CURRENT CONNECT
JUNE - 18

North Delhi	Central Delhi	Jaipur	Bhopal	Patna	Indore
2521, Hudson Line, Vijay Nagar, Near GTB Nagar Metro Station, Delhi 110009. Tel: 9717380832	1/1-A, 2nd Floor, Old RajenderNgr. Market, Near Karol Bagh Metro Stn, Delhi - 110060. Tel: 9811293743	403-404, Apex Tower, Lal Kothi, Tonk Road Jaipur-302015. Tel:8290800441	43, R.R. Arcade, 2nd Floor, Zone II M.P.Nagar, Bhopal-462011. Tel: 7509975361	Above Toyota Showroom, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001. Tel: 9386337412	232-233, 2nd Floor,Veda Building, Bhawar Kuan Square, Indore - 452001. Tel: 9893772941
For any Query regarding Current Connect Pls. e-mail us at: cc@ksgindia.com					

S.N.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
GS-I	Culture-Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.	Indian history significant events, personalities, issues and the Freedom Struggle	Post independence issues, National boundary and disputes	Indian society features, issues, globalization and diversity	Women - issues and developments	Urbanization - problems and remedies	Distribution of industries and resources - India and world	Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc	Culture-Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.		
GS-II	Indian constitution-Amendments, acts and bills.	Legislative, executive and judicial processes.	Constitutional, non-constitutional, judicial, quasi judicial, administrative and other types of bodies.	Federal structure and local bodies. Their powers and functions.	Government policies and various governance issues like transparency, accountability and -governance	Committees and schemes.	Non-government issues, self-help groups and role of civil society	Vulnerable sections of our society and social sector issues and initiatives.	International Relation-India and other countries, various Indian and international agreements, effects of other countries on India and international institutions.		
GS-III	Various measures to boost Indian economy-planning, policies, management.	Government budgeting and issues related to budget.	Agriculture, animal husbandry and transport	Food security-measures to boost food security and food processing. Issues related to land- land reforms	Industries and infrastructure and their growth and investment model	Space and technology, IT space, robotics and computer	Disease, biotechnology and human welfare	Innovations, intellectual property, Awards, POI and other import ant aspects of S&T	Environment and disaster; government initiatives, various judgment, pollution, degradation and conservation efforts	International agreements and works of various international bodies, awards, effort by individuals and misc.	Challenges to internal security, Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate. Cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.
GS-IV	Ethical issues related to family society, education, Corruption etc.	Ethics in public and private administration	Issues	Related laws and rules	Governance/e-Governance	Ethics in international issues	Personalities and their teachings	Other import ant topics			
Mis.											

INDEX

1.	Swaminathan Commission Report	5
2.	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Amendment Bill	6
3.	Article 35 A	7
4.	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights	9
5.	Lateral entry into Civil Services	10
6.	COP CONNECT- a digital arsenal	11
7.	NITI Aayog Governing Council	12
8.	Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK)	13
9.	Women Wizards Rule Tech (W2RT)	14
10.	India Smart Cities Awards	15
11.	National Testing Agency (NTA)	15
12.	Cross-Border Insolvency	16
13.	Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act	18
14.	Women in Prisons	18
15.	ReUnite	20
16.	Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal Railway Project	20
17.	Draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Bill, 2018	20
18.	Child Labour	21
19.	Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)	22
20.	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY)	24
21.	Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission(DAY-NRLM)	25
22.	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (National Urban Livelihoods Mission)	27
23.	India BPO promotion scheme	28
24.	Swajal Scheme	28
25.	Inter-Linking of Rivers	30
26.	Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project	31
27.	Suryashakti Kisan Yojana	32
28.	Solar Charkha Mission	32
29.	Van Dhan Scheme	33
30.	Parivartan scheme	34
31.	Odisha starts health insurance scheme for journalists	35
32.	JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA	35
33.	Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)	36
34.	PM visit to Southeast Asia	37
35.	Geo-Intelligence Asia - 2018	39
36.	IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting	39
37.	Global Peace Index 2018	39
38.	MoU between India and Oman on Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space	40
39.	Hague treaty	41
40.	United Nation Security Council	41
41.	Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project	42
42.	Assumption Island deal drifts	42
43.	SAARC fund	43
44.	Nuclear Suppliers Group	44
45.	U.S. withdraws from U.N. Human Rights Council	45
46.	U.S. postpones 2+2 dialogue with India	46
47.	Greece financial crisis	47
48.	COMCASA	48
49.	OPEC agrees to lift output	49

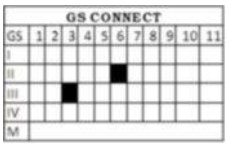
KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

50. Charlevoix G7 Summit 2018 50
51. United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) 51
52. Odisha beach is Asia's first to get 'Blue Flag' tag 51
53. Environment Ministry, Teri Sign MOU 52
54. Ganga Praharis 53
55. Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS) 54
56. NITI Aayog preparing roadmap for full-scale methanol economy 55
57. Ministry of Water Resources accepts two major irrigation and four flood management projects from six states 55
58. World Ocean Day 2018 56
59. Composite Water Management Index 56
60. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 17 June 58
61. Google flood forecasting 59
62. Government declares national targets for off-shore wind power 60
63. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 60
64. Chilika Lake 61
65. Global Environment Facility (GEF) 62
66. Aldabra Giant Tortoises 63
67. Govt hikes ethanol price 63
68. Uranium contamination in India's groundwater 64
69. 'EPIC' planet 66
70. Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) 66
71. KATRIN experiment 66
72. Lymphatic Filariasis 67
73. Dam Safety Bill, 2018 67
74. Glonass-M navigation satellite 68
75. WHO releases new global classification of diseases 69
76. Ban on Oxytocin 69
77. National healthcare facility registry 70
78. Urban Co-operative Banks now Have a Chance to Become SFBs 71
79. Small Finance Banks 73
80. Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) 74
81. Financial Literacy Week-2018 76
82. Reserve Bank of India Aims to Tighten Working capital loans] 76
83. Business correspondents of Banks 77
84. Export Credit Guarantee Corporation 78
85. Delta Ranking by Niti Ayog 79
86. The Salary Surge Report 80
87. National Data Centre 81
88. World Poverty Clock Study 82
89. Global realty transparency index 83
90. Ambubachi Mela 83
91. Sant Kabir 84
92. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay 84
93. AITUC 85
94. MoU between India and Viet Nam 85
95. Concept Clearing Assignment 85
96. P.T Oriented Questions 86

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Swaminathan Commission Report

In News



As farmers stage agitations in several states, the importance of implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report has been highlighted. The report that suggests reforms in the interests of farmers is being touted as the solution to the problems of farmers agitating across states.

What is the Swaminathan Commission?

The government of India constituted the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) on November 18, 2004. The NCF was chaired by Professor M.S. Swaminathan. The reports had suggestions for "faster and more inclusive growth" for farmers as was envisaged in the Planning Commission's Approach to 11th Five Year Plan. **The fifth report was the most crucial as it contained suggestions for inclusive growth of farmers and agriculture sector.** NCF's Swaminathan Commission Report aimed at working out a system for food and nutrition security, sustainability in the farming system, enhancing quality and cost competitiveness of farm commodities and also to recommend measures for credit and other marketing related steps.

PEPPER IT WITH
Indian Trade Organisation, Venture Capital, Contract Farming

What were the Commission's observations?

The Commission observed that farmers needed to have an assured access to and control over rightful basic resources. These basic resources include land, water, bioresources, credit and insurance, technology and knowledge management, and markets. It observed that agriculture must be implemented in the concurrent list from the state list — hence putting it as a matter of concern for both the Union and the states.

What are the Commission's key recommendations?

1. Land Reforms:

- Distribute ceiling-surplus and waste lands;
- Prevent diversion of prime agricultural land and forest to corporate sector for non-agricultural purposes.
- Ensure grazing rights and seasonal access to forests to tribal and pastoralists, and access to common property resources.
- Establish a National Land Use Advisory Service, which would have the capacity to link land use decisions with ecological meteorological and marketing factors on a location and season specific basis.
- Set up a mechanism to regulate the sale of agricultural land, based on quantum of land, nature of proposed use and category of buyer.

It recommended access to common property resources. One main case was establishing a National Land Use Advisory Service. The purpose of this service would be to connect land usage decisions with ecological meteorological and marketing factors.

2. Irrigation Reforms:

- A comprehensive set of reforms to enable farmers to have sustained and equitable access to water.
- Increase water supply through rainwater harvesting and recharge of the aquifer should become mandatory. "Million Wells Recharge" programme, specifically targeted at private wells should be launched.
- Substantial increase in investment in irrigation sector under the 11th Five Year Plan apportioned between large surface water systems; minor irrigation and new schemes for groundwater recharge.

3. Productivity Growth:

- Substantial increase in public investment in agriculture related infrastructure particularly in irrigation, drainage, land development, water conservation, research development and road connectivity etc.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- A national network of advanced soil testing laboratories with facilities for detection of micronutrient deficiencies.
- Promotion of conservation farming, which will help farm families to conserve and improve soil health, water quantity and quality and biodiversity.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

The Commission comprises a Chairman, Member Secretary, one Member (Official) and two Members (Non-Official)
It is mandated to recommend minimum support prices (MSPs) to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country.

4. Credit and Insurance:

Expand outreach of formal credit system; reduce crop loan interest rates to 4%; provide moratorium on debt recovery; agricultural risk fund; kisan credit cards for women farmers; integrated credit-cum-crop-livestock human health insurance package; crop insurance across country for all crops with reduced premiums; sustainable livelihoods for the poor, investment in human development; institutional development services etc

5. Food Security:

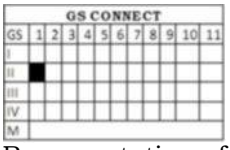
The commission recommended Implementation of a universal public distribution system; reorganising delivery of nutrition support programmes on a life-cycle basis with panchayat participation and that of local bodies; elimination of micronutrient deficiency induced hunger and food cum fortification; community food and water banks to be operated by women self-help groups; help small and marginal farmers; formulate national food guarantee act with features as food for work and employment guarantee programmes.

6. Prevention of Farmer Suicides:

Providing affordable health insurance at primary healthcare centres in villages; national rural health mission to be extended to suicide hotspots on priority basis; state level farmers' commissions with representatives of farmers, restructuring of microfinance policies that may serve as a sort of livelihood finance; covering all crops by crop insurance; village to be the assessor and not the block, social security net that gives old age support with health insurance and aquifer recharge and rain water conservation; plans for decentralised water usage etc.

Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Amendment Bill

In News



Indecent representation of women on digital messaging platforms such as WhatsApp and Skype has been proposed to be made illegal, according to amendments mooted by the WCD ministry.

Background

The WCD ministry is set to move a long-pending amendment to the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (IRWA), 1986, that prohibits "indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner" bringing the Act in tune with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The reformulated Bill proposes following amendments in the parent Act:

1. The Bill adds new definitions of "indecent representation of women", "electronic form" and "publish".
    - "Indecent representation of women" means the depiction of the figure or form of a woman in such a way that it has the effect of being indecent or derogatory or is likely to deprave or affect public morality.
    - "Electronic form" means any information generated, sent or stored in media, magnetic and optical form (as defined in the Information Technology Act, 2000).

KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, (DELHI RN), (JAIPUR) 8290800441, (BHOPAL)7509975361, (PATNA) 7463950774, (INDORE) 7314977441, www.ksgindia.com

- "Publish" includes printing or distributing or broadcasting through audio visual media. This would bring into the purview of the legislation social media platforms and digital means communication such as WhatsApp, Skype, Viber, Snapchat, and Instagram.

PEPPER IT WITH
Aarambh Initiative, National Commission of Women Act, She-Box, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013

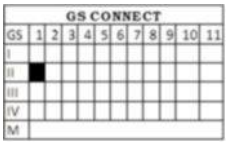
2. It amends definitions of "advertisement" and "distribution" to include all types of media i.e. printed and electronic (hoardings, or through SMS, MMS, uploading using computer resource, or communication device etc).
3. Amendment in section 4 to include that No person shall **publish or distribute or cause to be published or cause to be distributed by any means any material** which contains indecent representation of women in any form:
4. Penalty similar to that provided under the Information Technology Act, 2000
5. **Creation of a Centralised Authority**
   - It will be created under the aegis of National Commission of Women (NCW). This Authority will be headed by Member Secretary, NCW, having representatives from Advertising Standards Council of India, Press Council of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and one member having experience of working on women issues.
   - This Centralised Authority will be authorized to receive complaints or grievances regarding any programme or advertisement broadcasted or publication and investigate/ examine all matters relating to the indecent representation of women.

Significance

Since the enactment of the IRWA Act 1986, technological revolution has resulted in the development of new forms of communication, such as internet, multi-media messaging, over-the-top (OTT) services and applications like Skype, Viber, WhatsApp, Chat On, Snapchat etc. Keeping in mind these technological advancements, it has been need of the hour to widen the scope of the law so as to cover such forms of media on one hand and to strengthen the existing safeguards to prevent indecent representation of women through any media form on the other. The amendments, which would widen the scope in purview of IT Act 2000 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, are based on the observations made by a parliamentary standing committee and recommendations from the National Commission for Women.

Article 35 A

Background



A writ petition filed by NGO We the Citizens challenges the validity of both Article 35A and Article 370. It argues that four representatives from Kashmir were part of the Constituent Assembly involved in the drafting of the Constitution and the State of Jammu and Kashmir was never accorded any special status in the Constitution. Article 370 was only a 'temporary provision' to help bring normality in Jammu and Kashmir and strengthen democracy in that State, it contends. The petition said Article 35 A is against the "very spirit of oneness of India" as it creates a "class within a class of Indian citizens".

The Indian Constitution also provides special provisions to State of Maharashtra and Gujrat (Art.371), Nagaland (Art. 371A), Assam (Art. 371B), Manipur (Art. 371C), Andhra Pradesh (Art. 371D), Sikkim (Art. 371F), Mizoram (Art. 371G), Arunachal Pradesh (Art. 371H), Goa (Art. 371-I) and Karnataka (Art. 371 J).

What is Article 370?

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a 'temporary provision' which grants special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir. Under Part XXI of the Constitution of India, which deals with "Temporary, Transitional and Special provisions", the state of Jammu & Kashmir has been accorded special status under Article 370. All the

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to J&K.

Provisions of Article 370

According to this article, except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needs the state government's concurrence for applying all other laws. Thus the state's residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property and fundamental rights, as compared to other Indians. As a result of this provision, Indian citizens from other state cannot purchase land or property in Jammu & Kashmir. Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state. It can declare emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression. The Union government can therefore not declare emergency on grounds of internal disturbance or imminent danger unless it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the state government.

Article 368

"An amendment of this Constitution may be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament, and when the Bill is passed in each House by majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-third of the members of that House present and voting, [it shall be presented to the President who shall give his assent to the Bill and thereupon] the Constitution shall stand amended in accordance with the terms of Bill"

What is 35A?

Article 35A is a provision incorporated in the Constitution giving the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature a *carte blanche* to decide who all are 'permanent residents' of the State and confer on them special rights and privileges in public sector jobs, acquisition of property in the State, scholarships and other public aid and welfare. The provision mandates that no act of the legislature coming under it can be challenged for violating the Constitution or any other law of the land.

PEPPER IIT WITH
AFSPA, Disturbed Area Act, Permanent Residents, PAP

History of 35A

Article 35A is the sole provision in the Indian Constitution which neither discuss in the Constituent Assembly nor in the Parliament. This Article came into existence by a Presidential Order passed by Dr. Rajandra Prasad on the advice of Nehru's cabinet in 1954 "The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954". Article 35A was a product of the Delhi Agreement. It enables the state legislature to define "permanent residents" and provide them with special privileges.

Debate on Presidential powers' overreach

- Besides giving assent to the Bill passed by the Bothe Houses (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), President of India has sole legislative power under article 123 power to make ordinance when either house of the Parliament is not in session. This legislative powers of the President have only six-month effect; in other words, it is the authority to make laws without discussion in the Parliament in urgency for a shorter period. It is an exception in the making law not a general rule or a permanent measure.
- In the Constitutional scheme, the President of India has no legislative power to amends the Constitution by bypass the democratic process. President's legislative, executive and judicial power is subjective to aid and advice by the Council of Minister (Art 74), but all these powers do not allow to the President to go beyond the spirit of the Constitution.
- Article 368 is the only way to amend the Constitution, not the President. The marginal note of Article 368 states "Power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure, therefore" which means it is the Parliament that has the power to amend the Constitution.

Conclusion

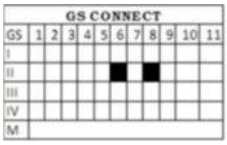
By above analysis, we can say that neither the President of India has sole power to amend the constitution through bypass the entire Constitutional mechanism nor the Article 370 gives power to the President to insert any Article in any Part of the Constitution. According to the Constitutional scheme, legally the question of that the president cannot make constitutional

KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, (DELHI RN), (JAIPUR) 8290800441, (BHOPAL)7509975361, (PATNA) 7463950774, (INDORE) 7314977441, www.ksgindia.com

amendments is settled but 35 A is more than just a legal issue. It is the need of the hour to debate Article 35A because it has not only a constitutional or legal issue, on the contrary, it has larger socioeconomic and political issue.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

In News



Railway Board, along with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched an awareness campaign on Protection of children in contact with Railways.

About NCPCR

1. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in March 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
2. The mandate of the Commission is to monitor all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms in the country to ensure that children's rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are protected.
3. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
4. **Composition:** One chairperson and six members in the Commission (out of which at least two shall be women)

PEPPER IT WITH
TrackChild, JJ Act, POCSO, SABLA, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

Functions

1. Examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation
2. Inquire into violation of child rights and recommend initiation of proceedings in such cases
3. Examine all factors that inhibit the enjoyment of rights of children affected by terrorism, communal violence, riots, natural disasters, domestic violence, HIV/ AIDS, trafficking, maltreatment, torture and exploitation, pornography, prostitution and recommend appropriate remedial measures.

The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is guided by four fundamental principles

1. **Non-discrimination**
   All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with parental responsibility, fail to do so.
2. **The best interests of the child**
   Laws and actions affecting children should put their interests first and benefit them in the best possible way.
3. **Survival, development, and protection**
   Authorities in each country have the responsibility to protect children and help ensure their full development—physically, spiritually, culturally, and socially.
4. **Participation**
   Children have a right to have their say in decisions that affect them and to have their opinions considered.

Indian Constitutional Guarantees specifically for children include:

- Right to free and compulsory elementary education for all children in the 6-14-year age group (Article 21 A)
- Right to be protected from any hazardous employment till the age of 14 years (Article 24)
- Right to be protected from being abused and forced by economic necessity to enter occupations unsuited to their age or strength (Article 39(e))

KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, (DELHI RN), (JAIPUR) 8290800441, (BHOPAL)7509975361, (PATNA) 7463950774, (INDORE) 7314977441, www.ksgindia.com

- Right to equal opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and guaranteed protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment (Article 39 (f))
- Right to early childhood care and education to all children until they complete the age of six years (Article 45)

Besides, Children also have rights as equal citizens of India:

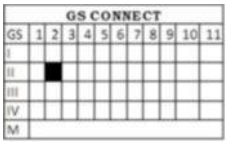
- Right to equality (Article 14)
- Right against discrimination (Article 15)
- Right to personal liberty and due process of law (Article 21)
- Right to being protected from being trafficked and forced into bonded labour (Article 23)
- Right of minorities for protection of their interests (Article 29)
- Right of weaker sections of the people to be protected from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46)
- Right to nutrition and standard of living and improved public health (Article 47)

Children's rights were recognised after the 1st World war, with the adoption of the Declaration of Geneva, in 1924. The process of recognition of children's rights continued thanks to the UN, with the adoption of the Declaration of children's rights in 1959.

The recognition of the child's interest and his rights become real on 20 November 1989 with the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child which is the first international legally binding text recognizing all the fundamental rights of the child.

Lateral entry into Civil Services

In News



In an apparent bid to bring in expertise from the private sector individuals and infuse talent into the country's bureaucracy, government has invited "outstanding individuals" to join the government at the joint secretary level at the Centre.

The idea of lateral induction is not new. It was recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reform Commission, high level committees appointed by different governments and a plethora of think tanks.

Eligibility criteria

1. The notification specifies a minimum age of 40 years and minimum qualification of graduation from a recognised university or institute while higher qualification will be an added advantage.
2. Individuals working at comparable levels in Private Sector Companies, Consultancy Organisations, International/Multinational Organisations with a minimum of 15 years' experience" besides those working in central public-sector undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory organisations, research bodies and universities.
3. The recruitment will be on contract basis for three to five years.

Spoil System

A renewed civil service of government employees who were appointed by the president specifically because they were loyal to him and to his political party. This new procedure for hiring civil servants came to be called the spoils system. It was traditionally prominent in USA currently it is termed unlawful by US civil service commission.

Reasons for need of laternal entry

1. The Baswan Committee has pointed out the huge deficit of officers- the overall 20% shortfall of IAS cadre officers alone in 24 state cadres. The Baswan Committee (2016) has shown how large states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have a deficit of 75 to over 100 officers.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

2. Lateral entry will bring in much-needed outside experience, buffer the talent within the administration and challenge the IAS into continuous self-improvement. It is more likely to be target-oriented improving performance of government.
3. New concerns have arisen, such as the shift from the uniformity of centrally planned economic policy to the diverse demands of competitive federalism. That means the need for specialized skills and knowledge to inform policy-making and administration is more important which create need for lateral entry candidate.

Concerns

1. It is against meritocracy.
2. Nepotism and Corruption.
3. It may lead to politicization of bureaucracy
4. Inefficient official recruited would result in poor administration.
5. The recruitment through lateral entry is not a transparent and accountable system. Transparent recruitment favored as per recommendations of 10th ARC report to ensure clearly defined service rules and accountability.
6. Violation of Article 16 stating "There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State." This makes this process against constitution.
7. Violation of Article 320 stating "It shall be the duty of the Union and the State Public Service Commission to conduct examinations for appointments to the services of the Union and the services of the State respectively". This makes this process against constitution.

PEPPER IT WITH

2nd ARC report, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, GOMs, CVC

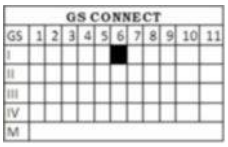
Way Forward

It is both a workaround for the civil services' structural failings and an antidote to the complacency that can set in a career-based service. The second ARC report points out that it is both possible and desirable to incorporate elements of a position-based system where lateral entry and specialization are common.

India's civil services need reform. There is little argument about this. Internal reforms—such as insulation from political pressure and career paths linked to specialization—and external reforms such as lateral entry are complementary, addressing the same deficiencies from different angles. The lateral entry is not a panache for everything and the government should come up with robust tools to chalk out this problem.

COP CONNECT- a digital arsenal

About



- 'COP CONNECT', a mobile app to support the professional communication and collaboration needs of the entire police department of Telangana.
- COP CONNECTs end-to-end encryption with server being with Police Department ensures absolute security and confidentiality of internal Police communication.
- The app is a secure communication channel, with no limit on the number of members in any individual group (unlike the regular WhatsApp which has a restriction of 256 numbers) and has all the features of WhatsApp.
- Some of the features of the Cop Connect app include chat, group chats, file sharing (image, audio, video and documents) and location sharing. A unique feature, iMeeting, allows users to create and schedule department meetings more easily.
- Different types of groups can be created at the state level, District/Commissionerate levels, zonal level, sub- divisional level, circle level and police station level.

'Citizen Services' Mobile App

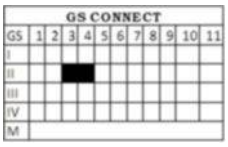
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its *33rd Inception Day* and released "Citizen Services" Mobile App.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- The App is developed by in house team of NCRB and as per the compliance of MeitY directions, the Mobile App was tested & certified by CERT-In empanelled Company.
- NCRB has introduced a Mobile App template, which is a bouquet of 9 police related services, for the citizen. These services will provide smooth interface between Citizens and Police.
- Another feature of the App also enables a complainant to download FIR (except those categorized as "Sensitive").
- Clicking SOS button of the App, automatically sends an emergency SMS to friends and family with user's current location.
- Any citizen can anonymously inform Police about any suspicious/anti-social activities using Citizen Tip feature.
- Vahan Samanvay stolen vehicle Registration feature is helpful to the public, Road Transport Authorities, and Insurance agencies, to verify the status of stolen/recovered vehicles, before purchase, re-registration, claim settlement etc.
- Talash/ Missing Person (Lost persons Registration) a web link in the App to provide a link to NCRB website displaying missing persons/ unidentified dead bodies and unidentified persons.

NITI Aayog Governing Council

In News



Prime Minister chaired the fourth meeting of Niti Aayog's Governing Council to discuss various issues, including measures taken to double farmers' income and progress of flagship schemes.

Governing Council of NITI Aayog

- It is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in shaping the development narrative.
- The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Prime Minister of India, Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with Legislatures and Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and four Union Ministers as ex-officio members and three Union Ministers as Special Invitees.
- The Governing Council, which embodies these objectives of cooperative federalism, presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda, in the spirit of *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*.

PEPPER IT WITH
7-year vision, 15 year road map, AMRUT, AIM

NITI Aayog

The Government, in January 2015, replaced Planning Commission with NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India). The NITI Aayog was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. While designing strategic and long term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.

Composition

1. **Chairman**: Prime Minister of India.
2. **Governing Council:** comprises of CM of all state, CM of all UT with Legislature (Delhi & Puducherry) and Lt. Governors of other UTs.
3. **Regional Councils:** These are formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. These will be formed for a specified tenure. The Regional Councils will be convened by the Prime Minister and will comprise of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in the region. These will be chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.
4. **Special Invitee:** Nominated by PM these are experts, specialist and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

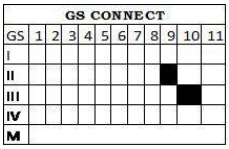
5. **Full-time Organisational Framework:** It comprises of
   I. **Chairperson:** PM
   II. **Vice-Chairperson:** appointed by PM and enjoys rank of cabinet minister.
   III. **Members:** ***Full-time members***- they enjoy rank of ministers of state.
   IV. ***Part-time members***- max of 2 from leading universities, research organisations and other relevant institutions in ex-officio capacity.
   V. **Ex-Officio Member:** Max of 4 members of Union Council of Member to be nominated by PM.
   VI. **Chief Executive Officer:** Appointed by PM for fixed tenure.
   VII. **Secretariat:** As necessary

Role of NITI Aayog

1. NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform of the Government of India to bring States to act together in national interest, and thereby fosters Cooperative Federalism.
2. NITI Aayog is also developing itself as a State of the Art Resource Centre, with the necessary resources, knowledge and skills, that will enable it to act with speed, promote research and innovation, provide strategic policy vision for the government, and deal with contingent issues.
3. The institution must provide governments at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy. This includes matters of national and international import on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support.

Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK)

In News



The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), India and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect jointly started the pilot "Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on Civilian Protection and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)", at New Delhi.

ToT Course on Civilian Protection and R2P

1. The course is designed for mid-level military officials from the countries that are active "Troop Contributing Countries" to the UN peacekeeping operations.
2. The training is targeted towards experienced trainers currently facilitating the pre-deployment training at respective peacekeeping training centres, or officers with recent experience in UN Peacekeeping Missions who may undertake training roles within their peacekeeping institutions, as well as officers identified for deployment in Peacekeeping Missions with a POC mandate.
3. The course is being attended by 30 officers including eight from Friendly Foreign Countries

CUNPK

- The Centre has been set up as a joint endeavour of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces.
- The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), has been set up in New Delhi, drawing on India's vast experience in the field of UN Peacekeeping. It functions under the directions of a Board of management under the Chairmanship of Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

United Nations Migration Agency elected Portugal's **António Manuel de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino** as the International Organization for Migration's next Director General.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. **It is a related Organization of the UN**.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Role of CUPNK

1. The Centre conducts International Training Capsules for Military Contingent Officers, Military Observers, and Staff and Logistics Officers.
2. The Centre regularly organizes Seminars, Joint Working Groups and Command Post Exercises at the National and International level.
3. CUNPK is also a repository of information on India's involvement in UN Peacekeeping and is continuing to build and update its research on peacekeeping related issues.

Global centre for R2P was established in 2008 to promote universal acceptance and effective operational implementation of the norm of the "**Responsibility to Protect**" populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The Global Centre was founded by a number of supportive governments, leading figures from the human rights community, as well as by International Crisis Group, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam International, Refugees International, and WFM-Institute for Global Policy.

UN Peacekeeping

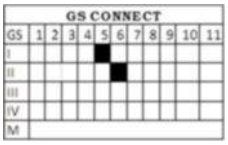
- ✓ Peacekeeping, as defined by the United Nations, is "a way to help countries torn by conflict create conditions for sustainable peace." Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed.
- ✓ United Nations Peacekeeping began in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours – an operation which became known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).
- ✓ Its second operation was UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
- ✓ UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:
  1. Consent of the parties
  2. Impartiality
  3. Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate
- ✓ There are currently 14 UN peace operations deployed on four continents. UN Peacekeeprs are often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets.

PEPPER IT WITH
International Yoga Day, UNHRC,ECOSOC, UNFCCC, UNDOF, World Anti Doping Agency, OPCW, IATA

Women Wizards Rule Tech (W²RT)

In News

To increase the number of women in senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) industry, Nasscom unveiled its 'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme for women techies.



About W²RT

- The Women Wizards Rule Tech was announced in March at the Nasscom Diversity and Inclusion Summit in Chennai as a joint initiative by the Nasscom Sector Skills Council and the Data Security Council of India.
- This programme is designed to support women who are moving up the career ladder, while also paving the way for potential leaders of the future.
- The initiative will aid women techies in core technologies like IT-Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), Business Process Management (BPM), product and research and development (R&D) sectors by equipping them with the skills required for an edge in their career.

PEPPER IT WITH
JSSK, Mahila Adhikarita Yojana, Nai Roshni, TREAD, MKSP, STEP, WIPS Scheme

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

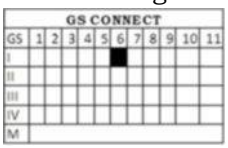
- A report by Nasscom on "Women and IT Scorecard - India" launched earlier this year predicted that policies towards flexible work, work-from-home, parental leave, healthcare and anti-harassment will increase the number of women in senior level at IT firms from 20 per cent to 60 per cent.

NASSCOM

- ❖ NASSCOM, a not-for-profit industry association, is the apex body for the IT BPM industry in India, an industry that had made a phenomenal contribution to India's GDP, exports, employment, infrastructure and global visibility.
- ❖ NASSCOM is a trade association of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry.
- ❖ NASSCOM is focused on building the architecture integral to the development of the IT BPM sector through policy advocacy and help in setting up the strategic direction for the sector to unleash its potential and dominate newer frontiers.

India Smart Cities Awards

India Smart Cities Awards, which was launched on June 25, 2017 by Hon'ble Housing and Urban Affairs Minister. There are three categories, i.e., Project Award, Innovative Idea Award and City Award.



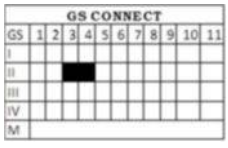
- ❖ **The City Award** is being given to Surat for showing great momentum in implementation of projects especially in the categories of urban environment, transport and mobility and sustainable integrated development.
- ❖ **The Innovative Idea** award is being given to a project/idea particularly remarkable for its innovative, bottom-up and transformative approach towards achievement of sustainable integrated development. Joint winners in this category are Bhopal for their Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and Ahmedabad for Safe and Secure Ahmedabad (SASA) Project.
- ❖ **The Project awards** are being given to most innovative and successful projects in seven categories that have been completed by April 1, 2018.

The Projects selected are

1. PMC Care from Pune under 'Governance' category,
2. Smart Place Making from Pune under 'Built Environment',
3. Smart Class rooms from NDMC and Jabalpur, Smart Campus from Visakhapatnam, Lighthouse from Pune under 'Social Aspects' category,
4. B Nest Incubation Centre from Bhopal and Conservation of Rajasthan School of Arts from Jaipur under 'Culture and Economy' category,
5. Public Bike Sharing from Bhopal, Pune, Coimbatore and Waste to Energy Plant in Jabalpur under 'Urban environment' category,
6. Integrated Transit Management System (TMS) from Ahmedabad and Surat under 'Transport and Mobility' category and
7. Smart Water Management through SCADA from Ahmedabad under 'Water and Sanitation' category.

National Testing Agency (NTA)

In News



The National Testing Agency, which is being set up to relieve the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) of the burden of conducting multiple examinations, will also train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers.

NTA

In pursuance of the Budget Announcement 2017-18, the Union Cabinet in its meeting approved creation of the NTA as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Features:

- The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBS
- The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, thereby giving adequate opportunity to candidates to bring out their best.
- To serve the requirements of the rural students, it would locate the centres at sub-district/district level and as far as possible would undertake hands-on training to the students.
- Among the examinations that will be transferred to the NTA are the prestigious Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to engineering colleges like the IITs and NITs and the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to all medical colleges in the country, except AIIMS and JIPMER, Puducherry.

PEPPER IT WITH
HEEFA, HEERA, NIRF, RUSA, MUSK, RKSK

Constitution:

- NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.
- The CEO will be the Director General to be appointed by the Government.
- There will be a Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.
- The Director General will be assisted by 9 verticals headed by academicians/ experts.

Finances:

NTA will be given a one-time grant of Rs.25 crore from the Government of India to start its operation in the first year. Thereafter, it will be financially self-sustainable.

Impact:

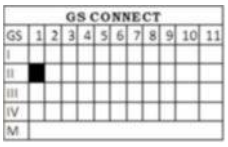
Establishment of NTA will benefit about 40 lakh students appearing in various entrance examinations. It will relieve CBSE, AICTE and other agencies from responsibility of conducting these entrance examinations, and also bring in high reliability, standardized difficulty level for assessing the aptitude, intelligence and problem-solving abilities of the students.

Significance

- Transparency
- Suitability for use
- Examinees support service
- Fairness
- Uses and protection of information
- Validity
- Reliability
- Research based Cut scores, scaling, and equating
- Assessment use
- International Standards Testing
- Quality Management

Cross-Border Insolvency

In News



The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is keen to introduce a globally accepted and well-recognised cross-border insolvency framework within the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), fine-tuned to suit the needs of the economy.

Background

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 was promulgated on June 6, 2018. It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals. Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.

What is cross-border insolvency?

Cross-border insolvency broadly covers three aspects:

1. where foreign creditors have rights/claims over a debtor's assets in another jurisdiction where insolvency proceedings are underway;

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

2. where a debtor has branches/assets in several jurisdictions, including a jurisdiction other than where the insolvency proceedings are underway; and,
3. where a debtor entity is subject to insolvency proceedings simultaneously in one or more jurisdictions.

PEPPER IT WITH
NCLT, DRT, CPGRAMS, ADR, Consumer Protection Act, IBC 2016

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018

- **Financial creditors:** The Code defines a financial creditor as a person to whom financial debt is owed. Financial creditors are a part of the committee of creditors, which is responsible for taking key decisions related to the resolution. The Ordinance clarifies that an allottee under a real estate project will be considered a financial creditor.
- **Voting threshold of committee of creditors:** The Code specifies that all decisions of the committee of creditors be taken by a majority of at least 75% of the financial creditors. The Ordinance lowers this threshold to 51%.
- **Ineligibility to be a resolution applicant:** The Ordinance amends the criteria which prohibits certain persons from submitting a resolution plan. For example, the Code prohibits a person from being a resolution applicant if he has been convicted of an offence punishable with two or more years of imprisonment. Under the Ordinance, this provision will be applicable only for certain specified offences and will not apply after two years from the date of his release from imprisonment.
- The Code prohibits a person from being a resolution applicant if his account has been identified as a non-performing asset (NPA) for more than a year. The Ordinance provides that this criterion will not apply if such applicant is a financial entity and is not a related party to the debtor (with certain exceptions). The Code also bars a person from submitting a plan, if he has executed an enforceable guarantee in favour of a person who is a creditor to a defaulter undergoing a resolution process. The Ordinance amends this provision to specify that such a bar will apply if such guarantee has been invoked by the creditor and remains unpaid.
- **Applicability of the Code to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):** The Ordinance provides that the ineligibility criteria for resolution applicants regarding NPAs and guarantors will not be applicable to persons applying for resolution of MSMEs. The central government may, in public interest, notify the applicability of certain other provisions of the Code to MSMEs.
- **Corporate resolution:** The Ordinance provides that for a corporate applicant to initiate an insolvency resolution process, they will have to submit a special resolution. The special resolution must have been passed by at least three-fourth of the total number of partners of the corporate debtor.

On the global scale, the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, 1997 (Model Law) has emerged as the most widely accepted legal framework to deal with cross-border insolvency issues while ensuring the least intrusion into the country domestic insolvency law.

UNCITRAL

- UNCITRAL was established by the General Assembly in 1966 (Resolution 2205(XXI) of 17 December 1966).
- The General Assembly gave the Commission the general mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade. The Commission has since come to be the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.
- The Commission is composed of sixty member States elected by the General Assembly.
- Members of the Commission are elected for terms of six years, the terms of half the members expiring every three years.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

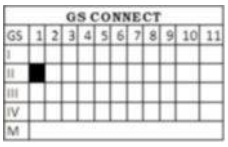
- **Withdrawal of admitted applications:** A resolution applicant may withdraw an application, filed to initiate an insolvency resolution process, from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), after such process has been initiated. Such withdrawal will have to be approved by a 90% vote of the committee of creditors.

Exigency for cross-border insolvency framework

- The inclusion of the cross-border insolvency framework will further enhance 'ease of doing business', provide a mechanism of cooperation between India and other countries in the area of insolvency resolution, and protect creditors in the global scenario.
- With the size of the economy growing, businesses and trade have adopted an increasingly international character. Creditors and corporates frequently transact business in more than one jurisdiction. Foreign banks and creditors finance Indian companies and domestic banks have foreign exposure. Moreover, as part of its 'ease of doing business' and Make in India policies, India is wooing foreign companies to set up manufacturing facilities here.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

In News



The Centre has banned terror organisation al-Qaida in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and all its manifestation under the stringent anti-terror law – Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
UAPA has come under severe criticism for its draconian provisions.

UAPA

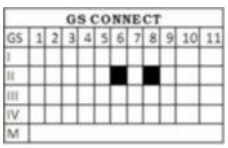
1. UAPA is India's foremost anti-terrorism legislation, which has been amended twice- in 2008 and 2012. The law has become increasingly repressive, regressive and draconian.
2. Its main objective is to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.
3. The Act makes it a crime to support any secessionist movement or to support claims by a foreign power to what India claims as its territory.

The draconian provisions of the UAPA

1. The Act introduces a vague definition of terrorism to encompass a wide range of non-violent political activity, including political protest. It empowers the government to declare an organisation as 'terrorist' and ban it. Mere membership of such a proscribed organisation itself becomes a criminal offence.
2. Additionally, it allows detention without a chargesheet for up to 180 days and police custody can be up to 30 days. It also creates a strong presumption against bail and anticipatory bail is out of the question. It creates a presumption of guilt for terrorism offences merely based on the evidence allegedly seized.
3. In addition, the Act authorises the creation of special courts, with wide discretion to hold in-camera proceedings (closed-door hearings) and use secret witnesses but contains no sunset clause and provisions for mandatory periodic review.

Women in Prisons

In News



The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has come up with its report titled 'Women in Prisons' which aims to build an understanding of the various entitlements of women in prisons, the various issues faced by them and possible methods for resolution of the same. It has proposed various changes in the National Model Prison Manual 2016 have also been suggested to bring it in line with international standards and norms.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Vulnerable in prison

Elderly, disabled, pregnant women, women who miscarried and those who have recently given birth but whose children are not with them in prison.

PEPPER IT WITH
Swadhar Greh Scheme, Mahila Shakti Kendra, Model Prison Manual 2016

Key recommendations

1. The report suggests that prior to their imprisonment, **women with care-giving responsibilities** must be allowed to make arrangements for their children, and a reasonable suspension of detention may also be provided for this purpose. In case there are no family/friends where the child (above 6 years of age) can be left, he must be placed in a Child Care Institution.
2. The report proposes that **bail should be granted to those under-trial women who have spent one-third of their maximum possible sentence** in detention, by making necessary changes in Section 436A of the CrPC which provides for release after half of the maximum sentence has been served.
3. The report recommends a **separate accommodation for mothers in post-natal stage** to maintain hygiene and protect the infant from contagion, for at least a year after childbirth. The report has also suggested that special provisions relating to health and nutrition be made for women who have recently given birth outside prison, or who have undergone abortion or miscarriage.
4. For persons with language barriers or sensory disabilities, adequate arrangements must be made by the prison administration to ensure that such persons do not face any disadvantage by providing an independent interpreter.
5. The report proposes a **comprehensive after-care programme** to be put in place, covering employment, financial support, regaining of child custody, shelter, counselling, continuity of health care services etc.
6. The report highlights the grievance redressal mechanism in prisons was found to be inadequate, with scope for abuse and retaliation. Thus, a need for a more robust **grievance redressal system** was felt.

Hardships faced by women in prisons

1. It is widely known that women in prisons face greater hardships than their male counterparts due to many factors such as social stigma, financial dependence on their families or husbands etc.These difficulties are further exacerbated when the woman has children.
2. Women have to face numerous problems in prisons owing to inadequacy of female staff which often translates to the reality that male staff becomes responsible for female inmates, which is undesirable.
3. It was also found that women were not provided with meals that are nutritious and according to their bodily requirements.
4. Apart from these issues, women are at a most disadvantageous position when it comes to their reintegration in society after release. Many are abandoned or harassed post-release, mainly due to the stigma attached with incarceration.
5. Further, women tend to lose ties with their children over the years, due to inadequate child custody procedures. Also, a robust grievance redressal mechanism was required to tackle cases of sexual harassment, violence and abuse against women in jails.

Way Ahead

Significant changes need to be considered in how systems are designed and how policies and practices are implemented to ensure all prisoners have the opportunity to benefit from the rehabilitative purpose of the correctional system. Now rehabilitation appears to be a much lower order of priority than containment and supervision of female prisoners. The best outcomes for community and public safety will occur when prisoners are given effective opportunities to be rehabilitated and reintegrated as law abiding members of society.

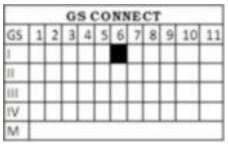
The criminal justice system must take new and possibly radical approaches and alternatives to the existing regime for female offenders. The system must recognise the links between violence against women, including sexual offending, child abuse and domestic violence. Most women

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

prisoners are both victim and offender. A coherent and strategic approach must be taken by all government departments and agencies to ensure that these issues are not dealt with in isolation.

ReUnite

About



It is a mobile application launched by Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation which helps to track and trace missing and abandoned children in India. The application has been developed by Bachpan Bachao Andolan & Capgemini.

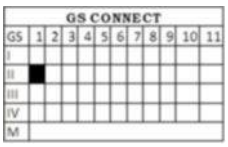
Key features:

- The app is multiuser where parents and citizens can upload pictures of children, and provide detailed description like name, birth mark, address, report to the police station, search and identify missing kids.
- Amazon Rekognition, web facial recognition service, is being used to identify missing kids. The app is available for both Android and iOS.

Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal Railway Project

- Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has supplied around 60,000 tonnes of steel material for the 111-km-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new broad gauge railway project in Manipur.
- It involves the construction of 111-km long broad gauge railway line which includes 9 stations at Dolakhal, Kaimai Road, Kambiron, Thingou, Khongsang, Noney Tupul, Haochang Road and Imphal, 148 bridges & 45 tunnels, of which tunnel No. 12 is 11.55-km long, making it India's longest tunnel.
- The project is being developed in two sections. The first section involves the construction of 84 kms of railway line connecting Jiribam to Tupul which is on the verge of completion. The second section of 27 kms connecting Tupul to Imphal is expected to be completed by 2019. Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is undertaking the construction of the project.
- In addition to this, a bridge is being constructed near Noney which will become the tallest girder rail bridge in the world. At 141 metres, the bridge over **river Iring** will be as high as two Qutub Minar's stacked on top of each other.

Draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Bill, 2018



The draft Bill seeks to repeal the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and set up a Higher Education Commission.
The Commission will ensure:

(i) maintenance of academic standards in higher education,
(ii) promotion of autonomy of higher education institutions, and,
(iii) periodic performance assessment of higher education institutions. Currently, the UGC is a statutory body that coordinates, determines, and maintains the standards of higher education.

Key features of the draft Bill include:

- **Higher Education Commission:** The draft Bill seeks to set up the Higher Education Commission of India. The Commission will consist of 14 members, to be appointed by the central government.
- The Chairman of the Commission will be a professor from an institute of national importance, or an eminent academician with proven capacity for institution building. In addition to the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Commission will include:

PEPPER IT WITH

UGC, The Nalanda University Bill, 2010, The National Sports University Ordinance, 2018

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

1. Chairpersons of other regulatory bodies of education i.e., All India Council of Technological Education and National Council for Teacher Education,
2. Vice Chancellors of universities of academic excellence,
3. Chairpersons of accreditation bodies such as the National Accreditation and Assessment Council, and
4. nominees of the central government, among others.

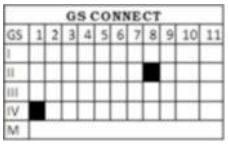
- **Functions of the Commission:**
  (i) specifying learning outcomes for courses in higher education
  (ii) laying down standards for teaching, curriculum development, and skill development
  (iii) specifying norms for granting autonomy to universities
  (iv) framing guidelines for determination of fees chargeable by higher education institutions
- **Advisory Council:** The draft Bill seeks to set up an Advisory Council chaired by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development. The Council will render advice on issues concerning:
  1. coordination between the central government and state governments
  2. determination of standards in higher education. The Council will include members of the Commission, and Chairpersons or Vice Chairpersons of all State Councils for Higher Education

Powers and role of the Higher Education Commission of India

1. The focus of the Commission will be on improving academic standards and quality of higher education, specifying norms for learning outcomes, lay down standards of teaching/research etc.
2. It will provide a roadmap for mentoring of institutions found failing in maintaining the required academic standards.
3. It shall have the power to enforce its decisions through legal provisions in the Act,
4. The Commission shall have the power to grant authorization for starting of academic operations on the basis of their compliance with norms of academic quality.
5. It will also have the powers to revoke authorization granting to a higher education institution where there is a case of wilful or continuous default in compliance with the norms / regulations.
6. It will also have the power to recommend closure of institutions which fail to adhere to minimum standards without affecting students' interest.
7. The Commission will encourage higher education institutions to formulate a Code of Good Practices covering promotion of research, teaching and learning.
8. The Commission will monitor, through a national data base, all matters covering the development of emerging fields of knowledge and balanced growth of higher education institutions in all spheres and specially in promotion of academic quality in higher education.

Child Labour

In News



World Day Against Child Labour – 12 June 2018.

About World Day Against Child Labour

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

Sustainable Development Goals Target 8.7 calls on the global community to: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms."

PEPPER IT WITH
PENCIL INITIATIVE, child trafficking, Child Begging

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Theme: "Generation Safe & Healthy".

The Constitution of India on child labour

- The Age of Free Education and Child Labour: In India, after amending the Article 21, the minimum compulsory age of education is now fixed as 14 years. Constitution of India, Article 21A, Right to Education: The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.
- Another fundamental right dealing with children is Article 24: Prohibition of Employment of Children in Factories, etc: No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine OR engaged in any other hazardous employment.
- Article 45 stating "Provision for free and compulsory education for children The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years."

Child Labour (Prohibition And Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016

- ❖ The act has completely banned employment of children below 14 in all occupations and enterprises, except those run by his or her own family, provided that education does not hampered. The 1986 act prohibited the employment of children under 14 years in certain occupations like bidi-making, mines, domestic work, power looms, automobile workshops, carpet weaving etc.
- ❖ Addition of a new category of persons called "adolescent". It defines children between 14 to 18 years as adolescents and bars their employment in any hazardous occupations.
- ❖ The act makes child labour a cognizable offence. Employing children below 14 years will attract a jail term between 6 months to two years (earlier 3 months to 1 year)

"child" means a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age or such age as may be specified in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009

"adolescent" means a person who has completed his fourteenth year of age but has not completed his eighteenth year

Other Initiatives

Juvenile Justice System

Under the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ) 2000, children in need of care and protection are meant to be rehabilitated through non-institutional care such as foster care, mentoring, sponsorship and adoption with institutional care as a last resort. Further, children in conflict with law are to be integrated into society and lead a normal life through rehabilitative programs and correctional services.

Child Health and Nutrition and Early Child Development

The rights of children under six years can be largely grouped into three categories: the right to health, nutrition, and education. The Government of India's flagship programme, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) has been conceptualised to support the unborn child till he or she attains the age of six.

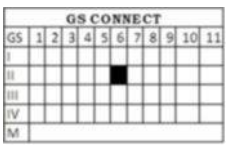
The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) 2012

It was established to protect the children against offences like sexual abuse, sexual harassment and pornography. It was formed to provide a child-friendly system for trial underneath which the perpetrators could be punished. The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age. It also makes provisions for avoiding the re-victimisation of the child at the hands of the judicial system.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

In News

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the sanitation coverage of India has now risen to 85%. Through mobilization of rural communities, 7.4 crore toilets have been built across rural India, and as an outcome, over 3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).



KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, (DELHI RN), (JAIPUR) 8290800441, (BHOPAL)7509975361, (PATNA) 7463950774, (INDORE) 7314977441, www.ksgindia.com

ODF States/UTs

Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Meghalaya

Indore cleanest city with **Bhopal** and **Chandigarh** as 2nd & 3rd runner up.
Vijayawada- cleanest big city
Mysuru- cleanest medium city
New Delhi- cleanest small city
Greater Mumbai- cleanest State Capital/UT

SBM

- ✓ To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation, the Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2nd October 2014.
- ✓ The Mission Coordinator for SBM is Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) with two Sub-Missions, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

Component of SBM

PEPPER IT WITH
Swachh Bharat Kosh, Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan, Biodigester toilet, Aerobic BioTank

1. Construction of Household Toilets
2. Community and Public Toilets
3. Solid Waste Management
4. Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness
5. Capacity Building and Administrative & Office Expenses (A&OE)
6. Start-Up Activities

About SBM-G

- The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) is to achieve a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October 2019.
- SBM is being implemented by M/o Drinking Water and Sanitation for rural areas.
- Under the mission, One lakh thirty four thousand crore rupees will be spent for construction of about 11 crore 11 lakh toilets in the country.
- The funding pattern between the Central Government and the State Government/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) is 75%:25%(90% : 10% for North Eastern and special category states).
- Technology will be used on a large scale to convert waste into wealth in rural India in the forms of bio-fertilizer and different forms of energy.
- The mission is to be executed with the involvement of every Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zila Parishad and 'foot soldiers' or 'Swachhagrahis' in the country.
- The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18, conducted by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G), has found that 93.4% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it.

Earlier initiatives for Cleanliness

- **Central Rural Sanitation Programmme:** to provide sanitation facilities in rural areas and also to provide privacy and dignity to women.
- **Total Sanitation Campaign:** the concept of sanitation was expanded to include personal hygiene, home sanitation, safe water, garbage disposal, excreta disposal and waste water disposal.
- **Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan:** the TC was renamed as "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan" (NBA) in 2012. On 2 October 2014 the campaign was relaunched as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin).

Beneficiaries

Incentive as provided under the Mission for the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) shall be available for all Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households and Above Poverty Line (APL) households restricted to SCs/STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women headed households.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

SBM-U

- SBM is being implemented by M/o Housing and Urban Affairs for urban areas.
- The mission aims to cover 1.04 crore households, provide 2.5 lakh community toilets, 2.6 lakh public toilets, and a solid waste management facility in each town.
- The funding pattern between the Central Government and the State Government/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) is 75%:25%(90% : 10% for North Eastern and special category states).
- Central government incentive for the construction of household toilets will be Rs. 4,000 per household toilet for each identified beneficiary household, in states and UTs. However, for North eastern and Hilly states, the Central government incentive will be Rs 10,800 per unit.
- SBM-U has launched Smart Star-Rating for Garbage Free Cities for achieving 'clean India'.

Mission Objectives

1. Elimination of open defecation
2. Eradication of Manual Scavenging
3. Modern and Scientific Municipal Solid Waste Management
4. To effect behavioral change regarding healthy sanitation practices
5. Generate awareness about sanitation and its linkage with public health 2.1.6 Capacity Augmentation for ULBs to create an enabling environment for private sector participation in Capex (capital expenditure) and Opex (operation and maintenance)

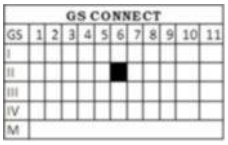
Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission. SIP is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, M/o Culture, and M/o Tourism.

Significance

- Boost in tourism
- Improve health of masses subsequently provide better quality of life to people
- Adoption of clean technology resulting in better solid and liquid waste management
- Improved productivity of individuals attract foreign direct investment (FDI)
- bring behavioral changes among people regarding maintenance of personal hygiene and practice of healthy sanitation methods.

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY)

In News



Ministry of Shipping in association with DDU-GKY, Ministry of Rural Development conducted a one-day workshop on "Skill Development in the Port and Maritime Sector".

Benefit

Skill Development in the Port & Maritime sector is an opportunity to improve India's coastal areas, usher in port led prosperity and provide the world with skilled youth. India is one of the leading suppliers of seafarers in the world and now want to be the leading supplier for all talent in the Port and Maritime sector.

Under the Ministry of Shipping's flagship Sagarmala Programme a world class **Center of Excellence in Maritime and Ship Building (CEMS)** is being set up in partnership with Siemens and Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) at a cost of INR 766 crore.
The CEMS aims to become an international nodal Centre in South Asia, attracting students from neighboring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia for skill development in the Port and Maritime sector.

DDU-GKY

- DDU-GKY comes under aegis of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- DDU-GKY is a part of the DAY-NRLM, tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families. As a part of the Skill India campaign, it plays an instrumental role in supporting the social and economic programs of the government like the Make In India, Digital India, Smart Cities and Start-Up India, Stand-Up India campaigns.
- The funding pattern between the Central Government and the State Government is 75%:25% (90% : 10% for North Eastern and special category states).
- DDU-GKY follows a 3-tier implementation model. The DDU-GKY National Unit at MoRD functions as the policy-making, technical support and facilitation agency. The DDU-GKY State Missions provide implementation support; and the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) implement the programme through skilling and placement projects.

Features of DDU-GKY

1. **Enable Poor and Marginalized to Access Benefits**
   Demand led skill training at no cost to the rural poor
2. **Inclusive Program Design**
   Mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups (SC/ST 50%; Minority 15%; Women 33%)
3. **Shifting Emphasis from Training to Career Progression**
   Pioneers in providing incentives for job retention, career progression and foreign placements
4. **Greater Support for Placed Candidates**
   Post-placement support, migration support and alumni network
5. **Enhancing the Capacity of Implementation Partners**
   Nurturing new training service providers and developing their skills
6. **Regional Focus**
   Greater emphasis on projects for poor rural youth in Jammu and Kashmir (HIMAYAT), the North-East region and 27 Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) districts (ROSHINI)

Beneficiary Eligibility

- Rural Youth:15 - 35 Yrs
- SC/ST/Women/PVTG/PWD: upto 45 Yrs

PEPPER IT WITH
PMKVY, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Challenges Ahead

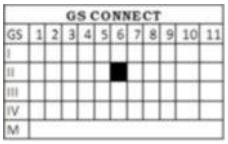
1) Poor recognition of "skill" in skilled/semi skilled sector
2) Lack of job oriented training/skill development programs
3) Skill development programs of the Central Government over the years have been spread across more than 20 Ministries/Departments without any robust coordination and monitoring mechanism to ensure convergence
4) Ensuring participation of women & vulnerables: Chance to include them into productive workforce
5) Matching the requirements of market according to needs

Significance

- Create a demand for skilling across country
- Correct & align skilling with competencies
- Connect supply of skilled human resources with sectoral demands
- Certify and assess in alignment with global and national standards

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission(DAY-NRLM)

In News



Government recently conferred National Awards on Best Performing Self Help Groups under DAY – National Rural Livelihood Mission.
The National Awards to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are intended to provide public recognition to the outstanding performance of the community institutions and incorporate a sense of pride among the poor community members.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

DAY-NRLM

- NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM. DAY-NRLM was conceived to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots institutions of the poor.
- The Department of Rural Development in the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (GoI) has the overall responsibility of policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme and for release of funds.
- A women's self-help group, coming together based on mutual affinity is the primary building block of the DAY-NRLM community institutional design. DAY-NRLM focuses on building, nurturing and strengthening the institutions of the poor women, including the SHGs and their Federations at village and higher levels.
- DAY-NRLM is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the financing of the programme would be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 (90:10 in case of North Eastern States including Sikkim; completely from the Centre in case of UTs).

PEPPER IT WITH
SVEP, Mission Antyodaya, MGNREGS, Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

Targets

DAY-NRLM would ensure adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society such that 50% of the beneficiaries are SC/STs, 15% are minorities and 3% are persons with disability, while keeping in view the ultimate target of 100% coverage of BPL families.

Mission consists four components:

a) social mobilization, community institution and capacity building
b) financial inclusion
c) livelihood promotion
d) convergence

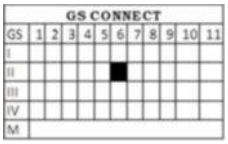
Key features of scheme:

1. One member (preferably a woman) from each rural poor household would be brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network. Women SHG groups would have bank-linkage arrangements.
2. SHGs would be federated at village level and higher levels to provide space, voice and resources and to reduce dependence on external agencies. District Manual – National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)
3. Training and capacity building of the poor, particularly in relation to managing the institutions, livelihoods, credit absorption and credit-worthiness.
4. **Participatory Identification of poor (PIP):** The households identified as poor through the P.I.P process will be accepted as DAY-NRLM target group and will be eligible for all the benefits under the programme.
5. **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs):** The Mission also supports development of skills for rural youth and their placement, training and self-employment through RSETIs, innovations, infrastructure creation and market support.
6. **Universal Financial Inclusion:** DAY-NRLM would work towards achieving universal financial inclusion, beyond basic banking services to all the poor households, SHGs and their federations. DAY-NRLM would work on both demand and supply side of Financial Inclusion. On the demand side, it would promote financial literacy among the poor and provides catalytic capital to the SHGs and their federations. On the supply side, it would coordinate with the financial sector and encourage use of Information, Communication & Technology (ICT) based financial technologies, business correspondents and community facilitators like 'Bank Mitras'.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (National Urban Livelihoods Mission)

DAY-NULM



- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA) by replacing the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).
- The Mission is aimed at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. The shelters will be permanent all-weather 24 x 7 shelters for the urban homeless.
- DAY-NRLM is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the financing of the programme would be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 (90:10 in case of North Eastern States including Sikkim; completely from the Centre in case of UTs).
- NULM focuses at skilling of street vendors, support micro-enterprise development, credit enablement and pro-vending urban planning along with supporting social security options for vulnerable groups such as women, SCs/STs and minorities. Up to 5 percent of the total NULM budget will be spent on this component.

ICDS-CAS (Common Application Software)- It is a Specially designed software to help in strengthening service delivery and improving nutrition outcomes through Effective monitoring and Timely interventions in POSHAN Abhiyaan.

- The NULM will be implemented in two phases: Phase I (2013-2017) and Phase II (2017-2022). In Phase I, NULM will target all cities with a population of one lakh or more and district headquarter towns with a population of less than one lakh as per Census of India 2011. The coverage has been expanded to include 4041 cities in Phase-II from 2016 onwards.

PEPPER IT WITH
Jan Dhan Yojana, SUSV, RAY, RRY, AHP

- Under 'Employment through Skill Training and Placement' component of DAY-NULM, an expenditure of Rs.15,000 per person is allowed on training of urban poor which is Rs.18,000 in North-East and J&K. Under revised norms, cost of training has been increased by 5%.

Aim

The NULM focuses on organizing urban poor in their strong grassroots level institutions, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment venture by ensuring easy access to credit.

Targets

The primary target of NULM is the urban poor, including the urban homeless. The Socioeconomic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 for identification of urban poor is currently under progress. Accordingly, as an interim measure, the target of NULM will be the urban population identified presently as below poverty line population in urban areas by the States/UTs.

The Major Main Components of NULM:

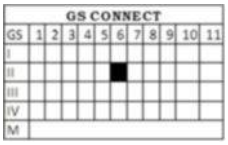
1. Employment through Skill Training and placement
2. Self Employment Programme
3. Social Mobilization and Institutional Development
4. Shelter for Urban Homeless
5. Support to urban Street vendor
6. Capacity Building and Training Programmes

As per the Constitution (74thAmendment) Act, 1992, urban poverty alleviation is a legitimate function of the Urban Local Bodies (ULB). Therefore, ULBs would need to undertake a lead role for all issues and programmes concerning the urban poor in cities/towns, including skills and livelihoods.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

India BPO promotion scheme

In News



The government is planning to expand its BPO promotion scheme under the Digital India initiative that it will create more than double the number of seats under the scheme.

About

- The India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) envisaged under Digital India Programme seeks to incentivize establishment of 48,300 seats in respect of BPO/ITES operations across the country.
- It is distributed among each State in proportion of State's population with an outlay of Rs. 493 Crore. This would help in capacity building in smaller cities in terms of infra & manpower and would become basis for next wave of IT/ITES led growth.
- It comes under aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

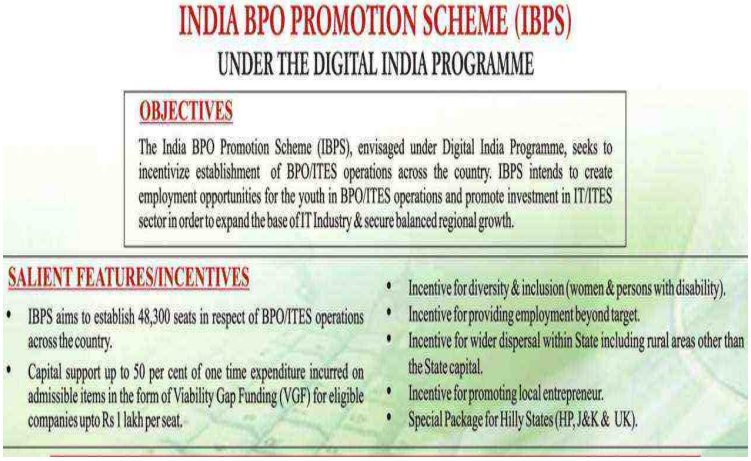
Salient Features:

1. Financial Support: Up to 50% of expenditure incurred on BPO/ITES operations towards capital expenditure (CAPEX) and/or operational expenditure (OPEX) on admissible items, subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 1 Lakh/Seat.
2. Special incentives toward employment of women & specially enabled persons.
3. Incentive for generating employment beyond target & wider dispersal within state including rural areas.
4. Encouragement for local entrepreneurs.
5. Special consideration for Hilly states of HP, J&K and UK.

PEPPER IT WITH
Digital India programme, Cyber Swachhta Kendra, DDUGJY, DigiDhan ABHIYAAN

Way Forward

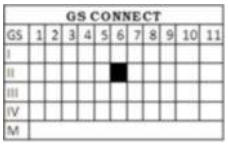
BPO / ITES Industry is one of the fastest growing segments under the Information Technology sector in the country. It has immense potential to grow and expand further because of its readiness to deliver at par with global standards and inherent cost advantage.



These schemes would encourage setting-up of the Smart Digital Enterprises across the country and create employment opportunities for youth by promoting investments in BPO / ITES Sector. With a potential to create more than 1.5 lakh direct jobs and proportionately large numbers of indirect jobs, it is envisaged that the schemes could become basis for next wave of IT/ITES led growth and shall have a multiplier effect on the economy in times to come.

Swajal Scheme

In News



Govt. launched Swajal Scheme recently.

Swajal Scheme

Aim

The scheme will aim to provide villages with piped water supply powered by solar energy.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Funding

Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community.

Key Highlights

PEPPER IT WITH

SAUNI yojna, PMKSY, NWDPRA, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

1. Swajal is Community–led drinking water projects to be called 'Swajal' aiming at providing sustainable and adequate drinking water in an integrated manner to the rural masses on pilot basis.
2. It is launched under NRDWP by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
3. It envisaged that the State government in partnership with rural communities; shall plan, design, construct, operate and maintain their water supply and sanitation schemes; so that they get potable water and attain health and hygiene benefits
4. Swajal schemes launched in 115 aspirational districts of the country will involve an outlay of Rs 700 crores through flexi-funds under the existing NRDWP budget.
5. The schemes will train hundreds of rural technicians for operation and maintenance of Swajal units.
6. The schemes highlight the importance of rain water harvesting and water conservation, announcing that a special communication campaign will be taken up in the country to create awareness about drinking water.
7. The States are to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goal 'safe drinking water for all' is achieved in India by 2030.
8. The Minister also announced the modernisation of 2000 water quality testing laboratories spread across the country. The State Ministers to closely monitor the functioning of the water laboratories to ensure safe drinking water for rural Indians.
9. Rs.1000 crores will be earmarked for addressing the drinking water needs of 27,544 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations of the country in this financial year under the National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM).

The 11th Schedule of Indian Constitution was added in 1992 by the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act. This schedule contains 29 subjects. This schedule covers important topics such as Panchayat's powers, rural development, poverty alleviation, market, roads and **drinking water, rural water supply** etc.

"Water Productivity Mapping of Major Indian Crops" book published by NABARD. The book is based on study of 10 important crops like rice, wheat, maize, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton and potato etc.

NRDWP

- National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was launched with objective of ensuring provision of safe and adequate drinking water supply through hand-pumps, piped water supply etc. to all rural areas, households and persons.
- This programme has incorporated paradigmatic changes in its previous version called the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, by emphasizing on water supply systems which are planned and managed by the community at the village level, for ensuring sustainable drinking water availability, convenient delivery systems and achieving water security at the household level.
- NRDWP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 50: 50 fund sharing between the Centre and the States.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Inter-Linking of Rivers

In News

The progress report on interlinking of rivers has been submitted to the Cabinet in compliance of the Supreme Court judgement. The court had directed the Union Government of India to constitute a Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers.

What is Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) Programme?

1. The ILR Programme seeks to transfer water from surplus areas to deficit areas in the country.
2. Its vision is to ensure greater equity in the distribution of water by enhancing the availability of water in drought prone and rainfed areas.
3. The programme is divided into two components – HRC and PRC. The National Perspective Plan (NPP) prepared by Ministry of Water Resources identified 14 links under Himalayan Rivers Component (HRC) and 16 links under Peninsular Rivers Component (PRC) for inter basin transfer of water.
4. In 2005, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has included the intra-state rivers linking as the third component in the NPP.

PEPPER IT WITH
National Water Framework Bill, 2016, NWDA, CLNNUIW, El Nino, La Nino

Projects under the ILR

1. Ken – Betwa Link Project
2. Damanganga – Pinjal Link Project
3. Par – Tapi – Narmada Link Project
4. Mahanadi – Godavari Link Project
5. Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga Link Project

Benefits

1. It will help mitigate disasters like simultaneous floods, scarcity of water in less rain fed are, mitigate drought like conditions etc.
2. It will help in developing better irrigation canal channel with surplus water for agricultural activities.
3. It will redistribute the monsoon water from rain surplus to rain deficit area giving boost too agriculture.
4. It will help develop inland commercial waterways and domestic navigations.
5. It will also create new employment opportunities and these canal can be a big fisheries industry giving boost to social and economic infrastructures.
6. The construction of small, medium and large-scale dams is expected to generate 34000 MW of cumulative hydro power.
7. It will ease the pressure on the ground water resources and help them recharge over the long period.

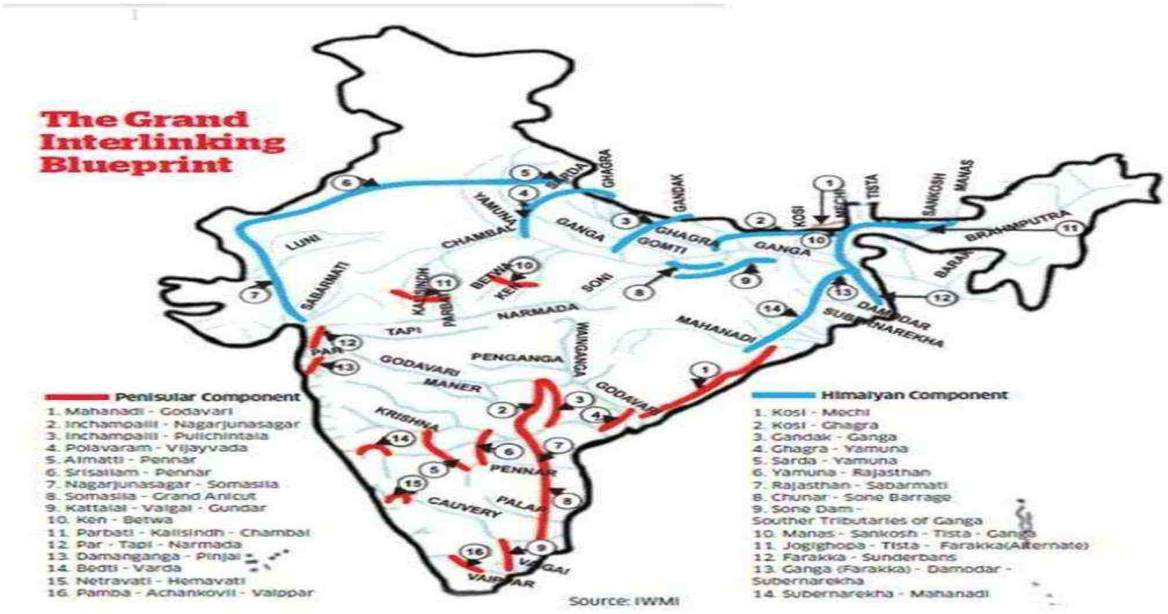
Kaleshwaram Project, Telangana: It involves diversion of Godavari water for irrigation and drinking water purposes.

Upper Pravara (Nilwande-II) Project, Maharashtra: It involves diversion water for irrigation and drinking water purposes.

Concerns

1. The project puts in danger over 4,100 hectares of forest land or 8% of the Panna National Park. Although the project needs environment clearance, wildlife clearance and Supreme Court permission since it involves the diversion of land within a protected area of the tiger reserve, the Water Ministry has sought none.
2. To implement this huge project there will be mass deforestation which will be a major ecological disaster which will ultimately impact the rain pattern in turn affecting the whole cycle of life of the affected area.
3. Along with the ecological cost, the project will also bring a great human cost in terms of those displaced by it. No estimates exist of the number of people who will be so affected by the river linking project.
4. Interlinking of rivers will decrease the amount of fresh water entering seas which will cause a serious threat to the marine life system and will be a major ecological disaster.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**



Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project

GS CONNECT

GS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I											
II											
III			■		■						
IV											
M											

In News

Gujarat government has expressed its inability to divert 434 MCM water for Maharashtra in Tapi basin as part of the Par-Tapi-Narmada inter-state river link project.

Par Tapi Narmada Link (P-T-N Link)

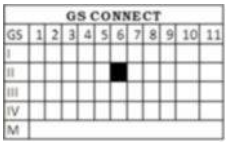
1. It proposes to transfer water from the water surplus regions of Western Ghats to the water deficit regions of Saurashtra and Kutch.
2. The projects envisage transfer of surplus water of rivers in Maharashtra and south Gujarat to feed the command area of the Miyagam branch of Narmada canal. It will save water in Narmada dam, which will be taken to Saurashtra and Kutch.
3. The water from the seven proposed reservoirs would be taken through a 395 km long canal including the 33km length of the feeder canals to take over a part of the command of the on-going Sardar Sarovar Project, while irrigating small enroute areas.
4. The link mainly envisages construction of seven dams, three diversion weirs, two tunnels (5.0 km & 0.5 km of length), 395 km long canal (205 km in Par-Tapi portion including the length of feeder canals and 190 km in Tapi-Narmada portion), 6 power houses and a number of cross-drainage works.
5. The seven dams proposed in the scheme are Jheri, Mohankavchali, Paikhed, Chasmandva, Chikkar, Dabdar and Kelwan.
6. The project of P-T-N link generally falls in the state of Gujarat except Jheri reservoir which falls in Maharashtra state. Jheri dam is located in Nasik district of Maharashtra, while remaining dams viz. Mohankavchali, Paikhed, Chasmandva, Chikkar, Dabdar and Kelwan dams are located in Valsad and Dang districts of Gujarat.

International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics (ICHF) was recently inaugurated at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU). Gujarat gets world's 1st centre for humanitarian forensics.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Suryashakti Kisan Yojana

In News



Gujarat government has launched Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) to promote solar energy.

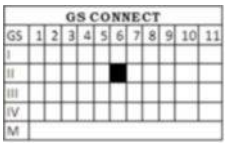
Key Highlights

1. This is a first such scheme in the country, where farmer would produce his power and sell the surplus to the State power utility.
2. The first phase of the Rs 870 crore project defines the state government would provide financial assistance to 12,400 farmers out of the state's total 15 lakh farmers to generate an estimated 175 MW of power.
3. **Low solar panel purchasing cost:** Solar panels require a big investment, however 5% of the total amount will be paid by farmers, remaining 60% will be borne by govt via subsidy and 35% will be compensated by farmers via low cost loans for 7 years.
4. **Earn while selling leftover electricity:** The scheme duration is 25 years, which is split between 7-year period and 18-year period. For the first 7 years, farmers will get per unit rate of Rs 7 (Rs 3.5 by GUVNL + Rs 3.5 by state govt). For the subsequent 18 years they will get the rate of Rs 3.5 for each unit sold. **The government would also enter in a 25-year power purchase agreement with the farmers.**
5. This is one of the measures to achieve the goal of doubling farmer's income. Also, this will provide farmers 12-hours power supply during the day time, a demand farmer have been making for long.

PEPPER IT WITH
PMFBY, e-NAM, SHC, PMRY, MPLAD, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana

Solar Charkha Mission

In News



President recently launched the Solar Charkha Mission covering artisans in 50 identified clusters.

Solar Charkha Mission

- The Solar Charkha Mission will entail a subsidy of Rs 550 crore in the initial two years for 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans. The mission will generate employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy.
- The scheme also aims at linking five crore women across the country to the initiative. The mission is expected to create one lakh jobs during the first two years.
- 15 new state-of-the-art technology centers are being set up all over the country including North-East, of which 10 centers will become operational by March 2019. Each center is being built at a cost of around Rs. 150 crore.

Sampark portal

- Sampark portal -- a digital platform to connect five lakh job seekers with recruiters -- at an event to mark the important economic role played by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- The digital platform `Sampark portal' will be useful in creating a skill pool of workers and connecting trained youth with job opportunities.

Udyam Sangam 2018

- Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched Udyam Sangam-2018 on June 27, 2018 to celebrate the 2nd United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day.
- It is a step forward towards consolidating the convergence and synergy of all the government initiatives relating to MSME Sector.

PEPPER IT WITH
PMEGP, MSME Samadhaan, Udyam Sakhi, KVIC, Women Entrepreneurs Platform

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

UN MSME Day

Key Highlights of conclave

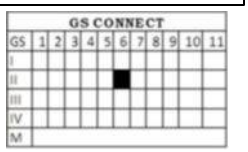
- strategy to build a financial ecosystem of seed and growth capital of micro and small ventures, role of SMEs in Make-in-India programme
- to encourage dialogue and partnership among various stakeholders of the MSME ecosystem and for promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on MSME related issues.
- role of women led enterprises and MSME for gender parity,
- role of GST in helping micro and small ventures, research and development of SMEs,
- role of infrastructure in the development of MSMEs, MSME knowledge services, MSME in health services and traditional medicines and market access development for MSMEs with special focus on Public Procurement Policy.

Significance of MSMEs:

- The MSME sector is leveraging the demographic dividend of the country and promoting inclusive growth in rural and backward areas.
- MSME account for around 60% employment in India.
- 6.5 crore MSME units across the country employing over 11 crore people and contributing over 10 per cent growth which is higher than heavy industrial units.
- According to the data provided by the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), formal and informal Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) make up over 90% of all firms and account on average for 60-70% of total employment and 50% of GDP.
- MSMEs tend to employ a larger share of the vulnerable sectors of the workforce, such as women, youth, and people from poorer households. MSMEs can even sometimes be the only source of employment in rural areas.

Van Dhan Scheme

In News



The Government proposes to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 SHGs across the country under the Van Dhan Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Van Dhan Scheme

- Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative for targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest produces, the true wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan with an estimated value: Rs.2 Lakh Cr. per year. It shall promote and leverage the collective strength of tribals (through SHGs) to achieve scale. It also aims at build upon the traditional knowledge & skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT for value addition.
- The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level. At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level.
- Further it is to set-up tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in predominantly forested tribal districts. A Kendra shall constitute of 10 tribal SHGs, each comprising of upto 30 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Kendra.
- Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.
- The establishment of "Van Dhan Vikas Kendra" is for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility. They are then trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle.

PEPPER IT WITH
AMRUT, PMBJK, Standup India, PMMY, Border Haats

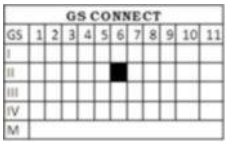
KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

'Mission Shaurya'

- 'Mission Shaurya' is an initiative of the Adivasi Vikas Vibhag of the Maharashtra State Government.
- Under Mission Shaurya expedition,10 tribal students from "ashram shalas" (residential schools) in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra conquered Everest.
- It was a joint initiative of the state Tribal department and Chandrapur Collectorate to scale Everest.

Parivartan scheme

In News



Under Power Asset Revival through Warehousing and Rehabilitation, or 'Pariwartan' scheme, the government plans to warehouse stressed power projects totalling 25,000 megawatts (MW).

State-run Rural Electrification Corp. Ltd (REC) has identified projects with a total debt of around Rs 1.8 trillion as part of the scheme, which is under government consideration and has been tentatively named Power Asset Revival through Warehousing and Rehabilitation, or 'Pariwartan'.

Parivartan Scheme

- Under the plan, the REC has proposed that a special purpose vehicle, a subsidiary company to securitise assets, be set up with PFC and the lending banks, which would be overlooked by an asset management company.
- The 'Pariwartan' scheme is inspired by the Troubled Asset Relief Programme, or TARP, which was introduced in the US during the 2008 financial crisis.
- The goal of this scheme is to rdun these power assets to service their current debt and look at breaking even before the lenders decide to takeover or sell the assets.
- Electricity produced during a 48 month period under the plan would also be sold at power exchanges and short term power purchase agreements would be sought from state governments.

PEPPER IT WITH
Saubhagya Scheme, DUGJY, UJJAWALA, UJALA

What does the proposed plan aim to do?

1. The proposed plan aims to stem the rise in bad loans in the power sector.
2. These stressed power projects will be housed under an asset management and rehabilitation company (AMRC) that will be owned by financial institutions.
3. While the promoter's equity will be reduced to facilitate a transfer of management control to the financial institutions, the lenders will convert their debt into equity.
4. Most of the assets that would be brought under the scheme face coal supply shortages and suffer from a lack of power purchase agreements. The scheme looks to solve these issues by providing special coal supply assistance with assistance from the coal ministry.
5. The AMRC firm will take on assets with a capacity of about 40,000 MW at net book value, and seek between 4-5% of equity from the National Infrastructure Investment Fund to run power projects under the scheme.
6. These projects will be transferred to the AMRC at net book value, wherein it will own a 51 percent stake in the projects while the remaining 49 percent will be held by the lenders.

Why does the power sector need a revival plan?

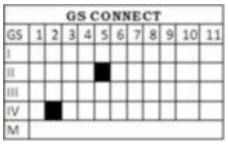
1. A revival plan has been proposed due to concerns that stressed projects have drawn bids for around Rs 1-2 crore per MW under the insolvency and bankruptcy code, a fraction of the Rs 5 crore per MW needed to build them.

KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, (DELHI RN), (JAIPUR) 8290800441, (BHOPAL)7509975361, (PATNA) 7463950774, (INDORE) 7314977441, www.ksgindia.com

2. Issues faced by the stressed projects include paucity of funds, lack of power purchase agreements and fuel shortages.
3. With promoters losing interest, the value of these assets is deteriorating due to lack of operations and maintenance.
4. With no fresh investments in thermal power, once demand kicks in, driven by a strong economic growth and schemes such as Saubhagya, these assets will be back in play.

Odisha starts health insurance scheme for journalists

In News



Odisha Chief Minister recently launched "Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana" for working journalists.

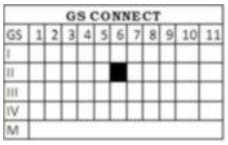
About

- This scheme has been launched to counter injuries / illness faced by the journalists while performing their duties. People from Media groups work in adverse conditions to provide correct information & bring out truth.
- In the first phase, as many as 3,233 working journalists will get health insurance coverage up to Rs 2 lakh a year.
- At least five members of the journalists family will be covered under the scheme, said an official statement.
- The scribes will get their health insurance card from the District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) in their respective districts.

Gopabandhu Dash (1877–1928) known as Utkalamani (Gem of Odisha) was a social worker, reformer, political activist, journalist, poet and essayist.

JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA

In News



Union Ministry of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, launched the 'JANAUSHADHI SUVIDHA', under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), recently.

About Janaushadhi Suvidha

1. It is the Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin. The affordable sanitary napkins will now become available at over 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras functional in 33 States/UTs across India.
2. Jan Aushadhi Suvidha comes with a special additive, which makes it biodegradable when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded. This would ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for the underprivileged Women of India and go a long way in the achievement of Affordable and Quality Healthcare.
3. The average price of sanitary napkins available in the market today is around Rs. 8 per pad, whereas now with the launch of the SUVIDHA napkins at Rs. 2.50 per pad.

According to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, about 58 percent of women aged between 15 to 24 years use locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins and tampons. Further, about 78 percent women in urban areas use hygienic methods of protection during menstrual period; only 48 percent women in rural areas have access to clean sanitary napkins.

Significance

This is one of the most important requirement in ensuring the Health Security to that section of Women in India who still use unhygienic aids during menstrual period due to non-affordability of some of the popular brands of sanitary napkins available in the market today. Such unhygienic aids cause fungal infections, Reproductive Tract Infection, Urinary Tract Infection, Cervical cancer and also make women vulnerable to infertility.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

PMBJP

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through exclusive outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP. BPPI has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India.
- BPPI in association with the Department of Pharmaceuticals, on the occasion of World Environment Day reinforcing the theme of 'Beat Plastic Pollution' launched Jan Aushadhi Suvidha sanitary napkins.

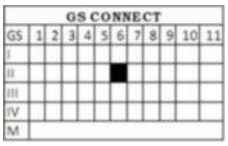
Significance

1. It will create awareness among the public regarding generic medicines.
2. It will create demand for generic medicines through medical practitioners.
3. It will create awareness through education and awareness program that high price need not be synonymous with high quality.
4. Provide all the related health care products too under the scheme.

PEPPER IT WITH
PMSMA, Indradhanush Scheme, PMMVY, Mahila Samakhya Yojana

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)

In News



The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), an Rs.6000 crore.

About ABHY

- The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), an Rs.6000 crore Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with World Bank assistance.
- The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These States represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of ground water in India.
- They cover two major types of groundwater systems found in India - alluvial and hard rock aquifers.
- Centre will support half of the total project cost and rest of the budgetary cost will be shared by the World Bank.
- Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these states.

India's second-populous state Maharashtra has started penalising all those found using plastic products, including single-use disposable items. The government had given the manufacturers, distributors, and consumers a period of three months to dispose their existing stock and come up with alternatives to plastic usage.

While environmentalists welcomed the decision, the plastic industry has slammed the government calling it "retrograde step." With its huge dependence on plastic and lack of alternatives to the banned products, many also wonder if the plan would be a success.

Structure

The scheme has an investment window and an incentives window. The investment window of the scheme is focused on strengthening the monitoring network, capacity building, metering of groundwater use, and operationalization of the scheme at the different tiers of government. The incentive window aims to incentivize participating states to trigger community participation in groundwater management

The ABHY scope of activities can be classified into the following:

1. decision support tools for groundwater management

KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, (DELHI RN), (JAIPUR) 8290800441, (BHOPAL)7509975361, (PATNA) 7463950774, (INDORE) 7314977441, www.ksgindia.com

2. state-specific institutional framework for sustainable groundwater management
3. enhance groundwater recharge and improve water use efficiency
4. strengthen community-based institutions to foster management

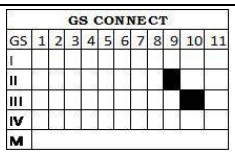
PEPPER IT WITH
NGMIS, PMKSY, National Hydrology Project, Central Ground Water Authority, Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Bill, 2017

Significance

1. It will help recharge ground water and create sufficient water storage for agricultural purposes.
2. Increased community awareness of groundwater problems and empowerment of communities in groundwater management.
3. The scheme will also facilitate convergence of ongoing Government schemes in the states by incentivizing their focussed implementation in identified priority areas.
4. The implementation of the scheme is expected to have several positive outcomes like better understanding of the ground water regime, focused and integrated community based approach for addressing issues related to ground water depletion, sustainable ground water management through adoption of efficient water use practices to reduce ground water use for irrigation and augmentation of ground water resources in targeted areas.

PM visit to Southeast Asia

Why in News?



Indian Prime Minister made a five day visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to consolidate India's ties with three important strategic partners in the Southeast Asia region as efforts to boost ties under its Act East Policy, with key agreements in the areas of defence and space.

Highlights

- PM held talks with Indonesian President to cement the political, economic and strategic interest of the two friendly maritime neighbours. **The two countries elevated their bilateral ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and condemned terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border terror**.
- India and Indonesia also signed 15 agreements, including one to boost defence cooperation and called for freedom of navigation in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.
- In Singapore he visited the Changi Naval Base where he went on-board the **Indian Navy's Shivalik class stealth frigate INS Satpura**. He also interacted with the officers and sailors on board.
- He went to Clifford Pier and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the immersion of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes in the country's waters. **In 1948, Mahatma Gandhi's ashes had been sent to various parts of India and the world. This included Singapore**.
- Indian PM also delivered the keynote address at **Shangri-La Dialogue** on national security. He talked about India's relationship with China said that it is crucial for the future of Asia.

❖ Mongolia launched construction of its first oil refinery, **a long-awaited project that is funded by India and designed to end the country's dependence on Russian fuel**.

❖ The refinery, in southern Dornogovi prvince will be capable of processing 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil per year. The refinery will be small by international standards, with most Chinese facilities each processing hundreds of thousands of barrels of crude per day, **and India's Reliance Industries running one refinery at a record 1.2 million bpd**.

❖ Mongolia, **a large landlocked country wedged between giants China and Russia**, has a population of just 3 million. Almost half its people live as nomadic stock herders, and the country's oil demand is growing only very slowly.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Significance

i. The visit comes against the backdrop of an offer from the Indonesian government to grant India access to its **Sabang port** for the development of the port and an economic zone. Located at the mouth of the strategically important **Strait of Malacca**, Sabang is only 100 nautical miles from the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. India and Indonesia share multiple common concerns, one of which is China's growing maritime footprint in the eastern Indian Ocean. Sabang, with its naval base, naval air station, and maintenance and repair facilities, has the potential to serve as the focal point of a budding strategic partnership between the two countries.

ii. **The strategically important Straits of Malacca, Lombok and Sunda fall under the Indian Navy's primary area of interest**, and access to Indonesian naval bases such as Sabang will significantly enhance the Indian Navy's ability to maintain a forward presence and monitor movements in the Straits of Malacca.

iii. Indonesia too has started recognising the benefits of a closer strategic partnership with India. Like many other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Jakarta remains apprehensive of Chinese intentions in the wider maritime theatre. **The territorial dispute between China and Indonesia in the Natuna Sea is an issue that is close to Indonesia**, and a strategic alignment with India will help Jakarta balance some of the security concerns emanating from Beijing's aggressive stance in the South China Sea.

iv. India and Singapore have agreed to upgrade their Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement soon to boost bilateral trade as the two sides signed eight agreements in the fields of the training of public service officials, cyber security, narcotics control and defence cooperation.

An all women Naval mountaineering team led by Lt Cdr Kokila Sajwan **summited Mount Deotibba**. Mt Deotibba is the second highest peak (6001M) in the Pir-Panjal range in Himachal Pradesh. It is considered to be a difficult peak to summit.

Shangri-La Dialogue

- The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) or Asia Security Summit is a "Track One" inter-governmental security forum, **annually organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS),** an independent think-tank based in London. It deals with today's chaotic real world. The forum gets its name from the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore where it has been held.
- The Dialogue has helped built confidence and fostered practical security cooperation, by facilitating easy communication and fruitful contact among the region's most important defence and security policymakers.
- Indian Prime Minister chose Asia's premier security forum to unveil India's comprehensive and ambitious vision for the Indo-Pacific. Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, PM was unambiguous in staking a claim to a key role for India in a region that he said stretches from the shores of Africa to those of America. He spoke of inclusive engagement and of ensuring that the Indo-Pacific isn't perceived as a "club of limited members".
- There was also a mention of the need for India and China to work together as an "**Asia of rivalry**" would hold back the entire region.
- PM said that all connectivity will have to be built on bridges of trust and respect for sovereignty without placing nations under an impossible debt burden — again, a clear nod to Belt and Road Initiative that India has opposed and has brought with it a debt trap for several countries, including some of India's neighbours.

PEPPER IT WITH

Wuhan Summit, South China Sea, INS Satpura, ASEAN, Sabang Port, Changi naval base

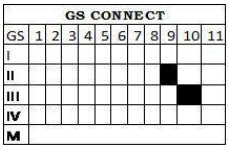
Conclusion

In many ways, India's Act East policy was highlighted and the steps taken by New Delhi to gain access to more naval facilities in countries such as Indonesia, Seychelles and Oman. However,

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

such talk will have to be backed up by more robust action, including a reasonable build-up of India's naval capabilities, if the country is to really emerge as one of the main players in the Indo-Pacific.

Geo-Intelligence Asia - 2018



Why in News?

The **Eleventh edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018** organised by GeoSpatial Media and Communication with Directorate General of Information System as Knowledge Partners and Military Survey as Co-organisers, **took place at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.

The theme of Seminar was '**Geo-Spatial: A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security'**. The seminar brought together the military, security officials including BSF and Police Forces, Government and industry together to examine the latest technology solutions and on the critical role of geospatial technology in military and security applications.

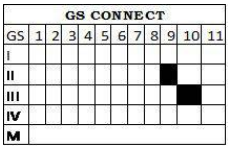
PEPPER IT WITH
Geospatial Intelligence, AI, Big data, AI in agriculture, N Chandrashekharan task force

Significance

The Armed Forces are the repository of big data and there is a need to record and institutionalize the information and carry out predictive analytics using AI. There is great need for collaboration with industry and academia to automate the Indian Army and need to leverage the various technologies available in the Geo Spatial field to find solutions for the challenges faced by the Indian Army.

Data is being treated as the next oil. Indian Army is in the process of redefining and refining legacy applications into state of the art softwares by using contemporary technologies.

IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting



The External Affairs Minister of India, The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, met in Pretoria for the informal meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers. The Ministers exchanged views on furthering IBSA cooperation during the year.

The Ministers exchanged views on Development Cooperation and South-South Cooperation. **On this occasion, they adopted and jointly released the IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation**, to contribute to greater understanding of development cooperation as a common endeavor of the Global South.

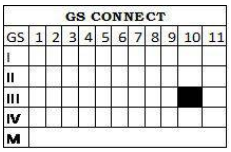
PEPPER IT WITH
BRICS, BRICS credit rating agency, G-8, G-20, BIMSTEC, IORA, EAST ASIA SUMMIT

IBSA

IBSA is a unique Forum **which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa**, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents, facing similar challenges. All three countries are developing, pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious nations.

The idea of establishing IBSA was discussed at a meeting between the then Prime Minister of India and the then Presidents of Brazil and South Africa in Evian on 2 June 2003 on the margins of the G-8 Summit.

Global Peace Index 2018



Why in News?

India's rank has marginally improved in "global peacefulness", at a time when there is an overall decline of global peace owing to escalation of violence in West Asia and North Africa. Pakistan too has improved marginally, according to the Global Peace Index (GPI), **released by Australia-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Highlights

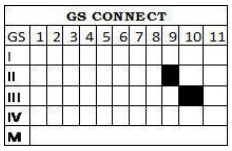
- India's GPI rank was 137 out of 163 countries in 2017, when the year 2016 was assessed. In 2018, when the year 2017 is assessed, India's rank moved up to 136. This is in line with the performance of some of the South Asian countries. Nepal moved up from 93 to 84, while Sri Lanka moved up too, from position 80 to 67. Pakistan moved from 152 to 151. **South Asia experienced the largest regional improvement in peacefulness**.
- However, the best performer of South Asia, Bhutan, has slipped from 13 to 19, while Bangladesh' peace index deteriorated sharply. Bangladesh moved from 84 to 93. Peace continues to record a "gradual, sustained fall" across the world. The results of the 2018 GPI find that the global level of peace has deteriorated by 0.27% last year, marking the fourth successive year of deteriorations.
- Syria remained the least peaceful country in the world, a position that it had held for the past five years. Iceland continues to remain the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008.

PEPPER IT WITH

Child Development Index, Corruption Perceptions Index, Democracy Index, Ease of doing business index, Education Index

MoU between India and Oman on Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Why in News?



The Union Cabinet was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India represented by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Oman represented by the Ministry of Transport and Communications on Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space at Muscat.

The MoU would lead to set up a Joint Working Group, drawing members from DOS/ISRO, and the Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTC), which will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementing this MoU.

Significance

MoU would lead to develop a joint activity in the field of application of space technologies for the benefit of humanity. Thus all sections and regions of the country will get benefited. It will provide impetus to explore newer research activities and application possibilities in the field of remote sensing of the earth; satellite navigation; space science and exploration of outer space.

Background

The Sultanate of Oman expressed interest to cooperate with ISRO for building its space programme. A 4-member delegation from the Oman's Department of Communication visited ISRO in 2011 and interacted with ISRO officials and also visited ISRO's technical facilities. Accordingly, both sides arrived at mutually agreed version of MoU for in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Op Nistar

- Thirty-eight Indians were brought back home by the Indian Navy, four days after they were rescued from the cyclone-hit **Socotra island in Yemen**.
- The Indians were stranded in Sootra island after a cyclone hit the area and **INS Sunayna had evacuated them in an operation christened "Nistar"**. The cyclone **Mekunu** had badly hit various parts of Oman and the Socotra island.

COPUOS

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was set up by the General Assembly in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development. The Committee was tasked with reviewing

PEPPER IT WITH

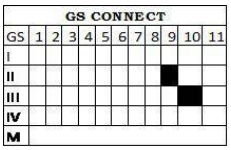
UNISPACE+50, PAROS Treaty, PSLV, GSLV, GSLV Mk III

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, studying space-related activities that could be undertaken by the United Nations, encouraging space research programmes, and studying legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space.

Hague treaty

Why in News?



The government of India announced that it is not yet ready to sign the Hague treaty on inter-country abduction of children by parents fleeing a bad marriage. There has been immense pressure from the U.S. on the government to sign the treaty though the government has long held the view that the decision could lead to harassment of women escaping marital discord or domestic violence.

In 2016, the government had decided not to be a signatory to the treaty on the ground that it can be detrimental to the interest of the women fleeing an abusive marriage.

PEPPER IT WITH

The Geneva Convention, UNCLOS/The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, CITES, ICJ, ICC

Justice Rajesh Bindal Committee Report

- A committee constituted by the Centre to examine legal issues involved in international parental abduction opposed a central provision of the Hague Convention. **It said that the criterion of habitual residence of the child, which is used to determine whether the child was wrongfully removed by a parent as well as to seek the return of the child to the country of habitual residence, was not in the best interest of the child**.
- It also recommended setting up of a **Child Removal Disputes Resolution Authority** to act as a nodal body to decide on the custody of the child as well as a model law to deal with such disputes. However, the government is contemplating assigning the National Commission for Protection of Children the responsibility to adjudicate on such cases along with a judicial expert.
- It adds that returning a child to the place of habitual residence may result in sending the child to an inharmonious set-up as well as overlook the fact that a mother is the primary caregiver of the child.
- The panel has also emphasized the importance of the "**Indian family system**" in ensuring the best interest of the child, seemingly to question the logic behind returning the child to a place of habitual residence outside India.

Hague Adoption Convention

The Hague Convention of 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (**Hague Adoption Convention**) **protects children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared adoptions abroad**. This Convention, which operates through a system of national Central Authorities, reinforces the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 21) and seeks to ensure that intercountry adoptions are made in the best interests of the child and with respect for his or her fundamental rights. It also seeks to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or traffic in children.

United Nation Security Council

Why in News?

The UN General Assembly elected **South Africa, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Belgium** as non-permanent members of the powerful Security Council for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2019.

PEPPER IT WITH

Security Council reforms, ICJ, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNMOGIP, UNCITRAL

UNSC

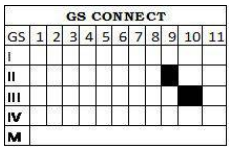
- The most powerful UN organ, the Security Council is responsible for determining the existence of a threat against peace and to respond to an

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

act of aggression. It is also responsible for finding peaceful means to settle a conflict or a dispute between states. In some cases, the Council can resort to sanctions or even authorise the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

- The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the UN Secretary General and the admission of new members to the UN.
- The Security Council has 15 members, including five permanent ones. **The five permanent members, each with the power of veto, are China, France, Russia, the UK and the US**. The 10 non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms each.
- The five non-permanent members are elected according to the following pattern: two seats for the Group of African states and the Group of Asia-Pacific states, one for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean states, and two seats for Western European and other states.

Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project

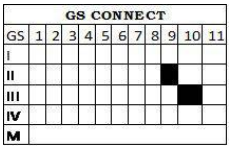


- India extended a financial aid of Rs 99 million to Nepal for the construction of 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems in 12 districts of the country's southern Terai region to boost agricultural productivity.
- **The assistance has been extended as part of the final payment for the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project, which was launched in January last year to boost growth to the Himalayan nation's agricultural sector through enhanced facilities**.
- The project would ensure **all-season irrigation facility** to about 8,115 hectares of farm land, augment productivity of wheat, rice and seasonal fruits, vegetables and other crops, it said.
- Recognising the scope for improving agricultural productivity in Nepal, India has been partnering with Nepal for development of Deep Tube Wells (DTWs) and Shallow Tube Wells (STWs) in various regions for several years.

PEPPER IT WITH

EPG on Indo Nepal relation, Surya Kiran, Arun-3 hydropower project, 1950 Indo-Nepal treaty

Assumption Island deal drifts



Why in News?

India and Seychelles agreed to work together on the Assumption Island project based on "each other's interests", days after reports from the island nation of it canceling the pact with India to jointly develop a naval base there. Discussions regarding development of Assumption Island began in 2003, but were formalised in 2015.

India is keen on developing the Assumption Island in the Indian Ocean as a naval base to expand its footprint in the strategically-key region where China has been trying to enhance its military presence. **The deal was to include a 20-year access to the base**, **as well as permission to station some military personnel on ground with facilities on the island funded by India**, **owned by the Seychelles and jointly managed by both sides**.

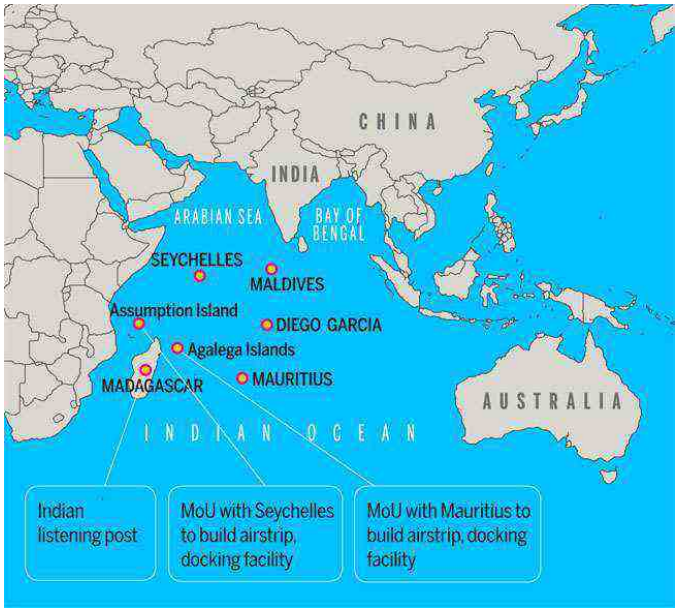
Noting that India and Seychelles share robust defence and security cooperation, India would hand over second Dornier aircraft to Seychelles as promised during Indian PM visit to seychelles in 2015.

Security setback

The decision by the Seychelles President earlier to drop the deal in the face of protests over a perceived loss of sovereignty is a blow to the government's "**SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region**) programme, announced by India during a visit to Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries in 2015.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

It also comes amid India's troubles with another IOR country, the Maldives, where the government has demanded that India withdraw two helicopters, pilots and personnel from its atolls that had been sent there to help with maritime patrols.



Attempts futile

- In an attempt to engage with the Opposition in the Seychelles that had led protests against the agreement, India had raised the issue with Leader of the Opposition who was a special guest at the PIO Parliamentary Conference this year.
- However, he rebuffed the Indian request, saying during a speech in New Delhi that "Seychelles would never accept any naval base of any country, be it the U.S. or India or any other".
- Naval officials pointed out that India's defence maritime cooperation with the Seychelles is long-standing and some of the upgrade work on Assumption Island was already under way. India in past has resurfaced the old airstrip on the island as part of the infrastructure development project worth over $500 million. If there is cancellation of the aggrement then it could have far-reaching implications.

Indian Ocean Rim Countries Cooperation (IORA)

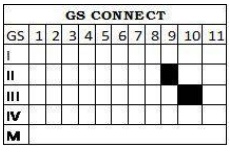
- **IORA was established in 1997 with a mandate to promote sustainable growth and balanced development in the region**. It is one of the most important regional platforms to carry forward the interests of member states to cooperate on development in the region.
- **IORA has 21-member** states which include Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, and Yemen.
- Historically, IORA focused on issues of maritime security, trade, cultural promotion, tourism and fisheries. However, in recent years, new and emerging issues for the better management and governance of Indian Ocean resources have begun taking shape. Such issues include blue economy development and sectoral integration.

PEPPER IT WITH

Solar Summit, Bhubaneshwar Declaration, SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) programme

SAARC fund

Why in News?



Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund **will soon be launching a social enterprise development programme** (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the 8-member states including India. SDF has already committed USD 73.74 million for social window projects as of date out of which it has disbursed USD 47 million to the member states for social window projects.

SDF was established by the Heads of the eight SAARC member states in 2010 and its Governing Council comprises finance ministers of these eight countries. It recently gave in-principle approval of two infrastructure projects in energy sector. These include waste to energy project in Sri Lanka with participation of India and hydropower project in Nepal with participation of Bangladesh and India.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Significance

SDF would create access to financial services which can in-turn boost job creation, raise income, reduce vulnerability and increase investments in human capital in -- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (SAARC members).

PEPPER IT WITH

South Asia Satellite, HDI, SAARC minus Pakistan, BIMSTEC, East Asia Summit

SAARC

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 **December 1985**.
- **It comprises of eight Member States (originally 7)**: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu in 1987.
- The objectives of the Association as outlined in the SAARC Charter are: to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life; to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials.
- **Decisions at all levels are to be taken on the basis of unanimity; and bilateral and contentious issues are excluded from the deliberations of the Association**.

Nuclear Suppliers Group

Why in News?

The twenty-eighth Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), was held in **Jūrmala, Latvia**.

GS CONNECT

GS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I											
II								■			
III									■		
IV											
M											

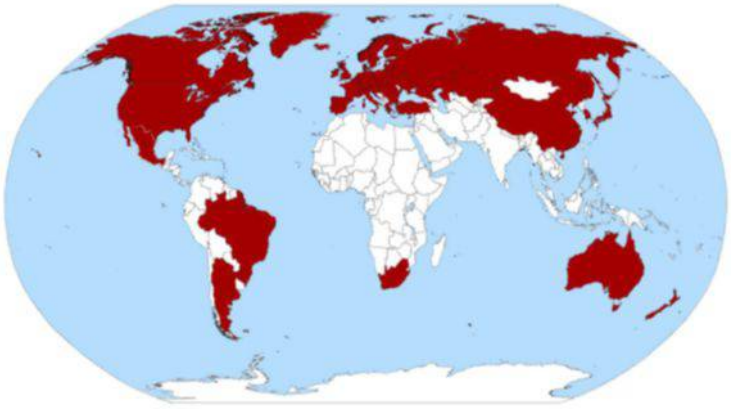
Highlights

- The NSG took stock of developments since the last meeting in Bern in 2017. In particular, Participating Governments exchanged information on global proliferation challenges and reiterated their **firm support for the full, complete and effective implementation of the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime**.

NSG Troika

The current NSG Chair, together with the previous and the future Chair, form the NSG Troika.

- On the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Participating Governments noted the developments in the DPRK since the 2017 NSG Plenary in Bern and reconfirmed their commitment to the United Nations Security Council resolutions and reaffirmed that the DPRK shall immediately abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.



- On Iran, the Participating Governments took note of the continued implementation by the **E3/EU+2 and the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA**).
- The Group noted that discussions were continuing on the issue of "Technical, Legal and Political Aspects of the Participation of Non-NPT States in the NSG" initiated at the 2016 Seoul Plenary.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

India

- **India is now a member of the MTCR, the wassenaar arrangement and Australian Group, three of four non-proliferation regimes**. The only one remaining is the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). India has managed entry into all three groups despite not being a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and despite China's attempts to stonewall its bid to enter the NSG.
- Since its civil nuclear deal with the US, India has been trying to get into export control regimes such as the NSG, the MTCR, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement that regulate the conventional, nuclear, biological and chemicals weapons and technologies.

UNISPACE+50

The international community gathered in Vienna for UNISPACE+50. UNISPACE+50 was to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It provided an opportunity for the international community to gather and consider the future course of global space cooperation for the benefit of humankind.

NSG

The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.

The NSG Guidelines also contain the so-called "**Non-Proliferation Principle," adopted in 1994**, whereby a supplier, notwithstanding other provisions in the NSG Guidelines, authorises a transfer only when satisfied that the transfer would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Non-Proliferation Principle seeks to cover the rare but important cases where adherence to the NPT or to a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty may not by itself be a guarantee that a State will consistently share the objectives of the Treaty or that it will remain in compliance with its Treaty obligations.

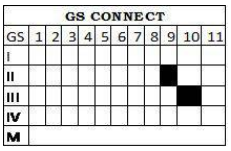
PEPPER IT WITH

Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement, Australia Group, JCPOA, Korea Crisis, NPT

U.S. withdraws from U.N. Human Rights Council

Why in News?

The United States announced that it was leaving the United Nations' Human Rights Council, calling it "an organization that is not worthy of its name." **US lambasted the council for "its chronic bias against Israel"** and lamented the fact that its membership includes accused human rights abusers such as China, Cuba, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo. US suggested the decision need not be permanent, adding that if the council did adopt reforms, "it would be happy to rejoin it."



The announcement came just a day after the U.N. human rights chief, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, denounced the Trump administration for separating migrant children from their parents.

The United States has opted to stay out of the Human Rights Council before: The George W. Bush administration opted against seeking membership when the council was created in 2006. **The U.S. joined the body only in 2009 under President Barack Obama**.

In the 12-year history of the council, no country has ever dropped out voluntarily. **Libya was kicked out seven years ago**.

US behaviour

- The move extends a broader Trump administration pattern of stepping back from international agreements and forums under the president's **"America First" policy**. Although numerous officials have said repeatedly that "America First does not mean America Alone," the

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

administration has retreated from multiple multilateral accords and consensuses since it took office.

- Since January 2017, **it has announced its withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, left the U.N. educational and cultural organization and pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal**. **Other contentious moves have included slapping tariffs on steel and aluminum against key trading partners, recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv**.

Analysis

- This decision is counterproductive to American national security and foreign policy interests and will make it more difficult to advance human rights priorities and aid victims of abuse around the world. But the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank close to the Trump administration, defended the move, calling the council "notably incurious about the human rights situations in some of the world's most oppressive countries."
- The move could reinforce the perception that the **Trump administration is seeking to advance Israel's agenda on the world stage**, just as it prepares to unveil its long-awaited Israeli-Palestinian peace plan despite Palestinian outrage over the embassy relocation.
- A full pullout by the U.S. would leave the council without one of its traditional defenders of human rights. In recent months, the United States has participated in attempts to pinpoint rights violations in places like South Sudan, Congo and Cambodia.
- The U.S. pullout was bound to have ripple effects for at least two countries at the council: China and Israel. **The U.S., as at other U.N. organizations, is Israel's biggest defender**. At the rights council, the United States has recently been the most unabashed critic of rights abuses in China, whose growing economic and diplomatic clout has chastened some other would-be critics, rights advocates say.

Human Rights Council (HRC)

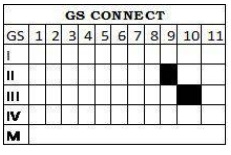
HRC is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. **It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva**. There are 47 countries in the Human Rights Council, elected by the U.N.'s General Assembly with a specific number of seats allocated for each region of the globe. Members serve for three-year terms and can serve only two terms in a row.

PEPPER IT WITH

UNHCR, UN trust fund, Semipalatinsk Nuclear Site, International Democracy Day, Secratary General of UN, UNCITRAL

U.S. postpones 2+2 dialogue with India

Why in News?



The much anticipated dialogue, between the defence and foreign ministers of India and the United States scheduled for July, was postponed. The Ministry of External Affairs said the message postponing the talks came from the U.S. The talks were expected to boost bilateral ease of ties in the backdrop of growing disagreement over the Iran nuclear deal and the brewing tariff war between the two sides. The high-level dialogue was designed to address bilateral issues following a summit-level meeting between President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister in 2017. Before the scheduled 2+2, External Affairs Minister Swaraj met her French counterpart where both sides agreed to "maintain" the Iran nuclear deal that allows for global trading with Tehran. Recent reports suggest that the U.S. has given a November deadline to Indian and Chinese companies that continue to trade with Iran disregarding U.S. Treasury's sanctions.

Reason for differences

- Since January, the U.S.'s Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act against those conducting business with Russia and Iran, as well as its decision to walk out of the

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Iran nuclear deal have come right up against India's interests. India has, in turn, tightened its engagement with Russia, China and Iran, with advocating a course of "**strategic autonomy**".

- On bilateral trade, hardly a week goes by without the U.S. and India firing one salvo or another. And on their strategic relationship, **upgraded to a 'major defence partnership' only recently**, the two governments have failed to make progress on signing foundational agreements, which in turn has held up talks on defence procurement and technology transfers.
- Unfortunately, one of the areas they had made good progress on, the U.S.'s South Asia policy, also appears to be in trouble. According to the policy announced about ten months ago, India was to be central to the U.S.'s efforts in Afghanistan while Pakistan would be 'put on notice' for its support to terror groups, including those that target India.
- The U.S. also sought to "greylist" Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force on terror financing. However, there are enough indications that Mr. Trump's South Asia policy is veering towards the U.S.'s Af-Pak policy of the past with the U.S. engaging Pakistan to help with Afghanistan, and India consigned a more supplementary role.
- Regardless of India's determination to go ahead with its dealings with Iran, the impact of American restrictions will be felt in Chabahar Port, once billed as India's gateway to Afghanistan, and a key component of its role in the U.S.'s South Asia policy.
- **During the previous U.S. administration's sanctions regime, India was able to get a 'carve out' for its port project and the railway line to Afghanistan through Zahedan**. But there is no indication that the Trump administration will offer any such exemptions. Besides, as India is made perforce to yield to the U.S. on cutting oil imports, the Iranian regime is likely to look with disfavour at India's engagement in Chabahar as well.

PEPPER IT WITH

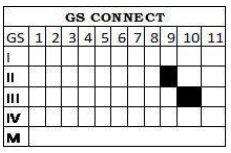
US Afghan Policy, Chabahar Port, CPEC, India major defence partner of US, FATF

Way Ahead

Clearly, none of these predicaments is new, and India has pulled the situation to its advantage in the past. The difference this time is that the India-U.S. dialogue is not as robust as before, while India's planned engagements with Russia, Iran and China in the next few months may render bilateral ties yet more difficult. Rescheduling the 2+2 at the earliest opportunity, in the face of the high stakes involved for both New Delhi and Washington, is crucial.

Greece financial crisis

Why in News?



Greece is "turning a page" after eurozone member states reached an agreement on the final elements of a plan to make its massive debt pile more manageable, ending an eight-year bailout programme.

The plan allows Greece to extend and defer repayments on part of its debt for another 10 years and gives it another €15bn in new credit. **But it means the government in Athens will have to stick to austerity measures and reforms, including high budget surpluses, for more than 40 years**. Adherence will be monitored quarterly.

Greece had received €275bn in financial support from its international creditors over the past eight years and twice came perilously close to being kicked out of the eurozone group. The International Monetary Fund had resolutely refused to sign up to the country's latest bailout unless eurozone creditors agreed to a restructuring that would ultimately make the debt sustainable.

PEPPER IT WITH

Brexit, Austerity Measures, IMF, Treaty of Maastricht, Treaty of Lisbon

Background

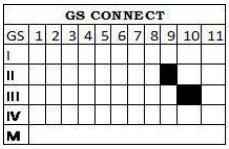
- Greece has been surviving primarily on loans from the eurozone since 2010, when it lost market access to funds because of a **ballooning budget deficit**, huge public debt and an underperforming economy, matched with an expansive welfare system.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- As fears mounted that it would crash out of the euro, the country was plunged into an unprecedented recession from which it is only now starting to recover, **posting economic growth of 1.9% this year after its economy shrank by more than 26% since 2010**.
- The crisis toppled four governments, obliging the current prime minister, Alexis Tsipras, to force through tough changes to balance the books. Wages have fallen by nearly 20% since 2010, with pensions and other welfare payments cut by 70% in the same period. The size of the public sector has been reduced by 26%.
- Unemployment has dropped slightly but remains very high at 20%, with youth unemployment at an alarming 43%, sending thousands of young Greeks abroad.
- At almost 180% of GDP, Greece is burdened with the highest debt load in Europe. The €320bn debt mountain is widely recognised as the single biggest obstacle to economic recovery.

COMCASA

Why in News?



A US military negotiating team was in Delhi recently to respond to Indian objections and formulate a mutually acceptable text for the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement.

COMCASA

COMCASA is meant to provide a legal framework for the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India that would facilitate "interoperability" between their forces and potentially with other militaries that use US-origin systems for secured data links. The general agreement signed by the US is called the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) but the name was changed to COMCASA to reflect its India-specific nature.

It is part of a set of three military agreements that the US considers "foundational" for a functional military relationship. In 2016, India had signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), which allows the military of each country to replenish from the other's bases. **Negotiations on the third agreement, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA), have not yet begun**.

The American push

US officials contend that COMCASA will facilitate the use of high-end secured communication equipment to be installed on military platforms being sold to India, and fully exploit their potential. India's armed forces, they argue, are currently dependent on less secure, commercially available communication systems on high-end American platforms like C-130Js and the P8I maritime surveillance aircraft. These platforms are, therefore, unable to share data in real time with other friendly militaries using American platforms, besides creating problems of interoperability during training exercises and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

BECA agreement would set up a framework with which the US will be able to share sensitive data to aid targeting and navigation with India.

The signing of COMCASA, however, becomes imperative if India is to get the armed version of the Sea Guardian drones from the US. New Delhi has been intimated by the American officials that the high-end drones are critically dependent on a highly secure data and communication system link. The US granted India the status of Major Defence Partner in the final days of the Obama administration to facilitate transfer of high-end defence technology. Signing the foundational agreements would underline that status, beside making the transfer of American defence technology possible to India.

India's concerns

New Delhi is believed to be concerned about intrusive American access to Indian military communication systems, and about the violation of Indian sovereignty due to visits by US inspectors to Indian bases to inspect the COMCASA-safeguarded equipment. There is also a fear

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

that a lot of Russian-origin and indigenous Indian military platforms may not be compatible with COMCASA.

LEMOA

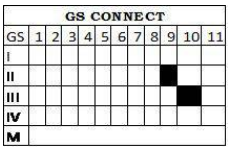
- LEMOA stands for Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), a tweaked India-specific version of the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), which the U.S. has with several countries it has close military to military cooperation. It is also one of the three foundational agreements — as referred to by the U.S.
- **LEMOA gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refuelling and replenishment**. India and the U.S. already hold large number of joint exercises during which payments are done each time, which is a long and tedious process.
- **The agreement primarily cover four areas: port calls, joint exercises, training and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**. Any other requirement has to be agreed upon by both sides on a case-by-case basis.
- But it is not a basing agreement. **There will be no basing of the U.S. troops or assets on Indian soil**. This is purely a logistical agreement.

PEPPER IT WITH

Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology, Guadian Unmanned Aerial System, NISAR mission, Global Entrepreneurship Summit

OPEC agrees to lift output

Why in News?



Oil prices rose almost 3% as OPEC agreed to a modest increase in output to compensate for losses in production at a time of rising global demand.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), meeting in Vienna, agreed to boost output from July after its **de facto leader Saudi Arabia** persuaded arch-rival Iran to cooperate in efforts to reduce the crude price and avoid a supply shortage. But the real increase will be smaller because several countries that recently underproduced oil will struggle to return to full quotas while other producers will not be allowed to fill the gap.

- Analysts had expected OPEC to announce a real increase in production of 5,00,000 to 6,00,000 barrels per day, which would help ease tightness in the oil market without creating a glut.
- Oil prices have been on a roller-coaster ride over the last few years, with Brent trading above $100 a barrel for several years until 2014, dropping to almost $26 in 2016 and then recovering to more than $80 last month.
- The group started withholding supply in 2017 and this year, amid strong demand, the market tightened significantly, triggering calls by consumers for higher supply. **Declining production in Venezuela and Libya, as well as the risk of lower output from Iran as a result of U.S. sanctions, have all increased market worries of a supply shortage**.

India is among almost 90 countries in the world without national policies in place that ensure new fathers get adequate paid time off with their newborn babies, according to a new UNICEF analysis.

OPEC

- OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, **created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**.
- OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence. This was moved to Vienna, Austria in 1965.

PEPPER IT WITH

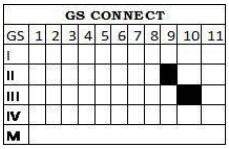
ONGC, Krishna Godavari basin, RasGas Qatar, Deregulation of diseal, Give it up movement, PNG, GAIL, Urga Ganga

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- OPEC's objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- Organization has a total of **15 Member Countries**, i.e Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Qatar, Indonesia, Libya, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Nigeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Congo.

Charlevoix G7 Summit 2018

Why in News?



Group of Seven, often abbreviated as G7, is a group consisting of Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. These countries considered to be the seven largest economies of the world that constitute more than 62 percent of the global net wealth. Moreover, **these countries represent 46 percent of the global GDP**, depending on the nominal value and nearly percent of the global GDP based on purchasing power capacity.
The 44th summit will be held in June 2018, in Quebec, Canada. This will be the sixth time since 1981 that the meetings were held in Canada.

Matters at the summit

Every year few international issues which need to be tackled are taken into account and policies are formed around them. Canada has put forward the following 5 themes for this year's summit-

- Investing in growth that works for everyone
- Preparing for jobs of the future
- Working together on climate change, oceans and clean energy
- Building a more peaceful and secure world
- Advancing gender equality and impacting women's empowerment

The five African states Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, and Tunisia are key players in the Mediterranean migration crisis, as countries of origin or transit for hundreds of thousands of migrants attempting to reach Europe via perilous crossings of the Mediterranean.

U.S at G7

G7 nations risked unprecedented deadlock as US resisted pressure to sign up to joint positions on hot-button issues such as climate change, trade and migration. The United States' closest allies attacked the Trump administration for imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and mounted challenges with the world's top trade body, fouling the mood at a G7 finance leaders meeting.

The U.S. tariffs of 25 % on imports of steel and 10 % on aluminum were imposed on Canada, Mexico and the European Union after they refused to accept steel and aluminum quotas in negotiations with U.S.

GENDER EQUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

For the first time in the last 44 years, **the G7 will have a Gender Equality Advisory Council.** The aim of the council is to convince private sector companies to set up such council and eradicate the problem of gender inequality from the root.

PEPPER IT WITH

G7, G8, G10, G15, G20, G24, NATO, SCO, Quadilateral Meeting, RCEP, MTCR

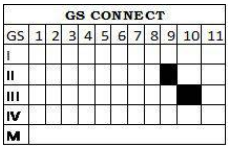
G6 plus one

After the US imposed trade tariffs on some of its closest allies, a situation may arise where some countries do not sign the agreement. It would be the first time in 44 years if such a situation is created because of Trump's policies, which has led to a feeling of growing frustration. Many people are calling it the "G6 plus one" Summit as the United States happens to be the odd one out.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

Why in News?



India has pledged USD 5 million in assistance to the UN agency **working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees** to help bolster its "severe funding crisis" following US' cut in its annual aid to UNRWA.

A total of 20 countries, including India, announced contributions to the 2018 budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East during a meeting, as officials called for stable financing for the agency amid devastating conflicts and violence in the Middle East.

The agency's financial situation became catastrophic due to the sudden loss of USD 300 million in voluntary contributions. The Trump administration withhold USD 65 million of USD 125 million it had planned to send to UNRWA. **UNRWA relies almost entirely on voluntary contributions from states and the US is the largest contributor**. UNRWA has been providing health, education, relief and social services, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, to some 5.3 million Palestinian refugees across its five fields of operation — Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

UNRWA

- Following the **1948 Arab-Israeli conflict**, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees.
- The Agency began operations in 1950. In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed **UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2020**.
- UNRWA receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.
- The Agency's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict.
- UNRWA is unique in terms of its long-standing commitment to one group of refugees. It has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees, defined as "**persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict**. The descendants of Palestine refugee males, including legally adopted children, are also eligible for registration.

QS World University Rankings

IIT-Bombay has improved its position from 179 to 162 this year, while the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has moved to 170th rank from 190. IIT-Kanpur has moved up to 283 from 293 last year, while IIT-Kharagpur is now at 295 compared to 308 the previous year.

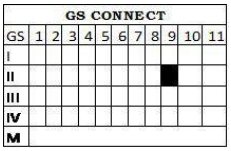
The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has made a rapid stride up in the QS World University Rankings, by figuring in 591-600 range when compared to last year's position in the range of 601 and 650.

PEPPER IT WITH

Jerusalem, Israel-Palestine conflict, Dead Sea, Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, Zionism, West Bank

Odisha beach is Asia's first to get 'Blue Flag' tag

Why in News?



The **Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification, the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches**, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists. It was awarded the honour on World Environment Day on June 5.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

To achieve the Blue Flag standards, a beach must be plastic-free and equipped with a waste management system. Clean water should be available for tourists, apart from international amenities. The beach should have facilities for studying the environmental impact around the area. To achieve the Blue Flag standards, a beach had to strictly comply with 33 environment and tourism-related conditions. **The standards were established by the Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985**. The Environment Ministry embarked on the Blue Flag project in December 2017.

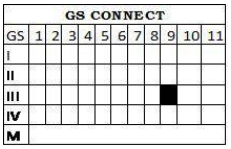
Blue Flag

- Blue Flag programme is **operated under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark**. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained.
- Through close collaboration with members on any issues they may have, the Foundation for Environmental Education works tirelessly to ensure the programme's expansion, and that the unrivalled standards of the Blue Flag are maintained internationally.
- Twelve more beaches in the country are being developed by the **Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM), an Environment Ministry's body working for the management of coastal areas, in accordance with the Blue Flag standards**.
- Among them are the Chiwla and Bhogave beaches in Maharashtra and one beach each from Puducherry, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

PEPPER IT WITH

Global Forest Fund,
REDD, REDD+, GEF, GCF

Environment Ministry, Teri Sign MOU



- In the run up to World Environment Day, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched a number of initiatives to support the MoEFCC focus on waste management and resource efficiency.
- MoEFCC and TERI entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up a resource efficiency cell in the Ministry. **The main objectives of the Cell are to provide a platform to mainstream resource efficiency in public policy**.
- It aims to achieve this through coordinated thinking among the various relevant Ministries and agencies for promoting resource efficiency in the use of materials in the country. It also aims to ensure a 'systems' thinking based on materials, products and processes, apart from enabling the preparation of an overarching resource efficiency policy for India and coordinated sectoral policies and regulatory mechanisms.
- At the event hosted by TERI, **the European Union and MoEFCC also signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) to support the implementation of the EU Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI) Project in India**, with a specific objective to foster the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources in India.

MYCORRHIZAE

- Mycorrhizal fungi have existed since the first plants appeared on dry land more than 450 million years ago. They form a close symbiotic relationship with plant roots. They are called mycorrhizae from the Greek "mukés", meaning fungus, and "rhiza," meaning roots.
- Mycorrhizae form a network of filaments that associate with plant roots and draw nutrients from the soil that the root system would not be able to access otherwise. This fungus-plant alliance stimulates plant growth and accelerates root development.

TERI paper on 'Opportunities and Challenges of Plastics Waste Management'

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- As per the findings, the paper states that the annual average per capita consumption of plastic in India is about 11 kgs. Further, **households generate maximum plastic waste, of which water and soft drink bottles form a large number**. In terms of plastic in water bodies, seas near Mumbai, Kerala and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are among the worst polluted in the world.
- The paper highlights how effective collection and recycling could lead to an overall reduction of waste, cost, and energy consumption, and also effectively reduce GHG (Green House Gas) emissions. It also focuses upon the need to promote the use of biodegradable plastic, especially in high-end large-scale applications, which can help in pushing bioplastics from labs to markets.
- **The paper emphasizes the role of Urban Local Bodies to set up decentralized Material Recovery Facilities** and corporates to adopt Extended User Responsibility to collect back packaging waste generated from their products.
- An industry consortium on '**Waste-Proofing the Future'** to identify the institutional and policy interventions needed to sustainably manage waste was launched at the event.

Significance

It is the first time that stakeholders from diverse sectors have come together for the cause of waste management. The roadmap for the consortium will be to create a supply chain for various types of wastes so that there is a business case for all stakeholders. **To begin with waste collection points will also be set up in schools through KidZania, and policy research will be conducted on varied issues for better implementation**.

India generates an estimated 32 million metric tons of packaging waste each year, of which plastic constitutes 16 per cent. The unorganised collection of waste leads to cherry-picking of wastes, with only 14% of plastic packaging being collected for recycling.

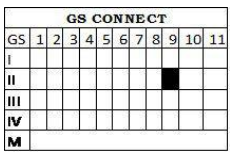
PEPPER IT WITH

TERI, World Sustainable Development Summit, TERI University, GRIHA, Green School Project

Between 2010 and 2020, India's demand for various materials is estimated to increase from US $1.4 trillion to US $5 trillion. In such a scenario, improving resource-use efficiency will be very important in delinking economic growth and human wellbeing from ever-increasing consumption of natural resources and the resultant environmental impacts. **Resource efficiency encompasses a wide variety of technology, process, policy and institutional issues along the various stages (design, manufacturing, refurbishment, and end-of-life) of product life cycles, including the three 'R's - reduce, reuse, and recycle**.

Ganga Praharis

Why in News?



A new grassroot-level volunteer workforce is out to protect the bio-diversity of river Ganga called Ganga Praharis. **A group of 427 trained volunteers are reaching to each and every house in areas along river Ganga to educate them about the importance of protecting river's bio-diversity**. They are spread over Ganga basin states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

Roped-in by Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun as part of the "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation" project being sponsored by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the aegis of the Namami Gange programme, **these Ganga Praharis are well trained in ecological monitoring of Ganga aqua life, plantation techniques, awareness creation and community mobilization**. They were trained through a series of national, state and site level workshops in diverse skills such as ecological surveys, rescue and rehabilitation of aquatic species, awareness meetings, social interactions and green livelihood skills.

Significance

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- The Ganga Praharis will be linked to various local environmental authorities, non-governmental stakeholders in their respective states and various other national, academic and research institutions for their capacity development.
- Not only do these Ganga Praharis performing the task of conserving the deteriorating biodiversity of river Ganga, **they are also motivating other people to spread the clean Ganga message, thus, contributing in making clean Ganga mission a mass movement**.
- **The Ganga Praharis will be the role models in inspiring other members** of the community to join hands in the efforts for conservation of the biodiversity of river Ganga. Thus, each Prahari shall work on the model of '**Each One Make Ten'**.
- Ganga Praharis of the five main stem Ganga basin states will be linked through mobile applications such as **Bhuvan Ganga app, my gov app and Swachhta app** thereby creating a broad network among them.
- Some of the activities that Ganga Praharis are regularly involved in are Shram Daan, Ghat Cleaning, Awareness Campaigns, Plantation Drives and coordination with local administration. Ganga Praharis are playing a crucial role in reporting and rescuing of aquatic wildlife in distress, reporting of illegal activities like poaching etc.

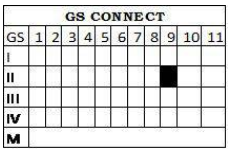
President Ramnath Kovind visited Tripura during which he declared the 'Queen' variety of pineapple as the state fruit.

PEPPER IT WITH

Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Namami Gange program

Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a new Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS) to provide probabilistic **weather forecasts up to the next 10 days**. These new systems, according to IMD, shall improve upon deterministic forecasts that are prone to high margins of error. The EPS involves generation of multiple forecasts using slightly varying initial conditions.



The 450-crore acquisition of eight petaflops high-power computing systems will help in generating newer forecasts which have a higher resolution of 12km instead of the 23km resolution that has been in use. The new ensemble will tell us the probability of rainfall according to its intensity and volume, this will be colour coded for ease of interpretation. **The new model has been developed jointly by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting**.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) plans to approach multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to create a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to specifically finance solar projects. **This SPV aimed at financing $150 billion would become a World Solar Bank**.

Significance

- **Accurate forecasts will help farmers prevent damage to crops and aid administration in taking preventive measures before the onset of harsh weather patterns**. Ministry of Earth Sciences has adopted the ensemble forecasting system, which provides not one but a collection of weather patterns for specific locations.
- The probabilistic forecasts of severe weather events at 12 km grid scale across India will help disaster management authorities in making better emergency response decisions. However, this system will not be very helpful when it comes to predicting thunderstorms, the likes of which we have seen across the country recently, as these are **mesoscale weather phenomena (limited to a small geography) and not well captured even with 12km grid scale**.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

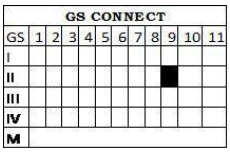
- Over the past few years, IMD has been trying to augment atmospheric and ocean observing systems in the region by improving high-performance computational capability to 8.0 petaflops and implementing high-resolution global models and advanced data assimilation techniques.
- With this new model, India joins the US with a model that predicts with a 12 km resolution. **Only the 'European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast' has a, better, nine-kilometer resolution**. Better forecasts lead to better management agriculture and water resources. It also helps promote tourism, solar and wind energy.

PEPPER IT WITH

IMD, Subtropical Jet Stream, Tropical Easterly Jet (African Easterly Jet), Inter Tropical Convergence Zone, EL-Nino, ENSO, DRIP, Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA), Dam Safety Bill

NITI Aayog preparing roadmap for full-scale methanol economy

Why in News?



The NITI Aayog announced that it is working on a roadmap for full-scale implementation of methanol economy in the country in near future, **which would not only curb pollution, but reduce India's dependence on oil imports as well**.

On the World Environment Day, the government think-tank said it had already drawn out a comprehensive plan to replace 20 per cent of crude imports using methanol alone, adding that adopting methanol in such a scale would bring down pollution in the country by more than 40 per cent. Field trials are under way for India to adopt 15 per cent blending of methanol in transportation sector.

4th International Yoga Day was celebrations on 21st June 2018 at Dehradun in Uttrakhand.

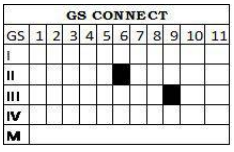
Benefits

- Indian Railways alone burns three billion litres of diesel every year and plans were in place to convert 6,000 diesel engines to work on 100 per cent methanol and make railways a carbon neutral organisation.
- India by adopting methanol can have its own indigenous fuel at the cost of approximately Rs 19 per litre, at least 30 per cent cheaper than any available fuel.
- Methanol fuel can result in great environmental benefits and can be the answer to the burning urban pollution issue. At least 20 per cent diesel consumption can be reduced in next five to seven years and will result in a savings of Rs 26,000 crore annually.
- Rs 6000 crore can be annually saved from reduced bill in LPG in the next three years itself.
- The Methanol blending program with petrol will further reduce our fuel bill by at least Rs 5,000 crore annually in next three years.
- Methanol is a scalable and sustainable fuel that can be produced from a variety of feedstocks like natural gas, coal, bio-mass, municipal solid waste and even carbon dioxide.
- The concept of methanol economy is being actively pursued by China, Italy, Sweden, Israel, US, Australia, Japan and many European countries. 10 per cent of fuel in China in transport sector is methanol.

PEPPER IT WITH

BS norms, Ethanol blending program, National biofuel policy, 2G ethanol bio-refinery, Food Fortification

Ministry of Water Resources accepts two major irrigation and four flood management projects from six states



The Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has accepted two major irrigation/multipurpose projects and four flood management schemes/master plans with a cumulative cost of Rs. 84,748 Crores from six States/ UT.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Irrigation

The **Kaleshwaram Project of Telangana** with an estimated cost of Rs. 80190.46 Crores involves diversion of 195 TMC of Godavari water to irrigate about 18.25 lakh acres of land in 13 districts (out of total 31 districts) of Telangana.

PEPPER IT WITH

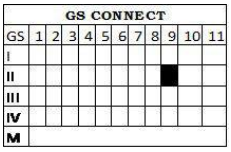
North Koel Reservoir project, SAUNI project, Drip irrigation, Sprinkler irrigation, Canal irrigation

The **Upper Pravara (Nilwande-II) Project** of Maharashtra with an estimated cost of Rs. 2232.62 Crores will irrigate an area of 2,12,758 acres and provide drinking water to the tune of 13.15 MCM**.**

Flood Management

The Mahananda Flood Management Scheme (Phase-II) of Bihar, Seer Khad Project of Himachal Pradesh, Yanam Flood Protection Works of Union Territory Puducherry and Ghatal Master Plan (Phase-I) of West Bengal were accepted in the meeting. These projects will provide flood protection to about 13,58,000 persons and save about 4,51,750 acres of area from flooding.

World Ocean Day 2018



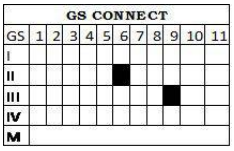
- By its resolution of 5 December 2008, the **UN General Assembly designated 8 June as World Oceans Day**.
- The purpose of the Day is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.
- **Action focus for 2018: preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean**.
- The concept of a 'World Oceans Day' was first proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro as a way to celebrate our world's shared ocean and our personal connection to the sea, as well as to raise awareness about the crucial role the ocean plays in our lives and the important ways people can help protect it.
- UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) sponsors the World Ocean Network, which has since 2002 been instrumental in building support for ocean awareness events on 8 June.

PEPPER IT WITH

World Day Against Child Labour

Composite Water Management Index

Why in News?



In pursuit of cooperative and competitive federalism, NITI Aayog has been laying emphasis on developing indicators on various social sectors. So keeping in view the criticality of water for life, **NITI Aayog has prepared a report on Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)**.

The CWMI is an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States/ Union Territories in efficient management of water resources. This has been done through a first of its kind water data collection exercise in partnership with Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation and all the States/ Union Territories. The index would provide useful information for the States and also for the concerned Central Ministries/Departments enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources. Simultaneously a web portal on the subject has also been launched.

Highlights

- The report released ranks, Gujarat as number one in the reference year (2016-17), followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Tripura has been adjudged number 1 in 2016-17 followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- In terms of incremental change in index (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan holds number one position in general States and Tripura ranks at first position amongst North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- **NITI Aayog proposes to publish these ranks on an annual basis in future**.

About Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)

- CWMI has been developed by NITI Aayog **comprising 9 broad sectors with 28 different indicators covering various aspects of ground water, restoration of water bodies, irrigation, farm practices, drinking water, policy and governance**.
- For the purposes of analysis, the reporting states were divided into two special groups – 'North Eastern and Himalayan states' and 'Other States', to account for the different hydrological conditions across these groups.

Analysis

- ✓ The CWMI document has ranked India's states (**except Jammu and Kashmir**). However, the report did not contain any details on how this ranking scheme was arrived at nor did it clarify whether certain critical parameters were included.
- ✓ The NITI Aayog **should also consider including data and analysis about water productivity, water-use efficiency, crop water demand, drinking water supply rates, quality of supply, health indicators and environmental impacts**.
- ✓ It is an acknowledged fact that water shortage in the future will not be the result of non-availability of water but that of a lack of good-quality water. Against this backdrop, the CWMI should not stop at ranking states (which itself is biased) but will also need to help isolate unproductive investments, identify critical interventions and assess impact on the environment. And to enable these outcomes, the CWMI will need to be redesigned, even re-conceived, by altering some of its fundamentals.

The President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, identified sustainable development as a priority. Therefore, on World Water Day, 22 March 2018, he launched the **International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028** aiming to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

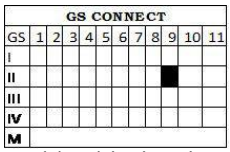
It aims to create a solid platform to advance cooperation and partnerships at all levels, and put a greater focus on the integrated management of water resources.

PEPPER IT WITH

NITI Aayog, National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, Water index, Healthy States, Progressive India, India Innovation Index, SEQI

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 17 June



Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. It is caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations. **Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts**. It occurs because dryland ecosystems, which cover over one third of the world's land area, are extremely vulnerable to overexploitation and inappropriate land use. Poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing and bad irrigation practices can all undermine the productivity of the land.

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. **2018 Theme of world day to combat desertification is "Land has true value – invest in it**."

Chrysilla volupes

Scientists rediscovered after 150 years a rare species of spider, which was believed have become extinct, from the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) located in the Western Ghats region of Kerala.

It had been described the inventory of a species of spider from Pariej Lake in Gujarat in 1868. But subsequently it had vanished.

The spider belonged to the family of jumping spiders (Salticidae) and scientifically named as Chrysilla volupes.

Unlocking women's transformative potential: The Gender Action Plan

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) recently created a new plan to support and enhance gender-responsive policy needs. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) that will increase and strengthen the participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making and local implementation of the UNCCD, including drought management as well as sand and dust storms and land degradation neutrality interventions, with the aim to reach gender parity by 2030.

UNCCD

Established in 1994, the United Nations to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

PEPPER IT WITH

Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention On Persistent Organic Pollutants, Rotterdam Convention, Bonn Conventionm, Minamata Convention, Benzene Convention.

As the dynamics of land, climate and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources.

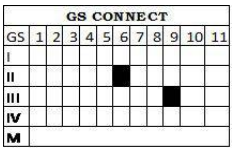
Desertification and the Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development declares that "we are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations". Specifically, Goal 15 states our resolve to halt and reverse land degradation.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Google flood forecasting

Why in News?



Central Water Commission (CWC), **India's apex technical organization in the field of Water Resources, has entered into a Collaboration Agreement with Google**. CWC would use state-of-the-art advances made by Google in the in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and geo spatial mapping for effective management of water resources particularly in the field of flood forecasting and dissemination of flood related information to the masses widely using the dissemination platforms developed by Google. This initiative is likely to help crisis management agencies to deal extreme hydrological events in a better manner.

Under this Agreement, CWC and Google will share technical expertise in the fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning, geospatial mapping and analysis of hydrological observation data to collaborate on

i. Improving flood prediction systems, which will help provide location-targeted, actionable flood warnings
ii. High priority research project utilizing Google Earth Engine to help visualize and improve flood management
iii. A cultural project to build online exhibitions on the Rivers of India.

National Hydrology Project

The Ministry had earlier launched an ambitious programme '**National Hydrology Project' (NHP) during the year 2016-17**. **NHP is a World Bank assisted central sector scheme with pan India coverage**. The objective of National Hydrology Project is to improve the extent, quality, and accessibility of water resources information, decision support system for floods and basin level resource assessment/planning and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resources professionals and management institutions in India.

Significance

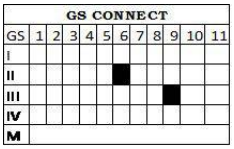
- The initiative on flood forecasting is likely to meet the much awaited demand of the inhabitants of the flood prone areas for inundation warnings with sufficient lead time. Till 2016, CWC was disseminating flood levels with maximum lead time of one day. **During the flood season of 2017, CWC resorted to rainfall based modelling and issued flood advisories on trial basis with 3 days lead time**.
- Under collaborative arrangement, **Google would use high resolution Digital Elevation Model and vast computational resources and its expertise in the field of Artificial Intelligence to generate flood inundation maps utilising the level forecast input provided by CWC**. The information in the form of likely extent and depth of inundation would be disseminated with a lead time of up to 3 days.
- **For the flood season of 2018, inundation forecasting would be done on trial basis and the same would be up scaled in near future**. The collaborative arrangement is likely to result in saving of crore of rupees which otherwise would have to be spent by the government on acquiring high resolution DEM, high end computational resources and developing dissemination platforms widely used by the masses.
- This would enable the Government as well as disaster management organisations to identify well in advance the locations and population, which are at risk from floods and require warnings and information. This collaborative initiative is expected to be a milestone in flood management and in mitigating the flood losses.

PEPPER IT WITH

Brillo, Spinoff, Internet of Things, Search Bias, Tez, Google collaboration with NCERT and NITI Aayog

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Government declares national targets for off-shore wind power



The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy recently invited Expressions of Interest (EoI) for the first 1 GW offshore wind project in India, which has evoked keen response from the industry both global and Indian. **Now to give confidence to the wind industry, the Ministry has declared medium and long term target for off-shore wind power capacity additions**, which are 5 GW by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030.

While this may look moderate in comparison to India's on-shore wind target of 60 GW and its achievement of 34 GW and solar target of 100 GW by 2022, this would still be challenging considering the difficulties in installing large wind power turbines in open seas. **It may be mentioned that offshore wind turbines are of much larger dimensions and capacities than onshore turbines**. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy had notified National Off-Shore Wind Policy in October 2015 to realize the offshore wind power potential in the country.

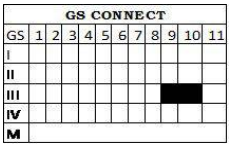
Work done towards this goal

- Offshore wind power would add a new element to the already existing basket of renewable energy for the country.
- Preliminary studies have indicated **good wind potential for off-shore wind power both in southern tip of Indian peninsula and west coast**.
- For precise wind quality measurements one LiDAR has been installed near Gujarat coast which is generating data about quality of off-shore wind since November 2017. Encouraged by quality of off-shore wind, a private sector player has also installed LiDAR in Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat for offshore wind resource measurements. Plans are afoot to install more of such equipment in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
- Surveys to understand the oceanographic and sea bed condition within identified zones off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been planned. Globally there has been installation of about 17 to 18 GW of off-shore wind power led by countries such as UK, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands & China. Recent years have witnessed fall in off-shore wind tariff in some of these markets.

PEPPER IT WITH

Global Wind Summit, ISA, IREDA, Shakti Sthala, Solar City Scheme, Solar Development Fund

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018



Why in News?

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 highlights progress being made in many areas of the 2030 Agenda.

Background

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution that set an agenda for the world to build towards a future that is sustainable. **'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', as it was called, set out 17 clearly articulated global goals, popularly called the Sustainable Development Goals**, or SDGs for short. And in the two-and-a-half years since, one has seen a lot of buzz around these goals, and the **169 targets within**, and the diagrammatic representation of the SDGs, with their nifty iconography, has popped up in many reports.

The Centre has handed over the **Deocha-Pachami coal mines**, said to be second largest coal block in the world, to the West Bengal government. The coal block, located in Birbhum district, is spread over an area of almost 9 sq. km. and has been a bone of contention between the two governments for a while now.

Highlights of the Report

- A fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, persistent pockets of poverty and hunger and rapid urbanization are challenging countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- It found that **conflict and climate change were major contributing factors leading to growing numbers of people facing hunger and forced displacement**, as well as curtailing progress towards universal access to basic water and sanitation services.
- For the first time in more than a decade, there are now approximately 38 million more hungry people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. **According to the report, conflict is now one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries**. In 2017, the world experienced the costliest North Atlantic hurricane season on record, driving the global economic losses attributed to the disasters to over $300 billion.
- At the same time, the Report found that more people are leading better lives than they were just a decade ago. The proportion of the world's workers living with their families on less than 1.90 per person a day declined significantly over the past two decades, falling from 26.9 per cent in 2000 to 9.2 per cent in 2017.
- **The under-five mortality rate dropped by almost 50 per cent and in the least developed countries**, the proportion of population with access to electricity has more than doubled between 2000 and 2016. However, in 2015, 2.3 billion people still lacked even a basic level of sanitation service and 892 million people continued to practice open defecation.
- Rates of child marriage have continued to decline around the world. In Southern Asia, a girl's risk of marrying in childhood has dropped by over 40 per cent between 2000 and 2017.
- Nine out of 10 people living in cities breathe polluted air. In 2016, the absolute number of people living without electricity dropped below the symbolic threshold of one billion. Land degradation threatens the livelihoods of over one billion people.

PEPPER IT WITH

SDGs, MDGs, UN-India partnership fund, SDG Index, Indo-German centre for sustainability, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhayay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana

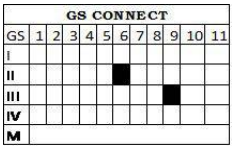
Way Forward

Without evidence of where we stand now we cannot confidently chart our path forward in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. **To that end, this report also reflects on the challenges faced in the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of reliable, timely, accessible and sufficiently disaggregated data, and calls for better evidence-based policymaking**. Today's technology makes it possible to collate the data we need to keep the promise to leave no one behind. But, we need political leadership, resources and commitment to use the tools now available.

With just 12 years left to the 2030 deadline, we must inject a sense of urgency. **Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires immediate and accelerated actions by countries along with collaborative partnerships among governments and stakeholders at all levels**. This ambitious Agenda necessitates profound change that goes beyond business as usual. In doing its part, the United Nations has launched reform initiatives to reposition the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The objective is to be more effective, cohesive and accountable. All countries should stand ready to work with all Member States to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for everyone, everywhere.

Chilika Lake

Why in News?



The Airports Authority of India has proposed to set up a water aerodrome in Chilika Lake for starting amphibious aircraft operations in Odisha.

A pre-feasibility study has already been completed. The Chilika Development Authority, the apex regulatory authority for Chilika Lake, has been asked to submit its opinion about the project.

Hurdles

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

The project will most likely face a green hurdle. **For six months between October and March, Chilika turns into a temporary habitat for lakhs of migratory and residential birds**. If an aircraft flies at low height, there is every chance of the birds getting hit. While the bird population will be in danger, safety of passengers of amphibious aircraft will also be jeopardised.

Noise pollution generated by close to 10,000 boats has already taken a toll on the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins in the lake. The amphibious aircraft operation would add to the woes. As many as 155 endangered Irrawaddy dolphins were spotted in Chilika, **which is the single largest habitat of this species in the world.**

French water and waste group Veolia has opened what it says is Europe's first recycling plant for solar panels and aims to build more as thousands of tonnes of ageing solar panels are set to reach the end of their life in coming years. **The new plant is located in Rousset, southern France**.

CHILIKA LAKE

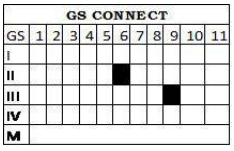
- Asia's largest brackish water lagoon is nestled in the heart of the coastal Odisha. **It extends from Bhusandpur in Puri district in the North to Rambha-Malud in Ganjan district in the South**, separated from the Bay of Bengal by a 60 km long narrow strip of marshy islands and sand-flats.
- Because of its rich bio-diversity and socio-economic importance, Chilika was designated as a Ramsar site in 1981 to afford better protection.
- Chilika is recognized as one of the most important wetlands in the world because it is home to a phenomenal variety of birds. The lake and its reed islands teem with nesting birds-white bellied sea eagles, ospreys, golden plovers, sand pipers, flamingos, pelicans, shovellers, gulls, include migratory ones flying great distances from Iran, Central Asia and Siberia.
- Located on an island in the Chilika Lake, Kalijai Temple is one of the famous attractions. **The temple worships Goddess Kalijai**. The deity is highly revered among the locals as well as in their folklores and fables.
- The large Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds) covering about 16 sq km in the lagoon area was declared a bird sanctuary in 1987. Another major attraction at Chilika is Irrawady dolphins which are often spotted off Satpada Island.

PEPPER IT WITH

Irrawady dolphins, Dal Lake, Kolleru lake, Pulicat Lake, Sambhar lake, Wular lake

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Why in News?



Playing a crucial role to mitigate climate change and other environmental challenges across the globe, **India announced that it will increase for the next four years the money it pays to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a mechanism to provide grants for environmental projects**.

India, among the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, **is both a donor and a recipient of GEF**.

GEF

The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided over $17.9 billion in grants and mobilized an additional $93.2 billion in co-financing for more than 4500 projects in 170 countries. **Today, the GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues**.

India in the GEF Council represents Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, besides her home country.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

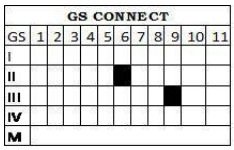
The GEF provides funding to assist developing countries in meeting the objectives of international environmental conventions. **The GEF serves as "financial mechanism" to five conventions, which are Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and Minamata Convention on Mercury**.

PEPPER IT WITH

GEF Trust Fund, Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), International Fund for Agricultural Development, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Minamata Convention

Aldabra Giant Tortoises

Why in News?



A pair of Aldabra Giant Tortoises, brought to India as a gift from the President of Seychelles, was handed over to the Nehru Zoological Park (Hyderabad).

Aldabra Giant Tortoises

The Aldabra Giant Tortoise is a giant species of Tortoise **native to the Aldabra Islands in the Indian ocean. The Aldabra giant tortoise is one of the largest species of Tortoise on the planet and is also one of the world's longest living animals**, with one Aldabra Giant Tortoise individual reaching the grand old age of more than 250 years old. The Aldabra Giant Tortoise is the only Indian ocean giant Tortoise species alive today as others have now become extinct.

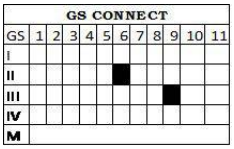
PEPPER IT WITH

Olive Ridley Turtle, Pygmy Hog, Andaman White-toothed Shrew, Kondana Rat, Hurricane Bud, Chipko movement

The Aldabra Giant Tortoise is primarily found inhabiting grasslands and swamps on the islands of the **Aldabra atoll (an island of coral that encircles a lagoon partially or completely), which forms part of the Seychelles island chain in the Indian Ocean**.

Govt hikes ethanol price

Why in News?



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has **approved the Mechanism for procurement of ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to carry out the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme-Revision of ethanol price for supply to Public Sector OMCs**.

The government hiked price of ethanol, used for doping in petrol, by almost Rs 3 per litre to Rs 43.70 in a bid to cut India's oil import dependence as well as give higher price for sugarcane.

- India, which is over 80 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs, **has mandated blending of up to 10 per cent ethanol in petrol but inadequate availability has restricted this to under 4 per cent**.
- Higher price for ethanol extracted in the process of making sugar from sugarcane will incentivise higher ethanol production. The higher price for this grade of ethanol produced from C-molasses will be for sugar marketing year starting December 2018.
- For the first time, **the government also fixed the price of ethanol produced from intermediary or B-molasses**, a move that would help mills divert cane juice for ethanol manufacturing during surplus years.
- Government intends to create more holistic framework for ethanol, **the prices have been fixed based on estimated Fair and Remuneration Price (FRP) for sugar season 2018-**

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

19. The price will be modified by the oil ministry as per actual FRP, which is the minimum price that mills need to pay to cane growers for their produce.

So far, the price was only fixed for ethanol produced from C-molasses or final molasses. **Molasses is a viscous product resulting from refining sugarcane or sugar beets into sugar**.

To bail out the sugar industry and help them clear about Rs 20,000 crore cane arrears, the government had recently announced relief measures of Rs 8,500 crore for the sugar sector, including a soft loan of Rs 4,500 crore for adding ethanol capacity, creation of buffer stock of sweetener and production-linked subsidy to cane growers.

Significance

i. OMCs procure ethanol from sugar mills for blending with petrol. Mills are expecting revenue realisation of over Rs 5,000 crore from sale of ethanol to OMCs.
ii. Doping petrol with 5 per cent ethanol will promote the use of alternative and environment-friendly fuels and **also cut import dependence**.
iii. Increased ethanol blending in petrol has many benefits including support to agricultural sector, more environmental friendly fuel, lesser pollution and additional income to farmers.

Ethanol Blended Petrol Program

- Ethanol, an anhydrous ethyl alcohol having chemical formula of C2H5OH, can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc, which are having high starch content**. In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process**.
- Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to form different blends. **As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions and thereby reducing the occurrence of environmental pollution**. Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, **ethanol is also considered as renewable fuel**.

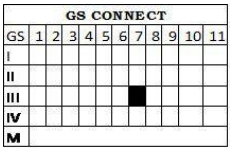
PEPPER IT WITH

Bio-Diseal, NLCIL, International Energy Agency, Ocean Energy System, Concentrated Solar Power Plant, USAID, Delhi Solar Policy

- Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was launched in January, 2003, under which, OMCs sell ethanol blended petrol with percentage of ethanol upto 10%. Also, the **Government has allowed procurement of ethanol produced from other non-food feedstocks, like cellulosic and ligno cellulosic materials including petrochemical route**. The programme sought to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels and to reduce import dependency for energy requirements.
- **The OMCs are to procure ethanol from domestic sources**. **The Government fixes the price of ethanol**. As petrol has been decontrolled with effect from June, 2010, OMCs take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol as per international prices and market conditions.

Uranium contamination in India's groundwater

Why in News?



Scientists have found widespread uranium contamination in groundwater **from aquifers across 16 states in India, much above the WHO provisional standard for the country**.

The researchers from Duke University in the US unveiled new data showing that the occurrence in uranium in Indian groundwater, a primary source of drinking water and irrigation is an emerging and widespread phenomenon.

Highlights

- The study suggests that contribution of human factors such as groundwater depletion and nitrate pollution may be aggravating the already present natural uranium contamination to

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

dangerous levels. **Several studies have linked exposure to uranium in drinking water to chronic kidney disease**.

- Nearly a third of all water wells we tested in one state, Rajasthan, contained uranium levels that exceed the World Health Organization and US Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water standards.
- Aquifers were identified with high levels of uranium in 26 other districts in northwestern India and nine districts in southern or southeastern India.

The spike in natural and man-made disasters and the subsequent spike in death toll has given rise to the need for better management of the bodies. Taking the thought forward, Gujarat is set to come up with the world's first international centre for humanitarian forensics. The International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics (ICHF) will facilitate better management of bodies during emergencies such as disasters. It was inaugurated at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU).

The ICHF is a joint venture of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation for India, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives, and GFSU.

Factors responsible

- Many of India's aquifers are composed of clay, silt and gravel carried down from Himalayan weathering by streams or uranium-rich granitic rocks. **When over-pumping of these aquifers groundwater occurs and their water levels decline, it induces oxidation conditions that, in turn, enhance uranium enrichment in the shallow groundwater that remains**.
- While the **primary source of uranium is geogenic (naturally occurring), anthropogenic (human caused)** factors such as groundwater table decline and nitrate pollution may further enhance uranium mobilisation.
- Many factors affect this. These factors include the amount of uranium contained in an aquifer's rocks; water-rock interactions that cause the uranium to be extracted from those rocks; oxidation conditions that enhance the extracted uranium's solubility in water; and the interaction of the extracted uranium with other chemicals in the groundwater, such as bicarbonate, which can further enhance its solubility.
- In many parts of India, these factors co-occur and result in high uranium concentrations in the groundwater.

PEPPER IT WITH

Arsenic Contamination, Gaming addiction, Zika virus, Rubella

Safety standards

The WHO has set a provisional safe drinking water standard of 30 micrograms of uranium per litre for India, a level that is consistent with US Environmental Protection Agency standards. **Despite this, uranium is not yet included in the list of contaminants monitored under the Bureau of Indian Standards' Drinking Water Specifications**.

Way Forward

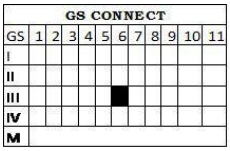
The study strongly suggests the need for revision of the current water quality monitoring program in India, evaluation of human health risks in areas of high uranium prevalence, development of adequate remediation technologies, and, above all, implementation of preventive management practices to address this problem.

Including a uranium standard in the Bureau of Indian Standards' Drinking Water Specification based on uranium's kidney-harming effects, establishing monitoring systems to identify at-risk areas, and exploring new ways to prevent or treat uranium contamination will help ensure access to safe drinking water for tens of millions in India.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

'EPIC' planet

Why in News?



In an epic Indian discovery, a team from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, has spotted for the first time a distant planet six times bigger than Earth and revolving around a Sun-like star about 600 light years away. Both the planet and the star have been named EPIC. This has put India in elite planet-spotting club. **EPIC 211945201b (or K2-236b) is the name given to the planet by the discovery team. The host star is named EPIC 211945201 or K2-236**.

PRL is supported mainly by the Department of Space, whose arm ISRO is. Significantly, the discovery was made using a **PRL-designed spectrograph, PARAS** (PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search), to measure and confirm the mass of the new planet.

Spectrograph studies

The spectrograph is the first of its kind in the country which can measure the mass of a planet going around a star. Very few such spectrographs exist around the world (mostly in the USA and in the Europe) that can do such precise measurements.

PEPPER IT WITH

Neutrino star, LIGO, CERN, India-based Neutrino Observatory, IndIGO a consortium of Indian gravitational-wave physicists

Ice and iron planet

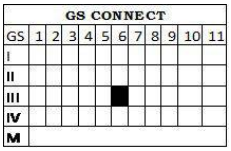
EPIC was found circling very close to the Sun-like star, going around it once in about 19.5 days and unlikely to be inhabitable because of its high surface temperature of around 600°C. The team found the planet to be smaller in size than Saturn and bigger than Neptune. Its mass is about 27 times Earth's and six times that of Earth at radius. The scientists estimate that over 60% of its mass could be made up of heavy elements like ice, silicates and iron.

Significance

The work done by PRL is important in characterising the nature of the exoplanet and they were able to show that the candidate is a close to Saturn-size planet orbiting near its star. These planets are very unlike those in our own Solar System and understanding them will tell us more about how planetary systems are formed.

Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)

Why in News?



NASA will launch a new mission in 2024 to help scientists better understand the bubble that surrounds the solar system.

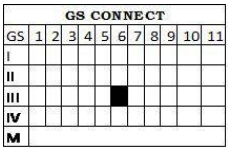
- This huge bubble, which known as the heliosphere, is created by the sun; it consists of charged solar particles and solar magnetic fields. The heliosphere helps protect Earth and other solar system bodies from space radiation, blocking some highly energetic cosmic rays that originated in interstellar space.
- But the heliosphere boundary is far from impenetrable. **The new NASA mission, called the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)**, will collect and study fast-moving particles that manage to make it through.
- This boundary is where our sun does a great deal to protect us. IMAP is critical to broadening our understanding of how this 'cosmic filter' works.

PEPPER IT WITH

Atal Tinkering Lab, Remove Debris

KATRIN experiment

Why in News?



The Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino Experiment, or KATRIN, **is a massive detector based in the town of Karlsruhe, Germany**, that has been designed to measure a neutrino's mass with far greater precision than existing experiments.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Neutrinos are everywhere, and yet their presence is rarely felt. Scientists have assumed for decades that, because they interact so little with matter, neutrinos must lack any measurable mass. **But recent experiments have shown that these "ghostly" particles do in fact hold some weight**. Ever since, the hunt has been on to pin down a neutrino's mass—a vanishingly small measurement that could have huge implications for our understanding of how the universe has evolved.

PEPPER IT WITH

Time Crystal, Insight mission, Mangalyan II, Humanity (NASA), Juno spacesraft, Cassinni Spacecraft

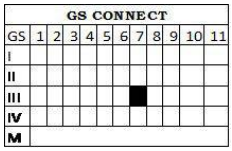
Significance

How the neutrino gets its mass is unknown. The hope is, by measuring the mass of the neutrino, you get a better sense of how a neutrino gets its mass. We have billions of neutrinos everywhere in the universe. If all of a sudden they have a mass, they will impact how the universe will evolve over time. For cosmologists, that information will be very useful.

Lymphatic Filariasis

Why in News?

Union Health Minister inaugurated the **10th meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) in New Delhi**. The minister launched India's Accelerated Plan for Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination (APELF) on the occasion. The GAELF theme this year is 'Celebrating progress towards elimination: Voices from the field on overcoming programme challenges'.



The 10th GAELF meeting brings together various country programmes, three pharmaceutical companies (GSK, Eisai and MSD) that have donated drugs, non-governmental organizations, research organisations, donor governmental agencies, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)

Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease. **Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes**. Infection is usually acquired in childhood causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system. LF is caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea. There are 3 types of these thread-like filarial worms:

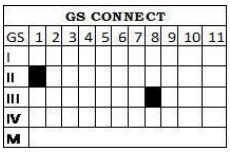
PEPPER IT WITH

Bharat Biotech, BIRAC, ICAR, FarmerZOne, National Biopharma Mission

- Wuchereria bancrofti, which is responsible for 90% of the cases
- Brugia malayi, which causes most of the remainder of the cases
- Brugia timori, which also causes the disease.

Dam Safety Bill, 2018

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for introduction of Dam Safety Bill, 2018 in the Parliament. **The objective of this Bill is to help develop uniform, countrywide procedures for ensuring the safety of dams**.



Over the last fifty years, India has invested substantially in dams and related infrastructures, and ranks third after USA and China in the number of large dams. 5254 large dams are in operation in the country currently and another 447 are under construction. In addition to this, there are thousands of medium and small dams.

Need for the bill

While dams have played a key role in fostering rapid and sustained agricultural growth and development in India, **there has been a long felt need for a uniform law and administrative structure in the country for ensuring dam safety**. The Central Water Commission, through the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS), Central Dam Safety Organization (CDSO) and

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

State Dam Safety Organizations (SDSO) has been making constant endeavours in this direction, **but these organizations do not have any statutory powers and are only advisory in nature**. This can be a matter of concern, especially since about 75 percent of the large dams in India are more than 25 years old and about 164 dams are more than 100 years old. A badly maintained, unsafe dam can be a hazard to human life, flora and fauna, public and private assets and the environment. India has had 36 dam failures in the past.

Highlights

The provisions of the Dam Safety Bill 2018 will empower the dam safety institutional set-ups in both the Centre and States and will also help in standardizing and improving dam safety practices across the country. The Dam Safety Bill, 2018 addresses all issues concerning dam safety including regular inspection of dams, Emergency Action Plan, comprehensive dam safety review, adequate repair and maintenance funds for dam safety, Instrumentation and Safety Manuals. **It lays the onus of dam safety on the dam owner and provides for penal provisions for commission and omission of certain acts**.

The institutional framework for dam safety as provided under the dam safety bill 2018 includes the following:

- **National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS):** It shall evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations as may be required for the purpose.
- **National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA**): A regulatory body which shall discharge functions to implement the policy, guidelines and standards for dam safety in the country.
- **State Committee on Dam Safety (SCDS**): It will ensure proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams in that State and ensure their safe functioning.
- **State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO):** The Bill provides that every state having specified number of dams will establish a State Dam Safety Organization which will be manned by officials with sufficient experience in the field of dam safety.

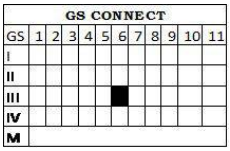
PEPPER IT WITH

Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA), Dam Safety Bill, Mahanadi river, Sardar Sarovar Dam, Salma Dam, Omkareshwar Dam, Godavari river

The draft bill has been finalized after wide consultation with leading experts across the world.

Glonass-M navigation satellite

Why in News?



Russia successfully launched a Glonass-M positioning satellite using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket. With this launch, there are now 26 Glonass satellites in orbit.

The Space Forces, a branch of the Aerospace Forces, launched the satellite from the Plesetsk space center.

About GLONASS

- The **Glonass network provides real-time positioning data for surface, sea and airborne objects around the globe**, at an accuracy reportedly on par with the U.S. Global Positioning System.
- GLONASS is an acronym, which stands for Globalnaya Navigazionnaya Sputnikovaya Sistema, or Global Navigation Satellite System. **GLONASS is Russia's version of GPS (Global Positioning System)**.
- GPS developed by USA has a network of 31 satellites covering this planet and has been widely used in commercial devices like mobile phones, navigators etc. **GLONASS is developed by Russia originally started by Soviet Union in 1976**. This has a network of 24 satellites covering the earth.

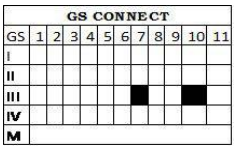
PEPPER IT WITH

GALILEO, IRNSS, BeiDou, CDMA & FDMA, GPS

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

WHO releases new global classification of diseases

Why in News?



The World Health Organization (WHO) on recently released its new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

The ICD is the foundation for identifying health trends and statistics worldwide, and contains around 55,000 unique codes for injuries, diseases and causes of death. **It provides a common language that allows health professionals to share health information across the globe**.

About ICD-11

ICD-11 **will be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2019 for adoption by Member States, and will come into effect on 1 January 2022**. This release is an advance preview that will allow countries to plan how to use the new version, prepare translations, and train health professionals all over the country. **The ICD is also used by health insurers, whose reimbursements depend on ICD coding**; national health programme managers; data collection specialists; and others who track progress in global health and determine the allocation of health resources.

The new ICD also includes new chapters, one on traditional medicine: although millions of people use traditional medicine worldwide, it has never been classified in this system. Another new chapter on sexual health brings together conditions that were previously categorized in other ways (for instance gender incongruence was listed under mental health conditions) or described differently. **Gaming disorder has been added to the section on addictive disorders**.

ICD-11, which has been over a decade in the making, provides significant improvements on previous versions. **Also for the first time, it is completely electronic and has a much more user-friendly format**. Moreover, there has been unprecedented involvement of health care workers who have joined collaborative meetings and submitted proposals.

PEPPER IT WITH

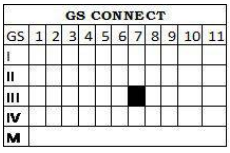
World Blood Doner Day, MMR, Digital Health, Rotavac, Bharat Biotech Typbar, Ebola, Hepatitis

Significance

- It enables to understand so much about what makes people get sick and die, and to take action to prevent suffering and save lives.
- The new ICD-11 also reflects progress in medicine and advances in scientific understanding. **For example, the codes relating to antimicrobial resistance are more closely in line with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS)**.
- ICD-11 is also able to better capture data regarding safety in health care, which means that unnecessary events that may harm health – such as unsafe workflows in hospitals can be identified and reduced.

Ban on Oxytocin

Why in News?



From July 1, **Oxytocin, a vital drug, and its formulations, used to stop bleeding during childbirth, will not be freely available for use by doctors**. **The manufacture and sale of this drug has been banned for domestic use in the private sector by the government**. Import of the drug has also been banned.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has zeroed in on Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd to manufacture the drug and supply it directly to registered private and public hospitals. The drug will be available on a demand basis from KAPL after placing an order with the company.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Reasons

- The crucial drug has been under the scanner for a few years now, after allegations of its misuse in animals. There have been alleged diversions of the drug for use on cows to increase their milk-producing capacity.
- The MoHFW took a cue from a case pursuant since 2014, judgment of which was arrived at in 2016, in which the High Court of Himachal Pradesh had observed that there is a large-scale clandestine manufacture and sale of the drug Oxytocin leading to its grave misuse, which is harmful to animals and humans.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

It is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, working under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. **It is tasked with detecting and curbing smuggling of contraband, including drug trafficking and illicit international trade in wildlife and environmentally sensitive items, as well as combating commercial frauds related to international trade and evasion of Customs duty**.

Oxytocin

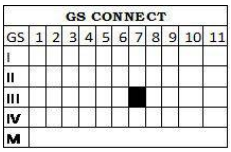
- Oxytocin is a **hormone and a neurotransmitter that is involved in childbirth and breast-feeding. It is also associated with empathy, trust, sexual activity, and relationship-building**.
- It is sometimes referred to as the "**love hormone**," because levels of oxytocin increase during hugging and orgasm. It may also have benefits as a treatment for a number of conditions, including depression, anxiety, and intestinal problems.
- Oxytocin is produced in the hypothalamus, a part of the brain. **Females usually have higher levels than males**.
- Oxytocin is a life-saving drug in those women who bleed during child birth or undergo an abortion. There are alternatives like Misoprostol, **but the government has restricted its use in private clinics, as they are worried about misuse of Misoprostol in sex-selective abortions**.

PEPPER IT WITH

Drug (Price Control) Amendment Order 2016, Drug Price Control Order, NLEM, NPPA

National healthcare facility registry

Why in News?



In a major development, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Health Resource Repository (NHRR).

It's India's 1st ever national healthcare facility registry of authentic, standardised and updated geo-spatial data of all public and private healthcare establishments. National Health Resource Repository have inbuilt process for updating the data so that the system is relevant for times to come.

- The vision of the NHRR Project is to strengthen evidence-based decision making and develop a platform for citizen and provider-centric services by creating a robust, standardized and secured IT-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.
- NHRR will be the ultimate platform for comprehensive information of both, Private and Public healthcare establishments including Railways, ESIC, Defense and Petroleum healthcare establishments. This resource repository shall enable advanced research towards ongoing & forthcoming healthcare challenges arising from other determinants of health like – disease, environment etc. **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the project technology partner adhering to paramount Data Security**.
- Also, the National Health Profile (NHP) 2018 was released. It's being prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI). **Basically, NHP covers demographic, socio-economic, health status and health finance indicators, along with comprehensive information on health infrastructure and human resources in health**.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Significance

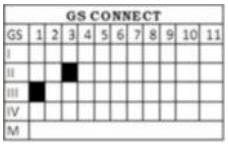
- Good compiled data enables the policymakers to make evidence-based policies and aids effective implementation of various schemes.
- The key expected outcomes of the NHRR project are to provide comprehensive data on all health resources including private doctors, health facilities, chemists, and diagnostics labs, establish a National Health Resource Repository for evidence-based decision making – aligned with Digital India mission.
- It shall also enhance the coordination between central and state government for optimization of health resources, making 'live' and realistic state Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) and improving the accessibility of data at all levels, including State Head of Departments, thus, decentralize the decision making at district and state level.

PEPPER IT WITH

Free Drugs and Diagnostics, Mission Parivar Vikas, Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Digital India mission

Urban Co-operative Banks now Have a Chance to Become SFBs

Why in News?



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed for the voluntary transition of large multi-State urban cooperative banks (UCBs) into joint-stock companies and also UCBs that meet certain criteria to become Small Finance Banks (SFBs).

There were demands from some quarters for UCBs to corporatise. Since SFBs also have the same mandate of '**financial inclusion**' as part of their fundamental business model, RBI will come out with a detailed scheme on this conversion of UCBs into SFBs.

The **High-Powered Committee on UCB headed by R Gandhi** had recommended the same in August 2015 (it recommended converting UCBs with business size of Rs 20,000 crore or more into regular banks in a bid to propel their growth).

- Cooperative societies are based on the principles of cooperation, - mutual help, democratic decision making and open membership.
- Cooperatives represented a new and alternative approach to organisaton as against proprietary firms, partnership firms and joint stock companies which represent the dominant form of commercial organisation.
- The first known mutual aid society in India was probably the "**Anyonya Sahakari Mandali**" organised in the erstwhile princely State of Baroda in 1889 under the guidance of Vithal Laxman also known as Bhausaheb Kavthekar.
- During the banking crisis of 1913-14, when no fewer than 57 joint stock banks collapsed, there was a flight of deposits from joint stock banks to cooperative urban banks.
- **Government of India Act in 1919 transferred the subject of "Cooperation" from Government of India to the Provincial Governments**.

What are UCBS

- The origins of the urban cooperative banking movement in India can be traced to the close of nineteenth century, inspired by the success of the experiments related to the cooperative movement in Britain and the cooperative credit movement in Germany.
- The term UCBs though not formally defined, refers to primary cooperative banks located in urban and semi-urban areas**. These banks, till 1996, were allowed to lend money only for non-agricultural purposes**.
- These banks were traditionally centred around communities, localities work place groups. They essentially lent to small borrowers and businesses. Today, their scope of operations has widened considerably.
- Concerns regarding the professionalism of urban cooperative banks gave rise to the view that they should be better regulated. Large

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

cooperative banks with paid-up share capital and reserves of Rs. 1 lakh were brought under the preview of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 with effect from 1966 and within the ambit of RBI's supervision.

- **This marked the beginning of an era of duality of control over these banks**. Banking related functions (viz. licensing, area of operations, interest rates etc.) were to be governed by RBI and registration, management, audit and liquidation, etc. governed by State Governments as per the provisions of respective State Acts. In 1968, UCBS were extended the benefits of Deposit Insurance.
- The area of operation of UCB is usually restricted by its bye-laws. The UCBs invest their surplus money in government and other trustee securities. **They can function in more than one state**. **These banks provide most services such as savings and current accounts, safe deposit lockers, loan or mortgages to private and business customers and also issue cheques and general purpose credit cards**.
- **Most of the UCBs are non-schedule.** As in the case of commercial banks, primary (urban) cooperative banks are also required to maintain certain amount of cash reserve and liquid assets. No primary (urban) cooperative bank can commence or carry on banking business if the real or exchangeable value of its paid-up capital and reserves is less than Rs.one lakh.
- A co-operative bank is run for the benefit of a group of members of the co-operative body. A co-operative bank distributes only a very small portion of its profit as dividend, retaining a major portion of it in business.

Main objectives and functions of the urban co-operatives:

1) To attract deposits from members as well as non-members
2) To advance loans to members
3) To act as agent for the joint purchase of domestic and other requirements of the members
4) To undertake collection of bills, accepted or endorsed by members
5) To arrange for safe custody of valuable documents of members

- To protect the interests of depositors and also overcome constraints imposed by dual regulation, the RBI has proposed the constitution of a board of management (BoM) in every urban cooperative bank (UCB) **which will be constituted by board of directors (BoD)**.
- The move follows the recommendation of a 2010 expert committee, **headed by Y.H. Malegam, on the licensing of UCBs**.
- Under the present legal framework, **the BoD of an UCB performs both the executive and supervisory role and is responsible to oversee the functioning of the UCB as a cooperative society as well as a bank**.
- Existing UCBs having deposit size exceeding ₹100 crore will put in place a BoM within a year. Other banks have two years' time.
- The BoM will have a minimum of three members in UCBs having deposit size up to ₹100 crore, and five members in UCBs having deposit size above ₹100 crore. **The maximum number of members in a BoM is 12**.
- UCBs having deposits above ₹100 crore will obtain prior approval of the RBI for appointment of CEO who will be an ex-officio member of BoD and BoM.
- **Broadly, BoM will carry out functions such as**:
  - ✓ Considering loan proposals as per the board-approved policy and making recommendations to the loan committee or BoD for sanction;
  - ✓ Recommending action for recovery of bad loans, one-time settlement or compromise settlement;
  - ✓ Management of funds and borrowings; implementing sound internal controls and systems and preparation/implementation of risk management policy;
  - ✓ Overseeing internal audit and inspection functions; and compliance functions.

KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

6) To provide other facilities as provided by commercial banks

Problems Faced by Cooperative Banks:

1) The cooperative financial institution is facing severe problems which have restricted their ability to ensure smooth flow of credit like **Limited ability to mobilize resources, Low Level of recovery, High transaction cost, Administered rate of interest structure for a long time**.
2) Due to cooperative legislation and administration, Govt. interference has become a regular feature in the day–to-day administration of the cooperative institution e.g: Deliberate control of cooperatives by the government, **Nomination of board of director by the government**, Participation of the nominated director by the government, Deputation of government officials to cooperative institution etc.
3) The state cooperative banks are not able to formulate their respective policies for investment of their funds that include their surplus resources because of certain restrictions.
4) **Prior approval of RBI is mandatory for opening of new branches of SCBs**. The SCBs are required to submit the proposal for opening of new branches to RBI through NABARD.

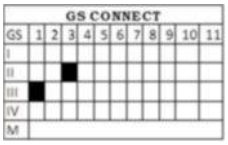
PEPPER IT WITH

Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Maclagan Committee of 1915, National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies, Madhavdas committee, Hate working Group, Varde committee (1963), Liquidity Adjustment Facility, Marginal Standing Facility, R Gandhi report (2015)

Way-Forward

Though UCBs were set-up as small banks offering banking services to people of small means belonging to the lower and middle classes, a well laid out transition path is required for at least the larger UCBs to convert themselves into universal/ niche commercial banks due to the changing financial landscape in the country and providing further growth opportunity to well managed UCBs.

Small Finance Banks



Reserve Bank of India grants Universal Bank Licence and Differentiated Bank Licence. **Differentiated Banks or niche banks are banks that serve the needs of a certain demographic segment of the population**. Small Finance Banks are examples of differentiated banks in India. **Wholesale and Long-Term Finance banks (WLTF) and Custodian Banks are newly proposed differentiated banks**.

The objectives of setting up of small finance banks is to further financial inclusion by (i) **provision of savings vehicles** and (ii) **supply of credit to small business units; small and marginal farmers; micro and small industries; and other unorganised sector entities, through high technology-low cost operations**. SFBs were recommended by Reserve Bank's report (2014) on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low-Income Households popularly known as the Nachiket Mor Committee Report. The concept of small finance banks was also one of the recommendations in the 2009 Report - A Hundred Small Steps - of the Committee on Financial Sector Reforms headed by Dr. Raghu Ram Rajan.

About SFBs

- SFBs comply with all the prudential norms and regulations of RBI similar to commercial banks that include the fulfilment of requirements for statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and cash reserve ratio (CRR). They can operate all over India as against the earlier models of **RRBs and LABs which had geographical restrictions**.
- Small finance banks are allowed to take deposits from customers and as against payments banks, small finance banks are also allowed to lend money to people. Every

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

SFBs must have the words "**small finance bank**" in its name. They cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial service activities.

- Maximum loan size to a single person cannot exceed 10% of total capital funds; cannot exceed 15% in the case of a group. **At least 50% of its loans should constitute loans and advances of up to 25 lakh**.
- Minimum paid-up equity capital requirement of Rs 100 crore. The promoter's minimum initial contribution to the paid-up equity capital of such small finance bank shall at least be 40% which can be gradually brought down to 26% within 12 years from the date of commencement of operations.
- The **SFBs are required to extend 75 per cent of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the priority sector lending (PSL)** while 40% should be as per standard priority sector norms, the other 35% can be in any of the priority sectors.
- Small banks can undertake financial services like distribution of mutual fund units, insurance products, pension products, and so on, but not without prior approval from the RBI. **A small bank can transform into a full-fledged bank, but only after RBI's approval**. A fundamental requirement is that it must have 25% of its branches set up in unbanked areas.

What is a Bad Bank

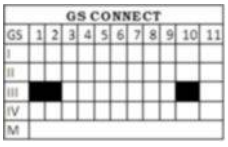
- A bad bank is one, **set up to buy the bad loans of another bank** with significant nonperforming assets at market price.
- By transferring such assets to the bad bank, the original institution may clear its balance sheet (although it will still be forced to take write downs).
- **First pioneered in the US in 1988**, the idea of forming a 'bad bank' in India was initially floated in January 2017 when the Economic Survey of India suggested setting up a Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA).
- The RBI, too, came up with a suggestion to form two entities to clean up the bad loan problems ailing PSBs - PAMC (Private Asset Management Company) and NAMC (National Assets Management Company).
- **The major benefit of forming a bad bank is asset monetisation**. It would allow lenders to start afresh, thus boosting credit growth amid an economic revival.
- **Government recently set up a committee under Sunil Mehta to see the possibility of forming a bad bank but has now rejected it**.

PEPPER IT WITH

CRR, SLR, Repo Rate, Reverse Repo Rate, High Level Committee on Financial Sector Reforms (2009) headed by Raghuram Rajan's report "A Hundred Small Steps", Long Term Finance Banks, Reserve Bank's report (2014) on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low-Income Households popularly known as the Nachiket Mor Committee Report

Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

Why in News?



The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index has been gradually declining from December when it was 54.7, the highest it has been in more than a year to 51.2 in may-2018. The latest PMI survey signalled a further, albeit slower, improvement in the health of the manufacturing sector in May.

PMI value is measured in the index from 0-100. **In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction**.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

What is PMI?

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a compound and timely indicator, providing clues regarding sentiment in sectors of the economy such as manufacturing, services and construction.
- It is calculated separately for manufacturing and services and then a composite index is prepared. **The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current business conditions to company decision makers, analysts and purchasing managers**.
- PMI shows the health of the economy. It's data is released before most of official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth is made available. So, it is considered a good indicator of economic activity.
- Nikkei India Manufacturing publishes this indicator for India. The **Institute for Supply Management** publishes this indicator for the United States. Similar indicators for countries in the Euro zone and the United Kingdom, for example, are released by **Markit Economics research group**.
- The manufacturing sector in India is divided into **eight broad categories** - basic metals, chemicals and plastics, electrical and optical, food and drink, mechanical engineering, textiles and clothing, timber and paper and transport.
- The index is comprised of **five "sub-indexes"**, which usually correspond to surveys, encompassing more than 400 purchasing managers operating within the country, chosen for their geographic and industry diversification benefits. These five sub-indicators are given a weighting, as follows:
  - ✓ Production level 0.25
  - ✓ New orders from customers 0.30
  - ✓ Supplier deliveries timing 0.15
  - ✓ Inventories 0.10
  - ✓ Employment level 0.20

PPI Vs Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Producer Price Index (PPI) measures the average change in the price of goods and services. It estimates the change in average prices that a producer receives. PPI is different from WPI on following grounds:

- ❖ WPI captures the price changes at the point of bulk transactions and may include some taxes levied and distribution costs up to the stage of wholesale transactions. **PPI measures the average change in prices received by the producer and excludes indirect taxes**.
- ❖ Weight of an item in WPI is based on net traded value whereas in PPI weights are derived from Supply.
- ❖ PPI removes the multiple counting bias inherent in WPI.
- ❖ WPI does not cover services whereas **PPI includes services.**

PEPPER IT WITH

Gross Fixed Capital Formation, Purchasing Power Parity, Index Linked Bond, Consumer Price Index, Headline Inflation

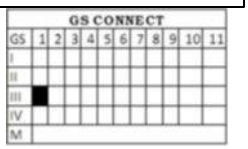
Comparison Between IIP and PMI in India

There are two key parameters that the government and private sector analysts use to gauge the level of activity in the manufacturing sector - the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

- ➢ Together the two indices provide a composite and reasonably comprehensive information about the formal manufacturing sector. **As with the IIP, the PMI suffers from the lacuna of not measuring informal sector activity**.
- ➢ **PMI is a private sector survey while the IIP is gauged by the government**.
- ➢ IIP is a measure of output, **PMI, as the name suggests, measures activity at the purchasing or input stage**.
- ➢ PMI data is released either on the last day of the month or on the first day of the next month. The data of IIP for a given month comes out almost one and a half months later.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Financial Literacy Week-2018



The Reserve Bank of India has **since 2017 earmarked one week in a year as the financial literacy week**. Activities during the week involves display of financial literacy material in bank branches, ATMs and bank websites and conduct of financial literacy camps through the Financial Literacy Centres of banks.

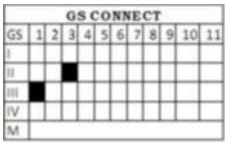
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched "financial literacy week" 2018 **based on theme of consumer protection** in Jammu and Kashmir with an aim for good practices for safe digital banking experience.

It was observed during **June 4-8, 2018** and focused on four consumer protection messages viz.

1. Know your Liability for unauthorized electronic banking transaction
2. Banking Ombudsman
3. Good practices for a safe digital banking experience and
4. Risk Vs Return.

Reserve Bank of India Aims to Tighten Working capital loans

Why in News?



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a minimum 40% loan component for working capital funding of ₹150 crore and above to bring in greater credit discipline and improve monetary transmission.

According to draft guidelines, the RBI has proposed that **the loan component of 40% will come into effect from_ October 1 and will be increased to 60% from April 1, 2019. The loan's tenure will be minimum seven days**. Effective from April 1, 2019, the undrawn portion of cash credit/overdraft limits sanctioned to the large borrowers, irrespective of whether unconditionally cancellable or not, shall attract a credit conversion factor of 20%. This means banks have to set aside capital for undrawn portion of cash credit limits.

The Proposed New Norm will Address the Following Issues:

- First, if there is a loan component then there will be a repayment schedule which will put pressure on borrowers to manage their liquidity.
- Secondly, since the loan component will have a fixed tenure, the reset clause can be invoked at the end of each tenure period.

What is Working Capital?

- **Working capital generally refers to the investment in current assets which are required to carry on the operations of the business**. Sometimes it is also referred to as the difference between current assets and current liabilities.
- Management of working capital considers both the terms, i.e the investment in current assets (**gross working capital**) and the difference between current assets and current liabilities (**net working capital**).
- **Gross working capital is used for assessing the quality and quantum of working assets where as net working capital is uses for the study of financing of current assets**.

- The term '**balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics**' refers to the worsening profit scenario and mounting losses of private sector specifically corporate. **High losses by the corporate discourages future investment and in this way, the economy suffers**.
- The balance sheet problem of rising debt and losses occurred in many other countries especially in advanced countries in recent years. But in India, unlike in Japan and in the US, the problem has some unique features and hence is a balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics.
- Twin Balance sheet Syndrome refers to two balance sheet problems**. One with Indian companies and the other with Indian Banks**.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

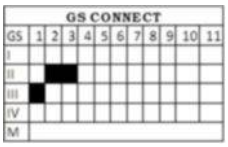
- **Cash credit (CC) is by far the most popular mode of working capital financing for which interest rate is reset once a year**. While CC has its benefits, it also poses several regulatory challenges such as perpetual roll-overs, transmission of liquidity management from borrowers to banks/RBI and hampering of smooth transmission of monetary policy, according to bankers.

PEPPER IT WITH

Tandon committee, Balance sheet, Global financial crisis, Non-Performing Assets, Stressed Assets, Credit Enhancement Fund

Business correspondents of Banks

Why in News?



Government is planning to make all Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the country as Business correspondents (BCs) of Banks.

The Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to appoint entities and individuals as agents for providing basic banking services in remote areas where they can't practically start a branch. These agents are called business correspondents. BCs are considered as practical solutions to extend basic banking services to all the village habitations in the country.

- Common Service Centre (CSC) is one of the Mission Mode Projects under Digital India programme. **Initially the CSC Scheme was approved by the Government of India in September 2006 under NeGP**.
- CSC programme is an initiative of the **Ministry of lectronics & IT** (MeitY), Government of India. CSCs are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.
- They are enablers of community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with key focus on the rural citizen.
- CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is a Spcial Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 by the MeitY to monitor the implementation of the CSC Scheme.
- **CSCs enable the three vision areas of the Digital India programme**:

  I. Digital infrastructure as Utility to Every Citizen

  II. Governance and services on demand

  III. Digital empowerment of citizens

What are BCs?

BCs are retail agents engaged by banks for providing banking services at locations other than a bank branch/ATM. BCs enable a bank to provide its limited range of banking services at low cost. They are instrumental in promoting financial inclusion. The Jan Dhan Yojna (JDY) also heavily relies on operations of BCs for continuation of account activities by the village people who started the account as part of the programme.

Functions of BCs

BCs are engaged in a variety of functions viz, identification of borrowers, collection of small value deposit, disbursal of small value credit, KYC, recovery of principal / collection of interest, sale of micro insurance/ mutual fund products/ pension products/ other third party products and receipt and delivery of small value remittances/ other payment instruments, creating awareness about savings and other products, education and advice on managing money and debt counselling etc.

The BC model allows banks to provide door-step delivery of services especially 'cash in – cash out' transactions at a location much closer to the rural population, thus addressing the last-mile problem. As per the RBI guidelines BCs can provide Small Savings Accounts, Fixed Deposit and Recurring Deposit with low minimum deposits, Remittance to any BC customer, Micro Credit and General Insurance.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Who can act as BCs?

There is a long list of entities and persons provided by RBI who can act as BCs. Registered entities like NGOs/MFIs, individuals like retired bank employees, retired teachers, retired government employees and ex-servicemen, individual owners of kirana / medical /Fair Price shops, individual Public Call Office (PCO) operators, agents of Small Savings schemes of Government of India/Insurance Companies, individuals who own Petrol Pumps, authorized functionaries of well-run Self Help Groups (SHGs) which are linked to banks and any other individual including those operating Common Service Centres (CSCs) are allowed to act as BCs of banks.

Appointment of BCs

- Must be a permanent resident of the area in which they propose to operate.
- They should be well established, enjoy good reputation and have the confidence of the local people.
- The ability of BCs to invest in POS machines and other equipments.
- In case of individuals selected as BCs, the criterion are as under :
  - ✓ A minimum education qualification of Xth pass.
  - ✓ Field Investigation /RCU for verification of residence and dealings, etc. to be conducted.
  - ✓ Credibility check – A/c with any other bank.
  - ✓ Should open account with respective bank (base branch)
  - ✓ Suitable amount of Security deposit /Bank guarantee based on business volumes.

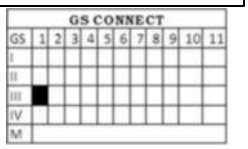
PEPPER IT WITH

Village Level Entrepreneur, CSC 2.0 scheme, PMGDISHA

Concerns

Though the BC model was attractive it has not delivered effectively because of the many shortcomings associated with it like banks have imposed higher restrictions on operations of BCs, salaries of BCs were very low compared to the physical work they have to do to cover the distant areas.

Export Credit Guarantee Corporation



Why in News?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved the capital infusion of Rs.2000 crore for strengthening of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC).

The amount would be infused in the three financial years i.e. Rs.50 crore in 2017-18, Rs.1450 crore in the year 2018-19 and Rs.500 crore for 2019-20.

Benefits of this Infusion

- **It would enhance insurance coverage to MSME exports and strengthen India's exports to emerging and challenging markets** like Africa, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Latin American countries.
- With enhanced capital, **ECGC's underwriting capacity and risk to capital ratio will improve considerably**.
- With a stronger underwriting capacity, ECGC will be in a better position to support Indian exporters to tap new and unexplored markets.
- Increased capital infusion will help ECGC to diversify its product portfolio and provide cost effective credit insurance helping exporters to gain a stronger foothold in the difficult markets.
- Covers from ECGC will help in improving competitive position of Indian exporters in International markets. **More than 85% of customers benefitted by ECGC's covers are MSMEs. ECGC covers exports to around 200 countries in the world**.

About ECGC

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

ECGC Ltd. (Formerly known as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.) wholly owned by Government of India, **was set up in 1957 with the objective of promoting exports from the country by providing credit risk insurance and related services for exports**. ECGC is essentially an export promotion organization, seeking to improve the competitiveness of the Indian exports by providing them with credit insurance covers. The insurance covers enable the banks to extend timely and adequate export credit facilities to the exporters. **ECGC keeps its premium rates at the optimal level**.

- **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was created in December 1991**. In the adopted Declaration the participants of the Commonwealth declared their interaction on the basis of sovereign equality.
- At present the CIS unites Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia (The last 2 joined in 1993).
- In1993 the Heads of the CIS States signed an Agreement on the creation of Economic Union to form common economic space grounded on free movement of goods, services, labour force, capital; to elaborate coordinated monetary, tax, price, customs, external economic policy; to bring together methods of regulating economic activity and create favourable conditions for the development of direct production relations.
- In October 2000 the Heads of five countries (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan) signed an Agreement on creation of Eurasian Economic Community.
- In 2003 four countries - Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine signed an Agreement on Formation of CES (**Common Economic Space**).

ECGC provides:

(i) A range of insurance covers to Indian exporters against the risk of non -realization of export proceeds **due to commercial or political risks**;

(ii) Different types of credit insurance covers to banks and other financial institutions to enable them to extend credit facilities to exporters; and

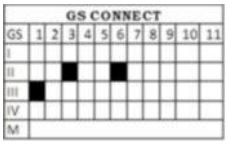
(iii) Export Factoring facility for MSME sector which is a package of financial products consisting of working capital financing, credit risk protection, maintenance of sales ledger and collection of export receivables from the buyer located in overseas country.

PEPPER IT WITH

Capital Adequacy Ratio, Forex Reserve, Balance of trade and Balance of Payments

Delta Ranking by Niti Aayog

Why in News?



The NITI Aayog recently launched the first Delta ranking (incremental progress) for the Aspirational Districts, **based on self-reported data** of districts between March 31, 2018 to May 31, 2018. The delta ranking which **was topped by Dahod district of Gujarat is** computed in a transparent manner.

This is the first delta ranking of Aspirational districts **which is based on 49 key parameters across five developmental areas of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure**.

Purpose of this Ranking

The purpose of this ranking is to spur a sense of competition among the dynamic teams in the districts. Since these districts face many challenges including legacy, unexploited or weak resource base, deficit of manpower at different levels due to difficult living conditions etc, the

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

ranking is also a tool to identify sectors and indicator specific challenges so that Team India, which is driving this programme, can take immediate corrective measure.

About 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme

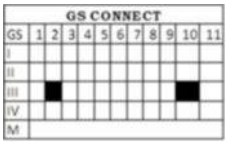
- Launched earlier this year, the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.
- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan.
- With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.
- To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focuses closely on improving people's ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy. Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme's core areas of focus.

PEPPER IT WITH

Sab Ka Sath Sab Ka Vikas, Competitive and Cooperative federalism, Sustainable Development Goals

The Salary Surge Report

Why in News?



As talent shortage takes hold across the Asia-Pacific region, salaries are set to surge for highly skilled workers, **with India being the only country to buck the trend due to surplus talent, according to a new study "The Salary Surge Report" by human resources firm Korn Ferry**.

According to study, if left unchecked, the salary surge is expected to add more than $1 trillion to annual payrolls in APAC by 2030, jeopardising corporates profitability and threatening business models.

Korn Ferry's study estimates the impact of the global talent shortage on payrolls in **20 major global economies at three milestones: 2020, 2025 and 2030, and across three sectors: financial and business services; technology, media and telecommunications; and manufacturing**. It measures how much more organisations could be forced to pay workers, above normal inflation increases.

- Globally, the talent crunch could add $2.5 trillion to company payrolls annually. US companies can expect to pay the most, facing a wage premium of more than $531 billion by 2030. Japan could pay approximately an additional $468 billion whereas China could see an additional wage bill of more than $342 billion during the same period.
- The new era of work is one of scarcity in abundance. **There are plenty of people, but not enough with the skills their organisations will need to survive**. While overall wage increases are just keeping pace with inflation, salaries for in-demand workers will skyrocket, if companies choose to compete for the best and brightest on salary alone.
- India, on the other hand, has been termed as the only economy that can expect to avoid upward spiralling wages, given its highly skilled talent surplus at each milestone. **India will experience supply of talent in its financial and business services, technology, media and telecommunications and manufacturing**.

PEPPER IT WITH

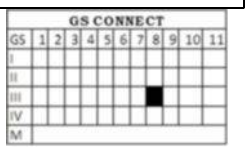
Demographic dividend, Fertility and Mortality rates, IT skills and salary report, Global Wage Report by ILO

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

- The surplus of extra manpower in India is **driven by a growing, younger working population with the country's median age expected to be just 31 years by 2030**. This is a huge supply of talent compared to the ageing population in China, Japan or the US. Beyond the growing population, India's emphasis on affordable and accessible education will generate armies of college level talent.

National Data Centre

Why in News?



The Centre will set up the country's biggest data centre in Bhopal with a capacity to host five lakh virtual servers. The data centre, which will take about two years to come up, will be set up by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

This will be the fifth National Data Centre after the ones at Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. These National Data Centres host government websites, services and applications.

About National Informatics Centre

- NIC, under the Department of Information Technology of the Government of India, is a premier Science and Technology Organization, at the forefront of the active promotion and implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions in the government.
- NIC has spearheaded the e-Governance drive in the country for the last three decades building a strong foundation for better and more transparent governance and assisting the government's endeavour to reach the unreached.
- **With the increased expectations from citizens for online services and the number of e-Governance Projects being launched by the Government, the Data Centre requirements are growing exponentially**. There is a need to set up strategic infrastructure that facilitates high availability, quick scalability, efficient management & optimized utilization of resources.
- To fulfil this requirement, NIC has set up state-of-the-art National Data Centres at various state capitals to provide services to the Government at all levels. **These Data Centres combine round-the-clock operations and management of systems with onsite skilled personnel**.

❖ Union Human Resource Development Ministry launched the new digital initiative **'National Digital Library of India',** on the occasion of National Reading Day. NDLI is a project of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the aegis of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).

❖ The objective of NDL is to make digital educational resources available to all citizens of the country to empower, inspire and encourage learning. **NDLI is developed by IIT Kharagpur**.

❖ NDL is the S**ingle Window Platform** that collects and collates metadata from premier learning institutions in India and abroad, as well as other relevant sources. **It is a 24X7 digital repository** which can be assessed by anybody anytime and anywhere absolutely free of cost and containes textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media.

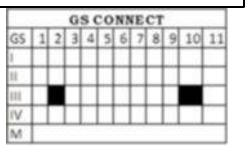
PEPPER IT WITH

National Knowledge Network, Digital India Programme, Cloud Storage

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

World Poverty Clock Study

Why in News?



World Poverty Clock study is compiled by Brookings Institute. The tool measures the world's progress in real time towards the first of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **the goal "to end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030**".

According to the clock, the world (it covers 187 countries) is making progress (with 1.1 people per second escaping poverty), but not fast enough to meet the goal of SGD 1 (an escape rate of 1.5 people per second). The study use publicly available data on income distribution, production and consumption provided by various international organisations, most notably the UN, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Highlights

According to the World Bank, a person living on less than $1.90 a day falls in the extreme poverty category.

- **India is no longer the home to the largest number of people living in extreme poverty**. **Nigeria, in western Africa, is now at number one**. At the end of May 2018, Nigeria had about 87 million people living in extreme poverty, compared with India's 73 million.
- Africans account for about two-thirds of the world's extreme poor. If current trends persist, they will account for nine-tenths by 2030. Fourteen out of 18 countries in the world, where the number of extreme poor is rising are in Africa.
- Given a starting point of about 725 million people in extreme poverty at the beginning of 2016, **we needed to reduce poverty by 1.5 people every second to achieve the goal and yet we've been moving at a pace of only 1.1 people per second**.
- Every minute 70 people escape poverty (or 1.2 people per second). This is close to the SDG-target (92 people per minute, or 1.5 per second) and allows us to estimate that around 36 million people have escaped extreme poverty in the year 2016.

India

India is no longer the country with the largest number of people living in extreme poverty. The dislodging of India from the ignominious number one position is a feat that took over fifty years to achieve. The study suggests that based on the (the UN's) Sustainable Development Goals, **India needs to set new targets and get 1.6 people per second out of the ambit of extreme poverty in order to completely eliminate extreme poverty**.

Way Forward

The economic policies of India since the 1960s till 1991, driven by socialism, had been growth constraining because they were focused on reducing inequality rather than bringing down poverty. The richest countries in the world have demonstrated that poverty alleviation is not possible without high economic growth. Though inequality is a concern across the world especially in developed countries but India, which continues to be a developing nation, cannot afford to prioritize it over poverty. India must remain steadfast in pulling more people out of extreme poverty. **As per the World Poverty Clock study, by 2022, less than 3% of Indians will be poor and by 2030, extreme poverty will be wiped out in the country**. However, all these projections are dependent on economic reforms without which India cannot expect to exit from the list of poor nations. Being number two among poor nations is no consolation.

PEPPER IT WITH

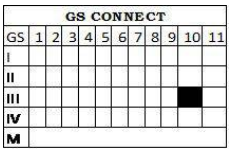
International day for eridiction of poverty, Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan, CIRDAP Centre, Universal Basic Income, Goalkeepers report

In the last four years, the government initiated some structural reforms but it must do more to achieve a double-digit growth rate, create more jobs, revamp land and labour markets, and implement the recommendations of Niti Aayog on the ease of doing business in India, etc.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Global realty transparency index

Why in News?



India has improved its ranking by **one notch to 35th** in the global real estate transparency index, driven by policy reforms and liberalisation of FDI rules in property as well as retail sectors, **according to realty consultant JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle, America)**.

The JLL's index measures transparency **by looking at factors including data availability its authenticity and accuracy, governance of public agencies as well as stakeholders of the realty sector, transaction processes and costs associated with those, and the regulatory and legal environment**.

- India was ranked 36th in the index during the last bi-annual survey conducted in 2016 and 40th in 2014. The country's real estate market is currently placed in the 'semi-transparent' zone.
- **The ranking is expected to improve further in the next survey in 2020, on the back of several government initiatives** such as Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA), GST and Benami Transactions Act.
- According to the survey, **UK is at the top position** followed by Australia and the US. France, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany, Ireland and Sweden are in top 10 in the list of 100 countries. Sri Lanka is at the 66th position and Pakistan at 75th among south Asian countries. Venezuela is the least transparent market with 100th rank.

PEPPER IT WITH

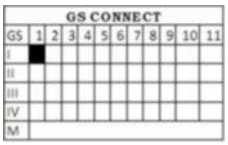
RERA, Benami Transactions Act, Future of Production Report, Global Hunger Index, Corruption Perception Index

Maximum improvement

Among BRICS nations, the consultant said that both China and South Africa remained on the same rank 33rd and 21st position, respectively, while, Brazil slipped to 37th position and Russia remained at 38th rank.

JLL said that India has emerged as one of the top ten countries to register maximum improvement in transparency in real estate over the last two years. The improvement in ranking were attributed to better market fundamentals, policy reforms and liberalisation of FDI into realty and retail sectors.

Ambubachi Mela



- Ambubachi Mela is an annual fair organised in the months of monsoon which falls during **Ahaar (Assamese month) in the month of June**. It is observed inside the Kamakhya Temple, situated in Guwahati, Assam.
- The festival is celebrated to commemorate the annual menstruation period of Goddess Kamakhya, the presiding deity of the Kamakhya Temple, who is revered as Mother Shakti. Hindus are of the view that during the rains, the pilgrims are able to receive the blessings of Devi Kamakhya.
- **There is no definite idol of the deity** but devotees offer their prayers in front of a stone which is structured like a 'yoni', on top of which flows a natural spring. Goddess Kamakhya is Goddess Kameshwari, the Goddess of Desire.
- The 4 day mela is also termed as '**Tantric Fertility Festival**' **or** '**Ameti**'as it is connected with the Tantric Shakti cult which is existent in the eastern portions of the country.

PEPPER IT WITH

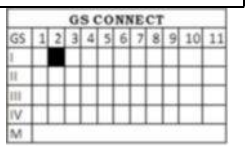
'Bauls' of West Bengal, black-clad 'Aghoras', Nilachal Hills, Lunar month, Nagara, Saracenic

- All temples in the surrounding areas remain closed for the first 3 days – the menstruation period of the Goddess. The cleansing happens on the 4th day, the temple is opened, and devotees receive blessings and prasad. **'Angabastra' and 'Angodak' are the two different forms of Prasad which are offered to the devotees**.
- **The Kamakhya Temple, situated in the Nilachal Hills or Blue Hills, is one of the 52 Shaktipeethas** and it is believed that the genitals of Shakti had fallen at this place. It is also

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

believed that the temple of Kamakhya was destroyed once in the early 16th century and was rebuilt by the king of Cooch Behar.

Sant Kabir

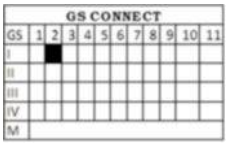


- June 28, 2018 Marks the **500th death anniversary of Sant Kabir** and is celebrated as Kabir Jayanti. Kabir Das reached the abode of God in **Maghar close to Gorakhpur in 1518**.
- Sant Kabir Das propagated that there is the presence of same supreme being in all religions. Sant Kabir Das was a highly acclaimed **poet and social reformer** of his time. His writings significantly influenced the Bhakti movement. Some of his famous writings include 'Sakhi Granth', 'Anurag Sagar', 'Bijak' and 'Kabir Granthawali'.
- His life took a major turn after he started following the teachings of **Guru Ramananda, a 15th century Hindu mystical guru who coined the name Kabir Das**.
- A religious community known as **'Kabir Panth'** was founded by him and the members of this forum are referred as 'Kabir Panthis', implying the followers of Kabir Das. He was admired by individual of all faiths and his teachings are still alive and passed from generations.

PEPPER IT WITH

Badshahi Assorkhana

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay



- Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay born in **West Bengal's Kantalpara village (1838-1894)**, was a Bengali poet, novelist, essayist, and journalist. He was one of the first two graduates of the University of Calcutta.
- He published his first novel, Kapalkundala, in 1866, and went on to publish more than seventeen romances, historical novels, and essays, as well as several literary journals.
- A religious reformer, Chattopadhyay believed that true reform could only be achieved through an internal reform of Hinduism, and strove to lay the foundations for a spiritual revival of Bengal. He is widely regarded as the "**father of the modern novel in India**," because his works established the novel as a major literary form in India.
- His epic **Anandamath (1882),** set in the background of the **Sanyasi Rebellion** (late 18th century), when Bengal was facing a famine too made him an influential figure on the Bengali renaissance who kept the people of Bengal intellectually stimulated through his literary campaign.
- The novel became synonymous with India's struggle for freedom from the British — who banned it. **India got its national song, Vande Mataram, from Anandamath which was later published in English as The Abbey of Bliss**.
- Anandamath tells a story about an army of Brahmin ascetics fighting Indian Muslims in the pay of the East India Company. The book called for unity among the Hindus and Muslims. **His famous song Vande Mataram was set to music by Rabindranath Tagore**.

"**Jana Gana Mana**", originally written in Bengali is the first of five stanzas of a poem written and later set to notations by Rabindranath Tagore. **Jana Gana Mana was first sung in Dec 1911**. It was officially adopted by the Constituent Assembly as the Indian national anthem on January 24, 1950. **A formal rendition of our national anthem takes 52seconds**.

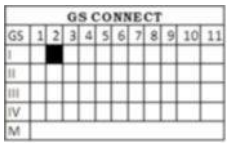
PEPPER IT WITH

Tattvabodhini Patrika, Sangbad, Prabhakar, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Rabindranath Tagore, Surendranath Dutt, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, King George V, 1911 INC session

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

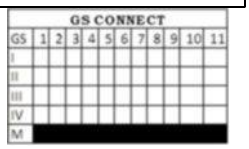
- He also founded a monthly literary magazine, **Bangadarshan, in 1872, through which Bankim is credited with influencing the emergence of a Bengali identity and nationalism**. Many of his novels were published in this magazine in the form of serials.
- Krishnakanter Will in 1878, Bishabriksha (The Poison Tree) in 1873, Durgeshnandini, his first Bengali romance in 1865, Mrinalini in 1869, Vishbriksha in 1873, Chandrasekhar in 1877, Rajani in 1877, Rajsimha in 1881, Indira (1873) and Devi Chaudhurani in 1884 are some of his famous works.

AITUC



- All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was founded in 1920 with Lala Lajpat Rai as its first president.
- The first session of the AITUC was held under the presidentship of Lala Lajpat Rai at Bombay.
- The AITUC was formed by the Indian National Congress (the central organ of the independence movement) in 1920 to represent India at the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations.
- AITUC is represented on Indian Labour conference Tripartite Body constituted by the Labour Ministry of Government of India.
- The AITUC is a member of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

MoU between India and Viet Nam



The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the **joint issue of a postage stamp between Department of Posts and Viet Nam Post**.
Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Viet Nara Post mutually agreed to jointly issue Postage Stamps on India-Viet Nam: Joint Issue on the theme "Ancient Architecture". The Commemorative Postage Stamps on India-Viet Nam: **Joint Issue depicts Sanchi Stupa of India and Pho Minh Pagoda of Viet Nam**.

Concept Clearing Assignment

1. Banking by and large is a business which is easy to replicate. And with every private bank now scurrying for the rural deposit pie, it will be a tough market out there for Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks unless it has an extremely novel proposition. Do you think there is competition between private banks and SFBs and Payment Banks in rural areas?
2. In vision of the "Doubling the income of Farmer" envisaged by PM how does the recommendation of Swaminathan Commission report highlights the problem faced by Agriculture sector in achieving the vision of "Doubling the income of Farmer".
3. Bring out the key features of Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Amendment Bill. Discuss the social impact of Indecent representation of women and suggest measures to put check on it.
4. Is the recent move to absorb the workforce for civil services via lateral entry by government justified? Support your answer in light of the provisions provided in the constitution of India. Elucidate.
5. Briefly discuss the structure of NITI Aayog and highlights its significance in governance stating the milestones it has achieved in its inception.
6. What are the steps taken by government to tackle the cross-border insolvency cases prevalent in India? Critically analyse.
7. Indian Prime Minister made a five day visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to consolidate India's ties in the Southeast Asia region. Briefly highlight the Act East policy and how it has helped India in expanding her political, economic and strategic interest in defence in southeastern Asia.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

8. Briefly discuss the Global Peace Index 2018. Highlight the reasons for India's poor performance as ranked 137 out of 163 countries in light of the parament of GPI 2018. Comment
9. Briefly discus Hague Adoption Convention and its significance. Bring out the constitutional remedies available in India to tackle the inter-locutory abduction of the children by parents.
10. What is Assumption island deal and how is it strategically important to counter China expansion? Critically analyse the reasons for failure of the deal.
11. What is a Nuclear Suppliers Group? Bring out it significance in peacekeeping across the world. Highlight the reasons in path of India to become a NSG member.
12. Briefly discuss COMCASA. How it will benefit India in field of Communications Compatibility and Security at international level? Comment.
13. Define the phenomenon Desertification and Drought. What are the steps to combat them? Elucidate your answer in context of India.
14. RBI recently celebrated financial literacy week 2018. Highlight the importance of Financial literacy in India and how it will imbibe good practices of banking in Indian consumers?
15. What are Export Credit Guarantee Corporation? How it will help the economy of the MSME at global level? Comment.
16. Briefly discuss World Poverty Clock study. Bring out the reasons why India is still a poor country. Suggest the measures and reforms to alleviate poverty and inequality in India.

P.T Oriented Questions

1. Consider the following about Integrity Index and choose the correct one/s
   1. It is being developed by Niti Aayog
   2. The Integrity Index will bring out annual scores/rankings of educational institutes

   Code:
   (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Which one of the following statements appropriately describes the "fiscal stimulus"? (CSE 2011)
   (a) It is a massive investment by the government in manufacturing sector to ensure the supply of goods to meet the demand surge caused by rapid economic growth.
   (b) It is an intense affirmative action of the government to boost economic activity in the country.
   (c) It is government's intensive action on financial institutions to ensure disbursement of loans to agriculture and allied sectors to promote greater food production and contain food inflation.
   (d) It is an extreme affirmative action by the government to pursue its policy of financial inclusion

3. Consider the following about CarbFix project and choose the correct one/s
   1. In this CO2 will be captured and stored in water deep
   2. First CarbFix project has begun operation in Hellishiedi

   Code:
   (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
   (c) 1 and 2 (d) None

4. Consider the following statements about Trachoma and choose the correct one/s.
   1. Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of Kidney Failure in the world
   2. India has been recently declared free from Trachoma

   Code:
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) 1 and 2
   (d) None

5. Consider the following about Chakma and Hajong refugees and choose the correct one/s
   1. The Chakmas and Hajongs are ethnic people who lived in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, most of which are located in Bangladesh
   2. Chakmas are predominantly Hindus, while Hajongs are Buddhists

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Code:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2
(d) None

6. Consider the following about Kambala and choose the correct one/s
   1. It is traditional competitive bullock race.
   2. It is performed in coastal districts of Karnataka.

   Code:
   (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
   (c) 1 and 2 (d) None

7. What was the purpose with which sir William Wedderburn and W.S.Caine had set up the Indian parliamentary committee in 1893 ? (CSE 2011)
   (a) To agitate for Indian political reforms in the house of commons.
   (b) To campaign for the entry of Indians into the imperial judiciary.
   (c) To facilitate a discussion on India's independence in the British parliament.
   (d) To agitate for the entry of eminent Indians into the British parliament.

8. With reference to Indian freedom struggle, Usha Mehta is well-known for? (CSE 2011)
   (a) Running the secret congress radio in the wake of quit India movement.
   (b) Participating in the second round table conference.
   (c) Leading a contingent of Indian national army.
   (d) Assisting in the formation of Interim government under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

9. What is the difference between "vote-on-account" and interim budget? (CSE 2011)
   1. The provision of a "vote-on-account" is used by a regular government, while an "interim budget" is a provision used by a caretaker government.
   2. A "vote-on-account" only deals with the expenditure in government is budget, while an "interim budget" includes both expenditure and receipts.

   Which of the statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Satellites used for telecommunication relay are kept in a geostationary orbit. A satellite is said to be in such an orbit when (CSE 2011)
    1. The orbit is geosynchronous.
    2. The orbit is circular.
    3. The orbit lies in the plane of the earth's equator.
    4. The orbit is at an altitude of 22,236.

    Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:
    (a) 1,2,and 3 only (b) 1,3 and 4 only
    (c) 2 and 4 only (d) 1,2,3, and 4

11. Consider the following about Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETBPS) and choose the correct one/s
    1. It has been developed by ECI for armed personnels.
    2. It has been successfully conducted in Goa.

    Code:
    (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
    (c) 1 and 2 (d) None

12. Consider the following about The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and choose the correct one/s
    1. It is an agreement reached between Iran and USA on nuclear installations.
    2. Its provisions are verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

    Code:
    (a) 1 only
    (b) 2 only
    (c) 1 and 2
    (d) None

13. Consider the following about Cabotage and choose the correct one/s
    1. It refers to transport of goods within the same country by an foreign operator.
    2. In India the Cabotage rule aims to protect domestic shipping industry.

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

Code:
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) None

14. Patratu thermal power plant is located in
(a) Jharkhand
(b) West Bengal
(c) Odisha
(d) Andhra Pradesh

15. Consider the following about Pinaka Rocket and choose the correct one/s
1. It has been indigenously developed by DRDO.
2. It is capable of carrying nuclear warheads.
Code:
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) None

16. Consider the following about Clean Air India Initiative and choose the correct one/s
1. It has been launched by governments of India and Germany.
2. The campaign aims to curb air pollution in Indian cities by building a network of entrepreneurs working on business solutions for cleaner air.
Code:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2
(d) None

17. Consider the following statements about Indus Dolphins and choose the correct one/s
1. It is found in the the lower reaches of the Indus River in Pakistan.
2. It has been assigned as Critically Endangered by IUCN.
3. Its numbers have dramatically declined since the construction of the irrigation system in the Indus.
Code:
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above

18. Which of the following characters have been assigned as Intellectual Property (IP) mascot.
(a) Elephant
(b) Tiger
(c) A Scientist
(d) An old lady (Nani)

19. Consider the following about Sadharan Brahmo Samaj and choose the correct one/s
1. It was founded in 1878 in Calcutta.
2. Mr. Umesh Chandra Dutta was appointed the first President of the Samaj.
Code:
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) None

20. Consider the followig about Black Panthrs and choose the correct one/s
1. It has been designated Vulnerable by IUCN
2. In India they are seen in Odisha only
Code:
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) None

21. The CACP defines production costs of crops under three categories -- A2, A2+FL and C2. C2 consists of which of the following
1. Actual Paid out interest
2. Interest loans
3. Fixed capital asset
Code:
(a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 (d) All the above

22. Consider the following about National Development Agenda and choose the correct one/s
1. It has been prepared by Niti Aayog.
2. It has been developed to make agriculture profitable and sustainable.
Code:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2
(d) None

KSG – **(DELHI VN)** 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**

23. Consider the following about International Comparison Programme (ICP) and choose the correct one/s
    1. It is a global statistical initiative that supports inter-country comparisons of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, using Purchasing Power Parity.
    2. It is led by World Bank group.

    Code:
    (a) 1 only
    (b) 2 only
    (c) 1 and 2
    (d) None

24. SIMBEX is naval exercise between India and
    (a) Malaysia
    (b) Singapore
    (c) Thailand
    (d) Seyachelles

25. SAMPADA scheme is for
    (a) Mineral Resources
    (b) Heritage sites
    (c) Agro-Marine Processing
    (d) Higher Education

26. Consider the following statements about Canola and choose the correct one/s
    1. Canola is the variety of mustard carrying lower levels of erucic acid — less than 2%
    2. It has been in great demand due to health benefits.

    Code:
    (a) 1 only
    (b) 2 only
    (c) 1 and 2
    (d) None

27. Sharada Prasad committee is constituted for
    (a) Sector Skill Council
    (b) Employment Generation
    (c) Railways
    (d) Smart cities

28. Consider the following about MASALA Bonds and choose the correct one/s
    1. It is a ruppee dominated bond to raise money from foreign market.
    2. It has got high risk of currency fluctuation.
    3. These bonds are traded on the London Stock Exchange.

    Code:
    (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
    (c) 2 and 3 (d) All the above

29. Consider the following about Indian Star Tortoise and choose the correct one/s
    1. It has been designated Endangered by IUCN.
    2. It is native to India, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka.
    3. It has been placed in Appendix II of CITES.

    Code:
    (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
    (c) 2 and 3 (d) All the above

30. Consider the following about Basaveshwara and choose the correct one/s
    1. He was one of the member of the Carnatic music trinity.
    2. He was the founder of Veerashaivism.
    3. He was the writer of Vachana.

    Code:
    (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
    (c) 2 and 3 (d) All the above

KSG – (DELHI VN) 9717380832, **(DELHI RN)**, **(JAIPUR)** 8290800441, **(BHOPAL)**7509975361, **(PATNA)** 7463950774, **(INDORE)** 7314977441, **www.ksgindia.com**