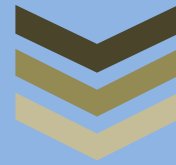


**WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE for**



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

**SEPTEMBER-VOL-III-2020**

16 September to 22 September



.....

- UPSC/MPSC/NDA/CDS
- PUNE/THANE/DADAR/ANDHERI
- Offline/Online batches/Video course
- [www.pioneeracademypace.com/.in](http://www.pioneeracademypace.com/.in)
- IVR No. - 80 80 046 046

.....



# PIioneer ACADEMY

## PUNE



### PUNE Address:

301/5 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr, Pinnacle Prestige (Near Durvankur Hotel), Above Cosmos Bank, Opp. Maharashtra Electronics, Tilak Road, Sadashiv Peth, Pune - 411 030  
Mob.: 91453 39324 / 25

## THANE



### THANE Address:

201/202, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Laizer Arcade, Raghoba Shankar Road, Chendani, Thane(W) - 400 601.  
Mob.: 75060 10635

Email : [pioneeracademypace@gmail.com](mailto:pioneeracademypace@gmail.com)

Website: [www.pioneeracademypace.com](http://www.pioneeracademypace.com) / .in

IVR Number : 8080 046 046

## ANDHERI



### ANDHERI Address:

3<sup>rd</sup> Flr, Syndicate Chamber, Above Vaibhav Restaurant, Next To Better Home Hotel, Opp. Andheri (E) Station, Andheri (E) - 400 601  
Mob. 84518 55673 / 70302 92316

## DADAR



### DADAR Address:

306/7/8, 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr, Blue Pearl Society, Senapati Bapat Road, Plot No. 14, Near Janata Cloth Market, Near Dadar Railway Station, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400 028  
Mob : 93241 69627 / 91375 41508

*Success is born of action...*



## **Topic 1: Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Acts***



The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020, which has already been cleared by the Lok Sabha in March this year, was passed by Rajya Sabha.

### **Features of the Act**

- The Bill **converts three existing bodies under the Ministry of Civil Aviation into statutory bodies under the Act.** These three authorities are:
  - ✓ the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA),
  - ✓ the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and
  - ✓ the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau(AAIB).
- Each of these bodies will be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the centre.
- The DGCA will carry out safety **oversight and regulatory functions with respect to matters under the Bill.**



- The BCAS will carry out regulatory oversight functions related to **civil aviation security**.
- The AAIB will carry out investigations related to **aircraft accidents and incidents**.
- Under the Act, the **central government may make rules on several matters**. These include: (i) registration of aircraft, (ii) regulating air transport services, and (iii) prohibition of flight over any specified area
- **Offences and Penalties:** Under the Act, the penalty for various offences is imprisonment of up to two years, or a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh, or both. These offences include: (i) carrying arms, explosives, or other dangerous goods aboard aircraft, (ii) contravening any rules notified under the Act, and (iii) constructing building or structures within the specified radius around an aerodrome reference point.
- Under the Bill, the central government **may cancel the licences, certificates, or approvals granted to a person under the Act** if the person contravenes any provision of the Act. Such licences include those given for: (i) the establishment of an air transport service, (ii) the establishment of aerodromes, and (iii) the operation, repair, and maintenance of aircraft.
- Courts will not take cognizance of any offence under this Act, unless a complaint is made by, or there is previous sanction from the Director General of Civil Aviation, BCAS, or AAIB.



Only courts equivalent or superior to a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class may try offences under the Act.

- Exemption for Armed Forces: **Aircraft belonging to the naval, military, or air forces of the Union are exempted from the provisions of the Act.**
- The Bill expands this exemption to include aircraft belonging to any other armed forces of the Union. However, aircrafts belonging to an armed force other than the naval, military, and air forces which are currently regulated under the Act will continue to do so until specified otherwise by the central government.



## Topic 2: MPLADS

*Importance for Prelims: Polity*

*Importance for Mains: Polity*



Opposition demand for restoration of MPLADS funds in parliamentary session.

- The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is an **ongoing Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 1993-94**. The Scheme enables the Members of Parliament to **recommend works for creation of durable community assets** based on locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies in the area of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads etc.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been responsible** for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for



implementation of the Scheme.

- The MPLADS is a Plan Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The **annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.**
- **Lok Sabha Members can recommend works within their Constituencies** and Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works within the State of Election (with select exceptions).
- **Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.**



### **Topic 3: Essential Commodities Amendment Bill**

*Importance for Prelims: Acts*

*Importance for Mains: Economy*



Lok Sabha passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

#### **Features of the Bill:**

- The Bill will replace the **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance** which was promulgated on 5th June this year.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and empowers the central government in terms of production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce of certain commodities.
- It also seeks to increase competition in the agriculture sector and enhance farmers' income. The bill aims to **liberalise the regulatory system while protecting the interests of consumers.**
- The bill empowers the central government to designate certain



commodities including food items, fertilizers, and petroleum products as essential commodities.

- Supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, can be regulated by the government under extraordinary circumstances as per the provisions of this bill. **The extraordinary circumstances include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature.**
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 empowers the central government to regulate the stock of an essential commodity that a person can hold.
- The provisions of the bill regarding the regulation of food items and the imposition of stock limits will however **not apply to any government order relating to the Public Distribution System or the Targeted Public Distribution System.**
- It requires that **imposition of any stock limit on agricultural produce** must be based on price rise. A stock limit may be imposed only if there is: (i) a **100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce**; and (ii) a **50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.**
- The increase will be calculated over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or the average retail price of the last five years, whichever is lower.



## Topic 4: Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) Act, 1979

### *Importance for Prelims: Acts*



In the last five years, there have been no inter-State migrant workers registered in the Delhi, Dehradun or Patna regions. Nationwide, there were less than 34,000 workers registered in 2019-20 under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) Act, 1979, according to a response to a recent Right to Information Act request.

- Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. It was enacted to **prevent the exploitation of inter-state migrant workmen** by contractors, and to ensure fair and decent conditions of employment.
- The law requires **all establishments hiring inter-state migrants to be registered**, and **contractors who recruit such workmen be licensed**.
- Contractors are obligated to provide **details of all workmen to the relevant authority**. Migrant workmen are **entitled to wages similar to other workmen**, displacement allowance, journey allowance, and payment of wages during the period of journey.
- Contractors are also required to ensure regular payment, non-discrimination, **provisioning of suitable accommodation, free**



**medical facilities and protective clothing for the workmen.**

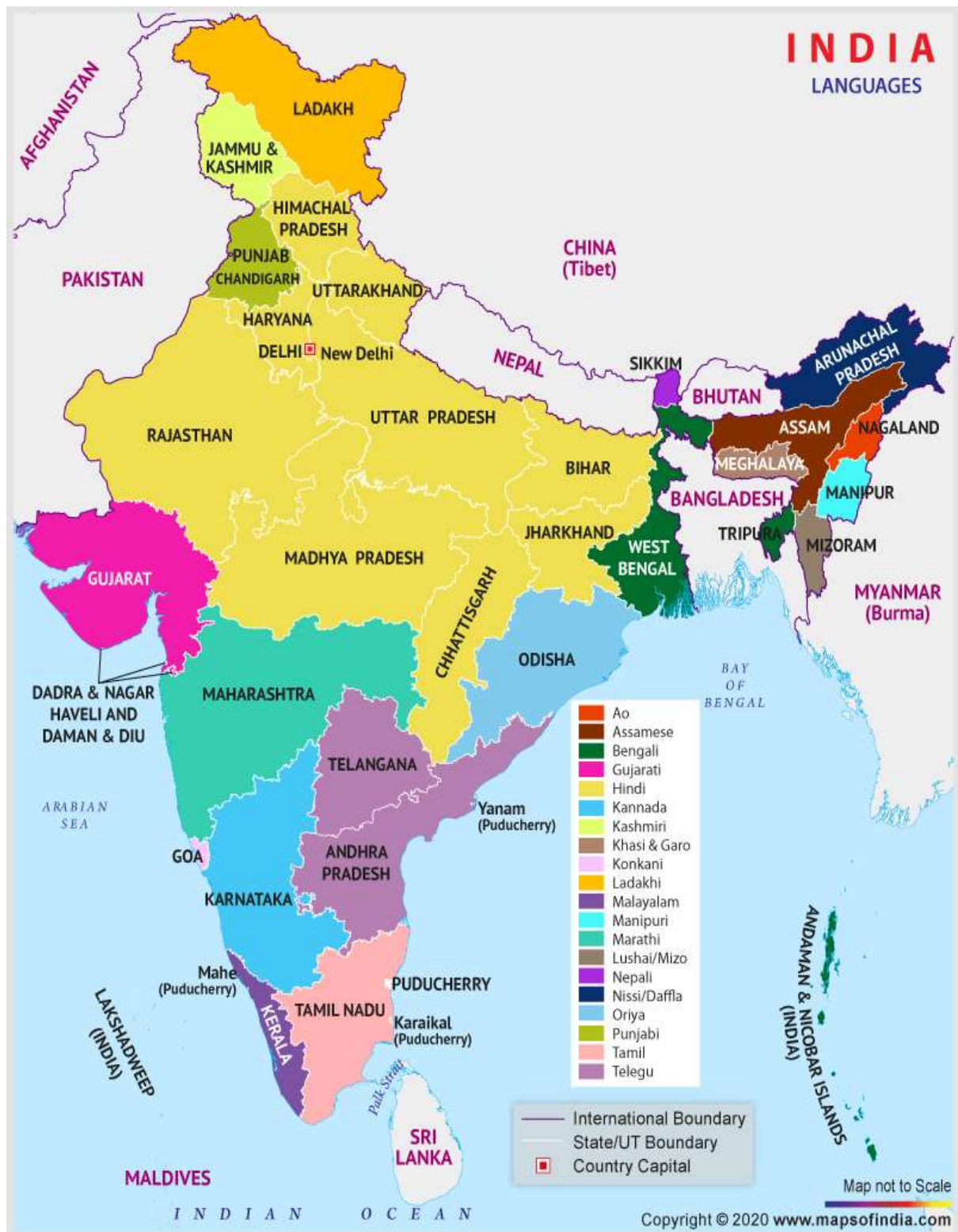
### **Status of implementation**

- The **onerous requirements** set out in this law incentivize contractors and employers to **under-report inter-state workmen rather than to register them.**
- Since the Act is barely implemented, it exists as another law that potentially provides **rent-seeking opportunities to enterprising government inspectors** while failing in its main objective.
- Another consequence of weak implementation is the **absence of government preparedness** and the consequent failure in **preventing genuine hardships for vulnerable groups.**



## Topic 5: Official languages for state

*Importance for Prelims: Polity*





On the agenda of the ongoing monsoon session in Parliament is a **bill to introduce Hindi, Kashmiri and Dogri as official languages in Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to English and Urdu.**

- Part XVII of the Constitution deals with the official language in Articles 343 to 351. **The Constitution does not specify the official language of different states.**

In this regard, it makes the following provisions.

- **The legislature of a state may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state or Hindi** as the official language of that state. Until that is done, English is to continue as official language of that state.
- Under this provision, most of the states have adopted the **major regional language as their official language**. For example, Andhra Pradesh has adopted Telugu, Kerala—Malayalam, Assam—Assamese, West Bengal—Bengali, Odisha—Odia.
- Notably, the choice of the state is **not limited to the languages enumerated in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.**
- For the time being, the **official language of the Union (i.e., English) would remain the link language for communications between the Union and the states** or between various states. But, two or more states are free to agree to use Hindi (instead of English) for communication between themselves.
- **The Official Language Act (1963) lays down that English**



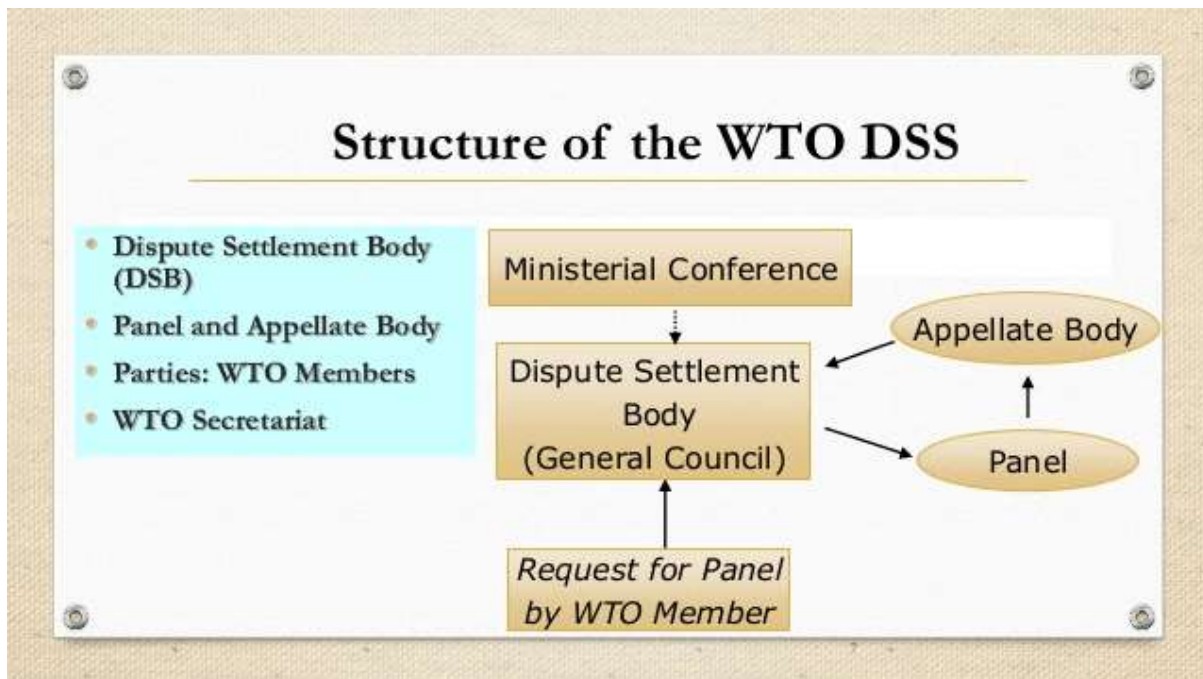
should be used for purposes of communication between the Union and the non-Hindi states (that is, the states that have not adopted Hindi as their official language).

- Further, where Hindi is used for communication between a Hindi and a non-Hindi state, such communication in Hindi should be accompanied by an English translation.
- When the **President (on a demand being made)** is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a state desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that state, then he may direct that such language shall also be officially recognised in that state. This provision aims at protecting the linguistic interests of minorities in the states



## Topic 6: WTO's Dispute Settlement Body

*Importance for Mains: IR*



The World Trade Organization upheld a complaint by China over additional duties slapped by the U.S. on some \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods. A panel of experts set up by WTO's Dispute Settlement Body ruled the **tariffs were "inconsistent" with global trade rules, and recommended that the U.S. "bring its measures into conformity with its obligations"**.

- Settling disputes is the **responsibility of the Dispute Settlement Body (the General Council in another guise)**, which consists of all WTO members.
- The Dispute Settlement Body has **the sole authority to establish "panels" of experts to consider the case, and to accept or reject the panels' findings or the results of an**



**appeal.** It monitors the implementation of the rulings and recommendations, and has the power to authorize retaliation when a country does not comply with a ruling.

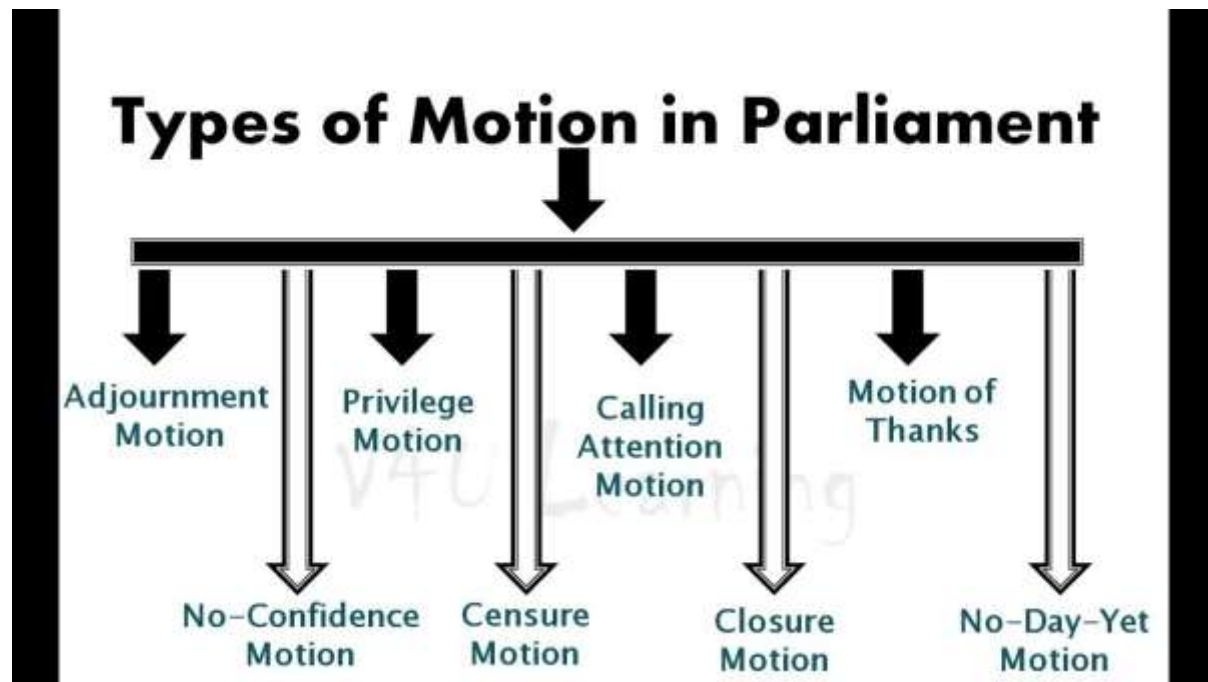
- The **Appellate Body was established in 1995 under Article 17** of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU).
- It is a **standing body of seven persons that hears appeals from reports issued by panels** in disputes brought by WTO Members.
- The Appellate Body can **uphold, modify or reverse the legal findings and conclusions of a panel, and Appellate Body Reports**, once adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), **must be accepted by the parties to the dispute.**
- The Appellate Body has its seat in Geneva, Switzerland.



## Topic 7: Adjournment motion

*Importance for Prelims: Polity*

*Importance for Mains: Polity*



Congress moved an adjournment motion notice in the Lok Sabha over the “surveillance” of key Indian personalities, including the President and Prime Minister, by a firm linked to the Chinese government

- It is introduced in the Parliament **to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance, and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.**
- As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device.
- It involves an **element of censure against the government and hence Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this.**
- The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not



less than two hours and thirty minutes.

- The right to move a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House is subject to the following restrictions:

1. It should raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent and of public importance;
2. It should not cover more than one matter;
3. It should be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence and should not be framed in general terms;
4. It should not raise a question of privilege;
5. It should not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session;
6. It should not deal with any matter that is under adjudication by court; and
7. It should not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.



## Topic 8: Gold Monetisation Scheme

### *Importance for Prelims: Schemes*



Six banks, led by State Bank of India (SBI), **collectively mobilised 68 per cent more gold year-on-year (yoy) from households and temple trusts**, among others, at 4,643.25 kg in 2019-20 against 2,763.12 kg the previous year under the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS).

- Indians families **keep a lot of gold lying idle at their homes**. True that its value grows over time, keeping gold idle doesn't come cheap. One has to spend on storage in a bank locker, or worry for its safety at home.
- The Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) was **launched by the Government of India in 2015**.
- The main aim of this scheme is to **turn the unused gold which is lying idle at our households or institutions into a**



**productive asset.** The aim was to mobilise gold and further facilitate its use for productive purposes.

- The scheme would thus **also reduce India's dependability on gold imports.**
- The depositors **can deposit a minimum of 30 gms of raw gold in the form of bars, coins, jewellery.** There is **no cap on the maximum amount of gold that can be deposited.**
- The deposits under GMS is **held by banks on behalf of the Centre, who also decides the interest rate.** The new scheme consists of revamped GDS (Gold Deposit Scheme) and revamped GML ( Gold Metal Loan) scheme.



## Topic 9: MPs salary

### *Importance for Prelims: Polity*



Lok Sabha passed a bill proposing a 30 percent salary cut in the salaries of MPs for one year

- **Article 106 of the Constitution empowers MPs to determine their salaries and allowances** by enacting laws.
- Till 2018, Parliament **periodically passed laws to revise the salaries of MPs**. In 2018 through the Finance Act, Parliament amended the law setting the salary for MPs. It revised their salary and provided that the salary, daily allowance, and pension of MPs shall be increased every five years, based on the cost inflation index provided under the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- Further, in 1985, **Parliament enacted a law that delegated the power to set and revise** certain allowances of MPs such as constituency allowance, office allowance, and housing allowance **to the central government**.



## Topic 10: Economic and Social Council

*Importance for Prelims: IR*



India has been elected as a member of the United Nation's Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- The Economic and Social Council is at the **heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.**
- It is the central platform for **fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts** to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to **major UN conferences and summits.**



- The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.
- ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development, providing overall guidance and coordination.
- The entities include **regional economic and social commissions, functional commissions** facilitating intergovernmental discussions of major global issues, and specialized agencies, programmes and funds at work around the world to translate development commitments into real changes in people's lives.
- **ECOSOC has 54 member Governments which are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.** Seats on the Council are allotted based on geographical representation with fourteen allocated to African States, eleven to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, ten to Latin American and Caribbean States, and thirteen to Western European and other States.



## Topic 11: UN 75 Declaration

*Importance for Prelims: IR*

*Importance for Mains: IR*



The United Nations completed 75 years this year

- In order to commemorate the historic moment, world leaders come together, at a one-day high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly.
- The meeting, themed as ‘**The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism**’, is a landmark event, as for the first time in 75 years, the 193-member body would be holding the session virtually on account of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- The **declaration adopted at the meeting looks back at the glorious years of the UN and remarked upon its achievements as well as failures.**
- It also set out its **goals for the next decade.**
- The next 10 years, which have been designated as the **decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**, will be the



most critical of our generation.

- It is even more important as we build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic The goals listed out for the next ten years include **protection of the planet and environment, promoting peace, gender equality and women empowerment, digital cooperation, and sustainable financing.**



## Topic 12: Five Finger Strategy

### *Importance for Prelims: IR*



Heart of the PRC's strategy to manage its periphery which is often referred to as Mao's 'Five Finger strategy'

- The Five Fingers of Tibet is a Chinese foreign policy attributed to Mao Zedong that considers Tibet to be China's right hand palm, with **five fingers on its periphery: Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Arunachal Pradesh**, and that it is China's responsibility to "liberate" these regions.



## Topic 13: National cyber security coordinator

*Importance for Prelims: IR*



Government has set up an expert committee under the National Cyber Security Coordinator to study the revelations in China Watching, an investigation by The Indian Express, that a Shenzhen-based company, is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and entities.

- In 2013, the cabinet had approved the National Cyber Security Policy.
- In that, there were a number of new institutions that were proposed. For example, there is an institution called the **NCIIPC- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre-for the CII** [critical information infrastructure]; then, for **threat analysis, there was the NCCC -National Cyber Coordination Centre**; for cybercrime, there was the **I4C- Cyber Crime Coordination Centre** under the MHA; and as a **coordinator of all these aspects, there was an**



## **appointment created called the National Cyber Security Coordinator**

- National Security Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and it comprises four major ministries-External Affairs, Finance, Defence and Home. That's the highest decision-making body for taking decisions on national security. And the secretary general of this council is the National Security Advisor.
- **To provide a secretariat for the Security Council, there is the National Security Council Secretariat.** It has various verticals: there is a vertical that handles internal threats, vertical that handles strategic threats, etc.
- National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) **under National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** coordinates with different agencies at the national level for cyber security matters.
- National Cyber Security Coordinator mandate **to advise this Council in overseeing and compliance of all the cyber security** aspects including implementation of action plans in cyber security by the nodal agencies, evaluation and analysis of incidents, then forming incident response monitoring teams.
- There's an aspect of international forums and providing consultation and guidance to state governments.
- And also engage with the private industry for formulation of policies.



## **Topic 14: BECA, 2+2 dialogue**

### ***Importance for Prelims: IR***



The U.S. is keen that **India sign the last foundational agreement, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation (BECA), at the next India-U.S. 2+2 ministerial dialogue** likely to held in October end.

- Beginning 2016, India has **signed three foundational agreements:**
  - ✓ Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
  - ✓ Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
  - ✓ General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA). An extension to the GSOMIA, the Industrial Security Annex (ISA), was signed at the last 2+2 dialogue.



## BECA

- BECA will allow the United States to **share satellite and other sensor data with India** in order to improve the Indian military's targeting and navigation capabilities.

## 2+2 dialogue

- It is a **format of dialogue where the defense and foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country.**
- 2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries.
- India holds such talks **with Australia**, at the foreign secretary and defense secretary level but **with Japan and the US** at the ministerial level



## Topic 15: Kakatiya dynasty

### *Importance for Prelims: History*



A temple constructed by emperor Ganapati Deva, a ruler of the Kakatiya dynasty, in Dharanikota near present Andhra Pradesh capital Amaravati, has been converted into an abode of local goddess Balusulamma (Goddess Durga).

- The **12th and the 13th centuries** saw the emergence of the Kakatiyas. They were at first the **feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana**, ruling over a small territory near Warangal
- The Kakatiyas are known through their **famous architecture** such as **Fort Warangal, the Ramappa Temple, the Thousand Pillar Temple**, and so on.



- A ruler of this dynasty, Prola II, who ruled from 1110 AD to 1158 AD, extended his sway to the south and declared his independence.
- His successor **Rudra (1158 – 1195 AD)** pushed the kingdom to the north up to the Godavari delta. He built a fort at Warangal to serve as a second capital and faced the invasions of the Yadavas of Devagiri.
- The next ruler **Mahadeva** extended the kingdom to the coastal area.
- In 1199 AD, **Ganapati** succeeded him. He was the greatest of the **Kakatiyas** and the first after the Satavahanas to bring the entire Telugu area under one rule. He put an end to the rule of the Velanati Cholas in 1210 AD. He forced the Telugu Cholas of Vikramasimhapura to accept his suzerainty. He established order in his vast dominion and encouraged trade.
- As Ganapati Deva had no sons, **his daughter Rudramba** succeeded him in **1262 AD** and carried on the administration. Some generals, who did not like to be ruled by her, rebelled. She could, however, suppress the internal rebellions and external invasions with the help of loyal subordinates. **The Cholas and the Yadavas suffered such set backs at her hands** that they did not think of troubling her for the rest of her rule.
- **Prataparudra** succeeded his grandmother **Rudramba** in **1295 AD** and ruled till **1323 AD**. He pushed the western border



of his kingdom up to Raichur.

- He introduced many administrative reforms. **He divided the kingdom into 75 Nayakships**, which was later adopted and developed by the Rayas of Vijayanagara.
- In his time the territory constituting Andhra Pradesh had the first experience of a Muslim invasion. **In 1303 AD, the Delhi Sultan Ala-ud-din Khilji sent an army to plunder the kingdom, but Prataparudra defeated them at Upparapalli in Karimnagar district.**
- In 1310 AD, when another army under **Malik Kafur invaded Warangal, Prataparudra yielded and agreed to pay a large tribute.**
- In 1318 AD when Ala-ud-din Khilji died, Prataparudra withheld the tribute. It provoked another invasion of the Muslims. **In 1321 AD Ghiaz-ud-din Tughlaq sent a large army under Ulugh Khan to conquer the Telugu country.** He laid siege to Warangal, but owing to internal dissensions he called off the siege and returned to Delhi. Within a short period, he came back with a much bigger army. In spite of unpreparedness, **Prataparudra fought bravely. For want of supplies, he surrendered to the enemy who sent him to Delhi as a prisoner, and he died on the way.**
- Thus ended the Kakatiya rule, opening the gates of the Telugu land to anarchy and confusion yielding place to an alien ruler.



## **Topic 16: Deputy chairman removal**

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

Twelve opposition parties gave notice for a **no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, accusing him of violating the parliamentary procedures** in trying to pass the farm sector Bills in haste, circumventing all demands for proper voting.

- Rajya Sabha elects a Deputy Chairman to perform the functions of the Chairman in case of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman or when the Vice-President is acting as or discharging the functions of the President.
- **Article 90 deals with “vacation and resignation** of, and removal from, the office of Deputy Chairman a member holding office as Deputy Chairman of the Council of States”.
- A member holding office as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha may be **removed from his office by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha**; but the resolution can be moved only when at least fourteen days’ notice has been given of the intention of moving



## Topic 17: 7th Schedule and Interstate Council

### *Importance for Prelims: Polity*

#### *Co-ordination between States- INTER-STATE COUNCIL*

- ▶ According to Article 263, an inter-state council can be established by the President if, the public interest so requires.
- ▶ Inter-state council was established in 1990 on the Sarkaria Commission recommendation.
- ▶ Function of the Inter-State Council shall be:-
  1. Enquire and Advice to resolve the disputes.
  2. Investigating and discussing on the subjects of common interests of some or all the States or the Union and one or more States.
  3. To effect co-ordination between the States.

India's response to Covid-19 reflects the power, problems, potential of federalism

### **Interstate Council**

- **Article 263 of the Constitution of India provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council.**
- The text of the Article reads as under: "263. Provisions with respect to an inter- State Council – If at any time it appears to the President that the public interests would be served by the establishment of a Council charged with the duty of – **inquiring into and advising upon disputes** which may have arisen between States; **investigating and discussing subjects in which some or all of the States, or the Union** and one or more



of the States, have a common interest; or **making recommendations** upon any such subject and, in particular, recommendations for the better co-ordination of policy and action with respect to that subject, **it shall be lawful for the President by order to establish such a Council, and to define the nature of the duties to be performed by it and its organization and procedure.”**

- The Commission on Centre-State Relations under the **Chairmanship of Justice R. S. Sarkaria in its report in January 1988 recommended that:**
- A permanent Inter-State Council called the Inter-Governmental Council (IGC) should be set up under Article 263.
- The IGC should be charged with the duties set out in clauses (b) and (c) of Article 263, other than socio-economic planning and development
- Government of India accepted the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission to set-up an Inter-State Council and notified the establishment of the Inter-State Council
- The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India on 1990

The Council consists of:-

- ✓ **Prime Minister – Chairman**
- ✓ Chief Ministers of all States – Members
- ✓ Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative



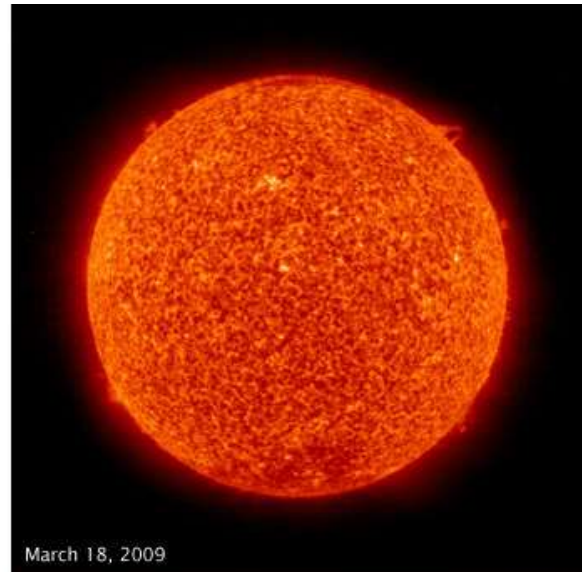
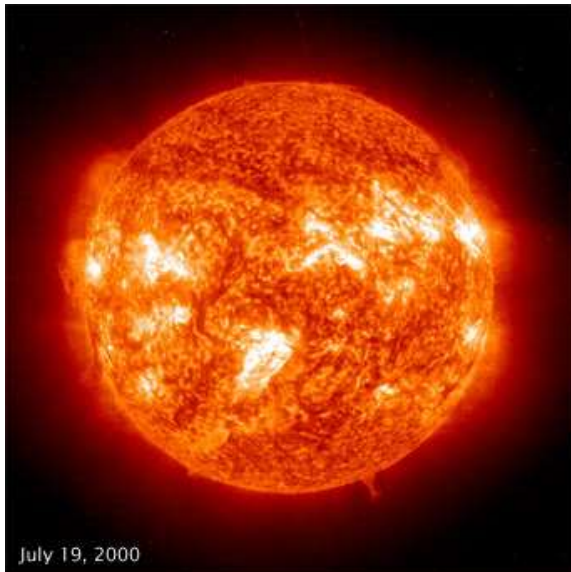
Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly – Members

- ✓ Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister – Members



## Topic 18: Solar cycle

### *Importance for Prelims: Geography*



Scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced **their predictions about the new solar cycle, called Solar Cycle 25**, which they believe has begun. Solar cycles have implications for life and technology on Earth as well as astronauts in space

- Since the Sun's surface is a very active space, **electrically charged gases on its surface generate areas of powerful magnetic forces**, which are called magnetic fields.
- Since the gases on the Sun's surface are constantly moving, **these magnetic fields can get stretched, twisted and tangled creating motion on the surface**, which is referred to as solar activity. Solar activity varied with the stages of the solar cycle.
- **The solar cycle is based on the Sun's magnetic field, which flips around every 11 years**, with its north and south magnetic



poles switching places.

- **Scientists track a solar cycle by using sunspots**, which are the dark blotches on the Sun that are associated with solar activity.
- A Sunspot is an area on **the Sun that appears dark on the surface and is relatively cooler than the surrounding parts**. These spots, some as large as 50,000 km in diameter, are the visible markers of the Sun's magnetic field, which forms a blanket that protects the solar system from harmful cosmic radiation.
- When a Sunspot reaches up to 50,000 km in diameter, it may release a huge amount of energy that can lead to solar flares.
- The **beginning of a solar cycle is typically characterised by only a few sunspots and is therefore referred to as a solar minimum**.
- Scientists predict a solar maximum (middle of the solar cycle) will be reached by July 2025 and that this solar cycle will be as strong as the last solar cycle, which was a “below-average cycle” but not without risks.
- **Scientists track solar activity because it can have effects on Earth**. For example, when charged particles from **coronal mass ejections (CMEs) reach areas near the Earth, they can trigger intense lightning** in the skies referred to as auroras.
- When CMEs are particularly strong, they can also **interfere with the power grids, which can cause electricity shortages**



**and power outages.** NASA notes that solar flares and CMEs are the most powerful explosions in our solar system.

- Further, solar flares can have a **major effect on radio communications, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) connectivity, power grids, and satellites.**



## Topic 19: Commonwealth nations

*Importance for Prelims: IR*



Before it celebrates its 55th anniversary of independence from British rule in November 2021, the **prosperous West Indies nation** will make history by becoming the first country in almost three decades to sever ties with the British royal family and become a republic.

- The Commonwealth is a **voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries.**
- It is home to 2.4 billion people, and **includes both advanced economies and developing countries.** 32 of our members are small states, including many island nations.
- The Commonwealth is one of the **world's oldest political associations of states.** Its roots go back to the British Empire,



when countries around the world were ruled by Britain.

- The 1926 Imperial Conference was attended by the leaders of Australia, Canada, India, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland, New Zealand and South Africa.
- At the 1926 conference Britain and the Dominions agreed that they were all equal members of a community within the British Empire. They all owed allegiance to the British king or queen, but the United Kingdom did not rule over them. This community was called the British Commonwealth of Nations or just the Commonwealth.
- **The Dominions and other territories of the British Empire gradually became fully independent of the United Kingdom.**
- India became independent in 1947. India wanted to become a republic which didn't owe allegiance to the British king or queen, but it also wanted to stay a member of the Commonwealth.
- At a Commonwealth Prime Ministers meeting in London in 1949, **the London Declaration said that republics and other countries could be part of the Commonwealth. The modern Commonwealth of Nations was born.** Since 1949 independent countries from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific have joined the Commonwealth. Membership today is based on free and equal voluntary co-operation.
- The last 2 countries to join the Commonwealth – Rwanda and



Mozambique - **have no historical ties to the British Empire.**

- The Commonwealth Secretariat was created in 1965 as a central intergovernmental organisation to manage the Commonwealth's work.



## **Topic 20: Human Capital index**

### ***Importance for Prelims: Index***



India has been **ranked at the 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index** that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

- The 2020 Human Capital Index update includes health and education **data for 174 countries covering 98 per cent of the world's population up to March 2020**, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children
- India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.
- The HCI has three components:
  - **Survival**, as measured by under-5 mortality rates
  - **Expected years of Quality-Adjusted School** which combines information on the quantity and quality of



education: quality is measured by harmonizing test scores from major international student achievement testing programs and quantity from the **number of years of school that a child can expect to obtain by age 18** given the prevailing pattern of enrolment rates across grades in respective countries

- Health environment is measured by **adult survival rates and the rate of stunting for children under age 5.**



## Topic 21: National Bamboo mission

### *Importance for Prelims: Schemes*



The infographic is titled 'NATIONAL BAMBOO MISSION' and is issued by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It features a large image of bamboo stalks on the left. The objectives are listed in four numbered points, each with a green circular icon. At the bottom, there are three social media icons: Facebook (labeled AgriGoi), Twitter (labeled AgriGoi), and a website icon (labeled agricoop.gov.in).

**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**  
Government of India

## NATIONAL BAMBOO MISSION

### OBJECTIVES

- 1 To increase the area under bamboo plantation in non forest Government and private lands to supplement farm income and contribute towards availability of quality raw material requirement of industries.
- 2 To improve post-harvest management through establishment of innovative primary processing units, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation technologies and market infrastructure.
- 3 To promote skill development, capacity building, awareness generation for development of bamboo sector.
- 4 To promote product development

AgriGoi AgriGoi agricoop.gov.in

On the occasion of the World Bamboo Day, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) said that government plans to promote domestic Bamboo Industry, which is going to play a critical role in shaping the post-COVID economy of India.



- It is **centrally Sponsored Scheme** under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20).
- The Mission would **ensure holistic development of the bamboo sector** by addressing complete value chain and establishing effective linkage of producers (farmers) with industry.
- The scheme will **benefit directly and indirectly the farmers as well as local artisans and associated personnel engaged in bamboo sector** including associated industries.
- The Mission will **focus on development of bamboo in limited States where it has social, commercial and economical advantage, particularly in the North Eastern region** and States including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

### **Details:**

The restructured NBM strives to –

- To **increase the area under bamboo plantation in non forest Government and private lands** to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change.
- To **improve post-harvest management** through establishment of innovative primary processing units, treatment and seasoning plants, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation



technologies and market infrastructure.

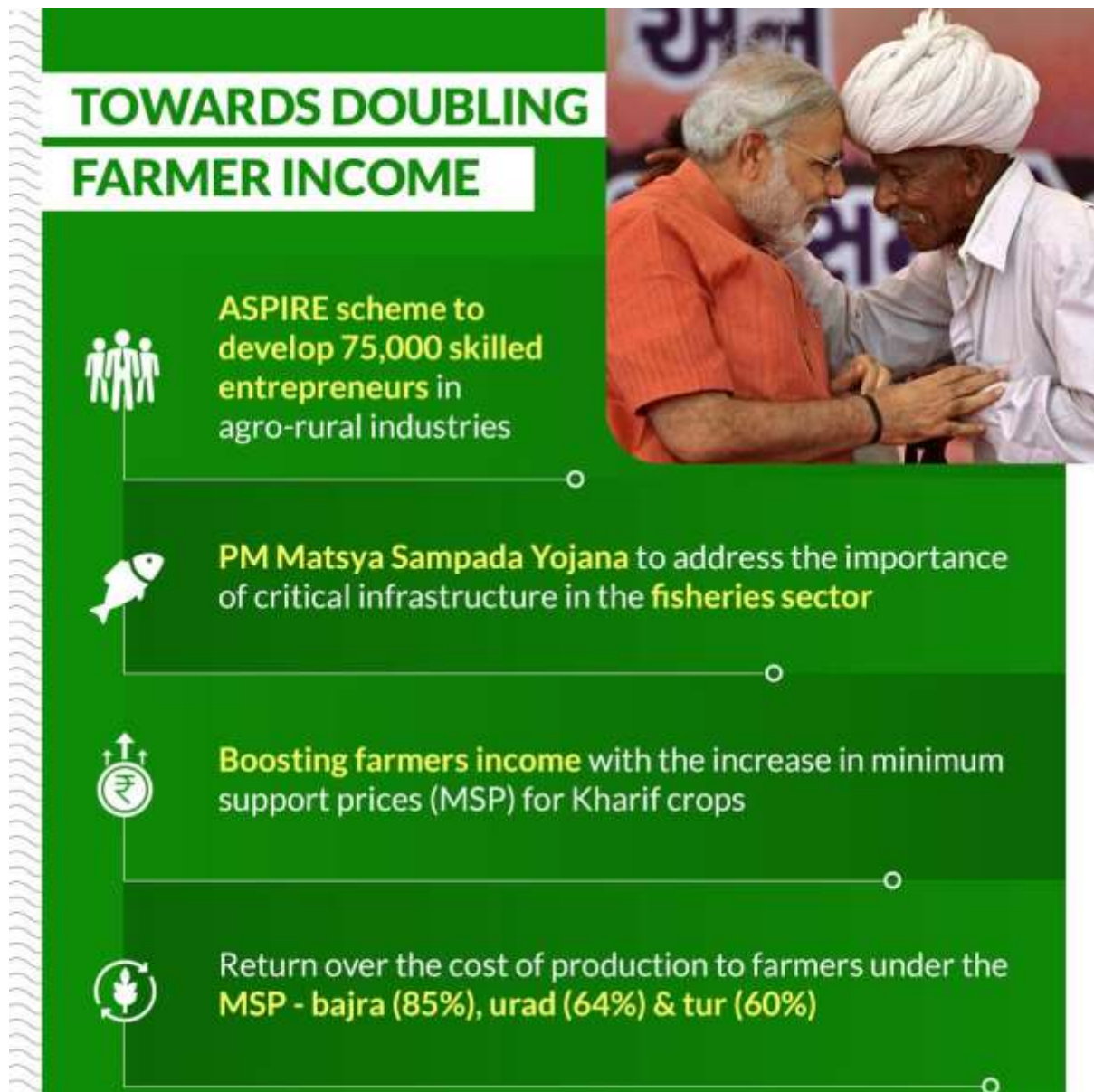
- To promote **product development at micro, small and medium levels** and feed bigger industry.
- To rejuvenate the under developed bamboo industry in India.
- To promote **skill development, capacity building, awareness generation for development of bamboo sector.**



## Topic 22: Steps for Doubling Farmers' Income

*Importance for Prelims: Economy*

*Importance for Mains: Economy*



Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in Rajya Sabha has informed about steps taken for doubling farmers' income.

- The Government constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to “Doubling of Farmers



Income” (DFI) and recommend strategies to achieve the same.

- The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in September, 2018 containing the strategy for doubling of farmers’ income by the year 2022.
- The DFI strategy as recommended by the Committee include **seven sources of income growth viz.,**
  1. improvement in crop productivity
  2. improvement in livestock productivity
  3. resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production
  4. increase in the cropping intensity
  5. diversification towards high value crops
  6. improvement in real prices received by farmers
  7. shift from farm to non-farm occupations

### **List of various interventions and schemes launched for the benefit of farmers**

- With a view to provide income support to all farmers’ families across the country, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government started a **new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN).**
- The scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs. 6000/- per year, in three 4-monthly installments of Rs. 2000/- to the farmers families, subject to certain exclusions relating to higher income



groups.

- Further with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme i.e. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)** for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years.
- With a view to provide better insurance coverage to crops for risk mitigation, a crop insurance scheme namely **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** was launched from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances, with low premium contribution by farmers.
- Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of **Soil Health Cards** to farmers so that the use of fertilizers can be rationalized.
- **“Per drop more crop” initiative** under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- **“Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)”** for promoting



organic farming.

- Launch of **e-NAM initiative** to provide farmers an electronic transparent and competitive online trading platform.
- Under “**HarMedh Par Ped**”, **agro forestry is being promoted for additional income.**
- With the amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Bamboo has been removed from the definition of trees. A restructured National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the year 2018 to promote bamboo plantation on non- forest government as well as private land and emphasis on value addition, product development and markets.
- Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives, the Government has approved a new Umbrella Scheme ‘**Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanrakshanAbhiyan (PM-AASHA)**’. The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers’ income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- The Government has **extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers practicing animal husbandry and fisheries related activities.**
- Several market reforms have been rolled out. These include Model APLMC (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017



Establishment of 22,000 number of Gramin Agriculture Markets (GrAMs) as aggregation platforms Agri-Export Policy, that targets to double agri-exports by 2022

- The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020
- The Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020
- Amendments to Essential Commodities Act, 1955, that deregulates various agri-commodities Creation of Corpus Funds
- Micro Irrigation Fund – Rs. 5,000 crore
- Agri-marketing Fund to strengthen eNAM and GrAMs – Rs. 2,000 crore
- Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to build agri-logistics (backward & forward linkages) – Rs. 1 lakh crore



## Topic 23: National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

### *Importance for Prelims: Schemes*



The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025. This information was given by Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Rattan Lal Kataria in a written reply in Lok Sabha

- **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has prepared a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) so as to focus on **preventive education, awareness generation, identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation** of drug dependent persons and training and capacity building of the service providers through collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations.
- **Article 47 of the Constitution** provides that “The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall



endeavor to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.”

- India is a **signatory to the three UN Conventions namely, Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.**
- The Government of India has enacted the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the year 1985 to make stringent provisions for the control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

### **Objectives of NAPDDR**

1. Create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of drugs abuse on the individual, family, workplace and the society at large and reduce stigmatization of and discrimination against, groups and individuals dependent on drugs in order to integrate them back into the society;
2. Develop human resources and build capacity for working towards these objectives;
3. Facilitate research, training, documentation, innovation and collection of relevant information to strengthen the above mentioned objectives;
4. Provide for a whole range of community based services for the



identification, motivation, counselling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation for Whole Person Recovery (WPR) of addicts;

5. Formulate and implement comprehensive guidelines, schemes, and programmes using a multiagency approach for drug demand reduction;

6. Undertake drug demand reduction efforts to address all forms of drug abuse;

7. Alleviate the consequences of drug dependence amongst individuals, family and society at large

8. Components admissible for financial assistance

The following components are admissible for financial assistance under the NAPDDR:

#### Preventive Education and Awareness Generation

- ✓ Capacity Building
- ✓ Treatment and Rehabilitation
- ✓ Setting quality standards
- ✓ Focussed Intervention in vulnerable areas
- ✓ Skill development, vocational training and livelihood support of ex-drug addicts
- ✓ Survey, Studies, Evaluation, Research and Innovation on the subjects covered under the Scheme.
- ✓ Programmes for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs



## Topic 24: One District One Product Concept

*Importance for Prelims: Economy*



एक जनपद एक उत्पाद  
ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT



Based on strengths of a district and National Priorities, **One District One Product (ODOP)** is seen as a transformational step forward towards realizing the true potential of a district, fuel economic growth and generate employment and rural entrepreneurship, **taking us to the goal of AatmaNirbhar Bharat.**

- Department of Commerce through DGFT is **engaging with State and Central government agencies to promote the initiative of One District One Product.**

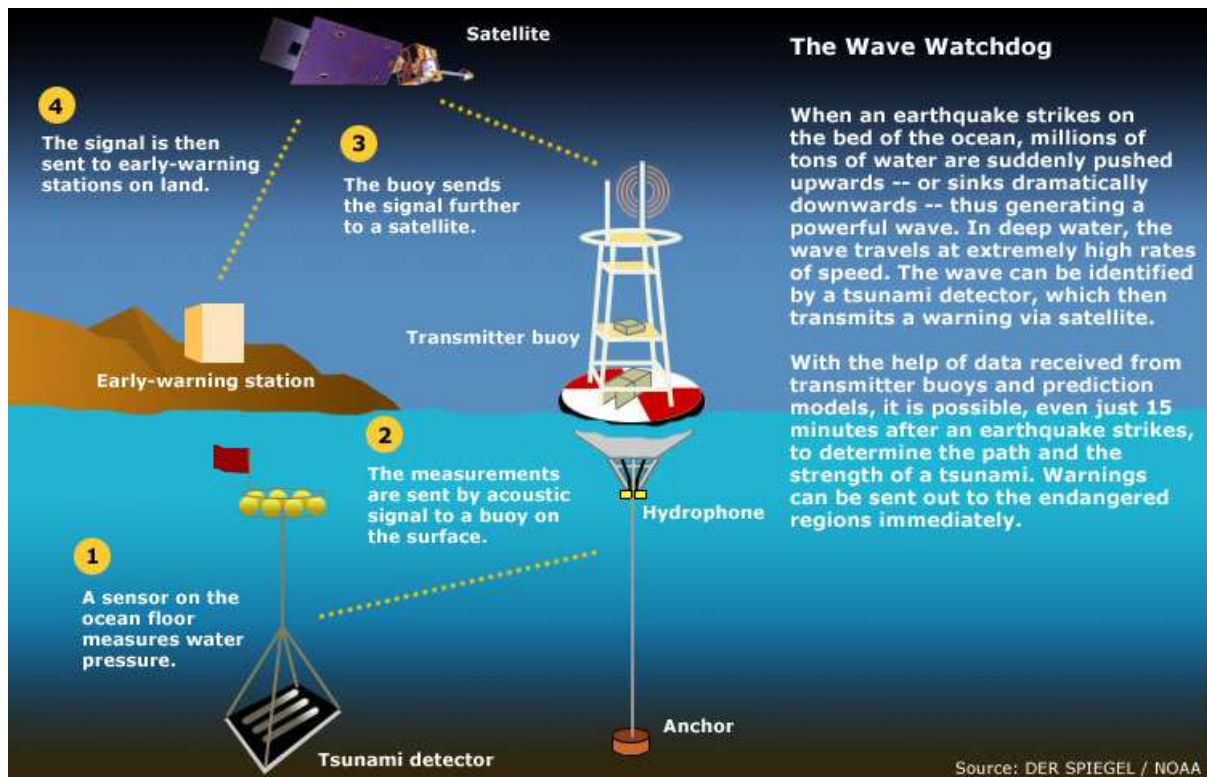


- The objective is to **convert each District of the country into an export hub by identifying products with export potential in the District**, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products, supporting local exporters, manufacturers to scale up manufacturing, and find potential buyers outside India **with the aim of promoting exports, promoting manufacturing & services industry in the District and generate employment in the District.**
- As part of this initiative, an institutional mechanism is being set up in each District in the form of **District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) that may be headed by DM/ Collector/ DC/ District Development Officer of the District** and co-chaired by the designated Regional Authority of DGFT and various other stakeholders as its members.
- The primary function of the DEPC will be **to prepare and act on District specific Export Action Plans** in collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders from the Centre, State and the District level.



## Topic 25: Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre

### *Importance for Prelims: IR*



Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre is providing Tsunami Services to 25 Indian Ocean Countries

- The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) was established at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, an autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences which **continues to provide timely tsunami advisories to stake holders.**
- The ITEWC is also providing tsunami services to **25 Indian Ocean Countries as part of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO framework.**
- INCOIS has introduced several innovative concepts in **tsunami**



**modeling, mapping of coastal inundation, Decision Support System, SOPs to meet the emerging challenges** and provide accurate and timely tsunami early warnings.

- INCOIS has established a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) & Strong Motion Accelerometers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands **for quick and reliable estimation of source parameters for near source earthquakes.**
- In addition, INCOIS has carried out **Multi-hazard Vulnerability Mapping (MHVM) along the mainland of Indian coastland MHVM atlas has been prepared.**



## Topic 26: Blue Flag International eco-label

### *Importance for Prelims: Environment*





Eight Indian beaches recommended for coveted Blue Flag international eco-label

- Blue Flag certification is a **globally recognised eco-label accorded by an international agency ‘Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark’** based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads
  - ✓ Environmental education and information
  - ✓ Bathing water quality
  - ✓ Environment management and conservation
  - ✓ safety and services in the beaches.
- The ‘Blue Flag’ beach is an **eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide the tourists/beachgoers** clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.
- The eight beaches recommended under the BEAMS are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Daman and Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



## Topic 27: e-Shakthi

### *Importance for Prelims: Schemes*



NABARD chairman said women's self-help groups in the four districts of Tamil Nadu are on its e-Shakthi platform

- The project e-Shakthi **aims at digitisation of all the SHG accounts to bring SHG members under the fold of Financial Inclusion** thereby helping them access wider range of financial services together with increasing the bankers' comfort in credit appraisal and linkage by way of:
  - ✓ Integrating SHG members with the national Financial Inclusion agenda;
  - ✓ Improving the quality of interface between SHG members and Banks for efficient and hassle free delivery of banking services by using the available technology;
  - ✓ Facilitate convergence of delivery system with SHGs using Aadhaar linked identity.



## Topic 28: Indus water treaty

*Importance for Prelims: IR*

### The Indus Water Treaty

The 56-year-old Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan has been instrumental in the peaceful sharing of the water of Indus and its tributaries

With the recent spurt of tensions between the two countries and PM Narendra Modi's statement that "blood and water cannot flow together" followed by India's decision to suspend meetings of Indus Water Commission, here is a look at the treaty and its ingredients:

Signed on: **September 19, 1960**  
 Signatories: **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan**  
 Brokered by: **The World Bank**

**Features**

- Rivers Beas, Ravi and Sutlej to be governed by India while Indus, Chenab and Jhelum by Pakistan
- India is allowed to use 20 per cent of Indus water for irrigation, power generation and transport purposes
- A permanent body called Indus Water Commission solves disputes arising over water sharing
- River Indus originates from China, but it is not a part of the treaty

September 19 marks the 60th anniversary of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan, a treaty that is often cited as an example of the possibilities of peaceful coexistence that exist despite the troubled relationship.

- In the year **1960**, **India and Pakistan** signed a **water distribution agreement** came to be known as Indus Waters Treaty which was **orchestrated by the World Bank**.
- This agreement took nine years of negotiations and **divides the control of six rivers between the two nations once signed**.



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



## Topic 29: O-SMART scheme

*Importance for Prelims: Science and Technology*

*Importance for Mains: Science and Technology*



Information about O- SMART was given by the Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan in a written reply in Rajya Sabha

The objectives of O-SMART (Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology) scheme of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India are

- To generate and regularly update information on **Marine Living Resources** and their relationship with the physical environment in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- To periodically **monitor levels of sea water pollutants for health assessment of coastal waters of India**, to develop shoreline change maps for assessment of coastal erosion due to



natural and anthropogenic activities

- To develop a **wide range of state-of-the art ocean observation systems** for acquisition of real-time data from the seas around India,
- To **generate and disseminate a suite of user-oriented ocean information**, advisories, warnings, data and data products for the benefit of society
- To develop high resolution models for ocean forecast and reanalysis system
- To **develop algorithms for validation of satellite data for coastal research** and to monitor changes in the coastal research  
Acquisition of 2 Coastal Research Vessels (CRVs) as replacement of 2 old CRVs for coastal pollution monitoring, testing of various underwater components and technology demonstration
- To **develop technologies to tap the marine bio resources and** generating freshwater and energy from ocean



## Topic 30: Labour code reforms

*Importance for Prelims: Economy*



Government has **introduced three Labour Codes in the Lok Sabha** heralding the path of game changing labour welfare reforms in the country.

- These bills are (i) **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**, (ii) **Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Bill, 2020** (iii) **Social Security Code, 2020**.



- It was mentioned that the **Code on Wages** has already been approved by Parliament in the month of August, 2019 and has already become the law of the land.

#### **i) Social Security Code, 2020**

- **Labour falls under the Concurrent List of the Constitution.** Therefore, both Parliament and state legislatures can make laws regulating labour.
- **Currently, there are over 100 state and 40 central laws regulating various aspects of labour** such as resolution of industrial disputes, working conditions, social security and wages.
- Social security refers to **protection measures provided to workers to ensure healthcare and income security in case of certain contingencies** such as old age, maternity, or accidents.
- In India, **social security schemes under different laws are designed on the basis of size of establishment, nature of employment, income of worker, or income status of the worker's household.**
- These schemes are administered through a combination of contribution-based schemes (funded by the government, employer, or employee), state-funded social assistance programmes, or, employer-liability schemes

#### **Features:**

- The Bill **replaces nine laws related to social security.** These



include the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, and the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.

- Establishments above a **certain specified size have to provide benefits (such as provident fund and insurance)**. These are mandatory for employees above a wage level which will be notified. For other workers, the government may frame social security schemes.
- The Bill provides for the **establishment of several bodies to administer the social security schemes**. These include: (i) a Central Board of Trustees, headed by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner, to administer the EPF, EPS and EDLI Schemes, (ii) an Employees State Insurance Corporation, headed by a Chairperson appointed by the central government, to administer the ESI Scheme, (iii) national and state-level Social Security Boards, headed by the central and state Ministers for Labour and Employment, respectively, to administer schemes for unorganised workers, and (iv) state-level Building Workers' Welfare Boards, headed by a Chairperson nominated by the state government, to administer schemes for building workers.
- All eligible establishments are required to register under the Bill. **All employees and unorganised workers have to provide their Aadhaar number to receive social security benefits.**



Employers may be required to report vacancies to career centres.

- The Bill specifies penalties for various offences, such as failure to pay
- contributions and falsification of reports. Offences which are not punishable with imprisonment can be compounded (i.e., settled) by payment of up to 50% of the maximum fine applicable.

## ii) Industrial Relations Code, 2020

### Features

- The Code provides for the **recognition of trade unions, notice periods for strikes and lock-outs, standing orders, and resolution of industrial disputes**. It subsumes and replaces three labour laws: the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; the Trade Unions Act, 1926; and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
- Trade unions that have a **membership of at least 10% of the workers or 100 workers will be registered. The union with 75% of workers in an establishment will be the sole negotiating union**. Otherwise, a negotiating council of unions will be formed.
- An employee **cannot go on strike unless he gives notice for a strike within six weeks before striking**, and within 14 days of giving such notice. Similar provisions exist for lock-out of workers.
- Industrial establishments with 100 workers must prepare



standing orders on matters listed in a Schedule and have them certified

- **Factories, mines or plantations in which 100 or more workers are employed are required to take prior permission of the central or state government before laying off or retrenching their workers**
- The Code provides for the **constitution of Industrial Tribunals for the settlement of industrial disputes**. Each Industrial Tribunal will consist of a Judicial member and an Administrative member.

### **iii) Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Bill, 2020**

- The Code consolidates 13 labour laws relating to safety, health and working conditions.
- These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

### **Features**

- The Code seeks to **regulate health and safety conditions of workers** in establishments with 10 or more workers, and in all mines and docks.
- Establishments covered by the Code are **required to register with registering officers, appointed by the central or state governments**.
- **Welfare facilities, working conditions and work hours for**



**different types of establishments** and workers will be prescribed by the central or state governments through rules.

- The Code sets up **occupational safety boards at the national and state level** to advise the central and state governments on the standards, rules, and regulations to be framed under the Code.
- The Code creates special provisions for certain classes of establishments such as factories, mines, dock workers, and constructions workers. These include separate provisions on licenses, safety regulations, and duties of employers.

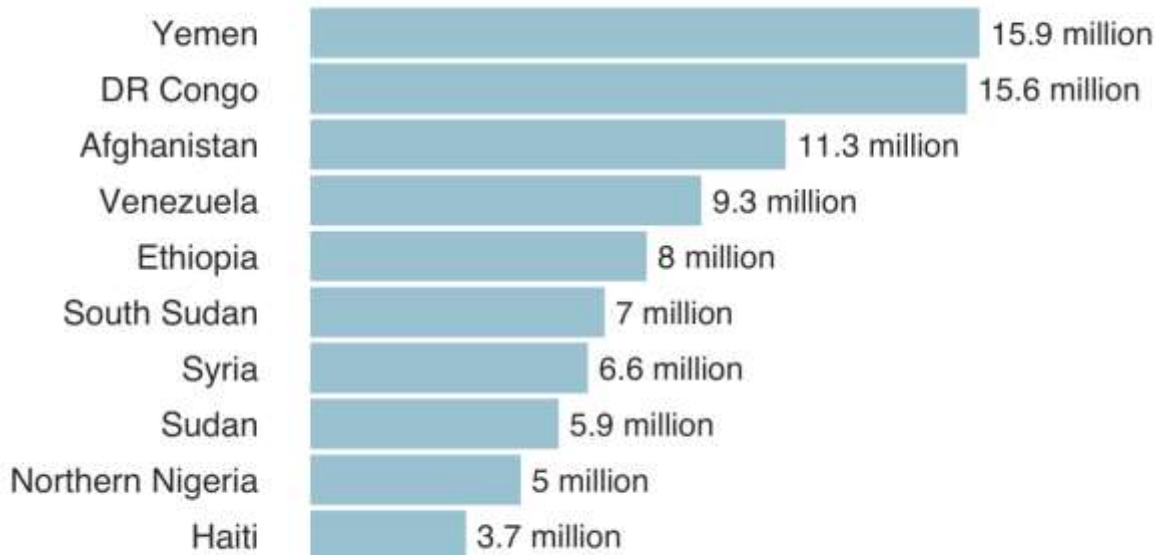


## Topic 31: World's worst food crisis

*Importance for Prelims: IR*

### **Worst-affected countries**

People who face acute food insecurity



Source: FSIN, GRFC, WFP 2020

BBC

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** was facing the **world's largest food crisis**, with around 21.8 million of its people being food insecure primarily due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a report released by the Global Network Against Food Crises alliance of humanitarian agencies said.

- The **indirect impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and economic activities**, as well as pre-existing macro-economic challenges, significantly **reduced the purchasing power of vulnerable households in 2020**, particularly in urban areas.
- Burkina Faso had also been suffering from an acute food crisis besides the DRC, the report said. The country **witnessed a**



**nearly 300 per cent uptick in the overall number of people experiencing acute hunger since the start of 2020.**

- Acute food insecurity was also being reported from northern Nigeria (73 per cent increase), Somalia (67 per cent increase) and Sudan (64 per cent increase). The current food crisis was the biggest the world had seen for 50 years.
- The report emphasised that addressing the urgent issues arising from the COVID- 19 pandemic in food crisis contexts was crucial.



## Topic 32: Voice Vote and division

### *Importance for Prelims: Polity*



Rajya Sabha passes two farm bills by voice vote amid opposition protests

- Both the concepts of a voice vote as well as a division have been **borrowed from the Parliament of the United Kingdom** and were already in use in legislatures in British India.
- A voice vote involves the **speaker putting a question to the house and then asking the house to put forward its opinion in the forms of ayes (yes) or noes**. Based on a rough measure of which side was louder, the speaker decides if the motion was passed or fell through.
- The obvious advantage of a voice vote is **that it is quick**. The apparent disadvantage is that **it is inaccurate, given that the**



**speakers decides what the opinion of the house** is based on which side is louder. A literal shouting match is not the ideal way to conduct any serious business other than in cases where voting is so one sided, it is basically a formality.

- Due to this, parliamentary procedure requires that **if a voice vote is challenged by any member, the speaker must ask for a division.**
- This once involved the **physical separation of legislators and then a counting of heads** – a procedure still followed in the UK. But nowadays in India, this is achieved by getting MPs and MLAs to vote electronically.
- The advantage of a division, of course, is that it tells the public exactly what the vote count is. Moreover, it lets constituents know how their MP or MLA voted.