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IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 43

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SCAN TO EXPLORE





IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

FOR PRELIMS VOL - 43

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INDIAN POLITY

1) IMPOSITION OF ARTICLE 356

IN NEWS: - Imposition of President's rule in West Bengal is being demanded, following the gruesome incidents in Birbhum in which 10 people, including two children, were burnt alive.

ABOUT ARTICLE 356

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India gives the President of India the power to suspend state government and impose President's rule of any state in the country if "if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution".
- It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.
- Upon the imposition of this rule, there would be no Council of Ministers.
- The state will fall under the direct control of the Union government, and the Governor will continue to be head the proceedings, representing the President of India.
- A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
- The approval takes place through simple majority in either House, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- Initially valid for six months, the President's Rule can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.
- Under Article 356, President's Rule is imposed if the President, upon receipt of the report from the Governor of the State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

- A proclamation of President's Rule may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation.
- Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.

2) RAMP SCHEME

IN NEWS: - The Union Cabinet approved the "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP) scheme which would commence in FY 2022-23.

ABOUT RAMP SCHEME

- It is in line with the recommendations made by U K Sinha Committee, KV Kamath Committee and Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).
- It is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting various CoronaVirus Disease 2019 (Covid) Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- It is aimed at Improving access to market and credit and strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State
- It is also aimed at improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships and addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs
- Important component of RAMP is preparation of Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs), in which all states/UTs will be invited.
- The SIPs would include an outreach plan for identification and mobilisation of MSMEs under RAMP, identify key constraints and gaps, set milestones and project the required budgets for interventions in priority sectors including renewable energy, rural & non-farm business, wholesale and retail trade, village and cottage industries, women enterprises etc.
- The overall monitoring and policy overview of RAMP would be done by an apex National MSME Council.

- The council will be headed by the Minister for MSME, including representation from various Ministries and supported by a secretariat.
- The total outlay for the scheme is Rs. 6,062.45 crore out of which Rs. 3750 crore would be a loan from the World Bank and the remaining Rs. 2312.45 crore would be funded by India.
- Funds would flow through RAMP into the Ministry's budget against Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) to support ongoing MoMSME programmes, focusing on improving market access and competitiveness.
- The disbursement of funds from World Bank towards RAMP would be made on fulfilling the following Disbursement Linked Indicators:
 - Implementing the National MSME Reform Agenda
 - Accelerating MSME Sector Centre-State collaboration
 - Enhancing effectiveness of Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS)
 - Strengthening Receivable Financing Market for MSMEs
 - Enhancing Effectiveness of Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and "Greening and Gender" delivery
 - Reducing the incidence of delayed payments
- The RAMP programme will address the generic and Covid related challenges in the MSME sector by way of impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes, especially, on the competitiveness front.

3) NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

IN NEWS:- A new scheme "New India Literacy Programme" for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 has been approved.

ABOUT NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVE

- To impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21st century.
- Critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare).
- Vocational skills development (with a view towards obtaining local employment).
- Basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency).
- Continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).
- The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.
- The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, may be organized through face-to-face mode. All material and resources shall be provided digitally.
- School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme.
- Schools to be used for conducting surveys of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers.
- Non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs in the country.
- The target is 5 (five) crore learners @ 1.00 crore per year by using “Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)” in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS.

- Term “Adult Education” will be replaced by “Education for All”.

4) DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

IN NEWS: - Of all Asian countries, India has the highest flood mortality rate, or the number of lives lost to flood each year. According to the Central Water Commission, between 1952 and 2018, floods led to the loss of one hundred thousand lives and Rs 4,69,000 crore in damages. These tragedies are now being compounded by the effects of climate change on dam operations

ABOUT DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- The project was launched in 2012 by the Central Water Commission (CWC) with assistance from the World Bank.
- Objectives of DRIP:
 - To improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.
 - To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.
- **Phase 1 of the Project:** The first phase of the DRIP programme covered 223 dams in 7 states.
- **Phase II and Phase III:** Financial Assistance is being provided by the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The Project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April, 2021 to March, 2031.
- **DRIP Phase II & Phase III objectives:**

- To improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.
- To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level.
- To explore the alternative incidental means at a few selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation

5) VERNACULAR INNOVATION PROGRAMME

IN NEWS: - Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has launched Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP), to enable innovators and entrepreneurs to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages.

ABOUT VERNACULAR INNOVATION PROGRAMME

- VIP is an initiative to lower the language barrier in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship such that it will systematically decouple creative expressions and languages of transaction.
- To build the necessary capacity for the VIP, AIM has identified and will be training a Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages.
- Each task force comprises vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers, and the leadership of regional Atal Incubation Centers (AICs).
- It will assist India in building a strong local network of design experts and innovation practitioners.
- It will help in overcoming the barriers of language and empower innovators in the farthest areas of the country.

- By providing access to learning in one's language and culture, AIM looks forward to enriching the local, regional, national and global innovation pipelines.

INDIAN ECONOMY

6) HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER EXPENDITURE SURVEY

IN NEWS: - The All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey is set to resume this year (2022) after a prolonged break.

ABOUT HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER EXPENDITURE SURVEY

- Traditionally, a quinquennial (recurring every five years) survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office - NSSO (comes under the National Statistical Office), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It collects information on the consumption spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.
- It reveals the average expenditure on goods (food and non-food) and services.
- It also helps generate estimates of household Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) as well as the distribution of households and persons over the MPCE classes.
- **Significance**
 - Helps in calculating the demand dynamics of the economy.
 - Helps in understanding the shifting priorities in terms of baskets of goods and services, thus providing pointers to the producers of goods and providers of services.
 - To assess living standards and growth trends across multiple strata.
 - The CES is an analytical as well as a forecasting tool which helps the Government in planning required interventions and policies.

- To spot and address possible structural anomalies that may cause demand to shift in a particular manner in a specific socio-economic or regional division of the population.
- To rebase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other macro-economic indicators.

7) FINCLUVATION

IN NEWS: - The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched the Fincluvation Platform to promote innovative solutions in collaboration with fintech startups to accelerate financial inclusion among the underserved and unserved population.

ABOUT FINCLUVATION

- Fincluvation will be a permanent platform of IPPB to co-create inclusive financial solutions with participating start-ups.
- IPPB and Department of Post (DoP) collectively serve close to 430 million customers through post offices and at their doorsteps via more than 4,00,000 Post Office employees and Gramin Dak Sevaks - making it one of the largest and most trusted postal networks in the world.
- It is an Industry first initiative to create a powerful platform to mobilize the start-up community towards building meaningful financial products aimed at financial inclusion.
- Startups are encouraged to develop solutions aligned with any of the following tracks:
 - Creditization - Develop Innovative & Inclusive credit products aligned with the use cases of target customers and take them to their doorsteps through Postal network.

- Digitization - Bring convenience through convergence of traditional services with Digital Payment Technologies such as making the traditional Money Order service as Interoperable Banking service.
- Market Led Solution - Any Market-led solutions that can help solve any other problem relevant to IPPB and/or DoP in serving the target customers.
- Fincluvation mentors will work closely with the startups to tweak products to the customer needs and align the go-to-market strategies with operating models of IPPB and DoP.
- **Need of Fincluvation in India**
 - To Grab New Opportunities: Intersection of technology with financial services coupled with traditional distribution networks is opening up a new set of business opportunities.
 - To Increase User Experience: Conventional model of technology procurement led product creation by banks often lacks value in user experience leaving a huge gap between customer expectations and service delivery.
 - Failure of Traditional Technologies: Traditional technology firms fail to meet the service expectations of customers with a deficit of ownership in product creation. Indian citizens have varied and complex needs that need careful thought, empathetic product design, and rapid prototyping among users.

ABOUT INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK

- IPPB was launched by the Prime Minister in 2018 with 100% equity owned by the Government of India.

- It is a payments bank of the Indian postal department which works through a network of post offices and nearly 4 lakh postmen. It is governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The bank has been set up with the vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man in India. The fundamental mandate of IPPB is to remove barriers for the unbanked and under-banked and reach the last mile.
- IPPB is committed to providing a fillip to a less cash economy and contribute to the vision of Digital India.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

8) CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

IN NEWS:- Pakistan signed a new agreement with China to begin the second phase of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

ABOUT CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

- CPEC is a 3,000-km long route of infrastructure projects connecting China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port in the western province of Balochistan in Pakistan.
- It is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China, intended to promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines accompanied by energy, industrial, and other infrastructure development projects.
- It will pave the way for China to access the Middle East and Africa from Gwadar Port, enabling China to access the Indian Ocean and in return China will support development projects in Pakistan to overcome the latter's energy crises and stabilising its faltering economy.

- CPEC is a part of the Belt and Road Initiative. The BRI, launched in 2013, aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.
- India has been severely critical of the CPEC, as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which is a disputed territory between India and Pakistan.

9) INDIA OUT CAMPAIGN

IN NEWS: - The recent 'India Out' campaign in the Maldives is against the opposition to the Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) harbour development deal with India in February 2021, which is being seen as a way of allowing Indian military presence on native soil.

ABOUT INDIA OUT CAMPAIGN

- The 'India Out' campaign, is widely spreading across social media platforms.
- Reports are being published in Maldives media alleging that the present incumbent government is allowing India to establish a military base in the island by signing secret agreements, in exchange for financial assistance or other material benefits.
- This allegation is made against the government because the leader of the current ruling party Mohamed Nasheed urged India to intervene militarily to restore peace and democracy in 2018.
- Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) of former President Abdulla Yameen and its coalition partner People's National Congress (PNC) are trying to mobilise people against the current government by spreading misleading propaganda against India.

- Indiaout campaign was launched by the opposition coalition PPM and PNC both on the street as well as on social media demanding the expulsion of Indian military personnel present in the country.

BACKGROUND

- Former President Abdullah Yameen is perceived as a friend of China. During Yameen's term as President from 2013 to 2018, New Delhi-Male relations deteriorated drastically.
- On the other hand, the present Solih administration opt for an 'India first' foreign policy.
- The Solih government has rejected the 'India Out' campaign and has expressed concern at attempts to spread "misguided and unsubstantiated information to propagate hatred towards India".
- Although campaign gained popularity in the past year or so, its root cause can be traced back to 2013 when Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom of the Progressive Party (PPM) became the president.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

10) BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAY

IN NEWS: - Indian Prime Minister paid homage to Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his Jayanti on 27th June.

ABOUT BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAY

- He was one of the greatest novelists and poets of India.
- He was born on 27th June 1838 in the village of Kanthapura in the town of North 24 Parganas, Naihati, present day West Bengal.
- He composed the song Vande Mataram in Sanskrit, which was a source of inspiration to the people in their freedom struggle.

- In 1857, there was a strong revolt against the rule of East India Company but Bankim Chandra Chatterjee continued his studies and passed his B.A. Examination in 1859.
- The Lieutenant Governor of Calcutta appointed Bankim Chandra Chatterjee as Deputy Collector in the same year.
- He was in Government service for thirty-two years and retired in 1891.
- He died on 8th April, 1894.
- His epic Novel Anandamath - set in the background of the Sanyasi Rebellion (1770-1820), when Bengal was facing a famine too - made Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay an influential figure on the Bengali renaissance.
- India got its national song, Vande Mataram, from Anandamath.
- He also founded a monthly literary magazine, Bangadarshan, in 1872, through which Bankim is credited with influencing the emergence of a Bengali identity and nationalism.
- His famous novels include Kapalkundala (1866), Debi Choudhurani, Bishabriksha (The Poison Tree), Chandrasekhar (1877), Rajmohan's wife and Krishnakanter Will.

11) MAHARANI JINDAN KAUR

IN NEWS: - Maharani Jindan Kaur, the last wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, is in news for the auction of some of her jewellery in London.

ABOUT MAHARANI JINDAN KAUR

- She was the youngest wife of Ranjit Singh, founder of the Sikh empire, whose boundaries stretched from Kabul to Kashmir and the borders of Delhi.
- She was also the mother of Duleep Singh, the last ruler of the empire, who was raised by the British.

- Duleep Singh was five years old when he was placed on the throne in 1843 after the death of two heirs to Ranjit Singh. Since he was just a child, Maharani Jindan was made the regent.
- Not a rubber stamp, she took an active interest in running the kingdom, introducing changes in the revenue system.
- The British declared war on the Sikh empire in December 1845. After their victory in the first Anglo-Sikh war, they retained Duleep Singh as the ruler but imprisoned Jind Kaur.
- She escaped and arrived at Kathmandu on April 29, 1849, where she was given asylum by Jung Bahadur, the prime minister.
- She was given a house on the banks of river Bhagmati. She stayed in Nepal till 1860, where she continued to reach out to rebels in Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

12) NASA ISRO NISAR MISSION

IN NEWS: - The NISAR mission is scheduled for launch in 2023.

ABOUT NISAR

- It is optimised for studying hazards and global environmental change and can help manage natural resources better and provide information to scientists to better understand the effects and pace of climate change.
- It will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land, ice sheets and sea ice to give an "unprecedented" view of the planet.
- It will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.

- NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem.
- ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services.
- NISAR will be equipped with the largest reflector antenna ever launched by NASA and its primary goals include tracking subtle changes in the Earth's surface, spotting warning signs of imminent volcanic eruptions, helping to monitor groundwater supplies and tracking the rate at which ice sheets are melting.
- The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR. SAR here refers to the synthetic aperture radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.
- Essentially, SAR refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images. Because of the precision, the radar can penetrate clouds and darkness, which means that it can collect data day and night in any weather.

GEOGRAPHY

13) SOLOMON ISLANDS

IN NEWS: - The US says it will open an embassy in the Solomon Islands, laying out in unusually blunt terms a plan to increase its influence in the South Pacific nation before China becomes “strongly embedded.”

ABOUT SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Solomon Islands is a nation in Melanesia, east of Papua New Guinea, comprising more than 990 islands. Its capital is Honiara, located on the island of Guadalcanal.

- The Solomon Islands have been inhabited by Melanesian people for at least 30,000 years.
- It consists of a double chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia.
- Melanesia is a subregion of Oceania in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- The country comprises most of the Solomons chain—with the exception of Buka and Bougainville, two islands at the northwestern end that form an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.
- The island is a constitutional monarchy, with the British monarch, represented by a governor-general, serving as the formal head of state. Still, the country, a member of the Commonwealth, is independent, and the governor-general is appointed on the advice of the unicameral National Parliament.

BACKGROUND

- Solomon Islanders cherished their history with Americans on the battlefields of World War II (1939-45), but that the US was in danger of losing its preferential ties as China “aggressively seeks to engage” elite politicians and business people in the Solomon Islands.
- The move comes after rioting rocked the nation of 7,00,000 in November, 2021.
- The riots grew from a peaceful protest and highlighted long-simmering regional rivalries, economic problems and concerns about the country’s increasing links with China.
- The embassy announcement fits with a new Biden administration strategy for the Indo-Pacific and emphasises building partnerships with allies in the region as a way to counter China’s growing influence and ambitions.



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