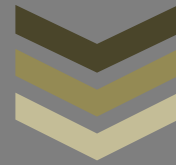


**WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE for**



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

**OCTOBER-VOL-III-2020**

16 October to 22 October



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*Success is born of action...*

## Topic 1: WORLD FOOD DAY

### *Importance for Prelims: International Events*



PM will be launching a commemorative coin to mark World Food Day .

- World Food Day is **celebrated annually** on 16 October across the globe to honour the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- This year marks the **75th anniversary of FAO**. It is celebrated by several organisations that are concerned with food security like International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Program, etc.
- The main focus of this day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right.
- The theme of World Food Day 2020 is **“Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future”**.

**FAO :**

- Food Agricultural Organisation is a **specialized agency of the United Nations**.
- Established in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has its headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- It was founded with a goal to provide food security for everyone and assure that people will have access to high-quality food in sufficient quantities to achieve a healthy lifestyle.
- Every year, the FAO publishes a number of major 'State of the World' reports related to food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural resources.

## **Topic 2: CHAPTER PROCEEDING**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Security***

Mumbai police last week began “chapter proceedings” against a prominent Journalist.

- Chapter proceedings are preventive actions taken by the police if they fear that a particular person is likely to create trouble and disrupt the peace in society.
- These proceedings are unlike punitive action taken in case of an FIR with an intention to punish.
- Here, the police can issue notices under sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure that the person is aware that creating nuisance could result in action against him.
- Generally, a notice is issued to a person under section 111 of the CrPC whereby he is asked to present himself before the Executive Magistrate(ACP or Deputy Collector).
- On receiving the notice under section 111, a person can appeal the notice before the courts .



## Topic 3: OPERATION GREENS

### *Importance for Prelims: Govt Schemes*



Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has recently extended the Operation Greens Scheme from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits & vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months on pilot basis as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

- The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post -harvest losses.
- **Eligible Crops:-** Fruits- Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit; Vegetables:

- French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato).
- **Duration of Scheme:-** for the period of six months from the date of notification.
- **Eligible Entities:-** Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/Cooperative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing/ marketing of fruits and vegetables.
- **Pattern of Assistance:-** Ministry will provide subsidy @ 50 % of the cost of the following two components, subject to the cost norms: Transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption centre; and/or Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops (for maximum period of 3 months)

## **Topic 4: M-SAND**

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

With rising complaints on the unregulated sale of sub-standard M-sand, the Public Works Department (PWD) of Tamil Nadu will convene a meeting with stakeholders on an M-sand policy.

- Manufactured sand (M-Sand) is a substitute of river sand for concrete construction .
- Manufactured sand is produced from hard granite stone by crushing. It is manufactured using technology like High Carbon steel hit rock and then ROCK ON ROCK process which is synonymous to that of natural process undergoing in river sand information.
- The crushed sand is of cubical shape with grounded edges, washed and graded to as a construction material. The size of M-Sand is less than 4.75mm.
- Due to fast growing construction industry, the demand for sand has increased tremendously, causing deficiency of suitable river sand in most part of the word.



## **Topic 5: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF POVERTY ERADICATION**

***Importance for Prelims: Economy***



International day for poverty eradication is observed by united nations on October 17.

- This year marks the 27th anniversary of the declaration by the General Assembly of UNO.
- 2020 Theme: Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all.

### **POVERTY**

- Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met.
- According to World Bank, Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity.
- Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education,

poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life.

- In India, 21.9% of the population lives below the national poverty line in 2011.

### **Types of Poverty:**

- **Absolute Poverty:** A condition where household income is below a necessary level to maintain basic living standards (food, shelter, housing). This condition makes it possible to compare between different countries and also over time. It was first introduced in 1990, the “dollar a day” poverty line measured absolute poverty by the standards of the world's poorest countries. In October 2015, the World Bank reset it to \$1.90 a day.
- **Relative Poverty:** It is defined from the social perspective that is living standard compared to the economic standards of population living in surroundings. Hence it is a measure of income inequality. Usually, relative poverty is measured as the percentage of the population with income less than some fixed proportion of median income.

### **Poverty Estimation in India**

- Poverty estimation in India is carried out by NITI Aayog's task force through the calculation of poverty line based on the data captured by the National Sample Survey Office under the

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).

- Poverty line estimation in India is based on the consumption expenditure and not on the income levels.
- Poverty is measured based on consumer expenditure surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation. A poor household is defined as one with an expenditure level below a specific poverty line.
- The incidence of poverty is measured by the poverty ratio, which is the ratio of the number of poor to the total population expressed as a percentage. It is also known as head-count ratio.
- **Alagh Committee (1979)** determined a poverty line based on a minimum daily requirement of 2400 and 2100 calories for an adult in Rural and Urban area respectively.
- Subsequently different committees; **Lakdawala Committee (1993), Tendulkar Committee (2009), Rangarajan committee (2012)** did the poverty estimation.
- As per the Rangarajan committee report (2014), the poverty line is estimated as Monthly Per Capita Expenditure of Rs. 1407 in urban areas and Rs. 972 in rural areas.

### **Poverty Alleviation Programs in India**

- **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):** It was introduced in 1978-79 aimed at providing assistance to the rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successive plan periods.

- **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana:**  
The JRY was meant to generate meaningful employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas through the creation of economic infrastructure and community and social assets.
- **Rural Housing – Indira Awaas Yojana:** The Indira Awaas Yojana (LAY) programme aims at providing free housing to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in rural areas and main targets would be the households of SC/STs.
- **Food for Work Programme:** It aims at enhancing food security through wage employment. Food grains are supplied to states free of cost, however, the supply of food grains from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns has been slow.
- **National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS):** This pension is given by the central government. The job of implementation of this scheme in states and union territories is given to panchayats and municipalities. The states contribution may vary depending on the state. It is a successful venture.
- **Annapurna Scheme:** This scheme was started by the government in 1999– 2000 to provide food(10 KG of free food grains) to senior citizens who cannot take care of themselves and are not under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), and who have no one to take care of them in their village. They mostly target groups of ‘poorest of the poor’ .

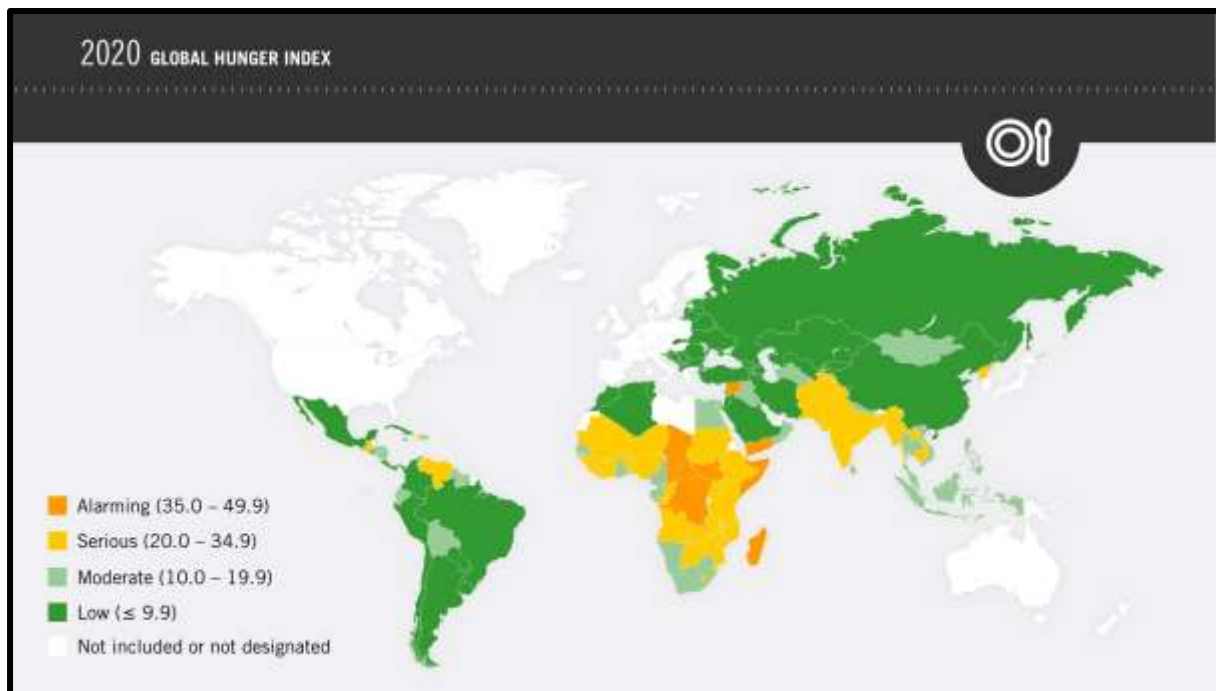
- **Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY):** The main objective of the scheme continues to be the generation of wage employment, creation of durable economic infrastructure in rural areas and provision of food and nutrition security for the poor.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005:** The Act provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household. One-third of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women. The central government will also establish National Employment Guarantee Funds. Similarly, state governments will establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for implementation of the scheme. Under the programme, if an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days s/he will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.
- **National Rural Livelihood Mission: Aajeevika (2011):** It evolves out the need to diversify the needs of the rural poor and provide them jobs with regular income on a monthly basis. Self Help groups are formed at the village level to help the needy.
- **National Urban Livelihood Mission:** The NULM focuses on organizing urban poor in Self Help Groups, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment ventures by ensuring easy access to credit.



- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:** It will focus on fresh entrant to the labour market, especially labour market and class X and XII dropouts.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** It aimed at direct benefit transfer of subsidy, pension, insurance etc. and attained the target of opening 1.5 crore bank accounts. The scheme particularly targets the unbanked poor.

## Topic 6: HUNGER INDEX

### *Importance for Prelims: Economic Indices*



Overall, India ranks 94 out of 107 countries in the Index, lower than neighbours such as Bangladesh (75) and Pakistan (88). 2020 scores reflect data from 2015-19.

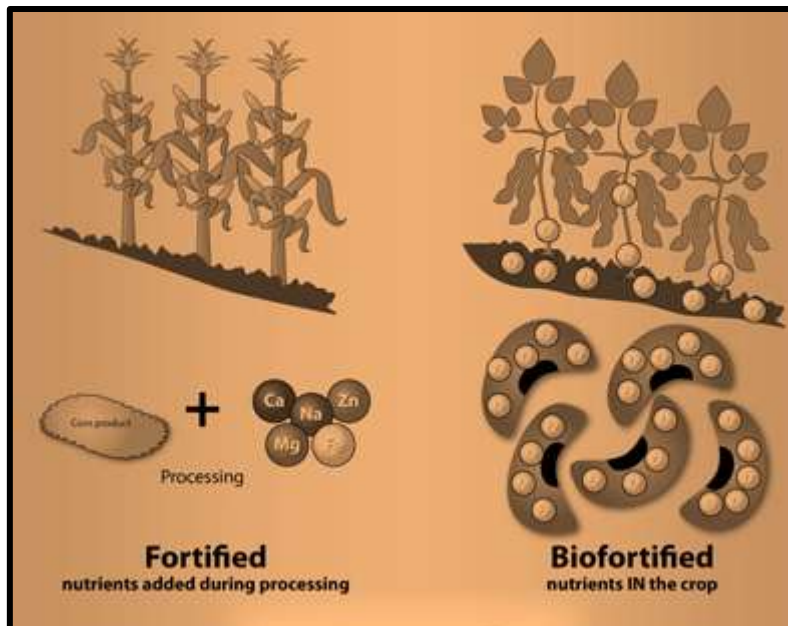
- This index uses four parameters to determine its scores. India fares worst in child wasting (low weight for height, reflecting acute undernutrition) and child stunting (low height for age, reflecting chronic undernutrition), which together make up a third of the total score.
- India has the **highest prevalence of wasted children** under five years in the world, which reflects acute undernutrition, according to the Global Hunger Index 2020.
- However, child stunting has actually improved significantly,

from 54% in 2000 to less than 35% now.

- India has improved in both child mortality rates, which are now at 3.7%, and in terms of undernourishment, with about 14% of the total population which gets an insufficient caloric intake.
- In the region of south, east and south-eastern Asia, the only countries which fare worse than India are Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and North Korea

## Topic 7: Bio fortified crops

### *Importance for Prelims: Environment*



PM issued a commemorative coin of Rs.75 and dedicated 17 biofortified varieties of 8 crops to the nation.

### **What is biofortification?**

- Biofortification is the process of increasing nutritional value of food crops by increasing the density of vitamins and minerals in a crop through either conventional plant breeding; agronomic practices or biotechnology.
- Examples of these vitamins and minerals that can be increased through biofortification include provitamin A Carotenoids, zinc and iron.

### **How are crops fortified?**

- Conventional crop breeding techniques are used to identify varieties with particularly high concentration of desired

nutrients.

- These are cross-bred with varieties with other desirable traits from the target areas (such a virus resistance, drought tolerance, high yielding, taste) to develop biofortified varieties that have high levels of micronutrients (for example, vitamin A, iron or zinc), in addition to other traits desired by farmers and consumers.
- Agronomic biofortification entails application of minerals such as zinc or iron as foliar or soil applications, drawing on plant management, soil factors, and plant characteristics to get enhanced content of key micronutrients into the edible portion of the plant.

### **Why biofortification?**

- Biofortification is one solution among many interventions that are needed to solve the complex problem of micronutrient malnutrition. It is considered one of the most cost-effective interventions for countries to employ in combating micronutrient malnutrition.
- Biofortification reaches rural consumers who have limited access to industrially fortified foods, supplementation interventions, and diverse diets.
- Biofortification combines increased micronutrient content with preferred agronomic, quality, and market traits and therefore biofortified varieties will typically match or outperform the



usual varieties that farmers grow and consume.

### **How does Biofortification differ from food fortification?**

- Biofortification has the increased nutritional micronutrient content imbedded in the crop being grown. Food fortification increases the nutritional value of foods by adding trace amounts of micronutrients to foods during processing.

## **Topic 8: SPUTNIK V**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Science and tech***



Pharma Major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories have received approval for trials in India.

- The vaccine has been called Sputnik V, named after the first artificial Earth satellite, Sputnik-I launched by the Soviet Union. It is the first Covid-19 vaccine to be approved.
- The vaccine is based on the DNA of a SARS-CoV-2 type adenovirus, a common cold virus.
- The vaccine uses the weakened virus to deliver small parts of a pathogen and stimulate an immune response.
- The vaccine is administered in two doses and consists of two types of a human adenovirus, each carrying an S-antigen of the new coronavirus, which enter human cells and produce an immune response.

## **Adenovirus Vector Vaccine:**

- In this vaccine, adenovirus is used as a tool to deliver genes or vaccine antigens to the target host tissue.
- Adenovirus: Adenoviruses (ADVs) are DNA viruses ranging from 70-90 nanometre in size, which induces many illnesses in humans like cold, respiratory infection etc.
- Adenoviruses are preferred for vaccines because their DNA is double stranded which makes them genetically more stable and the chances of them changing after injection are lower.
- Rabies vaccine is an adenovirus vaccine.
- However, there are drawbacks of adenovirus vector vaccines like pre-existing immunity in humans, inflammatory responses etc.
- Just as human bodies develop immune responses to most real viral infections, they also develop immunity to adenoviral vectors. Since adenoviral vectors are based on natural viruses that some humans might already have been exposed to, these vaccines might not work for everyone.

## **Use in India:**

- Russia has claimed that around 20 countries have shown interest in the Sputnik V vaccine, including India..
- The approval for a vaccine is given by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO),

under Directorate General of Health Services ,Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.

- Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, CDSCO is responsible for approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice.

## **Topic 9: ASIAN KING VULTURE**

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



The sighting of a pair of critically endangered Asian king vultures and a juvenile in the Sigur plateau is a cause for optimism that the species may be re-establishing itself in the region.

- The Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), encompassing both the Sigur plateau and the Moyar valley, is believed to be home to 12-14 individuals.
- The population of the Asian king vulture, like most vulture species in India, has crashed over the last five decades.
- IUCN Status : Critically Endangered



## **Topic 10: MARITIME INDIA VISION 2030**

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



A ten year blueprint for maritime sector is to be released by prime minister.

- Setting up a ₹25,000-crore Maritime Development Fund (MDF) and a pan-India port regulatory authority are among the highlights of the Maritime India Vision 2030.
- Maritime India Vision 2030, the latest avatar of the Sagarmala programme, outlines a raft of policy initiatives and development projects involving an investment of ₹3.5 lakh crore to double cargo volumes to 2,600 million tonnes (mt).
- The MDF seeks to provide low cost, long-tenure financing to the sector with the Centre contributing ₹2,500 crore over seven years.
- The regulatory authority will be set up under the new Indian Ports Act (to replace the century-old Indian Ports Act 1908) for enabling oversight across major and non-major ports

- It seeks to enhance institutional coverage for ports and provide for structured growth of the ports sector to boost investor confidence.

## **Topic 11: GHARTAK FIBRE**

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



Prime Minister inaugurated Ghar Tak Fibre scheme in Bihar for digital connectivity.

- These services are to be executed along with combined efforts of Common Service Centre.
- The project is to be implemented Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the scheme “Ghar Tak Fibre”.
- The project will connect 45,945 villages in the state and will thus enable Digital revolution to reach farthest corner of Bihar.
- This scheme aims to fulfill the objectives of digital india and

bharatnet programme aims to provide optical fibre enabled internet connections to every home in the country, concentrating on village and rural areas

**Additional Information :**

- The CSC Wi-Fi Choupal is an initiative to provide high speed internet connectivity to rural India. It ensures digital connectivity using Bharat Net.

## Topic 12: ASSAM-MIZORAM DISPUTE

*Importance for Prelims: Polity*



**Over** the last one week, residents of Assam and Mizoram have clashed twice over territory, injuring at least eight people and torching a few huts and small shops

- It spotlights the long-standing inter-state boundary issues in the Northeast, particularly between Assam and the states that were carved out of it.
- According to an agreement between governments of Assam and Mizoram some years ago, status quo should be maintained in no man's land in the border area.



- However , people violates it which leads to dispute.
- Mizoram believes the boundary should be demarcated on the basis of the 1875 notification, which is derived from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873.
- While Assam follows 1933 demarcation that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills (Assam) and Manipur and that was the point of conflict.

## **Topic 13: ASTEROIDS**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Geography***

Prominent astrophysicist has said that Asteroid 2018VP1, a refrigerator-sized space-rock that is on a collision course with Earth.

#### **Asteroid 2018VP1:**

- Asteroid 2018VP1 has a diameter of about 2 metres, around the size of a small automobile.
- Only 1 in 240 chance that 2018VP1 would impact the Earth. It would likely burn up into a fireball after entering the Earth's atmosphere before reaching the ground.
- According to NASA, such an event happens about once every year.

#### **Asteroids**

- Asteroids are also known as minor planets.
- They are rocky remnants left over from the early formation of our solar system about 4.6 billion years ago.
- Most asteroids are irregularly shaped, though a few are nearly spherical and are known to have a small companion moon (some have two moons).

#### **Classification of Asteroids:**

- Main Asteroid Belt: The majority of known asteroids orbit within the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- Trojans: These asteroids share an orbit with a larger planet, but do not collide with it because they gather around two special

places in the orbit (called the L4 and L5 Lagrangian points).

- There, the gravitational pull from the sun and the planet are balanced.
- Lagrange Points are positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two body system like the Sun and the Earth produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion. These can be used by spacecraft to reduce fuel consumption needed to remain in position.
- Near-Earth Asteroids: These objects have orbits that pass close by that of Earth. Asteroids that actually cross Earth's orbital path are known as Earth-crossers.

#### **Cut off size:**

- As per NASA's Near-Earth Object Observations Programme, asteroids that are 140 metres or larger (bigger than a small football stadium) are of "the greatest concern" due to the level of devastation their impact is capable of causing.
- No asteroid larger than 140 metres has a "significant" chance of hitting the Earth for the next 100 years.

#### **Deflecting Asteroids:** Important steps taken so far.

- Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART): The construction of DART began in 2018, which is scheduled to launch in 2021. Aim is to slam into the smaller asteroid of the Didymos system at around 6 km per second in 2022.
- Hera: It is scheduled to launch in 2024, will arrive at the

Didymos system in 2027. Aim is to measure the impact crater produced by the DART collision and study the change in the asteroid's orbital trajectory.

## **Topic 14: SVAMITVA**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Govt Schemes***



The SVAMITVA scheme was launched by PM on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day and the distribution of property cards began later.

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India.
- Aim: To provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- It is a scheme for mapping the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using drone technology and Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS).
- The mapping will be done across the country in a phase-wise manner over a period of four years – from 2020 to 2024.

### **Benefits:**

- The scheme will help in streamlining planning and revenue collection in rural areas and ensuring clarity on property rights.

- The scheme will enable creation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs), using the maps created under this programme.
- The Gram Panchayats are constitutionally mandated for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) for economic development and social justice.
- The GPDP is based on a participatory process in convergence with schemes of all related Central Ministries/Line Departments related to 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.



## **Topic 15: MALABAR EXERCISE**

### ***Importance for Prelims: International Relations***



Ministry of Defence announced that Australia will join the Malabar 2020 naval exercise.

- It is an annual exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the U.S. held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.
- Then it got permanently expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
- With the addition of Australia, it has become a Quadilateral naval exercise between India, USA, Japan and Australia.
- India and Japan defence forces organize a series of bilateral exercises namely, JIMEX, SHINYUU Maitri, and Dharma Guardian.

- Whereas India and USA conduct Joint Military Exercises namely, Yudha Abhyas.
- Other exercises between India and Australia are Pitch Black and AUSINDEX.

**QUAD:**

- Quad is the informal strategic dialogue between India, the USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.

## **Topic 16: ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE**

### ***Importance for Prelims: National Organisation***

Enforcement directorate questioned former J&K CM regarding misappropriation of funds.

- It is a Multi Disciplinary Organization mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as ‘Enforcement Directorate’. The administrative control of the Directorate was transferred from Department of Economic Affairs to Department of Revenue in 1960.
- For a short period of 04 years (1973 – 1977), the Directorate also remained under the administrative jurisdiction of Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms.

### **Powers:**

- FEMA, a Civil Law having quasi judicial powers, for investigating suspected contraventions of the Exchange Control Laws and Regulations with the powers to impose penalties on those adjudged guilty.
- PMLA, a Criminal Law, whereby the Officers are empowered to conduct enquiries to locate, provisionally attach/confiscate assets derived from acts of Schedules Offences besides arresting and prosecuting the Money Launderers.

**Composition:**

- Besides directly recruiting personnel, the Directorate also draws officers from different Investigating Agencies, viz., Customs & Central Excise, Income Tax, Police, etc. on deputation.

**Other functions:**

- Processing cases of fugitive/s from India under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- Sponsor cases of preventive detention under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974(COFEPOSA) in regard to contraventions of FEMA.

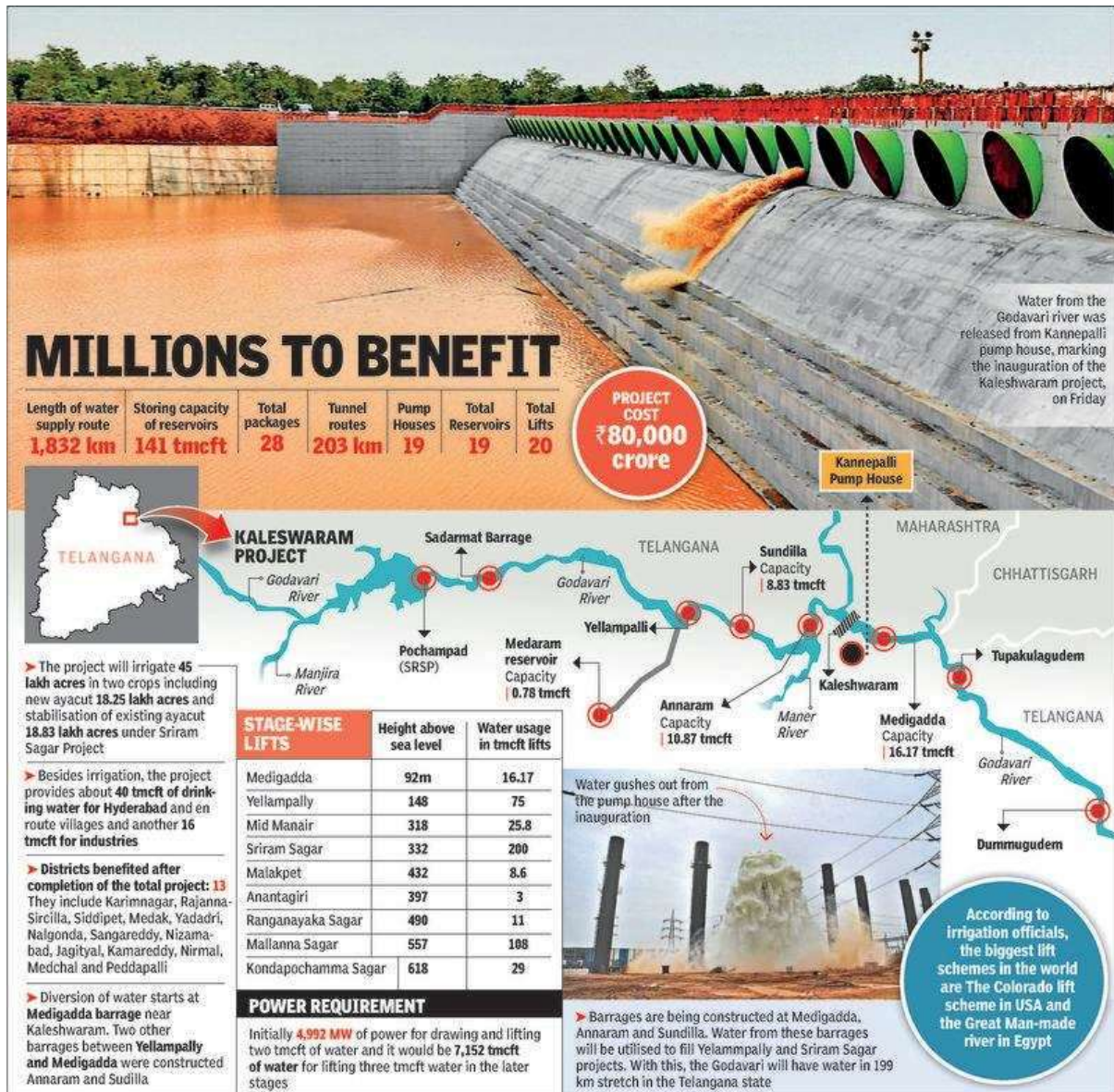
**Special courts:**

- For the trial of an offence punishable under section 4 of PMLA, the Central Government (in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court), designates one or more Sessions Court as Special Court(s). The court is also called “PMLA Court”.
- Any appeal against any order passed by PMLA court can directly be filed in the High Court for that jurisdiction



## Topic 17: KALESHWARAM PROJECT

### Importance for Prelims: Infrastructure



The National Green Tribunal has held that environmental clearance to Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project was granted ex post facto, after completion of substantial work, by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change “in violation of law”.

- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme of Telangana is a

multi-purpose irrigation project on **the Godavari River** in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally in Telangana.

- The project starts at the **confluence point of Pranahita River and Godavari River**.
- Originally called Pranahita-Chevella project in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, it was redesigned, extended and renamed as Kaleshwaram project in Telangana in 2014.
- The project will also support Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha schemes of telangana designed to provide drinking water to many villages and improve the capacities of tanks.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **Godavari River**

- The Godavari is India's second longest river after the Ganga.
- Source: Trimbakeshwar, Maharashtra.
- Areas drained: It flows east for 1,465 kilometres, draining the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Karnataka, ultimately emptying into the Bay of Bengal through its extensive network of tributaries.
- Tributaries: The major tributaries of the river are classified as the left bank tributaries which include the Purna, Pranhita, Indravati and Sabari River and the right bank tributaries are Pravara, Manjira, Manair.
- Kumbh Mela is held at Nasik (on the Godavari), Prayagraj (at the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati),



Haridwar (on the Ganges), and Ujjain (on the Shipra) every four years by rotation.

- Sadarmatt Anicut across river Godavari is one among the two irrigation projects in the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.

### **Pranahita River**

- Pranahita River is the largest tributary of the Godavari river covering about 34% of its drainage basin.
- It is a confluence of various other smaller tributaries like Wardha, Penganga and Wainganga Rivers.

## Topic 18: UNCTAD

### *Importance for Prelims: Economy*



The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report on that a lower but positive economic growth in India in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period and India's large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments to the country.

- The **World Investment Report** focuses on trends in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.

### **UNCTAD**

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 to promote development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.
- UNCTAD is a **permanent intergovernmental body** headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.

Some of the reports published by it are:

- Trade and Development Report
- World Investment Report
- The Least Developed Countries Report
- Information and Economy Report
- Technology and Innovation Report
- Commodities and Development Report

## **Topic 19: INTEGRATED COMMAND**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Security***

The next step in defence reforms after the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) would be the formation of integrated theatre commands says Army Chief .

- An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres that are of security concern.
- The commander of such a force will be able to bring to bear all resources at his disposal — from the IAF, the Army and the Navy — with seamless efficacy.
- The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services, and will be free to train, equip and exercise his command to make it a cohesive fighting force capable of achieving designated goals.
- The logistic resources required to support his operations will also be placed at the disposal of the theatre commander so that he does not have to look for anything when operations are ongoing.
- This is in contrast to the model of service-specific commands which India currently has, wherein the Army, Air Force and Navy all have their own commands all over the country.
- The committee, which was headed by Lt General DB Shekatkar (retd) has recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre

commands — northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border and southern for the maritime role.

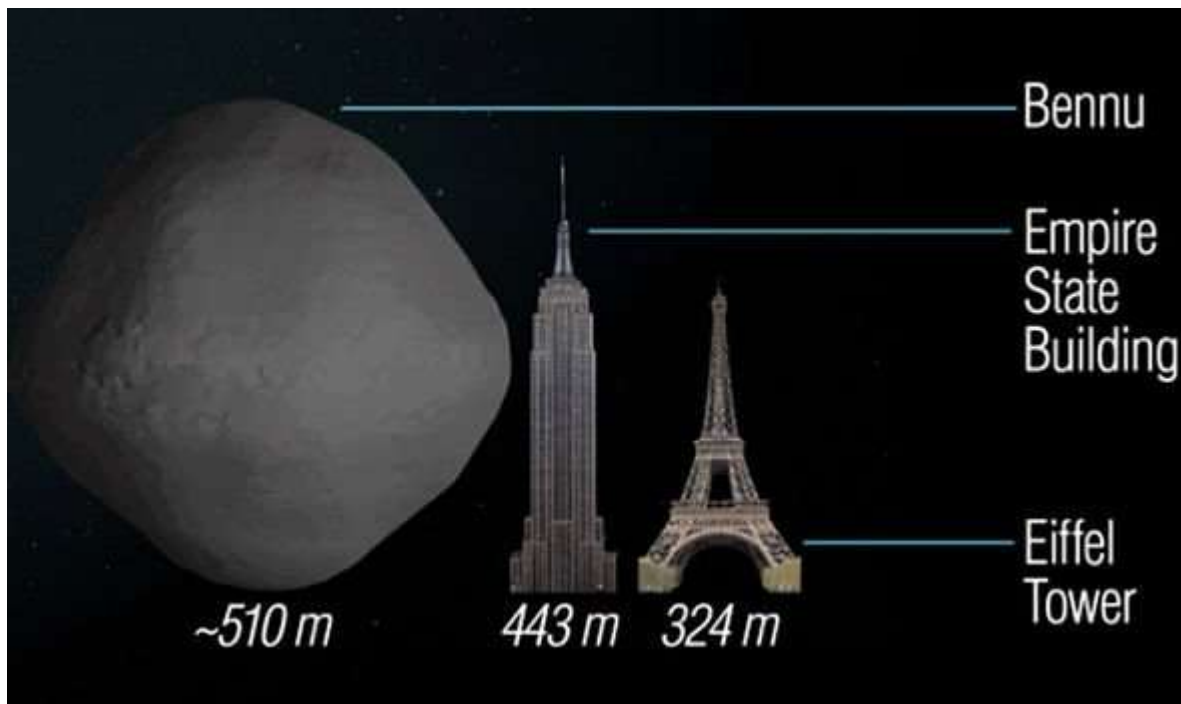
- **Andaman and Nicobar Command is the only integrated theatre command** in India, formed in 2001 after the Kargil war.

### Current Structure

- There are 17 commands, divided among the three services. The Army and the Air Force have seven commands each, while the Navy has three commands.
- The commands under the Army are Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, Central, Southwestern and the Army Training Command.
- The Air Force has Eastern, Western, Southern, Southwestern, Central, Maintenance and Training commands, and the Navy is divided into Western, Eastern and Southern commands.
- These commands report to their respective services and are headed by three-star officers. Though these commands are in the same regions, they are not located together.

## Topic 20: ASTEROID BENNU

*Importance for Prelims: Science and tech*



NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft briefly touched asteroid Bennu, from where it is meant to collect samples of dust and pebbles and deliver them back to Earth in 2023.

- Bennu is a 500-meter wide asteroid in an elliptical orbit around the sun. It is a carbonaceous asteroid composition including a large amount of carbon.
- The asteroid was discovered by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) survey on 1999. It was originally named as 1999 RQ36.

### **Asteroids :**

- Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets.



- Asteroids are divided into three classes. First, those found in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, which is estimated to contain somewhere between 1.1-1.9 million asteroids.
- The second group is that of trojans, which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. NASA reports the presence of Jupiter, Neptune and Mars trojans.
- The third classification is Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA), which have orbits that pass close by the Earth. Those that cross the Earth's orbit are called Earth-crossers.
- More than 10,000 asteroids are classified as potentially harmful asteroids.

### **OSIRIS REx Mission :**

- OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security- Regolith Explorer) mission aims to study asteroid Bennu, collect a sample and return it to Earth in 2023.
- The mission will spend 2.5 years, mapping its surface and studying its composition.
- In mid-2020, scientists will direct Osiris-Rex to drop down to the asteroid and grab at least 60g of regolith, or “topsoil”
- The OSIRIS-REx mission is not the first to ever visit an asteroid and attempt a sample return — Japan has done (Hayabusa Mission) it before and Europe (Rosetta Mission) has managed to land on a comet.

## **Topic 21: DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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

The Centre amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, to facilitate the setting up of District Development Councils (DDC).

- The District Development Councils (DDCs) are set to become a new unit of governance in Jammu and Kashmir. This structure will include a DDC and a District Planning Committee (DPC).
- This system effectively replaces the District Planning and Development Boards in all districts, and will prepare and approve district plans and capital expenditure.
- Their key feature, however, is that **the DDCs will have elected representatives from each district.**
- The term of the DDC will be five years, and the electoral process will allow for reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. The council will hold minimum four meetings a year.
- J&K administration in a statement said that the move to **have an elected third tier of the Panchayati Raj institution** marks the implementation of the entire 73rd Amendment Act in J&K.
- DDCs is expected to become representative bodies for development at the grassroots in the 20 districts of the UT.

## **Topic 22: FINANCE COMMISSION**

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

Finance Commission chief says that GST cess will continue.

- Finance Commission is a constitutional body under Article 280 created every five years to recommend the transfer of financial resources from the Centre to the States.
- The Commission also decides the principles on which grants-in-aid will be given to the States.
- The 15th FC headed by Mr. N.K. Singh and its recommendations, to be observed for a period of five years, will kick in from April 1, 2020.

### **State Finance Commissions (SFCs)**

- The State Finance Commission (SFC) is an institution created by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (CAs) to rationalize and systematize State/sub- State-level fiscal relations in India.
- Article 243I of the Constitution mandated the State Governor to constitute a Finance Commission every five years.
- Article 243Y of the Constitution states that the Finance Commission constituted under article 243 I shall also review the financial position of the Municipalities and make recommendations to the Governor.

## **Topic 23: INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY**

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

Andhra Pradesh CM's letter to Chief Justice of India regarding to the conduct of judges of AP High Court.

- **Article 121** : Restriction on discussion in Parliament No discussions shall take place in Parliament with respect to the conduct of any Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his duties except upon a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of the Judge as hereinafter provided.
- **Article 211** : Restriction on discussion in the Legislature No discussion shall take place in the Legislature of a State with respect to the conduct of any Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his duties.

## **Topic 24: Global warming and food security**

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

#### **Food Security**

- Food security means having a reliable and safe access to nutritious and affordability. According to Food and Agriculture Organisation food security has three dimensions.
  - ✓ Food availability.
  - ✓ Food accessibility.
  - ✓ Food absorption.
- Global warming affects all the dimensions of food security like food production, food access and food absorption.

#### **Affect on food availability**

- The availability of food depends on the productivity of food crops. Global Warming affects the rainfall pattern, increases the severity of drought which in turn affect the productivity of crops.

#### **Impact on rainfall**

- Global warming place additional stress on food production as it affects inter and intraseasonal variation of rainfall.
- According to estimates of World Bank for an average of 4-degree increase in temperature, there can be a 10% increase in annual monsoon intensity and 15% variation in precipitation.
- This decline in precipitation patterns is not uniform as this can cause drought in northwestern parts of India and southern India

will experience more rainfall.

### **Affect on groundwater**

- Global warming will affect the replenishment of groundwater severely. As Indian agriculture depends heavily on groundwater it will impact productivity. Changes in climate have led to drying up of wetland and degradation of other ecosystems.

### **Affect on food availability**

- Global warming affects the variation in the length of crop growing season and increases the incidences of extreme events which can cause the slowdown in output and can drastically affect incomes of small and marginal farmers thus impeding their access to food.

### **Affect on food absorption**

- Global warming can lead to the reduction in nutritional quality of foods (reduced micronutrients like zinc and Iron) due to elevated Carbon dioxide levels. In India where pulses are the major source of proteins (In the west it is meat) which can lead to Hidden hunger which increases the risk of acquiring other infectious diseases.
- It can also lead to the rise in vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and chikungunya. High incidence of undernutrition due to climate change reduces the resilience of the body to adapt and leads to reduced immunity thus affecting the demographic dividend of India to demographic disaster.



## **Topic 25: Tree Transplantation**

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



3800 trees transplanted to make way for Dwarka expressway.

- Agencies concerned will have to transplant 80 per cent of the trees affected by their projects to a new location.
- More importantly, 10 saplings will be planted in addition to the whole tree being dug up with the root intact and scientifically transplanted at another location instead of being felled.
- A dedicated panel of government agencies with track record and experience of tree transplantation is being formed under the policy.
- Payments for transplantation will be made after one year to ensure this, and if less than 80 per cent of the transplanted trees survive, payment will be deducted.

- The government will also form local committees, which will include citizens, for checking, monitoring and certification of the tree transplantation exercise.
- A dedicated Tree Transplantation Cell will also be formed by the government , which will include government officials, citizens to monitor the transplanted trees and to certify that the task has been done with due diligence.