thirteen cultural heritages in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list.
- About durga Puja–Durga Puja, also called Durgotsava or Sharodotsava, is an annual Hindu pageant originating within the Indian subcontinent that reveres and pays homage to the Hindu god durga and is also celebrated due to Durga's victory over Mahishasur.
- Durga Puja may be a five-day pageant that begins on the fifth night of the nine-day Navratri pageant and ends on the tenth day, that is Dashami.
- During this time, people put together worship and invoke god durga, who is regarded as the female energy of the cosmos, conjointly called 'Shakti'.
- Though originating in west bengal, that has the biggest Bengali community within the country, the pageant is celebrated in several different parts of india, and also the world.
- The pageant is observed within the Indian calendar month of Ashwin, that corresponds to September–October within the gregorian calendar.
- It may be a classic fusion of religion and culture.
- Durga puja is a very important pageant within the Shaktism tradition of Hinduism.

## Topic 7. MEDIUM ALTITUDE LONG ENDURANCE (MALE)

### UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV)

*Importance for Prelims: Defence and Security*



Indigenous efforts to make UAVs crosses a milestone

- The indigenous Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) development programme by the Defence analysis and Development Organisation (DRDO) has crossed a milestone by reaching an altitude of 25,000 feet and an endurance of ten hours.
- It has advanced capabilities and meets the wants of the 3 Services.
- It technologically matches contemporary UAVs accessible and can even be cheaper than the imported ones.
- With some delays in development, the Rustom-2 last year with success flew for eight hours at an altitude of 16,000 feet.
- It has been designed and developed by the aeronautical Development establishment (ADE), Bengaluru with production partners being the hindustan aeronautics Ltd and also the bharat electronics restricted.
- It is being developed to hold out surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) roles and is capable of carrying completely different mixtures of advanced payload and capable of auto landing among others.

- High endurance UAVs are a priority demand for the armed forces eastern within the standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.
- The armed forces rely heavily on the Israeli Searcher and Heron drones and need more such UAVs.
- Fire-fighting suit Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had handed to the Home Ministry over a structural fire-fighting suit developed by DRDO's Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi.
- The suit weighing 2.8 kilo is an ensemble of many layers, with the outer layer being the foremost durable and protects against heat, flames, water, chemicals and conjointly against cuts and abrasion, consistent with the DRDO.
- Such a suit has been developed for the 1st time within the country and meets European standards whereas at a similar time lowering import prices.

## **Topic 8. ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Polity***

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi set the tone of the Opposition's aggressive stance as he submitted a notice of an adjournment motion seeking the dismissal of Mr. Mishra

- It is introduced within the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a defined matter of emergency public importance, and desires the support of fifty members to be admitted.
- As it interrupts the common business of the House, it's considered an extraordinary device.
- It involves a part of censure against the govt. and therefore Rajya Sabha isn't permissible to create use of this
- The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than 2 hours and thirty minutes.
- The right to move a motion for an adjournment of the business of the home is subject to the subsequent restrictions: It ought to raise a matter that is definite, factual, emergency and of public importance; It mustn't cover more than one matter; It ought to be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence and will not be framed generally terms; It mustn't raise a queries of privilege; It mustn't revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed within the same session; It shouldn't deal with any matter that's under adjudication by court; and It mustn't raise any question that may be raised on a distinct motion.

## Topic 9. PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA

*Importance for Prelims: Government Schemes*

**PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA**

**Farmers' Welfare**

Rs. 50 thousand crore to be spent in five years to bring 140 lakh hectares additional area under irrigation

Har Khet ko Pani

To bring 28.5 Lakh hectare area under irrigation during the year 2016-2017

Rs. 12,517 crore to be incurred on 23 irrigation schemes in 2016-17

#TransformingIndia

More crop per drop

Nod to extend irrigation scheme for five years

- PMKSY may be a Centrally Sponsored scheme (Core Scheme) launched in 2015.
- Centre- States are 75:25 per cent.
- In the case of the north-eastern region and craggy states, it'll be 90:10.
- Its objectives are: Convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, To expand the cultivatable area under assured irrigation (HarKhetkopani), to enhance on-farm water use potency to reduce wastage of water, to improve the adoption of precision-irrigation and different water saving technologies (More crop per drop), to enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal based mostly water for peri-urban agriculture and attract greater personal

investment in a preciseness irrigation system.

## **Topic 10. THE ORDINANCE RAJ**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Polity***

The frequent promulgation of ordinances is detrimental for a constitutional democracy.

- The ordinance-making power within the Constitution isn't a necessary feature of the westminster type of parliamentary democracy that india has adopted.
- It may be a relic of the govt of india Act, 1935 that was even so retained by the Constituent Assembly.
- Separation of powers between the legislature, executive and Judiciary: In india, the central and state legislatures are liable for law creating, the central and state governments are responsible for the implementation of laws and also the judiciary (Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts) interprets these laws.
- However, there are many overlaps within the functions and powers of the 3 institutions.
- For example, the President has certain legislative and judicial functions and also the legislature will delegate some of its functions to the manager within the kind of subordinate legislation.
- Ordinance creating powers of the President Article 123 of the Constitution grants the President certain law making powers to promulgate Ordinances when either of the 2 homes of Parliament isn't in session and thus it's impossible to enact laws within the Parliament.
- An Ordinance could relate to any subject that the Parliament has the ability to pass law on.
- Conversely, it's the same limitations because the Parliament to legislate, given the distribution of powers between the Union, State and coinciding Lists.

- Thus, the subsequent limitations exist with consider to the Ordinance creating power of the executive:
  1. legislative assembly isn't in session: The President will only promulgate an Ordinance once either of the 2 homes of Parliament isn't in session.
  2. Immediate action is required: The President cannot promulgate an Ordinance unless he's satisfied that there are circumstances that need taking 'immediate action'
  3. Parliamentary approval during session: Ordinances should be approved by Parliament within six weeks of reassembling or they shall cease to control.
- They will cease to control just in case resolutions unfavorable the Ordinance are gone by each the homes.
- Figure one shows the number of Ordinances that are promulgated in india since 1990.
- The largest number of Ordinances was promulgated in 1993, and there has been a decline within the range of Ordinance promulgated since then.
- However, the past year has seen an increase within the number of Ordinances declare.
- Ordinance making powers of the Governor even as the President of india is constitutionally mandated to issue Ordinances under Article 123, the Governor of a state will issue Ordinances under Article 213, once the state general assembly (or either of the 2 homes in states with bicameral legislatures) isn't in session.
- The powers of the President and therefore the Governor are loosely comparable with regard to Ordinance making.
- However, the Governor cannot issue an Ordinance while not instructions from the President in 3 cases wherever the assent of the President would

are needed to pass the same Bill vital Cases Supreme court cases  
Judgement RC Cooper vs.

- Union of india,1970 In RC Cooper vs. Union of india (1970) the Supreme Court, whereas examining the constitutionality of the Banking companies (Acquisition of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1969 that sought to nationalise fourteen of India's largest industrial banks, held that the President's decision may be challenged on the grounds that 'immediate action' wasn't required; and also the Ordinance had been passed primarily to by-pass debate and discussion within the legislative assembly.
- 38 Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975 Inserted a new clause (4) in Article 123 stating that the President's satisfaction while promulgating an Ordinance was final and could not be questioned in any court on any ground.
- 44 Constitutional Amendment Act,1977 Deleted clause (4) inserted by the 38 CAA and therefore reopened the possibility for the judicial review of the President's decision to promulgate an Ordinance.
- AK Roy vs. Union of india, 1980 In AK Roy vs. Union of india (1982) whereas examining the constitutionality of the National Security Ordinance, 1980, that sought to supply for preventive detention in bound cases, the Court argued that the President's Ordinance creating power isn't beyond the scope of judicial review.
- However, it didn't explore the problem further as there was deficient proof before it and also the Ordinance was replaced by an Act.
- It also pointed out the requirement to exercise judicial review over the President's decision only if there have been substantial grounds to challenge the decision, and not at "every casual and spending challenge".
- T Venkata Reddy vs. State of andhra pradesh, 1985 In T Venkata Reddy vs. State of andhra pradesh (1985), whereas deliberating on the

promulgation of the andhra pradesh abolishment of Posts of Part-time Village Officers Ordinance, 1984 that abolished certain village level posts, the Court reiterated that the Ordinance creating power of the President and also the Governor was a legislative power, comparable to the legislative power of the Parliament and state legislatures respectively.

- This implies that the motives behind the exercise of this power can't be questioned, even as is that the case with legislation by the Parliament and state legislatures.
- DC Wadhwa vs. State of bihar, 1987 t was argued in DC Wadhwa vs. State of bihar (1987) the legislative power of the chief to promulgate Ordinances is to be used in exceptional circumstances and not as a substitute for the law creating power of the legislative assembly.
- Here, the court was examining a case wherever a state government (under the authority of the Governor) continuing to re-promulgate ordinances, that is, it repeatedly issued new Ordinances to replace the old ones, rather than laying them before the state legislative assembly.
- A total of 259 Ordinances were re-promulgated, some of them for as long as fourteen years.
- The Supreme Court argued that if Ordinance creating was created a usual practice, making an 'Ordinance raj' the courts may strike down re-promulgated Ordinances.

## Topic 11. BULLOCK CART RACES

*Importance for Prelims: Art and Culture*



Supreme Court allows bullock cart races in Maharashtra

- Bullock Cart Race State Kambala Coastal Karnataka thththJallikattu Tamil Nadu Bail GadiShariat / Shankarpat Maharashtra Maramadi Kerala Balda di daud Punjab Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 The legislative intent of the Act is to “prevent the infliction of inessential pain or suffering on animals”.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Act.
- This Act provides for punishment for inflicting inessential cruelty and suffering to animals.
- The Act defines animals and different forms of animals.
- It provides the rules regarding experimentation on animals for scientific functions.
- The prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017 has been framed under the prevention of

Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

- The Rules permit a magistrate to forfeit the cattle of an owner facing trial under the Act.
- The authorities will additionally provide such animals for “adoption”.

## Topic 12. ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

### *Importance for Prelims: Polity*

CEC 'Interacted' With PMO after Unusual Govt Note Demanding His Presence at Meeting: Report

- The Commission's interactions with the govt. on election problems usually remain limited to its administrative ministry; the law ministry or, if security forces ought to be organized for a particular election, the house ministry.
- The election commission of india|Bharat|Asian country|Asian nation} is an autonomous constitutional authority accountable for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in india, and also the offices of the President and vice chairman within the country.
- Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.
- Article 324 to 329 of the constitution deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and therefore the member Structure of the commission The commission consists of 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners.
- The secretariat of the commission is found in new delhi.
- At the state level election commission is helped by Chief Electoral Officer who is an IAS rank Officer.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They have a set tenure of six years, or up to the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy a similar standing and receive wages and perks as available to

Judges of the Supreme Court of india.

- The Chief Election Commissioner may be removed from workplace only through a method of removal like that of a Supreme Court choose for by Parliament.
- Procedure of Removal Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court, CEC, comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is also removed from workplace through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of ‘Proven misbehaviour or incapacity’.
- Removal needs special majority of 2/3rd members present and vote supported by over fifty per cent of the overall strength of the house.
- The Constitution doesn't use the word ‘impeachment’, for the removal of the judges, CAG, CEC.
- The term ‘Impeachment’ is only used for removing the President which needs the special majority of 2/3rd members of the entire strength of each the houses that isn't used elsewhere.
- Functions election commission of india superintendents, direct and management the whole method of conducting elections to Parliament and legislative assembly of each State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of india.
- The most vital function of the commission is to make a decision the election schedules for the conduct of periodic and timely elections, whether general or bye-elections.
- It prepares electoral roll, problems Electronic photo identity card (EPIC).
- It decides on the location polling stations, assignment of voters to the polling stations, location of counting centres, arrangements to be created in and around polling stations and counting centres and every one allied matters.
- It grants recognition to political parties & allot election symbols to them

along with settling disputes associated with it.

- The Commission conjointly has consultative jurisdiction within the matter of post election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- It problems the Model Code of Conduct in election for political parties and candidates so that the nobody indulges in unfair practice or there's no arbitrary abuse of powers by those in power.
- It sets limits of campaign expenditure per candidate to all the political parties, and conjointly monitors a similar.
- Prime Minister's office (PMO) The Prime Minister's office (PMO) consists of the immediate employees of the Prime Minister of india, likewise as multiple levels of support employees reportage to the Prime Minister.
- The PMO is headed by the Principal Secretary The PMO was originally known as the Prime Minister's Secretariat till 1977, once it had been renamed throughout the Morarji Desai administration It got the status of department under Allocation of Business rules 1961.
- This employees agency is especially involved with providing help in decision making at high level of government of india.
- But even though its importance it's accorded as further constitutional body.
- Principal functions of the PMO: To deal with all references that under the principles of business need to come to the PM to assist the PM within the discharge of his overall responsibilities because the Chief executive like liaison with the Union Ministries and also the State govts on matters that the PM is also interested.
- To assist the PM within the discharge of his responsibilities because the Chairman of planning Commission.

- To deal with public relations facet of the PMO.
- To offer PM help within the examination of cases submitted to him for an order under prescribed rules.

## **Topic13. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CELLS (PDCS)**

### ***Importance for Prelims:Economy***

Officials across ministries are working with investors to facilitate 863 projects with an investment of \$121 billion across sectors, including chemicals and petrochemicals, steel and heavy industry

- Project Development Cells will be dedicated units in select ministries whose primary task will be to develop investible industrial project proposals.
- The cell will be headed by a joint secretary level officer in the respective ministry.
- Project Development Cells will be set up in 22 ministries which deal with industrial sectors.
- These include heavy industries, textiles, chemicals & fertilisers, electronics, pharmaceuticals, commerce & industry, food processing, petroleum & natural gas, defence, steel, coal, housing & urban affairs, transport & highways, shipping, civil aviation, renewable energy, power, railways, health, agriculture, animal husbandry.
- The Cell are tasked with conceptualising, strategising, and implementing investible projects.
- The cell can produce detailed project reports, make sure that all permissions are in place, and land is accessible for allotment for their respective projects for investments by firms.
- Once the project proposals are prepared, they'll be presented to the authorized group of Secretaries. additionally, these cells will identify policy problems that require to be resolved and place them before the authorized group of Secretaries.
- Moreover, the Cells will interact with state governments and coordinate with them whereas making ready project proposals.

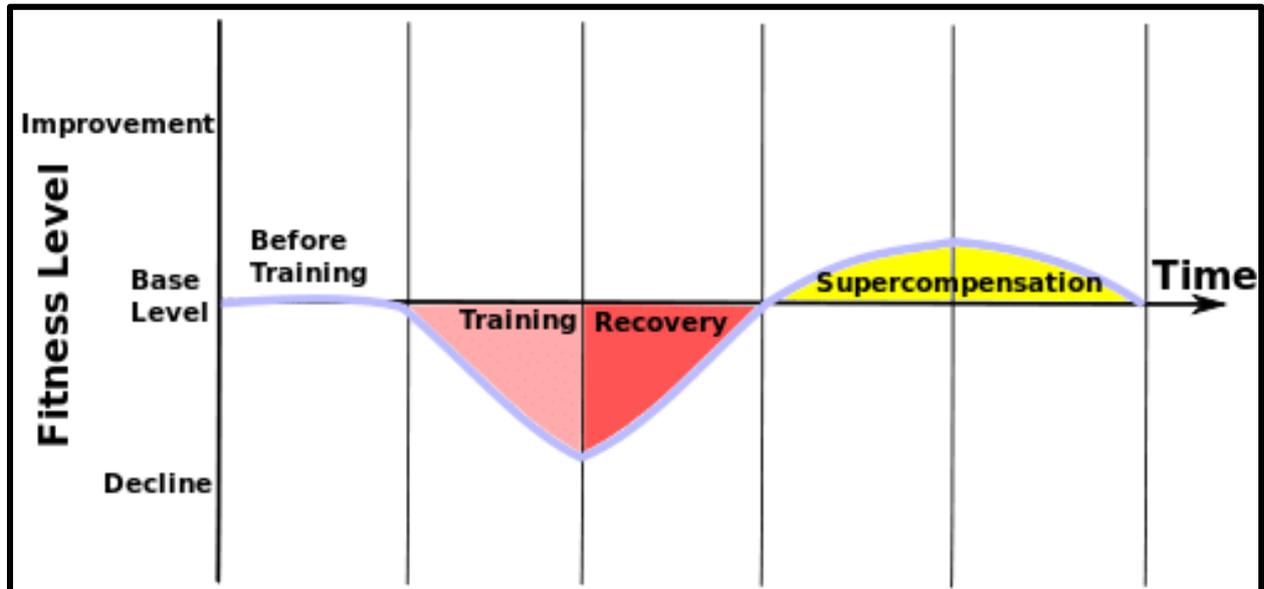
- authorised group Of Secretaries The Empowered cluster Of Secretaries (EGoS) may be a panel of six senior central government officials from the economic ministries.
- This group are headed by cupboard secretary Rajiv Gauba, who is that the senior most serving bureaucrat in india.
- Other members of this panel are Amitabh kant, chief executive officer of NITI Ayog, and Secretaries of Department for Promotion of business and Internal Trade (GuruprasadMohapatra), Department of Commerce (AnupWadhawan), Department of Economic Affairs (Tarun Bajaj), and Department of Revenue (Ajay Bhushan Pandey).
- Moreover, the secretary of the respective line ministry also will be co-opted once problems area unit mentioned by this panel.
- The secretary of DPIIT are going to be the convener of EGoS.
- The primary task of the authorized group Of Secretaries (EGoS) is to improve investment environment within the country for foreign and domestic investors.
- The EGoS also will appendage investors and promote JVs with Indian firms.
- The EGoS can discuss and recommend investment policies to government departments and make sure that they get implemented.
- It also will identify sectors for import substitution.
- It can suggest FDI reforms to attract green filed foreign investments.
- The policy recommendation of the EGoS will be necessary for central government departments.
- FDI connected clearances got by Foreign Investment Promotion Board.
- But it had been wound down in 2017 and presently, the line ministries are tasked with approving FDI connected proposals.
- Any inter-ministerial issue that comes up during promoting investments

are referred to the EGoS.

- Unlike inter-ministerial economic platforms like GST Council or the SEZ Board of Approval, states don't have any representation within the EGoS.
- EGoS won't lead to single window clearance for investors.
- EGoS can have a mechanism to interact with stakeholders from the company world to require feedback.
- DPIIT has long been performing on a one-stop digital platform for all state and central government clearances.

## Topic 14. TAPERING

*Importance for Prelims: Economy*



THE US Federal Reserve said that it will curtail its extraordinary policy support for the American economy more quickly than predicted and underscored its plans to hike interest rates three times next year.

- Fed tapering is that the gradual reduction within the bond shopping for program of the United States Federal Reserves.
- Tapering is that the gradual winding down of central bank activities wont to improve the conditions for economic process.
- Tapering activities is primarily aimed toward interest rates and capitalist expectations of what those rates are within the future.
- These will include conventional central bank activities, like adjusting the discount rate or reserve needs, or a lot of unconventional ones, like quantitative easing (QE).
- In layman terms, it is said that in 'Quantitative Easing', there's increase in dollar provide and in Fed tapering, there's decrease in dollar provide.

## Topic 15. PARVO VIRUS

*Importance for Prelims: Science and Tech*

<b>ABOUT THE DISEASE</b>		
<p><b>WHAT IS IT?</b></p> <p>➤ Parvovirus infection is a highly contagious viral illness among dogs</p>		<p><b>PREVENTION</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Compulsory</b> vaccination of puppies within 6 to 8 weeks</p>
<p><b>How it spreads?</b></p> <p>➤ Through fecal-oral route</p> <p>➤ Through contact with infected dogs</p>	<p><b>SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH PARVOVIRUS</b></p> <p>➤ Vomiting</p> <p>➤ Drastic weight loss</p> <p>➤ Bloody diarrhea</p> <p>➤ Lethargy</p>	<p>➤ Puppies must not be allowed to mix with other dogs</p> <p>➤ Owners must dispose of feces immediately to avoid spread of intestinal parasites to other dogs</p>

Nearly 2,000 pet and stray dogs in Amravati city were affected by canine parvovirus virus last month with veterinarians cautioning pet owners against a severe outbreak.

- It may be a highly contagious viral disease which will even be life-threatening in puppies and dogs.
- Parvovirus affects the intestinal tract of canines with puppies being a lot of susceptible.
- Bloody diarrhea, vomiting, drastic weight loss, dehydration and lethargy are a number of the symptoms.
- The virus has reported a ninety per cent mortality rate.
- Experts have declared suspect that the recent rise in cases of parvovirus in pets is because of the Covid-19 pandemic that compelled several pet

house owners to avoid timely vaccination of their dogs.

### **How does the virus spread in dogs?**

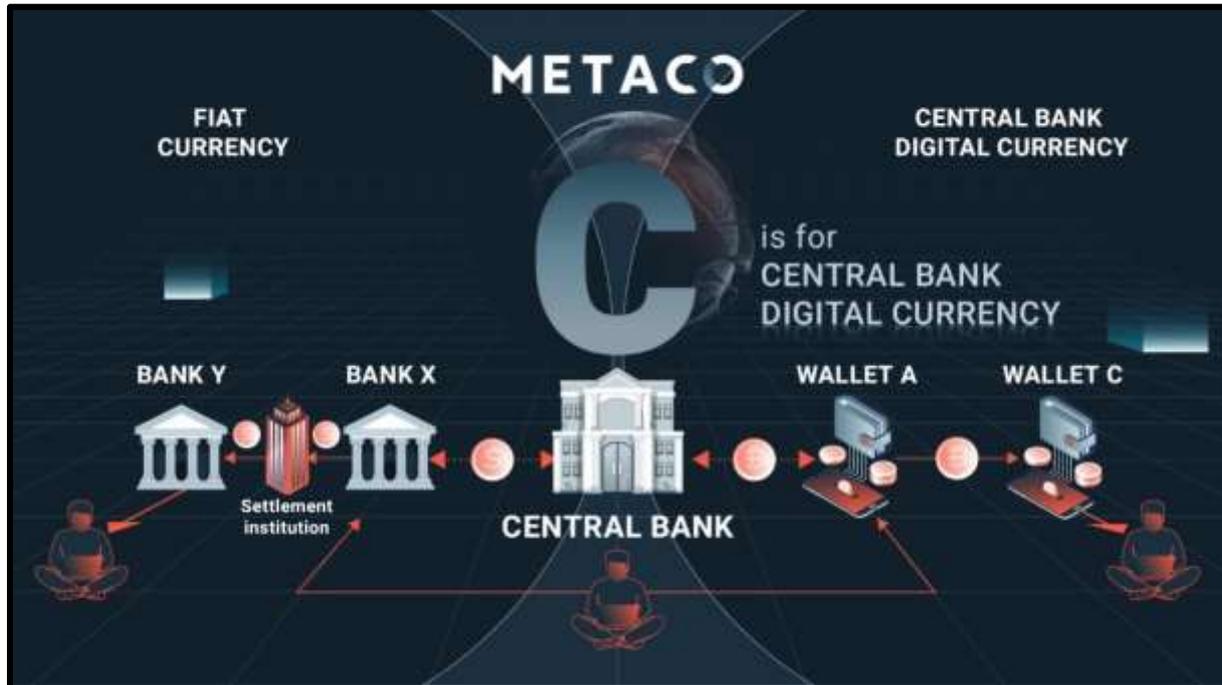
- The highly contagious virus spreads through direct contact with an infected dog or by indirect contact with a contaminated object, as well as the hands and clothing of individuals who handle infected dogs.
- The dogs will get exposed to the parvo each time it sniffs, licks, or consume infected faeces.
- Indirect transmission occurs once an individual who has recently been exposed to an infected dog touches the puppy, or once a puppy encounters a contaminated object, like food or water bowl, collars and leashes.

### **How to keep canines safe from infection?**

- Parvovirus has no cure and inoculating a puppy or a dog gives them a fighting chance against the infection.
- The first dose is given at 45 days old and the second 21 days after the first dose.
- To properly protect canines, it is necessary to administer the vaccine to them while they are puppies and then continue to do the same every year.

## Topic 16. CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)

*Importance for Prelims: Economy*



RBI board discusses private cryptos, central bank digital currency

- The term central bank digital currency (CBDC) refers to the virtual kind of a fiat currency.
- A CBDC is an electronic record or digital token of a country's official currency.
- As such, it's issued and controlled by the nation's financial authority or central bank.
- As such, they're backed by the complete faith and credit of the issue government.
- CBDCs will modify the implementation of financial and monetary} policy and promote financial inclusion in an economy by bringing the unbanked into the economic system.
- Because they're a centralized type of currency, they'll erode the privacy of voters.
- Although they aren't formally getting used, several countries are

exploring the introduction and use of CBDCs in their economy.

- Working of CBDC advantages of CBDC

## **Topic 17. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT 2002**

### ***Importance for Prelims:Environment***

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh Friday asked Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to ensure that the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 — tabled in the Lower House on Thursday — is referred to the Standing Committee on Environment rather than a Select Committee.

- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was born out of India's attempt to realise the objectives enshrined within the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992 that recognizes the sovereign rights of states to use their own Biological Resources.
- The act was enacted in 2002, it aims at the conservation of biological resources, managing its sustainable use and enabling honest and equitable sharing advantages arising out of the use and information of biological resources with the native communities.
- The Act prohibits the subsequent activities while not the previous approval from the National biodiversity Authority.
- The act envisaged a three-tier structure to control the access to biological resources: The National biodiversity Authority (NBA) The State biodiversity Boards (SBBs) The biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) (at native level)
- The act stipulates all offences under that as cognoscible and non-bailable.
- Any grievances associated with the determination of profit sharing or order of the National biodiversity Authority or a State biodiversity Board under this Act, shall be taken to the National green assembly (NGT).
- Exemptions from the Act the Act excludes Indian biological resources that are usually traded as commodities.
- Such exemption holds solely thus far the biological resources are used as commodities and for no different purpose.

- The act conjointly excludes traditional uses of Indian biological resources and associated data and after they are used in collaborative analysis comes between Indian and foreign establishments with the approval of the central government.
- Uses by cultivators and breeds, e.g. farmers, livestock keepers and bee keepers and traditional healers e.g. vaid and hakims are exempted.

**Topic 18. CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN  
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)**

*Importance for Prelims:Environment*



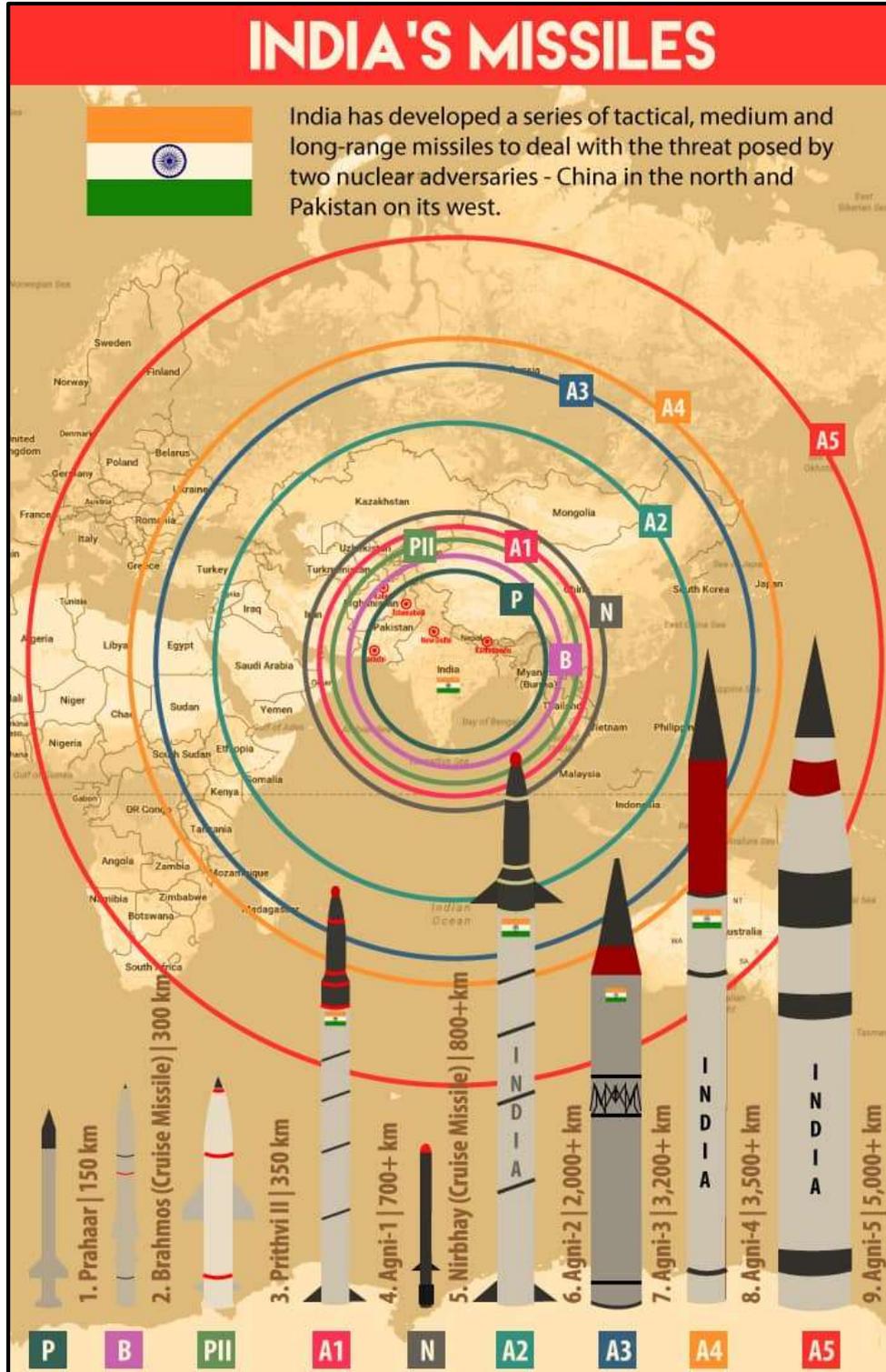
Forests Minister Bhupender Yadav Friday introduced in Lok Sabha the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill to ensure that the original 1972 Act complies with the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- CITES may be a multilateral treaty to guard endangered species. one of its main aims is to manage the international trade of animals and plants so it doesn't threaten their survival. Convention on International trade in endangered species (CITES) is part of a multilateral treaty that includes plant, animals and birds under varied classes of threat of extinction and which can be collectively protected by members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). india may be a signatory to CITES.
- CITES entered into force in July 1975. presently there are 183 Parties (include countries or regional economic integration organizations).

- Aim is to make sure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants doesn't threaten their survival.
- The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP (The United Nations Environment Programme) and is found at Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Conference of the Parties to CITES, is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it doesn't take the place of national laws. Rather, it provides a framework to be respected by every Party, that has to adopt its own domestic legislation to confirm that CITES is implemented at the national level.
- Appendices I, II and III to the Convention are lists of species afforded completely different levels or kinds of protection from over-exploitation.
- Appendix I It lists species that are the most vulnerable among CITES-listed animals and plants.
- Examples include gorillas, ocean turtles, most lady slipper orchids, and giant pandas. presently 931 species are listed.
- Appendix II It lists species that aren't essentially currently threatened with extinction however that will become thus unless trade is closely controlled. Most CITES species are listed during this Appendix, including American ginseng, paddlefish, lions, American alligators, mahogany and lots of corals. currently 34,419 species are listed.
- Appendix III It is a list of species included at the request of a Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation.
- Examples include map turtles, walrus and Cape stag beetles.
- Currently 147 species are listed.

## Topic 19. AGNI-P MISSILE

*Importance for Prelims: Defence and Security*



DRDO tests Agni- P missile for second time

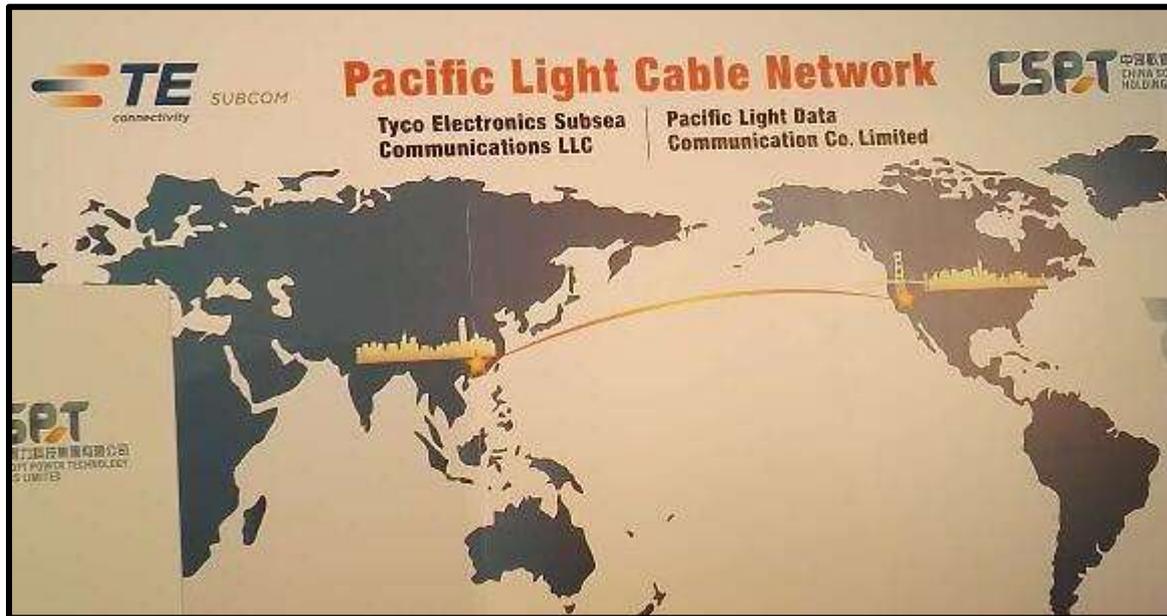
- A new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile, Agni-P (Prime), was

with success flight tested from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

- agni-P may be a new generation advanced variant of the Agni category of missiles.
- It may be a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with twin redundant navigation and guidance system which will be launched from rail and road and keep for a longer period.
- It may be transported across the length and breadth of the country, as per needs.
- Canisterisation of missiles reduces the time needed to launch the missile whereas improving its storage and quality.
- The new ballistic missile, that has a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kilometres, weighs half Agni III and has new types of propulsion and new guidance.
- It also comes with the technologies found within the 4000-kilometre range Agni-IV and 5000-kilometre range Agni-V.
- The new Agni P can be used to target enemy warships in the Indo-Pacific.
- Agni class of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability which also includes the Prithvi short range ballistic missiles, submarine launched ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft.
- The longest of the Agni series, Agni-V, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km, has already been tested several times and validated for induction.

## Topic 20. PACIFIC LIGHT CABLE NETWORK

*Importance for Prelims: Science and Tech*



U.S. recommends approving Google, Meta undersea data cable to Asia

- The Biden administration recommended Alphabet's Google and Facebook parent Meta get permission to use an undersea cable system to handle growing net traffic with Asia.
- The administration urged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant licenses for the businesses to send and receive information on the existing 8,000-mile Pacific light Cable Network.
- The undersea fiber-optic television system connects the US, Taiwan, the Philippines and hong kong. undersea cables transmit nearly all the world's net information traffic.
- About Pacific light Cable Network Pacific light Cable Network (PLCN) connects hong kong, Taiwan, the Philippines and also the United States. PLCN offers the 1st direct submarine cable connectivity between hong kong and los angeles, the US, spanning approximately 13000 kilometer.
- PLCN offers the shortest RTD between Hong Kong and Los Angeles.
- PLCN is the first and currently the only submarine cable system in the

world to deploy with C+L band optical technology. C+L band technology had been technically feasible when PLCN project was launched in the end of 2015.

## Topic 21. CLIMATE CHANGE IN ARCTIC

### *Importance for Prelims: Environment*

The Arctic Circle has continued to warm at more than twice the rate as the rest of the world through 2021

- People living within the cold however quickly warming Arctic region seem to be trapped between 2 crises: The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and a changing climate.
- “The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges for Alaska natives in accessing traditional foods,” said the Arctic report card published recently by the Arctic Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- It was only “the strength of indigenous cultural and economic practices such as food sharing networks that helped mitigate these challenges,” found the report.
- One such network is the Indigenous Food Knowledge Network, which operates in the Arctic and the United States mid-west, bridging the two diverse regions.
- The Arctic ocean is acidifying quicker than the rest of the world oceans, that threatens the whole ecosystem that the ocean supports.
- The Arctic circle, one of the most climatologically important regions on the earth, has continued to warm at over twice the rate because the rest of the world through 2021.
- The warming has as well caused major disruptions within the ecology of the Arctic region. Scientists observed a higher ocean primary productivity than the long-run average between 2003 and 2020.
- Ocean primary productivity is measured in terms of the extent of phytoplankton within the oceans, that type the 1st link in the food web of most marine ecosystems.

## **Topic 22. MOSQUITOES AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### ***Importance for Prelims:Environment***

In a warming world, viruses and their mosquito vectors are fast acquiring traits to gang up on humans

- Aedes mosquitoes are originally found in tropical and subtropical parts of the globe.
- Though most serious diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever and zika are transmitted by just two species — Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus — these are fast emerging throughout the world as a public health threat.
- Aedes aegypti is native to sub-Saharan Africa, and in its native environment it lives in tree holes and small pools of water and bites non-human primates.
- Similarly, Aedes albopictus is native to tropical southeast Asia, where it was originally a forest species that fed on wild animals.
- While human-made conditions have created it simple for the mosquitoes to meet larger areas, global {warming|heating|warming} has any aided in their proliferation as warm and wet environments are wonderful places for mosquitoes to breed.
- Aedes aegypti is heat-tolerant and also the A. albopictus is heat-limited.

## Topic 23. GHARIALS

*Importance for Prelims: Environment*



After 50 years, gharials alive and kicking in Beas Reserve

- Gharials, sometimes known as gavials, are a kind of Asian crocodylian reptile distinguished by their long, thin snouts that resembles a pot (ghara in Hindi).
- Population of Gharials are a good indicator of clean stream water. Gharials are a type of Crocodylians that as well includes crocodiles, alligators, caimans, etc.
- **India has three species of Crocodylians namely:** Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*): International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)- Critically Endangered. Mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*): IUCN- Vulnerable Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*): IUCN- Least Concern In comparison to Crocodiles, Gharials are very shy and unarmful species.
- Gharial reintroduction in the Beas Conservation Reserve The Beas Conservation Reserve is a 185-kilometre stretch of the Beas River located

primarily in the north-west of the State of Punjab.

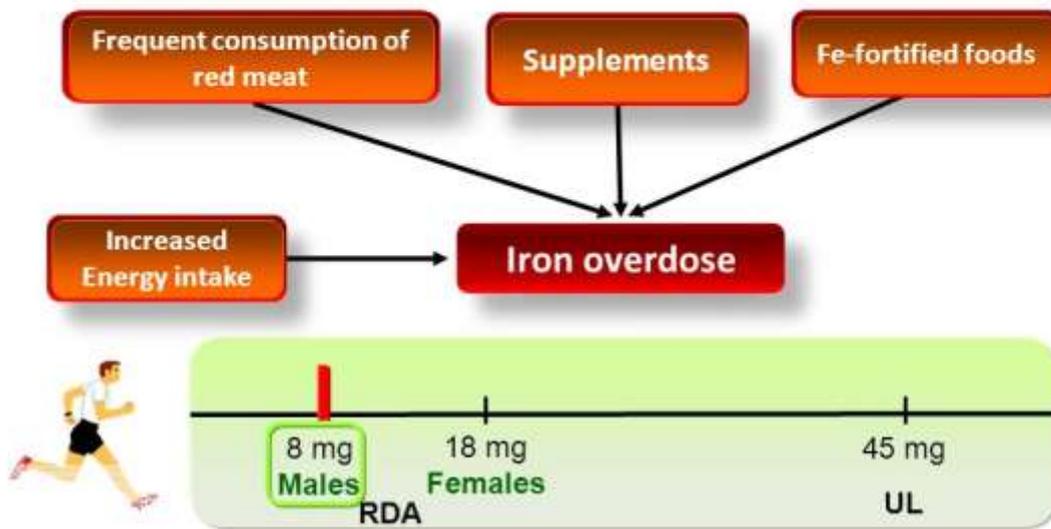
- The gharial reintroduction in the Beas Conservation Reserve is an ambitious programme of the Punjab government.
- The reptiles were commonly sighted in the Beas River till the 1960s but later became extinct.
- The gharial can be found in north Indian rivers such as the Ganga, Yamuna and Chambal and their tributaries.
- The Reserve also hosts the only known population in India of the endangered Indus river dolphin (*Platanistagangetica minor*).
- Further threatened species include the endangered masheer (*Tor putitora*) and hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) as well as the vulnerable smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogaleperspicillata*).
- In 2017, a programme was initiated to re-introduce the critically endangered gharial (*Gavialisgangeticus*) with 47 individuals released into the River 30 years after their disappearance.
- Beas River The Beas originates near the Rohtang Pass, at a height of 4,062 m above sea level, on the southern end of the PirPanjal Range, close to the source of the Ravi.
- It may be a tributary of Indus river.
- It meets the Satluj river at Harike in Punjab.
- It is a relatively tiny river that is just 460 kilometers long however lies entirely among the Indian territory.
- The watercourse flows through Kullu valley.
- It forms a gorge at Kati and Largi within the Dhauladhar range. Harike wetland could be a Ramsar site, a wetland of international importance.

## **Topic 24. IRON FORTIFICATION**

***Importance for Prelims: Governance***

## Iron Fortification

- Additional exposure to dietary iron places some segments of the population at increased risk of iron excess (Athletic males)



Inescapable risks of mandatory iron fortification – Fortification will increase serum ferritin without changing haemoglobin level

- Iron isn't safe in excess; it's an oxidizing agent with a variety of ill-effects.
- Iron will increase the risk for several non-communicable diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and even high blood cholesterol.
- The iron body stores is measured by blood serum ferritin concentration. Fortification of any staple (rice, wheat, or salt) can increase serum ferritin, while not necessarily changing the haemoglobin level.
- No less than fifty per cent of Indian youngsters, aged 5-19 years, already had a biomarker of either high blood glucose or high blood lipids, even once thin or stunted.
- The World Health Organization is having a consultation this year to judge

if haemoglobin diagnostic cut-offs for anaemia should be down in different geographies, one among that is india.

- This is partially based on a recent paper within the Lancet by us, that showed that the cut-offs were likely less than the World Health Organization cut-off in Indian youngsters.
- This lowering has been also confirmed during a study of no less than thirty two countries worldwide, also as another in pregnant ladies.
- A lower cut-off can mean lower (halved) anaemia prevalence.

## Topic 25. PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS REGULATORY BOARD

*Importance for Prelims: Economy*



City gas licensing round draws 430 bids

- It may be a statutory body in India, constituted below the act of Parliament of India, particularly petroleum and natural gas regulatory Board Act, 2006. Its primary functions include regulation of purification, transportation, distribution, storage, marketing, petroleum and sale of rock oil product and natural gas.
- PNGRB authorises the CGD networks, fossil fuel and crude oil product pipelines, determines tariff, lays down the technical and safety standards etc.
- Entities can need to register with the PNGRB to market crude oil product and natural gas, operate LNG terminals and establish storage facilities far off specified capability.
- The PNGRB can have a similar powers as a civil court to settle disputes. The appellant tribunal below the Electricity Act can serve as the appellant tribunal for this Act.

## **Topic 26. INDIA'S MISSILE CAPABILITY**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Defence and Security***

At a seminar organised by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Minister encouraged scientists to work towards developing hypersonic missile technology.

- History of missile technology in india – Before Independence, many kingdoms in india were using rockets as a part of their warfare technologies. Mysore ruler Hyder Ali started inducting iron-cased rockets in his army within the mid-18th century.
- By the time Hyder's son tipu sultan died, an organization of rocketeers was connected to every brigade of his army, that has been estimated at around 5,000 rocket-carrying troops.
- At the time of Independence, Asian nation didn't have any indigenous missile capabilities.
- The government created the Special Weapon Development Team in 1958.
- This was later expanded and known as the Defence analysis and Development Laboratory (DRDL), that moved from delhi to Hyderabad by 1962.
- In 1972, Project Devil, for the development of a medium range Surface-to-Surface Missile was initiated.
- A large number of infrastructure and test facilities were established throughout this period.
- By 1982, DRDL was performing on many missile technologies under the Integrated guided Missiles Development Programme (IGMDP).

### **What kind of missiles does India have?**

- India is considered among the highest few nations once it comes to designing and developing missiles indigenously, though it's method behind the United States, China and Russia in terms of range. Among the

surface-launched systems

- **ANTI-TANK guided MISSILE:** Nag has already been inducted into the services. Nag is that the only “fire-and-forget ATGM meeting all weather needs for its range (around twenty km)”. Recently Heli-Nag was tested, which can be operated from helicopters and can be inducted by 2022. there's also a Stand-off Anti-Tank (SANT) missile, with a variety over ten kilometer.
- **SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE:** The short-range surface-to-air missile system Akash has already been inducted within the Army and also the Air Force. For Akash one, that has a seeker, which enhances target detection in all climatic conditions, the military has already got the Acceptance of necessity from the govt.. For Akash (New Generation), the 1st tests were conducted in July this year.
- **MEDIUM-RANGE SAM:** Production of MRSAM systems for the Navy is complete, and it's placing its order. The Jaisalmer-based 2204 Squadron of the Air Force became the 1st unit to get the MRSAM systems in Sept this year. Technology for MRSAM for the military “is conjointly during a good shape and can be flight-tested soon”.
- **SHORT-RANGE SAM:** For the Navy, the 1st flight tests are with success conducted. many air-launched systems – air-to-air Astra, India’s beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM), has been fully tested and is under induction. it's a variety of around one hundred kilometer. A long-range Astra is additionally being developed, that initial tests have been conducted. The missile uses solid fuel ramjet technology, which enhances speed, and can have an indigenously-built seeker.
- **AIR-TO-GROUND:** Rudram, a new Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGRAM), has cleared initial tests. With a maximum range of around two hundred kilometre, the missile in the main targets communication,

radar and surveillance systems of the adversary. BrahMos, that india developed conjointly with Russia, is already operational. it's a three hundred kilometre to five hundred kilometre range, and may be a short-range, ramjet-powered, single warhead, supersonic anti-ship or land attack cruise missile. Which of India's missile systems are most important? the 2 most important are agni and Prithvi, each getting used by the Strategic Forces Command. agni (range around 5,000 ) , is India's solely contender for an inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM), that is available with solely a few countries. Prithvi, though a short-range surface-to-surface missile with a 350 kilometre range, has strategic uses. india conjointly tested a anti-satellite system in Apr 2019. A changed anti-ballistic missile named Prithvi Defence Vehicle Mk two was used to hit a low-orbit satellite. It put india only behind the United States, Russia and China during this capability. Hypersonic technology india has been performing on this for some years, and is simply behind the United States, Russia and China. DRDO with success tested a Hypersonic Technology demonstrated Vehicle (HSTDV) in Sept 2020, and demonstrated its hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology. According to sources, india has developed its own cryogenic engine and in a it during a 23-second flight. india can try and create a hypersonic cruise missile, using HSTDV. Sources said solely Russia has proved its hypersonic missile capability thus far, whereas China has demonstrated its HGV capability. india is expected to be ready to have a hypersonic weapons system among four years, with medium- to long-range capabilities. wherever do China stand compared to india? China is ahead of India. According to a Pentagon report in 2020, China might have either achieved parity, or maybe exceeded the United States in land-based conventional ballistic and cruise missile capabilities. India's solely

nuclear missiles are Prithvi and agni, however far off those, tactical nuclear weapons may be fired from some IAF fighter jets or from Army guns, that have a low range, around fifty kilometre.

## **Topic 27. ARTICLE 6 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT**

### ***Importance for Prelims:Environment***

Parties in Glasgow finally adopted the long pending Article 6 rulebook.

- Article 6 of the Paris Agreement provides for market and nonmarket approaches in achieving nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). On markets, Article 6 has been finally resolved during a balanced manner that takes into account the considerations of developing countries.
- India, along side different developing countries, managed to convince developed countries to agree for a transition of pre2020 projects/activities, and units from the Clean Development Mechanism under the kyoto Protocol.
- The Article 6 market mechanisms can play a crucial role in driving investments from non-public and public enterprises into india and assist us achieve our mitigation and adaptation targets.
- Under Article 6.2, india set the terms for accounting of units outside the NDC.
- Our call for countries to have flexibility in defining what's within and outdoors our country's NDC was accepted, and corresponding adjustments supported the authorisation of projects helps us, because it provides us extra flexibility whereas maintaining the quality of units.
- Under Article 6.4, we were ready to secure the transition of CDM projects, activities and units.
- Under Article 6.8, the adoption of labor programme for nonmarket approaches can facilitate developing countries in relation to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. global environment Facility (GEF)
- The global environment Facility (GEF) may be a multilateral monetary mechanism that gives grants to developing countries for projects that

benefit the world atmosphere and promote sustainable livelihoods in native communities.

- It was setup as a fund under world bank in 1991 In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF was restructured and removed of the globe Bank system to become a permanent, separate institution. Since 1994, however, the globe Bank has served because the Trustee of the GEF monetary fund and provided administrative services. GEF was re-established throughout the Rio Earth Summit of 1992.
- It is based in Washington, D.C., U.S.. The GEF is put together managed by the united nations Development Programme (UNDP), the world Bank, and also the united nations environment Programme (UNEP). 183 nations are united under GEF in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), international institutions, personal sector, etc. to deal with the environmental problems across the world.
- It addresses six designated focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, ozone depletion, land degradation and persistent Organic Pollutants. GEF additionally is a monetary mechanism for the subsequent conventions:

#### **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)**

- UN Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC) United Nations Convention to Combat desertification (UNCCD) stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Minamata Convention on Mercury. india is each a donor and a recipient of funding from the GEF.
- The political focal point for GEF in india is that the Finance Ministry whereas the operational focal point is that the environment Ministry. increased Transparency Framework (ETF) the improved Transparency Framework (ETF) for action and support may be a central component to

the design, credibility and operation of the Paris Agreement.

- The framework specifies however parties to the agreement should report on progress in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received.
- It additionally provides for international procedures for the review and evaluation of these reports.
- Transparency Framework is of central importance.
- Parties should report regularly on their progress in implementing their NDC targets and goals, and also the reports are subject to international peer review.
- The Transparency Framework therefore creates the basis for the world public to publically name and denounce those states that have failed to meet their self-imposed targets and goals.
- This procedure, called “naming and shaming”, may offset the lack of binding NDC achievement and is therefore a central pillar of the Paris regime.

## Topic 28. ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

*Importance for Prelims:IR*



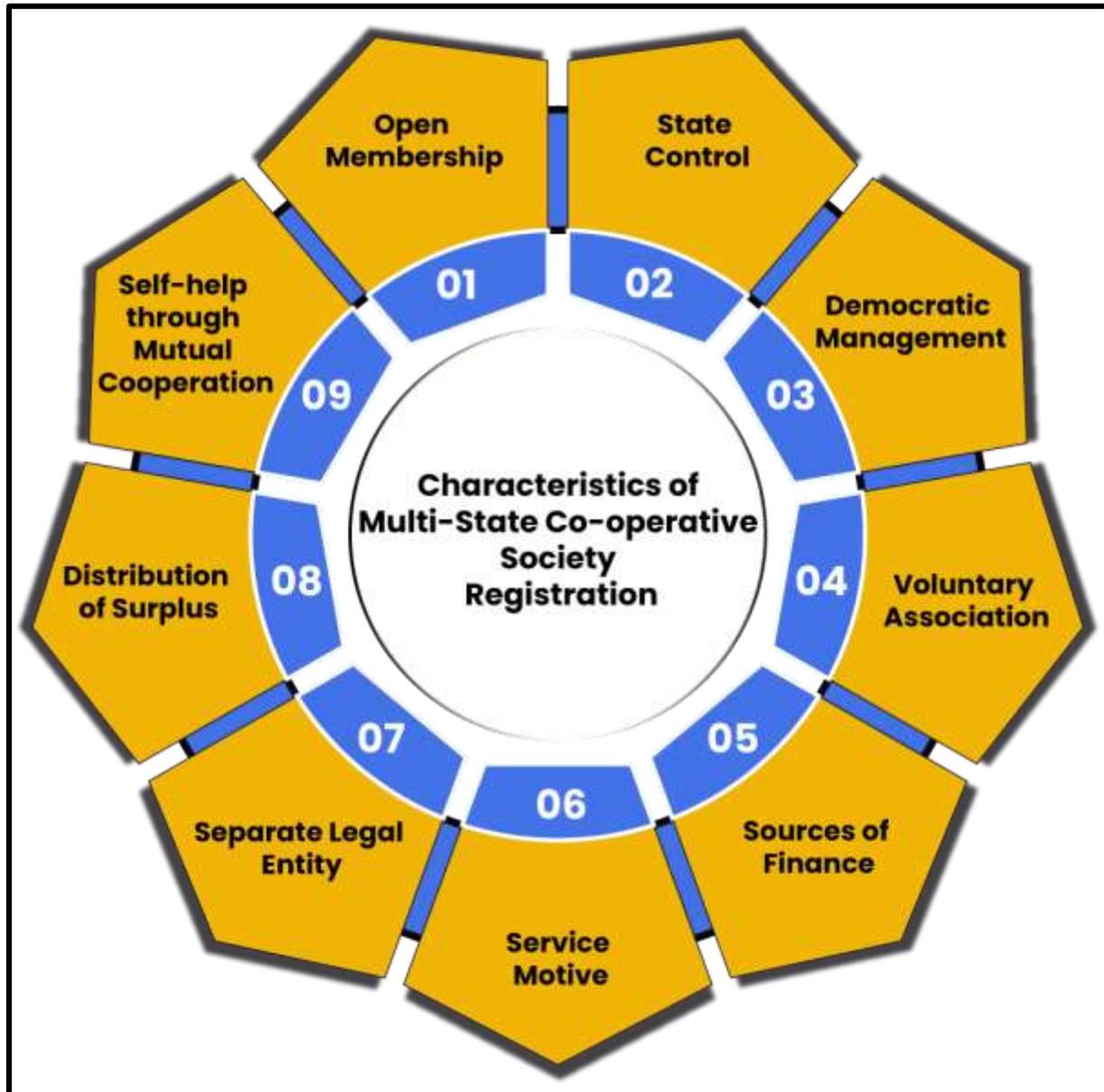
Islamic countries scrambled to find ways to help Afghanistan avert an imminent economic collapse

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the UN with a membership of fifty seven states.
- It is the collective voice of the Muslim world.
- It endeavors to safeguard and defend the interests of the Muslim world within the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various individuals of the world.
- It was established upon a choice of the historical summit that took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on the twenty fifth of Sept 1969.

- Headquarters: jeddah, saudi arabia. india isn't a member of the OIC.
- However, india was invited as a guest of honour at forty sixth Session of the Council of foreign minister in 2019.
- 2019 is that the fiftieth anniversary of OIC.
- The OIC has permanent delegations to the UN and also the EU. Its official languages are Arabic, English and French.

## Topic 29. MULTISTATE COOPERATIVES

*Importance for Prelims:Governance*



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah announced that the Centre has decided to amend the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 to “plug the loopholes in the Act”.

- Cooperatives are a state subject, however there are several societies like those for sugar and milk, banks, milk unions etc whose members and areas of operation are spread across over one state.
- The Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 was passed to

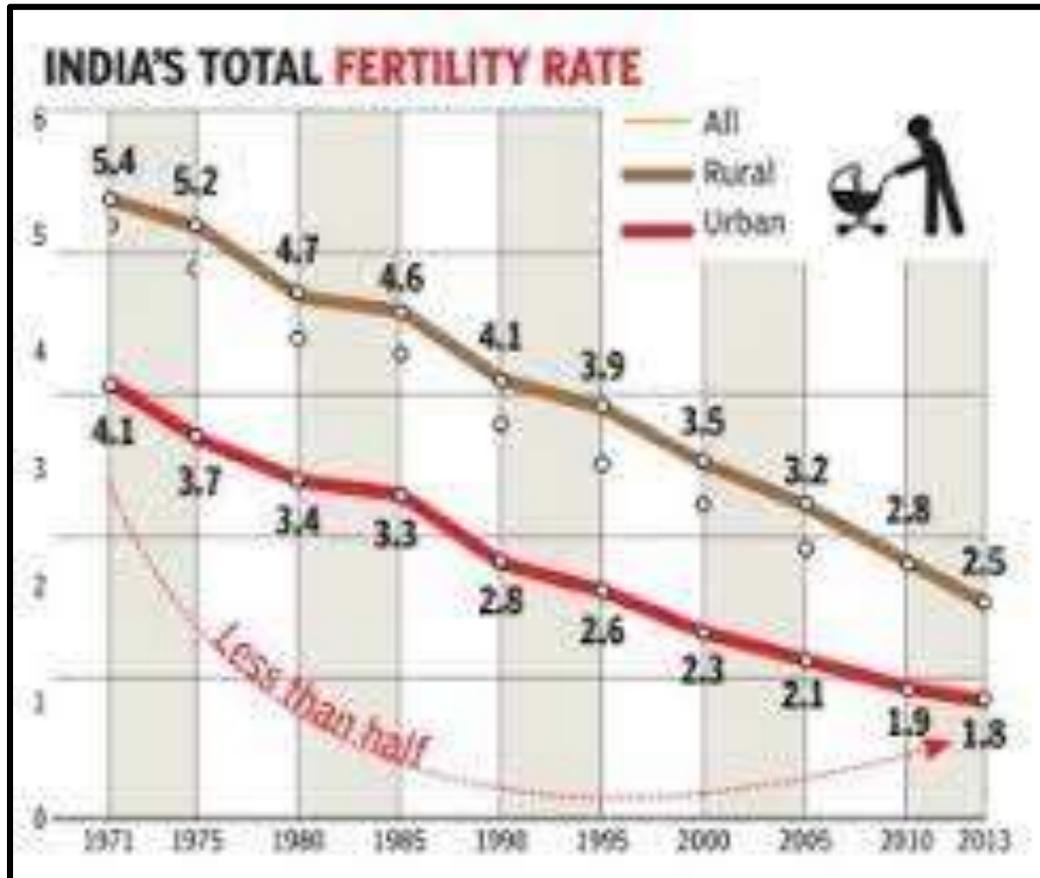
control such cooperatives.

- They draw their membership from each states, and that they are therefore registered under the MSCS Act.
- Their board of administrators has representation from all states they operate in.
- Administrative and financial management of those societies is with the central registrar, with the law creating it clear that no state government official will wield any control on them.
- Maharashtra has the highest variety at 567, followed by uttar pradesh (147) and new delhi (133).
- Credit societies represent the bulk of registered societies at 610, followed by agrobased ones (which include sugar mills, spinning mills etc) at 244.
- There are ninety six multistate cooperative dairies and sixty six multistate cooperative banks.
- The board of administrators has management of all finances and administration. For expenditure higher than a certain level, the annual general body meeting of the society has got to be called.
- The annual report of those societies has to be submitted either on-line or offline to the central registrar before Sept each year.
- For state-registered societies, monetary and administrative management rests with state registrars who exercise it through district- and tehsil-level officers.
- Issues with the Act – whereas the system for state-registered societies includes checks and balances at multiple layers to make sure transparency within the method, these layers don't exist within the case of multistate societies.
- Unlike state cooperatives, that got to submit multiple reports to the state registrar, multistate cooperatives needn't.

- The central registrar will only permit inspection of the societies under special conditions — a written request has to be sent to the workplace of the registrar by not less than one-third of the members of the board, or not but one-fifth of the amount of members of the society.
- Inspections will happen only when prior intimation to societies.
- The on-ground infrastructure for central registrar is thin — there aren't any officers or offices at state level, with most work being carried out either on-line or through correspondence.
- For members of the societies, the only workplace wherever they'll seek justice is in delhi, with state authorities expressing their inability to try to to something over forwarding their complaints to the central registrar.
- There are instances across the country once credit societies have launched ponzi schemes taking advantage of those loopholes.

## Topic 30. FERTILITY RATE DECLINE IN INDIA

*Importance for Prelims: Governance*



India's National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5) recorded a decline in the total fertility rate

- In a milestone, India's National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5) recorded a decline within the total fertility rate (the average youngsters a lady has) from 2.2 within the previous survey (2015-16) to two within the latest one.
- And here too, it was 1.6 in urban areas and two.1 during a rural setting.
- The dip in fertility is being attributed to a combination of factors, as well as better contraception initiatives and health and family welfare schemes from the govt..
- But a key factor is that the education of the girl kid and efforts to enhance overall health and nutrition.

- Across geographies there's a declining trend, however experts believe that india should still be on the path to becoming the foremost populous nation.
- India has achieved replacement level fertility (pegged at 2.1), defined because the level at that the decline on a sustained basis would result in a generation replacement itself.
- According to reports, 5 States with TFR above two, were Bihar, Meghalaya, uttar pradesh, Jharkhand and manipur. TFR was the bottom during this survey in west bengal, at 1.6.

## **Topic 31. ARTICLE 167 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Polity***

WB Governor seeks information on State's Pegasus probe panel

- Article 167 of the Constitution lays down the duties of the chief minister to furnish data to the Governor.
- Article 167 of the Constitution says it's the Chief Minister's duty to speak to the Governor all choices of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration and proposals for legislation.
- It enjoins the Chief Minister to furnish such data relating to the administration because the Governor may call for.
- If Governor needs to understand however schemes are being implemented, he will seek details from the Chief Minister rather than holding conferences within the districts.

## Topic 32. MCA 21

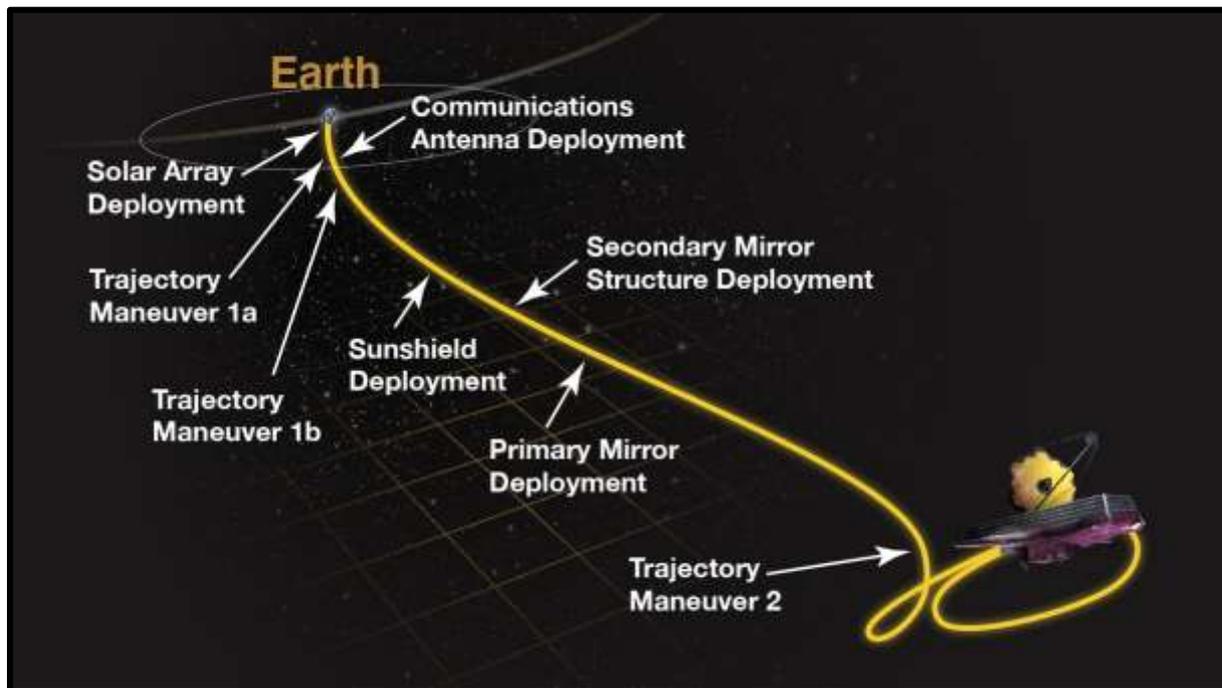
### *Importance for Prelims:Governance*

‘MCA21 portal: third version in the works’

- MCA21 is an e-Governance initiative of Ministry of corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of india that permits a simple and secure access of the MCA services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of india.
- It has created all company connected data accessible to various stakeholders and therefore the general public.
- it had been launched in 2006.
- The MCA21 application is designed to totally automate all processes associated with the proactive enforcement and compliance of the legal needs under the businesses Act, 1956, New firms Act, 2013 and limited liability Partnership Act, 2008.
- This can facilitate the business community to meet their statutory obligations. MCA twenty one has been a part of Mission Mode projects of the govt. of india. MCA21 Version 3.0 is an element of the 2021 Budget announcement.
- The MCA21 V3.0 in its entirety won't solely improve the existing services and modules, however also will create new functionalities like e-adjudication, compliance management system, advanced help desk, feedback services, user dashboards, self-reporting tools and revamped master information services.
- It comprises a revamped web site, new email services for MCA Officers and 2 new modules, namely, e. Book and e. Consultation.

## Topic 33. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

*Importance for Prelims: Science and Tech*



NASA has announced the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) at 7.20 am EST (5.50 pm India time) on December 24.

- Webb, the world's premier space science observatory, can succeed the hubble space Telescope, NASA's flagship telescope that has been in service for over 3 decades currently.
- **WAVELENGTH:** Webb's four instruments to capture pictures and spectra of astronomical objects can give wavelength coverage from 0.6 to twenty-eight microns (the infrared a part of the electromagnetic spectrum is from about 0.75 microns to a some hundred microns); the instruments on hubble will observe primarily within the ultraviolet and visual parts of the spectrum from 0.1 to 0.8 microns. Infrared observations are vital because light at this wavelength will penetrate the dust that shrouds recently formed stars and planets, and create them visible.
- **SIZE:** Webb's primary mirror is just about 6.5 metres in diameter, giving it a considerably larger collecting area than the mirrors of the current

generation of space telescopes.

- Hubble's mirror has a diameter of 2.4 metres, which means Webb's collecting area is around 6.25 times that of Hubble's.
- Webb can cover over ~15 times the field of view covered by Hubble's NICMOS camera. Webb's sunshield is regarding twenty two m by twelve m, a little but the size of a tennis court.
- ORBIT: hubble orbits the world at an altitude of ~570 kilometer. Webb won't orbit the world, instead it'll sit at the Earth-Sun L2 Lagrange point, 1.5 million kilometer away.
- This means Webb can orbit the Sun along side the earth, however can keep fixed at a similar spot in relation to the earth and also the Sun.
- At the L2 point, Webb's star deflector can block the light from the Sun, Earth, and Moon, which can help it stay cool — important for an infrared telescope.
- HOW FAR: because of light takes time to travel, the farther away an object is, the farther back in time we are looking.
- Thus, whereas hubble will see the equivalent of "toddler galaxies", Webb will be able to see "baby galaxies".
- This is additionally because of Webb is an infrared telescope, and may see distant objects that are very dim at visible wavelengths of light.

## Topic 34. SCRAPPAGE POLICY FOR THERMAL PLANTS

### *Importance for Prelims: Environment*

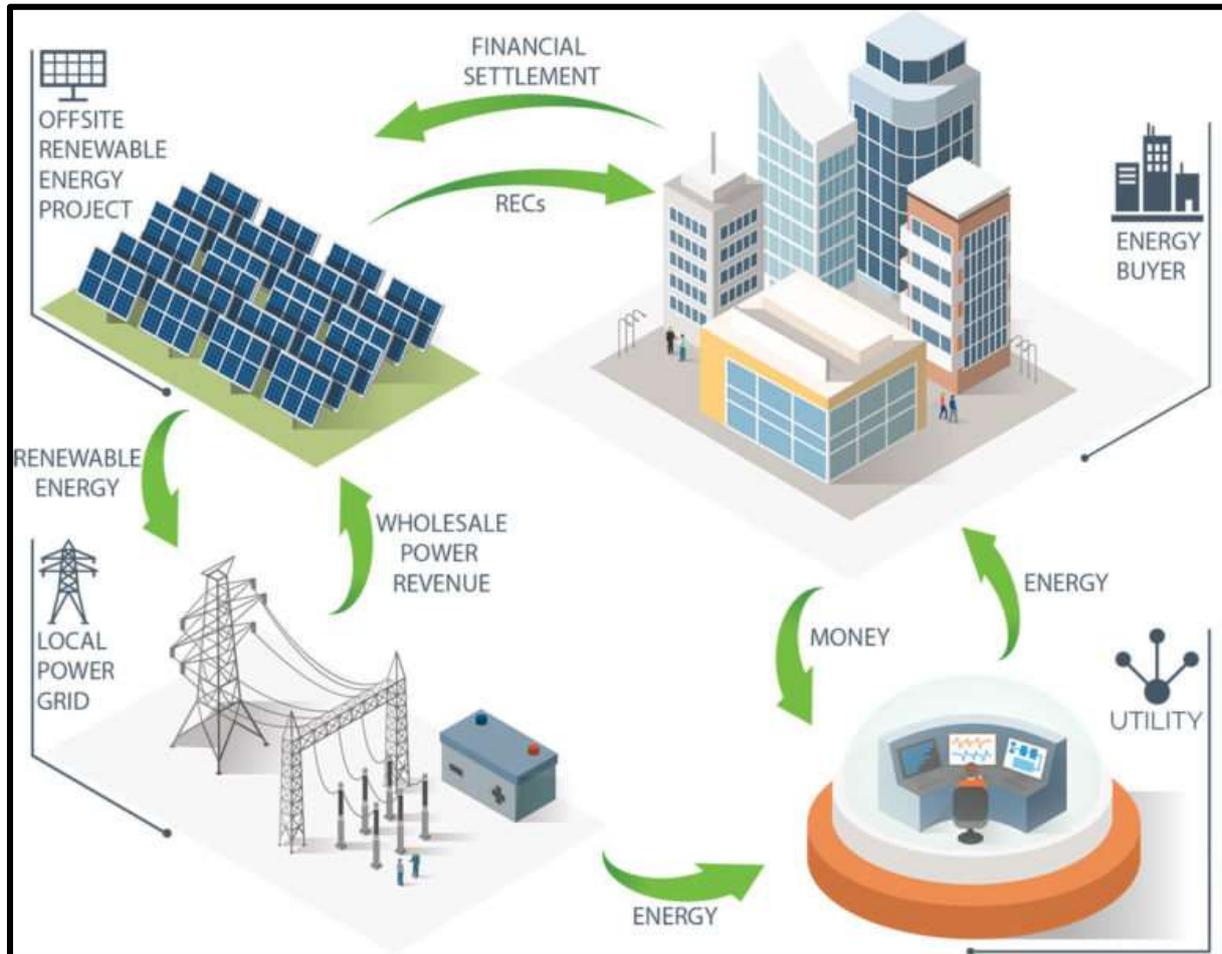
NITI Aayog expert group suggests scrappage policy for thermal plants

- An professional group set up by NITI Aayog has adviser the creation of a thermal power plant (TPP) scrappage policy during a bid to bring down the dependency of the ability sector on coal and to maximise the use of clean and a lot of efficient energy sources like renewables.
- India has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2070 and to own five hundred Giga Watt (GW) of renewable energy capability.
- Coal-fired power plants are normally decommissioned in India after their useful life of 30-45 years.
- Coal accounts for about 72 per cent of India's power supply as of 2021, while RE has been growing rapidly to generate 10.7 per cent of electricity.
- Around 40 per cent of India's greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to 633 power units – 25 MW and above capacity – operating at 189 thermal plants. Categories of Thermal Power Plants In April 2021, the MoEF& CC amended the 2015 notification to put coal thermal power plants under three categories.
- The Union Ministry of environment, Forest and global climate change (MoEF&CC) has discharged a draft list of the coal thermal power plants and their categorisation in line with the ministry's Apr 2021 notification.
- Coal thermal power plants contribute to over half sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) concentration, thirty per cent oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), twenty per cent particulate matter (PM) within the ambient air.
- **It puts coal thermal power plant units into three categories:** Category Criteria Deadline for compliance A Within 10 km radius of the National Capital Region (NCR) or cities having million-plus population 2022 B

Within 10 km radius of critically polluted areas or nonattainment cities  
2023 C Remaining plants 2024

## Topic 35. RENEWABLE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

*Importance for Prelims: Environment*



Renewable PPAs in Andhra, Punjab: Power cos write to Centre

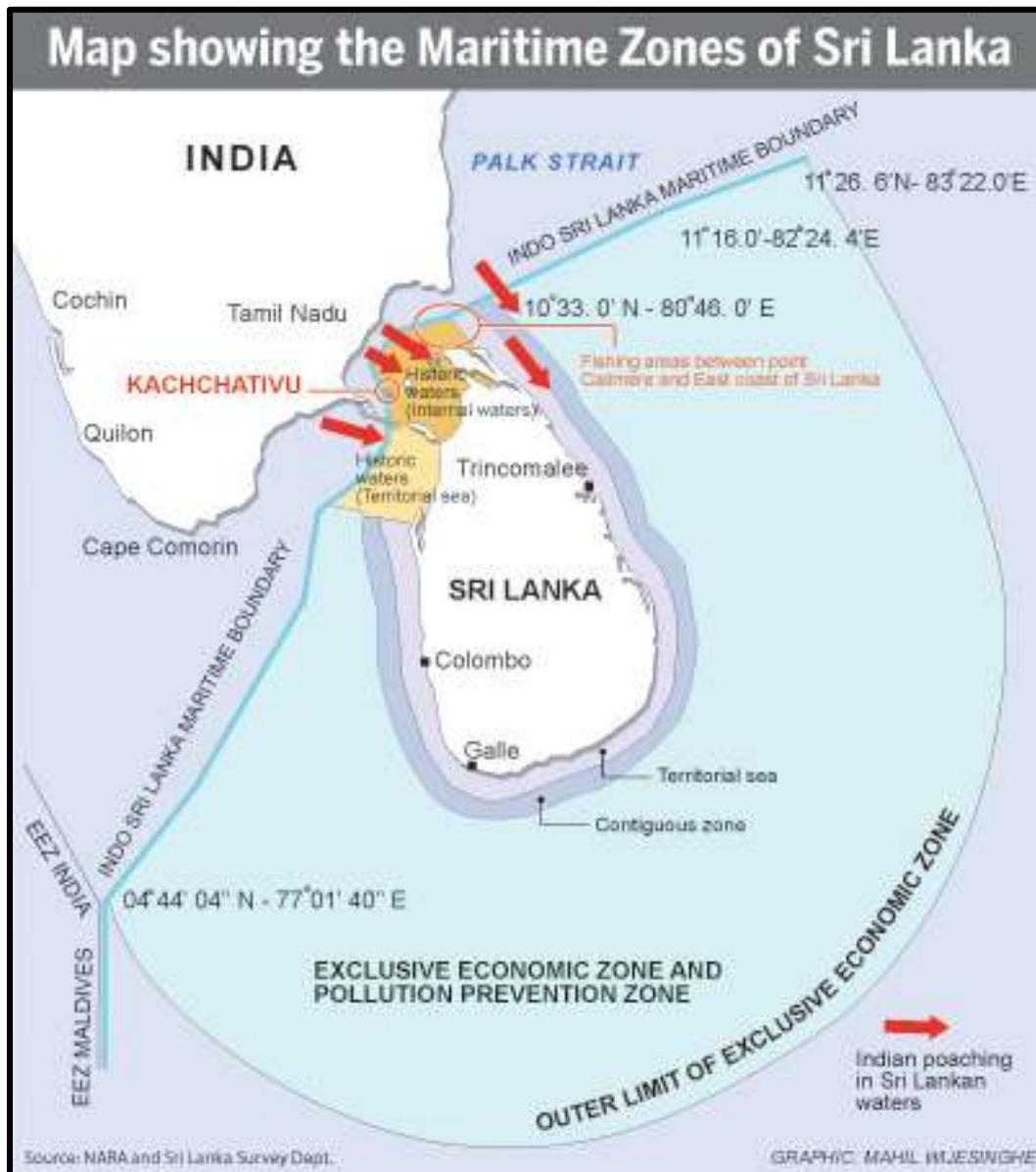
- Electricity and wind energy contracts are called as “Power Purchase Agreements” or PPAs.
- PPAs are long-run contracts to buy renewable energy in agreed volumes and at costs that meet the requirements of the generator and also the client.
- These renewable energy agreements provide each party not solely with financially helpful solutions, however conjointly secure clean renewable energy provides to the corporates and enable investment in further renewable energy developments.
- The PPA states the obligations of the ability producer to provide and

deliver power to specified points and further sets out the value at that such power will be purchased.

- PPA typically runs for around 20-25 years.
- The PPA is often considered the central document within the the development of independent electricity generating assets (power plants), and will be a key to getting project financing for the project.

**Topic 36. INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BOUNDARY LINE (IMBL)**

*Importance for Prelims:IR*



Sri Lanka detains 13 more Indian fishermen

- A maritime boundary may be a abstract division of the Earth’s water surface areas utilize physiographic or geopolitical criteria.
- As such, it always bounds areas of exclusive national rights over mineral and biological resources, encompassing maritime options, limits and zones.
- Generally, a maritime boundary is described at a specific distance from a

jurisdiction's coastline.

- Although in some countries the term maritime boundary represents borders of a maritime nation that are recognized by the UN Convention on the Law of the ocean.
- The terminology does not encompass lake or river boundaries, which are considered within the context of land boundaries.
- UNCLOS Maritime Zones

## **Topic 37. ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Polity***

RS passes electoral reforms Bill amid Opposition protest

- The Bill amends the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to implement certain electoral reforms.
- The 1950 Act provides for allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies for elections, qualifications of voters, and preparation of electoral rolls.
- The 1951 Act provides for the conduct of elections, and offences and disputes related to elections. Linking electoral roll data with Aadhaar:
- The 1950 Act provides that a person may apply to the electoral registration officer for inclusion of their name in the electoral roll of a constituency.
- The Bill adds that the electoral registration officer might require an individual to furnish their Aadhaar number for establishing their identity.
- Persons won't be denied inclusion within the electoral roll or have their names deleted from the roll, if they're unable to furnish Aadhaar number because of sufficient cause as prescribed.
- Such persons is also permitted to furnish alternate documents prescribed by the central government.
- Qualifying date for enrolment in electoral roll: under the 1950 Act, the qualifying date for enrolment within the electoral roll is Jan one of the year in which such roll is being prepared or revised.
- This implies that an individual who turns eighteen (i.e., eligible to vote) after Jan one will enrol only if electoral roll only the roll is prepared/ revised the next year.
- The Bill amends this to supply four qualifying dates during a calendar

year, which can be Jan one, April 1, July 1, and Oct one.