



**Civils Cafe**

IAS Study Circle

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# HIGH PRIORITY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**FEBRUARY 2021**

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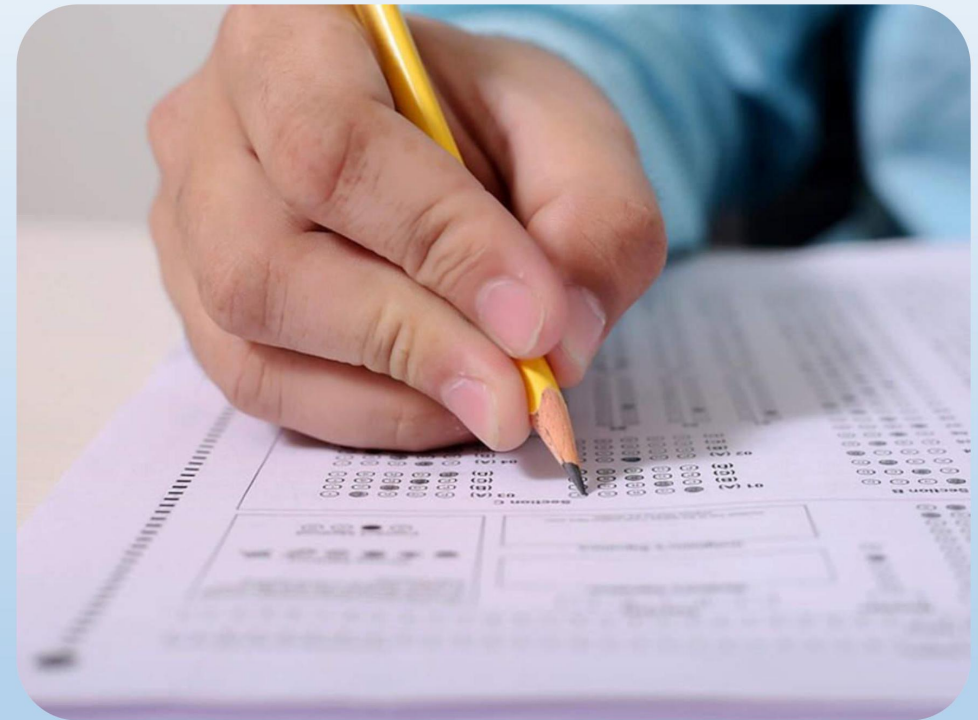


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# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2022

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## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Shahtoot dam:**

- India signed MoU for the construction of the Lalandar "Shatoot" Dam in **Afghanistan.**
- The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.
- The dam would come upon the Maidan river **tributary of Kabul river.**
- This is the **second major dam** being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India – **Afghanistan Friendship Dam [Salma Dam]**, which was inaugurated in June 2016.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Arka Subha – new variety of marigold:**

- Arka Shubha is a variety has been developed by **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)**.
- This variety of marigold has **a carotene content of 2.8%**, which is the highest content from a plant source.
- **Carotenes** are photosynthetic pigments important for photosynthesis. Carotenes contain no oxygen atoms.
- They **absorb ultraviolet, violet, and blue light and scatter orange or red light**, and (in low concentrations) yellow light.

#### Uses:

- **Ornamental Purposes:** These flowers can be sold for ornamental purposes too.
- **Poultry Sector:** This variety is of use in the poultry sector as well. Its petals could be used as feed to get quality yolk. It can also be used as feed for sheep too.







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: India Energy Outlook Report, 2021:

#### News:

- **International Energy Agency (IEA)** has released its India Energy Outlook 2021 report.

#### Key Highlights:

- India will **make up the biggest share of energy demand growth at 25%** over the next two decades.
- India's energy consumption is expected to nearly double as the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) expands
- Also it **overtakes the European Union as the world's third-biggest energy consumer by 2030.**
- Presently, **India is the fourth-largest** global energy consumer **behind China, the United States** and the **European Union.**
- India remains **world's second-biggest net oil importer after China** currently imports about 76% of its crude oil needs.
- Also the report says, rising oil demand could double India's oil import by 2030 and nearly treble by 2040 compared with 2019.

#### About IEA:

- The International Energy Agency is an **autonomous Intergovernmental Organisation** established in 1974
- Headquarters (Secretariat): Paris, France.
- IEA mainly focuses on its energy policies which include **economic development, energy security and environmental protection.**
- India became an **Associate member of IEA in March 2017** and recently, India has **inked a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the IEA** to strengthen cooperation in global energy security, stability and sustainability.

#### Important reports of IEA:

- Global Energy & CO2 Status Report.
- World Energy Outlook.
- World Energy Statistics.
- World Energy Balances.
- Energy Technology Perspectives.



## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Currency Swap:**

#### News:

- The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has settled a \$400 million currency swap facility from the Reserve Bank (RBI) of India.

#### What is currency swap?

- The word swap means exchange. A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or **contract to exchange currencies** with predetermined terms and conditions.
- Central banks and Governments engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts **to meet short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements** or to ensure adequate foreign currency **to avoid Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis** till longer arrangements can be made.

#### Benefits of Currency Swap facility:

- This facility uses the local currencies of the countries under agreement. Thus, **it eliminates the need for the currency** of any other country like US Dollars.
- The swap operations carry **no exchange rate or other market risks**. The transaction terms are set in advance.
- It **reduces the need of maintaining foreign exchange reserves** for bilateral trade. Thus, it promotes bilateral trade.
- Hence, it ensures **financial stability** (protecting the health of the banking system).

#### Examples:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has revised the framework on **currency swap arrangement** for the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries for 2019-2022**.
- India and Japan in the year 2018 signed a bilateral currency swap agreement.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: World Sustainable Development Summit 2021:

#### News:

- The Prime Minister will inaugurate the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021.

#### About World Sustainable Energy Summit:

- It is an annual event organized by **The Energy and Resources Institute(TERI)** since 2001.
- The summit was earlier known as Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.
- **Purpose:** The Summit brings together a wide number of participants in the fight against climate change. Participants include governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth, and civil society.
- **Key Partners:** The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change(MoEFCC), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and the Ministry of Earth Sciences are key partners of the Summit.
- **Theme for 2021:** "Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all".

#### The Energy and Resources Institute(TERI):

- It is a non-profit research institute. It was established in 1974 as Tata Energy Research Institute and renamed to The Energy Resources Institute in 2003.
- **Other Initiatives by TERI:**
- **Lighting a Billion Lives(LaBL):** It is an initiative of TERI to provide clean lighting access to the bottom of the pyramid communities.
- **Green Olympiad:** It is conducted by TERI in association with MoEFCC. It is an international environment examination that is annually organized for middle and high-school students.
- **Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA):** It was conceived by TERI and developed with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. It is a national rating system for green buildings in India.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Vigyan Jyothi Programme:**

#### News:

- The initiative **to encourage girls** to take interest in science and build career
- It was launched by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls to pursue **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)**.
- The programme addresses the underrepresentation of women in certain areas of STEM.
- Vigyan Jyoti activities include student-parent counselling, visit to labs and knowledge centres, partners role model interactions, science camps, academic support classes, resource material distribution and tinkering activities.
- **Classes Covered:** This programme started at school level for meritorious girls of Class IX to Class XII.
- **Coverage:** The programme had been running successfully in 50 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas(JNV) since 2019. It is now expanded to 50 more JNVs for the year 2021-22.
- The NITI Aayog report found that in over 620 institutes and universities, including IITs, NITs, ISRO, and DRDO, the presence of women was 20.0%.

#### Other Initiatives:

- United Nations General Assembly adopted on **11 February as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.**
- Other Government initiatives such as **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme etc**
- **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions(GATI):** It aims to develop a comprehensive charter and a framework for assessing gender inequality in STEM.



## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: Eco Sensitive Zones:

#### News:

- Issue of notifying the area around the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary as Eco Sensitive Zone(ESZ).

#### What is ESZ?

- They are areas notified by the **MoEFCC around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.**
- The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- **The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention** the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones".
- An ESZ could go **up to 10 kilometres around a protected area** as provided in the **Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002.**

#### Criteria:

- A committee constituted by MOEFCC lay out the criteria.
- These include Species Based (Endemism, Rarity etc), Ecosystem Based (sacred groves, frontier forests etc) and Geomorphologic feature based (uninhabited islands, origins of rivers etc).

#### About Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It is **a component of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** and is a vital component of the Elephant Reserve.
- It is the only sanctuary of Kerala where sighting of **four-horned antelope** has been reported.
- **Kabini river (a tributary of Cauvery river)** flows through the sanctuary.
- The **forest types** include South Indian Moist Deciduous forests, West coast semi-evergreen forests and plantations of teak
- **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is contiguous** to the tiger reserves of **Nagerhole** and **Bandipur** of **Karnataka** and **Mudumalai** of **Tamil Nadu.**
- Presence of **Egyptian vulture, Himalayan griffon, and Cinereous vultures** are also reported in the sanctuary
- **red-headed and white-backed vultures are now restricted to this sanctuary.**
- The **Nagarhole-Bandipur-Mudumalai-Wayanad forest complex** is also one of the most important tiger habitats in the country





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Sessa Orchid Sanctuary:**

- Located in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Notified in November 1989 under **the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- The Sanctuary is a natural home to more than 236 species of orchids, as well as a wealthy diversity of mushrooms and other medicinal plants.
- It is the only one of its kind in the country, where these flowering plants grow wild







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary:**

#### News:

- Over a lakh migratory water birds arrived at the Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh in Winter 2020-21.

#### About the sanctuary:

- **Pong Dam Sanctuary** is also known as Pong Dam Reservoir or Pong Dam Lake. It is located in Himachal Pradesh.
- The dam was created in 1975 and was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1983. The lake was declared as a **Ramsar Site** in 2002.
- **Vegetation:** The sanctuary area is covered with tropical and subtropical forests. It shelters a great number of Indian Wildlife animals.
- **Rivers:** The lake is fed by the Beas River. Its numerous perennial tributaries are Gaj, Neogal, Binwa, Uhl, Bangana, and Baner.
- **Fauna:** The flagship species of the lake are Bar Headed Geese. Other species having a high population at the sanctuary include Eurasian Coot, Northern Pintail, Common Teal, Great Cormorant, GreyLag Goose, etc.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Ebola:**

#### News:

- A new case of Ebola was diagnosed in **Democratic Republic of Congo** recently.

#### Ebola Virus Disease:

- It is formerly known as **Ebola haemorrhagic fever**, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- **The symptoms include:** fever, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea etc
- The incubation period, that is, the time interval from infection with the virus to onset of symptoms, is from 2 to 21 days.

#### Vaccines:

- As such, there is no treatment for Ebola. In 2016, a vaccine was developed offering 70 – 100% prevention against the disease, called an **rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine**.
- An infected person should be isolated completely.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Curiosity – Rover: NASA**

#### Why in news?

- News: Curiosity' has completed 3,000 Martian days.
- It is an SUV-sized Mars rover designed to explore the **Gale crater on Mars** as part of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission
- It landed on Mars in 2012
- The purpose of the mission is to find chemical and mineral evidence

#### Previous Year Question:

Which region of Mars has a densely packed river deposit indicating this planet had water 3.5 billion years ago?

- (a) Aeolis Dorsa
- (b) Tharsis
- (c) Olympus Mons
- (d) Hellas

#### Important Mars Missions:

- Hope – UAE
- Perseverance - NASA
- Tiawen -- CHINA







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve:**

#### Why in news?

- News: An expert appraisal committee (EAC) of Union Environment Ministry had recently deferred granting environmental clearance for the 500-MW Kundah hydroelectric project inside the buffer zone of ecologically sensitive Nilgiris biosphere reserve forest
- Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve was included by UNESCO in its **Man and Biosphere Programme.**
- It includes the **Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Silent Valley national parks, as well as the Aralam, Wayanad, Karimpuzha, and Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuaries**
- It has Moist evergreen, Semi evergreen, Thorn, Savannah woodland and Sholas & grasslands
- Tribal groups like the Todas, Kotas, Irullas, Kurumbas, Paniyas, Adiyans, Edanadan Chettis, Cholanaickens, Allar, Malayan, etc., are native to the reserve
- Major protected areas in Nilgiri:
  - **Mukurthi National Park:**
  - **Bandipur National Park**
  - **The Sathyamangalam Wildlife sanctuary**
  - **Silent Valley National Park**



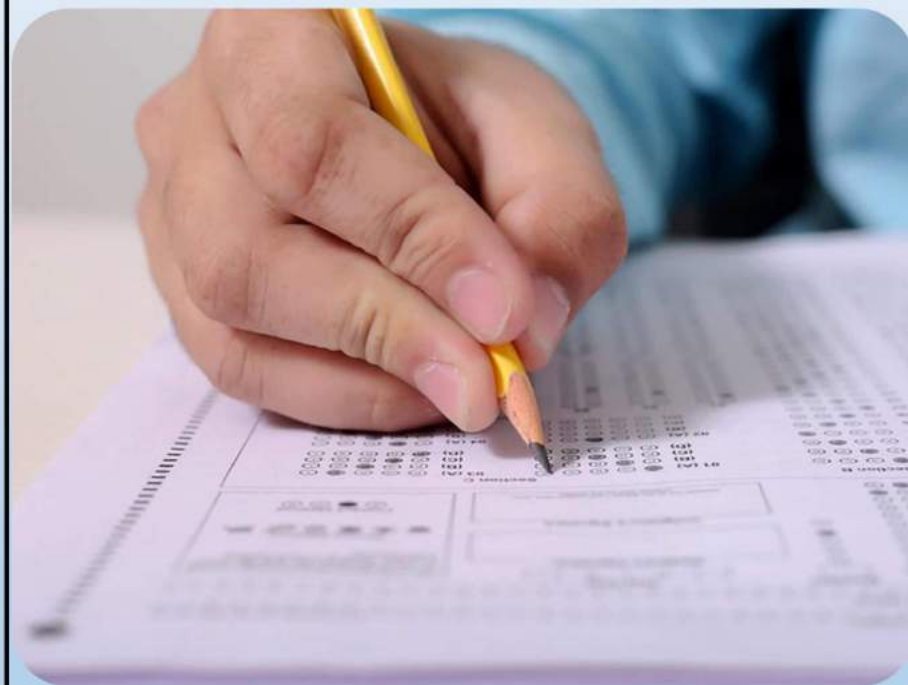


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **S-400 Triumph:**

#### Why in news?

- It is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system(SAM) designed by Russia
- The S-400 Triumph air defence system can engage up to 36 targets at a time and simultaneously launch 72 missiles
- **This will help destroy air attacks, including** stealth aircraft and any other aerial targets
- Acquiring the missile system will **help repulse the air attacks by India's** adversaries, especially Pakistan and China.
- The deal is important as **China, too, has signed a deal with Russia to procure the same missile system.**





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Rattle Hydroelectric Project:**

#### Why in news?

- The Rattle Hydroelectric Plant is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power station currently under construction on the **Chenab River**.
- It is located in the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Pakistan has frequently alleged that it violates the Indus Water Treaty
- **Other major projects on Chenab valley:**
- Pakal Dul Hydroelectric project
- Kiru hydroelectric project
- Baglihar power project







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: Domestic Systematically Important Banks (D-SIB):

#### Why in news?

- News: Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has retained **SBI, ICICI and HDFC** Bank in Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) list
- SIBs are perceived as banks that are '**Too Big To Fail (TBTF)**'.
- According to the RBI, some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection.
- **Banks whose assets exceed 2% of GDP are considered part of this group.**
- All the banks under D-SIB are required to maintain higher share of risk-weighted assets as tier-I equity.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Exercise Desert Knight 21:**

#### Why in news?

- It is a bilateral **air exercise** between **India and France**
- For the first time ever the both the countries will be using Rafale aircraft in this exercise.

#### Other exercise of India and France:

- Exercise Garuda - Air exercise
- Exercise Varuna - Naval exercise
- Exercise Shakti - Army exercise





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **International Migration Report, 2020:**

#### Why in news?

- It was released by the **Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**.
- It gives the number of international migrants according to country, age and sex for all regions of the world.
- **Key findings for India:**
  - **Destinations:** The United Arab Emirates, the US and Saudi Arabia host the largest numbers of migrants from India.
  - **Reasons for migration:** Migration from India is largely motivated by labour and family reasons.
  - **Remittances in India:** India is the main recipient of remittances worldwide.
  - The World Bank projects that in 2020, the amount received is decline by around 9% compare 2019







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Global Risk Report, 2021:**

#### Why in news?

##### ➤ Released by World Economic Forum

- The top three risks by impact are climate action failures, infectious diseases and weapons of mass destruction
- It said though the carbon emissions have declined due to COVID-19 related lock down, they are expected to increase when the economic recovery begins.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Green Bonds:**

#### Why in news?

- According to the Reserve Bank of India(RBI), the cost of issuing green bonds in India has generally remained higher compared to other bonds. It is largely due to asymmetric information.

#### What is green bonds?

- It is a debt instrument designed specifically for funds **to support specific projects benefitting the environment.**
- Green bonds typically come with **tax incentives** to enhance their attractiveness to investors.
- The **World Bank** issued the first official green bond in 2009.
- Yes Bank was the first Indian Bank to issue Green Infrastructure Bonds (GIBs) in India in 2015.
- Green bonds constituted only 0.7% of all the bonds issued in India since 2018
- The average coupon rate for green bonds in India with maturities between 5 to 10 years has generally remained higher than the corporate and government bonds with similar tenure.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **President Joe Biden resumes WHO support:**

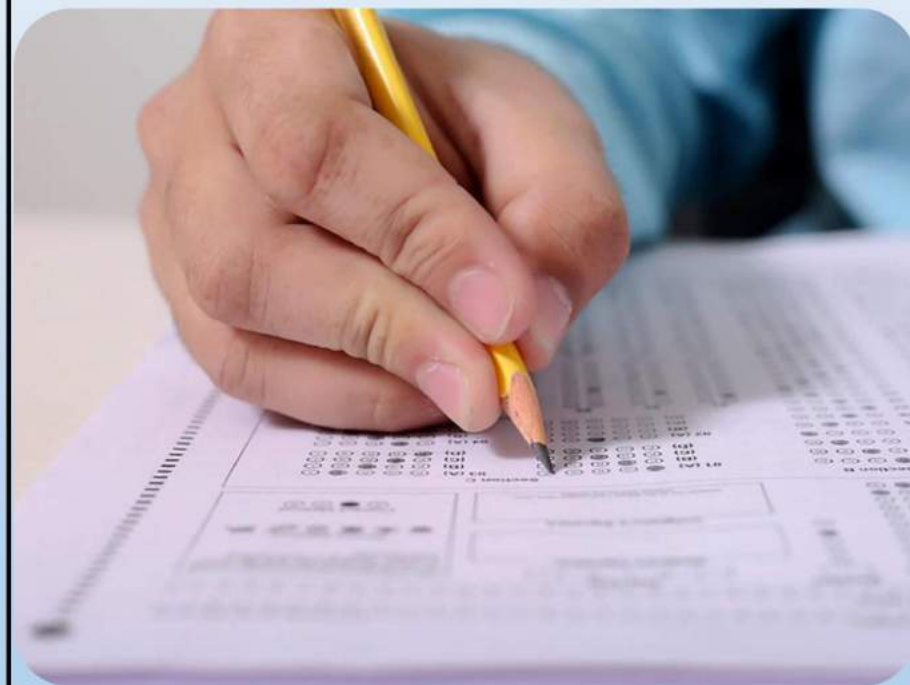
#### Why in news?

- Last year, US President Donald Trump had put a hold on America's funding to the World Health Organization, accusing it of becoming China-centric
- Now the new president resumed its funding and shifts towards greater international cooperation.
- Largest contributors of WHO:

**US>China>Japan**

#### ➤ Types of contribution in WHO:

1. **Assessed contributions:** These are the dues countries pay in order to be a member of the Organization.
2. **Voluntary contributions** come from Member States
3. **Core voluntary contributions** when immediate financing is lacking.
4. **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP)** to increase the access of developing countries to vaccines and other pandemic related supplies.







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose:**

#### Why in news?

- 2021 will be **125th birth anniversary** of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- His birth anniversary is celebrated as "Parakram Divas", day of courage.
- He advocated complete Swaraj and was in favour of the use of force to gain it.
- He **had differences with Gandhi** and he wasn't keen on non-violence as a tool for independence.
- He announced the establishment of the provisional government **of Azad Hind in occupied in Singapore**
- it was supported by the Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies.
- was twice elected **President of the Indian National Congress, (1938-Haripur and 1939-Tripuri).**
- After resigning from congress in 1939 he organised the **All India Forward Bloc**
- He organised the **Indian National Army** to fight the british and liberate India with the help of Japan.
- He gave famous slogans '**Jai Hind**' and '**Dilli Chalo**'





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Veer Savarkar:**

#### Why in news?

- News: The controversy over the removal of portrait of Veer Savarkar in UP Legislative Assembly
- Formed a youth organization- **Mitra Mela**, to bring in national and revolutionary ideas.
- He was against foreign goods and propagated the idea of Swadeshi
- He championed **atheism and rationality** and also disapproved orthodox Hindu belief.
- He even dismissed cow worship as superstitious.
- He was a president of **Hindu Mahasabha** from 1937 to 1943.
- In Pune, Savarkar founded the **"Abhinav Bharat Society"**.
- He joined Tilak's **Swaraj Party**.
- He also founded **the Free India Society to discuss about Indian Freedom**
- **Important Works:**
  - Book- The History of the war of Indian Independence.
  - An armed revolt against the Morley-Minto reform.
  - Two-nation theory in his book 'Hindutva'.





## PRELIMS FACTS

**Sub Topic: Four martial arts included in Khelo India Youth Games:**

### Why in news?

- Sports Ministry inducted **four indigenous martial art forms — Kalaripayattu of Kerala, Mallakhamb of Central India, Gatka of Punjab and Thang-ta of Manipur** — into the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG).

### Mallakhamb:

- It is a traditional form of gymnastics performed with a wooden pole
- It is state sport of Madhya Pradesh







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Four martial arts included in Khelo India Youth Games:**

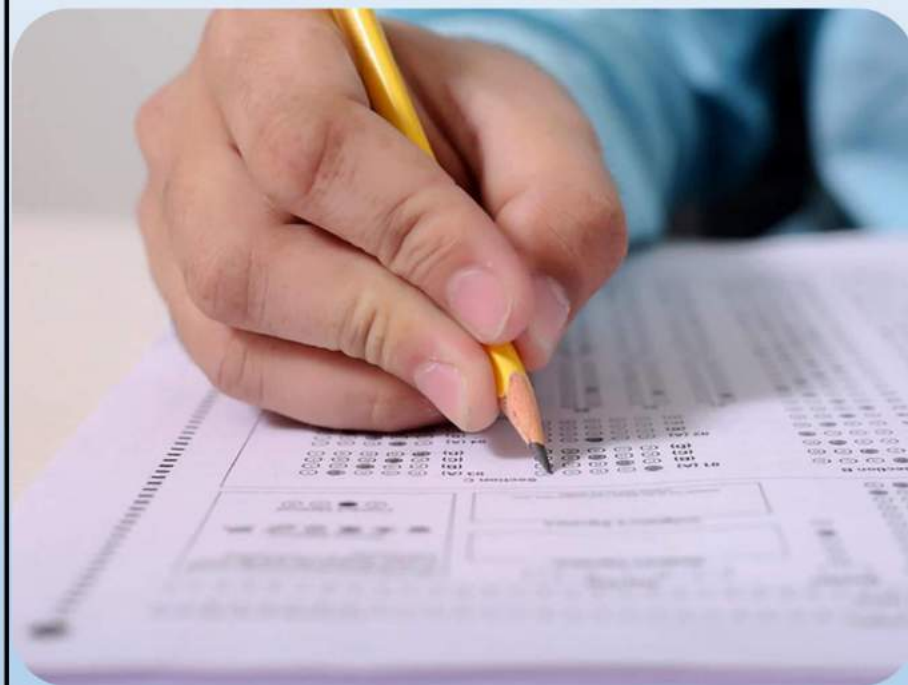
#### **Gatka:**

- Gatka is the name of an Indian martial art associated with the Sikhs of the Punjab
- It imbibes sword and sticks fighting skills and self-control.
- It is used to showcase self-defence



#### **Thang Tha:**

- It is a Manipuri art form.
- It combines ritual, demonstration and involves a variety of dance forms and warrior drills.





## PRELIMS FACTS

**Sub Topic: Four martial arts included in Khelo India Youth Games:**

### **Kalaripayattu:**

- It is a Martial art which originated as a style in Kerala
- The word kalari first appears in Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.
- It is also considered to be one of the oldest fighting system in existence.



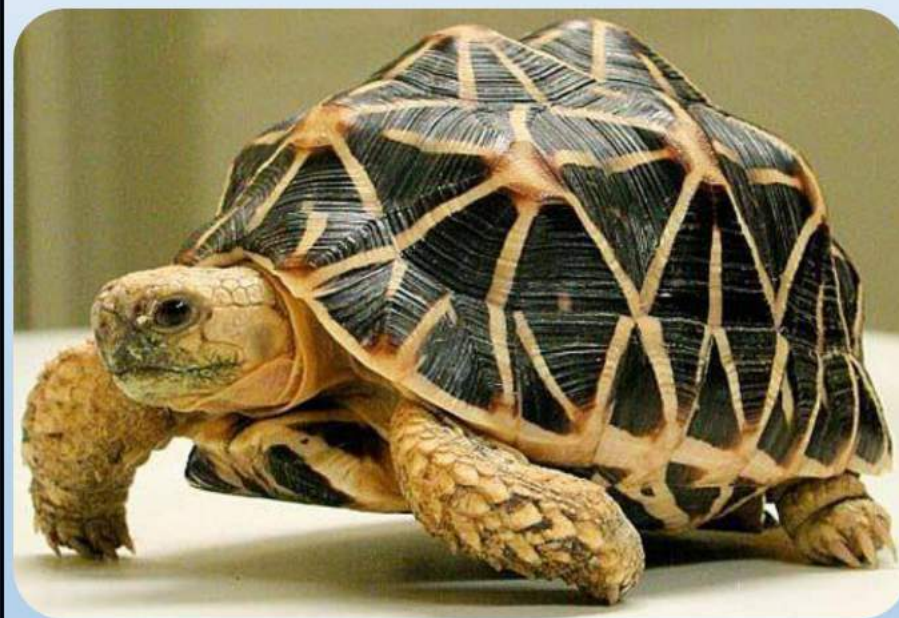


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Indian Star Tortoise:**

#### Why in news?

- **Habitat:** It is found across the **Indian sub-continent**, more specifically, in the **Central and Southern parts of India**, in **West Pakistan** and in **Sri Lanka**.
- Protection status:
  - **Wild Life Protection Act 1972: Schedule IV**
  - **CITES : Appendix 1**
  - **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
  - Threat: The species faces two threats- **loss of habitat to agriculture** and illegal harvesting for the **pet trade**.







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Semeru Volcano:**

#### Why in news?

- Erupted recently.
- Located in **Indonesia's East Java province.**
- It is the highest volcano in Java and one of the most active.



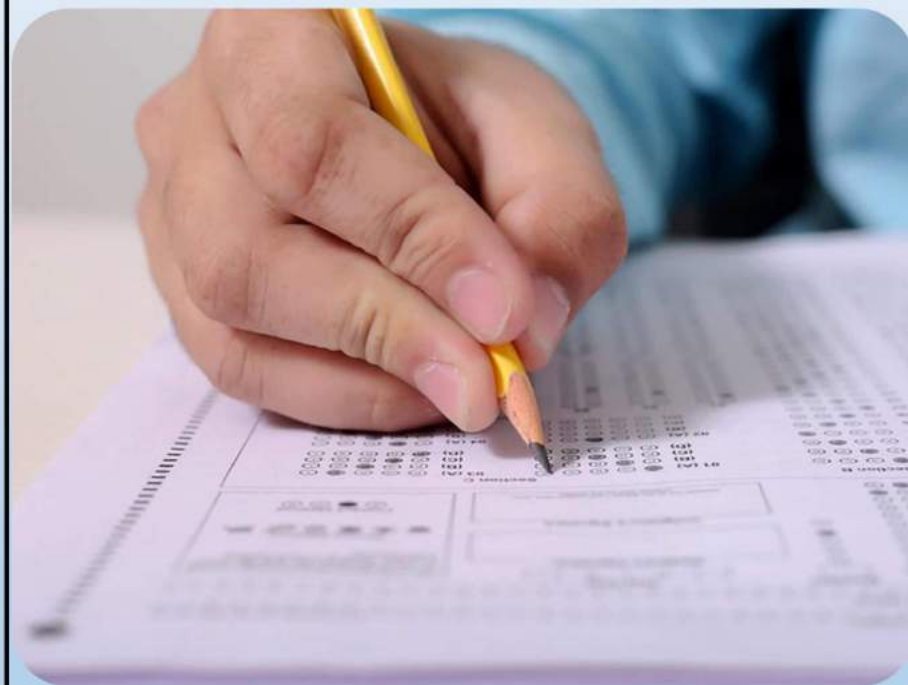


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **AstroSat:**

#### Why in news?

- News: AstroSat's Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope spots rare ultraviolet-bright stars in a Milky Way
- AstroSat is **India's first multi-wavelength space telescope**
- **It has five** telescopes seeing through different wavelengths simultaneously — visible, near UV, far UV, soft X-ray and hard X-ray.
- It was launched by the Indian launch vehicle **PSLV** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in 2015 by ISRO.**
- The unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the **simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects** with a single satellite



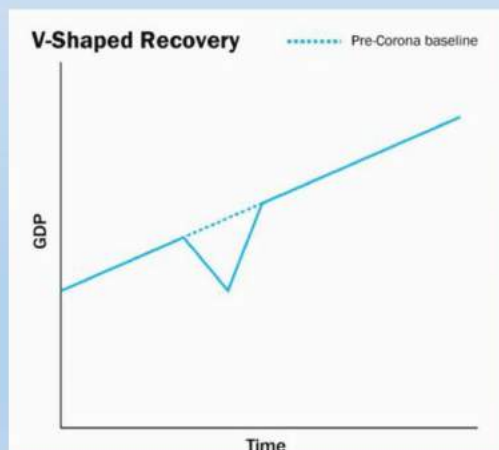


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Various shaped of economic recovery:**

#### **V shaped recovery:**

- It is characterized by a quick and sustained **recovery** in measures of **economic** performance after a sharp economic decline.
- Here the incomes and jobs are not permanently lost, and the **economic** growth recovers sharply and returns to the path it was following before the disruption.





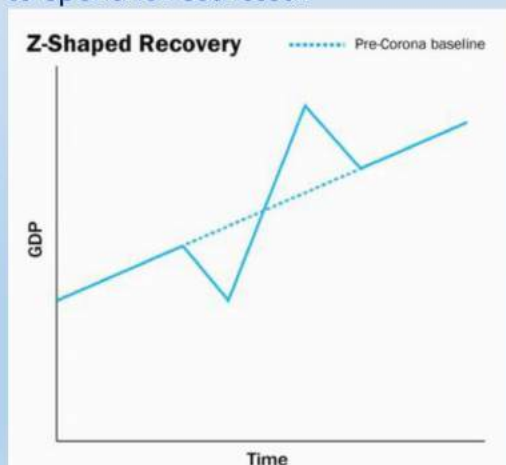


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Various shaped of economic recovery:**

#### **Z shaped recovery:**

- It is the most-optimistic scenario in which **the economy quickly rises after an economic crash.**
- In this economic disruption lasts for a small period wherein more than people's incomes, it is their ability to spend is restricted.



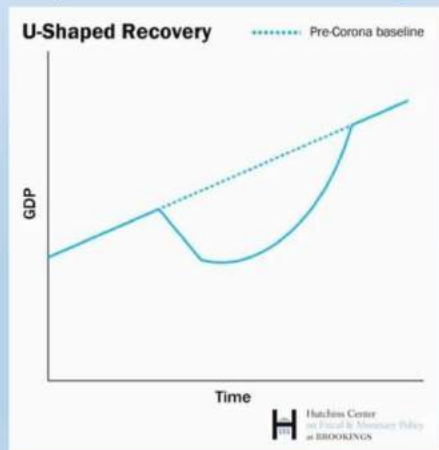


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Various shaped of economic recovery:**

#### **U shaped recovery:**

- It is a scenario in which the economy, after falling, struggles around a low growth rate for some time, before rising gradually to usual levels.
- Here several jobs are lost and people fall upon their savings.
- If this process is more-long drawn than it throws **up the "elongated U" shape.**



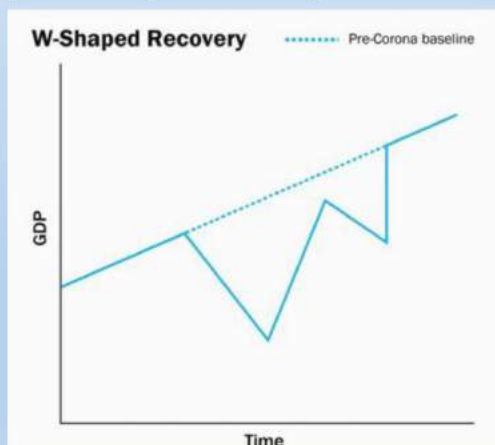


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Various shaped of economic recovery:**

#### **W shaped recovery:**

- A W-shaped recovery is a dangerous creature.
- In this, growth falls and rises, but falls again before recovering, thus forming a W-like chart.
- The double-dip depicted by a W-shaped recovery can be due to the second wave of the pandemic.





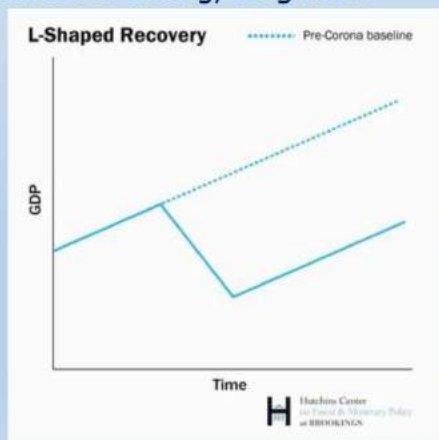


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Various shaped of economic recovery:**

#### **L shaped recovery:**

- In this, the economy fails to regain the level of GDP even after years go by.
- The shape shows that there is a permanent loss to the economy's ability to produce.
- It is the worst-case scenario, in which growth after falling, stagnates at low levels and does not recover for a long, long time.



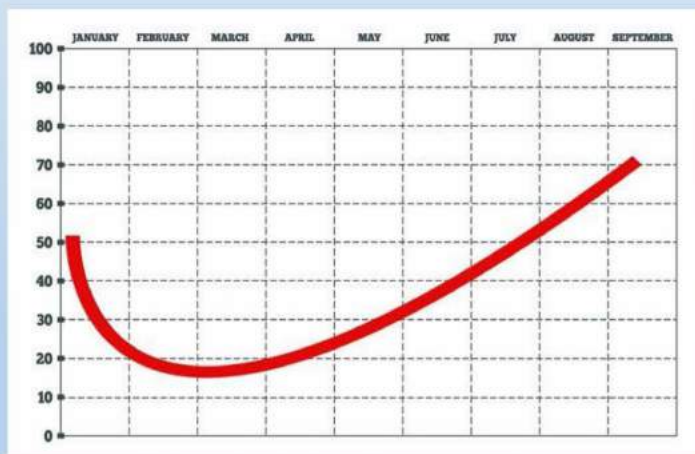


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Various shaped of economic recovery:**

#### **J shaped recovery:**

- This is a somewhat unrealistic scenario, in which growth rises sharply from the lows much higher than the trend-line and stays there.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **PLI scheme:**

#### Why in news?

- **News:** Approval accorded under PLI Scheme for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing of critical **Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)**.
- **Although India is the 3rd** largest pharmaceutical industry by volume we heavily depend on raw materials to produce medicines.

#### PLI scheme:

- A scheme that aims to give companies **incentives on incremental** sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- The scheme invites foreign companies to set units in India, and also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.



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### Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing



**Incentive:** 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India



**Target Segments:** Mobile phones and specified electronic components



**Eligibility:** Subject to thresholds of incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods



**Tenure of the Scheme:** Five years subsequent to the base year as defined (FY19-20)





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **PLI scheme:**

#### How does the incentive work:

- It is a kind of subsidy to the sector
- It is a direct payment from the budget to goods made in India
- Amount varies from sector to sector

#### Benefits of PLI Scheme:

- Increase exports
- Secure telecom infrastructure
- Important role in doubling farmers income



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## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Removal speaker:**

#### Why in news?

- Kerala Assembly recently rejected a motion moved by the Opposition seeking the removal of Speaker alleging his role in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case.

#### Facts about speaker and deputy speaker of state legislature:

- A Speaker vacates his office if he ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
- He may also resign his office at any time.
- A speaker may be removed from office by a resolution of the Assembly passed by a majority of all the then members of the Assembly **after fourteen days' notice** of the intention to move such a resolution.
- Speaker does not vacate his office on the dissolution of the Assembly.
- He continues to be the Speaker until immediately before the first sitting of the Assembly after the dissolution.
- While the office of the Speaker is vacant, the Deputy Speaker performs his duties.
- The duties and powers of the Speaker are, broadly speaking the same as those of the Speaker of Lok Sabha





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Removal speaker:**

#### Why in news?

- Kerala Assembly recently rejected a motion moved by the Opposition seeking the removal of Speaker alleging his role in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case.

#### Facts about Speaker of Lok Sabha:

- **No specific qualifications** are prescribed for being elected as the speaker
- The House elects its presiding officer **by a simple majority of members present, who vote in the House.**
- **When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker remains in his office till the first meeting of the new assembly** when the new speaker is elected.
- **The House can remove the Speaker through a resolution passed by an effective majority** as per Articles 94 and 96 of the Indian Constitution.
- A speaker can also tender his resignation to a Deputy Speaker.
- Also Speaker **presides over the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.**







## PRELIMS FACTS

### **Sub Topic: Can court stays law made by the legislatures?- Judicial Activism**

**News:** The Supreme Court's recent order staying the implementation of three farm laws has been criticised and is seen as violative of the doctrine of Separation of Powers.

#### **What are the court's powers in regard to staying enacted law?**

- Under the broad framework of judicial review, the Supreme Court and High Courts have the power to declare any law unconstitutional.
- This is on grounds if a law is contrary to any provision of the Constitution or it violates any of the fundamental rights.
- Another ground is invalidity if the law is repugnant to a central law on the same subject or has been enacted without legislative jurisdiction.

#### **Judicial Activism:**

- It means the proactive role played by the judiciary in the protection of the rights of citizens and in the promotion of justice
- In other words, it is the role played by the judiciary to force the other two organs of the government (legislature and executive) to discharge their constitutional duties.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Exercise kavach:**

#### Why in news?

- It is a **Joint Military exercise** involving **Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard.**
- It is being conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Parker Solar Probe:**

#### Why in news?

- Parker Solar Probe Marks Seventh Successful Swing around the Sun.
- It is part of **NASA's "Living with a Star" programme** that explores different aspects of the Sun-Earth system.
- It is also the closest a human-made object has ever gone to the Sun.
- **Aim of the probe:**
  - Trace the flow of energy that heats and accelerates the solar corona and solar wind.
  - Determine the structure and dynamics of the plasma and magnetic fields at the sources of the solar wind.
  - Explore mechanisms that accelerate and transport energetic particles.
- Corona: The **corona is hotter than the surface of the sun. The corona gives rise to the solar wind**, a continuous flow of charged particles that permeates the solar system







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Smart Anti Airfield Weapon:**

#### Why in news?

- It is a **long-range precision-guided anti-airfield weapon** developed by **DRDO's Research** Centre Imarat (RCI)
- The weapon is designed to strike ground targets, especially adversary airfield infrastructure or similar strategically important installations.
- It is capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways, etc. up to a range of 100 kms.

#### Note :

- **RUDRAM:** It is India's first indigenous anti-radiation air-to-surface missile for Indian Air Force (IAF). The missile is integrated on SU-30 Mk1 fighter aircraft.
- **Purpose:** It is designed to detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Open Sky Treaty**

#### Why in news?

- Russia has announced that it is leaving the Open Skies Treaty (OST).

#### Open Sky Treaty:

- **Aim:** Build confidence among members through mutual openness, thus reducing the chances of accidental war.
- First **proposed in 1955 and came into effect in 2002**
- **Features of the treaty:**
  - a member state can "spy" on any part of the host nation, with the latter's consent.
  - A country can undertake aerial imaging over the host state after giving notice 72 hours before
  - The information gathered has to be shared with all member states.
  - Only approved imaging equipment is permitted on the surveillance flights, and officials from the host state can also stay on board throughout the planned journey
- **Concern :**
  - Russia's leaving after US make experts worry about the fate of the much larger US-Russia 'New START' nuclear arms control agreement, which is slated to expire on 2021
- **New START Treaty:** is a treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.





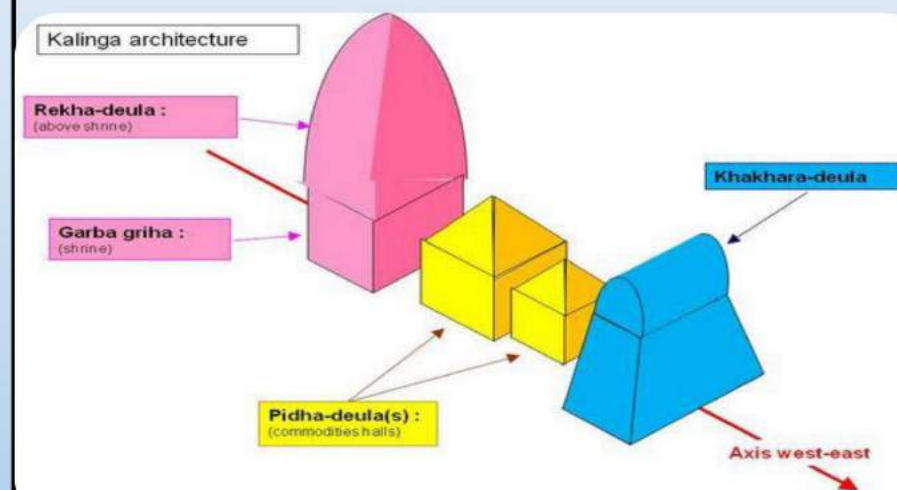
## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: Lingaraj temple:

- It is dedicated to lord Shiva
- Built by **king Jajati Keshari of Soma Vansh.**
- It is built in **red stone and is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.**
- Located to the north of the temple is **Bindusagar Lake, Odisha**

### Kalinga architecture:

- In Kalinga Architecture, basically a temple is made in two parts, **a tower and a hall.** The tower is called **deul** and the hall is called **jagmohan.**
- **Three types of deula are there:**
  1. **Rekha deula:** It is a tall building with a sikhara.
  2. **Pidha Deula:** Pidha Deula refers to the square building with a pyramid-shaped roof, like the vimanas. The assembly hall of the Konark Sun Temple is an example
  3. **Khakhara deula:** It is similar to the Dravidian Gopuran design. It is a rectangular building with a truncated pyramid-shaped roof, like the gopuras







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Chauri chera centenary celebration:**

#### Why in news?

- **February 4th 2021 marks hundred years of the Chauri Chaura incident** that had led to Mahatma Gandhi calling off the Non-cooperation Movement.
- On the occasion of the centenary **of the Chauri Chaura incident, a postage stamp was released** by the Prime Minister.

#### What is the Incident?

- The incident occurred at **Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Province, (modern Uttar Pradesh)** in British India.
- During this incident, a large group of protesters, participating in the **Non-cooperation movement**, clashed with police, who opened fire.
- The demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station in retaliation, killing all of its occupants.
- In response to this, Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the Non-cooperation Movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

#### Non Cooperation Movement:

- On 1st August, 1920, Gandhi had launched the Non-Cooperation Movement against the government.
- It involved using **swadeshi and boycott of foreign goods**, especially machine made cloth, and legal, educational and administrative institutions, **"refusing to assist a ruler who misrules"**.
- In the winter of **1921-22, volunteers of the Congress and the Khilafat Movement were organised into a national volunteer corps.**
- **Khilafat Movement was a pan-Islamic force in India that arose in 1919 in an effort to salvage the Ottoman caliph as a symbol of unity among the Muslim community in India** during the British raj.
- The **Congress supported the movement** and Mahatma Gandhi sought to conjoin it to the Non-Cooperation Movement.



## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Gobardhan Scheme:**

#### Why in news?

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a unified portal on the government's '**Gobardhan**' scheme.
- Farmers can earn Rs 1 lakh cr in 5 yrs from Jal Shakti ministry's Gobardhan scheme, says govt

#### About the scheme:

- The **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme** is implemented under **the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-Phase 2**
- The scheme aims to augment income of farmers by **converting biodegradable waste into compressed biogas (CBG)**.
- The initiative aims at attracting entrepreneurs for establishing community-based CBG plants in rural areas

### WHAT IS GOBAR-DHAN YOJANA?

This scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, biogas and bio-CNG, thus, making the farmers more self-reliant apart from converting 'waste to energy.'







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme:**

- ODOP is basically **a Japanese business development concept**, which gained prominence in 1979.
- In India it is first started by the Uttar Pradesh government.
- It is aimed at promoting a competitive and staple product from a specific area to push sales and improve the standard of living of the local population.

### Why in news?

Under **the "One District One Product (ODOP)" scheme** and provide better nutrition to school children, the Uttar Pradesh government may introduce **Sunahri Kand**, also known as **orange-fleshed sweet potatoes**, in the hot-cooked food scheme of Anganwadis and the mid-day meal scheme in primary schools.

### Significance:

- Preservation and development of local crafts / skills and promotion of the art.
- Increase in the incomes and local employment
- Improvement in product quality and skill development.
- Transforming the products in an artistic way
- To connect the production with tourism







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Lithium deposit in Karnataka:**

#### Why in news?

Preliminary surveys on surface and limited subsurface by **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)** have shown presence of Lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes in the Mandya district, Karnataka.

#### About Lithium (Li):

- **It is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element.**
- It is highly **reactive and flammable, and must be stored in mineral oil. It is an alkali metal and a rare metal.**
- It has the highest specific heat capacity of any solid element.
- Lithium's single balance electron allows it to be a good conductor of electricity.

#### Uses:

- Lithium metal is used to make **useful alloys**. For example, with lead to make '**white metal**' bearings for motor engines, with **aluminium to make aircraft parts**, and with **magnesium to make armour plates**.
- In Thermonuclear reactions.
- To make **electrochemical cells**. Lithium is an important component in Electric Vehicles Laptops etc.

#### Global producers of Lithium:

- **Australia > Chile > China > Argentina > Zimbabwe**

#### Top 5 Li reserves:

- **Chile > Australia > Argentina > China > US**

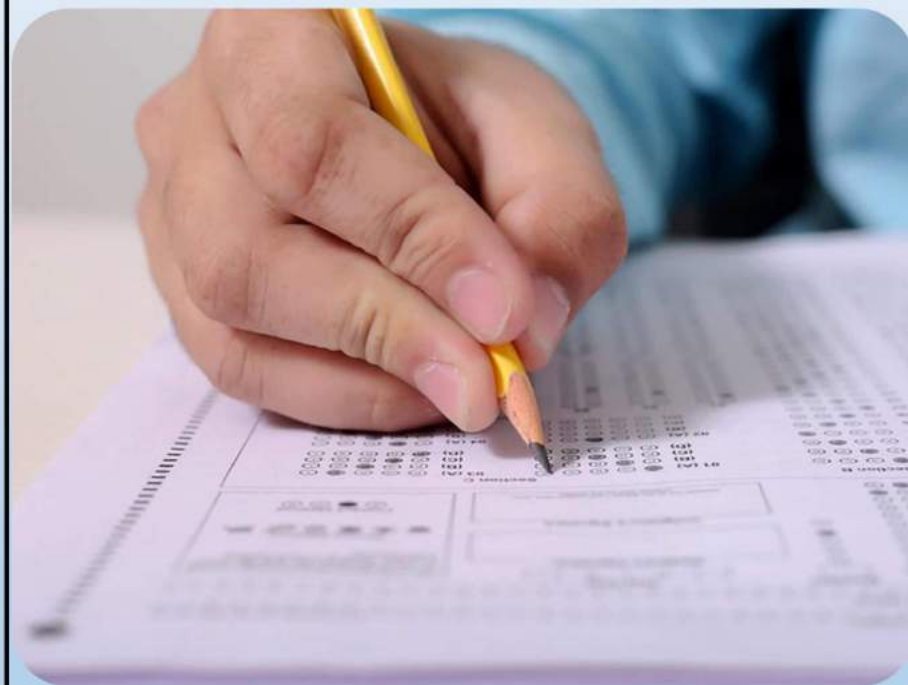


## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Orobanche** :

#### Why in news?

- It is a hidden parasitic weed in mustard causing severe yield loss to the extent of up to 50%.
- Also called broomrapes, they are aggressive root parasitic weeds which attack strategic food crops, such as legumes and vegetables, and threaten the livelihood of many nations.
- There are no absolute control measures developed for it.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **International Criminal Court:**

#### Why in news?

- The International Criminal Court convicted a former commander (Dominic Ongwen) in the notorious Ugandan rebel group against humanity ranging from multiple murders to forced marriages.
  - The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in **The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.**
  - Its founding treaty, the **Rome Statute**, entered into force on July 1, 2002.
  - **India is not a party to Rome Statute along with US and China.**
  - It has **6 official languages:** English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.
  - The Rome Statute, grants the ICC jurisdiction over four main crimes:
    - **The crime of Genocide**
    - **Crimes against Humanity**
    - **War crimes**
    - **Crime of Aggression**

#### Composition and voting power:

- The Court's management oversight and legislative body, the Assembly of States Parties, consists of one representative from each state party.
- Each state party has one vote and "every effort" has to be made to reach decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by vote.
- The Assembly is presided over by a president and two vice-presidents, who are elected by the members to three-year terms.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### ICJ vs. ICC

	International Court of Justice (ICJ) La Cour Internationale de Justice (CIJ)	International Criminal Court (ICC) La Cour pénale internationale (CPI)
Year Court Established	1946	2002
UN-Relationship	Official court of the U.N., commonly referred to as the "World Court."	Independent. May receive case referrals from the UN Security Council.
Location	The Hague, The Netherlands	The Hague, The Netherlands
Types of Cases	Contentious between parties & Advisory opinions	Criminal prosecution of individuals
Subject Matter	Sovereignty, boundary, & maritime disputes, trade, natural resources, human rights, treaty violations, treaty interpretation, and more.	Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression
Funding	UN-funded.	Assessed contribution from state parties to the Rome Statute; voluntary contributions from the U.N.; voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations and other entities.

ICJ



ICC





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Monpa handmade paper:**

#### Why in news?

- It is a 1000-year-old heritage art of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Gradually this art became an integral part of local custom and culture of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Monpa handmade paper is made from the bark of a local tree called '**Shugu Sheng'**, which has medicinal values too.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **KAPILA:**

#### Why in news?

- The Government has launched a campaign namely **Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA)**
- **It is launched** for Intellectual Property Literacy and creating patent awareness.
- The objectives of the scheme include creating awareness regarding **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**, enabling of IP protection of inventions originating from faculty and students of HEIs, development of Credit Course on IPR, training program etc.







## PRELIMS FACTS

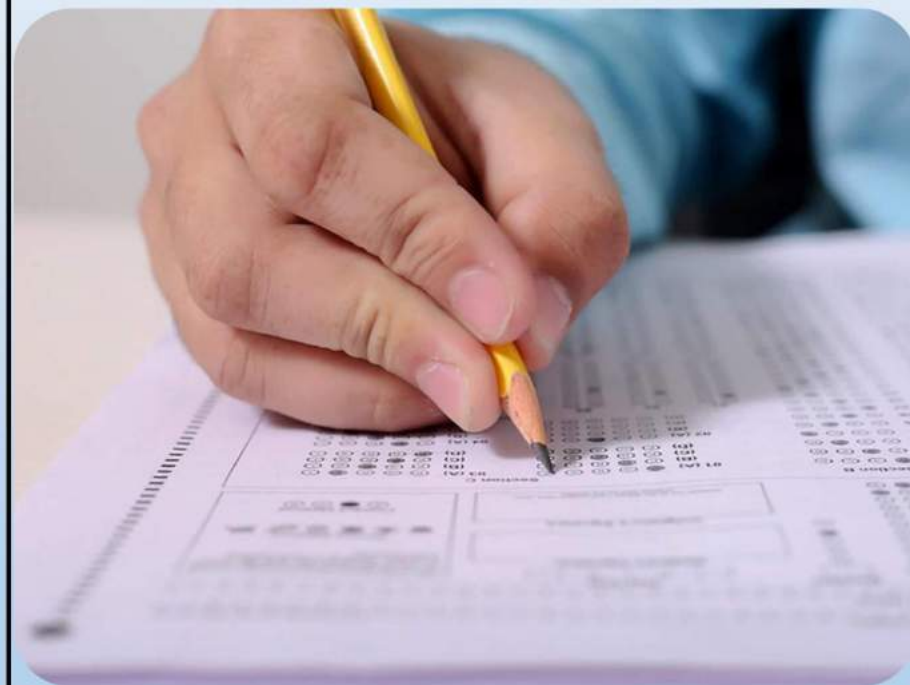
### Sub Topic: **Open Market Operations:**

#### Why in news?

- Recently RBI announces ₹20,000 crore open market operation

#### Key Points?

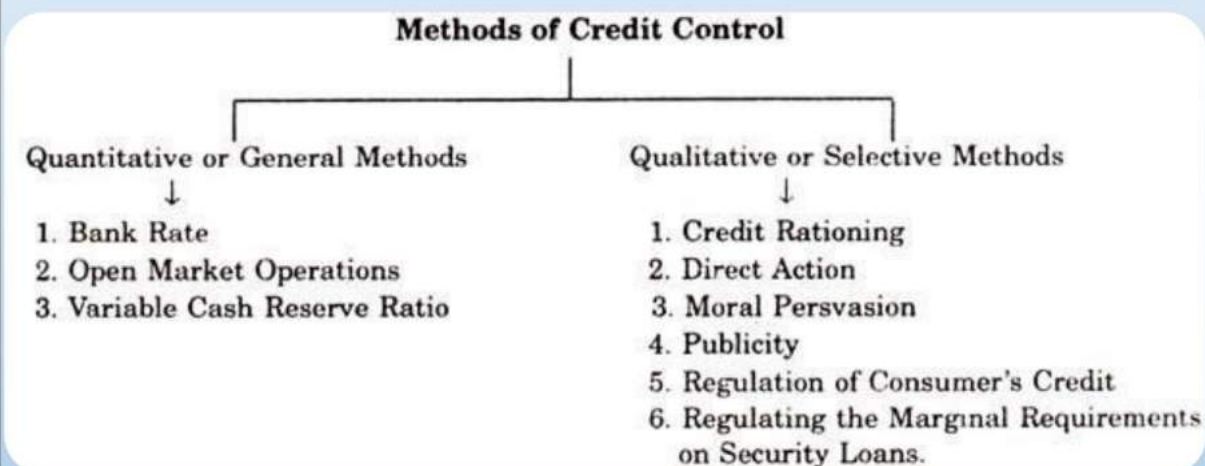
- **Open Market Operations (OMOs)** are market operations conducted by RBI by way of **sale/purchase of government securities to/from the market** with an objective to **adjust the rupee liquidity conditions** in the market on a durable basis.
- If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI buys securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.
- It is one of the **quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools** which is employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: Quantitative and Qualitative tools:





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **HOPE: UAE's first mission to Mars:**

#### Why in news?

- The Hope mission is a **Mars orbiter spacecraft**, which will study the thin atmosphere of Mars.
- It is the **first interplanetary mission for the Arab World**.
- The Hope probe has a mission life of one Martian year, which is almost two Earth years.

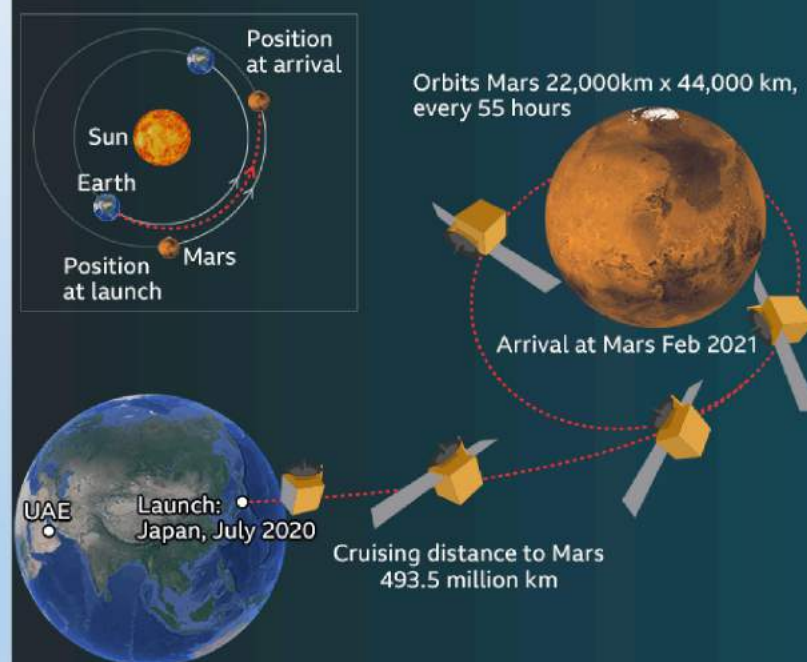
#### Objectives of the mission

- to understand the climate dynamics and global weather map of Mars.
- to explain how the weather of Mars affects the escape of hydrogen and oxygen, by correlating conditions in the lower and upper atmosphere.
- to understand the presence and variability of hydrogen and oxygen in the upper atmosphere

#### Important Mars Missions

- China – Tiawen
- ESA – Mars Express
- NASA – MAVEN, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter
- ISRO – Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan)

### Hope – Emirates Mars Mission



Source: Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre or MBRS, Nasa, Google, Getty

Source: Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre or MBRS, Nasa, Google, Getty





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Glacier Outburst Flood:**

#### Why in news?

- Parts of Uttarakhand recently witnessed massive flooding after a chunk of **the Nanda Devi glacier** broke off at Joshimath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district

#### What is glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)?

- **It is an outburst that happens when a dam containing a glacial lake fails.**

#### GLOFs have three main features?

- They involve sudden (and sometimes cyclic) releases of water.
- They tend to be rapid events, lasting hours to days.
- They result in large downstream river discharges (which often increase by an order of magnitude).

#### What is Nanda Devi glacier?

- The Nanda Devi glacier forms part of **the second-highest mountain in India** — the Nanda Devi mountain.
- While it the **second-highest after Kangchenjunga, it is the highest mountain located entirely within the country as Kangchenjunga lies on the border of India and Nepal.**





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Dhauliganga:**

#### Why in news?

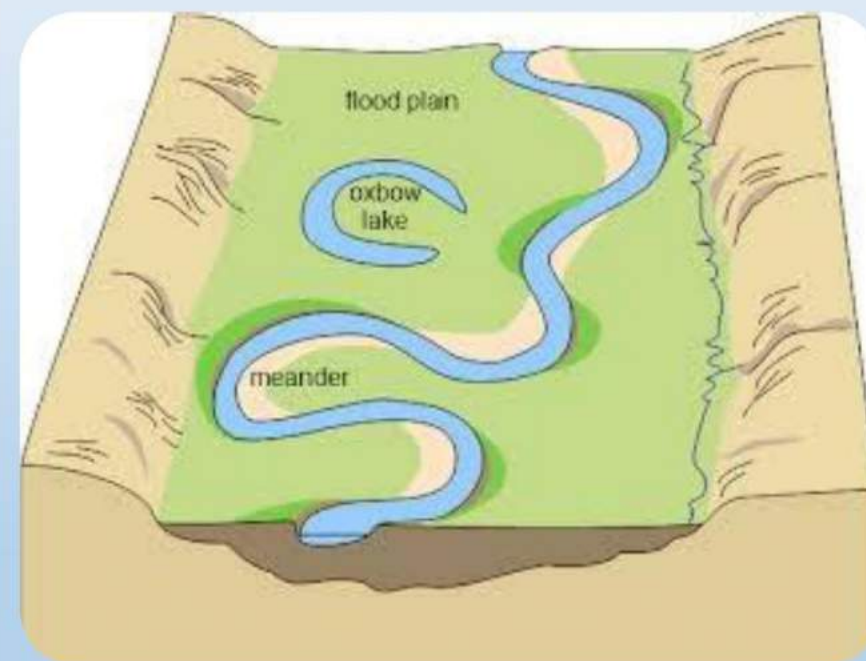
- The river turned into a deathly torrent on Sunday after a part of the Nanda Devi glacier broke off and collapsed into it.

#### Facts:

- Originating from **Vasudhara Tal**
- It is the largest glacial lake in Uttarakhand,
- The Dhauliganga flows in a meandering course, which takes it through the Nanda Devi National Park.
- The **river merges with the Alaknanda at Vishnuprayag.**
- It is one of the several tributaries of the Ganga.

#### Meanders:

- A meander is defined as a pronounced **curve or loop in the course of a river channel.**
- The outer bend of the loop in a meander is characterized by **intensive erosion and vertical cliffs** and is called the **cliff-slope side**. This side has a concave slope.
- The inner side of the loop is characterized by deposition, a gentle convex slope, and is called the **slip-off side**.
- The meanders may be wavy, **horse-shoe type or oxbow type.**





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Democracy Index:**

#### Why in news?

- Released by the **Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)**
- India dropped two places and currently at **53rd position.**
- The index provides a clear image of the status of democracy worldwide in 167 countries.
- **The drop was mainly due to**
  - A lapse in democratic processes among authorities.
  - Suppressive actions by the government on civil liberties.
- India has been classified as a '**flawed democracy**' along with countries such as the US, France, Belgium and Brazil.
- However, India's rank was higher than most of its neighboring countries, such as Sri Lanka (68), Bangladesh (76), Bhutan (84) and Pakistan (105).
- **Topped by:** Norway has topped the index followed by Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada.

#### Categories: The index is based on five categories

- Civil liberties,
- Electoral process and pluralism;
- Functioning of government;
- Political participation;
- Political culture







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Yudh Abhyas:**

#### Why in news?

- It is one of the largest joint military training exercises between **India and USA**.
- **Aim:** To enhance cooperation and interoperability between the two armies. It also focuses on counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate.
- **Significance:** The exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation between both armies.

#### Other exercise between India and US

- **Exercise Tiger Triumph**— It is a tri-service military exercise
- **Exercise Vajra Prahar:** It is a Special Forces joint military training exercise. It is conducted alternately in India and the US since 2010.
- **Exercise Cope India:** It is a series of bilateral Air Force exercises
- **Exercise Malabar:** It is a multilateral naval exercise





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **World Economic Forum's EDISON Alliance:**

#### Why in news?

- The **World Economic Forum** has announced the launch of an Essential Digital Infrastructure and Services Network(EDISON) Alliance.
- **Aim:** To work towards ensuring **global and equitable access to the digital economy.**
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) will serve as the secretariat and platform for the Alliance.
- It will accelerate digital inclusion and will ensure **cross-sectoral collaboration between the technology industry and other critical sectors of the economy.**







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Vembanad Lake:**

#### Why in news?

- During Mann ki Baat address, Prime Minister has praised the efforts of a Kerala man. He engages in cleaning the Vembanad Lake despite his physical challenges.

#### Facts about the lake:

- It is the longest lake in India and **the largest lake in the state of Kerala.**
- The lake is situated at sea level and is separated from the **Laccadive Sea by a narrow barrier island.**
- The lake is also known as **Punnamada Lake** (in Kuttanad) and **Kochi Lake** (in Kochi).
- **Vallam Kali** (a.k.a Nehru Trophy Boat Race) is a Snake Boat Race held every year in the month of August in Vembanad Lake.
- In 2002, the lake was included in the list of **wetlands of international** importance, as defined by the Ramsar Convention. It is the **second-largest Ramsar site in India, only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal.**
- **The Kumarakom** Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake.
- The unique characteristic of the lake is **the Thanneermukkom** saltwater barrier. It was constructed as a part of the Kuttanad Development Scheme to prevent tidal action and intrusion of saltwater into the Kuttanad low-lands.







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **MITRA : Mega Investment Textile Parks Scheme:**

#### Why in news?

- The Finance Minister has announced the launch of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) Scheme

#### Features of the scheme:

- **Aim:** The scheme aims to enable the textile industry to become globally competitive and boost exports.
- The scheme was launched in addition to the **Production Linked Incentive(PLI) Scheme**
- Under the scheme, there is a plan to establish **Seven textile parks** over three years

#### Note:

- Indian textile sector is **the sixth-largest exporter** of textiles and apparel in the world.
- The industry is also among the top employers in the country providing direct employment to 45 million people and 60 million people in allied industries.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Square Kilometre Array:**

#### Why in news?

- The **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council** held its maiden meeting and approved the establishment of the **world's largest radio telescope**.

#### SKAO:

- SKAO is a new **intergovernmental organization** dedicated to radio astronomy and is **headquartered in the UK**.
- At the moment, organizations from **ten countries** are a part of the SKAO.
- These include Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK.

#### SKA telescope:

- The telescope is proposed to be the largest radio telescope in the world.
- It will be located in Africa and Australia whose operation, maintenance and construction will be overseen by SKAO.

#### Radio telescope:

- Unlike optical telescopes, radio telescopes can detect invisible gas and, therefore, they can reveal areas of space that may be obscured by cosmic dust.

#### Significance:

- The **beginning of the universe**.
- How and when the first stars were born.
- The **life-cycle of a galaxy**.
- Exploring the possibility of **detecting technologically-active civilisations elsewhere** in our galaxy.
- Understanding where **gravitational waves** come from.

#### India's contribution:

India will also contribute towards building digital hardware for the SKA low-frequency receiver systems. India also builds the digital hardware of some parts of the mid-frequency telescopes in SKA. Apart from that, India is also producing some parts of the data processing units.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Registration of Political Parties:**

#### Why in news?

- The number of these parties increased two-fold in the last 10 years, from 1,112 in 2010 to 2,301 in 2019.

#### What is unrecognized parties?

- Either newly registered parties or those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in Assembly or General Elections to become a State party or those which have never contested in elections since being registered are considered unrecognised parties.
- Such parties don't enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.

#### Registration of Political parties:

- Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

#### To be eligible for a 'National Political Party of India:

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.
- In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.
- It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members), and these members are elected from at least three different States.

#### To be eligible for a 'State Political Party:

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in the State at a general election, either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned
- In addition, it wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.
- It wins at least three percent (3%) of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State, or at least three seats in the Assembly, whichever is more.

#### Benefits of recognised parties:

- They are entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol
- They also get broadcast/telecast facilities
- The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Direct Access to G-Sec Market for Retail Investors: RBI:**

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India has proposed to allow retail investors to open gilt accounts** with the central bank to invest in **Government securities (G-secs) directly** and without the help of intermediaries.

#### What are government securities?

- A G-Sec is a **tradable instrument issued by the Central Government** or the State Governments.
- It **acknowledges the Government's debt obligation**. Such securities are **short term** (usually called **treasury bills**, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day) or **long term** (usually called **Government bonds or dated securities** with original maturity of one year or more).
- In India, the **Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds or dated securities** while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the **State Development Loans (SDLs)**.
- G-Secs **carry practically no risk of default** and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.  
**Gilt-edged securities** are high-grade investment bonds offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.

#### **G- Sec prices fluctuate sharply in the secondary markets.**

Factors affecting their prices:

- Demand and supply of the securities.
- Changes in interest rates in the economy and other macro-economic factors, such as, liquidity and inflation.
- Developments in other markets like money, foreign exchange, credit and capital markets.
- Developments in international bond markets, specifically the US Treasuries.
- Policy actions by RBI like change in repo rates, cash-reserve ratio and open-market operations.



## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Internet shut down in India:**

#### Why in news?

- Frequent internet shutdown by the state government has many negative consequences. Governments must find alternatives to balance civil liberties and security.

#### Recent internet shutdown laws:

- State authority mostly draws powers from the **Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017**.
- **Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** has enabled many of the shutdowns in the recent past, especially until the time the telecom suspension Rules came into force in 2017.
- The **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**, whose Section 5(2) allows central and state governments to prevent the transmission of messaging during a "public emergency or in the interest of public safety"
- The **Information Technology Act** (India's principal information technology sector law), has provided limited power to the government to issue individual web content blocking orders, instead of a larger suspension of internet itself.

#### Arguments against internet shutdown

- **Curbing Free Speech:**
  - ✓ **Violates the free speech is preserved in Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution
  - ✓ Supreme Court in its landmark **Shreya Singhal judgment** recognised the **internet as an essential medium to further our constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression.**
- **Economic Losses:**
  - ✓ **Gig economy** (Ola, Uber, Swiggy, Zomato etc), **e-commerce sector**, online banking all suffer due to restrictions on the internet.
  - ✓ **A report says collective loss of 16,000 hours** to Internet shutdowns led to a loss of \$3 billion to the Indian economy.
- **Social Cost:** Mobile-based essential services like mobile banking, health, education will also be denied due to internet shutdown.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Fishing Cat under threat:**

#### Why in news?

- The Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance will be starting a worldwide month-long campaign. It will raise awareness and garner support across the globe for the conservation of the Fishing Cat.
  - Fishing cat is a highly elusive wild cat feline species found primarily in wetland and mangrove habitats.
  - It is capable of breeding all year round. But in India, its peak breeding season is known to be between March and May.
  - **Globally** they are found in South and Southeast Asia.
  - In 2012, the West Bengal government officially declared the Fishing Cat as the State Animal

#### In India they are found in:

- Foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.
- Patchy distribution along the Eastern Ghats.
- Sundarbans in West Bengal and Bangladesh
- Chilika lagoon and surrounding wetlands in Odisha
- Coringa and Krishna mangroves in Andhra Pradesh.

#### Conservation Status:

- ✓ **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable.
- ✓ **CITES:** Appendix II
- ✓ **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

#### Threat:

- ✓ Habitat loss
- ✓ Sand mining along river banks,
- ✓ Agricultural intensification resulting in loss of riverine buffer and
- ✓ Conflict with humans in certain areas resulting in targeted hunting and retaliatory killings.

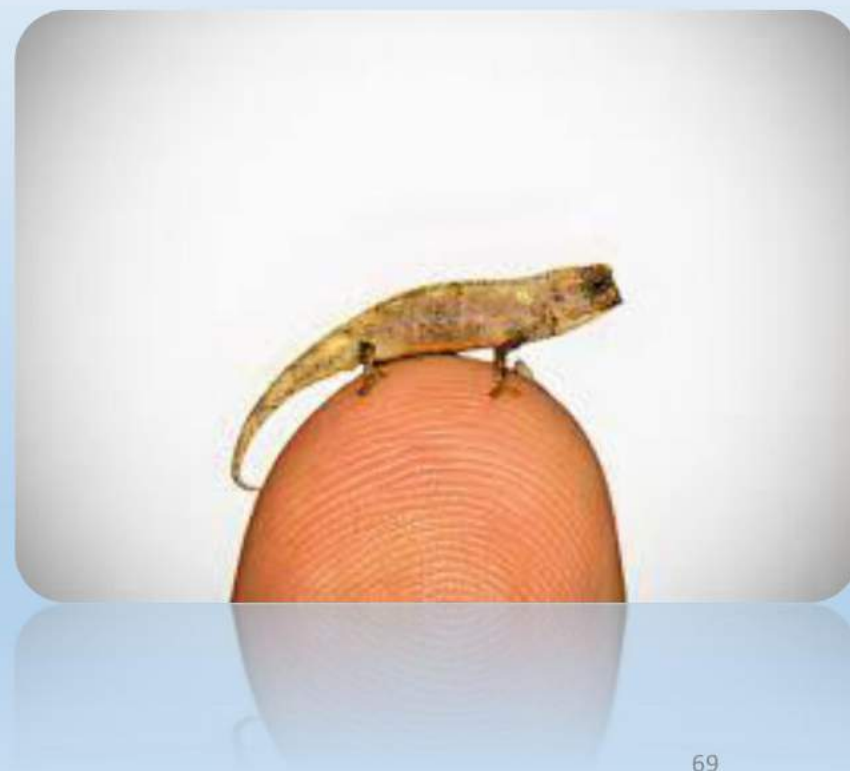




## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Brookesia nana**:

- It is a recently discovered **chameleon from** the island country of **Madagascar**.
- It may be the **world's smallest adult reptile**.
- The male has a total length of 21.6 mm. The female is slightly longer at 28.9 mm.
- Previously, the chameleon species **Brookesia micra** was thought to be the smallest.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: Map study: Venezuela:

#### News:

- Colombian President Iván Duque recently announced that **Venezuelans will have temporary protected status for the next ten years** in what is being called a "historic" decision.

#### What is the crisis?

- Venezuela is facing a political crisis **with two rival politicians claiming** to be the country's legitimate leader
- Venezuela is currently **under authoritarian rule** and also facing the economic crisis.
- After the **economic collapse**, the crime rate in the country doubled and inflation multiplied in a situation that was made worse by Western sanctions.
- Therefore the Colombian President is giving the temporary protection statute is for those Venezuelan migrants who are fleeing dictatorship in their country.





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Disengagement at Pangong Tso:**

#### News:

- India and China have reached an agreement on disengagement in the Pangong lake area to cease their forward deployments in a phased, coordinated and verified manner.
- This is the first major breakthrough to resolve the **nine-month-long military stand-off** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.
- Both the Chinese and Indian troops present on the south and north of Pangong Tso lake already started a **"synchronized and organized disengagement"**.

#### About Pangong Tso Lake?

- Pangong Tso literally translates into a **"conclave lake"**.
- It is formed from **Tethys geosyncline**.
- The **Karakoram Mountain range** ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso
- It is a **brackish water lak**
- It lies in the path of the **Chushul approach**, one of the main approaches that China can use for an offensive into Indian-held territory.







## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: **Tholpavakkoothu:**

#### News:

- It is also called as shadow puppetry, Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu.
- It is a traditional temple art in Kerala having its roots in Palakkad and neighbouring regions.
- It used to be performed in the Bhadrakali temples of Palakkad, telling tales from the Ramayana.
- Accompanying instruments include Ezhupara, Chenda and Maddalam.
- The artists have to undergo several years of rigorous training to master this art form.
- The puppetry is staged on a special structure in temple premises called Koothumadam.

#### Important shadow puppetry dance:

- Tholu Bommalata – Andhra Pradesh
- Togalu Gombeyata – Karnataka
- Tholpavakkoothu – Kerala
- Chamadyache Bahulya – Maharashtra
- Ravanachhaya – Orissa
- Thol Bommalattam – Tamil Nadu





## PRELIMS FACTS

### Sub Topic: Universal Self Regulation Codes, 2020:

- In 2020, OTT platforms signed a universal 'self-regulation' code under the Internet and Mobile Association of India(IAMAI). The key features of the code are:
- **Regulatory environment:** Information Technology Act, 2000 is the primary governing statute for online content.
- **Age classification:** The code includes a framework for age classification and content descriptions for titles as well as access control tools.
- **Consumer Complaints:** Each OTT platform will have to set up a Consumer Complaints Department. Other than that an advisory panel to deal with complaints, appeals, and escalations will also be set up.





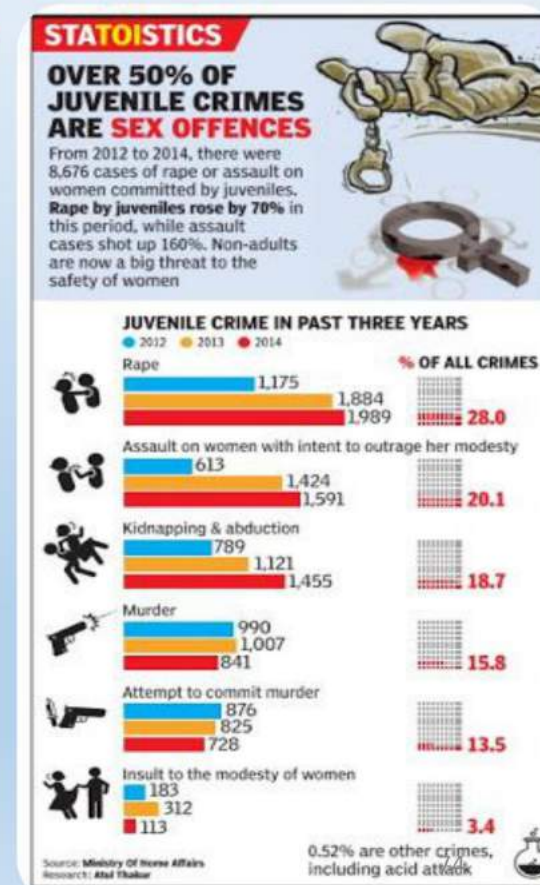
## General Studies-II Government policies and Interventions for development in various sector and issues arising out of their implementation - children

### Sub Topic: Amendments to Juvenile Justice Act

#### Why in news?

- Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** to amend the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**.
- The proposed changes will **strengthen the Child Protection mechanism** and ensure smooth implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Source: **PIB**







## General Studies-II Government policies and Interventions for development in various sector and issues arising out of their implementation - children

### Sub Topic: **Amendments to Juvenile Justice Act**

#### Who is juvenile?

- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 defines **"Juvenile" or "Child"** as a **person who has not completed 18 years of age.**
- The term **'juvenile in conflict with the law'** refers any person below the age of 18 who has come in contact with the justice system as a result of committing a crime or being suspected of committing a crime
- As per **National Crime Records Bureau** report, the incidents of juvenile crime has been increasing

Source: **PIB**





## General Studies-II Government policies and Interventions for development in various sector and issues arising out of their implementation - children

### Sub Topic: **Amendments to Juvenile Justice Act**

#### **Causes for increasing juvenile crimes:**

- **Poverty:** Juveniles indulge themselves in delinquent acts in order to meet and satisfy the primary wants of their life.
- **Family:** It has been widely accepted that families of delinquents are characterized by discords, desertions and other problems.
- **Factors related to Mental Health:** various mental health factors contribute to juvenile delinquency. For example: Conduct disorder.
- **Substance Abuse:** Substance abuse is associated with both violent and income-generating crimes by youth.
- **Virtual world:** Constant exposure to aggression – verbal and physical – on television news, videos and games also contributes to increasing juvenile delinquency.

Source: **PIB**







## General Studies-II Government policies and Interventions for development in various sector and issues arising out of their implementation - children

### Sub Topic: Amendments to Juvenile Justice Act

#### Important provisions of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015:

- The Act changed the nomenclature from 'juvenile' to 'child' or 'child in conflict with law'.
- The Act categorized the crimes committed by children into three categories. Such as **petty, serious and heinous offences**.
- The Act provided for setting up of mandatory Juvenile **Justice Boards (JJB)** and **Child Welfare Committees (CWC)** in every district. Also, these boards and committees must have at least one woman member each.
- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** was granted the status of a statutory body to enable it to perform its function more effectively.
- **Children in the age group of 16 – 18 years can be treated as adults in the case of heinous crimes.** But for treating them as an adult the JJB has to assess the child's physical and mental capacities and certify the child.

Source: **PIB**







## General Studies-II Government policies and Interventions for development in various sector and issues arising out of their implementation - children

### Sub Topic: **Amendments to Juvenile Justice Act**

#### What are the new proposed amendments?

- Empower **the District Magistrates (DM)** to issue adoption orders as well as **monitor the implementation of the law.**
- Empower the DMs and the additional DMs to monitor the functioning of agencies responsible for implementing the JJ Act.
- The **District Child Protection Units** will function under the DMs.
- **Reaching the unreached:** The amendment will include **victims of trafficking, drug abuse and those abandoned by their guardians** under the definition of “**child in need of care**” and protection.
- A DM could also independently **evaluate the functioning of the Child Welfare Committee, Special Juvenile Protection Units and registered childcare institutes.**

Source: **PIB**





## General Studies-II Government Policies and Interventions, Issues arising out of Design and Implementation of policies, Issues related to women

### Sub Topic: **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (Amendment) BILL, 2020**

#### Why in news?

- Recently **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill 2020** is scheduled to be tabled in Rajya Sabha. The MTP bill was passed in Lok Sabha last year.
- The bill aims **to strengthen the abortion rights** of women from the earlier **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971**.
- The Bill seeks to **extend the termination of pregnancy** period from **20 weeks to 24 weeks**, making it easier for women to safely and legally terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

### THE PROPOSAL

Proposed changes in the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971

- To allow **AYUSH doctors to conduct abortion**
- To allow medical abortion **anytime during the pregnancy for selective foetal abnormality**, which cannot be detected within 20 weeks of pregnancy
- To extend gestation period for abortion **from current 20 weeks to 24 weeks** for women falling under 'special category'



### ALARMING STATS

**22 million**  
unsafe abortions  
performed each  
year worldwide

**7 million**  
abortions are  
conducted  
annually in India

- **50%** of abortions in India are illegal
- Rate of maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion complications is **8%**





## General Studies-II Government Policies and Interventions, Issues arising out of Design and Implementation of policies, Issues related to women

### Sub Topic: **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (Amendment) BILL, 2020**

#### What is Medical Pregnancy Act, 1971?

- The Act **defines the conditions on which the termination of pregnancy can be made**, and the qualified persons to perform the same.
- The Act aims **to reduce the maternal mortality ratio** due to unsafe abortions in India.
- The act allows a woman to terminate her pregnancy within **the first 12 weeks** of pregnancy.
- After consulting an **RMP (registered medical practitioner)** woman can terminate her pregnancy.
- If the women want to terminate her pregnancy between **12-20 weeks**, she needs to get an opinion from **2 RMPs**.
- The Medical practitioners have to ascertain that continuance of the pregnancy would **risk the life of the pregnant woman** or substantial risk (Physical or mental abnormalities) to the **child** if it is born.



### MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY





## General Studies-II Government Policies and Interventions, Issues arising out of Design and Implementation of policies, Issues related to women

### Sub Topic: **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (Amendment) BILL, 2020**

#### Need for the amendment:

- India Journal of Medical Ethics noted that 10-13% of maternal deaths in India are due to unsafe abortions.
- Unsafe abortions as the **third-highest** cause of maternal death.





## General Studies-II Government Policies and Interventions, Issues arising out of Design and Implementation of policies, Issues related to women

### Sub Topic: **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (Amendment) BILL, 2020**

#### Proposed features of the Bill:

- The Bill proposes the requirement of the opinion of one registered medical practitioner (instead of two or more) for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation
- It introduces the requirement of the opinion of **two** registered medical practitioners **for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation.**
- It has also enhanced the gestation limit for '**special categories**' of **women** which includes survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women like differently-abled women and minors.
- It also states that the "**name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed**", except to a person authorised in any law that is currently in force.
- Bill **constitutes a Medical Board.** These medical boards will diagnose pregnant women for substantial foetal abnormalities.



### MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY





## General Studies-II Government Policies and Interventions, Issues arising out of Design and Implementation of policies, Issues related to women

### Sub Topic: **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (Amendment) BILL, 2020**

#### **Advantages:**

- A number of **foetus abnormalities are detected after the 20th week**. This extension would allow termination of pregnancy in cases where some anomaly in the foetus is reported after 20 weeks.
- Bill will **strengthen the reproductive rights of women**. The Supreme Court in **Mrs X v. Union of India, 2017** case has recognised women's right to make reproductive choices and their decision to abort as a dimension of their **personal liberty**. The court also mentioned abortion primarily fall within **the Right to Privacy**.
- The law will help **the rape victims, ill and under-age women** to terminate the unwanted pregnancy lawfully.
- Significantly, the Bill also **applies to unmarried women** and therefore, relaxes one of the regressive clauses of the 1971 Act
- With the establishment of **the Medical Board**, the burden on the judiciary will reduce.
- The 1971 MTP Act states that, if a minor wants to terminate her pregnancy, the guardian has to provide written consent. The proposed bill has excluded this provision.



### **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY**





## General Studies-II Government Policies and Interventions, Issues arising out of Design and Implementation of policies, Issues related to women

### Sub Topic: **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (Amendment) BILL, 2020**

#### Issues associated with the proposal:

- The bill **does not give women control over their own bodies**. It requires the medical practitioner's opinion and not the request or will of pregnant women alone.
- **Bill does not consider** a few important things in the termination of pregnancy. Such as **personal choice, a sudden change in circumstances** (due to separation from or death of a partner), and **domestic violence**.
- The amendment also fails to consider the abortion **rights of intersex, transgender,** and gender diverse persons.
- A key aspect of the legality governing abortions has always been the **'viability' of the foetus**, late termination of pregnancy **may get in conflict with the viability of the foetus**.
- The **preference for a male child** makes the issue more complex



### MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY



## General Studies-II Government Policies and Interventions, Issues arising out of Design and Implementation of policies, Issues related to women

### Sub Topic: **MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (Amendment) BILL, 2020**

#### Way forward:

- ✓ Though the proposed Bill is a step in the right direction, the government needs to ensure that all **norms and standardised protocols** to facilitate abortions.
- ✓ The question of abortion needs to be decided on the basis of human rights, the principles of solid science, and in step with advancements in technology.
- ✓ The bill must include abortion among intersex, transgender, and gender diverse persons.
- ✓ The government need to **specify the time limit** for the medical board.



### MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY



## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighbourhood relations

### Sub Topic: **MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR**

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the **Myanmar military has grabbed power in a coup** - the **third time in the nation's history** since its independence from British rule in 1948.
- A **one-year state of emergency** has been imposed and **democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been detained**.
- 'Coups' are generally described as a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.







## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighbourhood relations

### Sub Topic: **MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR**





## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighbourhood relations

### Sub Topic: **MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR**

#### **Brief Background:**

- 2010 – Military backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (UNSP) wins election by landslide. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) boycotted election
- 2011 – Elected parliament convenes for the first time in half a century, charged with choosing first civilian President since 1962 group
- 2015 – NLD wins by landslide in Myanmar's first openly contested general elections since 1990; Aung San Suu Kyi becomes de facto leader
- 2020 – NLD captures 396 of 476 seats in lower and upper houses of parliament in general election. USDP alleges voter fraud and challenges result.
- Military says it will protect the constitution and act according to the law amid coup fears
- Military detains Aung San Suu Kyi and other ruling leaders from NLD party
- Military declares state of emergency for a year, hands power to Senior General







## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighbourhood relations

### Sub Topic: **MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR**

#### **India's reaction:**

- India supports the process of democratic transition in Myanmar.
- India seeks a more pragmatic approach, engaging the military while pushing for more freedoms and democracy in Myanmar.

#### **India's Strategic concerns in Myanmar:**

- India's military-diplomatic outreach to Myanmar became a **cornerstone of its Act East policy**.
  - Recent example of cooperation is that Myanmar has begun to vaccinate itself with the 1.5 million doses of Covid vaccine sent by India, while putting China's 3,00,000 doses on hold.







## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighbourhood relations

### Sub Topic: **MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR**

#### India's Strategic concerns in Myanmar:

- **Infrastructure and Connectivity:** India has cultivated several infrastructure and development projects with Myanmar, which it sees as the "gateway to the East" and **ASEAN** countries:
  - **Operationalisation of the crucial Sittwe** port in Myanmar's Rakhine state by 2021 is committed.
  - India assists infrastructure projects such as the **India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project**.
  - The Kaladan project will link **Kolkata to Sittwe** in Myanmar and then from Myanmar's Kaladan river to India's north-east.





## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighbourhood relations

### Sub Topic: **MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR**

#### India's Strategic concerns in Myanmar:

- **Security:** India has been concerned over some militant groups like the **United National Liberation Front (UNLF)** and **National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)** from the North-East region taking shelter in Myanmar
- **Rohingya Issues:** India is committed to ensuring safe, sustainable and speedy return of Rohingya refugees from refugee camps of India and Bangladesh.
- **Investment:** With Indian investments of over USD 1.2 billion, Myanmar holds considerable importance than any other country in South Asia.
- **Energy:** The two countries are also expanding partnership in the area of energy cooperation.





## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighbourhood relations

### Sub Topic: **MILITARY COUP IN MYANMAR**

#### Way forward:

- **Reducing the Gap Among Different Communities:** Adhering to the communal division among the people of Myanmar, jumping to the conclusion that Myanmar will see a nationwide protest against the military coup, is not correct.
- International communities should make efforts to punish those individuals responsible for committing **crimes against humanity**.
- **Criticising the Military is not Wise for India:** India must want to remain engaged in Myanmar for quite a few reasons
- For India, engagement with Myanmar is vital. It shall maintain a two-track engagement, acknowledging the primacy of the army in Myanmar's affairs.







## General Studies-II Issues related to children

### Sub Topic: **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT (POCSO)**

#### Why in news?

- Recently in **Bombay High Court** said that a controversial judgement in a case. According to the judgement Holding minor girl's hand and opening pant's zip not sexual crime under **POCSO**: Sexual assault under **POCSO Act needs 'skin to skin' contact.**
- **Section 7 of the POCSO defines sexual assault as any non-penetrative contact with the victim with sexual intent.** The minimum punishment for the offence of sexual assault is imprisonment for **three years.**
- There is an urgent need to understand the issues and challenges Courts are facing in the implementation of The POCSO Act.





## General Studies-II Issues related to children

### Sub Topic: **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT (POCSO)**

#### Need for a stringent law:

- The issue of child rights and child abuse are frequently seen in the news
- The rising cases is a disturbing scenario.

#### Crimes against children

- According to a report by child rights NGO CRY, sexual offence is committed against a child in India **every 15 minutes**
- There has been **an increase of more than 500 per cent** over the past 10 years
- As **per NCRB statistics on rape of women and children, 94% of the rapists are known to the victim**, and almost half are a close relative, and neighbours
- According to National Crime Record's Bureau "**Crime in India**" 2019 report there has been an increase of **4.5% cases compared last year**







## General Studies-II Issues related to children

### Sub Topic: **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT (POCSO)**

#### What is POCSO Act?

- **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act)** enacted in 2012 and amended in 2019.
- The Act was formulated to effectively address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and pornography.

#### Salient provisions of the Act:

- The Act **defines Child as** any person **below eighteen.**
- It provides for **relief and rehabilitation** as soon as the complaint is made to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or the local police.
- The Act also defines **different forms of sexual abuses.**
- The Act prescribes a maximum punishment of life imprisonment or the **death penalty.**
- Beside it provides a **mandatory minimum punishment** of three years.
- The Act provides for the **establishment of Special Courts for the trial** of offences under the Act.
- Apart from that, the Act includes various safeguards for the child, like protecting the identity, avoiding victimization etc.







## General Studies-II Issues related to children

### Sub Topic: **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT (POCSO)**

Recently the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (Amendment) Bill, 2019** was passed by both Houses of Parliament. The significance of the amendment are:

- ✓ It seeks to provide more **stringent punishment, including death penalty**, for sexual crimes against children.
- ✓ It intends to protect the interest of vulnerable children in times of distress and **ensures their safety and dignity**.
- ✓ The amendment is aimed to establish clarity regarding the aspects of child abuse and punishment thereof.
- ✓ It is **gender-neutral** and thus looks into the sexual assault of both minor boys and girls.





## General Studies-II Issues related to children

### Sub Topic: **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT (POCSO)**

#### **Challenges in the effective implementation:**

- The National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB) data of 2016, mentions the conviction rate as 29.6%, while **pendency is as high as 89%**.
- It also mentions the **cases are not disposed within a year due** to reasons such as frequent adjournments, the inability of the police to file investigation report etc.
- Though there is provision for establishment for special courts, many states did not established yet.
- There were many incidents **of exploitation of children** in orphanages
- 262th Law Commission and **many opposed death penalty** for rape cases.
- The Act **does not cover all the aspects of sexual violence of children**. For instance, the Act is silent on cyber bullying and other online sexual crimes of children.
- The Act is also silent on cases where one child made sexual violence against another child/children







## General Studies-II Issues related to children

### Sub Topic: **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT (POCSO)**

#### way forward:

- **High courts should instruct** the trial courts **not to grant unnecessary adjournments** during the trial.
- **State police chiefs should constitute special task forces** investigating cases to prevent the pendency of cases.
- The Supreme Court issued a direction to set up special courts within 60 days on the districts that are having more than 100 pending POCSO cases. This has to be implemented urgently.
- The introduction of **sex education in schools** and educating the children about good touch and bad touch is significant.
- In **2008-09 Parliamentary committee** report mentions the introduction of sex education, but it never materialized. It has to be implemented.
- The provision of death penalty should be widely discussed and debated and should be used only for the rarest of the rare cases.
- **Awareness and sensitization** of people is equally important to prevent the crime itself.







## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### Why in news?

- Recently there is yet another instance of the **unresolved fisheries conflict in the Palk Bay** taking an unacceptable toll of lives.
- They are confronting the challenge of **bottom-trawlers**, originating from Tamil Nadu and trespassing into their waters.
- India has lodged a strong protest with the Sri Lankan authorities, who have set up a committee **to find a permanent solution** to the incursions by Indian fishermen.





## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### The Palk Strait:

- It is a **narrow strip of water** separating the state of Tamil Nadu in India from the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.
- It is divided by the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)**.





## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### **The fisherman conflict:**

- One of the major reasons complicating the issue is of Kachchatheevu Island.
- **India ceded the uninhabited island to its southern neighbour in 1974 under a conditional accord.**
- In fact, initially the **1974 border agreement** did not affect fishing on either sides of the border.
- In **1976**, through an exchange of letter, both India and Sri Lanka agreed to stop fishing in each other's waters.
- But both side claim territory and right to fish here.







## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### Suggestion to resolve the issue:

- **Arranging frequent meetings** between fishing communities of both countries to develop a friendlier atmosphere.
- Both countries can work out together to evolve agreement to **permit licensed Indian fishermen to fish in Lankan waters.**
- **Starting ferry services between India and Sri Lanka** can improve people to people linkages.
- **Media personnel** can be invited to witness those practical issues confronted by the fishermen in each country.
- **Establish a Joint Palk Bay Authority** comprising representatives of the governments of India and Sri Lanka, fisheries and marine experts for regulation.

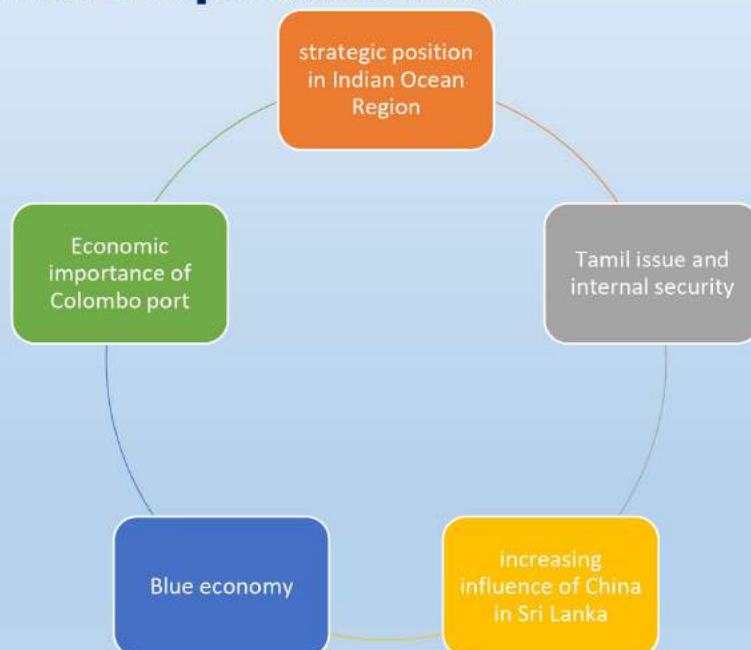




## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### Why Sri Lanka is important to India:





## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### Areas of cooperation:

##### ❖ Cultural and Educational:

- India and Sri Lanka signed a **cultural cooperation** agreement back in 1977
- India provides **scholarships** to qualified Sri Lankan students in Undergraduate and research studies.
- **Tourism** is one of the important areas of cooperation. Sri Lankan tourists are one of the top ten visitors to India.
- Sri Lanka is also a partner in **Nalanda university** project of India

##### ❖ Commercial relations:

- Sri Lanka has long been a priority destination for direct investment from India.
- Sri Lanka is one of India's largest trading partners among the SAARC countries. **India in turn is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally**
- Indian business organizations such as **Tatas, Bharti Airtel**, Piramal Glass, LIC, Ashok Leyland, Dabur and Taj Hotels are present in Sri Lanka
- Trade between the two countries grew particularly rapidly after the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement







## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### Areas of cooperation:

##### ❖ Defence cooperation:

- India and Sri Lanka conducts one of the largest joint Military exercises called '**Mitra Shakthi**'.
- India and Sri Lanka conducts joint Naval exercise called '**SLINEX**'.
- India is the largest provider of **defence training program** to Sri Lankan soldiers and Defence officials.
- In 2019, India and Sri Lanka also concluded agreement on countering **Drug and Human trafficking**.

##### ❖ Political relations:

- **India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission** was established in 1992 to facilitate bilateral affairs
- Sri Lanka is a member of regional groupings like **BIMSTEC and SAARC** in which India play a lead role.





## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### Areas of Concern:

- Sri Lanka also handed over the strategic **port of Hambantota**, which is expected to play a key role in **China's Belt and Road Initiative**, to China on a 99-year lease.
- China has also supplied arms as well as provide huge loans to Sri Lanka for its development.
- China also invested sufficiently in the infrastructure of Sri Lanka, which included building of Colombo international container terminal by China Harbor Corporation.
- **Fisherman problem:** Sri Lanka has long expressed concerns about illegal fishing by Indian fishermen within its territorial waters across the **Palk Strait**.
- **Katchatheevu island:** It is an **uninhabited island** that India ceded to **Sri Lanka in 1974**.
- But Tamil Nadu claimed that Katchatheevu falls under the Indian territory and Tamil fishermen have traditionally believed that it belongs to them
- India is not happy with **devolution 13th Constitutional Amendment** guarantees which related to the Tamil issue.







## General Studies-II International Relations, India and its neighborhood

### Sub Topic: **INDIA – SRI LANKA PALK BAY CONFLICT**

#### Way forward:

- Both countries should try to work out a **permanent solution to the issue of fishermen** through bilateral engagements.
- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** must be signed to improve the economic cooperation between both countries .
- India needs to focus more on **its traditional and cultural ties** to improve relations with Sri Lanka.
- **Starting of ferry services** between India and Sri Lanka can improve people to people linkages.
- Mutual recognition of each other's concerns and interests can improve the relationship between both countries
- Strengthen multilateral diplomacy- **SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA**







## General Studies-III Environment and degradation, Disaster and disaster management

### Sub Topic: **FLASH DROUGHTS**

#### Why in news?

- A recent study has pointed out that **India could experience more flash droughts** by the end of this century.
- In **1979, India faced a severe flash drought** which **affected about 40% of the country** and the agriculture with a **loss of about ₹5,000 crores**.

#### The concept of flash drought:

- As **defined by the IMD**, drought is a consequence of the natural reduction in the amount of precipitation for a long period of time.
- Flash droughts **occur very quickly** due to the **rapid depletion of soil moisture**.
- It is different from normal drought conditions, that develop in months, but the flash **drought happens within a week or two**.
- **Increased air temperature and precipitation deficit** together cause a rapid depletion of soil moisture leading to flash drought.





## General Studies-III Environment and degradation, Disaster and disaster management

### Sub Topic: **FLASH DROUGHTS**

#### Recent incidents:

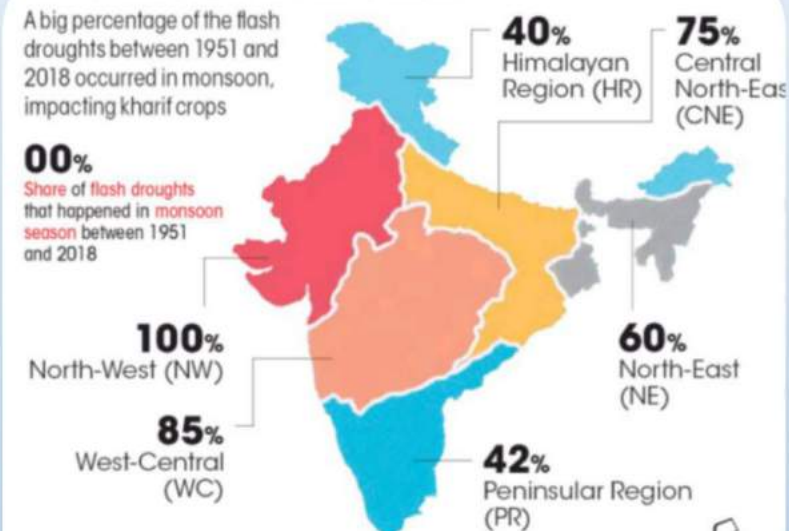
- Flash droughts **can occur in the monsoon season** as well, primarily caused by the monsoon breaks and these can **also occur due to delayed onset of the summer**.
- In 1979**, India faced a severe flash drought, affecting about 40% of the country and taking a toll on agriculture.
- As reported by the **Drought Early Warning System (DEWS)** **42% of India's land area** is under drought with 6% exceptionally dry.
- The **top five flash droughts** based on the overall severity score occurred in **1979** followed by **2009, 1951, 1986** and **2005**.

### AN UNRECOGNISED CRISIS

A big percentage of the flash droughts between 1951 and 2018 occurred in monsoon, impacting kharif crops

**00%**

Share of flash droughts that happened in monsoon season between 1951 and 2018



### THE WORST FOUR FLASH DROUGHTS

All occurred in monsoon, devastating crop production

**1958**  
affected CNE and NW

**1979**  
affected CNE, NW and WC

**1986**  
spread across WC, CNE, NW and PR

**2001**  
affected WC, CNE and NW







## General Studies-III Environment and degradation, Disaster and disaster management

### Sub Topic: **FLASH DROUGHTS**

#### Reason for spike in such incidents:

- The ongoing **climate change** has caused a significant increase in global temperature.
- **Increased air temperature and precipitation deficit** together **cause** a rapid depletion of soil moisture leading to **flash drought**
- Flash droughts in the monsoon season are primarily caused by the **monsoon breaks**.
- There is a **five-fold rise in the frequency of extremely dry and hot years** in the coming three decades
- This is causing an approximately seven-fold increase in flash droughts like 1979, by the end of the 21st century
- Other factors like **atmospheric anomalies** and anthropogenic **greenhouse gas emissions** also play important role.







## General Studies-III Environment and degradation, Disaster and disaster management

### Sub Topic: **FLASH DROUGHTS**

#### **Adverse impacts:**

- Drought causes economic, environmental and social impacts
- This increased frequency of flash droughts can have **damaging implications for crop production, irrigation demands and groundwater abstraction** in India.
- As a result **population immediately affected** by drought, such as farmer incomes and the health, nutrition, and education status of drought-affected populations.
- A third level is **on downstream activities**, such as industries reliant on agriculture and water.
- There will be **longer-term impacts** on growth, trade, foreign exchange, fiscal balance.





## General Studies-III Environment and degradation, Disaster and disaster management

### Sub Topic: **FLASH DROUGHTS**

#### Effective measures and way for ward:

- **Drought monitoring and early warning systems** to determine drought status.
- Vulnerability and impact assessment to determine who and what are at risk and why.
- **Limiting Global Warming:** By limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees C, the numbers and frequency of the projected flash droughts may go down.
- Mitigation, drought preparedness, and response to set out actions and measures to mitigate drought impacts and to prepare to respond to drought emergencies.
- There is a **need for a more organized and common conceptual framework** for assessing drought risk and for analysing the **"Benefits of Action and Costs of Inaction" (BACI)**.
- Flash-drought prediction ahead of time using operational meteorological forecasts will help manage irrigation water demands and avoid considerable losses in agriculture.







## General Studies-III Conservation

### General Studies-II Government policies and interventions for the development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

#### Sub Topic: **ISSUE OF CRUELTY AGAINST ANIMAL**

##### Why in news?

- Recently an elephant died in **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR)**, Tamil Nadu. The death was caused by a burning tyre thrown at the elephant by some people.
- The violence against wild animals has increased many folds in recent years.
- There is an urgent need to know the root causes of this increasing threat to wildlife.

##### How prevalent is animal cruelty in India?

- ☐ Between 2012 and 2016, more than 24,000 cases of animal cruelty were reported under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
- ☐ Wild animals in India are hunted for their body parts such as tiger and leopard skins, their bones and other body parts.
- ☐ These products are smuggled at very high prices in markets such as China, South East Asia, Europe and the Gulf.







## General Studies-III Conservation

### General Studies-II Government policies and interventions for the development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

#### Sub Topic: **ISSUE OF CRUELTY AGAINST ANIMAL**

##### Reason for high prevalence of cruelty against animals:

- The prevalence of **Illegal wildlife trade for their body parts and bones.**
- In India there is **increased pressure on natural resources.** This has led to a **decrease in wildlife corridors.**
- This is resulting in human-animal conflict and conflicts are used to justify violence against wild animals.
- The **threat to farmers:** They resort to cruelty against animals to protect crops by Electric fencing, poisoned fruits, firecrackers, snare traps, etc
- India has **a large population of stray animals.** These animals often get into conflict with the local population and end up facing violence from the people.





## General Studies-III Conservation

### General Studies-II Government policies and interventions for the development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

#### Sub Topic: **ISSUE OF CRUELTY AGAINST ANIMAL**

##### Steps taken:

- Compassionate treatment of animals is one of the **Fundamental Duties** of citizens of India, according to **Article 51A**
- **The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972:** This Act prohibited the capturing, trapping, baiting, or poisoning of wild animals (even attempting to do) as a punishable offence.
- The Act **established the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**. The Bureau aims to combat organized wildlife crime in the country
- **The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960: under this** beating, torture, kicking, over-loading, over-riding, etc.- to any animals as punishable offences.
- **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, (Slaughterhouse) Rules, 2001** prohibits the slaughtering of pregnant or sick animals







## General Studies-III Conservation

### General Studies-II Government policies and interventions for the development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

#### Sub Topic: **ISSUE OF CRUELTY AGAINST ANIMAL**

##### Measures to reduce the incident:

- **Encouraging farmers** to move away from cruel measures to **humane methods** to protect their crops. Eg: Farmers in Tamil Nadu are making use of the **Italian honey bee** (natural elephant deterrent)
- The agriculture and forest departments must cooperate and share the burden of **compensation to farmers** for crop loss due to wild animals.
- State governments have to establish the **State Animal Welfare Board. Further, Boards should be** allocated adequate finances and manpower.
- The government has to involve the civil society, NGOs and local administration in **creating awareness.**
- Private owners of elephants must be **held responsible** for well-being of the animals. There must be **accountability** for mistreatment of these animals.
- Marketing and use of imported products developed by **animal testing** should be banned. Israel imposed such a ban in 2010 and the EU banned them in 2013. Its high time India follows suit.







## General Studies-II Government policies and interventions, Issues related to privacy General Studies-III Science & Technology, Biotechnology

### Sub Topic: **DNA Technology(Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**

#### Why in news?

- Recently the **Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC)** asked the government to pay "careful attention" to the **DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**.
- The PSC mentioned the DNA Technology Bill as **very technical, complex and sensitive**.
- The Bill was criticized that it is capable of misuse and abuse and amount to a **"threat to the life, liberty, dignity and privacy of a person"**.
  - The Bill allows the use of the technology to establish the identity of persons in matters of **crime, parentage dispute, emigration or immigration and transplantation of human organs**.
  - It provides for establishment of **national and regional DNA data banks** and each databank will maintain **crime scene index, suspects' or undertrials' index and offenders' index** separately.

#### Background:

- A similar bill was passed in **Lok Sabha** in **2018** but could **not be passed in the Rajya Sabha**.
- The 2019 Bill was referred to the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests** for examination.





## General Studies-II Government policies and interventions, Issues related to privacy General Studies-III Science & Technology, Biotechnology

### Sub Topic: **DNA Technology(Use and Application)** **Regulation Bill, 2019**

#### Need for DNA Bill in India:

- **Significant increase in conviction rate:** According to NCRB, India's **conviction rate is 48.8% only in 2017**. The conviction rate can improve significantly if the DNA Bill is enacted in India.
- **Identification of missing persons:** Each year more than 4000 FIRs filed for not recognizing the victim's body. Not only that, In India **around 175 persons missing each day**. The bill will help in identifying them very easily with scientific intrastate co-operation.
- Bill will come in handy during the **parental disputes resolution**. The Bill can also **establish the identity of missing children and baby-swapping cases in hospitals**.
- **Accurate and faster investigation of crime:** Since the Bill maintains a database for convicts and suspects which can result in a faster and accurate investigation by police officers.
- Bill will **help in research works in DNA** and also **create employment opportunities for skilled manpower and other non-skilled jobs**.







## General Studies-II Government policies and interventions, Issues related to privacy General Studies-III Science & Technology, Biotechnology

### Sub Topic: **DNA Technology(Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**

#### Salient features of the Bill:

- Establishment of a **DNA Regulatory Board**; accreditation of DNA laboratories undertaking DNA testing, analysing, etc.
- Establishment of the **National and Regional DNA Data Banks**, as envisaged in the Bill, will assist in forensic investigations.
- This will aid in **scientific up-gradation and streamlining of the DNA testing activities** in the country with appropriate inputs from the DNA Regulatory Board which would be set up for the purpose.
- The Bill will add value in **empowering the criminal justice delivery system** by enabling the application of DNA evidence, which is considered the gold standard in crime investigations.
- The Bill states that the **criteria for entry, retention or removal of the DNA profile** will be specified by regulations.







## General Studies-II Government policies and interventions, Issues related to privacy General Studies-III Science & Technology, Biotechnology

### Sub Topic: **DNA Technology(Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**

#### **Arguments against the Bill:**

- **Concerns regarding the collection of data:** DNA not only not just reveal how a person looks, or what their eye colour but also reveal more intrusive information like their allergies, or susceptibility to diseases etc.
- **Violation of fundamental rights:** It violates also reveal more intrusive information like their allergies, or susceptibility to diseases etc.
- Many members of the committee too had **expressed concern** over including **"suspects" in this list**, flagging that it could lead to misuse and targeting certain categories of people.
- **Infrastructural issues:** There are **only 15 DNA profiling labs in India. DNA Training Academy** also faces a shortage of manpower.
- **Privacy concern:** The DNA data can be misused just like other personal information like Cambridge Analytica scandal of Face book etc.





## General Studies-II Government policies and interventions, Issues related to privacy General Studies-III Science & Technology, Biotechnology

### Sub Topic: **DNA Technology(Use and Application)** **Regulation Bill, 2019**

#### **Privacy Concerns:**

- **Misuse of Sensitive Information:** The **DNA profiles** can reveal **extremely sensitive information** of an individual such as family ancestry. It could even be used to incorrectly **link a particular caste/community to criminal activities**.
- **Storage of DNA Profiles of Unconvicted Persons:** The Bill proposes to store DNA profiles of **suspects, undertrials, victims and their relatives** for future investigations. This **violates the fundamental right to privacy** and does not serve any public purpose.
- **Absence of Robust Data Protections:** Experts questioned the security of a huge number of DNA profiles that will be placed with the **National DNA Data bank** and its regional centres.
- **Removal of DNA Profiles of Accused:** The Bill permits **retention of DNA** found at a crime scene in perpetuity, even if conviction of the offender has been overturned.
- **Leak of data – Aadhar issue:** Recently it was reported that anonymous group on WhatsApp that was selling Aadhaar card details for a meagre Rs 500. Once the payment was done, they can easily access our information







## General Studies-II Government policies and interventions, Issues related to privacy General Studies-III Science & Technology, Biotechnology

### Sub Topic: **DNA Technology(Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019**

#### **Arguments in favor of the Bill:**

- The Bill will enable **identification of missing children**. As per the **National Crime Records Bureau**, annually 1,00,000 children go missing.
- The Bill will also help in identifying unidentified **deceased, including disaster victims** and **apprehend repeat offenders** for **heinous crimes such as rape and murder**.
- DNA tests are already happening without any regulatory safeguards. This Bill will bring the DNA tests into the ambit of the law.
- The standards of the DNA testing laboratories are not monitored or regulated, so the bill has provision for regulating them.





## General Studies-II Government policies and interventions, Issues related to privacy General Studies-III Science & Technology, Biotechnology

### Sub Topic: **DNA Technology(Use and Application)** **Regulation Bill, 2019**

#### Way forward:

- Implement the **Data Protection Bill** based on the **Sri Krishna Committee** is passed first.
- There is also a **need for a robust procedure and policy** for collection of DNA samples, within the constitutional provisions like respecting Article 21.
- Although DNA can be an important tool in solving crimes, using DNA effectively during criminal investigations requires **proper crime scene examination, trained and reliable policing, a trusted chain of custody of samples, reliable analysis, and proper use of expert evidence in court.**







## General Studies-III Growth and development, Renewable energy

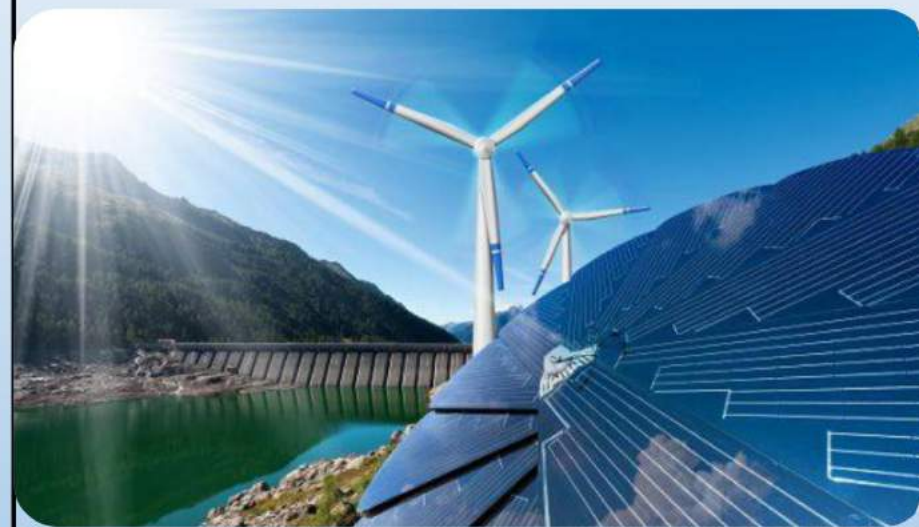
### Sub Topic: **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

#### Why in news?

- **Budget 2021** has proposed the launch of Hydrogen Energy Mission in this fiscal year.
- India is already the **4th largest country in terms of total Renewable Energy** installed capacity in the world.
- With the help of budgetary allocation and private participation, India has all the chances to be a global leader in green energy

#### What is green energy?

- The power **generated from natural sources** is termed as green energy.
- For example, wind, water, sunlight etc. Green energy is clean, eco-friendly and sustainable.
- Green energy has a very minimal negative impact on the environment and also provides the highest environmental benefit.





## General Studies-III Growth and development, Renewable energy

### Sub Topic: **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

#### Present Indian scenario:

The Government of **India** has set a target of installing of installing 175 GW of **renewable energy** capacity by the year 2022

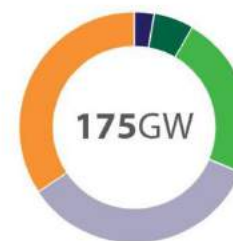
which includes 100 GW from **solar**, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.

the economic survey mentions solar energy of cumulative capacity of 36.9 GW has commissioned till November 2020

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) mentions 38.6GW of Wind energy power plants has commissioned till December 2020. The MNRE also mentions around 10 GW of Biomass-based power plants has commissioned.

India's Renewable Energy Target by 2022 (By Source)

Unit: Gigawatts



**5GW**  
Small hydro

**10GW**  
Biomass

**40GW**  
Rooftop solar

**60GW**  
Wind

**60GW**  
Solar photovoltaic

Graphic: Asia Briefing Ltd.





## General Studies-III Growth and development, Renewable energy

### Sub Topic: **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

#### Need to focus on renewable energy:

##### Reduce oil import

We currently  
Imports 84% of its oil  
needs

##### Reduce level of pollution

Air pollution is the **3rd-highest** cause of death

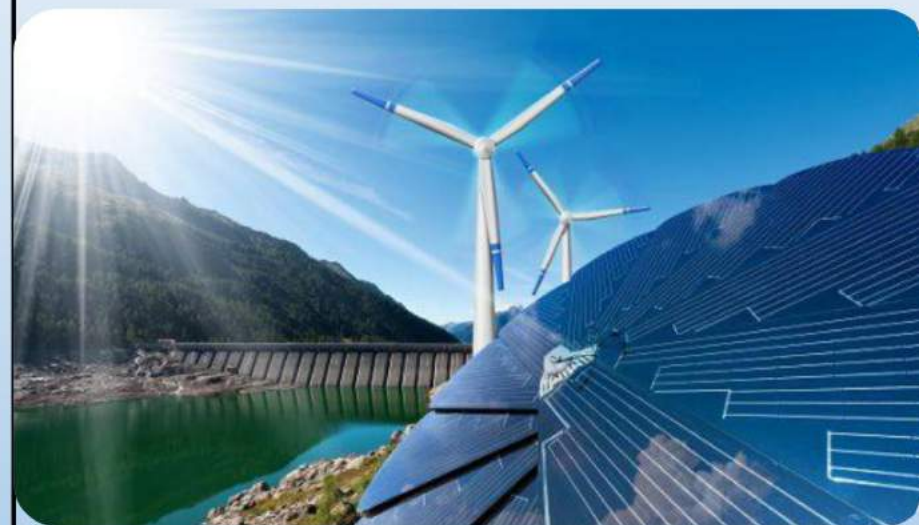
##### International commitments

Paris climate, SDG

##### Failure of Global Commitments

Mobilizing US\$ 100 billion under Paris Agreement failed

Current capacity is insufficient to meet India's target of 450 GW renewable energy by 2030





## General Studies-III Growth and development, Renewable energy

### Sub Topic: **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

#### **Budgetary allocation on green energy:**

- The budget provided the target of 100% electrification of Broad Gauge Routes in Railways by 2023. At present 63 per cent of total broad-gauge routes are being electrified in India.
- Proposal for the launch of the **National Hydrogen Energy Mission in 2021-22.**
- Budget also provided for **Voluntary Vehicle Scrapping Policy** in India. This is applicable for private vehicles older than 20 years and commercial vehicles older than 15 years.
- More focus on the **capacity building of solar energy.** For example, duty on the solar inverter, solar lanterns were raised from 5 to 20 and 15% respectively. This will boost domestic manufacturing and deter imports.
- The budget provided for **more metro and community transport** initiatives to reduce the carbon footprints of private transport







## General Studies-III Growth and development, Renewable energy

### Sub Topic: **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

#### India's key focus in next five years:

- **The Twin Challenge:** of providing more energy as well as cleaner energy to the masses in India.
  - It should focus on getting into the manufacturing of the solar panels under the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat** initiative as the demand is to create jobs as well as supply decentralised energy to all the households in India.
- **Methanol and Biomass:**
  - Bio-CNG vehicles with 20% blending in petrol is also a target the government has been chasing.
  - Conversion of energy from **Biomass** is a considerable option as it will clean the cities as well as reduce our energy dependence.
- **Hydrogen based FCV:** Hydrogen in technology is likely to change the landscape of renewables, shifting towards **Hydrogen Based Fuel Cells Vehicle (FCV)** is another area of focus.
- **Grid Integration:** It is the practice of developing efficient ways to deliver variable renewable energy (RE) to the grid.





## General Studies-III Growth and development, Renewable energy

### Sub Topic: **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

#### Challenges facing:







## General Studies-III Growth and development, Renewable energy

### Sub Topic: **RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

#### Way forward:

- ✓ Identification of **specific locations, integrating them with the main grid and distribution of powers;** A combination of these three is what will take India forward
- ✓ India also has to **focus on research capacities.**
- ✓ **Exploration:** More storage solutions need to be explored.
- ✓ **Agriculture subsidy:** Agricultural subsidy should be rectified in order to ensure that only the required amount of energy is consumed.
- ✓ **Hydrogen fuel cell based vehicles and Electric vehicles:** These are the most suitable options when it comes to shifting towards renewable sources of energy, that's where we need to work upon.





## General Studies-III Disaster management

### Sub Topic: AGEING OF DAMS

#### Why in news?

- Recently, a **UN University** report titled "**Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk**", held that by 2050, most people on Earth would live downstream of tens of thousands of large dams built in the 20th century, many of them including India's already operating at or beyond their design life, putting lives and property at risk.
- For example, **Krishna Raja Sagar dam** was built in 1931 and is now **90 years old**.
- Similarly, **Mettur dam** was constructed in 1934 and is now **87 years old**. Both these reservoirs are located in the **water-scarce Cauvery river basin**.

#### what is ageing of dams?

- **Ageing** signs of **dams** include increasing cases of **dam** failures, progressively increasing costs of **dam** repair and maintenance, increasing reservoir sedimentation, and loss of a **dam's** functionality and effectiveness.
- The ageing dams in India are threatening water security for the future.
- As the reservoir water is being replaced by soil, technically known **as silt or sediment**.







## General Studies-III Disaster management

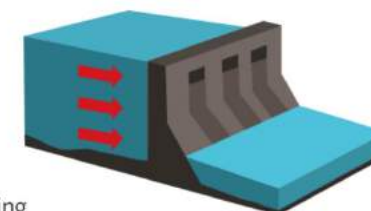
### Sub Topic: **AGEING OF DAMS**

#### Indian scenario:

- India is ranked third in the world in terms of building large dams.
- Of the over 5,200 large dams built so far, about 1,100 large dams have already reached 50 years of age, and some are older than 120 years.
- The number of such dams is going to reach 4,400 by 2050.

### DAM FAILURE?

When inflow into catchment area exceeds discharge from the spillway, water may overflow the dam



Sustained overtopping for hours can erode its mass and reduce the weight which holds it in place

Its weight stabilises a dam against the hydraulic pressure of water stored behind it. If eroded, it can break



### EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Rain gauges to signal rising water levels are a key tool for protection of dams

Some big dams including those in Bhima river basin have warning stations now

But such automated mechanism is missing at most of the smaller dams



## General Studies-III Disaster management

### Sub Topic: **AGEING OF DAMS**

#### Issues related to ageing of dams:

- As dam age the Silt or sediment start to replace the water in the reservoir due to Siltation. Therefore, the water storage **capacity of the dam decreases with time.**
- **Siltation reduces the capacity** of Some of India's Largest dams. Due to Siltation, the functioning of the **Bhakra dam** has been reduced from 47 years to 88 years.
- **Impact of climate change:** Extreme environmental events can overwhelm a dam's design limits and accelerate a dam's ageing process.
- **Also increasing floods** will accelerate the dam ageing process.
- **Structurally Vulnerable Dams:** Indian reservoirs are designed with a poor understanding of sedimentation science.
- **Lack of Storage Information:** The loss of large dams' storage capacity over time is part of the dam ageing process.







## General Studies-III Disaster management

### Sub Topic: **AGEING OF DAMS**

#### Consequence of ageing of dams:

- **Impacting Food Security:**
  - When soil replaces the water in reservoirs, supply gets choked
  - As a result, the net sown water area either shrink in size or depends on rains or groundwater, which is over-exploited.
- **Impacting Farmers' Income: the farmer's income may get reduced** as water is one of the crucial factors for crop yield along with credit, crop insurance and investment.
- **Increased flooding:** Due to Low capacity, reservoirs cannot store extra water from rainfall. It will lead to an increase in flooding rates
  - **For Example,** The flooding in **Bharuch in 2020, Kerala in 2018 and Chennai in 2015**





## General Studies-III Disaster management

### Sub Topic: **AGEING OF DAMS**

#### Government initiatives:

- **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)**
  - Launched in 2012, with World Bank with an objective to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams
  - Presently 198 dam projects are being rehabilitated under the DRIP Project.
- **Dam Safety Bill, 2019:**
  - The Bill provides for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in the country to ensure their safe functioning.
  - The Bill provides for establishment of **National Dam Safety Authority and National Committee on Dam Safety**.
- **Dam Health And Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA):**  
It is web-based software package to support the effective collection and management of Dam Safety data in respect of all large dams of India.







## General Studies-III Disaster management

### Sub Topic: **AGEING OF DAMS**

#### Way forward:

- **Attracting Global Attention:** There is a need to attract global attention to the issue of ageing water storage infrastructure and stimulate international efforts to deal with this emerging, rising water risk.
- **Transparency in Information:** India's water organizations have to be more transparent concerning dysfunctional and deteriorating large dams.
- Since the dam safety is dependent on many external factors, the environmentalists, and the **environmental angle** in this, needs to be taken.
- There is a need to strengthen the **state irrigation department and the Central Water Commission.**
- It should be ensured that the **inspection of dams** is done by the respective state governments.
- **Alternative Measures include:**
  - Selecting sites for construction of water harvesting structures of varying capacities;
  - Building medium or minor irrigation-based small storage structures;
  - Identifying mechanisms to recharge aquifers and store water underground;





## General Studies-III Social media networks and internal security

### Sub Topic: **SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### Why in news?

- **Twitter** was asked to block accounts and controversial hashtags that spoke of an **impending 'genocide' of farmers** for allegedly promoting misinformation about the protests, adversely affecting public order.
- Twitter reinstated the accounts and tweets on its own and later refused to go back on the decision, contending **that it found no violation of its policy.**

#### Extent of social media

- India has 574 million active **Internet users** as of 2019.
- India is the second-largest online market, behind China.
- It was estimated that by December 2020 there will be around 639 million active internet users in India.
- The majority of India's internet users are mobile phone internet users







## General Studies-III Social media networks and internal security

### Sub Topic: **SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### Influence of social media on society

##### **POSITIVE IMPACT:**

- **New Opportunities:** The rise of several YouTubers as a medium of profession is a testimony of the phenomenon.
- It helped **in creating awareness** about several issues, eg the fight for LGBTQ rights etc.
- Social media platforms provide a platform to raise their voice **against injustice and inequality**
- Social media have increasingly been adopted by politicians, political activists and social movements as a means to engage, organize and communicate with citizens.
- **Cheap and Easy:** With the assistance of technology, anyone can create competent, authentic, effective and fresh online content.
- **Countering The Hegemony:** It has provided an alternate source of Knowledge in a world where mainstream media has come under severe public criticism for fake news and propaganda.





## General Studies-III Social media networks and internal security

### Sub Topic: **SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### Influence of social media on society

##### NEGATIVE IMPACT:

- **Hate speech and Rumours:** It have been responsible for acts of violence and deaths in many of the cases for quite some time now.
- **Fake News:** A 2019 Microsoft study found that over 64% of Indians encounter **fake news** online, the highest reported amongst the 22 countries surveyed.
- **Online Trolling:** It has led to anonymous trolls who attack the reputation of an individual.
- **Women Safety:** Women face cyber rape and threats that affect their dignity severely. Sometimes their pictures and videos are leaked with and are forced to cyber bullying.
- Researchers have found that hyper-networking leads to negative health behaviour leading to laziness, obesity, depression, drug abuse, isolation or in the worst cases it may even lead to suicide.







## General Studies-III Social media networks and internal security

### Sub Topic: **SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### Recent controversy:

- Cooperation between technology services companies and law enforcement agencies is now deemed a vital part of fighting cybercrime and various other crimes that are committed using computer resources.
- Therefore, most nations have framed laws mandating cooperation by Internet service providers or web hosting service providers and other intermediaries to cooperate with law and order authorities in certain circumstances.





## General Studies-III Social media networks and internal security

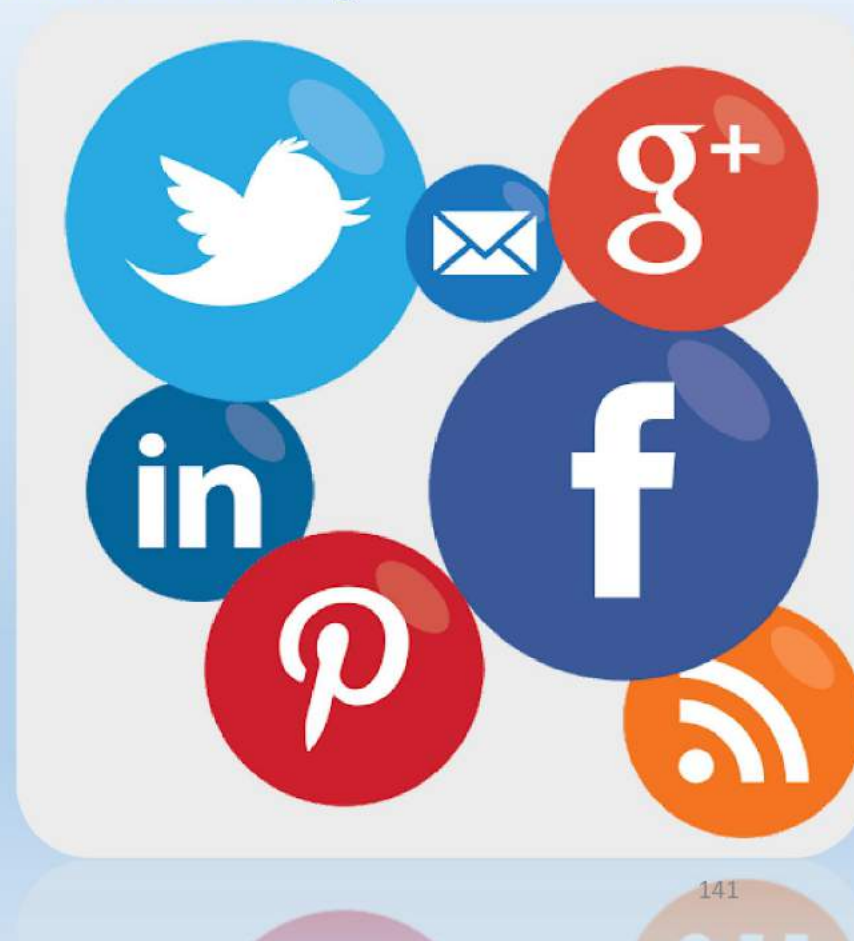
### Sub Topic: **SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### What does the law in India cover?

- **Information Technology Act, 2000** governs all activities related to the use of computer resources
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** had announced measures to curb fake news and misinformation on social media platforms at the time of elections
- **Section 69A** Central government to block websites and networks

The grounds on which these powers may be exercised are:

- in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of India, defence of India, the security of the state,
- friendly relations with foreign states,
- public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to these, or
- for investigating any offence







## General Studies-III Social media networks and internal security

### Sub Topic: **SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### Way forward:

- Data leaks at Facebook and Uber in the recent past have proven that the **encryption has to be so high.**
- The government should bring out **a policy framework** on the possible harm due to the internet messaging platforms to engage at a deeper level.
- **Public awareness:** Responsible social media use must be taught at every school and college in the country and especially in the rural areas where people can be easily manipulated.
- Use **of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence** to track fake news
- The need of the hour is to tackle **the gendered aspect of online abuse** and uphold the rights of women in India.





## General Studies-III Economy, Monetary Policy , Growth and development

### Sub Topic: **RBI MONETARY POLICY 2021**

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has forecasted that real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, hit by the **Covid pandemic** in 2020-21, is expected to grow by **10.5% in 2021-22**
- RBI had previously introduced a number of measures in its Monetary Policy Report for dealing with the Covid-19 induced economic setback.

#### Highlights:

- The repo rate stood **unchanged at 4%** as inflation has eased below "tolerance level of 6%"
- The reverse repo rate also stayed unchanged at 3.35%
- The policy maintained **accommodative stance**.
- The GDP growth pegged at 10.5% in 2021-2022.







## General Studies-III Economy, Monetary Policy , Growth and development

### Sub Topic: **RBI MONETARY POLICY 2021**

#### What is monetary policy?

- It refers to the policy of the Central Bank (RBI) in matters of interest rate, money supply and availability of the credit.
- **Objective:** To maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

#### Monetary Policy Committee:

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee constituted by the Reserve Bank of India and led by the Governor of RBI.

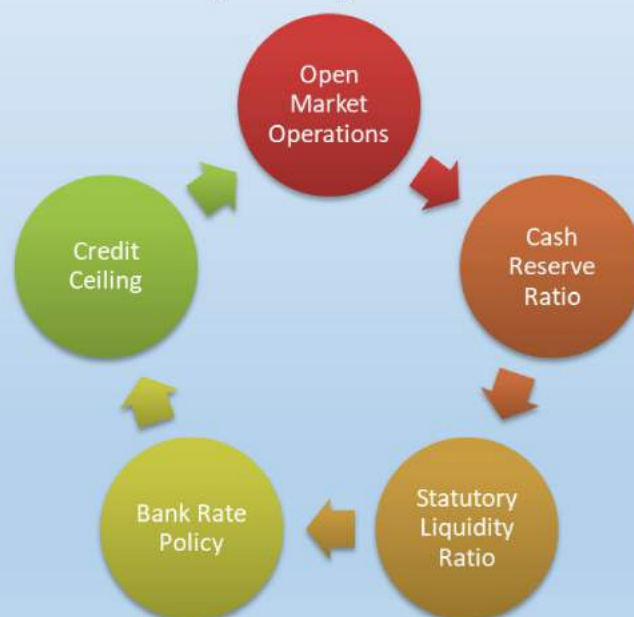




## General Studies-III Economy, Monetary Policy , Growth and development

### Sub Topic: **RBI MONETARY POLICY 2021**

#### Instruments of Monetary Policy:







## General Studies-III Economy, Monetary Policy , Growth and development

### Sub Topic: **RBI MONETARY POLICY 2021**

#### Types of Monetary Policy

##### Contractionary Fiscal Policy

When government policy-makers cut spending or increase taxes, they engage in contractionary fiscal policy. Governments may enact contractionary measures to slow an economic expansion and prevent inflation.. In addition, governments may enact contractionary policy for ideological reasons. These include reducing the overall size and scope of government activity or lowering budget deficits, in which the government spends more money than it collects.

##### Expansionary Fiscal Policy

Expansionary fiscal policy uses increased government spending, reduced taxes or a combination of the two. The chief objective of a fiscal expansion is to increase aggregate demand for goods and services across the economy, as well as to reduce unemployment.

##### Discretionary Fiscal Policy

Discretionary fiscal policy is the portion of the Federal government's actions that can be changed year to year by Congress and the President. It is usually executed through each year's budget or through changes in the tax code.





## General Studies-III Economy, Monetary Policy , Growth and development

### Sub Topic: **RBI MONETARY POLICY 2021**

#### Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate:

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	REPO RATE	REVERSE REPO RATE
<b>Meaning</b>	Repo rate is the rate at which the Central bank of India grants loan to the commercial banks for a short period against government securities.	Reverse repo rate is the rate at which the commercial banks grant loan to the Central Bank of India.
<b>Purpose</b>	To fulfil the deficiency of funds.	To ensure liquidity in the economy.
<b>Rate</b>	High	Comparatively less.
<b>Controls</b>	Inflation	Money supply in the economy.
<b>Charged on</b>	Repurchase Agreement	Reverse Repurchase Agreement







## General Studies-III Economy, Monetary Policy , Growth and development

### Sub Topic: **RBI MONETARY POLICY 2021**

#### Key terms:

- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):**  
It is a tool used in monetary policy by the RBI, that allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements (repos) or for banks to make loans to the RBI through reverse repo agreements.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):**  
MSF is a window for scheduled banks to borrow overnight from the RBI in an emergency situation when interbank liquidity dries up completely.
  - Under interbank lending, banks lend funds to one another for a specified term.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):**  
Banks are required to hold a certain proportion of their deposits in the form of cash. This minimum ratio (that is the part of the total deposits to be held as cash) is stipulated by the RBI and is known as the CRR.
- **Bank Rate:**  
It is the **rate charged by the RBI for lending funds to commercial banks.**





## General Studies-III Economy, Monetary Policy , Growth and development

### Sub Topic: **RBI MONETARY POLICY 2021**

#### **Challenges:**

- Inflexible cost of funds
- In India, customer deposit constitute the majority of funds to be lent by the banks, whereas the market borrowing through the issue of debentures/commercial paper is negligible.
- The cost of funds typically remains inflexible as most of these deposits are contracted at fixed rate
- Policy rates not linked to market
- High Non Performing Assets (NPA)







## General Studies-III Indian Economy, Mobilization of economy - challenges in Mobilizing resources for development

### Sub Topic: **DIGITAL SERVICES TAX**

#### Why in news?

- Recently, the **United States Trade Representative (USTR)** published a report concluding that **the 2% digital services tax (DST)** introduced by the Indian government **discriminates against US businesses.**
- It concluded that the DST is causing an adverse impact on American commerce and hence, an action needs to be taken under trade act.
- But the USTR in its **special 301 report** missed few important aspects and also completely neglected the global need to tax digital services.





## General Studies-III Indian Economy, Mobilization of economy - challenges in Mobilizing resources for development

### Sub Topic: **DIGITAL SERVICES TAX**

#### What is Digital Services Tax?

- These are the adopted taxes on revenues that certain companies generate from providing certain **digital services**.
- E.g. **digital multinationals like Google, Amazon and Apple etc**
- The DST is aimed at ensuring that non-resident, digital service providers pay their fair share of tax on revenues generated in the Indian digital market.
- India's 2% DST is levied on revenues generated from digital services offered in India, including **digital platform services, digital content sales, and data-related services**.

#### Background:

- In 2016 India introduced a **6% equalization levy**.
- But the levy was restricted to online advertisement services (commonly known as "**digital advertising taxes**" or DATs).
- In simple terms, the levy applied on the payments made to a non-resident by the Indians for advertising on their platform.
- The government in 2020 introduced an amendment to the equalization levy in the **Finance Bill 2020-21**.







## General Studies-III Indian Economy, Mobilization of economy - challenges in Mobilizing resources for development

### Sub Topic: **DIGITAL SERVICES TAX**

#### **Rationale behind the enactment of the Tax:**

- **Nature of digital service companies:** These companies don't have any physical presence in the markets. Instead, they use intangibles to provide services. **Determining the value of these intangibles is tough.**
- **Failure of international consensus:** In 2013, **the OECD** launched the **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)** programme. It was launched primarily to find a way to tax digital companies. But no consensus has been achieved yet.
- India's **right to tax** digital service providers. India being a developing country provides large markets for digital corporations. So taxing them is a matter of right.
- These DST create a level playing field between online and regular. In 2016, **the Akhilesh Ranjan Committee** Report had also suggested to tax the digital companies





## General Studies-III Indian Economy, Mobilization of economy - challenges in Mobilizing resources for development

### Sub Topic: **DIGITAL SERVICES TAX**

#### Arguments by both sides:

##### ➤ US stand:

- It argued that **India's equalization levy is complex and ambiguous** which includes the **possibility of double taxation of income**
- DST **does not extend to identical services** provided by non-digital service providers. This is a violation of trade practices.
- DST is **discriminatory** because it targets US companies.

##### ➤ India's stand:

- India is expected to argue that the levy is in compliance with India's commitments under **the 1995 General Agreement on Trade** in and is applicable on all global companies, not just American ones.
- India argue that when the company is non-digital (i.e., brick and mortar) then that company is subject to **Indian income tax**. Further, this DST has been introduced to provide a level-playing field.
- In case when the goods and services are supplied to the resident, typically **the non-residents have been able to pass on the burden to the Indian consumers** and therefore indirectly the tax has been borne by the **Indian consumers**.







## General Studies-III Indian Economy, Mobilization of economy - challenges in Mobilizing resources for development

### Sub Topic: **DIGITAL SERVICES TAX**

#### Associated issues with DST:

- Digital service providers **might pass on the tax to consumers. Ultimately, burdening consumers.**
- **Double Taxation:** This was severely criticized by many countries as a unilateral measure that would result in double taxation.
- DST as **a tax policy targets a single sector.** Economic experts argue that framing a tax policy to **target a particular sector** is unfair.
- **Retaliatory Tariffs:** The USTR investigations could pose a threat of retaliatory tariffs, as similar tariffs were imposed by the US on France.





## General Studies-III Indian Economy, Mobilization of economy - challenges in Mobilizing resources for development

### Sub Topic: **DIGITAL SERVICES TAX**

#### Way forward:

- **Expediting Multilateral Negotiations:** While the digital economy and its implications continue to evolve, the multilateral solution at the level of the OECD must be expedited.
- India can follow **the U.K. model of DST**. The U.K. allows companies to not pay any tax if their net operating margin is negative.
- As India is racing towards becoming a digital giant, the 2% DST should be negotiated to avoid any hurdles in its implementation. Further, there needs to be **international consensus** on taxation on a digital economy.







## General Studies-III Indian Economy, Mobilization of economy - challenges in Mobilizing resources for development

### Sub Topic: **DIGITAL SERVICES TAX**

#### Model question:

The Equalization Levy sometimes seen in news is related to:

- a) E-commerce
  - b) Air Travel
  - c) Imports Substitution
  - d) None of these
- The Equalization Levy was introduced for the first time in 2016 as 6 per cent tax on revenues earned by non-residents from online advertising and related services.
- The burden of this tax eventually fell on local firms advertising on these platforms.





## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### Why in news?

- Recently a glacial burst has occurred in **Nanda Devi glacier in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.**
- Bringing back haunting memories of the 2013 **Kedarnath calamity**, the glacier break caused large-scale devastation in the upper reaches of the ecologically fragile Himalaya.
- Many geologists pointed **out global warming** as a major contributing factor to these disasters.







## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### Why in news?

**When the hills shake** Major natural disasters in the region over the past three decades:



**Nature's fury:** Part of a glacier broke off in Joshimath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Sunday, causing a massive flood in the Dhaul Ganga river. • PTI

**1991: Uttarkashi earthquake** — An earthquake of 6.8 magnitude hit the undivided state of Uttar Pradesh in October 1991. At least 768 people were killed and thousands of homes destroyed

**1998: Malpa landslide** — The small village of Malpa was wiped out in a landslide in which nearly 255 people, including 55 Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims, were killed. The resulting debris partially blocked Sharda river

**1999: Chamoli earthquake** — An earthquake of 6.8 magnitude hit Chamoli district killing over 100 people. The adjoining Rudrapur district was also heavily affected. Several ground deformations were reported as a result of the earthquake, and landslips and changes in water flow were recorded. Cracks were observed on roads and on the ground

**2013: North India floods** — In June 2013, a multi-day cloudburst in Uttarakhand caused devastating floods and landslips. According to the State government, more than 5,700 people were presumed dead in the disaster. As bridges and roads were destroyed, more than 3 lakh people were trapped in the Valleys leading to the Char Dham pilgrimage sites





## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### What is Glacial Lake Outburst Flood?

- It is an **outburst that happens when a dam containing a glacial lake fails.**
- When glaciers melt, the water in glacial lakes accumulates behind loose, natural **"glacial/moraine dams"** made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue.

#### GLOFs have three main features:

- They involve sudden (and sometimes cyclic) releases of water.
- They tend to be rapid events, lasting hours to days.
- They result in large downstream river discharges (which often increase by an order of magnitude).

#### What is Nanda Devi glacier?

- The Nanda Devi glacier forms part of **the second-highest mountain in India** — the Nanda Devi mountain.
- While it **the second-highest after Kangchenjunga, it is the highest mountain located entirely within the country as Kangchenjunga lies on the border of India and Nepal.**







## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### Possible reason behind the Glacial burst:

- A **build-up of water pressure or structural weakness of the boundary** due to an increase in the flow of water.
- **An earthquake** (Tectonic) **or cryoseism** (non-tectonic seismic event of the glacial cryosphere) can cause GLOF. During this, the boundary of the glacial lake will collapse suddenly and release the water of the glacial lake.
- An **avalanche of rock or heavy snow**: During this, the water in the glacial lake might be displaced by the avalanche.
- **Volcanic eruptions** under the ice can lead to GLOF. These volcanic eruptions might displace the boundary or increase the pressure on the glacial lake or both.
- **Heavy rainfall/melting of snow**: This can lead to massive displacement of water in a glacial lake.
- **Long-term dam degradation** can also cause GLOF.
- Other reasons include the collapse of an adjacent glacial lake, etc.





## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### Why the region is vulnerable?

- State of Uttarakhand is categorized **as Zone IV (High-Risk Zone)** and V ( Very High-Risk zone) of the earthquake risk map of India.
- **The tectonic activity:** The Indian plate is continuously moving towards north about 2 cm every year. So the Himalayas is rising about 5 mm a year. This makes **the Himalayan region geologically active and structurally unstable.**
- The key reason is that the active nature of rocks known as faults which respond to earthquakes creating enormous instability.
- There are **numerous glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH)** region. These glacial lakes can trigger the Glacial outburst.
- The **soil is getting loose in the HKH region.** The large human settlements and human activities have resulted in deforestation and large-scale agricultural activities in the region.
- the factor of **global warming and climate change.** Global warming and climate change lead to **glacial retreat and glacier fragmentation**
- The **heat-island effect** in the HKH region. The Himalayas are getting warm faster than other mountain ranges. This is due to the increase in the use of **reinforced concrete (RCC)** in building construction instead of eco -friendly traditional wood and stone masonry. This adds to regional warming and increases the number of glacial lakes or the water level of glacial lakes.







## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### **NDMA Guidelines to tackle glacial burst:**

**National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** had issued detailed guidelines on how to reduce and deal with disasters caused by GLOFs/Glacial Bursts. They are:

- **Identifying Potentially Dangerous Lakes** based on field observations, records of past events, geomorphologic and geotechnical characteristics of the lake
- **Use of Technology:** Methods and protocols could also be developed to **allow remote monitoring of lake bodies from space.**
- NDMA recommends **reducing the volume of water with methods such as controlled breaching**, pumping or siphoning out water, and making a tunnel through the moraine barrier or under an ice dam.
- **Uniform Codes for Construction Activity:** There is a need to accept **procedures for land use planning** in the GLOF prone areas.
- Developing **Comprehensive Alarm Systems.**





## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### **NITI Aayog guidelines on Sustainable Development in Himalayan Region:**

NITI Aayog had set **up 5 Working Groups** in 2017 to prepare a roadmap for actions in 5 thematic areas for sustainable development in the region. The themes include:

- Inventory and Revival of Springs in Himalayas for Water Security,
- Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region,
- Transformative Approach to Shifting Cultivation,
- Strengthening Skill & Entrepreneurship Landscape in Himalayas and
- Data/Information for Informed Decision Making.

#### **The key proposals are:**

- **Spring Mapping and Revival**, using 8 steps protocol be taken up across Himalayan States in phased manner
- Apply **carrying capacity** concept to all major **tourist destinations**
- Assessment of nature & extent **of Shifting Cultivation** area, improved policy coherence and key recommendations to transform shifting cultivation.
- A **Central Data Management Agency** for Himalayas to provide data with high fidelity in addressing data related issues.







## General Studies-I Important geographical phenomena, Melting of ice sheets General Studies-III Disaster management, management of disaster

### Sub Topic: **GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD**

#### Way forward:

- A **long-term solution** will be feasible if **all the countries start working towards reducing global warming**.
- India needs to form **clear policy guidelines to restrict further human activities** like building roads, constructing hotels on banks, etc.
- We should undertake a **cumulative assessment and strategic planning**.
- **Capacity building of the local community** will ensure disaster mitigation in the near future.
- The **government has to be proactive and set up an early warning system** in the Himalayas. Like the one set up in coastal areas after the 2004 tsunami.





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilisation of resources, Government Budgeting- Deficit reduction

### Sub Topic: **STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT**

#### Why in news?

- During Union **Budget 2020-21** presentation, Government announced a new **policy for strategic disinvestment** of public sector enterprises.
- It will provide a clear roadmap for disinvestment in all **non-strategic and strategic sectors**.
- The government has aimed to receive **Rs. 1.75 lakh crore from disinvestment**

#### What is disinvestment?

- **Disinvestment means** the sale or liquidation of assets by the government. It usually consists of Central and state public sector enterprises, projects, or other fixed assets.
- The **government undertakes disinvestment to** reduce the fiscal burden on the exchequer. It raises money for meeting specific needs, such as to bridge the revenue shortfall from other regular sources.







## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilisation of resources, Government Budgeting- Deficit reduction

### Sub Topic: **STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT**

#### Importance and Objectives of disinvestment:





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilisation of resources, Government Budgeting- Deficit reduction

### Sub Topic: **STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT**

#### What is strategic disinvestment?

- **Strategic disinvestment is** the transfer of the ownership and control of a public sector entity to some other entity (mostly to a private sector entity).
- The disinvestment commission defines strategic sale **as the sale of a substantial portion i.e. 50%, or higher percentage of the Government shareholding** in a central public sector enterprise (CPSE).
- It also involves a **transfer of management control.**
- The guiding principle to strategic disinvestment in India is that the **government plays little to no role** in the manufacture/production of goods and services in the day and age of competitive markets.







## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilisation of resources, Government Budgeting- Deficit reduction

### Sub Topic: **STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT**

#### Strategic disinvestment can be approached in the following ways:

- **Minor disinvestment:** The government gives away a portion of its stake but retains a majority stake, preferably at 51%, in order to retain management control.
- **Major disinvestment:** The government sells off the majority of its stake and retains minor holdings in the company.
- **Compete privatization:** In this the government hands over complete control of its holdings to a private player.





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilisation of resources, Government Budgeting- Deficit reduction

### Sub Topic: **STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT**

#### Strategic Disinvestment Process:

- **DIPAM** (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) under Ministry of Finance is **the nodal agency** for the strategic stake sale
- This was done with a view to streamlining and speeding up process and reducing the role of administrative ministries
- **DIPAM and NITI Aayog will jointly identify** the PSUs for the disinvestment.







## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilisation of resources, Government Budgeting- Deficit reduction

### Sub Topic: **STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT**

#### Challenges:

- Sale of profit-making and dividend paying PSUs would result **in the loss of regular income to the Government**
- **Strategic and National Security Concerns:** Strategic Disinvestment of Oil PSUs is seen by some experts as a threat to National Security since Oil is a strategic natural resource
- There might be incidences of **'Asset Stripping'** as in the buyer will strip the PSU of its valuable assets such as buildings, tools, machinery etc.
- Although using funds from disinvestment can be a major boost for the government exchequer, it is **a short term measure** mainly and cannot be used often.
- Complete privatization may result in the **government losing its monopoly** in certain sectors.





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilisation of resources, Government Budgeting- Deficit reduction

### Sub Topic: **STRATEGIC DISINVESTMENT**

#### Way forward:

- It needs to be ensured that Privatization (Strategic Disinvestment ) leads to **greater competition** in all cases.
- Take measures **to revamp the Boards of the CPSEs** and reorganize their structure to strengthening them.
- The **government should increase the operational autonomy in CPSEs.**
- This can be supplemented by **strong governance** measures like listing on stock exchanges. It **will increase the transparency in their performance.**
- The government must also try to provide the bidders with a **fair valuation of the PSUs.** It will boost their confidence in the disinvestment process.
- Improve the process of **timely closure of sick and loss-making CPSEs** and disposal of their assets.







## General Studies-III Science and Technology , Cryptocurrency, Application and effects in everyday life

### Sub Topic: **ROAD AHEAD FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY**

#### Why in news?

- With the likely scenario of India's government **banning private cryptocurrencies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is planning to introduce an official **digital currency for the country.**
- Earlier **in 2019** government bill sought to ban cryptocurrency and criminalises its possession in India. But it was not introduced in parliament.

Source: **RSTV**





## General Studies-III Science and Technology , Cryptocurrency, Application and effects in everyday life

### Sub Topic: **ROAD AHEAD FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY**

#### What is cryptocurrency?

- A cryptocurrency is a **digital currency** which can be used in place of conventional money.
- It uses **strong cryptography to secure transaction records**, to control the creation of additional coins, and to verify the transfer of coin ownership.
- It typically **does not exist in physical form** (like paper money) and is typically not issued by a central authority.
- Cryptocurrencies typically **use decentralized control** as opposed to centralized digital currency and central banking systems.
- Today, there are over a thousand cryptocurrencies in existence.
- Not just individuals, big firms and businesses are also getting into the cryptocurrency business.
- Tech giant **Facebook proposed** launched a new global cryptocurrency called **Libra**.

Source: **RSTV**







## General Studies-III Science and Technology , Cryptocurrency, Application and effects in everyday life

### Sub Topic: **ROAD AHEAD FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY**

#### Types of crypto currencies:

- The most common types of cryptocurrencies are: **Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Litecoin, Namecoin, Swiftcoin**

#### Characteristics of cryptocurrencies:

- **Irreversible:** A transaction done by cryptocurrency is irreversible and cannot be reversed.
- **Secure:** it uses cryptography technology which is almost impossible to break.
- **No central authority:** There is no gatekeeper like that of government and central banks and users are responsible for all the transactions.
- **No Debts:** There is no concept of debts in cryptocurrencies. All the transactions are actual exchange of money.
- **Instant and global:** the transaction is instantaneous and since the network is global, the transaction can be done across the globe without restrictions.

Source: **RSTV**





## General Studies-III Science and Technology , Cryptocurrency, Application and effects in everyday life

### Sub Topic: **ROAD AHEAD FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY**

#### Why RBI still recommend for regulation of cryptocurrency?

- **Privacy Concerns:** There is concern regarding privacy of users data in using cryptocurrencies as all the transaction information is stored in distributed ledger (called blockchain), which is publicly visible. Thus Hacker can easily observe how the money flows.
- **High Volatility of** the price complicated the investors to trust the ecosystem.
- **Dark activities:** The possibility that the new money will nurture illicit activities and markets like drug selling, weapons etc.
- **Cybersecurity Concerns:** Cryptocurrencies are prone to cybersecurity breaches and hacks.
- **Money laundering:** They provide greater anonymity than other payment methods since the public keys engaging in a transaction cannot be directly linked to an individual.

Source: **RSTV**







## General Studies-III Science and Technology , Cryptocurrency, Application and effects in everyday life

### Sub Topic: **ROAD AHEAD FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY**

#### Benefits of crypto currency over fiat money:

- Because it is created by cryptography and uses blockchain.

Counterfeiting

Fast and Efficient

- Fund transfer is easier compared conventional

Durability

Low transaction cost

- It is more durable than any paper currency.

- Processing fee is virtually zero

Source: **RSTV**





## General Studies-III Science and Technology , Cryptocurrency, Application and effects in everyday life

### Sub Topic: **ROAD AHEAD FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY**

#### Global scenario:

- **United States:** it has no clear policy on cryptocurrency. However, The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of USA has warned investors of the risks involved in investing in cryptocurrency.
- **Canada:** The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada does not consider cryptocurrencies to be a legal tender.
- **Venezuela:** it has recently announced its own oil-backed cryptocurrency called "petro".
- **China:** China has been taking many actions to clamp down on cryptocurrency. It has banned ICOs, ordered a bank account freeze associated with cryptocurrency exchanges, kicked out bitcoin miners, etc.

Source: **RSTV**







## General Studies-III Science and Technology , Cryptocurrency, Application and effects in everyday life

### Sub Topic: **ROAD AHEAD FOR CRYPTOCURRENCY**

#### Scope in future:

- Blockchain technology is the underpinning technology behind many cryptocurrencies.
- Blockchain, which was conceptualised for the verification of anonymous peer-to-peer transactions in bitcoin, has since been adapted for many other purposes.
- It quickly **detects fakes and disallows duplicate transactions.**
- Blockchain technology forms a crucial part of **Industrial revolution 4.0.**
- It is also estimated that blockchain will generate **\$3.1 trillion in new business value by 2030.**

Source: **RSTV**





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning and Mobilization of resources , Need and challenges in Resource Mobilization

### Sub Topic: Why Petrol Price Hike in India

#### Why in news?

- The retail price of regular petrol hit **a three-figure mark** for the first time across the country after it was hiked by 26 paise to **Rs 100.13 a litre while diesel got dearer by 27 paise to Rs 92.13**, as per the data available on the Indian Oil Corporation's website.
- This was **the ninth-consecutive** day when the prices of petrol and diesel saw a hike.

Source: The Economic Times, Indian Express



#### CHANGE IN PRICES: INDIA AND THE REST

Country	Jan 2020 (in USD/litre)	Jan 2021 (in USD/litre)	Change
India	1.03	1.17	13.6%
China	0.72	0.71	- 1.4%
USA	0.67	0.62	- 7.5%
Brazil	1.07	0.85	- 20.6%
UK	1.66	1.63	- 1.8%
Crude per barrel	63.65	54.77	- 14.0%

Source: PPAC, Trading Economics, Statista

#### EXCISE DUTY AS % AGE OF TOTAL PRICE

	Jan 2020	Feb 2021
PETROL	26.6%	37.1%
DIESEL	23.3%	40.1%

PETROL	33.1%	17.9%
DIESEL	30.0%	53.3%





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning and Mobilization of resources , Need and challenges in Resource Mobilization

**Sub Topic: Why Petrol Price Hike in India**

**Why crude oil prices are rising now?**



**Source: The Economic Times, Indian Express**





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning and Mobilization of resources , Need and challenges in Resource Mobilization

### Sub Topic: **Why Petrol Price Hike in India**

#### **Why crude oil prices are rising now?**

- Prices collapsed in **April 2020 after the pandemic spread** around the world, and demand fell away.
- But as economies have **reduced travel restrictions** and factory output has picked up, global demand has improved, and prices have been recovering.
- The **controlled production of crude** amid **rising demand** has been another key factor in boosting oil prices, with Saudi Arabia voluntarily cutting its daily output.
- **Cost of Brent crude oil and improving demand:**
  - Since **India imports 84 per cent** of its domestic demands for crude oil. Therefore, Brent crude prices have a direct bearing on domestic fuel prices.
  - Brent crude price had fallen from \$66 per barrel at the beginning of 2019 to \$19 in April due to travel curbs and lockdowns. It has now reached close to \$50 per barrel.

Source: **The Economic Times, Indian Express**







## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning and Mobilization of resources , Need and challenges in Resource Mobilization

### Sub Topic: Why Petrol Price Hike in India

#### Why crude oil prices are rising now?

- **Government's taxes:**
  - Excise duty and VAT constitute almost 63 per cent of the price of petrol and 60 per cent for diesel.
- **Limited supply:**
  - Major oil-producing countries **had cut oil production last year** amid a sharp fall in demand due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - In early January 2021, the **OPEC and Russia** (as OPEC+) agreed to **cut back on oil production to increase prices.**

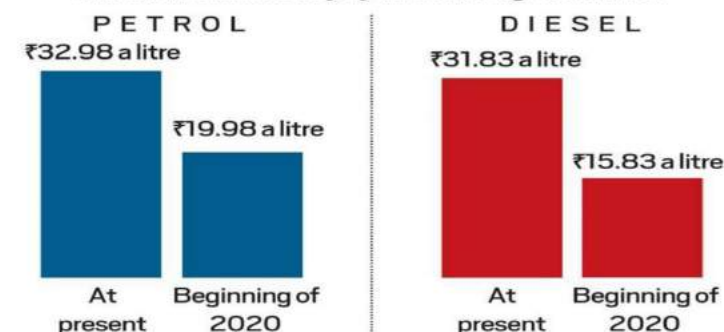
Source: The Economic Times, Indian Express



#### CENTRAL AND STATE TAXES

Both central and state governments have hiked central excise duty and sales taxes to boost revenues. In Delhi for instance, state and central taxes amount to around **180 per cent** of the base price of petrol and **141 per cent** of the base price of diesel

Hike in the excise duty by the central government:



#QUIXPLAINED

3



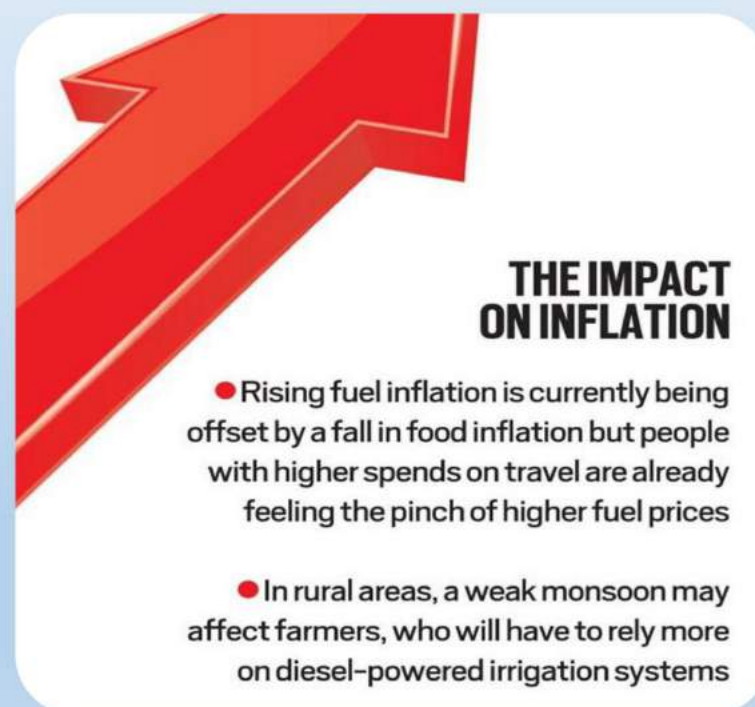
## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning and Mobilization of resources , Need and challenges in Resource Mobilization

### Sub Topic: Why Petrol Price Hike in India

#### What are impacts?

- **Inflation**: The increase in crude prices could also also further increase **inflationary pressures** that have been building up over the past few months.
- **Current Account Deficit**: The increase in oil prices **will increase the country's import bill**, and further **disturb its current account deficit**
- Increase in petrol prices will impact the **cost of production and manufacturing** on energy input industries.
- Rising fuel inflation may **pinch consumers who have to travel** further for work and have access to affordable cereals etc.
- **The urban population** would be more impacted by rising fuel prices than the rural population — however, a **weak monsoon may lead to rural India** being hit as farmers are forced to rely more on diesel-powered irrigation.

Source: The Economic Times, Indian Express



on diesel-powered irrigation systems  
affect farmers' who will have to rely more





## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning and Mobilization of resources , Need and challenges in Resource Mobilization

### Sub Topic: **Why Petrol Price Hike in India**

#### Measures to end oil dependence:

- **Promotion of renewable energy:** India has also built its strategic petroleum reserves in order to meet any supply shocks due to any external exigencies like wars, natural disasters etc.
- India has also **built its strategic petroleum reserves** in order to meet any supply shocks due to any external exigencies like wars, natural disasters etc.
- **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)** intends to minimize government's discretion in decision making, reduce disputes, reduce administrative delays and introduce concept of revenue sharing, freedom of marketing to stimulate growth in the oil and gas sector in India
- **India's Energy Diplomacy:** Indo-US Nuclear deal opened new vistas for India in field of Nuclear energy facilitating cutting edge technology and nuclear fuel. India has started to engage with China, Kazakhstan and Australia for nuclear fuel.
- Mission Mode implementation of **EV scheme**
- India needs to **build its capacity in research and skills building** to deal with these transformations in energy sector.

Source: **The Economic Times, Indian Express**

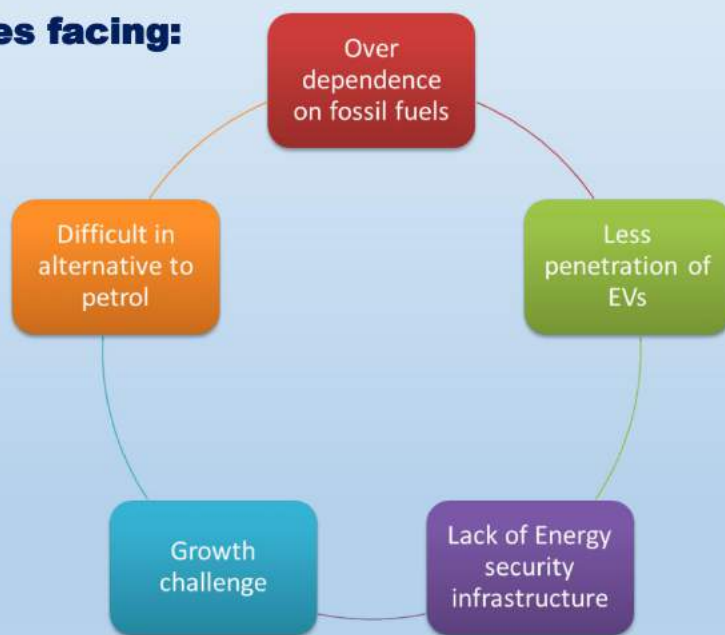




## General Studies-III Indian Economy and issues relating to planning and Mobilization of resources , Need and challenges in Resource Mobilization

### Sub Topic: **Why Petrol Price Hike in India**

#### Challenges facing:



Source: **The Economic Times, Indian Express**

