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20
Sub-Sectional
Tests

9
Sectional
Tests

6
Current Affairs
Tests

20
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BATCH
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18 Nov.

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1 HINDI PAKHWADA AWARDS 2019**CONTEXT**

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan distributes Hindi Pakhwada Awards 2019; Says every country in the world has its own language & Hindi is the only language that can replace English in India.

ABOUT

- Hindi has the potential to replace English in India as it is most widely used and is easily understood.
- Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose though they were not from Hindi speaking regions favoured the adoption of Hindi as a National Language.
- India's culture, tradition and language are its entire heritage.
- English was in fact the last language to come to India and it was introduced by the British to all their erstwhile colonies.
- urged all officials and employees to promote Hindi and use it as much as possible in their day to day affairs
- Union Minister also suggested that there should be a Hindi cell which can ensure that all the work in the Ministry is being done/translated in Hindi.
- He also released a compilation of poems in Hindi with the theme 'Betiyaan' written by Shri Yashpal Sharma.

2 THE SAGAR CHAPTER OF 10TH RASHTRIYA SANSKRITI MAHOTSAV 2019 COMMENCED**CONTEXT**

- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2019 will be celebrated with traditional and classical performances by locals and artists from all Zonal Cultural Centers

ABOUT

- Sagar was packed with spectators as the first day opened with dance presentation by the zonal cultural centres and followed by traditional performance-'Mati ke Laal' presented by locals of Madhya Pradesh on main stage.
- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav has been receiving continuous praise and popularity among the masses of our country for playing a major role to bridge our cultural diversity with the ancient ideal of 'Oneness in all' and thus it received commendable amount of love and admiration by artists and audiences alike, as it gave them an opportunity to discover rare and unexplored cultural traditions of our country, under the Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Matrix.
- The festival brought together craftsmen of Gujarat showcasing their metal-crafts; Jodhpur exhibiting items of block-printing, West Bengal selling handmade silk materials, Rajasthan displaying colourful glass bangles. Different states under seven zonal cultural centres put up stalls where visitors thronged in multitude and procured number of items elapsed all previous records.
- Other than the handicrafts, under the same roof, traditional flavours in the likes of LittiChoka-Chandra Kala-Khaja from Bihar; Dhokla- Thepla-Khandvi from Gujarat, Chole-Bhature-Amritsari Naan from Punjab and other partnering states were put up for sale.

3 20th LIVESTOCK CENSUS REPORT

CONTEXT

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying releases 20th Livestock Census; Total Livestock population increases 4.6% over Census-2012, Increases to 535.78 million

ABOUT

- The total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012
- Total Bovine population (Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun and Yak) is 302.79 Million in 2019 which shows an increase of about 1% over the previous census.
- The total number of cattle in the country in 2019 is 192.49 million showing an increase of 0.8 % over previous Census.
- The Female Cattle (Cows population) is 145.12 million, increased by 18.0% over the previous census (2012).
- The Exotic/Crossbred and Indigenous/Non-descript Cattle population in the country is 50.42 million and 142.11 million respectively.
- The Indigenous/Non-descript female cattle population has increased by 10% in 2019 as compared to previous census.
- The population of the total Exotic/Crossbred Cattle has increased by 26.9 % in 2019 as compared to previous census.
- There is a decline of 6 % in the total Indigenous/ Non-descript cattle population over the previous census. However, the pace of decline of Indigenous/ Non-descript cattle population during 2012-2019 is much lesser than as compared to the 2007-12 which was about 9%.
- The total buffaloes in the country are 109.85 million showing an increase of about 1.0% over previous Census.
- The total milch animals (in-milk and dry) in cows and buffaloes are 125.34 million, an increase of 6.0 % over the previous census.
- The total sheep in the country is 74.26 million in 2019, increased by 14.1% over previous Census.
- The Goat population in the country in 2019 is 148.88 million showing an increase of 10.1% over the previous census.
- The total Pigs in the country is 9.06 Million in the current Census, declined by 12.03% over the previous Census.
- The other livestock including mithun, yak, horses, ponies, mule, and donkeys, camel together contribute around 0.23% of the total livestock and their total count is 1.24 million.
- The total poultry in the country is 851.81 million in 2019, registered an increase of 16.8% in the total poultry.
- The total birds in the backyard poultry in the country is 317.07 million. The backyard poultry has increased by around 46% as compared to previous Census.
- The total Commercial Poultry in the country is 534.74 million in 2019, increased by 4.5% over previous Census.

4 FOOD SAFETY MITRA (FSM) SCHEME

CONTEXT

- Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme for strengthening and scaling up 'Eat Right India' movement. Also launches 'Eat Right Jacket' and 'Eat Right Jhola' on World Food Day 2019

ABOUT

- The theme for this day was 'Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World'.
- Launched the 'Food Safety Mitra (FSM)' scheme, along with the 'Eat Right Jacket', and 'Eat Right Jhola' to strengthen food safety administration and scale up the 'Eat Right India' movement.
- Eat Right India movement is a crucial trigger for the much needed social and behavioural change.
- This campaign along with the 'Fit India' Movement' can achieve huge success if the right strategy is adopted and efforts are made to reach out to every section of the society.
- People should adopt Gandhiji's messages of eating less, eating safe and healthy food, and also reduce wastage of food while developing the habit of sharing surplus food.
- The 'Food Safety Mitra (FSM)' scheme will support small and medium scale food businesses to comply with the food safety laws and facilitate licensing and registration, hygiene ratings and training. Apart from strengthening food safety, this scheme would also create new employment opportunities for youth, particularly with food and nutrition background.
- The 'Eat Right Jacket' launched today will be used by the field staff. This jacket has a smart design to hold tech devices like tablets/smart phone, a QR code and RFID tag for identification and tracking. Apart from providing safety to field staff on duty, this would bring in efficiency, professionalism and transparency in food safety administration and bring in a sense of ownership & visibility of FSOs.
- The 'Eat Right Jhola', a reusable cloth bag shall replace plastic bags for grocery shopping in various retail chains. Since on repeated use, bags are often contaminated with microorganisms and bacteria, proper and regular washing of cloth bags is essential to ensure safety and hygiene. These cloth bags are being provided on rental basis through a private textile rental service company.
- FSSAI has partnered with the Domestic Workers Sector Skill Council (DWSSC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to launch a training course for domestic workers and homemakers across the country.

5**EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V****CONTEXT**

- Indian Air Force is participating in a Bilateral Joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO), named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V

ABOUT

- Indian Air Force is participating in a Bilateral Joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO), named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V
- The last exercise, EX EASTERN BRIDGE-IV was held in 2017 at Jamnagar.
- For the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft will be participating in an International Exercise outside India.
- IAF contingent comprises of MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft. MiG-29 will be exercising with Royal Air Force Oman's Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16 and Hawk.
- The exercise will enhance inter-operability during mutual operations between the two Air Forces and will provide an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices.

6**INDIA INNOVATION INDEX 2019****CONTEXT**

- NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner released the India Innovation Index (III) 2019.

ABOUT

- Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India.
- Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the remaining top ten major states respectively.
- The top ten major states are majorly concentrated in southern and western India.
- Sikkim and Delhi take the top spots among the north- eastern & hill states, and union territories/ city states/small states respectively.
- Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh are the most efficient states in translating inputs into output.

7 NOMADIC ELEPHANT XIV

CONTEXT

- In the series of joint bilateral exercises between India & Mongolia, both nations have once again come together to enhance bilateral friendship to the next level.

ABOUT

- The fourteenth edition of joint military training exercise between Indian Army and Mongolian Army named EX NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2019 was commenced at Foreign Training Node (FTN), Bakloh.
- The primary focus of the exercise was to train and equip the contingents to undertake joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate.
- The entire curriculum was planned in a progressive manner wherein the participants initially familiarized with each other's organizational structure, weapons and combat skills before graduating to joint tactical exercises.
- The contingents honed their tactical and technical skills in a wide spectrum of counter insurgency operations including joint training on weapons and equipment, cross training exercises and field training exercises.
- Both sides jointly planned and executed a series of well-developed tactical operations based on scenarios that are likely to be encountered in mountainous terrain.
- The joint exercise will surely foster the spirit of friendship and enhance the strategic military relationship between India and Mongolia to higher levels.

8 DEFENCE OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS EXERCISE 2019 (DANX-19)

CONTEXT

- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted the second edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19)

ABOUT

- Spanning over a period of five days, components of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard carried out mobilisation and field manoeuvres to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC towards pursuance of the Command's responsibility, namely ensuring territorial integrity of the A&N Islands.

- In addition to internal forces from ANC, accretional forces from Mainland comprising ships and aircraft, Special Forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), also participated in this edition.

9**PM UNVEILS THE BOOK "BRIDGITAL NATION"****CONTEXT**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the book "Bridgital Nation" and presented its first copy to Shri Ratan Tata

ABOUT

- The book has been written by Shri N Chandrasekaran and Ms. Roopa Purushottam.
- Addressing the gathering, PM lauded the authors for bringing out a visionary book that is replete with positivity and optimism and delves in depth about the importance of technology.
- He added that the book is coming out at a time when technology is positively transforming the lives of millions of Indians.
- Prime Minister stressed on the need to understand that technology is a bridge and not a divider.
- Technology builds bridge between aspirations and achievement, demand and delivery, government and governance in order to achieve 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.
- He also emphasized on the need to build bridge between artificial intelligence and human intentions.
- The book presents a powerful vision of the future where technology and human beings co-exist in a mutually beneficial ecosystem. It argues that instead of accepting technology as replacement of human labour, India can use it as an aid to generate more jobs. The cutting edge digital tools can act as a bridge between aspirations and achievements - hence the term 'bridgital'.

10**25 YEARS OF PULSE POLIO PROGRAMME IN INDIA****CONTEXT**

- 25 years of Pulse polio programme to be celebrated on 31st October 2019

ABOUT

- It all began with a single thought that if ballot papers can reach each person, two life saving drops of vaccination too can reach every child
- The success of administering polio vaccination drops to 12 lakh children through 4000 'polio kendras' on 2nd October, 1994 in the city of Delhi, led to a countrywide movement and Pulse Polio Program was taken countrywide a year later in 1995.
- India achieved this monumental triumph with the strong Government leadership, hard work and dedication of frontline health workforce, community and religious influencers, health officials, state governments, civil society organizations, professional bodies like IMA, IAP etc., partners such as WHO, Rotary and UNICEF and most importantly the support of our countrymen.
- The learnings from Pulse Polio programme have helped implementation of other immunization programme i.e. the Mission Indradhanush (MI) and the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI).

11

FIRST NATIONAL PROTOCOL TO ENUMERATE SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION IN INDIA LAUNCHED

CONTEXT

- In a major boost towards protecting and conserving Snow Leopards, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the First National Protocol on Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India, on the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day.

ABOUT

- The inaugural session of the 4th steering committee meeting of the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Program also marked the launch of the First National Protocol on Snow Leopard Population Assessment, to mark the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day (23rd October).
- The first National Snow Leopard Survey of the nation has been developed by scientific experts in association with the Snow Leopard States/UTs namely, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The use of technology such as camera traps and scientific surveys will help to estimate the numbers.

The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP):

- It seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship.
- The GSLEP is a range-wide effort that unites range country governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector around a shared vision to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems
- The GSLEP is a high-level inter-governmental alliance of all the 12 snow leopard range countries.
- The snow leopard countries namely, India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- It majorly focuses on the need for awareness and understanding of the value of Snow Leopard for the ecosystem.
- The GSLEP Program (2019) was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at New Delhi.
- The Steering Committee meetings of GSLEP is currently chaired by Nepal and co-chaired by Kyrgyzstan.

12

INDIA RANKS 63 IN WORLD BANK'S DOING BUSINESS REPORT

CONTEXT

- The World Bank released its latest Doing Business Report (DBR, 2020)

ABOUT

- India has recorded a jump of 14 positions against its rank of 77 in 2019 to be placed now at 63rd rank among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank.
- India's leap of 14 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business ranking is significant considering that there has been continuous improvement since 2015 and for the third consecutive year India is amongst the

top 10 improvers. As a result of continued efforts by the Government, India has improved its rank by 79 positions in last five years

- The Doing Business assessment provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies on ten parameters affecting a business through its life cycle.
- The DBR ranks countries on the basis of Distance to Frontier (DTF), a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice. This year, India's DTF score improved to 71.0 from 67.23 in the previous year.
- India has improved its rank in 7 out of 10 indicators and has moved closer to international best practices (Distance to Frontier score). Significant improvements have been registered in 'Resolving Insolvency', 'Dealing with Construction Permits', 'Registering Property', 'Trading across Boards' and 'Paying Taxes' indicators.

The important features of India's performance this year are:

- The World Bank has recognized India as one of the top 10 improvers for the third consecutive year.
- Recovery rate under resolving insolvency has improved significantly from 26.5% to 71.6%.
- The time taken for resolving insolvency has also come down significantly from 4.3 years to 1.6 years.
- India continues to maintain its first position among South Asian countries. It was 6th in 2014.

13

CHENANI NASHARI TUNNEL RENAMED AFTER DR SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE

CONTEXT

- Chenani Nashari Tunnel renamed after Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee

ABOUT

- This 9 km tunnel is the longest such state of art tunnel in the country, connecting Udhampur to Ramban in Jammu.
- Constructed at a cost of Rs 2500 crore, it cuts down 31 km of travel distance and reduces the travel time between the two points by about two hours, in addition to substantial saving in fuel cost.
- Renaming of the tunnel is a fitting tribute to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who sacrificed his life for the country and has been a source of inspiration for the nation.
- These include Ring Roads around both Jammu and Srinagar, and construction of Zojila Tunnel among others. He said these projects will be major game changers for the people of the state, bringing employment and socio-economic development.
- The Minister announced plans for construction of a new road alignment between Delhi and Katra in Jammu, which will reduce the travel time upto six hours.
- The new alignment will pass through the states of Haryana and Punjab.

14

GLOBAL BIO-INDIA 2019

CONTEXT

- The Global Bio-India 2019, one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate will be held for the first time in India at New Delhi.

ABOUT

- India for the first time is hosting a mega event for the biotech community to attract investments, showcase our indigenous strengths and more importantly fuel the hopes and aspirations of the indigenous talent pool
- India's continued commitment in scientific research, its translation and commercialization and laid emphasis on how this event would be a huge opportunity to showcase India's strength and build new partnerships and investment opportunities.
- Biotech is one of the identified champion sectors in the Make in India 2.0. Our ambition for the event is to showcase the strength in the sector and let the world know India is the destination to invest
- It is noteworthy to point that Biotechnology is recognized as the key driver for contributing to India's USD 5Tn economy target and is identified as one of the thrust areas for driving GDP growth of our country. India is positioned today at about USD51bn and is marching towards USD150bn.
- The Summit assumes significance as it is one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate to be held in India for the first time.

15

GUIDELINES RELEASED FOR EVALUATION OF NANO PHARMACEUTICALS IN INDIA

CONTEXT

- The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan released "Guidelines for Evaluation of Nanopharmaceuticals in India"

ABOUT

- "Guidelines for Evaluation of Nanopharmaceuticals in India" is one of the most important steps for delineating quality, safety and efficacy assessment of the novel nanoformulations.
- These guidelines are intended to provide transparent, consistent and predictable regulatory pathways for nanopharmaceuticals in India.
- Nanocarrier based targeted drug delivery is an emerging field with introduction of nanopharmaceuticals in the market.
- These nanoformulations have higher efficacy, lower toxicity and are safer than the conventional drugs. Indian researchers would be facilitated to undertake research in line with the regulatory guidelines and is expected that Industry would be keen to participate from the beginning of the research pipeline towards product development and commercialisation.
- Further, private investments would also be attracted since these guidelines would strengthen the regulatory system.
- The guidelines apply to the nanopharmaceuticals in the form of finished formulation as well as Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) of a new molecule or an already approved molecule with altered nanoscale dimensions, properties or phenomenon associated with the application of nanotechnology intended to be used for treatment, in vivo diagnosis, mitigation, cure or prevention of diseases and disorders in humans.
- The guidelines would facilitate translational research in line with the regulatory requirements.
- Guidelines will also facilitate the decision making by regulator during clearances to newer products based on nanotechnology and similarly to researchers to get clearance for their products to launch in market.
- End users will also be benefited by the quality assured anticipated products in the market in accordance to the guidelines.
- This document will give impetus to initiate activities for developing safety guidelines for other domains like agri-inputs and agri-products, cosmetics, implantable devices, through interventions of nanotechnology.

16

(INDIGEN INITIATIVE) CSIR CONDUCTS WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING OF OVER 1,000 INDIANS FOR BIOMEDICAL APPLICATIONS**CONTEXT**

- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of 1,008 Indians from different populations across the country.

ABOUT

- Whole genome data will be important for building the knowhow, baseline data and indigenous capacity in the emerging area of Precision Medicine.
- The outcomes of the IndiGen will have applications in a number of areas including predictive and preventive medicine with faster and efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases.
- The IndiGen initiative was undertaken by CSIR, which was implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.
- This has enabled benchmarking the scalability of genome sequencing and computational analysis at population scale in a defined timeline.
- The ability to decode the genetic blueprint of humans through whole genome sequencing will be a major driver for biomedical science.
- The outcomes of the IndiGen will be utilized towards understanding the genetic diversity on a population scale, make available genetic variant frequencies for clinical applications and enable genetic epidemiology of diseases.
- The whole genome data and knowhow for the analysis of largescale genomic data is expected to enable evidence and aid in the development of technologies for clinical and biomedical applications in India.

17

WHITE WATER RAFTING EXPEDITION – RUDRASHILA’**CONTEXT**

- The white water rafting expedition christened as ‘Rudrashila’ undertaken by Kalidhar Battalion was flagged in by Lieutenant General VS Sreenivas, General Officer Commanding Konark Corps on 25 October 2019 at Jodhpur Military Station.

ABOUT

- The white water rafting expedition was organized by Kalidhar Battalion to commemorate its 75th Raising Day.
- The team comprising of two officers, four Junior Commissioned Officers and 18 Soldiers led by Major Ravikant Gaurav covered a total distance of over 140km from Rudraprayag to Rishikesh in the mighty Ganges River in the mountains of Uttarakhand.
- It also helps to promote spirit-de-corps and courage amongst the soldiers.
- The team also spread awareness among locals on current social issues of ‘Swachh Bharat Campaign’ and ‘Preservation of River Eco-Systems’.

18 INDO-FRENCH JOINT EXERCISE SHAKTI-2019

CONTEXT

- Indo-French Joint Exercise Shakti-2019 been held

ABOUT

- Series of 'Exercise SHAKTI' between India and France commenced in year 2011.
- It's a biennial exercise and is conducted alternately in India and France.
- The bilateral training exercise will be conducted at Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- A contingent of the Sikh Regiment of Sapta Shakti Command will represent Indian Army in this exercise.
- The joint exercise will focus on Counter Terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-desert terrain under United Nations Mandate.
- The training will focus primarily on high degree of physical fitness, sharing of drill at tactical level and learning of best practices from each other.
- The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two Armies.

19 BAMBOO TECHNOLOGY PARKS TO BE SET UP IN THE TWO NEW UTS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, AND LADAKH

CONTEXT

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region took a review meeting with officials of the Ministry and the North Eastern Council (NEC) here today, during which he announced that Bamboo Technology Parks would be set up in the two new Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

ABOUT

- The Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) under NEC will implement the project
- It has now been decided that the model for bamboo cultivation, harvesting and utilisation currently existing in the North Eastern Region shall be replicated in the two new Union Territories to give a fillip to the sector.
- The project for setting up three new Bamboo Technology Parks in Jammu, Srinagar and Leh would be in consonance with the National Bamboo Mission (NBM).
- A Bamboo Industrial Park has already been approved to be set up in the Dima Hasao district of Assam.
