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Success is born of action...

Topic 1. PANCHAYAT (EXTENSION OF THE SCHEDULED AREAS) ACT 1996

Importance for Prelims: Polity

The Chhattisgarh government has formulated draft rules under PESA Act, 1996, terming it the Chhattisgarh Panchayat Provisions (Extension of the Scheduled) Rules, 2021.

- The panchayet (Extension of the scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA, was enacted by the Centre to confirm self-governance through gram sabhas (village assemblies) for individuals living in scheduled areas.
- This particular act extends the provisions of Part IX to the Scheduled Areas of the country
- PESA brought powers further down to the Gram Sabha level.
- It lawfully recognises the correct of tribal communities, residents of the scheduled areas, to govern themselves through their own systems of self-determination, and conjointly acknowledges their traditional rights over natural resources.
- In pursuance of this objective, PESA empowers gram sabhas to play a key role in approving development plans and controlling all social sectors.
- This includes the processes and personnel who implement policies, exercise management over minor (non-timber) forest resources, minor water bodies and minor minerals, managing native markets, preventing land alienation and regulation intoxicants among different things.
- State governments were needed to amend their various panchayet raj Acts while not creating any law that will be inconsistent with the mandate of PESA.
- Six states have formed the PESA laws, and Chhattisgarh would become the seventh state if the principles are enacted.

Why are rules under PESA important? What topics will be covered?

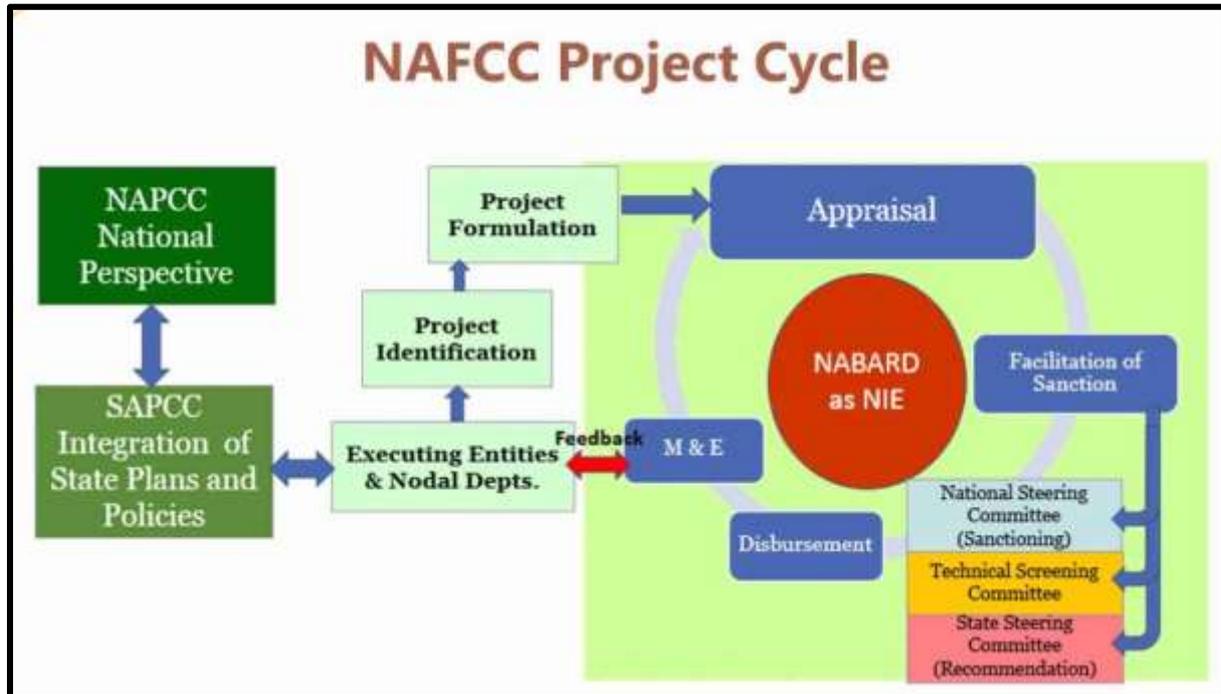
- PESA rules modify the residents of scheduled areas to strengthen their village-level bodies by transferring power from the govt. to the gram sabha, a body of all the registered voters of the village.
- The powers of gram sabhas include maintenance of cultural identity and tradition, management over schemes affecting the tribals, and management over natural resources within the area of a village.
- The PESA Act therefore permits gram sabhas to maintain a security internet over their rights and surroundings against external or internal conflicts. while not correct rules, its implementation isn't doable because it is an exercise in decentralising the facility from institutionalised structures, back to the village residents.
- The laws, once formed, can provide gram sabhas the facility to take choices not only over their customs and traditionally managed resources, however also on the minerals being excavated from their areas.
- The rules state that the gram sabha can have to be kept informed by any and all agencies operating in their village, which the gram sabha has the ability to approve or stop the work being done at intervals the village limits.
- The rules also provide power to the gram sabhas over management of resources over jal, jangal, zameen (water, forest and land), the 3 major demands of tribals; minor forest produce; mines and minerals; markets; and human resources.
- The gram sabha would have the powers to watch and forbid the producing, transport, sale and consumption of intoxicants at intervals their village limits.
- It also has a duty to maintain peace and resolve conflicts arising within

the village, whereas protective tribal customs and traditions, and encouraging customs like ghotul.

- It has further provided that the Gram Sabha or Panchayats at appropriate level shall have the following powers: To be consulted on matters of land acquisition and resettlement.
- Grant prospecting license for mining lease for minor minerals and concessions for such activities.
- Planning and management of minor water bodies.
- The power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.
- The ownership of minor forest produces.
- The power to prevent alienation of land and to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a scheduled tribe.
- The power to manage village markets.
- The power to exercise management over cash loaning to scheduled tribes.
- While giving such wide-ranging powers to Gram Sabhas or Panchayats, PESA has further given another responsibility to States that they will endow Panchayats with powers and authority as could also be necessary to enable them to function as establishments of self-determination.

Topic 2. NATIONAL ADAPTATION FUND FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Importance for Prelims:Environment



COP-26 and climate change

- The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is a Central Sector Scheme which was set up in the year 2015-16.
- The overall aim of NAFCC is to support concrete adaptation activities which mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- The activities underneath this scheme are enforced during a project mode.
- The projects related to adaptation in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, water, forestry, tourism etc. are eligible for funding under NAFCC.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the National Implementing Entity (NIE).
- Implementation The States/UTs are needed to organize the project proposal in consultation with NIE i.e. NABARD.
- The project proposals are needed to be approved by the State steering committee on global climate change to be eligible for consideration under

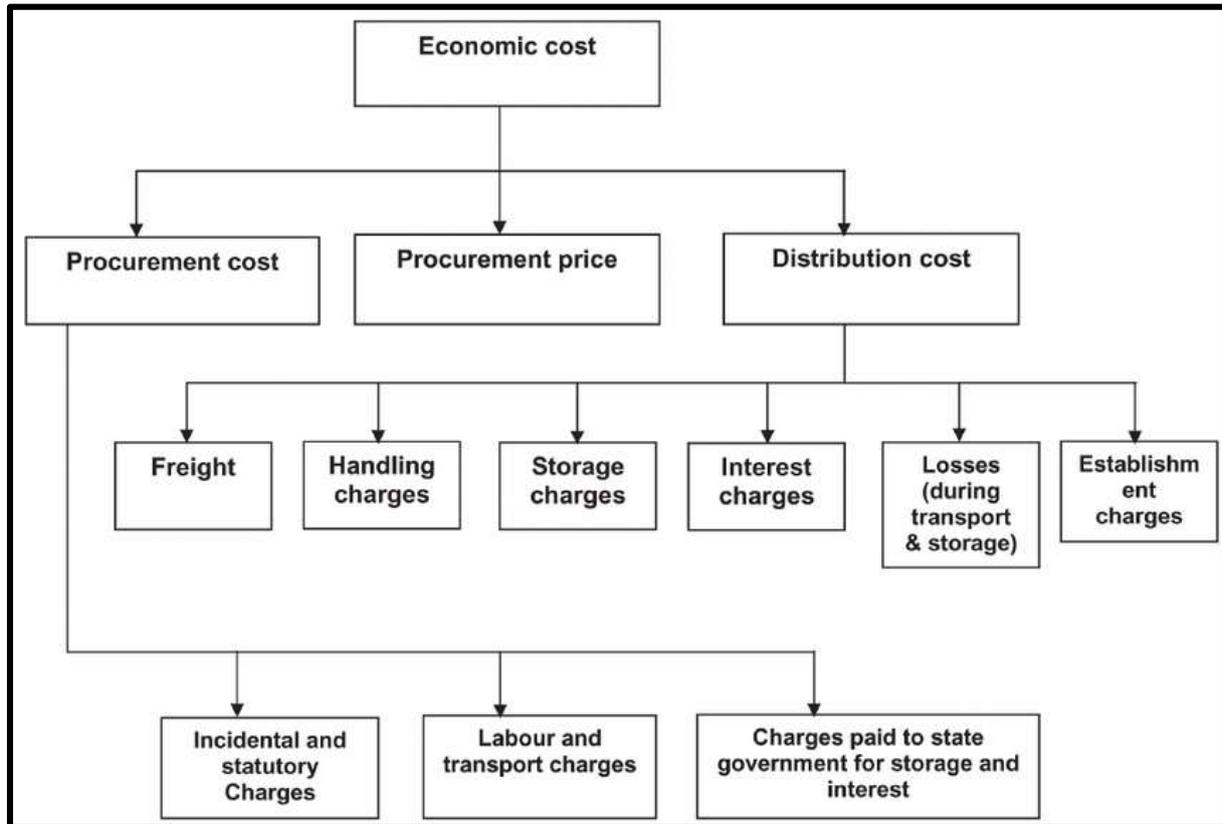
NAFCC.

- It is that the discretion of the government to interact any organization to assist in project preparation, as per their demand.

- The main bauxite belt is in Kalahandi, Koraput, and Baragarh districts.
- This is the largest bauxite-bearing region of the country.

Topic 4. ECONOMIC AND OPERATIONAL COST OF FCI

Importance for Prelims: Agriculture



In a move probably aimed at reducing handling costs at the initial stage of the rice procurement process, the Centre has asked Punjab to explore the possibility of auctioning paddy in some districts where there is a surplus.

- Food Corporation of India (FCI) could be a Public Sector undertaking, underneath the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of client Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- FCI could be a statutory body started in 1965 under the Food companies Act 1964.
- It was established against the backdrop of major shortage of grains, especially wheat.
- It has primary duty to undertake purchase, store, and move/transport, distribute and sell food grains and different foodstuffs.
- Economic Cost to FCI Economic Cost is the total cost to FCI.

- It consists of Acquisition price and distribution cost. Acquisition price consists of Minimum Support price (MSP) and procurement incidental price.
- Procurement incidentals are expenses incurred during procurement till the food grains reach the first point of godown.
- The elements are state taxes, commission to arathias or societies, bagging materials, mandilabour, transportation from mandi to depot etc.
- Methodology followed for Calculation of Economic price area unit based on the GoI circular to apportion the operational price of FCI into Buffer carrying charge and distribution cost.
- Distribution cost becomes the part of the Economic cost whereas the Buffer carrying cost becomes the part of Buffer subsidy.
- Operational Cost to FCI Operational Cost of FCI is categorized under the following elements:-
 1. Transportation Cost/Freight
 2. Handling Charges
 3. Storage Losses
 4. Interest cost
 5. Operational Losses
 6. Administration Charges
- **Food Subsidy** – Food subsidy has three elements. Consumer subsidy.
- The difference between Economic cost and Central Issue Price (CIP) under different schemes of GoI multiplied by quantity of food grains issued under different schemes.
- Second part is Buffer carrying charge. a part of the operation price apportioned to buffer stock supported excess stock control over and on top of operation stock (four months sale).

- Third part includes subsidy on coarse grains, regularization of operation losses of Food Corporation of Republic of India and alternative non-plan allocation to State Govts.

Topic 5. GALLANTRY AWARDS

Importance for Prelims: Defence and Security



President gives away Gallantry awards

- Gallantry Awards are instituted by the govt. of India to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the soldiers, different lawfully implanted Forces and civilians.
- These gallantry awards are declared twice during a year – 1st on the occasion of the Republic Day so on the occasion of the Independence Day.
- Types of Gallantry awards Gallantry Awards are classified into 2 classes Gallantry within the Face of Enemy Gallantry apart from within the Face of Enemy 1st class of Gallantry Awards contains of the subsequent Awards
 - ❖ ParamVir Chakra (PVC)
 - ❖ Mahavir Chakra (MVC)
 - ❖ Vir Chakra
- Second Category of Gallantry Awards Comprises of the following

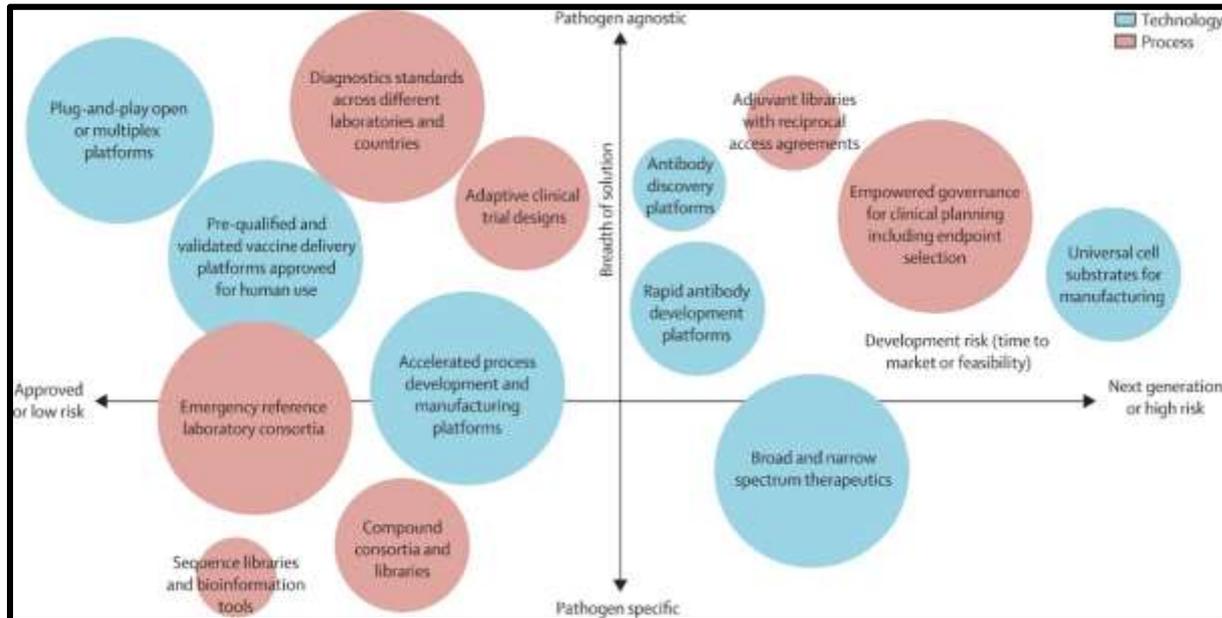
Awards Ashok Chakra

- ❖ Kirti Chakra
- ❖ Shaurya Chakra

- Post-independence, 1st 3 gallantry awards specifically the ParamVir Chakra, the MahaVir Chakra and also the Vir Chakra were instituted by the govt. of India on 26th Jan, 1950 that were deemed to have effect from the fifteenth August, 1947.
- Thereafter, India 3 gallantry awards i.e. the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and also the Ashoka Chakra Class-III were instituted by the govt. of Asian nation on fourth Jan, 1952, that were deemed to have effect from the fifteenth August, 1947.
- These awards were renamed because the Ashoka Chakra, the Kirti Chakra and also the Shaurya Chakra severally in Jan, 1967.
- Order of precedence of those awards is that the ParamVir Chakra, the Ashoka Chakra, the Mahavir Chakra, the Kirti Chakra, the Vir Chakra and also the Shaurya Chakra.

Topic 6. CEPI AND DISEASE X

Importance for Prelims: Science & Technology



The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has today launched a call for proposals to invite funding applications for innovative platform technologies that can be used to develop vaccines and other immunoprophylactics to rapidly respond to future outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases and unknown pathogens, known as “Disease X”.

Disease X Historical Background:

- To stop outbreaks from turning into a public health emergencies, the WHO in 2015 was asked to make an “R&D Blueprint for Action to stop Epidemics”.
- This move was thought of because it was expected to reduce the time lag between the identification of viral infections and therefore the approval of vaccines/treatments.
- A group of world experts — the “R&D Blueprint Scientific Informal Group” — was then formed by the WHO to draft a shortlist of less than 10 “blueprint priority diseases”.
- It was in February 2018 that disease X was added to the shortlist as a

placeholder as a illustration for a “knowable unknown” pathogen — that has the potential to cause a future epidemic.

What is Disease X?

- Disease X may be a placeholder name that was adopted by the world Health Organization (WHO) in Feb 2018 on their shortlist of blueprint priority diseases to represent a hypothetical, unknown microorganism that would cause a future epidemic.
- The WHO adopted the placeholder name to make sure that their designing was sufficiently versatile to adapt to an unknown microorganism (e.g. broader vaccines and producing facilities).
- Disease X is that the mysterious name given to the terribly serious threat that unknown viruses pose to human health.
- Disease X is on a short list of pathogens deemed a high priority for analysis by the world Health Organization, aboard best-known killers like SARS and Ebola.
- Disease X is certainly not a new disease however a potential illness that's however to be discovered.
- Disease X may be a placeholder name adopted by the world Health Organization (WHO) in Feb 2018.
- It isn't a new discovered threat, however a hypothetical sickness, that may emerge within the future and cause an outbreak/epidemic/pandemic.
- The organization mentions “Disease X” on a grade of pathogens thought-about to be a “blueprint priority diseases” for analysis.
- “X” in Disease X stands for unexpected. Disease X represents the knowledge that a serious international pandemic could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease.
- It was 1st enclosed within the WHO’s list of priority pathogens in 2018. COVID-19 represents the primary incidence of disease X since its

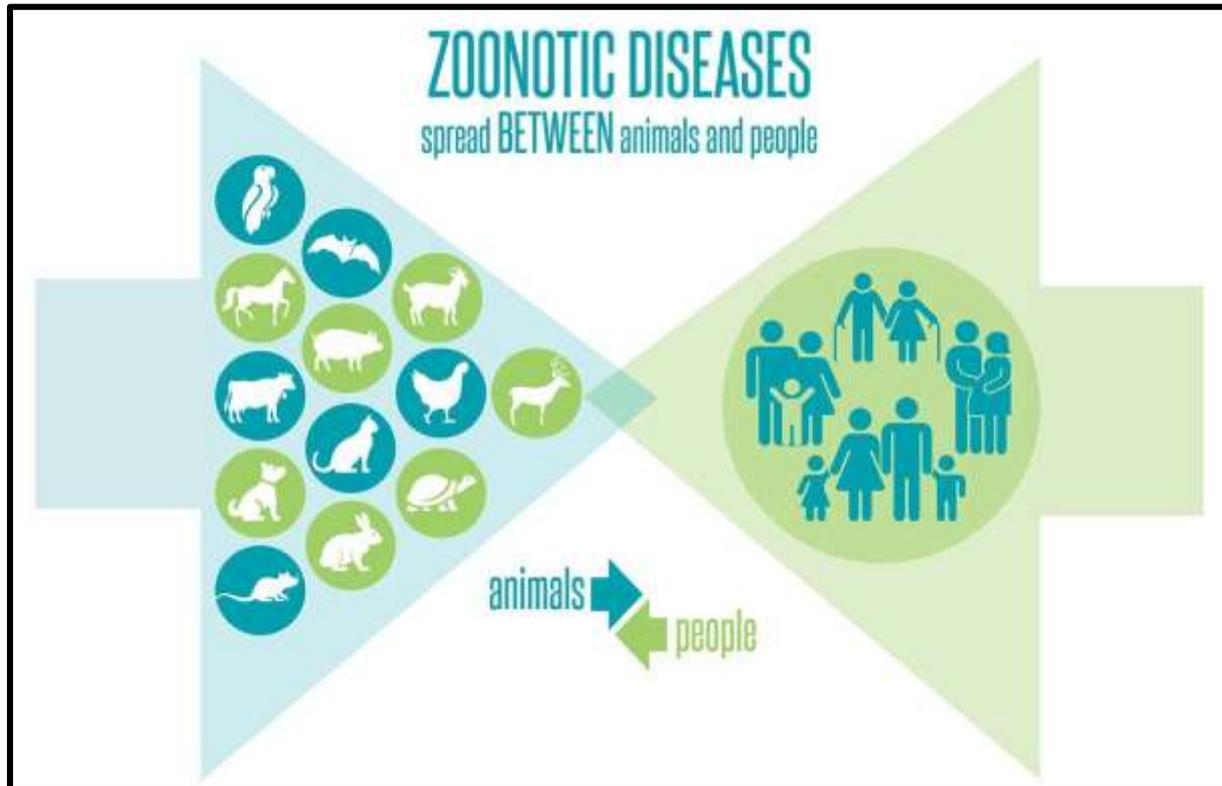
designation was established, rising a lot of before anticipated.

Need for Disease X?

- When there was an Ebola eruption in 2004 in South Africa, no one knew regarding the existence of such a virus and hence everyone was unprepared for it.
- It emerged as an alien disease that had come to world and killed several people.
- Including “Disease X” in its priority list has helped the WHO — and countries the planet over — acknowledge and create whatever plans they will for diseases rising from unidentified sources.
- When CEPI was established in 2017 it classified disease X as a heavy risk to international health security, that the globe required to organize.
- The CEPI’s priority diseases include Lassa fever, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Nipah, Ebola, Rift Valley fever and Chikungunya.
- CEPI also invested in platform technologies that can be used for rapid vaccine development against unknown pathogens (Disease X).
- Besides this Disease X, other viruses — some of them now-well-known deadly viruses — on WHO’s current priority list are:
 1. Covid-19
 2. Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever
 3. Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus disease
 4. Lassa fever
 5. Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)
 6. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
 6. Nipah and henipaviral diseases
 7. Rift Valley fever
 8. Zika.

Topic 7. ZONOSSES AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Importance for Prelims:Environment



Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2021: Zoonoses as a driver for antimicrobial resistance

- In recent years, the use, abuse and misuse of antimicrobials in both, the human and livestock sector, has resulted in large-scale antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among various pathogens and more so, in bacterial pathogens.
- AMR occurs naturally over time, usually through genetic changes which is a part of natural evolution.
- The resistant organisms are found in people, animals, foods, plants and the environment which can spread between and within the sectors.
- AMR, particularly antibacterial resistance (ABR) is usually reportable at the interface of human, animal and atmosphere indicating the role of industry, farming, and veterinary practices in ABR additionally to human

health practices.

- Zoonosis A zoonosis is an infectious disease that has jumped from a non-human animal to humans.
- Zoonotic pathogens could also be microorganism, viral or parasitic, or might involve unconventional agents and may unfold to humans through direct contact or through food, water or the atmosphere.
- Zoonoses comprise a large percentage of all newly identified infectious diseases as well as many existing ones.
- Researchers estimate 3/4ths of new, emerging diseases are zoonotic, with the vast majority coming from wildlife.
- Some diseases, such as HIV, begin as a zoonosis but later mutate into human-only strains.
- Other zoonoses can cause recurring disease outbreaks, such as Ebola virus disease and salmonellosis.
- Still others, such as the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, have the potential to cause global pandemics.
- Antimicrobial resistance is a complicating factor in the control and prevention of zoonoses.
- The use of antibiotics in animals raised for food is widespread and will increase the potential for drug-resistant strains of zoonotic pathogens capable of spreading quickly in animal and human populations.
- World Zoonoses Day is celebrated on July sixth annually and commemorates the work of Louis Pasteur, who developed the first vaccinum.
- 59,000 people die each year from rabies, a leading zoonotic disease.

Classification of Zoonoses According to the etiological agents

- Bacterial zoonoses :- e.g. anthrax, brucellosis, plague, zoonotic disease, salmonellosis, Lyme disease

- Viral zoonoses :- e.g. rabies, arbovirus infections, KFD, yellow fever, influenza, CCHF
- Rickettsial zoonoses :- e.g. murine typhus, tick typhus, scrub typhus,
- Q-fever Protozoal zoonoses :- e.g. toxoplasmosis, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis
- Helminthic zoonoses :- e.g. echinococcosis (hydatid disease), taeniasis, schistosomiasis, dracunculiasis.
- Fungal zoonoses :- e.g. deep mycosis – histoplasmosis, cryptococcosis, superficial dermatophytes
- **Ectoparasites** :- e.g. scabies, myiasis according to the mode of transmission
- **Direct zoonoses** – These are transmitted from an infected vertebrate host to a vulnerable host (man) by direct contact, by contact with a physical object or by a mechanical vector.
- The agent itself undergoes very little or no procreation or developmental changes throughout transmission, e.g. rabies, anthrax, brucellosis, zoonotic disease, toxoplasmosis.
- **Cyclozoonoses** – These require more than one vertebrate host species, however no invertebrate host for the completion of the life cycle of the agent, e.g. echinococcosis, taeniasis
- **Meta zoonoses** – These are transmitted biologically by invertebrate vectors, during which the agent multiplies and/or develops and there's continually an extrinsic incubation (prepatent) amount before transmission to a different vertebrate host e.g., plague, arbovirus infections, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis.
- **Saprozoonoses** – These need a vertebrate host and a non-animal biological process site like soil, plant material, pigeon dropping etc. for the development of the infective agent e.g. aspergillosis,

coccidiomycosis, cryptococosis, histoplasmosis, zygomycosis.

Topic 8. 6G TECHNOLOGY

Importance for Prelims: Science and Tech



6G technology launch likely by 2023-end or 2024, says Ashwini Vaishnaw

- 6G (sixth-generation wireless) is the successor to 5G cellular technology.
- 6G networks are able to use higher frequencies than 5G networks and supply considerably higher capability and far lower latency.
- One of the goals of 6G internet will be to support one microsecond-latency communication.
- This is 1,000 times faster — or 1/1000th the latency — than one millisecond output. operating in conjunction with artificial intelligence (AI), the procedure infrastructure of 6G can autonomously confirm the most effective location for computing to occur; this includes choices about information storage, process and sharing.
- 6G is expected to support information rates of one terabyte per second. t seeks to utilize the terahertz band of frequency that is presently unutilized.
- Terahertz waves fall between infrared waves and microwaves on the

electromagnetic spectrum.

Topic 9. 'BHARAT GAURAV' SCHEME

Importance for Prelims: Economy

'Bharat Gaurav' scheme eyes Railway tourism

- To faucet the massive potential of tourism, the Railways declared the 'Bharat Gaurav' project, under that theme-based traveler circuit trains, on the lines of the Ramayana express, is run either by personal or State-owned operators.
- Till now, the Railways had traveler segments and goods segments. Now, we'll have a 3rd segment for touristry — 'Bharat Gaurav' train.
- The Minister said these won't be regular trains which will run as per a timetable however will be a lot of on the lines of the Ramayana express being run by the IRCTC.
- Service suppliers, who are often a personal, company, society, trust, venture or consortium, are free to decide themes and circuits like Guru Kripa trains for covering important places of Sikh culture or the Ramayana express for places connected with Lord Ram.
- They can provide an all-embracing package to tourists, together with rail travel, accommodation, sightseeing, visit to historical and heritage sites and tour guides, and have full flexibility to make a decision the package price.

Topic 10. INS Vela

Importance for Prelims: Defence and Security

Vela, the fourth submarine of P75 of the Indian Navy, was Thursday commissioned by Navy.

What is Project 75?

- Conceptualised for the acquisition for twenty five submarines at the time of the IK Gujral government, P seventy five evolved into a 30-year arrange for building submarines.
- In 2005, India and France signed a \$ 3.75 billion contract for building six Scorpene class submarines.
- The executing company on the Indian aspect is Mazgaon Docks Ltd, and on the French aspect, it is DCNS, that is currently known as naval cluster.
- The project has been dogged by delays and questions over the reluctance of the French government to act on the commitment for “transfer of technology” that was an integral part of the contract.
- As a result, the first of the six subs, INS Kalvari, was commissioned 5 years behind schedule, in 2017.

What has been the progress so far?

- After Kalvari, two more submarines under the contract, INS Khanderi and INS Karanj, were commissioned.
- Vela is that the fourth, and ocean trials are in progress for Vagir, whereas the sixth, Vagsheer, is under construction.
- Vela is named when a decommissioned submarine Vela, that served the Navy from 1973 to 2010.
- The earlier Vela belonged to Foxtrot class submarine of Soviet origin.

Topic 11. UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)

Importance for Prelims:IR



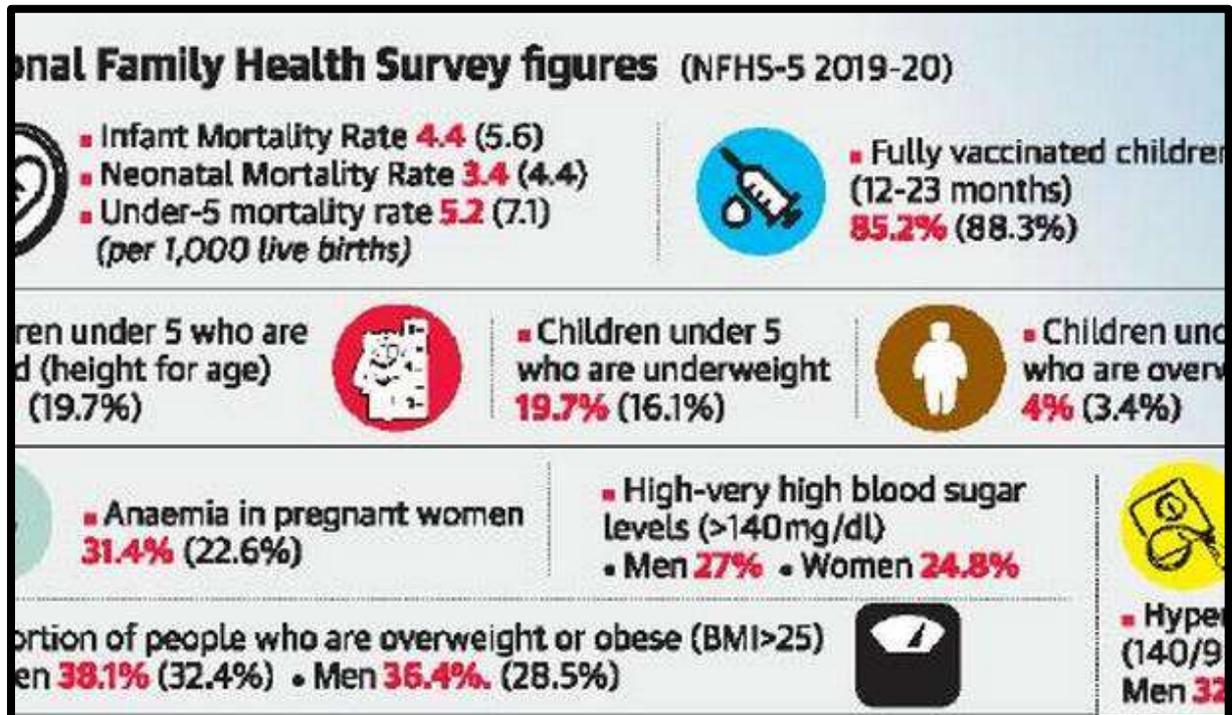
Govt plans to enact cross-border insolvency framework in Winter Session. The new framework is likely to be largely patterned on the UNCITRAL model law on crossborder insolvency.

- It may be a subsidiary body of the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) responsible for serving to to facilitate international trade and investment.
- It is that the core legal body of the United Nations system within the field of international trade law.
- UNCITRAL carries out its work on annual sessions command alternately in new york city and Vienna, wherever it's headquartered. Established by the UNGA in 1966.

- The court constituted in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules 1976 is sitting at The Hague, Netherlands, and proceedings are administered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- Since its origination, India is only one in all eight countries that has been a member of UNCITRAL.
- The UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border insolvency (1997) (MLCBI) is intended to assist States in developing a contemporary, harmonized and fair financial condition framework to a lot of effectively address instances of cross-border proceedings concerning debtors experiencing severe monetary distress or financial condition.
- It provides legal framework to handle cross-border financial condition issues whereas ensuring the least intrusion into the country's domestic insolvency law.

Topic 12. NFHS 5

Importance for Prelims: Governance



More hospital births, but limited gains in childhood nutrition: NFHS

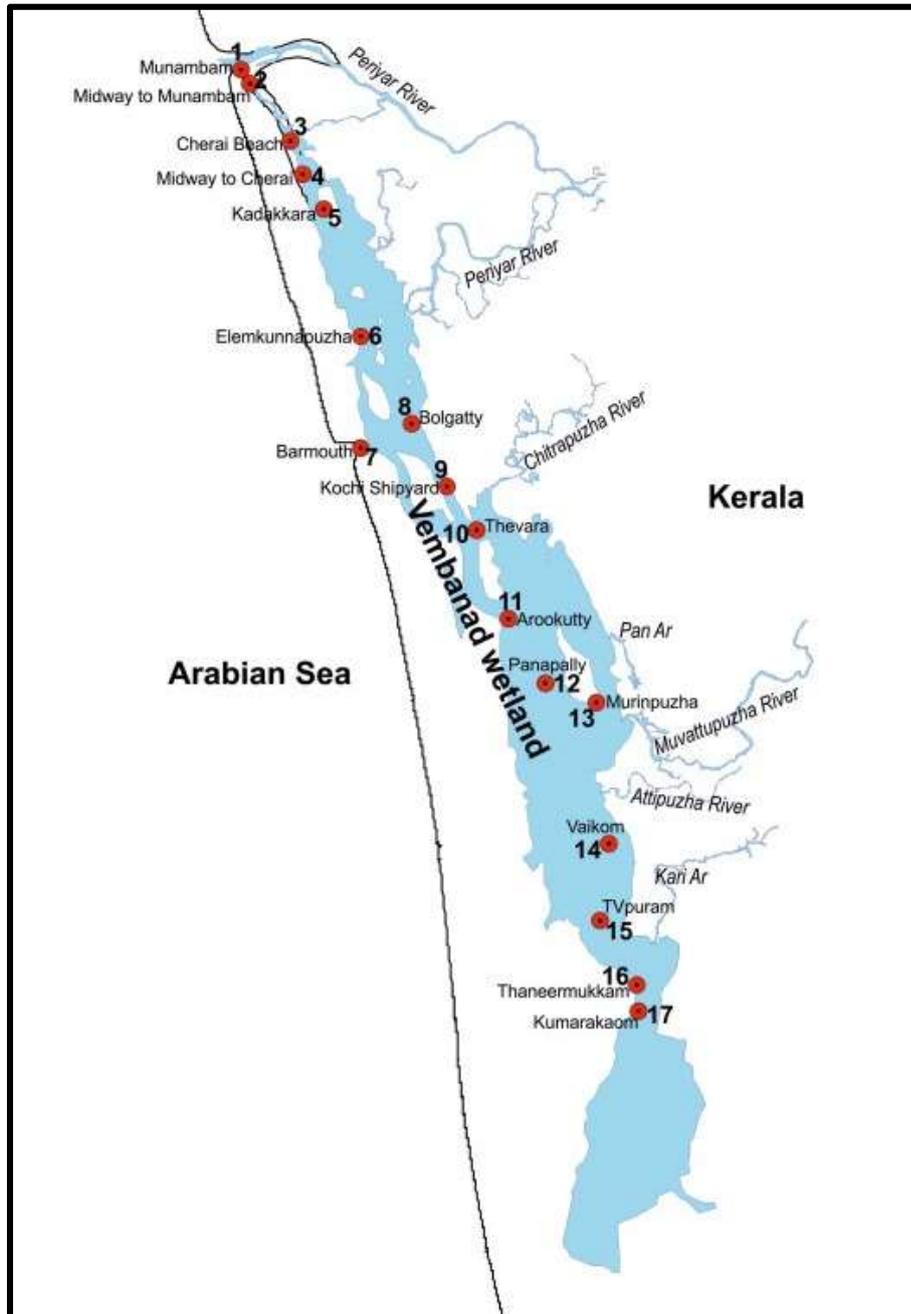
- The NFHS provides estimates on key indicators related to population, family planning, child and maternal health, nutrition, adult health, and domestic violence, among others.
- Key Findings Population Use of birth control strategies increased; most states reduce their birth rate, below the target of two.1 Sex magnitude relation at birth has declined in a few states – Sex ratio at birth for kids born within the last 5 years is below 950 for seven (of the 17) states.
- Health and Nutrition Institutional births have increased -In seven states, over ninetyth of the births within the last 5 years were institutional births.
- Out of pocket expenditure on deliveries increased in some states infant mortality Rate has declined across states; but, hungeriness among kids is increasing. stunting or chronic malnutrition (i.e., low height with respect to age) has increased in eleven of the seventeen states.

- Proportion of severely wasted kids has increased in thirteen of the seventeen states. Wasting or acute under-nutrition refers to low weight with respect to height.
- Children who are stunted or wasted are additional vulnerable to diseases and unwellness.
- Obesity is rising for both men and women across all states.
- Access to infrastructure Access to electricity, improved source of drinking water and sanitation facility has increased.
- More women using mobile phones across all states; however, many of them do not have access to internet.
- More women using bank accounts; ownership of house/ land amongst women declines in several states.
- Gender related indicators Use of hygienic methods of protection during menstrual period has increased across states.
- Gender based violence still remains high, has increased in some states.
- regarding National Family Health Survey (NFHS) The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) could be a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, selected the International Institute for Population Sciences(IIPS) Mumbai, because the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey.
- IIPS collaborated with a number of Field Organizations (FO) for survey implementation.
- Each FO was responsible for conducting survey activities in one or more states covered by the NFHS.
- Technical assistance for the NFHS was provided mainly by ICF (USA) and other organizations on specific issues.

- The funding for various rounds of NFHS has been provided by USAID, DFID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, UNFPA, and MOHFW, GOI.

Topic 13. VEMBANAD LAKE

Importance for Prelims:Environment



Maradu: Lapses in removal of demolition debris raised

- Vembanad, additionally known as Punnamada is that the longest lake in India, still because the largest lake within the state of Kerala.
- It is the second largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal.

- Spanning several districts within the state of Kerala, it's known as Vembanadu Lake in Kottayam, Vaikom, Changanassery, Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha, Punnappra, Kuttanadu and Kochi Lake in Kochi.
- Kuttanad, also known as The Rice Bowl of Kerala, has the lowest altitude in India, and is additionally one of the few places in world wherever cultivation takes place below ocean level.
- Kuttanad lies on the southern portion of Vembanad.
- The Nehru Trophy boat race is conducted during a portion of the lake. The lake has its supply in four rivers, Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa and Manimala.
- It is separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island and is a popular backwater stretch in Kerala.
- The Government of India has known the Vembanad wetland under the National Wetlands Conservation Programme.
- In 2019, Willingdon Island, a seaport placed within the town of Kochi, was carved out of Vembanad Lake.
- One of the most outstanding features of this lake is the 1252 m long saltwater barrier, Thanneermukkom, which was built to stop saltwater intrusion into Kuttanad.

Topic 14. FARMERS AND ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

Importance for Prelims: Agriculture

#1YearofModi2



Historic Amendment to Essential Commodities Act



-  Visionary step towards transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income
-  India has achieved near self-sufficiency in many essential food items
-  However, farmers have been unable to realize better prices due to lack of investment in cold storage, processing and export
-  Entrepreneurial spirit dampened due to stringent provisions of Essential Commodities Act
-  Farmers suffer huge losses when there are bumper harvests of perishable commodities
-  With adequate processing facilities, much of this wastage can be reduced

Farmers of Marathwada growing pulses are not even able to get the minimum support price ₹6,300 per quintal this season, all due to the stock limit imposed on all pulses under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the import by the government.

Background:

- The pulses rate of inflation was 18.34 per cent in Oct 2020.
- This forced government to require pre-emptive and proactive measures.

- As a result, prices have started coming down.
- The government last week declared that the retail costs of pulses were well stabilised within the past 5 months, from June 2021.
- Prices of Gram, Tur, Urad, and Moong have either declined or remained stable as compared with last year.
- The consumer price index (CPI) inflation for pulses has conjointly seen a consistent decline during the last 5 months, from 10.01 per cent in June to 5.42 per cent in Oct.
- Stability within the retail costs of pulses has been achieved on account of preventative and proactive measures taken by the govt. like taking import of Tur, Urad, and Moong.

Why farmers are upset?

- Import of pulses led to sudden collapse of costs, so farmers had to bear the value. Farmers alleged that each time there's the possibility of farmers obtaining a higher value for the manufacture, the govt. goes for imports, and costs within the market collapse.
- This is because farmers have the other choice than to sell our manufacture at a lower cost as we don't have the capability to store the manufacture.
- Even after we have a bumper harvest, we face a similar situation.
- We all bring produce to the market at the same time.
- Neither we nor traders have storage capacity beyond a limit and we sell the produce at a price where even production cost is not recovered.
- Essential Commodities Act and Farmers It goes back to war-time shortages and Defence of India Act of 1939.
- When world war II was over, there was no potential justification for that specific Defence of India Act, and it was repealed.
- However, there was justification for government control over "essential" commodities, "essential" being outlined as necessary and indispensable.

- Accordingly, there was 1st an Ordinance so an Act in 1946, Essential provides (Temporary Powers) Act.
- The Preamble and title indicated this was meant to be temporary, for a restricted period. Meanwhile, we had the Constitution, and under Article 269, the Union government had powers to enact laws for items on State List, as if they were on the coinciding List.
- But only for five years “from the commencement of the Constitution”.
- That took us to 1955, and that we will skip details of however Entry thirty three within the coinciding List was amended so ECA permanently entered statute books.

What constitutes Essential Item?

- In 1973, a planning commission “Committee on Essential Commodities and Articles of Mass Consumption” concluded that the following were essential items—cereals; pulses; sugar, gur and khandsari; edible oils and vanaspati; milk, eggs and fish; common clothing; normal footwear; kerosine oil and domestic fuels; common drugs and medicines; bicycles, bicycle tyres and tubes; matches, dry cells and hurricane lanterns; soaps and detergents; textbooks and stationery.
- Over time, additionally to those listed by planning commission, the essential product list enclosed aluminium, art silk textiles, cement, cinema carbon, coarse grains, coconut husks, coir retting, cold storages, collieries, copper, cotton, drugs, dry batteries, electrical appliances, electrical cables and wires, ethyl alcohol, fertilisers, food-grains, fruit, chamber oil, electrical lamps, diesel oil, household electrical appliances, cars, maize, pesticides, iron and steel, jute and jute textiles, kerosene, linoleum, LPG, lubricating oils and grease, meat, molasses, mustard oil, newsprint, oil pressure stoves, paper, paraffin wax, petroleum merchandise, plants, fruits and seeds, pulses and edible oils, groundnut

oil, rice, salt, sugar and sugarcane, synthetic rubber, tea, textiles, tractors, two-wheelers, tyres and tubes, vegetable oil, wheat.

- ECA has a schedule (Section 2) of what is “essential”, and if an item is in that schedule, it is axiomatically “essential”.
- Before liberalization, there have been around eighty Union government-level orders and around one hundred fifty state government-level orders, decreeing various things as “essential”.
- The progressive tightening of ECA manifested itself through more and more things being added to the schedule.
- In addition, offences were made non-bailable, and there were special courts.
- Hoarding has a negative nuance attached to that, though hoarders often perform a useful function of reducing price volatility.
- In contrast, black promoting has a uniformly negative nuance. however black markets exist only if there's a shortage.
- The ECA is an act that was established to confirm the delivery of certain commodities or product, the supply of that if obstructed owing to hoarding or black-marketing would have an effect on the normal lifetime of the individuals.
- The ECA was enacted in 1955. This includes foodstuff, drugs, fuel (petroleum products) etc.
- History of ECA it's since been utilized by the govt. to control the production, provide and distribution of an entire host of commodities it declares ‘essential’ in order to create them obtainable to customers at honest costs.
- Additionally, the government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”.

- The list of items under the Act includes drugs, fertilizers, Food items, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.
- The Centre will include new commodities as and when the necessity arises, and takes them off the list once the situation improves.

How ECA works?

- If the Centre finds that a certain commodity is briefly provide and its value is spiking, it will notify stock-holding limits on it for a specified amount.
- The States act on this notification to specify limits and take steps to make sure that these are adhered to.
- Anybody trading or dealing within the commodity, be it wholesalers, retailers or maybe importers ar prevented from stockpiling it beyond a particular quantity.
- A State will, however, select to not impose any restrictions.
- But once it does, traders have to immediately sell into the market any stocks held beyond the mandated quantity.
- This improves provides and brings down costs. As not all shopkeepers and traders comply, State agencies conduct raids to get everybody to toe the line and also the errant are punished .
- The excess stocks are auctioned or sold-out through honest worth retailers. Ex: The Union Government has brought masks and hand-sanitisers under the ECA to make sure that these product, key for preventing the spread of Covid-19 infection, are accessible to individuals at the correct value and within the right quality For Food Items: supported the deliberations, Government takes various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items that, inter-alia, include appropriately utilizing trade and financial policy instruments like import duty.

- The govt. will impose stock limits and advise State for effective action against hoarders & black marketers etc. to manage domestic accessibility and moderate costs.
- The government utilizes the buffer of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, etc. designed under price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to assist moderate the volatility in costs.
- New Farms Laws: The new farm law on the Essential Commodities Act had planned to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.
- The move was aimed to remove fears of personal investors of excessive regulative interference in their business operations.
- The government reasoned that the freedom to supply, hold, move, distribute and provide can lead to the harnessing economies of scale and attract personal sector/foreign direct investment into agriculture sector.
- According to the govt, whereas India has become surplus in most agricommodities, farmers to get unable to urge better costs due to the lack of investment in cold storage, warehouses, processing, and export as the entrepreneurial spirit gets dampened because of the Essential Commodities Act

Topic 15. FOOD SAFETY REGULATOR FSSAI HAS SOUGHT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT REGULATION

Importance for Prelims:Government Scheme

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) order mandating non-GM origin and GM-free certification for import of 24 identified food crops, including apples, pineapples and wheat, and has argued that this was impeding joint efforts to increase market access for agricultural items

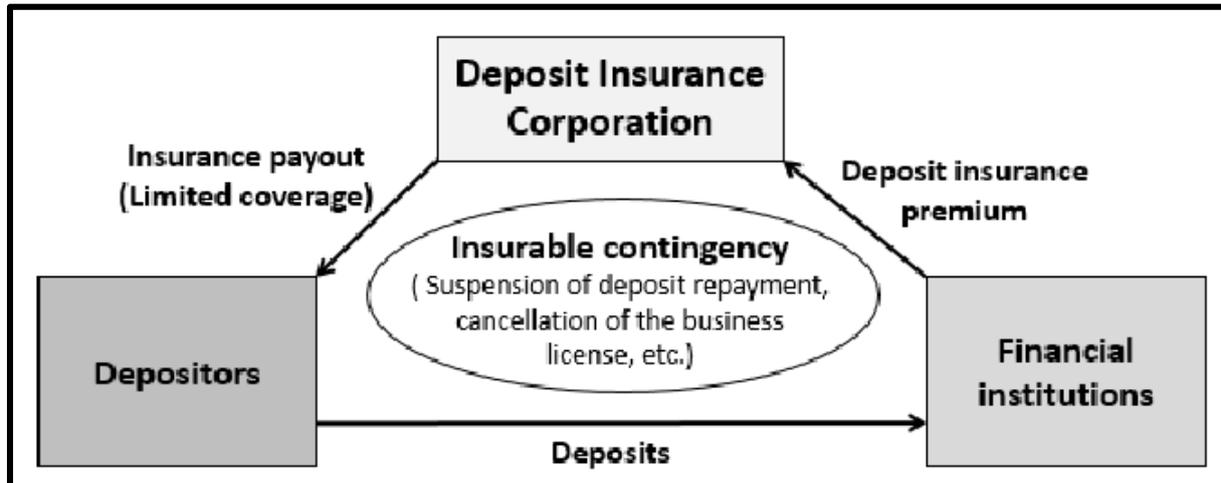
- The FSSAI published an order specifying that each consignment of twenty four known food product need to be accompanied by a non-GM-origin-cum-GM-free certificate issued by competent national authority of the exporting country.
- Regulation of GM crops In India, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.
- Use of the unapproved GM variant will attract a jail term of five years and fine of Rs. one lakh under the environment Protection Act, 1986.
- The task of regulating GMO levels in imported consumables was initially with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).
- Its role was diluted with the enactment of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and FSSAI was asked to take over approvals of imported goods.
- These Rules are implemented by the Ministry of atmosphere, Forest and global climate change, Department of Biotechnology and State Governments through six competent authorities. .
- India may be a person to the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety (CPB), however, the definition of contemporary biotechnology, as in CPB is yet to be adopted within the national laws.
- The task of regulating GMO levels in imported consumables was initially with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the

Union environment ministry.

- Its role during this was diluted with the enactment of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and FSSAI was asked to require over approvals of imported product. sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
- The agreement on sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS) under WTO, provides guidelines for member countries to adopt measures related to food safety and animal and plant health from various biosafety risks arising from trade.
- These risks are usually related to pests and diseases and may come back from risks arising from additives, toxins and contaminants in food and feed.

Topic 16. DEPOSIT INSURANCE

Importance for Prelims: Economy



The Reserve Bank of India, in its draft scheme of amalgamation of the bank with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd (USFB), has placed multiple restrictions on access to deposits beyond Rs 5 lakh that depositors can receive from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

What is the scheme?

- The scheme of arrangement states that depositors of PMC Bank will receive up to Rs 5 lakh (depending upon the balance in their account) from DICGC in accordance with the rules.
- However, those with higher deposits in PMC Bank will face restrictions. Retail depositors will have access to additional amounts up to Rs 50,000 at the end of two years from the appointed date, up to Rs 1 lakh at the end of the third year, up to Rs three lakh after four years, and up to Rs 5.5 lakh after 5 years.

What are the restrictions on interest?

- After March 31, 2021, interest shall not accrue on any interest-bearing deposit with the transferor bank for five years. In respect of balance in any accounting or the other non-interest bearing account, no interest shall be payable.

- An interest of 2.75% per year shall be paid on retail deposits of the transferor bank, which shall remain outstanding after five years from the appointed date.

What happens to other deposits?

- From the appointed date, 80% of the uninsured deposits outstanding to the credit of every institutional investor of the transferor bank shall be converted into Perpetual Non-Cumulative stock (PNCPS) of USFB with a dividend of 1% per annum due annually.
- At the end of ten years, the transferee bank may consider further advantages for such PNCPS holders, either within the form of a step-up in coupon rate or a decision choice, after getting RBI approval.
- The remaining 20% of the institutional deposits are converted into equity warrants of USFB at a worth of Rs one per warrant.
- These can more be converted into equity shares of USFB at the time of the Initial Public offer.
- In respect of each other liability of the transferor bank, USFB shall pay only the principal amounts, as and when due, to the creditors in terms of agreements entered between them prior to the appointed date.
- **Steps taken by RBI:** The RBI issued 'All Inclusive Directions' to the bank under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 1949) to protect the interest of the depositors.
- It also superseded the bank's board of administrators and can appoint an administrator in its place. RBI then decided to prepare a scheme of amalgamation.
- Unlike equity and bond investors, bank depositors enjoy the highest levels of safety on their funds.
- **Deposit Insurance:** In the unlikely event of a bank failing, a depositor can claim a maximum Rs 5 lakh per account as insurance cover.

- The cover is provided by the DICGC.
- Depositors with more than Rs five lakh have no legal recourse to recover funds if a bank collapses.

What kind of deposits is insured?

- Deposits publicly and personal sector banks, native space banks, tiny finance banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks, Indian branches of foreign banks and payments banks are all insured by the DICGC.
- The premium is paid by banks to the DICGC, and isn't to be passed on to depositors.
- Banks currently pay a minimum of twelve paise on each Rs 100 value deposits to the DICGC as premium for the insurance cover.
- Last year, the government raised the insurance amount to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh.

Topic 17. STRATEGIC RESERVES

Importance for Prelims: International Relations



India's move to release 5 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves as part of a coordinated challenge led by the US against the OPEC+ producers' cartel's move to curb output.

Background:

- It is part of a concerted effort (USA, China, EU , Britain , Republic of India)to negate upward pressure on crude costs from OPEC+ — a 13-

country grouping of oil exporters that has been joined since 2016 by ten others led by Russia to make a decision production quotas — keeping provide below demand, even though the action is largely symbolic in nature.

- India has called for an increase in the provide by OPEC+ at multiple international forums and in bilateral talks with oil manufacturing countries. India argues that top crude oil costs are impacting the post-Covid economic recovery, particularly within the developing countries.
- It is that the 1st time that New Delhi would be dipping into its reserves to leverage it as a geopolitical tool India's strategic reserves are the effort of a broader decide to build an emergency stockpile with millions of barrels of petroleum, on the lines of the reserves that the U.S. and its Western allies set up after the first oil crisis of 1973-74.
- These is utilized in situation that include any natural tragedy or unforeseen world event resulting in an abnormal increase in costs.
- More about Strategic reserves: DPN Oct 9.
- UN LDCs standing The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a historic resolution to graduate 3 nations, together with Bangladesh and Nepal, from the least developed country (LDC) class to the developing country grouping, a major} milestone demonstrating the countries' significant development progress.
- The U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution at its 76th session.
- The 3 countries that got clearance for graduation are Bangla Desh, Nepal and also the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- The 3 countries can graduate from the LDC class after an exceptionally extended preceding amount of 5 years (the standard period is of 3 years) to modify them to arrange for graduation whereas designing for a post-

COVID-19 recovery and implementing policies and techniques to reverse the economic and social damage incurred by the COVID-19 shock, Bangladesh is currently scheduled to formally become a developing country in 2026 because the U.N. committee suggested that the country should get 5 years, to organize for the transition .

- All the three eligibility criteria for graduation involving per capita income, human assets index (HAI), and economic and environmental vulnerability index (EVI) Since 1971, the United Nations has recognized least developed countries (LDCs) as a class of States that are deemed extremely disadvantaged in their development method, for structural, historical and additionally geographical reasons.
- LDCs face more than other countries the danger of deeper poverty and remaining during a situation of underdevelopment.
- More than 75 per cent of the LDCs' population still live in poverty.
- These countries are also characterized by their vulnerability to external economic shocks, natural and man-made disasters and communicable diseases.
- As such, the LDCs are in want of the highest degree of attention from the international community.
- Currently, the 46 LDCs comprise around 880 million people, 12 percent of the world population, which face severe structural impediments to growth. However, the LDCs account for less than 2 percent of world GDP and around 1 percent of world trade.
- Four United Nations Conferences on the LDCs were held in: 1981, 1990, 2001 and 2011.
- The Fourth United Nations Conference on the least Developed Countries adopted the Programme of Action for the least Developed Countries for the last decade 2011-2020 – the so-called Istanbul Programme of Action

(IPoA).

- LDCs are those who suffer from severe structural impediments to achieve sustainable development. Currently, there are forty six countries on the LDC list, according to the U.N. Committee for Development Policy (CDP).
- According to the U.N., per capita financial gain of \$1,230 is one amongst the requirements for transitioning into a developing nation. Membership is revised each 3 years supported
 1. Per Capita Income (GDP plus net income received from overseas)
 2. Human assets (level of population undernourished, under-five mortality rate, gross secondary enrolment ratio and adult literacy rate)
 3. Economic vulnerability (such as population, remoteness, merchandise export concentration, natural disasters, instability of agriculture production, and instability of goods and services exports, among other factors). By periodically identifying LDCs and highlight their structural issues, the United Nations provides a strong signal to the international community to the requirement of special concessions in support of LDCs. Concessions associated with LDC standing include advantages within the areas of: Development financing, notably grants and loans from donors and monetary establishments. multilateral trading system, like preferential market access and special treatments.
- Technical assistance, notably, toward trade mainstreaming (Enhanced Integrated Framework)
- In past, six countries have graduated from LDC status: Botswana in 1994, Cape Verde in 2007, Maldives in 2011, Samoa in 2014, Equatorial Guinea in 2017, and Vanuatu in 2020.

- UNCTAD extends to all graduating countries a range of services aimed at supporting their progress toward graduation from LDC status.
- These include preparing vulnerability profiles of states with the challenges of graduation, supporting them in their preparation for a sleek transition to post-LDC life.
- UNCTAD conjointly assists ex-LDC in their quest for continuing socio-economic progress, notably, toward enhanced economic specialization

Topic 18. TIMBUKTU

Importance for Prelims: Polity

International Criminal Court appeals judges have cut by two years the sentence of an Islamic radical who pleaded guilty to overseeing the destruction of historic mausoleums in the Malian desert city of Timbuktu, the court announced Thursday.

- Timbuktu, French Tombouctou, town within the western African country of Mali it's placed on the southern edge of the Sahara, regarding eight miles (13 km) north of the Niger River.
- The city is that the capital of the Tombouctou Region, one among the eight body regions of Mali.
- It is located on the southern tip of the Sahara desert where there is nothing but thousands of miles of barren desert to its north.
- Al-Qaida-linked rebels occupied the fabled Saharan city of Timbuktu in 2012 and enforced a strict interpretation of Islamic law under which they destroyed the historic mudbrick tombs they considered idolatrous.
- Al Mahdi was leader of 1 of the “morality brigades” established by Timbuktu’s new rulers.
- International Criminal Court The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- It is that the 1st permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to assist finish impunity for the perpetrators of the foremost serious crimes of concern to the international community.
- Its origination treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.
- **Funding:** though the Court’s expenses are funded primarily by States

Parties, it conjointly receives voluntary contributions from governments, international organisations, individuals, corporations and alternative entities.

- **Composition and voting power:** The Court's management oversight and legislative body, the Assembly of States Parties, consists of one representative from each state party.
- Each state party has one vote and "every effort" has to be made to reach decisions by consensus.
- If consensus can't be reached, selections are created by vote.
- The Assembly is presided over by a president and 2 vice-presidents, who are elective by the members to three-year terms.
- **Criticisms:** It doesn't have the capability to arrest suspects and depends on member states for their cooperation.
- Critics of the Court argue that there are insufficient checks and balances on the authority of the ICC prosecutor and judges and insufficient protection against politicized prosecutions or different abuses.
- The ICC has been defendant of bias and as being a tool of Western imperialism, only laborious leaders from tiny, weak states whereas ignoring crimes committed by richer and a lot of powerful states.
- ICC cannot mount successful cases without state cooperation is problematic for several reasons.
- It means that the ICC acts inconsistently in its selection of cases, is prevented from taking over hard cases and loses legitimacy.

Topic 19. CONTRIBUTIONS OF VERGHESE KURIEN

Importance for Prelims: Government Scheme

November 26, 2021 was the “Milk Man of India” Verghese Kurien’s 100th birth anniversary.

- Verghese Kurien was the Founder Chairman of National Dairy Development Board from 1965 to 1998.
- He is the architect of India’s White Revolution, which helped India emerge as the largest milk producer in the world.
- In the late 60s Dr. Kurien drew up a project known as Operation Flood.
- Through an investment of Rs. 1700 crores spread across twenty five years, Operation Flood helped to raise India’s milk production in worth terms to Rs. 55000 crores {per annum|once a year|every year|each year} an output.
- It is on its foundation that Kurien went on to style his plan of Amul as a cooperative, turned it over the years into a world brand, and under the leadership of H.M. Dalaya, a distinguished dairy farm engineer, Amul achieved a breakthrough in converting buffalo milk into skimmed milk powder and condensed milk.
- It was one single innovation that gave Amul a definite competitive advantage and profoundly modified the lives of milk producers in Gujarat and beyond. Amul continues to remain one of India’s known food brands and is an inspiration to different dairy farm cooperatives like Nandini in Karnataka, Aavin in Tamil Nadu and Verka in Punjab. The co-operative model was additionally influenced by Gandhian thinking on poverty alleviation and social transformation. Kurien also revolutionized the edible oil business by introducing ‘Dhara’.
- Launched in 1979, the Oilseeds Grower’s Cooperative Project established a direct link between the producers and customers of oil so reducing the

role of oil traders and oil exchanges, in order to stabilize oil costs, offer an incentive to the seed grower to raise production and reduce India's dependence on oil imports.

- He started the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) at Anand in 1979 to provide management coaching and analysis support to the cooperatives being established everywhere the country.
- He facilitated the restructuring of the National Co-operative Dairy Federation of India, in 1988, to provide a National level body for the country's State Co-operative dairy federations.
- He conjointly served as Founder Chairman of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk marketing Federation Ltd, from 1973 to 2006.
- Verghese Kurien won many accolades and awards including the Ramon Magsasay Award for Community Leadership, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Krishi Ratna Award, Wateler Peace Prize Award of Carnegie Foundation, World Food Prize Laureate, International Person of the Year by the globe dairy farm Expo, Madison, Wisconsin, USA and also the Padma Vibhushan.

Topic 20. EXIM BANK

Importance for Prelims: Economy

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will be disbursing \$100 million by way of project finance to COVID-19 vaccine makers in the country this fiscal

- India Exim Bank has offered \$150 million to the African Exim Bank and \$100 million to Africa Finance Corporation.
- They can use it for any imports from India.
- It is a project for financing and promoting vaccine import from India.
- Export-Import Bank of India Export-Import Bank of India is a wholly owned Govt. of India entity which was established in 1982.
- **HQ :** New Delhi Aim: finance, facilitating and promoting foreign trade of India.
- The EXIM bank extends Line of Credit (loC) to overseas financial establishments, regional development banks, sovereign governments and different entities abroad.
- Thus the EXIM Banks enables buyers in those countries to import developmental and infrastructure, equipment's, goods and services from India on deferred credit terms.
- The bank also facilitates investment by Indian companies abroad for setting up joint ventures, subsidiaries or overseas acquisitions.
- Functions of the EXIM Bank It finances the import and export of goods and services from India and countries other than India.
- Provides refinancing services to banks and other financial institutes for their financing of foreign trade
- The bank also provides technical and other assistance to importers and exporters.

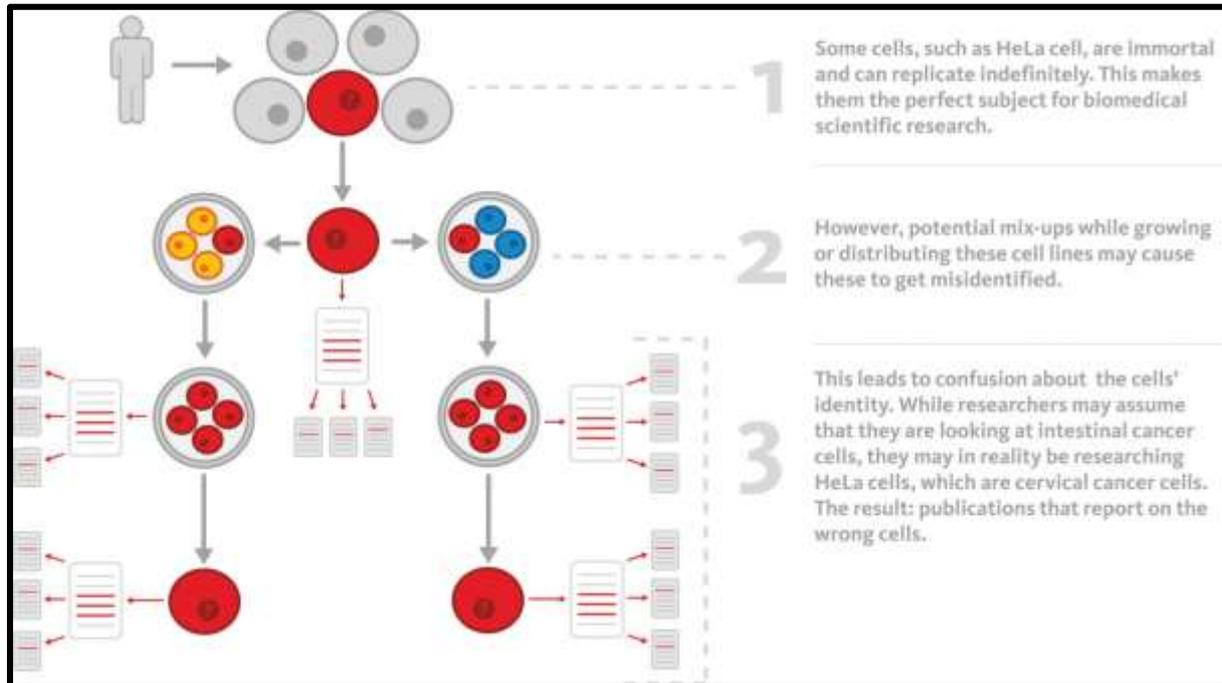
- Depending on the country of origin there are a lot of processes and procedures involved in the import-export of goods.
- The EXIM bank will provide guidance and assistance in administrative matters as well.
- Will also underwrite shares/debentures/stocks/bonds of companies engaged in foreign trade.
- Will offer short-term loans or lines of credit to foreign banks and governments.
- EXIM bank also can give business advisory services and professional data to Indian exporters in respect of multi-funded projects in foreign countries.
- EXIM initiatives GRID Initiative (Grass Roots Initiative and Development), It is the financial backing to support grassroots initiatives / technologies , particularly those with export potential, and to assist artisans / producer teams / clusters / small businesses / NGOs in achieving a remunerative return on their product and promoting exports from these units.
- Exim Bank currently has 233 credit lines (LOCs) in place, covering sixty two countries in africa, Asia, Latin America and the CIS, with approximately \$22.86 billion in credit commitments available to fund exports from india.
- The Government of India provides interest subsidies to SAARC countries for project exports through EXIM Bank of India.
- The EXIM Bank Project Development Fund to catalyse the Indian economic presence in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Cooperation with the BRICS Bank, Exim Bank of India entered into an MoU on general cooperation with the New Development Bank (NDB) to make a mechanism for cooperation in accordance with national laws

and rules, additionally to the transfer of skills and also the sharing of data among the signatories.

- Exim Bank of India, under the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Framework, is that the nominative member development bank.

Topic 21. HELA CELLS

Importance for Prelims: Science and Tech



- HeLa is an immortal cell line used in scientific research.
- It is that the oldest and most ordinarily used human cell line.
- The line is called after and derived from cervical cancer cells taken on Feb 8, 1951, from Henrietta Lacks, a 31-year-old African-American mother of 5, who died of cancer on October four, 1951.
- The cell line was found to be remarkably durable and prolific, which allows it to be used extensively in scientific study.
- The cells from Lacks's cancerous cervical tumour were taken while not her information or consent, that was common practice at the time.
- Cell biologist George Otto Gey found that they might be kept alive, and developed a cell line.
- Previously, cells cultured from other human cells would only survive for a few days. Cells from Lacks's tumor behaved differently.
- HeLa cells are used by scientists to develop a cancer research method that tests whether a cell line is cancerous or not.

- This technique proves therefore reliable that scientists use it to the present day. Hela cells are taken aboard a number of the terribly 1st capsules used to explore outer space.
- Uses of Hela cells: Over the past many decades, this cell line has contributed to many medical breakthroughs, from analysis on the results of zero gravity in space and the development of polio and COVID-19 vaccines, to the study of leukaemia, the AIDS virus and cancer worldwide.
- Although several different cell lines are in use today, Hela cells have supported advances in most fields of medical research within the years since Hela cells were isolated.

Topic 22. BANK NOTES

Importance for Prelims:economy

The government has no plan to recognise Bitcoin as a currency in the country, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

- RBI Act 1934: The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The office of the reserve bank was at first established in Kolkata however was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.
- The headquarters is wherever the Governor sits and wherever policies are formulated. though originally in private closely-held, since nationalization in 1949, the reserve bank is fully owned by the govt. of India.

Main Functions:

1. Monetary Authority: It implements and monitors the monetary policy and ensures price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. An amendment to RBI Act, 1934, was made in May 2016, providing the statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework. Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, also provides for an empowered sixmember Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to be constituted by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette
2. Manager of foreign exchange: Manages the Foreign Exchange reserves of India. It facilitates external trade and payment and promotes orderly development and maintenance of exchange market in India. It conjointly maintains external price of rupee.
3. Issuer of Currency: Issues and exchanges or destroys currency and

coins not fit for circulation.

Objective: to provide the public adequate quantity of provides of currency notes and coins and in good quality.

- Legal Tender is a coin or a banknote that is legally tenderable for discharge of debt or obligation.
- The coins issued by Government of India under Section six of The Coinage Act, 2011, shall be legal tender in payment or on account providing a coin has not been damaged and has not lost weight therefore as to be less than such weight as is also prescribed in its case.
- **Bank notes in India:** As per Section twenty six of reserve bank of India Act, 1934, the Bank is liable to pay the worth of banknote.
- This is payable on demand by RBI, being the issuer. Banknotes in India are currently being issued in the denomination of ₹10, ₹20, ₹50, ₹100 ₹200, ₹500, and ₹2000.
- These notes are known as banknotes as they're issued by the reserve bank of India.
- The printing of notes within the denominations of ₹2 and ₹5 has been discontinued and these denominations are coined because the value of printing and service these banknotes wasn't commensurate with their life
- However, such banknotes issued earlier can still be found in circulation and these banknotes still be tender.
- ₹1 notes are issued by the govt. of India from time to time and such notes as well as those issued within the past also still be legal tender for transactions.
- **Digital Currency:** it's a payment technique that exists only in electronic type and isn't tangible.
- It can be transferred between entities or users with the help of technology like computers, smartphones and the internet.

- Although it is similar to physical currencies, digital money allows borderless transfer of ownership as well as instantaneous transactions. D
- Digital currency is also known as digital money and cybercash.
- E.g. Cryptocurrency The reserve bank of India (RBI) is working on a phased implementation strategy for its own digital currency and is within the method of launching it in wholesale and retail segments within the near future.
- A high-level inter-ministerial committee found out by the Finance Ministry had suggested central bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with changes within the legal framework as well as the RBI Act, that presently empowers the RBI to manage issuance of bank notes.

Topic 23. SUSPENSION OF MP'S

Importance for Prelims: Indian Polity

12 Opposition MPs have been suspended for the rest of the Winter Session for disruptions in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session.

- **Suspension of MP's:** Rule 255 of the general Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha: under Rule 255 ('Withdrawal of member') of the general Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha, "The Chairman might direct any member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw instantly from the Council and any member therefore ordered to withdraw shall do therefore immediately and shall absent himself throughout the remainder of the day's meeting."

How is suspension under Rule 255 different from Suspension under Rule 256?

- Rule 256 provides for 'Suspension of Member'; whereas Rule 255 provides for lesser penalty.
- Under Rule 256, "the Chairman could, if he deems it necessary, suspend a member from the service of the Council for a amount not exceptional the remainder of the Session.
- **Differences in powers of Speaker and Chairman of Rajya Sabha:** Like the Speaker in Lok Sabha, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule book to "direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately" from the House.
- Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.
- **Differences in powers of Speaker and Chairman of Rajya Sabha:** just like the Speaker in Lok Sabha, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule number 255 of its Rule book to "direct any

Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately” from the House.

- Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman doesn't have the ability to suspend a member.
- **Procedure to be followed for suspension of Rajya Sabha MPs:** The Chairman may “name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council by persistently and wilfully obstructing” business.
- In such a situation, the House may adopt a motion suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.
- The House could, however, by another motion, terminate the suspension.
- In 2001, the Lok Sabha rule was amended to offer the Speaker one extra power.
- A new rule, 374A, empowers the Speaker to automatically suspend an MP for a maximum of five days for disrupting the business of the House.

How often have disruptions led to suspension of MPs?

- The 1st instance occurred in 1963. a few Lok Sabha MPs 1st interrupted President SarvapalliRadhakrishnan so walked out whereas he was delivering the joint address to each homes.
- Lok Sabha ended in reprimanding these MPs.
- In 1989, sixty three MPs were suspended from Lok Sabha on the discussion of the Thakar Commission report. a lot of recently in 2010, seven MPs were suspended from Rajya Sabha for snatching the women’s reservation bill from the minister.
- Since then, MPs have raised slogans, used pepper spray in the House and displayed placards.

Topic 24. GM SOYAMEAL

Importance for Prelims:Economics

The Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) has opposed the polutry industry's demand to extend the deadline for import of genetically modified (GM) soyameal to March 31.

GM Crops:

- A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.
- For example, a GM crop can contain a gene(s) that has been artificially inserted instead of the plant acquiring it through pollination.
- Conventional plant breeding involves crossing of species of an equivalent genus to produce the offspring with the required traits of each parents.
- Genus is a class of items such as a group of animals or plants with similar traits, qualities or features.
- Cross breeding will take a long time to realize desired results and regularly, characteristics of interest don't exist in any connected species.
- Bt cotton is the only GM crop that is allowed in India.
- It has alien genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest pink bollworm.
- Herbicide Tolerant Bt (HtBt) cotton, on the other hand is derived with the insertion of an additional gene, from another soil bacterium, which allows the plant to resist the common herbicide glyphosate.
- In Btbrinjal, a gene allows the plant to resist attacks of fruit and shoot borers.
- In DMH-11 mustard, genetic modification allows cross-pollination in a crop that self-pollinates in nature.
- **Status of GM Soyseeds in India:** India allows the import of GM

soybean and canola oil.

- Import of gramme soya bean seeds has not been approved in India.
- The main worry is that import of gramme soya bean can have an effect on the Indian soya bean trade by contaminating non-GM varieties.
- Approval method for GM crops in India: In India, the genetic engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is that the apex body that permits for business release of GM crops.
- Use of the unapproved GM variant will attract a jail term of five years and fine of Rs. one lakh below the under Protection Act, 1986.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of {india|India|Republic of India|Bharat|Asian country|Asian nation} (FSSAI) is that the authorised body to manage the imported crops in India.

Topic 25. INSPACE

Importance for Prelims: Science and Tech



Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure.

- This is part of reforms aimed toward giving a boost to personal sector participation within the entire range of space activities.
- **IN-SPACe:** It will act as a single-point interface between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and everyone who wants to participate in space-related activities, or use India's space resources.
- It will hand-hold, promote and guide the personal industries in area activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulative

environment.

- Indian National house Promotion Board: it might be set up to strengthen the Department of area and for the promotion of the non-public space entrepreneurs or non-government space entrepreneurs,
- **Role of ISRO:** the general plan is to let ISRO concentrate on essential activities like analysis and development, planetary exploration, and strategic use of area, whereas releasing itself from ancillary or routine work that might simply be done by personal trade.
- **Demand Driven Model:** By the support of latest space of new limited (NSIL), it might endeavour to reorient area activities from a 'supply driven' model to a 'demand driven' one, thereby ensuring optimum utilization of the nation's area assets.
- The main objective of NSIL is to rescale business participation in Indian area programmes in comparison to IN-SPACE which provides emphasis on the participation of the personal sector.
- New Space India Limited: NSIL is a Central Public Sector Enterprise of the Government of India.
- It was established in 2019 under the administrative control of the Department of Space.
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru NSIL is the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with the primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high technology space related activities and is additionally responsible for promotion and industrial exploitation of the product and services emanating from the area trade.
- NSIL is incorporated to carry forward the industry production of space systems and the ISRO's efforts in realising Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) from industry.
- NSIL differs from ISRO's existing commercial arm Antrix Corporation:

Antrix will handle ISRO's commercial deals for satellites and launch vehicles with foreign customers.

- NSIL will deal with capacity building of local industry for space manufacturing.
- **Global Rules and demands related to Space:** Almost every country agrees that space must not be used for wars and has spoken against weaponisation of space.
- There are international treaties governing the use of area, that mandate that outer space, and celestial bodies just like the Moon, should only be exploited for peaceful functions.
- **Outer Space Treaty of 1967:** India is a party to the Outer Space Treaty.
- The treaty prohibits countries from placing into orbit around the Earth “any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction”.
- It also prohibits the stationing of such weapons on celestial bodies, like the moon, or in outer space.
- The moon and different celestial bodies shall be used by all state parties to the treaty completely for peaceful functions.
- There are four more multilateral treaties that deal with specific ideas **agreed to within the area treaty:** The Rescue Agreement of 1968 The Liability Convention of 1972 The Registration Convention of 1976 The Moon Treaty of 1979 The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of outer space (COPUOS) oversees these treaties and different queries of space jurisdiction. None of those, however, prohibits the sort of test that India carried out recently.
- The international community has been debating for the requirement to introduce transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (TCBMS).

- In this regard, European Union has conjointly ready a draft code of conduct (CoC). However, major powers are yet to agree on the concept of establishing a CoC conduct.
- Another important concept that has been put on the table jointly by Russia and China is that the prevention of the placement of Weapons in space (PPWT) rather than only Weapon of Mass Destruction that is resisted by United States and also the EU.