

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY

WEEK - 5 AUGUST, 2019

MAINS

GOVERNANCE

② Witness Protection in India

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

② Indo-Bhutan Relations

POLITY

② Legislative Council

ECONOMICS

Repo Rates

ENVIRONMENT

CITES CoP 2019

Conservation of Lakes

India's Renewable Energy Capacity

Lead Batteries

Nitrate pollution

Pesticide Alternative

So2 Emissions

Solid fuels and household air pollution

State Butterfly

HEALTH

National Essential Diagnostic List

New Cure for deadly strain of TB

Process of Trial of Criminal Cases in India

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Developing Tag in World Trade Organization

G7 Summit 2019

POLITY

Cabinet Secretariat

Ladakh as a UT

Senior Advocate

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Space debris

SECURITY

Nuclear doctrine of India

SOCIAL ISSUES

Odisha's KALIA Scheme

MISCELLANEOUS

Odisha's KALIA Scheme

PRELIMS

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— **Disclaimer** —

The current affairs articles are segregated from prelims and mains perspective, such separation is maintained in terms of structure of articles. Mains articles have more focus on analysis and prelims articles have more focus on facts.

However, this doesn't mean that Mains articles don't cover facts and PT articles can't have analysis. You are suggested to read all of them for all stages of examination.

CURRENT AFFAIRS ANALYST
WEEK-5 (AUGUST, 2019)

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SECTION: A
(MAINS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WITNESS PROTECTION IN INDIA

CONTEXT

- The recent accident in Rae Bareilly in which a rape survivor's two aunts died, and which left her and her lawyer in a critical condition, has drawn much media attention.

◎ BACKGROUND

- Jeremy Bentham has said that "**Witnesses are the eyes and ears of justice.**" In cases involving influential people, witnesses turn hostile because of threat to life and property.
- Witnesses find that there is no legal obligation by the state for extending any security.
- Moreover, in recent years organized crime has grown and is becoming stronger and more diverse.
- In the investigation and prosecution of crime, particularly the more serious and complex forms of organized crime, it is essential that witnesses, the cornerstones for successful investigation and prosecution, have trust in criminal justice system.
- First ever reference to Witness Protection in India came in 14th Law Commission Report in 1958.
- Recent instance of failure of Witness Protection
 - ▶ Recently, two aunts, one of whom was also a witness in the **Unnao Rape case**, died in a car accident. This is being considered as an attempt to murder by the prime accused in the case
 - ▶ In June 2019, an assistant Sub Inspector, who was assigned to protect murder witness, was accidentally killed when the assailants missed their aim while attempting to kill the witness.
 - ▶ In 2017, in the **Asaram Babu case** concerning the rape of some women devotees, three witnesses were killed and as many as 10 attacked in an attempt to weaken the case.

UNDERSTANDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OF INDIA

Criminal Justice System (CJS)

- Criminal Justice refers to the **agencies of government** charged with enforcing law, adjudicating crime, and correcting criminal conduct. For example: Police, Court of Law, Jail etc.
- CJS is essentially an **instrument of social control**: society considers some behaviour so dangerous and destructive that it either strictly controls their occurrence or outlaws them outright.

Objectives of an Efficient Criminal Justice System

- To prevent the **occurrence of crime**.
- To **punish the transgressors** and the criminals.
- To **rehabilitate the transgressors** and the criminals.
- To **compensate the victims** as far as possible.
- To **protect the witness** from harassment and undue influences
- To **maintain law and order** in the society.
- To **deter the offenders from committing any criminal act in the future**.

Some of the major Criminal Laws in India

- The Indian Penal Code of 1860
- The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955
- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

◎ ANALYSIS

Status of Criminal Justice System in India

- The **criminal law and criminal procedure** are in the **concurrent list** of the seventh schedule of the constitution
- The Criminal Justice System in India is an **age-old system** primarily based upon the Penal legal system that was **established by the British Rule in India**.
- The system has still **not undergone any substantial changes** (Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code) to adopt the contemporary changes in the Indian Society
- In India only about **16 out of 100 people booked for criminal offences** are finally convicted. **Low rate of conviction** points to the inefficiency of the Criminal Justice System of India
- The system takes **years to bring justice** and has ceased to deter criminals. Currently, there are **more 2.8 crore cases pending** in various courts across India. Justice delayed is justice denied.
- On the contrary, many **innocent people remain as undertrial prisoners** as well. As per **NCRB**

data, 71% of our total prison population comprises of undertrials prisoners. (4 lakh total prisoners in Indian Jails)

- The hierarchy of courts, with appeals after appeals, puts legal **justice beyond the reach of the poor**.
- The poor victims of crime are entirely overlooked in misplaced sympathy for the criminal.
- The recent conflict in the higher officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has damaged the respect of the premier investigation agency of the nation.
- Poor Criminal Justice System in India is one of the most major reason behind the **low success of India's extradition requests made to other countries**. Only 1/3rd of the request made by India are accepted since 2002.
- After **34 Years**, The Supreme Court has finally brought Sajjan Kumar, an accused in the 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, to justice by convicting and sentencing him to imprisonment for life for his involvement in the killing on innocent sikh people in the 1984 riots.

Steps taken by the Government of India to improve the Criminal Justice System in India

- The parliament has put in place a **Witness Protection Scheme** in 2018. Currently, the witness receive life threats from the accused parties, their time and travel cost in attending the court is seldom taken into account, and there is little incentive for the witness to turn up in court.
- Government is now considering the recommendation of the **Malimath Committee**, which submitted its report in 2003.
- Maharashtra has come out with the **Maharashtra Witness and Protection and Security Act 2017**, which was notified in January 2018.

Witness Protection Scheme 2018

- The scheme was drawn up by:
 - ▶ the central government with inputs from 8 states/Union Territories
 - ▶ legal services authorities of five states
 - ▶ open sources including civil society, three high courts as well as from police personnel
- The scheme was finalised in consultation with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

Features

- The important features include identifying categories of threat perceptions and preparation of a 'Threat Analysis Report' by the head of the police.
- Besides, other protective measures include -
 - ▶ ensuring that the witness and accused do not come face to face during probe

- ▶ protection of identity
- ▶ change of identity
- ▶ relocation of witness
- ▶ witnesses to be apprised of the scheme
- ▶ confidentiality and preservation of records
- ▶ recovery of expenses, etc
- Other features include in-camera trial, proximate physical protection and anonymising of testimony and references to witnesses in the records.

Procedure

- The application for protection will have to be filed before the "Competent Authority" along with supporting documents.
- The Authority will in turn seek a "Threat Analysis Report" from the ACP/DCP in charge of the police station.
- The Authority will be required to dispose an application within five days from the date of receipt of Threat Analysis Report.
- In its report, the police officer must categorise the threat perception and suggest protective measures.
- The Authority shall interact with the witness and other relevant persons (in person or through electronic means).
- Proceedings of the Authority will be held in-camera.
- The Witness Protection Order passed by the Competent Authority shall be implemented by the Witness Protection Cell of the state or UT.
- The "overall responsibility" for implementing the order lies with the head of the police of the state and Union Territory.
- If the order is for change of identity or relocation, it shall be implemented by the Home department concerned.
- The Witness Protection Cell will file a monthly follow-up report to the Authority.
- It also empowers the Authority to call for a fresh Threat Analysis Report if it feels the need to revise its order.

Significance

The witnesses, being eyes and ears of justice, play an important role in bringing perpetrators of crime to justice. The scheme is the first attempt at the national-level to holistically provide for the protection of the witnesses, which will go a long way in eliminating secondary victimization. This scheme attempts at ensuring that witnesses receive appropriate and adequate protection. It also strengthens the criminal justice system in the country and will consequently enhance national security scenario.



CONTEXT

The recent accident in Rae Bareilly in which a rape survivor's two aunts died, and which left her and her lawyer in a critical condition, has drawn much media attention and has again brought into focus the issue of **witness protection measures**

Background

A **Draft Witness Protection Scheme** was framed by the Centre in consultation with (NALSA) in 2018

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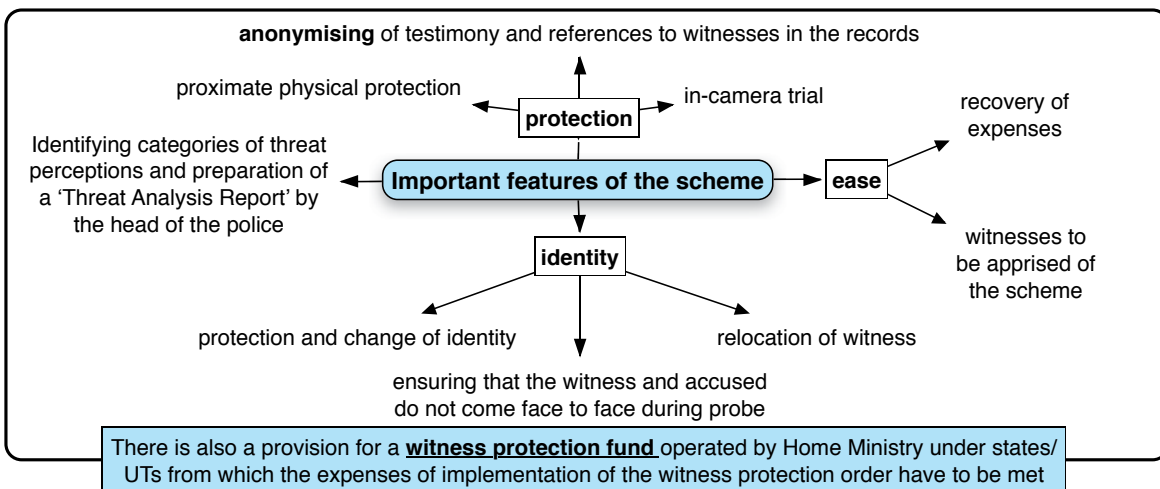
Learning Aid

The SC directed respective state governments to implement this scheme while giving verdict in a case

Objectives

ensure that the investigation, prosecution and trial of criminal offences is **not prejudiced** because witnesses are intimidated or frightened to give evidence

identify **series of measures** that may be adopted to safeguard witnesses and their family from intimidation and threats



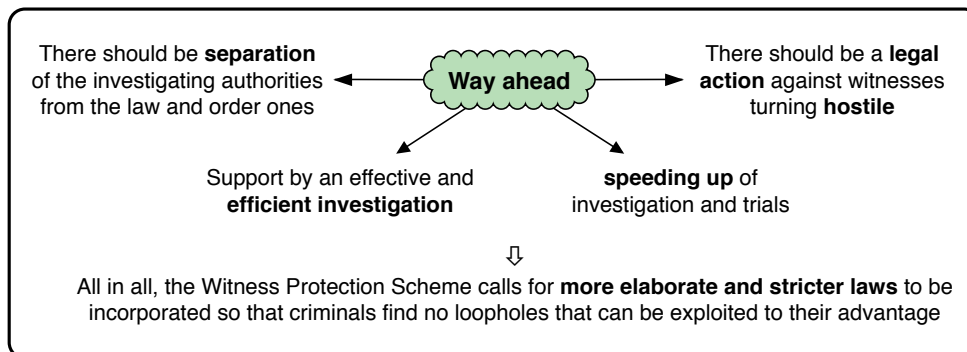
There has been **poor implementation** of the scheme so far on the ground

Scheme is silent on the punishment to be given to those policemen who, while being charged with providing security, themselves threaten the witnesses

Some Issues

There is no mention of procedure to deal with **hostile witnesses**

It fails to break the **police-politicians-criminal** nexus



BOTTOMLINE

This scheme is the first attempt at the national-level to holistically provide for the protection of the witnesses. If all issues are addressed and it is implemented well, it will strengthen the criminal justice system in the country and will consequently enhance national security scenario

INDO-BHUTAN RELATIONS

CONTEXT

- Prime Minister's two day visit to Thimphu affirmed a long-standing tradition between India and Bhutan.

◎ BACKGROUND

- Bhutan was a protectorate of British India and came under the British suzerainty in 1865. It signed the 'Treaty of Punakha' with the British in 1910, which set the stage for any future contact between the two countries after the British left the subcontinent.
- India's relations with Bhutan were handled by a Political Officer based in Sikkim. This continued until 1948, when a Bhutanese delegation visited India and wished to revise the treaties previously signed with the British
- After India's independence in 1947, standstill agreements with Sikkim, Nepal and Tibet were signed to continue existing relations until new agreements were made. For Bhutan, its status became clearer following Nehru's invitation for a Bhutanese delegation to participate in the Asian Regional Conference in 1947.
- Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan were established in 1968 with the establishment of a special office of India in Thimphu.
- Sharing a 699 Kilometers border, India and Bhutan shares a deep religion-cultural links. Guru Padmasambhava, a Buddhist saint also played an influential role in spreading Buddhism and deepening traditional ties between people in both nations.
- The basic framework of India- Bhutan bilateral relations was the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 between the two countries.
- The Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan was been celebrated in the year 2018.
- India and Bhutan share traditionally warm and friendly relationship which is relatively trouble free when compared with other South Asian neighbors.
- The two countries have always shared a unique and organic relationship which is often termed as a 'sacred bond', largely sustained by regular high level visits and dialogues between the neighbors.
- Bhutan has been central to India's two major policies – the 'Neighborhood First Policy' and the 'Act-East Policy'.

◎ ANALYSIS

Bhutan's Significance to India

- Bhutan shares border with four Indian States: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim.
- Bhutan serves as a buffer between India and China.
- Bhutan provides a market for Indian commodities and is a destination for Indian investment along with providing boost to the trade between two countries.
- Bhutan is a rich source of hydropower. Thus, can fulfill India's need of resources.
- Politically stable Bhutan is very important to India, as unstable situations in Bhutan can provide a safe haven to anti-India activities and anti-India militant groups.
- Bhutan has never played the China card against India unlike Nepal which always threatens for the same.
- Bhutan has repeatedly turned down Chinese 'package deal' offers making bigger territorial concessions to Bhutan in return for the smaller Doklam area (remaining sensitive to India's security concerns in the area).
- Bhutan's effort to drive out ULFA rebels was of a great significance.
- Bhutan's Happiness index which is adopted by India (Madhya Pradesh) also is a great initiative learnt from Bhutanese.

Areas of Cooperation

- There are a number of institutional mechanisms between India and Bhutan in areas such as security, border management, trade, transit, economic, hydro-power, development cooperation, water resources.
- There have been regular exchanges at the Ministerial and officials' level, exchanges of parliamentary delegations to strengthen partnership in diverse areas of cooperation.
- India has pledged to assist Bhutan in developing at least 10,000 MWs of hydropower and import the surplus electricity to India by 2020.
- Inauguration of the 720 MW Mangdechhu hydropower plant which is of great significance for both the countries.

- Open borders, close alignment and consultation on foreign policy, and regular, open communications on all strategic issues are the hallmark of the relationship that has maintained its consistency for the past many decades.
- Bhutan's unequivocal support to India on strategic issues has meant a lot to India on the international stage and at the United Nations.
- India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. Major exports from India to Bhutan are mineral products, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipments etc. whereas major items of import from Bhutan are electricity, ferrosilicon, Portland cement etc.
- Both of them also share other multilateral forums such as BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal), BIMSTEC.
- There is a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management between India and Bhutan to discuss the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India.
- Prestigious Nehru-Wangchuk Scholarship is being awarded to deserving and talented Bhutanese nationals to undertake studies in selected and premier Indian educational Institutions.

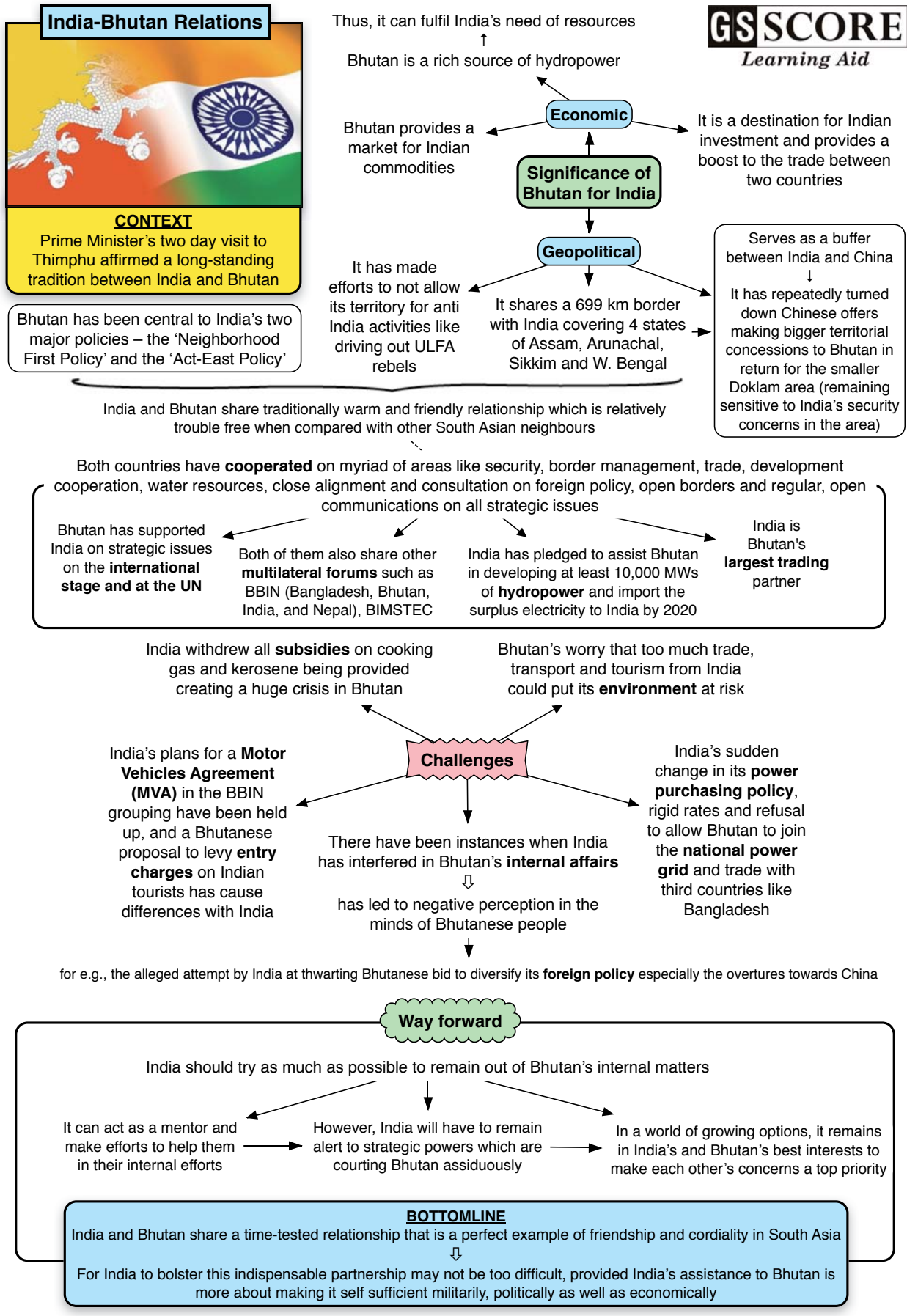
Challenges in the relation

- There have been instances when India has interfered in Bhutan's internal affairs. This has led to negative perception of India in the minds of Bhutanese people.
- Ties came under a strain over India's sudden change in its power purchasing policy, rigid rates and refusal to allow Bhutan to join the national power grid and trade with third countries like Bangladesh.
- Bhutan's worry that too much trade, transport and tourism from India could put its environment at risk.
- India's plans for a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) in the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal grouping have been held up, and a Bhutanese proposal to levy entry charges on Indian tourists has caused differences with India.

- Earlier generations of Bhutanese students never looked beyond India, but in recent years young Bhutanese have shown a preference for education destinations in Australia, Singapore and Thailand.
- India withdrew all subsidies on cooking gas and kerosene being provided to Bhutan creating a huge crisis in Bhutan that strained the bilateral ties.
- The crisis in Indo-Bhutan relations exploded apparently, over alleged attempt by India at thwarting Bhutanese bid to diversify its foreign policy especially the overtures towards China.

Way forward

- India and Bhutan share a time-tested relationship that is a perfect example of friendship and cordiality in South Asia. For India to bolster this indispensable partnership may not be too difficult, provided India's assistance to Bhutan is more about making it self-sufficient militarily, politically as well as economically.
- With India's help, Bhutan can become economically competitive, militarily advanced and self-reliant in matters of national security.
- Furthermore, as the world's largest democracy, India can guide Bhutan in developing requisite democratic infrastructure and a political establishment that can sustain the demands of a democratic society.
- India should try as much as possible to remain out of Bhutan's internal matters; it can act as a mentor and make efforts to help them in their internal efforts.
- Bhutan however, until recently as per the treaty obligation of 2007 followed the Indian direction, kept India's interest in mind and evaded a settlement with China.
- Bhutan does not rely on powers outside the region for the maintenance of a strategic order in the South Asian region; India should always harness the potential.
- India will have to remain alert to strategic powers which are courting Bhutan assiduously, as is evident from the high-level visits from China and the U.S. In a world of growing options, it remains in India's and Bhutan's best interests to make each other's concerns a top priority.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

CONTEXT

- The Madhya Pradesh government has indicated that it plans to initiate steps towards creation of a Legislative Council.

◎ BACKGROUND

- Bicameralism is the practice of having two Houses of Parliament. At the State level, the equivalent of the Lok Sabha is the Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly), and that of the Rajya Sabha is the Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council).
- Upper House is considered important in the parliamentary system, as only a third of the seats are filled every two years and it therefore acts as a check against potential impetuosity of electoral majorities in the Lower House.
- With members mostly indirectly elected, the Upper House also ensures that individuals who might not be cut out for the rough-and-tumble of direct elections too are able to contribute to the legislative process.
- Under Article 169, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a State if the Legislative Assembly of that State passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.
- At present, six Indian States have bicameral legislatures. Some argue that unlike the Rajya Sabha, the Vidhan Parishad does not serve its purpose and poses a strain on States' finances.

States with legislative councils

- Currently, **six states** have Legislative Councils. Jammu and Kashmir too had one, until the state was bifurcated into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

| STATES WITH TWO HOUSES | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| State | MLA seats* | MLC seats |
| Andhra | 176 | 58 |
| Bihar | 243 | 58 |
| Karnataka | 225 | 75 |
| Maharashtra | 289 | 78 |
| Telangana | 119 | 40 |
| UP | 404 | 100 |
| *Including nominated members | | |

- The Odisha Assembly recently passed a resolution for a Legislative Council. Proposals to create Councils in Rajasthan and Assam are pending in Parliament

Constitutional provisions

- Article 171 of the Constitution provides option for a state to have a Legislative Council in addition to its Legislative Assembly.
- As in Rajya Sabha, members of a Legislative Council are not directly elected by voters.
- Manner of Election Of the total number of members of a legislative council:
 - ▶ 1/3 are elected by the members of local bodies in the state like municipalities, district boards, etc.
 - ▶ 1/12 are elected by graduates of three years standing and residing within the state
 - ▶ 1/12 are elected by teachers of three years standing in the state, not lower in standard than secondary school,
 - ▶ 1/3 are elected by the members of the legislative assembly of the state from amongst persons who are not members of the assembly, and
 - ▶ the remainder are nominated by the governor from amongst persons who have a special knowledge or practical experience of literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.

Thus, 5/6 of the total number of members of a legislative council are indirectly elected and 1/6 are nominated by the governor.

- **Procedure - Under Article 169**, a Legislative Council can be formed "if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting". Parliament can then pass a law to this effect.

Legislative council comparison with Rajyasabha

- The legislative power of the Councils is limited.
- Unlike Rajya Sabha which has substantial powers to shape non-financial legislation, Legislative Councils lack a constitutional mandate to do so.

- Assemblies can override suggestions/amendments made to legislation by the Council.
- Unlike Rajya Sabha MPs, MLCs cannot vote in elections for the President and Vice President.
- The Vice President is the Rajya Sabha Chairperson; an MLC is the Council Chairperson.

◎ ANALYSIS

Arguments against Legislative Councils

- **Accommodating various political interests**—parties need it to accommodate people who cannot be elected and are not nominated to other corporations or State bodies.
- It can be used to provide **unnecessary delay** without serving any purpose as ultimate authority lies with the state assembly.
- It is an unnecessary drain on the exchequer expenditure and becomes an unnecessary luxury for defeated candidates of the ruling party.
- Also graduates are no longer a rare breed; also, with dipping educational standards, a graduate degree is no guarantee of any real intellectual heft. And then again, why should graduates be privileged as people's representatives in a democracy?
- Legislatures draw their talent both from the grassroots level and the higher echelons of learning. There are enough numbers of doctors, teachers and other professionals in most political parties today.

Arguments in favour of Legislative Councils

- A second House can help check hasty actions by the directly elected House, and also enable non-

elected individuals to contribute to the legislative process

- It thus at least on paper, it provides a mechanism for a more sober and considered appraisal of legislation that a State may pass and act as a revising chamber.
- Sending legislation to the other house would involve some delay in the passing of a bill, and would ensure that there will be adequate time to scrutinise legislation before it is passed
- It provides a forum for academicians and intellectuals, who are arguably not suited for the rough and tumble of electoral politics.
- It thus provides wiser counsel to the State assemblies by including experts in Legislative council.
- Members of various communities and ethnic groups which could not be sent to the Assembly could be accommodated in the council for **fair representation**.

Way Forward

- Legislative Councils are subject to varied and inconclusive discussions around their creation, revival and abolishment from time to time whenever a state demands it.
- A national policy on having an Upper House in State legislatures is needed to be framed by the Union government, so that a subsequent government doesn't abolish it.
- This would mean asking the following types of questions: how much of a difference have legislative councils made in the widening of representation in large states? Is there any evidence that having a legislative council positively impacts the quality of governance and law-making in any state?

Legislative Council (LC)

CONTEXT

The Madhya Pradesh government has indicated that it plans to initiate steps towards creation of a Legislative Council. Also, the Odisha Assembly recently passed a resolution for a LC and proposals to create LCs in Rajasthan and Assam are pending in Parliament



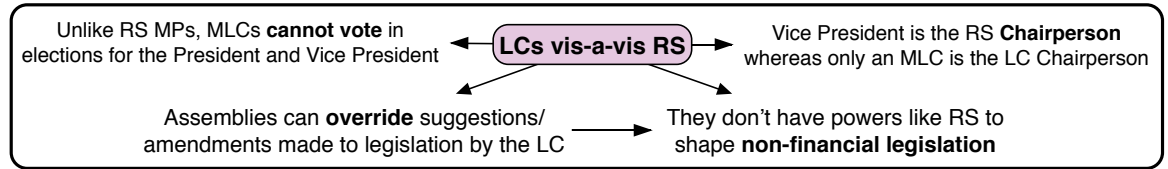
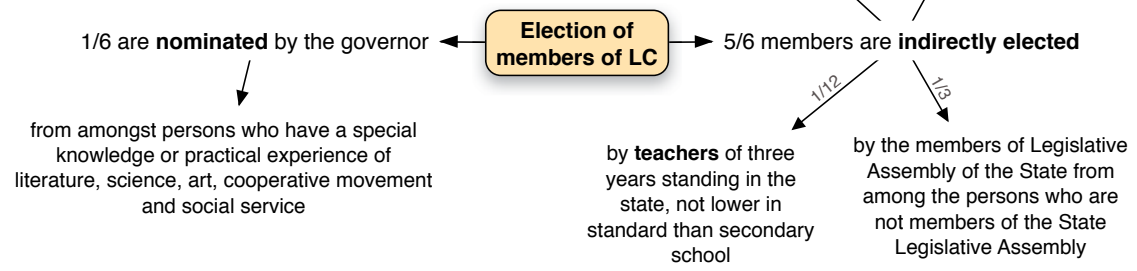
Article 171 → provides option for a state to have a LC

Indian States with Bicameral Legislature



(* J&K also had a LC until state was bifurcated into UTs recently)

Procedure for its formation is given in Art. 169 → The Legislative Assembly of a State needs to pass a resolution by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than 2/3rds of the members of the Assembly present and voting
↓
Parliament can then pass a law to this effect



It can help **check hasty actions** by the directly elected House, and also enable non-elected individuals to contribute to the legislative process

can be a source for **unnecessary delay** without serving any purpose as ultimate authority lies with the state assembly

Arguments in favour

- Members of **various communities and ethnic groups** which could not be sent to the Assembly could be accommodated in the council for **fair representation**
- provides a **forum for academicians and intellectuals**, who are arguably not suited for the rough and tumble of electoral politics

Arguments against

- It's an unnecessary drain on the **exchequer expenditure** and serves as luxury for defeated candidates of the ruling party
- Why should graduates be privileged** as people's representatives in a democracy?

A national policy on having a LC is needed to be framed by the centre, so that a subsequent govt doesn't abolish it. This would mean asking the following types of questions: how much of a difference have LCs made in the widening of representation in large states? Is there any evidence that having a LC positively impacts the quality of governance and law-making in any state?

SECTION: B

(PRELIMS)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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REPO RATE

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is considering asking banks to link loans to an external benchmark such as the repo rate to improve transmission of policy rates and foster economic growth.**
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - In December 2018, RBI said that banks must set their interest rates for new loans against an external benchmark beginning 1 April.
 - The rule was supposed to apply to **all new retail loans and small business loans** with floating rates from that date.
 - The proposal, however, **was opposed by bankers** who wrote to the regulator citing their concerns.
 - Thus in April, the linking to external benchmarks was postponed and RBI decided to discuss the proposal with the parties concerned before taking a decision on implementing it.
 - Currently, banks price their loans based on their marginal cost of **funds-based lending rate (MCLR)**.
 - **SBI** had been linking the interest rate on its **savings bank accounts as well as short-term loans to RBI's repo rate** since May 2019. Few other banks too have following the suit.

Significance

- Curbing inflation or stimulating growth by raising or lowering the cost of money is the key objective of monetary policy.
- But for a few years now, hikes or reductions in the repo rate by India's Monetary Policy Committee have had only a marginal impact on the economy because of the partial transmission of these cuts by banks.
- Given that banks source only about 1 per cent of their funds from RBI's repo window and the bulk from deposits from the public, they complain that they cannot slash their lending rates unless their deposit rates moderate.
- Linking savings account interest rates to the repo rate partly solves this problem by ensuring that banks' cost of funds fall immediately after every repo rate cut, **enabling lending rates to be pruned.**

Different types of policy rates and lending/deposit rates

- **Repo rate:** It is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. Repo rate is used by monetary authorities to control inflation.
- **Reverse repo rate:** It is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) borrows money from commercial banks within the country. It is a monetary policy instrument which can be used to control the money supply in the country.
- **Marginal standing facility (MSF):** It is a window for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India in an emergency situation when inter-bank liquidity dries up completely.
- **Bank rate:** It is the rate charged by the central bank for lending funds to commercial banks.
- **Base rate:** It is the minimum rate set by the Reserve Bank of India below which banks are not allowed to lend to its customers.

The marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR):

- It is the minimum interest rate that a bank can lend at. MCLR is a tenor-linked internal benchmark, which means the rate is determined internally by the bank depending on the period left for the repayment of a loan.

- MCLR is closely linked to the actual deposit rates and is calculated based **on four components: the marginal cost of funds, negative carry on account of cash reserve ratio, operating costs and tenor premium.**

CITES COP 2019

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - **CITES CoP 2019: Giraffes accorded protection from trade for the first time.**
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - **The giraffe** has been placed in **Appendix II of CITES**, which places prohibitions on uncontrolled trade in a species. The Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species or CITES in Geneva passed a resolution to place the giraffe in Appendix II of CITES
 - Giraffes, those tall, stately and graceful animals of Africa's savannahs, have been accorded protection from unregulated trade as the world finally woke up to their 'silent extinction'.
 - The Appendix II listing was proposed by Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, Mali, Niger and Senegal.
 - "Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival,"
 - Giraffes once ranged over much of the semi-arid savannah and savannah woodlands of Africa. But their numbers have plummeted dramatically — by up to 40 per cent over the last 30 years — due to threats including international trade in their parts, as well as habitat loss, civil unrest and illegal hunting.
 - While giraffes fall prey to poaching for bush meat, bones, skin and tail hair, there is also a significant amount of international trade in their bone carvings and trophies.
 - There is currently only one recognized species of giraffe, with nine sub-species. They have been listed as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Species Red List since 2016, with some sub-species classified as 'endangered' or 'critically endangered'.
 - Five of the nine sub-species have only a small wild population, while four have a decreasing population trend. All are affected by trade.
 - While the Appendix II listing will not stop all trade in giraffe parts, it will ensure this is not contributing to further population declines and provide global scale data that could not otherwise be obtained.

CONSERVATION OF LAKES

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - **Odisha to conserve two of its largest lakes.**
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - The Odisha Wetland Authority has approved implementation of an integrated management plan for Chilika, country's largest brackish water lagoon, and Ansupa, State's largest freshwater lake.
 - The five-year management of lakes is intended at strengthening livelihood of thousands of fishermen relying on the two water-bodies. Besides, tourism promotion and conservation of ecology will be taken up.

Chilika Lake

- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha state on the east coast of India, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal

- It is Asia's largest salt-water lagoon and is separated from the Bay of Bengal by a sandy ridge.
- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent. These birds travel great distances; migratory birds probably follow much longer routes than the straight lines, possibly up to 12,000 km, to reach Chilika Lake.
- Chilka Lake is designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- The Irrawaddy dolphin has been found in Chilika Lake. It is a euryhaline species of oceanic dolphin found in discontinuous subpopulations near sea coasts and in estuaries and rivers in parts of the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia.
- Irrawaddy dolphins are classified as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Ansupa Lake

- Ansupa Lake is one of the largest fresh water lake of Odisha situated in Banki, Cuttack.
- It was created by Mahanadi and got a shape like the hoof of a horse.
- It spreads over a vast area of 141 hectare, and surrounded by Saranda Hills in its length.
- The lake is surrounded with high hills. One can have a view of high hills around the lake.

INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY

◎ CONTEXT:

- **India is running at a slower pace in achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution as per Paris Accord on Climate Change.**

◎ ABOUT:

- **India's Nationally Determine Contributions for Climate Change**
 - To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by **33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.**
 - To achieve about **40 per cent** cumulative electric power installed capacity from **non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030**, with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance, including from Green Climate Fund.
 - To create an additional carbon sink of **2.5 to 3 billion tonnes** of CO2 equivalent through additional **forest and tree cover by 2030.**
- As a result, a target of installing **175 GW** of renewable energy capacity by the year **2022** has been set by the government
- It includes **100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power** and **5 GW from small hydro-power.**
- As per 31 Dec 2018, India's installed renewable energy capacity was **73.35GW.**

India's Rankings

- **5th** Globally in total Renewable power installed
- **4th** globally in tital wind power installed
- **6th** globally in tital solar power installed

Reason behind Slow Progress of India in achieving the required Target

- Between 2014-17, China's addition to its renewable energy was six times more than what India did.

- This is because India has not been able to utilize the advantage of decreasing cost if electricity production due to technological advancement in this field.
- The main reasons behind this non—utilization of this advantage of decreasing cost are:
 - Recent imposition of safeguard duty on imported Solar Photovoltaic cells.
 - Depreciation of Indian rupee increases the import bill of India
 - Lack of investment in research and development in India has not led to any significant domestic production
 - Coal still features among the top 5 imports of India. Moreover, top ten lenders to coal power plants are public sector banks. This leads to the crowding out of the Renewable Energy Industry.

LEAD BATTERIES

◎ CONTEXT:

- A study by environmental think tank Toxic Links has found that 90 per cent of lead acid batteries (LABs) reach the informal recycling sector.

◎ ABOUT:

- In the informal recycling sector where the lead acid batteries are recycled crudely and without any regulation, they release toxins into the air, water and soil.
- The study — “Loaded Batteries: Mapping the toxic waste trail” — released was conducted across Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.
- The findings show that the transportation of LABs to the informal recycling sector is in direct contravention of the **Batteries Management and Handling Rules (2001)**.
- According to the rules either battery manufacturing companies should take the LABs for recycling, or they should be recycled by registered recycling units.
- According to the Battery Rules which were set up in 2001, the target was that by 2003, 90 per cent of LABs were to be sent back to the manufacturer for recycling. But even after 18 years this has not been achieved which shows a failure of the regulatory authorities.
- The study points out two broad problems in the disposal of the LABs
 - The first is the lack of regulation by authorities such as the CPCB and the SPCBs.
 - The second is the nature of recycling in the informal sector, in which lead is melted on furnaces and the acid in the batteries is often dumped in nearby drains or fields — polluting water as well as soil.

Issues with lead industries

- Lead industries are globally considered one of the most hazardous industries and India has, over the years, phased out leaded petrol and lead based paint for this very reason.
- According to a study conducted by Pure Earth and Green Cross Switzerland, the battery recycling industry puts 1 million people at risk globally.
- The Indian lead acid battery market was valued at \$4.47 billion in 2016 and was expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.36 per cent in terms of value, to reach close to \$8 billion by 2022.
- According to Central Pollution Control Board, based on data received from State Pollution Control Boards, the amount of new batteries sold in 2016-17 was 198,250 tonnes (from 17 states)..

NITRATE POLLUTION

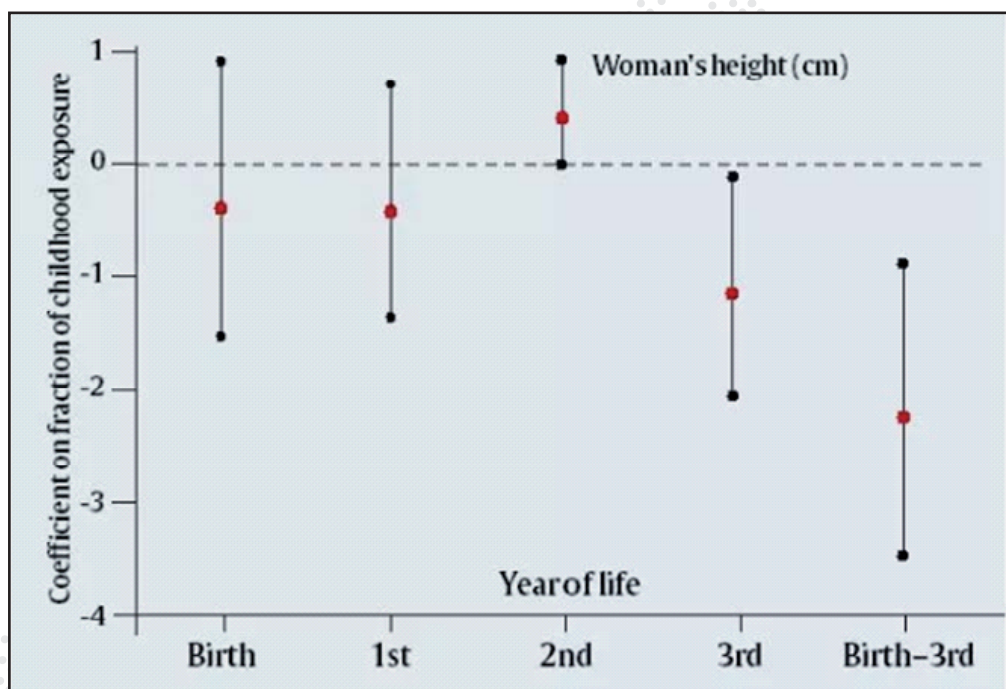
◎ CONTEXT:

- A World Bank report looks at the long-term impact of nitrate exposure experienced during infancy.

◎ ABOUT

- Nitrate pollution is caused **mainly by the overuse of nitrogenous fertilisers** which, while boosting yields, can be harmful if they leach into water or air.
- In India, the Green Revolution of the 1960s kick-started the use of synthetic fertilisers, the report notes.
- The data set used was taken from over 1,330 monitoring stations from 1963-2017. The birth years of the sample range was from 1966-1999, "a period when the effect of the Green Revolution was already in force yet nitrogen fertilisers were increasing in use."

Report findings



- An infant girl who has been exposed to nitrate levels above the safety threshold in the first three years experiences a 1-2 cm decrease in her adult height.
- Given that female adult height in India has increased by approximately 4 cm over the last century, a 1-2 cm loss means that nitrate exposure in infancy can wipe out almost half of this gain in height.
- The report also found (using data from the Central Groundwater Board of India) that nitrate levels in groundwater aquifers exceeded permissible levels in more than 50 per cent of the districts across 19 states.
- The report broadly covers two types of pollutants — the well-known ones such as faecal contaminants and the new pollutants that include plastic, nutrients and pharmaceuticals.

What Is Nitrate?

Nitrate is an inorganic compound that occurs under a variety of conditions in the environment, both naturally and synthetically. Nitrate is composed of one atom of nitrogen (N) and three atoms of oxygen (O); the chemical symbol for nitrate is NO_3 . Nitrite (NO_2) can be formed from nitrate by a chemical process called reduction. Nitrate does not normally cause health problems unless it is reduced to nitrite.

Nitrate Pollution

- Nitrate is one of the most common groundwater contaminants in rural areas. It is regulated in drinking water primarily because excess levels can cause **Methaemoglobinaemia, or "blue baby" disease**.
- Methemoglobinemia is the most significant health problem associated with nitrate in drinking water. Blood contains an iron-based compound called hemoglobin, which carries oxygen.
- When nitrite is present, hemoglobin can be converted to methemoglobin, which cannot carry oxygen.
- In the blood of adults, enzymes continually convert methemoglobin back to hemoglobin, and methemoglobin levels normally do not exceed 1 percent.
- Newborn infants have lower levels of these enzymes, and their methemoglobin level is usually 1 to 2 percent. Anything above that level is considered methemoglobinemia.

Infant Feeding Practices to Minimize Intake of Nitrate and Nitrite

- **Breast feeding:** Little if any nitrate gets into breast milk, unless the mother is consuming very large quantities of nitrate. Also, bacterial contamination is not a problem when breast milk is consumed directly.
- **Bottle feeding:** Use already diluted liquid formulas or use low-nitrate water to dilute concentrated liquid or powdered formulas. Also, mixed formulas should be kept under refrigeration and used promptly to minimize bacterial reduction of nitrate to nitrite.
- **Vegetables:** Since many vegetables are high in nitrate, their consumption should be limited until an infant is 4-6 months old and their digestive tract has sufficiently matured. Your physician can help you decide when to add new foods. Vegetables should always be prepared while fresh and refrigerated promptly after cooking to minimize bacterial activity.

PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVE

◎ **CONTEXT:**

- **Researchers develop pesticide alternative to protect plants from viral infection.**

◎ **ABOUT:**

- A novel approach to vaccinate plants against viruses can be used as an alternative to toxic pesticides that is harmful both to insects and the environment.
- During a virus attack, plants initiate a two-stage molecular defense programme which protects them "both at the site of the infection and throughout its structure.
- The programme first triggers plants' cells to multiply the virus, which creates viral ribonucleic acid molecules (RNAs). Using special enzyme scissors, the plants then detect these molecules and cut them — a process which produces 'small interfering RNAs' (siRNAs).
- The siRNAs spreads throughout the plant and attach them to a protein called Argonaute. The siRNAs then leads the protein to RNAs viruses to kill them.
- After six weeks, 90 per cent of the vaccinated plants did not show any signs of infection, but all the untreated plants were killed by the virus..

SO2 EMISSIONS

◎ **CONTEXT:**

- **India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world, contributing more than 15 per cent of global anthropogenic emissions, according to a new report released by Greenpeace.**

© **ABOUT:**

- The primary reason for India's high emission output is the expansion of coal-based electricity generation over the past decade, the report added.
- Five of the top 10 SO₂ emission hotspots from coal/power generation industry across the world are in India.
- The analysis is based on hotspots detected by NASA Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) satellite data that captured more than 500 major source points of SO₂ emissions across the globe including natural sources such as volcanoes.
- The analysis excluded all natural sources and only anthropogenic sources of SO₂ were investigated.

SO₂ emissions

- SO₂ emissions are a significant contributor to air pollution.
- Its direct exposure and exposure to particulate matter PM_{2.5} (fine particulate matter) produced when SO₂ reacts with other air pollutants to form sulphate particles both affect human health.
- The greatest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels in power plants and other industrial facilities.
- Other sources include industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore, natural sources such as volcanoes, and locomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burn fuel with high sulphur content.
- Thermal power plants or clusters at Singrauli, Neyveli, Talcher, Jharsuguda, Korba, Kutch, Chennai, Ramagundam, Chandrapur, and Koradi to be the major emission hotspots in the country.
- The vast majority of plants in **India lack flue-gas desulfurisation (FGD)** technology to reduce air pollution, according to the report. The flue gas desulfurization (FGD) plant removes sulphur dioxides (SO₂) from flue gas produced by boilers, furnaces, and other sources
- In a first step to combat pollution levels, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change introduced, for the first time, sulphur dioxide emission limits for coal-fired power plants in December 2015. But the deadline for the installation of flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) in power plants has been extended from 2017 to 2022.

SOLID FUELS & HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION

© **CONTEXT:**

- A study published states that the single greatest contributor to air pollution in India is the burning of solid fuels in households.

© **ABOUT:**

- The burning of solid fuels like firewood impacts the health of household members and accounts for somewhere between 22% to 52% of all ambient air pollution in India.
- The study to cleaner fuels such as LPG for household use will have a dramatic impact on pollution levels and health problems due to pollution.

Solid fuels

- **Firewood, animal dung, and agricultural waste** are some of the **solid fuels** commonly used in households across India as a means of generating energy for cooking, light, and heating, among other things.
- One of the many pollutants produced on the burning of such solid fuels is **fine particulate matter**.
- **Fine particulate matter** refers to particles or droplets with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres (0.000001 metres) or less, and is also known as PM_{2.5}.

- Such particles can travel deep into the respiratory system, and exposure to them can cause several adverse health effects, both short-term and long-term, including respiratory problems and heart disease.
- The emissions of PM2.5 generated by the burning of solid fuels in households are termed **Household Air Pollution (HAP)**.
- The study claims that approximately **800,000 premature deaths** occur in India every year as a result of exposure **to HAP indoors**.
- Moreover, the HAP produced indoors travels outdoors, and becomes a contributor to ambient air pollution, with **around 300,000 more premature deaths** per year attributable to exposure to **outdoor HAP**.
- The full impact of HAP is thus composed of the exposures to HAP 1) inside and around a given house and 2) from the household contribution to ambient air pollution.
- In states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh and Assam, around 72.1% of the population regularly uses solid fuels.

Recommendations

- The study asserts that immediate action is required to rectify the harm caused by HAP.
- It points to initiatives undertaken by the government of India to promote LPG for use in households as opposed to the traditionally used solid fuels, such as **the PradhanMantriUjjwalaYojana**.
- More effort is required, in particular, increasing the **use of electricity** as a substitute in these scenarios, and ensuring that the use of LPG is sustained.

STATE BUTTERFLY

◎ CONTEXT:

- **Tamil Nadu Becomes Fifth Indian State to Declare a State Butterfly.**

◎ ABOUT:

- Tamil Nadu has recently declared Tamil Yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) as its state butterfly to symbolize its rich natural and cultural heritage, in a move aimed at boosting the conservation efforts of the attractive insects
- Locally known as Tamil Maravan meaning 'Tamilian Warrior', the canopy butterfly, belongs to the family of brush-footed butterflies or the Nymphalid.
- This is the latest addition to Tamil Nadu's existing symbols from the natural world – palmyra as the state tree, gloriosa lily as the state flower, emerald dove as the state bird, and jackfruit as the state fruit and Nilgiri tahr as the state animal.
- This butterfly species is endemic to Western Ghats.
- Once the species is declared as a state butterfly, this will help channelizing government funds towards a particular environmental cause.

More in news

- Tamil Nadu has a total of 32 species of butterflies endemic to the state.
- It has become the fifth India state after Maharashtra (Blue Mormon), Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern birdwings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock) to bestow a state emblem status to one of its colorful insects.
- Both southern bird wings, which is the largest butterfly species found in India, and Malabar banded peacocks are, like the Tamil Yeoman, endemic to the Western Ghats as well.

Why butterfly conservation?

- Butterflies are great bio-indicators of an ecosystem as they are highly sensitive to environmental conditions such as temperature, sunlight, humidity and rainfall patterns.

- Their presence, patterns and migration assist in mapping the climatic health of a region and are they are perhaps the most studied insect group across the world.

NATIONAL ESSENTIAL DIAGNOSTIC LIST

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalised by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - **Drug Regulation Framework:** In India, diagnostics (medical devices and in vitro diagnostics) follow a regulatory framework based on the drug regulations under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** and **Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945**. Diagnostics are regulated under the regulatory provisions of the Medical Device Rules, 2017.

National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL)

- It is a list that would provide guidance to the government for **deciding the kind of diagnostic tests** that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.
- Although WHO had released first edition of essential diagnostics list (EDL) in May 2018. NEDL has been customised and prepared as per landscape of India's health care priorities.
- The list also encompasses tests relevant for new programmes such as Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

Significance

Implementation of NEDL would enable improved health care services delivery through evidence-based care, improved patient outcomes and reduction in out-of-pocket expenditure; effective utilisation of public health facilities; effective assessment of disease burden, disease trends, surveillance, and outbreak identification; and address antimicrobial resistance crisis too.

Indian Council of Medical Research

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world.
- The Governing Body of the Council is presided over by the Union Health Minister.
- The ICMR is funded by the Government of India through the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- **Mandate**
 - ▶ Apex body in India for formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research
 - ▶ Conduct, coordinate and implement medical research for the benefit of the Society
 - ▶ Translating medical innovations in to products/processes and introducing them in to the public health system.

NEW CURE FOR DEADLY STRAIN OF TB

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - Scientists have discovered a Cure for the Deadliest Strain of Tuberculosis.
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - Tuberculosis has now surpassed AIDS as the world's leading infectious cause of death, and the so-called XDR strain is the ultimate in lethality. It is resistant to all four families of antibiotics typically used to fight the disease.

- Only a tiny fraction of the 10 million people infected by TB each year get this type, but very few of them survive it.
- There are about 30,000 cases in over 100 countries.
- Last year, there were more than half a million drug resistant TB cases in the world.
- The treatment to cure this strain is extraordinarily difficult. A typical regimen in South Africa requires up **to 40 daily pills, taken for up to two years.**

Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (**Mycobacterium tuberculosis**) that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable.
- TB is spread from person to person through the **air**. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- Anti-TB medicines have been used for decades and strains that are resistant to 1 or more of the medicines have been documented in every country surveyed. Drug resistance emerges when anti-TB medicines are used inappropriately, through incorrect prescription by health care providers, poor quality drugs, and patients stopping treatment prematurely.
- **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)** is a form of TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the 2 most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs. However, second-line treatment options are limited and require extensive chemotherapy (up to 2 years of treatment) with medicines that are expensive and toxic.
- In some cases, more severe drug resistance can develop. **Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB)** is a more serious form of MDR-TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to the most effective second-line anti-TB drugs, often leaving patients without any further treatment options.

New Treatment

- It is a three-drug regimen consists of **bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid** — collectively known as the **BPaL regimen**.
- **Pretomanid** is the novel compound developed by the New York-based non-profit organisation TB Alliance and which received the FDA greenlight on Wednesday.
- This treatment involves **only five pills of the three drugs daily taken over just six months.**

PROCESS OF TRIAL OF CRIMINAL CASES IN INDIA

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
- The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday arrested former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram soon after he held a press conference at the Congress headquarters refuting all charges against him in the INX Media case.

◎ **ABOUT:** **Process of Trial of Criminal Cases in India.**

- India has a well-established statutory, administrative and judicial framework for criminal trials. Indian Penal laws are primarily governed by 3 Acts:
 - The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Cr.P.C.);
 - The Indian Penal Code, 1960 (IPC);
 - The Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (IEA).
- In order to appreciate the process of Indian criminal law, it is necessary that to understand following important terminology:

- **Bailable Offence**, means an offence, which has been categorized as bailable, and in case of such offence, bail can be claimed, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions, as **a matter of right** under Section 436 of the Cr.P.C. In case of bailable offences, the Police is authorised to give bail to the accused at the time of arrest or detention.
- **Non-bailable Offence**, means an offence in which the bail **cannot be granted as a matter of right**, except on the orders of a competent court. In such cases, the accused can apply for grant of bail under Section 437 and 439 of the Cr.P.C. It is important to note that the grant of bail in a non-bailable offence is subject to **judicial discretion of the Court**, and it has been mandated by the Supreme Court of India that "**Bail, not Jail**" should be the governing and guiding principle.
- **Anticipatory Bail**, under Section 438 of the Cr.P.C., means that a person who apprehends **arrest on a wrong accusation** of committing a **non-bailable offence**, can apply before a competent court for a direction to police to **immediately release** such a person on bail in the event of arrest. However, the grant of anticipatory bail is **discretionary** and dependant on the nature and gravity of accusations, the antecedents of the applicant and the possibility of the applicant fleeing from justice.
- **Cognizable Offence/case**, has been defined under Section 2 (c) of Cr.P.C., as an offence/case in which a Police Officer can **arrest without a warrant**.
- **Non-cognizable Offence/case**, has been defined under Section 2 (l) of Cr.P.C., as an offence/case in which a Police Officer has **no authority to arrest without a warrant**.
- Whether an offence/case is bailable or not bailable, and cognizable or non-cognizable, has been qualified under the **1st Table of the 1st Schedule of Cr.P.C.**, which relate to the offences under IPC.
- **F.I.R (first information report)**, is formal recordal of a complaint, by police in case of commission of a cognizable offence.

Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Cr.P.C.)

- Cr.P.C. is a comprehensive and exhaustive **procedural law** for conducting a criminal trial in India, including the manner for collection of evidence, examination of witnesses, interrogation of accused, arrests, safeguards and procedure to be adopted by Police and Courts, bail, process of criminal trial, method of conviction, and the rights of the accused for a fair trial.
- The procedure for a criminal trial in India, is primarily, except as otherwise provided, governed by The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Cr.P.C.).

Indian Penal Code

IPC is the **substantive penal law of India**, which is applicable to all offences, except as may be provided under any other law in India.

Indian Evidence Act (IEA)

- IEA is a detailed treaty on the **law of "evidence"**, which can be tendered in trial, manner of production of the evidence in trial, and the evidentiary value, which can be attached to such evidence.
- IEA also deals with the judicial presumptions, expert and scientific evidence. There are certain other laws, which have been enacted to deal with criminality in special circumstances.

Process

- FIR is the first step in the process of the investigation of a cognizable offence by Police.
- After the FIR has been registered by the police authorities, the investigation takes place.
- During the investigation the police arrests the accused persons involved in the offence

- Then, he accused shall be produced before the magistrate within 24 hours of arrest (excluding travelling time)
- Whenever an accused is arrested for any offense and police cannot complete the investigation within 24 hours then such such person is produced before a magistrate for seeking an **extension of custody**. The magistrate can grant **police custody (kept lock-up in police station)** to the accused which shall not be more than 15 days in the whole considering the application. However, if the magistrate does not seem convinced then the accused is taken to **magisterial custody (Kept in jail)**.
- The police after completing the investigation have to file a final report under the Cr.PC. This is the **conclusion of the investigation** and the evidence collected by the Investigation Agency. If the evidence collected against the accused is deficient then the police may file a report under section 169 of the Cr.P.C and release the accused on executing a bond and undertaking for appearing the Magistrate empowered to take cognizance. The final report will of 2 types.
 - Closure Report.
 - Charge sheet/ Final report
- A closure report is filed when the police have no evidence to prove that the alleged offense has been committed by an accused.
- A charge sheet includes the elements of the offense in a prescribed form, and it also contains the complete investigation of the Police authorities and the charges slapped against the accused.
- The court can reject the charge sheet and discharge the accused or can accept it and frame the charges and, post the case for trial.
- If the accused pleads guilty, the court shall record the plea and may convict him. If the accused pleads not guilty then the case is posted for trial.

DEVELOPING TAG IN WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - US President Donald Trump has questioned ‘Developing Tag’ for India and China.
- ◎ **ABOUT**
 - **World Trade Organization (WTO)**
 - It is a successor to the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)** established in the wake of the Second World War.
 - Several rounds of negotiations were held under GATT.
 - WTO came into existence in **Uruguay Rounds** of 1986-1994 through **Marrakesh Agreement** in 1995.
 - Members – **164** and together, they constitute **98%** of the global trade
 - In 2000, 4th WTO Ministerial led to a new round of negotiation, **Doha Development Agenda**, which is **still in progress**.
 - Mandate – to **open trade for the benefit for all**
 - All decisions are made by **consensus**.
 - WTO Headquarters is in **Geneva, Switzerland**. It has **no other branch office**.
 - **Ministerial Conference** is WTO’s top level decision making body. It **meets once in two years**.
 - **WTO Agreements**
 - **For Goods** – Marrakesh Agreement (1995) and Trade Facilitation Agreement (2017)
 - **For Services** – General Agreement on Trade in Services

- **For Intellectual Property** - The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
- **Functions**
 - Administering WTO Trade Agreement
 - Act as forum for trade negotiation
 - Handling trade disputes
 - Monitoring trade policies
 - Cooperation with other international organization

Criteria for Developing, Developed and Least Developed Countries

There are no WTO definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries.

| Developing | Developed | Least-developed countries |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| India | U.S. | Afghanistan |
| China | European Union | Bangladesh |
| Russia | Japan | Bhutan |
| Brazil | Canada | Myanmar |
| South Africa | Australia | Nepal |
| South Korea | New Zealand | South Sudan |

- Members announce for themselves whether they are “developed” or “developing” countries.
- However, other members can challenge the decision of a member to make use of provisions available to developing countries.

Advantages for Developing Members:

- The special provisions include:
 - longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments,
 - measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries,
 - provisions requiring all WTO members to safeguard the trade interests of developing countries,
 - support to help developing countries build the capacity to carry out WTO work, handle disputes, and implement technical standards, and
 - Provisions related to least-developed country (LDC) Members.

G7 SUMMIT 2019

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - External Affairs Ministry had announced that Prime Minister of India will attend the outreach session of the G7 meet at Biarritz, France, where India is a special invitee.
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - The G7 is a collective of seven of the world’s most **industrialized and developed economies**. Their political leaders come together annually to discuss important global economic, political, social and security issues.
 - Together, the G7 countries represent 40% of global GDP and 10% of the world’s population.

Function of G7

- The G7 was formed initially to discuss economic and political concerns prompted by the 1973 oil crisis - when members of OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Export Countries, increased the price of oil and cut global supplies to countries seen as having backed Israel in the Yom Kippur War.
- Since then, the group has expanded its brief to cover a large number of international issues, including energy security, trade, climate change, global health issues, gender equality, poverty - and any other topic the country holding the G7 presidency chooses to put on the agenda.
- Today, the G7 are reckoned as the seven wealthiest and most advanced nations in the world because China, which holds the second largest net worth in the world, nonetheless has a low net worth per individual and an economy that has not yet fully modernized.

Members

- The seven members of the group are the following:
 - France
 - Italy
 - Japan
 - Germany
 - Canada
 - United States
 - United Kingdom
 - The European Union is also represented at the G7 summit.

G7 Summits

- Its first summit was held at **Rambouillet, France, in 1975**
- This year, the **45th G7 summit will be held on August 24-26, 2019, in Biarritz, France.** It will focus on fighting income and gender inequality and protecting biodiversity.
- The 2019 G7 Summit, presided over by France, will focus on **fighting inequality.**
- Following are the five objectives for the 2019 Summit:
 - fighting inequality of opportunity, promoting in particular gender equality, access to education and high quality health services;
 - reducing environmental inequality by protecting our planet through climate finance and a fair ecological transition, preserving biodiversity and the oceans;
 - strengthening the social dimension of globalization through more fair and equitable trade, tax and development policies;
 - taking action for peace against security threats and terrorism which weaken the foundations of our societies; and
 - tapping into the opportunities created by digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI)..

CABINET SECRETARIAT

◎ CONTEXT:

- **The government had appointed outgoing Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba as Cabinet Secretary for tenure of two years.**

◎ ABOUT:

Cabinet Secretariat

- **Article 352** defines the term "**cabinet**" as the Council consisting of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of Cabinet rank under Article 75.

- **Cabinet Secretariat** is the office which provides **secretarial assistance** to the Cabinet.
- It functions directly under the **Prime Minister**.
- The administrative head of the Secretariat is the **Cabinet Secretary** who is also the **ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board**.
- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of:
 - The Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961
 - Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961
- The Secretariat assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring **Inter-Ministerial coordination**, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/Departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/adhoc Committees of Secretaries.
- The secretarial assistance, provided by Cabinet Secretariat to the Cabinet and Cabinet committees, includes:
 - Convening of the meetings of the Cabinet & its Committees on the orders of the Prime Minister.
 - Preparation and circulation of the agenda.
 - Circulation of papers related to the cases on the agenda.
 - Preparation of record of discussions.
 - Circulation of the record of discussions after obtaining the approval of the Prime Minister.
 - Monitoring implementation of decisions taken by the Cabinet and its Committees.
- Office of Principal Scientific Adviser has been placed administratively under the Cabinet Secretariat in August, 2018.
- **Appointment** – All senior level appointments (including Cabinet Secretary) are done with the approval of the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**.
- **Tenure** - While the position is for **two years**, under the present rules of service, there is an enabling provision of an extension, granting **four years of tenure**.

◎ INITIATIVES

e-SamikSha

- e-SamikSha is a new digital monitor for bureaucracy to rein in slackers.
- **Developed by the cabinet secretariat** with technical support from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), e-SamikSha - the second 'S' in uppercase is how it's officially written - has been operational for just over a month and has changed babus' working style.
- This system will allow the prime minister to intervene digitally and ask the officer concerned to explain the delay or expedite decision-making projects and action points are already being digitally monitored through e-SamikSha.
- Every task is assigned four status descriptors - Not Started, Under Implementation, Implemented and No Further Action Required.
- The PM navigates through e-SamikSha via a digital dashboard that has customised drop-down windows.

LADAKH AS A UT

◎ CONTEXT:

- **Ladakh has been made a Union Territory along with the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India.**

◎ ABOUT:

- Ladakh is a mountaneous region which is sandwiched between Karakoram Range in North and Himalyan Range in the South.

- It is composed of two districts:
 - **Leh** – It is the 2nd largest district of India and it covers more than half of the area of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - **Kargil** – It lies near Line of Control. Zaskar Range is a part of Kargil.

Negative Implications

- Due to the expected change in demography and commercialisation of the region. Its unique ecological and cultural value may get affected
- Since the region is prone to international disturbances from China and Pakistan, a large portion of pasture land will be occupied by military personnel. This will affect the farmer community
- There is no evidence that coming under direct control of the central government would certainly lead to greater development of the region. For instance, the level of development in Andaman and Nicobar is not very impressive.
- The autonomy of Ladakh's Autonomous Hill Development Council which was already on a decline will further reduce.

Positive Impact

- Currently, there is no medical college, engineering college or a management institution anywhere in Ladakh. Now, new start-ups, businesses and the government will create new infrastructure and boost development along with the creation of new jobs.
- The people of Ladakh will be brought to the mainstream Indian society.
- The increased tourism will bring significant revenue, which could be used to create additional social infrastructure.

SENIOR ADVOCATE

◎ CONTEXT:

- **The Delhi High Court has done away with the previous practice of designating a senior advocate wherein a joint proposal from three senior advocates was required for an advocate to be considered for the post of a senior advocate.**

◎ ABOUT:

- **Previous Practice** - Earlier, the rules mandated that three senior advocates designated by Delhi High Court, with not less than five years individual standing at the Bar, as senior advocate, may jointly make a proposal to the High Court for designation of an advocate as a senior advocate.
- **New Practice** - Any advocate who fulfils the eligibility conditions prescribed herein before may submit a written application for being designated as Senior Advocate to the Registrar General.

Supreme Court Advocates

Three categories of Advocates are entitled to practice law before the Supreme Court. They are:

• Senior Advocates

- These are Advocates who are designated as Senior Advocates **by the Supreme Court of India or by any High Court.**
- The Court can designate any Advocate, with his **consent**, as Senior Advocate if in its opinion by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law the said Advocate is deserving of such distinction.
- A Senior Advocate is **not entitled to appear without an Advocate-on-Record** in the Supreme Court or without a junior in any other court or tribunal in India.

- He is also **not entitled to accept instructions to draw pleadings or affidavits**, advise on evidence or do any drafting work of an analogous kind in any court or tribunal in India or undertake conveyancing work of any kind whatsoever but this prohibition shall not extend to settling any such matter as aforesaid in consultation with a junior.
- **Advocates-on-Record:**
 - **Only these advocates are entitled to file any matter or document before the Supreme Court.**
 - They can also file an appearance or act for a party in the Supreme Court.
- **Other Advocates**
 - These are advocates whose names are entered on the roll of any State Bar Council maintained under the Advocates Act, 1961 and they can appear and argue any matter on behalf of a party in the Supreme Court
 - They are **not entitled to file any document or matter before the Court.**

SPACE DEBRIS

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - **A majority of the debris created by India's anti-satellite test seem to have disintegrated according to the latest assessment of space debris by NASA.**
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - India **had shot down its 740-kg Microsat-R satellite on March 27** this year in a demonstration of its capability to destroy the space-based infrastructure of an enemy country.
 - That anti-satellite test made India only the fourth country in the world to have demonstrated this capability.
 - The destroyed satellite had disintegrated into several small and big pieces, and added to a large amount of debris in space, which is considered a threat to functional satellites and other space assets.
 - At that time, India had said that since the test was carried out in the lower atmosphere, it did not expect to add any significant amount of space debris.

Space debris

- Space debris, also called space junk, **artificial material that is orbiting Earth** but is no longer functional.
- This material can be as large as a **discarded rocket stage or as small as a microscopic chip of paint.**
- Much of the debris is in **low Earth orbit**, within 2,000 km (1,200 miles) of Earth's surface; however, some debris can be found in geostationary orbit 35,786 km (22,236 miles) above the Equator.
- **Kessler syndrome** postulates that crashes would first be seen between fragments and larger objects like satellites and would eventually be between two fragments. Crashes will continue till the debris becomes very small.
- There is almost 7,000 tons of active space debris—from old satellites and spacecraft to lost components and spent rocket parts—orbiting Earth at any given moment. While some of the space junk in orbit decays with time, debris that is located at a higher orbit can take years to disintegrate.

International laws

- There is **no binding international legal rule** (yet) which prohibits the wanton creation of space debris.

- **1967 Outer Space Treaty** bars states party to the treaty from placing weapons of mass destruction in Earth orbit.
- Since 2002, the world's space powers have complied with an informal code of conduct to avoid the creation of space junk and the **United Nations has endorsed a resolution along those lines.**

Removal of debris

There have been several initiatives to remove debris like **global mitigation measures** by Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) ; **e-Deorbit mission** of European space agency etc. However RemoveDEBRIS mission launched by European Union is a significant one.

Remove DEBRIS Mission

The RemoveDEBRIS mission is led by the Surrey Space Centre (SSC) at the University Of Surrey, UK, and is co-funded by **the European Commission and other partners**, including prominent European space companies and institutions.

Rather than engaging in active debris removal (ADR) of real space debris, the RemoveDEBRIS mission plan is to **test the efficacy of several ADR technologies** on mock targets in low Earth orbit.

- It showcases four methods of capturing artificial debris targets.
- The targets are two CubeSats (miniaturized satellites provided by the SSC) that are carried inside the main platform.
- The first demonstration involves a net **that is deployed (net capture)** at the target CubeSat.
- The second experiment sees the use of a **harpoon, which is launched at a target plate made of "representative satellite panel materials"**. This is a first-of-its-kind harpoon capture in orbit.
- The third experiment using the other CubeSat **involves vision-based navigation**. Using cameras and LIDAR (light detection and ranging), the platform sends data about the debris back to the ground for processing.
- The fourth experiment sees the RemoveDEBRIS spacecraft deploy **a large dragsail** to speed up its de-orbiting process. As it enters Earth's atmosphere, the spacecraft will burn up, leaving no debris behind.

NUCLEAR DOCTRINE OF INDIA

- ◎ **CONTEXT:**
 - **Rajnath Singh's remarks on 'No First Use' of nukes indicate ambiguity in nuclear policy in India's interest.**
- ◎ **ABOUT:**
 - The defense minister suggested that India's NFU policy on nuclear weapons is not a binding commitment for the future despite strict adherence in the past. In other words, he made a deliberate attempt to interject some ambiguity into the doctrine.
 - The NFU doctrine on nuclear weapons is a formal declaration that India will exercise its nuclear option only if it suffers an atomic detonation by an adversary.
 - It shall never be the first one to use nuclear warheads in a conflict and given the fact that nukes are not used during peacetime, it essentially signifies that India shall not exercise that option even in grave crisis, fog of war, despite being apprehensive of an imminent nuclear attack from an adversary.

Main Features of India's Nuclear Doctrine

- Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent.
- A "No First Use" posture; nuclear weapons to be used only "in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere".

- Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be “massive” and designed to inflict “unacceptable damage”.
- Nuclear retaliatory attacks to be authorized only by civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority.
- Non use of nuclear weapons against non nuclear weapon states.
- Continuance of strict controls on export of nuclear and missile related materials and technologies, participation in FMCT negotiations, continued moratorium on testing.
- India to retain option of retaliating with nuclear weapons in the event of a major attack against it with biological or chemical weapons.
- Continued commitment to goal of nuclear weapon free world, through global, verifiable and non discriminatory disarmament.

“Credible minimum deterrent”:

It recognizes that the deterrence to be effective must be credible, which includes:

- Sufficient and Survivable nuclear forces both in terms of warheads and means of delivery able to inflict unacceptable damage.
- Nuclear Forces must be operationally prepared at all times.
- Effective Intelligence and Early Warning Capabilities.
- A Robust Command and Control System.
- The Will to Employ Nuclear Forces.
- Communication of Deterrence Capability.

Credible minimum deterrence along with “No first use” and “No use against non nuclear states” clearly indicates that India’s nuclear capability is for defensive purpose.

MINT GRAPHITI

NUCLEAR REACTION

| The Indian position | The Pakistani doctrine | The new nuclear option |
|--|--|--|
| NEW DELHI has held that it will not be the first to initiate a nuclear strike, but will retaliate should deterrence fail. | ISLAMABAD does not espouse a no-first use policy. It's doctrine promises 'massive retaliation' to any aggression. | ADDING an element of flexibility to unconditional no first use posture can help underpin deterrence, according to analysts. |

Pokhran witnessed Atalji's firm resolve to make India a nuclear power and yet remain committed to the doctrine of 'no first use'. India has adhered to this. What happens in future depends on the circumstances.

RAJNATH SINGH, Defence minister

ODISHA'S KALIA SCHEME

- **CONTEXT:** 2.66 lakh beneficiaries of farmer assistance scheme KALIA found ineligible.
- **ABOUT:** Proposed by the Government of Odisha, KALIA scheme brings under its umbrella 92% of cultivators of the state and almost all needy landless cultivators, who can avail the benefits of this scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode.

- Financing agriculture and insuring the cultivators is essential to eradicate poverty and to boost shared prosperity.
- Through the implementation of Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation - KALIA Scheme, the State Government aims to lend farmers with an all inclusive and flexible support system, ensuring accelerated agricultural prosperity.
- At the heart of a progressive scheme like KALIA lies the motivation to empower the farmers of the state with finance options that will enable the growth and development of agriculture in Odisha.

Key features of the scheme

- Financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- per farm family over five seasons will be provided to small and marginal farmers so that farmers can purchase inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and use assistance towards labour and other investments.
- Financial Assistance of Rs.12,500/- will be provided to each landless Agricultural Household for Agricultural allied activities like for small goat rearing unit, mini-layer unit, duckery units, fishery kits for fisherman, mushroom cultivation and bee-keeping, etc. This will particularly benefit to SC & ST population of the State.
- Vulnerable cultivators/landless agricultural laborers will get financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- per family per year to enable them to take care of their sustenance. The vulnerable cultivator/landless Agricultural Laborers who are in old age, having disability/ disease and are vulnerable for any other reason.
- Life insurance cover of Rs. 2.00 lakh at a very nominal premium of Rs.330/- will be provided to all savings bank account holder of age between 18-50 years.
- Vulnerable landless laborers, cultivators, share croppers and agricultural families identified by Gram Panchayats will be provided with cop loans up to Rs 50,000 made available at 0% interest.

GALLANTARY AWARDS

◎ CONTEXT:

- President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 132 Awards to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces.

◎ ABOUT:

Gallantry Awards

- Post-independence, first three gallantry awards namely the **Param Vir Chakra, the Maha Vir Chakra and the Vir Chakra** were instituted by the Government of India on 26th January, 1950 which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August, 1947.
- i.e. the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III were instituted by the Government of India on 4th January, 1952, which were deemed to have effect from the 15th August, 1947. These awards were renamed as the **Ashoka Chakra, the Kirti Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra** respectively in January, 1967.
- These gallantry awards are announced twice in a year - first on the occasion of the **Republic Day and then on the occasion of the Independence Day.**
- **Order of precedence** of these awards is:
 - Param Vir Chakra
 - Ashoka Chakra
 - Mahavir Chakra
 - Kirti Chakra
 - Vir Chakra

- Shaurya Chakra
- **SELECTION PROCESS**
 - **Ministry of Defence** invites recommendations twice in a year from the **Armed Forces** and Union Ministry of Home Affairs for gallantry awards.
 - Recommendations in respect of **civilian citizens** (other than Defence personnel) are received from the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** (MHA).
 - Recommendations received from the Armed Forces and MHA are considered by the **Central Honours & Awards Committee (CH&AC)** comprising of Raksha Mantri, three Service Chiefs & Defence Secretary. Home Secretary is also member for the cases recommended by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - Thereafter, recommendations of the CH&AC are submitted for **approval of the Prime Minister and the President**. After approval of the President, awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day and Independence Day.

