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SALIENT FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

Context: Recently, the **Goa Pradesh Congress Committee** chief had complained about the Speaker's delay in deciding his **disqualification petitions against 10 Congress MLAs** who had defected to the BJP.

Background

- In the 1967 and 1971 elections, nearly **50 per cent of the 4,000 MPs and MLAs defected**, toppling governments which led to political anarchy in the country.
- The **Y B Chavan committee** submitted a report during the fourth Lok Sabha in 1967 which led to a first attempt to submit an anti-defection bill in Parliament.
- In 1985, the **52nd amendment to the Constitution** was passed by Parliament to incorporate the **10th Schedule in the Constitution**.
- It was later culminated in the **91st Constitutional amendment in 2003**.

Exceptions

- It allows a **group of MP/MLAs to join another political party** without inviting the penalty for defection.
- At least **two-thirds of the members of a party** have to be in favour of a “merger” for it to have validity in the eyes of the law.
- The members disqualified under the law can **stand for elections from any political party** for a seat in the same House.

About Anti-defection law

- It came into force on **March 18, 1985**.
- It laid down guidelines on **how an MP could be disqualified** if he joined another party or defied the party whip by remaining absent during a crucial vote.
- It **punishes individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/MLAs** for leaving one party for another.
- The decision on disqualification on the ground of defection is referred to the **Chairman or the Speaker of such House**, which is subject to ‘Judicial review’.

Grounds of Disqualification under Anti-defection law

- If an elected member **voluntarily gives up** his membership of a political party.
- If he **votes or abstains from voting** in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party or anyone authorised to do so, without obtaining prior permission.
- As a pre-condition for his disqualification, **his abstention from voting should not be condoned** by his party or the authorised person within 15 days of such incident.
- If any **independently elected member** joins any political party.
- If any **nominated member joins any political party** after the expiry of six months.

2. INDIA'S FLAG CODE RULES

Context: The Central government has announced two days of **national mourning** in memory of **Lata Mangeshkar, the Nightingale of India**. The **flag shall be half-masted** throughout the period of the mourning.

Background

- The Indian flag was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the **Constituent Assembly held on July 22, 1947**.
- The first national flag is said to have been **hoisted on August 7, 1906**, at the Parsee Bagan Square, near Lower Circular Road, in Calcutta (now Kolkata).
 - ▶ It consisted of three horizontal stripes of **red, yellow and green**.
- In 1921, freedom fighter **Pingali Venkayya** met Mahatma Gandhi and **proposed a basic design of the flag**, consisting of two red and green bands.
- The Tricolour was adopted as our national flag at a **Congress Committee meeting in Karachi in 1931**.

Early flag code rules governing the display of the Tricolour

- The **Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950** and **The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** were earliest rules for the display of the national flag.

Section 2 of the Act says, “Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or [otherwise shows disrespect to or brings] into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.”

- The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 prohibits the **desecration of or insult to the country's national symbols** which includes the national flag.
- Dipping the Tricolour in salute to any person or thing, **waving it at half-mast except on specific occasions**, or using it as a drapery in any form whatsoever, except in state funerals or for the last rites of armed forces or other paramilitary forces.
- Putting any kind of inscription upon the flag, using it to **cover a statue, a monument or platform, and embroidering or printing it** on cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins or any dress material is also considered disrespect to the Tricolour.

- The flag **should not be allowed to touch the ground or trail in water**, or be put up in an inverted manner.
- In 2002, the Flag Code of India came into effect which allowed the **unrestricted display of the Tricolour** as long as the honour and dignity of the flag were being respected.
- The flag code did not replace the pre-existing rules governing the correct display of the flag.
 - ▶ It was an effort to bring together all the previous laws, conventions and practices.

Restrictions on the display of the Tricolour under Flag Code Rules

- The Flag Code of 2002 is divided into three parts:
 - ▶ A **general description** of the tricolour
 - ▶ Rules on display of the flag by **public and private bodies and educational institutions**
 - ▶ Rules for display of the flag by **governments and government bodies**
- It states that there will be **no restriction on the display** of the flag by public and private bodies and educational institutions.
 - ▶ The exception will be extended to the extent as laid down in the **Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950** and the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.
- It mentions that the **tricolour cannot be used for commercial purposes**, and cannot be dipped in salute to any person or thing.
- It further states that whenever the flag is displayed, it should be distinctly placed and should **“occupy the position of honour”**.
- The flag should **not be used as a festoon**, or for any kind of decoration purposes.

What are the standard dimensions of the flag?

- The flag code states that the tricolour can be of **nine standard dimensions** — 6300 x 4200, 3600 x 2400, 2700 x 1800, 1800 x 1200, 1350 x 900, 900 x 600, 450 x 300, 225 x 150 and 150 x 100 (all sizes in mm).
- It further adds that flags of **450 x 300 mm** size should be used on VVIP flights, **225 x 150 mm** on cars and all table flags should be **150 x 100 mm** in size.
- Moreover, the tricolour should be rectangular in shape and the length-to-width ratio should always be 3:2.
- The national flag should always be made of **hand-spun and hand-woven wool or cotton or silk khadi bunting**.

What are the current rules for the correct display of the flag?

- The flag should always be **hoisted briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously**.
- When a flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally from a window sill, balcony or front of a building, the **saffron band should be at the farther end** of the staff.
- When displayed on a speaker’s platform, the **flag should be placed on the speaker’s right** as s/he faces the audience or flat against the wall above and behind the speaker.
- When displayed on a car, the **flag should be flown from a staff fixed either in the middle of the bonnet or the front right of the car**.
- When carried in a parade, the flag should either be in the **front of the centre of the line** or **towards the right of the file** that is marching forward.

- The flag code further states that when the Tricolour is passing by in a parade, or during a ceremony of hoisting or lowering of the flag, the persons present should stand at attention and salute the flag.

3. EIGHTH SCHEDULE OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Context: More than 200 languages have disappeared in India in the past 50 years and another 197 are considered at risk. The languages of Adivasi groups are mostly spoken.

Constitutional provisions relating to Eighth Schedule

- The Constitutional provisions relating to the Eighth Schedule occur in **Article 344(1) and 351** of the Constitution.
- **Article 344(1)** states that there shall be a commission which consists of a **Chairman and such other members representing the different languages** specified in the Eighth Schedule as the President may appoint.
 - ▶ The **President** shall, at the expiration of five years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of ten years from such commencement, by order **constitute a Commission**.
- **Article 351** of the Constitution provides that it shall be the **duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language** to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.
 - ▶ It aims to secure its enrichment by **assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions** used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule.

List of languages in the Eighth Schedule

- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages:
 - ▶ **Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.**
 - ▶ Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. **Sindhi language was added in 1967.**
 - ▶ Thereafter three more languages viz., **Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali** were included in 1992. Subsequently **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali** were added in 2004.

2

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. INCORPORATION OF ARTICLES IN THE CONSTITUTION

Context: As per latest information provided by the Government to the Lok Sabha, **6 Articles have been inserted in the Constitution** through various constitutional orders issued by the President.

Incorporation of Articles in the Constitution

- The **Constitution (Removal of Difficulties) Order No. II** and the Constitution (Removal of Difficulties) Order No. III notified on January 26, 1950 had inserted Articles
 - ▶ Article 329A
 - ▶ Article 172A
 - ▶ Article 238A
 - ▶ Article 333A
 - ▶ Article 390A
- The **Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954** notified on May 14, 1954 had inserted **Article 35A** in the Appendix to the Constitution under Article 370 of the Constitution (Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir).
 - ▶ This has since been superseded by the Constitution Order No. 272 dated August 5, 2019.

Amendment to the Constitution of India

- **Article 368 of the Indian Constitution** provides the procedure of Amendment.
- Under Article 368, the Constitution can be amended by a '**simple majority**' or by the '**special majority**' and by the '**majority of not less than 2/3 members of each house**'.
- Later if the bill is passed by the majority it will be sent to the **president for his assent**.

Types of Majority

- **Simple Majority:** vote by more than half of the members present and voting
- **Absolute Majority:** a majority of more than 50% of the **total membership of the house**.
- **Effective Majority:** a majority of the House's effective strength (total strength minus vacant seats) of more than 50%.

- **Special Majority:** majority of more than 50% of the members **present and voting**. There are four types of special majorities. They are as follows:
 - ▶ **Special Majority according to Article 249:** a majority of 2/3rd members present and voting.
 - ▶ **Special Majority according to Article 368:** a majority of 2/3rd members present and voting supported by over 50% of the total strength of the House.
 - ▶ **Special Majority according to Article 368 + 50 percent state ratification by a simple majority:** This type of majority is needed when a constitutional amendment tries to change the federal structure.
 - ▶ **Special Majority according to Article 61:** a majority of 2/3rd of the total strength of the House.

2. DEMAND FOR RIGHT TO HEALTH

Context: Recently, the Rajasthan government has prepared a draft of the country's first **Right to Health Law**.

- It defines rights of patients, their attendants and healthcare providers and provides for a mechanism to redress grievances of the stakeholders.

International human rights treaties recognizing the right to health

- The 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: Art. 5 (e) (iv)
- The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Art. 12
- The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Arts. 11 (1) (f), 12 and 14 (2) (b)
- The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child: Art. 24
- The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: Arts. 28, 43 (e) and 45 (c)
- The 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Art. 25.

What is Right to Health?

- **The right to health is an inclusive right:** The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the body responsible for monitoring the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, calls these the “underlying determinants of health”. They include:
 - ▶ Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
 - ▶ Safe food
 - ▶ Adequate nutrition and housing
 - ▶ Healthy working and environmental conditions
 - ▶ Health-related education and information
 - ▶ Gender equality

- **Right to health contains freedoms:** These freedoms include the right to be free from non-consensual medical treatment.
- **Right to health contains entitlements:** The right to a system of health protection providing equality of opportunity for everyone to enjoy the highest attainable level of health.

3. RIGHT TO DISSENT ESSENCE OF A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

Context: Recently, the Delhi High Court has said that the **fundamental and precious right guaranteed by the Constitution** can neither be restricted nor denied merely on the perceived apprehension of the view being unpalatable or disagreeable to some.

Dissent and Democracy

- The Preamble to the Constitution of India promises **liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship**. Clauses (a) to (c) of Article 19(1) promise:
 - ▶ Freedom of speech and expression;
 - ▶ Freedom to assemble peaceably and without arms;
 - ▶ Freedom to form associations or unions
- The **right of freedom of opinion** and the **right of freedom of conscience** by themselves include the extremely important right to disagree.
- The **right to disagree, the right to dissent** and the **right to take another point of view** would inhere inherently in each and every citizen of the country.

4. SECTION 144 CrPC

Context: In view of ensuing municipal elections, Tinsukia District Magistrate Narasing Power promulgated **Cr PC 144 in Tinsukia district** with immediate effect to maintain the law and order and to conduct the elections in a free and fair manner.

What is Section 144 of CrPC?

- Section 144 of CrPC deals with action in case of **Cases of immediate aggravation or suspected risk(s)**.
- Section 144 of CrPC **empowers a District Magistrate, a Sub-divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate** specially empowered by the State Government to restrict a person or a certain number of people or people in general from certain acts in the interest of law and order or general well-being of people.
- The restriction under this section is usually imposed in the form of restriction of gathering of more than four people.

Some other provisions of section 144

- Any Magistrate may, either on his own motion or on the application of any person aggrieved, **rescind or alter any order made under this section**, by himself or any Magistrate subordinate to him or by his predecessor- in- office.
- An order under this section may, in cases of emergency or in cases where the circumstances do not **admit of the serving in due time of a notice** upon the person against whom the order is directed, be passed ex parte.

- The State Government may, either on its own motion or on the application of any person aggrieved, **rescind or alter any order made by it** under the proviso to sub-section (4).

5. SEDITION LAW

Context: According to Article 14, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2019 and 2020, respectively, revealed a **rapid increase in sedition cases** since 2014.

What is Sedition Law?

- The **Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, which deals with sedition, was drafted by **Thomas Babington Macaulay** and included in the IPC in 1870.

What does Section 124A states?

- **Section 124A of the IPC**, which deals with sedition, states
 - ▶ “Whoever, words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.”

Punishment under Section 124A

- Sedition is a **non-bailable offence**.
- Punishment under the law varies from **imprisonment up to three years to a life term and fine**.
- A person charged under this law **cannot apply for a government job**.
- They have to **live without their passport** and must present themselves in the court as and when required.

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3

CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

1. KARBI-ANGLONG PEACE ACCORD

Context: Recently, the Centre, the Assam government and insurgency groups from the state have signed an agreement to bring peace to the **Northeastern state's Karbi-Anglong district**.

Background

- Karbi-Anglong is **Assam's largest district** in terms of area and is home predominantly to a tribal and ethnic population.
 - ▶ It includes the members of **Karbi, Bodo, Kuki, Dimasa, Hmar, Garo, Rengma Naga, Tiwa, and Man** communities.
- **Karbhis make up more than 46 per cent** of the district's population of close to 10 lakh people per the 2011 Census.
- In a state and region that is thus home to a **multiplicity of ethnicities, armed outfits arose** that aimed not only to challenge the Indian state but also protect group interests and identities.

About Karbi-Anglong Peace Accord

- Under the agreement, the armed groups will **shun violence and join the democratic process** while the government will facilitate the rehabilitation of their cadres.
- It will **ensure greater devolution of autonomy** to the Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council.
- It talks about giving **"more legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers to KAAC"**.
- It aims at setting up "a Karbi Welfare Council for focused development of Karbi people living outside KAAC area".

2. KERALA'S SILVERLINE PROJECT

Context: The **Silver Line project** – a semi high-speed rail corridor that connects one end of Kerala to the other – has been mired in controversy.

- The project, which has been in the making for the past 12 years, has drawn flak from activists, engineers, and the people who will be displaced by land acquisition.

About Kerala's Silver Line Project

- The project will have **trains of electric multiple unit (EMU) type** with nine cars and extendable to 12 cars each.

- The estimated passenger capacity per train is 75 for a 9 car set with a daily average ridership of 80,000 passengers.
- The railway line, beginning from Thiruvananthapuram, will have stations in **Kollam, Chengannur, Kottayam, Ernakulam (Kakkanad), Cochin Airport, Thrissur, Tirur, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod**. The proposed station at Kozhikode will be underground, those at **Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Thrissur** will be elevated and the rest at-grade.
- The **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)**, the central investment arm of the government, has sanctioned Rs 2,100 crore for the project.
- The project entails building a semi high-speed railway corridor through the state linking its southern end and state capital **Thiruvananthapuram** with its northern end of Kasaragod.
- The line is proposed to be 529.45 kms long, covering 11 districts through 11 stations.

3. BELAGAVI BORDER DISPUTE

Context: An inter-state dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra dating back to the **period of Independence and the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines** in 1956 has reared its head again in the Belagavi region of Karnataka.

Nature of the dispute over Belagavi

- The essential claim of the **Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti** and **pro-Marathi groups** is that **Belagavi is a largely Marathi-speaking region** with many parts being exclusively Marathi speaking.
- The MES and other groups claim that nearly 45 percent of the district is Marathi speaking.
- The pro-Kannada groups argue that the Marathi population is only around 35 per cent which is on par with the Kannada-speaking population of the region.

What is Inter-State Council?

- It is a **non-permanent constitutional body** enshrined in **Article 263** of the Constitution of India.
- It can set up the President based on the provisions of Article 263.
- **Article 263 states:** If at any time the President deems it necessary to do so by forming a Council in the public interest:
 - ▶ Investigate and advise on potential disputes between States
 - ▶ To inquire into and discuss matters of common interest to some or all States or Union to one or more States
 - ▶ Make recommendations on any such issue, especially recommendations for better coordination of policy and action on that issue
- The **Prime Minister is the Chairman** of the Inter-State Council.
- The Council members are:
 - ▶ The **Chief Ministers** of all the States and Union Territories with Assembly
 - ▶ The **Governors** of the Union Territories without Assembly
 - ▶ The **Governors** of the States under the rule of the President
 - ▶ The **six Ministers** in the Cabinet nominated by the Council Chairman
- The five ministers nominated by the council chairman are regular invitees to the cabinet.

- Zonal Councils were created under **Part III of the State Reorganization Act, 1956** as part of the **State Reorganization Plan** and related matters.

4. CAUVERY RIVER WATER DISPUTE

Context: The river Cauvery originates in **Karnataka's Kodagu district**, flows into Tamil Nadu and reaches the Bay of Bengal. Parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Pondicherry lie in the Cauvery basin.

Background

- The water sharing dispute of the river between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu dates back to the **British Raj**.
- The origins of legal dispute over Cauvery waters date back to 1892 and 1924 in **agreements signed between Mysore and Madras Presidency**.
- A number of districts in both states are dependent on the Cauvery for irrigation, while Bengaluru gets its water from the river.
- The issue of water sharing became a national problem after the **re-organisation of the states in 1956**.
 - ▶ Post the divisions of states, there have been protests in both the states regarding the same.
- In 1990, **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal** was set up.
- In 2007, the tribunal declared its final award, in which it said Tamil Nadu should receive 419 tmcft of water more than double the amount mentioned in the interim order of 1991.

Water in the Constitution

- **Water** in the Constitution of India is a **State subject** as per entry 17 of State List and thus states are empowered to enact legislation on water.
 - ▶ **Entry 17 of State List** deals with water i.e. water supply, irrigation, canal, drainage, embankments, water storage and water power.
 - ▶ **Entry 56 of the Union List** gives power to the Union Government for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys to the extent declared by Parliament to be expedient in the public interest.
- Within India's federal political structure, inter-state disputes require the involvement of the Union government for a federal solution at two levels:
 - ▶ between the states involved
 - ▶ between the Centre and the states
- **Article 262 in the constitution** which empowers the President to establish the Inter-State water Disputes Tribunal being and also states.
- Under this provision an Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956 and River Boards Act, 1956 was created.

Can the Supreme Court interfere?

- **Article 262 (1)** bars the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- But matters are still being taken there on legal, jurisdictional, environmental and constitutional issues.

5. PRESIDENT'S RULE IN PUDUCHERRY

Context: The Congress government in the **Union Territory of Puducherry** has fallen after the Narayanamasy government failed to prove its majority.

What is a floor test?

- A floor test is a **motion initiated by the government** seeking to know if it enjoys the confidence of the legislature.
- It is a **constitutional mechanism**.
- A confidence motion or a **vote of confidence or a trust vote** allows elected representatives to determine if the council of ministers (CoM) commands the confidence of the House.
- The idea behind the trust vote is to **uphold the political accountability** of the elected government to the state legislature.
- A no-confidence motion, or vote of no-confidence, or a no-trust vote, can be sought by any House member to express that they no longer have confidence in the government.
- The chief minister, in the case of a coalition government, may be asked to move a vote of confidence and win a majority.
- The governor may call for a **special session to see who has the majority to form the government** in the absence of a clear majority, when there is more than one individual staking claim to form the government.
- Some legislators may be absent or choose not to vote.
 - ▶ The numbers are then considered based only on those MLAs who were present to vote.

How is the voting done?

- These are the modes by which voting can be conducted:
 - ▶ **Voice vote:** In a voice vote, the legislators respond orally.
 - ▶ **Division vote:** In case of a division vote, voting is done using electronic gadgets, slips or in a ballot box.
 - ▶ **Ballot vote:** Ballot box is usually a secret vote - just like how people vote during state or parliamentary elections.

What is the role of Speaker?

- The **speaker conducts** the floor test.
- The main duty of the speaker is **to administer the oath to the newly elected members** of the house and to overlook the resignation of the members of the house.
- In case of a tie, the speaker, by convention, can cast its vote.

Constitutional provision

- Article 356 of the India Constitution provides that if **governor of a state feels that there has been a breakdown of constitutional machinery in a state**, he can request the President of India to take direct control of the state, which is called the 'President's Rule'.
- The Governor is appointed by the President with the advice of the council of ministers.

4

UNION & ITS TERRITORIES

1. INNER LINE PERMIT (ILP)

Context: Recently, the Uttarakhand government had sought withdrawal of the “inner-line permit” (ILP) system in Niti Valley of Chamoli district and Nelang Valley of Uttarkashi district.

About Inner-line permit (ILP) System

- The concept originates from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.
- **Official document:** Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the concerned state government to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
- **Obligatory:** Indian citizens from outside those states must obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.
- **Regulation:** The document is an effort by the government to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India.
- **Different from PAP:** An ILP is usually significantly easier to obtain than the analogous Protected Area Permit (PAP) which is the document required by non-citizens to enter the same areas.

Note: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram are protected by the Inner Line, and lately, Manipur was added.

5

CITIZENSHIP

1. VOTING RIGHTS TO NRI

Context: The Election Commission has said that the **postal ballots facility would not be extended to NRIs** for the upcoming elections to the Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal Assemblies.

How does the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System work?

- It was developed for the convenience of Service voters.
- It is a secured system with a two-layer security system.
- Secrecy is maintained through the use of OTP and PIN and no duplication of casted **Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot (ETPB)** is possible due to the unique QR Code.
- ETPBS has empowered and ensured all eligible service electors with their constitutional power to vote while performing their duty for the nation.

What is the current process of voting for Indian citizens living abroad?

- Voting rights for NRIs were **introduced only in 2011**, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.
- An NRI can vote in the constituency in which her **place of residence**, as mentioned in the passport, is located.
- She can **only vote in person** and will have to produce her passport in original at the polling station for establishing identity.

2. RIGHTS OF OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIA

Context: Eighty **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)** have moved the Supreme Court over concerns of not being able to freely express their views and register dissent against the government.

About Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)

- OCIs are persons who **hold a passport of a foreign country** but have connections with India by virtue of birth or parentage.
- They **do not have Indian citizenship or Indian passports** but an 'OCI card' issued by the government which gives them residence and employment rights.

Eligibility for Overseas Citizen of India

- **A foreign national:**
 - ▶ who was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after 26th January, 1950; or
 - ▶ who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January, 1950; or
 - ▶ who belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947; or
 - ▶ who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen; or
 - ▶ who is a minor child of such persons mentioned above; or
 - ▶ who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India

Conferment of rights on overseas citizens of India

- Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, an overseas citizen of India shall be entitled to such rights other than the rights specified under sub-section(2) as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.
- An overseas citizen of India shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India.
 - ▶ Under article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
 - ▶ **Under article 58** of the Constitution for election as President.
 - ▶ **Under article 66** of the Constitution for election of Vice-President.
 - ▶ **Under article 124** of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
 - ▶ **Under article 217** of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.
 - ▶ **Under section 16** of the Representation of the People Act, 1950(43 of 1950) in regard to registration as a voter.
 - ▶ **Under sections 3 and 4** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the House of the People or of the Council of States, as the case may be.
 - ▶ **Under section 5, 5A and 6** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or a Legislative Council, as the case may be, of a State.
- For appointment to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State except for appointment in such services and posts as the Central Government may by special order in that behalf specify.

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6

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

1.

COURTS CAN'T DICTATE HOW TO CONDUCT TEMPLE RITUALS: SC

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court disallowed a plea filed by a self-proclaimed devotee of Lord Balaji to ensure that all rituals were conducted properly at the Tirupati temple.

- The court said that **constitutional courts cannot dictate rituals and practices in temples** or interfere with their day-to-day functioning or affairs.

About the Supreme Court of India

- As the highest court in India, the **Supreme Court's judgments are binding on all other courts** in the country.
- It serves both as the **final court of appeals and final interpreter** of the Constitution.
- Owing to these vast powers, many have labeled it among the most powerful courts in the world. Its authority stems from the Constitution of India.

What types of cases does it hear?

- The Supreme Court has jurisdiction (the authority to hear) over a wide range of cases. Its jurisdiction is generally classified into
 - ▶ **Original**
 - ▶ **Appellate**
 - ▶ **Advisory**
 - ▶ **Original Jurisdiction**
- **Its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any dispute between the:**
 - ▶ Government of India and one or more States
 - ▶ between the Government of India and any State
 - ▶ States on one side and one or more States on the other
 - ▶ between two or more States
- **Fundamental Rights**
 - ▶ In addition, Article 32 of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court regarding enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
 - ▶ It is empowered to issue directions, orders, or writs, including writs like habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, and certiorari to enforce them.

- **Appellate Jurisdiction**
 - ▶ The appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court can be invoked by a certificate granted by the High Court concerned under Article 132(1), 133(1) or 134 of the Constitution in respect of any judgment, decree, or final order of a High Court in both civil and criminal cases, involving substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.
- **Advisory Jurisdiction**
 - ▶ The Supreme Court has special advisory jurisdiction in matters which may specifically be referred to it by the President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution.

2.

75% RESERVATION TO LOCALS IN PRIVATE JOBS IN HARYANA

Context: The Haryana government notified that its act of implementing **75% reservation for local people in private jobs** with a monthly salary ceiling of Rs. 50,000 will come into force from 15 January, 2022.

What is provided in the Act?

- The act provides for the reservation of 75% of new jobs for local candidates in various companies, societies, trusts, and limited liability partnership firms situated in the state.
- **Applicability:** The law will be applicable for a period of 10 years.
- The state government also **relaxed the residency (domicile) requirement from 15 to five years** for a person to get a bona fide resident certificate in the state to provide some flexibility to the private companies in hiring.
- The state government also **reduced the upper limit of gross monthly salary for jobs** which will come under the ambit of the private sector job quota law.
- As per the official notification, jobs with a gross monthly salary of not more than Rs. 30,000 will be up for hiring from among local candidates.
- The bill passed by the assembly last year capped the gross monthly wages for jobs available for hiring at Rs. 50,000.

Current scenario of Reservation

- The Supreme Court ruling that **reservations cannot exceed 50%** (which it judged would violate equal access guaranteed by the Constitution) has put a cap on reservations.
- The current scenario of Reservation in India is:
 - ▶ **15% seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC)**
 - ▶ **5% seats are reserved for Schedule tribes (ST)**
 - ▶ **27% seats are reserved for Other backward classes (OBC)**

Indian Constitution & Migration

- The Constitution of India guarantees ‘freedom of movement’ and consequently employment within India through several provisions.
 - ▶ **Article 19** ensures that citizens can “move freely throughout the territory of India”.
 - ▶ **Article 16** guarantees no birthplace-based discrimination in public employment.
 - ▶ **Article 15** guards against discrimination based on place of birth.
 - ▶ **Article 14** provides for equality before law irrespective of place of birth.

3.

GETTING GOVERNMENT AID NOT A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT: SC

Context: As per a recent Supreme Court ruling, **Government aid** to an institution is a matter of policy and it is not a fundamental right.

Background

- The judgment came on an appeal filed by the Uttar Pradesh' government challenging the 2018 Allahabad High Court verdict holding that **Regulation 101 framed under The Intermediate Education Act, 1921** is unconstitutional.
- The apex court set aside the HC verdict.

Additional Information

- **Article 30 of the Indian Constitution** states the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.
- It says: "All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice."
- **Article 30(1)** says that all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 30(1A)** deals with the fixation of the amount for acquisition of property of any educational institution established by minority groups.
- **Article 30(2)** states that the government should not discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language, while giving aid.

Key-highlights of the Ruling

- Grant of aid brings with it conditions which the institution receiving it is bound to comply with.
- If an institution does not want to accept the conditions, it can decline the grant but cannot say that the grant must be on its own terms.
- A decision to grant aid is by way of policy.
- While doing so, the government is not only concerned with the interest of the institutions but the ability to undertake such an exercise.
- As regards aided institutions, there cannot be any difference between a minority and non-minority one.

4.

RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

Context: Recently, the Centre told the Delhi High Court that the "**right to be forgotten**" is part of the fundamental right to privacy, but added it has no significant role to play in the matter.

What is the right to be forgotten?

- ▶ It allows a **person to seek deletion of private information** from the Internet.

- ▶ The concept has found recognition in some jurisdictions abroad, particularly the European Union.
- ▶ While the **right is not recognised by law in India**, courts in recent months have held it to be an intrinsic part of the right to privacy.

Countries protecting Right to be Forgotten

- The EU in 2018 adopted the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, Article 17 of which provides for the right to erasure of certain categories of personal data that:
 - ▶ Which is considered no longer necessary;
 - ▶ Which consent has been withdrawn or processing of which has been objected to,
 - ▶ Personal data unlawfully processed, and data where there is a legal obligation for erasure.
- The regulations limit the right to erasure in certain circumstances, including for:
 - ▶ reasons of public interest in the area of public health;
 - ▶ archiving purposes “in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance”; and
 - ▶ establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims

5. SC JUDGEMENT ON PREVENTIVE DETENTION

Context: Recently a two judge bench of Supreme Court has quashed a **preventive detention order** which was earlier upheld by the High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad.

Background

- **Under Section 151 of The Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC)** preventive detention is action taken on grounds of suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned.
- A **police officer can arrest an individual without orders from a Magistrate** and without any warrant if he gets any information that such an individual can commit any offense.
- **Article 22 of the Indian Constitution provides protection** against arrest and detention in certain cases.

What is the difference between preventive detention and an arrest?

- An ‘arrest’ is done when a person is charged with a crime.
 - ▶ An arrested person is produced before a magistrate within the next 24 hours.
- In case of preventive detention, a **person is detained as he/she is simply restricted from doing something that might deteriorate the public order.**
- In the case of **Union of India v. Paul Nanickan and Anr**, the Supreme Court stated that the purpose of the preventive detention isn’t to punish any person for doing something but to obstruct him before he does it and deter him from doing so.
- The reasoning for such detention is based on suspicion or reasonable possibility and not a criminal conviction, which can be justified only by valid proof

Regulations in post-independence India for Preventive Detention

- The first Preventive Detention Act was passed after independence in 1950.

- Starting from pre-independence till now there have been several laws made in regard to preventive detention such as:
 - ▶ **Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), 1971**
 - ▶ **Foreign Exchange Conservation and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA), 1974**
 - ▶ **Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA), 1985**
 - ▶ **Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act (POTA), 2002**
 - ▶ **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2008**

6. SEPARATE QUOTA FOR VANNIYAR COMMUNITY

Context: Recently, the Madras High Court quashed the 10.5 per cent special internal reservation provided by the Tamil Nadu government to Vanniyars.

What was the reservation eligibility of Vanniyars prior to being given a separate quota?

- The Vanniyars were in the **backward classes list** for many years.
- The community, constituting a significant percentage in the State's northern districts, consists predominantly of agricultural labourers.
- In 1987, the **Vanniyar Sangham launched an agitation demanding 20% separate reservation**. In 1989, the demand was partially conceded.
- The **BC quota was then at 50%**.
 - ▶ This was sub-divided and a 20% segment was earmarked for 'Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities'.
- The Vanniyars were included in the **Most Backward Classes list**.
- The expectation was that they would be the principal beneficiaries in this 20% segment, though 109 other castes were in the MBC/DNC category (The number has risen to 116 now).
- The Vanniyars have been arguing that they are still not getting enough opportunities in proportion to their population.

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7

UNION & STATE LEGISLATURE

1. THE PROCESS FOR REPEALING A LAW

Context: Recently, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the three contentious farm laws passed last year would be repealed.

- He also said that the process of repealing the laws — which are currently stayed by the Supreme Court — will take place in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament.

What does it mean for a law to be repealed?

- Repealing a law is one of the ways to nullify a law.
- A law is reversed when Parliament thinks there is no longer a need for the law to exist.
- Legislation can also have a “sunset” clause, a particular date after which they cease to exist.
- The Parliament has to **pass another legislation to repeal the law** for laws that do not have a sunset clause.

How can the government repeal a law?

- **Article 245 of the Constitution** gives Parliament the power to make laws for the whole or any part of India, and state legislatures the power to make laws for the state.
- Parliament draws its **power to repeal a law** from the same provision.
- A law can be repealed either in its entirety, in part, or even just to the extent that it is in contravention of other laws.

What is the process for repealing a law?

- Laws can be repealed in two ways — either through an ordinance, or through legislation.
 - ▶ In case an ordinance is used, it would need to be replaced by a law passed by Parliament within six months. If the ordinance lapses because it is not approved by Parliament, the repealed law can be revived.
 - ▶ The government can also bring legislation to repeal the farm laws.
 - It will have to be passed by both Houses of Parliament, and receive the President’s assent before it comes into effect.

2. GOVERNOR'S POWER TO DECIDE ON BILLS: VETO POWER

Context: Recently, the speaker of Tamil Nadu assembly called for **setting a binding timeframe within which Bills should be assented to or returned or reserved** for the consideration of the President of India by the governors.

Who is a Governor?

- The Governor is the **head of a state** just like the President is the head of the republic.
- The Governor is the **nominal head of a state**, while the Chief Minister is the executive head.
- All executive actions of the state are taken in the name of the Governor.
- The real powers in the executive dealings of a state rest with the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers.
- **Tenure:** A governor of a state in India holds office for a period of five years, but it is subject to termination.
- **One Governor, more states:** According to an amendment in the Constitution of India, brought about in 1956, the same person can be the Governor of two or more states.

Veto Power with regard to Ordinary Bill

- Every ordinary bill, after it is passed by the legislative assembly in case of a unicameral legislature or by both the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council in case of a bicameral legislature, is presented to the governor for his assent
- In this case Governor has four alternatives:
 - ▶ He may give his **assent to the bill**, the bill then becomes an act.
 - ▶ He may **withhold his assent to the bill**, the bill then ends and does not become an act (Absolute Veto).
 - ▶ He may **return the bill for reconsideration** of the House or Houses.
 - If the bill is passed by the House or Houses again with or without amendments and presented to the governor for his assent, the governor must give his assent to the bill. Thus, the governor enjoys only a '**suspensive veto**'.
 - ▶ He may reserve the **bill for the consideration of the President**.
- When the governor reserves a bill for the consideration of the President, he will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill and now the power of consideration of the Bill rests solely with the President and Governor has nothing to do with it.

Veto Power with regard to Money Bill

- Every money bill, after it is passed by the state legislature (SLA or SLA&SLC), is presented to the governor for his assent.
- In this case Governor has three options:
 - ▶ He may give his assent to the bill, the bill then becomes an act.
 - ▶ He may withhold his assent to the bill, the bill then ends and does not become an act.
 - ▶ He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the president.
 - ▶ He cannot send the Bill back to the SLA for reconsideration and he normally accords his assent to the Money Bill as it is introduced with his prior consent.
- If the Governor reserves the Money Bill for the consideration of the President his role ends.

3.

36TH MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Context: Union Home Minister has recently chaired the 36th meeting of the **Parliamentary Committee on Official Language**.

About the Parliamentary Committee for Official Language:

- The **Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages** was established in 1976 under section 4 of the **Official Languages Act, 1963**.
- **Mandate:** The Committee will review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union and submit a report to the President making recommendations.
 - ▶ The President will then submit the report to each House of Parliament and forward it to all State Governments.
- **Composition:** The Committee consists of 30 Members of Parliament, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.
- **Chairperson:** The chairperson of the Committee is elected by the members of the Committee. As a meeting, the Minister of Internal Unions was elected as the Chairperson of the Committee from time to time.

Official Language of India

- Hindi in Devanagari script is declared as the **Official Language of the Union under Article 343(1)**.
- While adopting and framing of Constitution, it was envisaged that **English will continue to be used for executive, judicial and legal purposes** for an initial period of 15 years i.e. till 1965.
- Later, the Official Languages Act, 1963, a constitutional amendment allowed for the continuation of English with Hindi for indefinitely until legislation decides to change it.
- It was also provided that **President may authorize the use of Hindi language** for some specific purposes.

Parliamentary Committees

- These committees are appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker.
- They work under the direction of the Speaker and presents its report to the House or to the Speaker and the Secretariat for which is provided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Types of Parliamentary Committees

• Standing Committees

- ▶ Standing Committees are permanent and regular committees constituted from time to time in pursuance of the provisions of an Act of Parliament or Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
- ▶ The work of these Committees is of continuous nature.
- ▶ The Financial Committees, DRSCs and some other Committees come under the category of Standing Committees.

- **Ad hoc Committees**

- ▶ Ad hoc Committees are appointed for a specific purpose and they cease to exist when they finish the task assigned to them and submit a report.
- ▶ The principal Ad hoc Committees are the Select and Joint Committees on Bills.
- ▶ Railway Convention Committee, Joint Committee on Food Management in Parliament House Complex etc. also comes under the category of ad hoc Committees.

4.

CONCERN REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF BILLS AS MONEY BILL

Context: In a pre-emptive move, the opposition has requested Speaker of the Lok Sabha to not bypass the **Rajya Sabha by declaring seven key Bills**, as “money bills”.

What is money bill?

- **Article 110 of Indian constitution** says a Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters like:
 - ▶ the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax
 - ▶ the regulation of the borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by the Government of India
 - ▶ the custody of the **consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India** etc

How is a Money Bill different from a financial bill?

- **While all Money Bills are Financial Bills, all Financial Bills are not Money Bills.**
- The Finance Bill which only contains provisions related to tax proposals would be a Money Bill.
- However, a Bill that contains some provisions related to taxation or expenditure, but also covers other matters would be considered as a Financial Bill.
- The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015, which establishes funds under the **Public Account of India** and states, was introduced as a Financial Bill.
- Secondly, the procedure for the passage of the two bills varies significantly.
- The Rajya Sabha has **no power to reject or amend a Money Bill**.
- However, a Financial Bill must be passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Who decides if a Bill is a Money Bill?

- The **Speaker certifies a Bill as a Money Bill**, and the Speaker’s decision is final.
- The Constitution states that parliamentary proceedings as well as officers responsible for the conduct of business (such as the Speaker) may not be questioned by any Court.

5.

‘PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS TO THE JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT’

Context: The **first Parliament session of 2021** began with President Ram Nath Kovind addressing members of both Houses of Parliament. This joint sitting of Parliament which is being held during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic has great significance.

About President Address

- The Constitution gives the **President the power to address either House or a joint sitting** of the two Houses of Parliament.
- There is **no set format for the President's speech**.
- The Constitution states that the President shall “inform Parliament of the cause of the summons”.
- **Article 87 of the Constitution** of India provides two special occasions on which the President addresses a joint sitting:
 - ▶ To address the opening session of a new legislature after a general election.
 - ▶ To address the first sitting of Parliament each year.
- A session of a new or continuing legislature cannot begin without fulfilling this requirement.
- When the Constitution came into force, the President was required to address each session of Parliament.
 - ▶ The **First Amendment to the Constitution in 1951** changed this position and made the President's address once a year.

Joint Sitting of Parliament

- The **joint sitting of the Parliament** is called by the President under Article 108.
- As per **Article 108 of Constitution**, a Joint session of Parliament can be summoned in the following situations.
 - If after a Bill has been passed by one House and submitted to the other House—
 - ▶ The Bill is rejected by the other House
 - ▶ The Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made in the Bill
 - ▶ More than six months elapse from the date of the reception of the Bill by the other House without the Bill being passed by it
- If the above conditions are satisfied, the President of India may summon the joint sitting of both the houses of parliament.

Exceptions to the joint sitting

These two bills cannot be referred to a joint sitting:

Money Bill

- Under the Constitution of India, money bills require the approval of the Lok Sabha only.
- Rajya Sabha can make recommendations to Lok Sabha, which it is not required to accept.
- Even if Rajya Sabha doesn't pass a money bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses of Parliament after the expiry of the above period.
- Therefore, a requirement to summon a joint session can never arise in the case of a money bill.

Constitution Amendment Bill

- Article 368 of Indian constitution require that constitution of India can be amended by both houses of parliament by 2/3 majority (special majority) .
- In case of disagreement between both houses, there is no provision to summon a joint session of parliament.

Who presides the joint sitting?

- It is **presided over by the Speaker** or, in their absence, by the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha or in their absence, the Deputy-Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.
- The **Chairperson doesn't preside over the joint session** at any means/cost.
- If any of the above officers are not present than any other member of the Parliament can preside by consensus of both the House.

6. 100 YEARS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Context: Recently, the Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu addressed centennial celebrations of Parliament's **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**.

Background

- The Committee on Public Accounts was **first set up in 1921** in the wake of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.
- The Finance Member of the Executive Council used to be the **Chairman of the Committee**.
- The Secretariat assistance to the Committee was rendered by the then Finance Department (now the Ministry of Finance).
- This position continued right up to 1949.

Constitution of the Committee

- The Public Accounts Committee is now constituted every year under **Rule 308 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha**.
- The Public Accounts Committee **consists of not more than 22 members comprising of 15 members elected by Lok Sabha every year** from amongst its members.
- The election is according to the principle of **proportional representation by means of single transferable vote** and not more than 7 members of Rajya Sabha elected by that House in like manner.
- **It shall also be the duty of the Committee**
 - ▶ to examine the statement of accounts showing the `income and expenditure of state corporations, trading and manufacturing schemes, concerns and projects together with the balance sheets and statements of profit and loss accounts which the President may have required to be prepared or are prepared under the provisions of the statutory rules regulating the financing of a particular corporation, trading or manufacturing scheme or concern or project and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
 - ▶ to examine the statement of accounts showing the income and expenditure of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, the audit of which may be conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India either under the directions of the President or by a statute of Parliament; and
 - ▶ to consider the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General in cases where the President may have required him to conduct an audit of any receipts or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks.

7. PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST PM MODI

Context: Four Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) members in the Rajya Sabha submitted a **Privilege Motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi** regarding his February 8 remarks in the Upper House about the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill.

About Privilege Motion

- All Members of Parliament (MPs) **enjoy rights and immunities, individually and collectively**, so that they can discharge their duties and functions effectively.
- Any instance when these rights and immunities are disregarded by any member of Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha is an offence, called '**breach of privilege**', which is punishable under the Laws of Parliament.
- Any member from either house can **move a notice in the form of a motion against the member** who he/she thinks is guilty of the breach of privilege.
- Both Houses of the Parliament reserve the **right to punish any action of contempt** (not necessarily breach of privilege) which is against its authority and dignity, as per the laws.

What are the rules governing Privilege Motion?

- The rules governing the privilege are mentioned in the **Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book** and **Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook**.
- The rules explain that any member of the House may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving an incident that he or she considers a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a committee.
- The notice has to be about a recent incident and should need the intervention of the House.
- These notices have to be **submitted before 10 am to the Speaker or the Chairperson** of the House.

What is the role of the Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairperson?

- The speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairperson of Rajya Sabha are the **first level of scrutiny** of a privilege motion in the two Houses of Parliament.
- They can either take a decision on the privilege motion or can also refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.
- Once the Speaker or the House Chairperson gives consent under **Rule 222**, the concerned member is allowed to explain himself or herself.

8. DEFAULT BAIL

Context: The Supreme Court dismissed the **National Investigation Agency's** petition challenging Bombay High Court order granting bail to advocate and activist Sudha Bharadwaj, arrested in Bhima Koregaon case.

What is default bail?

- Also known as **statutory bail**, this is a right to bail that accrues when the police fail to complete investigation within a specified period in respect of a person in judicial custody.

- This is enshrined in **Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure** where it is not possible for the police to complete an investigation in 24 hours, the police produce the suspect in court and seek orders for either police or judicial custody.
 - ▶ This section concerns the total period up to which a person may be remanded in custody prior to filing of charge sheet.
- For most offences, the **police have 60 days to complete the investigation and file a final report** before the court.
- However, where the offence attracts death sentence or life imprisonment, or a jail term of not less than 10 years, the period available is 90 days.
- In other words, a magistrate cannot **authorize a person's judicial remand** beyond the 60-or 90-day limit.
- At the end of this period, if the investigation is not complete, the court shall release the person "if he is prepared to and does furnish bail".

Types of Bail

- Bail is a provisional release of a detained person, who is accused of a criminal offense and therefore the judgment is yet to tend.
- There are 3 types of bail Regular, Interim and Anticipatory.
 - ▶ **Regular bail:** A regular bail is generally granted to a person who has been arrested or is in police custody. A bail application can be filed for the regular bail under Section 437 and 439 of CrPC.
 - ▶ **Interim bail:** Interim bail is granted for a short period of time and it is granted before the hearing for the grant of regular or anticipatory bail.
 - ▶ **Anticipatory Bail:** If any person has reason to believe that he/she may be arrested for non-bailable offence, he/she may apply to Sessions court or High court for anticipatory bail praying that in the event of arrest, he/she shall be released on bail (Section 438 Cr.PC).

9.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT BILLS IN PARLIAMENT

Context: A member in Rajya Sabha appeared to abandon his plan of introducing a **private member's Bill on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, a code that would be applicable to all religious communities in personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption.

What is a private member's Bill?

- A private member's Bill is different from a government Bill and is **piloted by an MP who is not a minister**.
- **Individual MPs may introduce private member's Bill** to draw the government's attention to what they might see as issues requiring legislative intervention.
- An MP who is not a minister is a private member and while both **private members and ministers take part in the lawmaking process**.
- Bills introduced by private members are referred to as private member's Bills and those introduced by ministers are called government Bills.

- Government Bills are backed by the government and also reflect its legislative agenda.
- The **admissibility of a private Bill is decided by the Chairman** in the case of the Rajya Sabha and the **Speaker** in the case of the Lok Sabha.
- Before the Bill can be listed for introduction, the Member must give at least a month's notice, for the House Secretariat to examine it for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation.
- While a government Bill can be introduced and discussed on any day, a private member's bill can only be introduced and discussed on Fridays.

Has a private member's bill ever become a law?

- As per PRS Legislative, no private member's Bill has been passed by Parliament since 1970.
- To date, Parliament has passed 14 such Bills, six of them in 1956.
- In the 14th Lok Sabha, of the over **300 private member's Bills introduced**, roughly four per cent were discussed; the remaining 96 per cent lapsed without a single dialogue.
- The selection of Bills for discussion is done through a ballot.

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8.

UNION & STATE EXECUTIVE

1. NO CONSENSUS ON LIMITING THE SPEAKER'S POWERS

Context: The All-India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) ended recently with the delegates failing to reach a consensus on whether the Speaker's powers under the **Anti-Defection Law** should be limited.

- The All-India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) is being held in Shimla.

Anti-defection law

- In 1985, the Tenth Schedule, popularly known as the anti-defection law, was added to the Constitution by the **52nd Amendment Act**.
- Any question regarding **disqualification arising out of defection** is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House.
- The purpose of the Amendment was to **bring stability to governments by deterring MPs and MLAs** from changing their political parties on whose ticket they were elected.

The Office of the Speaker

- He/She is looked upon as the **true guardian of the traditions of parliamentary democracy**.
- He/She symbolizes the **dignity and power of the House** over which he/she is presiding.
- **Speaker holds Office from the date of his/her election till immediately** before the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after the dissolution of the one to which he/she was elected.
- He/She is **eligible for re-election**.

2. BILL TO DEFINE DELHI L-G'S POWERS

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) moved a bill in the Lok Sabha where it proposed that **"government" in the national capital territory of Delhi** means the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

What are the proposed provisions under the bill?

- **Amendments:** The Bill proposes to amend Sections 21, 24, 33, and 44 of the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) 1991 Act.
- **Discretionary powers to L-G:** The Bill gives discretionary powers to the L-G of Delhi even in matters where the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws.

- The proposed legislation also seeks to ensure that the L-G is “**necessarily granted an opportunity**” to give her/his opinion before any decision taken by the Council of Ministers (or the Delhi Cabinet) is implemented.

Constitutional Status of Delhi

- **UT with a legislature:** Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature.
- **Constitutional Amendment:** It came into being in 1991 under Article 239AA of the Constitution inserted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991.
- **Legislative Powers:** As per the existing Act, the Legislative Assembly of Delhi has the power to make laws in all matters except public order, police, and land.

Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and its Powers

- The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is the constitutional head of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- The post was first established in September 1966, when The Delhi Administration Act, 1966 came into effect.
- The **69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991**, added article 239AA to the constitution.
- **Section 44 of the 1991 Act** says that all executive actions of the L-G, whether taken on the advice of his Ministers or otherwise shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the L-G.
- **Article 239AA of the Constitution** says the Council of Ministers will aid and advise the L-G in matters where the Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws except where the L-G can exercise discretion.

Discretionary Powers of L-G

- Matters which falls outside the purview of the powers conferred on the Legislative Assembly but in respect of which powers or functions are entrusted or delegated to him by the President; or
- He is required by or under any law to act at his discretion or to exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial functions.
- If any question arises as to whether any matter is or is not a matter as respects which the Lieutenant Governor is by or under any law required to act at his discretion, the decision of the Lieutenant Governor thereon shall be final.
- If any question arises as to whether any matter is or is not a matter as respects which the Lieutenant Governor is required by any law to exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial functions, the decision of the Lieutenant Governor thereon shall be final.

3.

KERALA ROW AND BEYOND: GOVERNOR’S ROLE IN STATE, CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

Context: Recently, a controversy has erupted in Kerala over the reappointment of Gopinath Ravindran as the Vice Chancellor of Kannur University.

What is the role of Governors in state universities?

- In most cases, the **Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities** in that state.
- The Governor’s powers and functions as the Chancellor are **laid out in the statutes** that govern the universities under a particular state government.

What about central universities?

- Under the **Central Universities Act, 2009**, and other statutes, the President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.
- With their role limited to presiding over convocations, **Chancellors in central universities are titular heads**, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor.
- The **VCs too are appointed by the Visitor from panels of names** picked by search and selection committees formed by the Union government.
- The Act adds that the President, as Visitor, shall have the right to authorise inspections of academic and non-academic aspects of the universities and also to institute inquiries.

4. SUSPENSION OF MPs

Context: Both Houses saw disruptions as Lok Sabha passed the Bill repealing the three farm laws without any discussion, and Rajya Sabha passed it after a brief intervention by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.

What are the rules under which the Speaker acts?

- **Rule Number 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business** says:
 - ▶ “The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House, and any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day’s sitting.”
- To deal with more recalcitrant Members, the **Speaker may take recourse to Rules 374 and 374A**. Rule 374 says:
- The Speaker may, if deems it necessary, name a Member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof.
- If a Member is so named by the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on a motion being made forthwith put the question that the Member (naming such Member) be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session: Provided that the House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.
- A member suspended under this rule shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House.”

What is the procedure for revocation of a Member’s suspension?

- While the **Speaker is empowered to place a Member under suspension**, the authority for revocation of this order is not vested in her.
- It is for the House, if it so desires, to resolve on a motion to revoke the suspension.

5. HOW MPs’ QUESTIONS ARE ALLOWED, DISALLOWED

Context: Recently, the Congress MP K C Venugopal in Rajya Sabha, scheduled to be answered on December 2, was removed from the list of finally admitted questions.

- His question was whether NRIs were harassed at airports and sent back, and some even asked by authorities to stop helping the farmers’ agitation/.

How are questions admitted?

- In both Houses, **elected members enjoy the right to seek information** from various ministries and departments in the form of **starred questions, unstarred questions, short notice questions and questions to private members.**
- Usually, MPs' questions form a long list, which then go through a rigorous process of clearance.
- The admissibility of questions in Rajya Sabha is governed by **Rules 47-50 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business** in the Council of States.
 - ▶ Once a question that **fulfils the conditions of admissibility is received**, the Secretariat sends it to the ministry concerned.
 - ▶ Once the facts are received from the ministry, the **question is further examined for admissibility.**
 - ▶ **A final list of questions is circulated to ministers**, on the basis of which they frame their answers.
- In Lok Sabha, **once the notice for questions is received, ballots determine priority.**
 - ▶ Starred, unstarred and short notice questions are entered into software, separately.
- Next, the questions are examined for admissibility under **Rules 41-44 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.**

Starred, unstarred and other categories of questions

- **STARRED QUESTION:** The member desires an oral answer from the minister. Such a question is distinguished by the MP with an asterisk. The answer can also be followed by supplementary questions from members.
- **UNSTARRED QUESTION:** The MP seeks a written answer, which is deemed to be laid on the table of the House by the concerned minister.
- **SHORT NOTICE QUESTION:** These are on an urgent matter of public importance, and an oral answer is sought. A notice of less than 10 days is prescribed as the minimum period for asking such a question.
- **QUESTION TO PRIVATE MEMBER:** A question can be addressed to a private member under Rule 40 of Lok Sabha's Rules of Procedure, or
 - ▶ Under **Rule 48 of Rajya Sabha's Rules**, provided that the question deals with a subject relating to some Bill, resolution or other matter for which that member is responsible.

6.

QUESTIONS AROUND THE ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Context: Recently, Hardoi MLA Nitin Agrawal was elected Deputy Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, which has barely five months left in its tenure.

What does the Constitution say about the Deputy Speaker?

- **Article 93 says:** "The House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof and, so often as the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the House shall choose another member to be Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be."

- **Article 178** contains the corresponding position for Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of a state.

Is it mandatory under the Constitution to have a Deputy Speaker?

- Constitutional experts point out that both **Articles 93 and 178 use the words “shall” and “as soon as may be”** – indicating that not only is the election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker mandatory, it must be held at the earliest.

Do the powers of the Speaker extend to the Deputy Speaker as well?

- **Article 95(1) says:** “While the office of Speaker is vacant, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Deputy Speaker”.
- In general, the Deputy Speaker has the same powers as the Speaker when presiding over a sitting of the House.
- All references to the Speaker in the Rules are deemed to be references to the Deputy Speaker when he presides.

9

JUDICIARY

1. TRIBUNAL REFORMS ACT 2021

Context: The **Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021** was passed in both houses recently. The law has triggered a fresh stand-off between the legislature and the judiciary over the powers of and limitations on law making.

Provisions of Tribunal Reforms Act 2021

- The new rules **do not remove the control of parent administrative ministries** (ministries against which the tribunals have to pass orders) over tribunals.
- The selection committee can function even in **absence of any judicial member**.
- It implies that a **committee entirely (or majorly) comprising officers** of the executive can select members of tribunals.
 - ▶ It aims to ensure that the secretary of the ministry against which the tribunal is to pass orders sits on the committee for selecting adjudicating members of the same tribunal.
- The **Tribunals Reform Ordinance** states the following term of office:
- **Chairperson** – 4 years or till he attains the age of 70 years [Whichever is earlier]
- **Remaining Members**- 4 years or till they attain the age of 67 years [Whichever is earlier]
- It states that any person with **experience in economics, commerce, management, industry and administration** can be appointed as a member of certain tribunals.

What is a Tribunal?

- Tribunal is a **quasi-judicial institution** that is set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes.
- It performs a number of functions like **adjudicating disputes, determining rights between contesting parties, making an administrative decision, reviewing an existing administrative decision** and so forth.
- Tribunals were not part of the original constitution it was incorporated in the Indian Constitution by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
 - ▶ **Article 323-A deals with Administrative Tribunals.**
 - ▶ **Article 323-B deals with tribunals for other matters.**

2. FAST TRACK COURTS (FTCs)

Context: Recently, the Union Government approved the continuation of more than 1000 **Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs)** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for two years (April 2021-March 2023).

About Fast Track Courts (FTCs)

- They are **set up by the State Governments** in consultation with the concerned High Courts.
- The **11th Finance Commission** had recommended a scheme for creation of 1734 FTCs in the country for disposal of long pending cases.
- The scheme that was started as per recommendation of 11th Finance Commission remained operative till 2011.

3. LOK ADALATS

Context: Lok Adalat has emerged as the most efficacious tool of Alternative Dispute Resolution. A total number of 1,27,87,329 cases were disposed of in 2021.

What are Lok Adalats?

- The term '**Lok Adalat**' means '**People's Court**' and is based on Gandhian principles.
- As per the Supreme Court, it is an **old form of adjudicating system prevalent in ancient India** and its validity has not been taken away even in the modern days too.
- It is one of the components of the **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system and delivers informal, cheap and expeditious justice** to the common people.
- The **first Lok Adalat camp was organized in Gujarat in 1982** as a voluntary and conciliatory agency without any statutory backing for its decisions.
- In view of its growing popularity over time, it was given **statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
- The Act makes the provisions relating to **the organization and functioning of the Lok Adalats**.

Powers of Lok Adalat

- The Lok Adalat will have **similar powers of a Civil Court** and is governed under the Code of Civil Procedure.
- It has the **power to summon and enforce the attendance** of a witness.
- Power to **receive evidence** regarding a particular case.
- The Lok Adalat has the power to follow its own procedure for determining any dispute.
- The proceedings of a Lok Adalat are considered to be judicial proceedings.

Organization

- The State/District Legal Services Authority or the Supreme Court/High Court/Taluk Legal Services Committee may **organize Lok Adalats**
- **Chairman and members:** Generally, a Lok Adalat consists of a judicial officer as the chairman and a lawyer (advocate) and a social worker as members.

- **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats.
- **The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** was amended in 2002 to provide for the establishment of the Permanent Lok Adalats to deal with cases pertaining to the public utility services.

Jurisdiction of Lok Adalat

- A Lok Adalat shall have **jurisdiction to determine and to arrive at a compromise or settlement between the parties** to a dispute in respect of:
 - ▶ Any case pending before any court, or
 - ▶ Any matter which falls within the jurisdiction of any court and is not brought before such court.
- Matters such as **matrimonial/family disputes, criminal (compoundable offenses) cases, land acquisition cases, labor disputes**, workmen's compensation cases, bank recovery cases, etc. are being taken up in Lok Adalats.
- The Lok Adalat shall have **no jurisdiction in respect of any case or matter relating to an offense** not compoundable under any law.

4. RECUSAL OF JUDGES

Context: In a recent development, Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.S. Bopanna of the **Supreme Court recused themselves from hearing a dispute** among the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the allocation of the Krishna river water.

What is Recusal of Judges?

- There are **no written rules** on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts.
- When there is a conflict of interest, **a judge can withdraw from hearing a case** to prevent creating a perception that she carried a bias while deciding the case.
- The practice stems from the **cardinal principle of due process of law** that nobody can be a judge in her own case.

Who decides to recuse?

- Since there are **no formal rules governing the process**, it is often left to individual judges to record reasons for recusal.
- The **decision to recuse generally comes from the judge herself** as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge to disclose any potential conflict of interest.
- If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the **Chief Justice for allotment to a fresh Bench**.

5. SC EXPANDS MEANING OF VULNERABLE WITNESSES

Context: The Supreme Court **expanded the meaning of vulnerable witnesses** to also include among others sexual assault victims, those with mental illness and people with speech or hearing impairment.

Who is a vulnerable witness?

- A vulnerable witness is a **witness to an event such as an accident or crime** is a person who saw it.

Extended Definition of vulnerable witness

- The **vulnerable witnesses will not be limited** to mean only child witnesses, but will include
 - ▶ age-neutral victims of sexual assault
 - ▶ gender-neutral victims of sexual assault
 - ▶ age and gender neutral victims of sexual assault under section section 377 IPC (unnatural offences)
 - ▶ witnesses suffering from mental illness as defined in Mental Healthcare Act
 - ▶ witnesses with threat perception
 - ▶ any speech or hearing impaired individual or person suffering from any other disability who is considered to be vulnerable by the court concerned

6. NATIONAL JUDICIAL PAY COMMISSION (NJPC)

Context: The **Second National Judicial Pay Commission** has submitted its final report recommending increase in the pay, pension and allowances of judicial officers.

About National Judicial Pay Commission

- It was **constituted in 2017** pursuant to the order of the Supreme Court in All India Judges Association case, under Article 32 (Constitutional Remedies) of the Constitution.
- It is **headed by former Judge** of Supreme Court Justice P. Venkatrama Reddi.
- It has been **empowered to devise its own procedure and formulate** the modalities necessary for accomplishing the task.

Objectives of National Judicial Pay Commission

- To evolve the principles governing the **pay structure and emoluments of Judicial Officers** belonging to the Subordinate Judiciary all over the country.
- To examine the present structure of **emoluments and conditions of services of Judicial Officers** in the States and Union Territories and to make suitable recommendations including post-retirement benefits such as pension, etc.
- To **consider and recommend such interim relief** as the Commission considers just and proper to all categories of Judicial Officers.
- To make **recommendations regarding setting up of a permanent mechanism** to review the pay and service conditions of members of Subordinate Judiciary periodically by an independent Commission.

7. "ENFORCING CONTRACTS PORTAL" LAUNCHED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Context: Recently, the "Enforcing Contracts Portal" was inaugurated by the Department of Justice.

About the Enforcing Contracts Portal

- The “**Enforcing Contracts**” indicator is one of the measures to generate the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index.
 - ▶ The Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index is a ranking system that is an **indication of an economy’s position** relative to that of other economies across 11 areas of business regulation.
 - ▶ Currently, **only the cities of Delhi and Mumbai are under the purview** of the Ease of Doing Business survey by the World Bank.
 - ▶ Kolkata and Bengaluru are likely to be included in the Doing Business Report in the future.
- The portal is envisioned to be a **comprehensive source of information** about the legislative and policy reforms being undertaken on the “Enforcing Contracts” parameters.
 - ▶ The “Enforcing Contracts” indicator is one such essential area that **measures time and cost to resolve a standardized commercial dispute** as well as a series of good practices in the judiciary.
- It includes the latest data related to **the functioning and disposal of commercial cases** in the Dedicated Commercial Courts of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata.
 - ▶ These Dedicated Commercial Courts have been established for the speedy resolution of commercial disputes and boast of dedicated infrastructure and exclusive judicial human power.
- **The portal contains several features such as:**
 - ▶ details/links of the Dedicated Commercial Courts in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata
 - ▶ instructive videos related to e-filing
 - ▶ advocate registration
 - ▶ manuals on using the Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMTs) like JustIS app for judicial officers
 - ▶ e-Courts services app for use by lawyers (developed by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India)
 - ▶ a repository of all related commercial laws for ready reference
- The new portal also **hosts online reporting by all High Courts** regarding the Mediation and Arbitration centers.

8. AI-DRIVEN RESEARCH PORTAL FOR SUPREME COURT

Context: The Supreme Court unveiled its **Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal SUPACE** which is designed to make research easier for judges and for easing their workload.

What is SUPACE?

- **Smart tool: Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court’s Efficiency (SUPACE)** is an AI tool that helps in collecting the relevant facts and laws to make them available to judges.
- **Information provider:** The portal is not to make judgments rather search and process the information available to the judges for making them good decisions.
- **Efficient:** It is aimed to assist judges in legal research by making it more efficient, methodical, and systematic.

- **Reduction in delays:** It will help in reducing the delays and pendency of cases.
- **First of its Kind:** The initiative is the first of its kind in the world to enhance the efficacy of judges and the judiciary.
- **Threat:** The automated decision-making by some of the AI systems abroad is one of the threats in influencing judicial orders.
 - ▶ The loss of certain posts after its introduction is also being considered a concern.
- **Digitally sound:** This is one more effort to make the court procedure digital in the line with the e-court project.
- **Committee:** The project is launched based on the recommendation of the AI Committee formed in 2019 which was headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao.

9. GUJARAT HC'S 'JUSTICE CLOCK'

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court e-Committee chairperson and SC judge Justice DY Chandrachud has inaugurated two digital services for Gujarat High Court — a '**Justice Clock**', and electronic payment of court fee.

What is the 'Justice Clock'?

- An **LED display of 7 feet by 10 feet**, placed at a height of 17 feet from the ground, has been erected near the Gujarat High Court premises.
- This '**Justice Clock**' will exhibit **vital statistics** of the justice delivery system in Gujarat, to "maximize outreach and visibility" of the work done by the state judiciary.
- The interface has been designed and developed in-house and will display data from the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** in real-time.
- A similar format of **Gujarat judiciary-related statistics** will also be available on the Gujarat HC website under a tab of '**Virtual Justice Clock**', accessible to all.
- One of the crucial aspects covered in the content of Justice Clock is the case clearance rate (CCR) for current date, last date, last week, last month, this year and last year.

10. FAST AND SECURED TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS (FASTER) SYSTEM

Context: Recently, a Special Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, the apex court has introduced the "**Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records**" (**FASTER**) system.

What is FASTER System?

- It is meant to ensure that **undertrials are not made to wait** for days on end behind bars to be released.
- It will **prevent unnecessary arrests and custody** of people even after the court has already granted them its protection.
- It is proposed that the **e-authenticated copies of the record** of proceedings/orders, digitally signed by the authorised officer may be transmitted through FASTER system to the duty-holders of the justice system.

11.

NATIONAL JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Context: Recently, the CJI N.V. Ramana has proposed to set up a **National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC)** to develop judicial infrastructure in trial courts.

About National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC)

- It will be the **nodal agency** for infrastructural developments
- It will **not be involved** in judicial appointments in trial courts.
- Appointments will continue to be made by the state governments and the respective high courts.
- NJIC will be a **funding, executing and supervisory agency** for development works.
 - ▶ Both the central and state governments will **contribute their share of funds** outlined in the centrally-sponsored scheme to the NJIC.
- The structure of the corporation is likely to be modeled on the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**.
- The NJIC will not **suggest any major policy change** but will give complete freedom to HCs to come up with projects to strengthen ground-level courts.

12.

CALL FROM WITHIN JUDICIARY TO CHANGE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

Context: Recently, the Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha that there was a **call from within the judiciary and parliamentarians** to change the collegium system for appointment of judges.

What is Supreme Court of India Collegium?

- The Collegium of the Supreme Court consists of **5 senior most Judges** including the Chief Justice of India.
- They will consider the elevation of **Chief Justices/Judges of High Court to Supreme Court, elevation of Judges of High Courts as Chief Justices** and **elevation of Judges**.
- In case of difference of opinion, the majority view will prevail.
 - ▶ Since Constitution mandates consultation with the Chief Justice of India is necessary for appointments to judiciary, the collegium model evolved.

What is the Collegium System?

- It is a system under which **appointments and transfers of judges are decided** by a forum of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
- It has **no place** in the Indian Constitution.

What does the Constitution actually prescribe?

- **Article 124** deals with the appointment of Supreme Court judges.
 - ▶ It says the appointment should be made by the President after consultation with such judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court as the President may deem necessary.

- ▶ The CJI is to be consulted in all appointments, except his or her own.
- **Article 217** deals with the appointment of High Court judges.
 - ▶ It says a judge should be appointed by the President after consultation with the CJI and the Governor of the state.
- The Chief Justice of the High Court concerned too should be consulted.

1. 12TH NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY

Context: Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj commemorates **24th April** of every year as the **National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD)**.

- The National Panchayat Awards 2021 will also be conferred on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj day.

About the Panchayati Raj Day

- On this day, the **73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992** came into force.
- 24th April, 1993 marks a defining moment in the history of **decentralization of power to the grassroots** with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj.
- **Recognition:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been awarding the best performing Panchayats/ States/UTs across the country every year.
- It is done under the **Incentivization of Panchayats** to recognize good work for improving delivery of services and public goods.

National Panchayat Awards

- National Panchayat Awards have become a **medium for creating awareness and sharing of knowledge** across the country about the achievements of Panchayats.
- The National Panchayat Awards 2021 are being conferred under the following categories:
 - ▶ Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar
 - ▶ Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar
 - ▶ Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award
 - ▶ Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award
 - ▶ e-Panchayat Puraskar
- **Amount:** The awards will carry money ranges from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh.
- **Real time:** The amount will be transferred directly to the bank account of the Panchayats concerned in real time.

2. MODEL PANCHAYAT CITIZENS CHARTER

Context: Recently, A **Model Panchayat Citizens Charter/ framework** for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was released.

What is Model Panchayat Citizens Charter?

- It is prepared by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** in collaboration with **National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**.

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)

- It is an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
 - It is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj.
 - It is recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence.
 - It is located in the historic city of Hyderabad in Telangana state.
- It would ensure:**
 - Transparent and effective delivery of public services** for sustainable development and enhanced citizen service experiences; and
 - Deepening inclusive and accountable** Local Self Governments by incorporating diverse views while designing and delivering services

Constitutional Provisions for Panchayats

- Panchayats constitute the **third tier of government in the rural areas** and represents the first level of Government interaction for over 60 per cent of the Indian populace.
- Panchayats are responsible for delivery of basic services as enshrined under **article 243G of the Constitution of India**, specifically in the areas of Health & Sanitation, Education, Nutrition, Drinking Water.

UNION TERRITORIES AND SPECIAL AREAS

1.

CHAKMAS AND HAJONGS TO NOT COOPERATE IN CENSUS

Context: The Committee for Citizenship Rights of **Chakmas and Hajongs of Arunachal Pradesh (CCRCHAP)** has stated that Chakmas and Hajongs will not cooperate with any census being taken on them.

Who are Chakmas and Hajongs?

- They are **ethnic people** who are found in **northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar**.
- **Chakmas** are predominantly **Buddhists**, while **Hajongs** are **Hindus**.
- The Chakmas and Hajongs were originally residents of the **Chittagong Hill Tracts** of the former East Pakistan.
- The Chakmas and Hajongs were displaced by the **construction of the Kaptai Dam** in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh in 1957.
- Buddhists by faith, the **Chakmas faced religious persecution in East Pakistan** along with the Hajongs, who are Hindus.
- In the 1960s, the Indian state settled them legally in the territory now known as **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The groups entered India through what was then the **Lushai Hills district of Assam** (present day Mizoram).

2.

LADAKH UNDER SIXTH SCHEDULE

Context: Recently, a demand has been raised in Parliament to include the **UT of Ladakh in the sixth schedule of the constitution** to safeguard land, employment, and cultural identity of the local population.

What is the Sixth Schedule?

- According to **Article 244 of the Constitution**, the Sixth Schedule was enacted in 1949.
- It aims to **protect indigenous groups** through the establishment of autonomous administrative divisions known as **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)**.

- The Sixth Schedule contains provisions that grant indigenous tribes significant autonomy, and it currently applies to the **Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram** (three Councils each), and Tripura (one Council).
 - ▶ Assam has the **Bodoland Territorial Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, and Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council**
 - ▶ Meghalaya has the **Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, and Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council**;
 - ▶ Tripura has the **Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council**; and
 - ▶ Mizoram has the **Chakma Autonomous District Council, Lai Autonomous District Council and the Mara Autonomous District Council**.
- Ladakh currently has the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)**
 - ▶ It has the authority to make administrative decisions on matters such as land, development projects, budget, health, education, the environment, employment, roads, language, and culture, among others.
- Under the Sixth Schedule, the **ADCs and Regional Councils have the authority to create laws, receive funding from the Consolidated Fund of India**.

Consolidated Fund of India

Constituted under **Article 266(1)** of the Indian Constitution, the Consolidated Fund of India is the **account of the revenue the Government of India** receives – via income tax, Customs, central excise and the non-tax revenue – and the expenses it makes, excluding exceptional items.

3. REVISING ARUNACHAL PRADESH ST

Context: Recently, Rajya Sabha passed the Constitutional Amendment Bill (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

- It seeks to amend the **nomenclature of certain tribes from Arunachal Pradesh** mentioned in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

NAMING THE TRIBES CORRECTLY		
Name in 1950 Order	What's being changed	Districts inhabited by tribe
Abor	Being deleted because Adi, also listed in the order, is the same as Abor	East Siang, Siang, Upper Siang, Shi Yomi, Lower Dibang Valley
Kampti	Being corrected to Tai-Khamti	Namsai
Mishmi [Idu, Taroon]	Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mushmi), Idu (Mushimi) and Taraon (Digaru Mishmi) being named as separate tribes	Anjaw, Lohit, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley and parts of East siang and Upper Siang

Momba	Being replaced with names of four tribes: Monpa, Memba, Sartang, Sajolang (Miji)	Monpa: Tawang, W Kameng Memba: Upper Siang and West Siang Sartang: West Kameng: Sajolang: E & W Kameng
Any Naga tribe	Being replaced with names of four Naga tribe (Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa and Wancho) that live in Arunachal	Nocte: central part of Tirap Wancho: Longding Tusta: Changlang Tangsa: Changlang

What does the Bill amend?

- The Bill seeks to modify **Part-XVIII of the Schedule** to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

Scheduled Tribe

- **Article 366 (25)** of the Constitution refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.
 - **Article 342** says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes.
 - The Constitution is silent about the **criteria for specification** of a community as a Scheduled Tribe.
 - There are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- **Part-XVIII lists 16 tribes of Arunachal**, in order: **Abor, Aka, Apatani, Nyishi, Galong, Khampti, Khowa, Mishmi [Idu, Taroon], Momba, Any Naga tribes, Sherdukpen, Singpho, Hrusso, Tagin, Khamba and Adi.**
 - The **Bill corrects the names of tribes spelt incorrectly**, and adds names of a few tribes that were either named ambiguously or had their parent group named only.
 - It makes five changes
 - ▶ deleting 'Abor' (tribe) at serial No. 1
 - ▶ changing 'Khampti' at serial No. 6 to 'Tai Khamti'
 - ▶ including 'Mishmi-Kaman (Miju Mishmi)', 'Idu (Mishmi)' and 'Taraon (Digaru Mishmi)' at serial No. 8 in lieu of Mishmi [Idu, Taroon]
 - ▶ including 'Monpa', 'Memba', 'Sartang', 'Sajolang (Miji)' at serial No. 9 in place of 'Momba'
 - ▶ Replacing 'Any Naga Tribes' at serial No. 10 with names of four tribes: 'Nocte', 'Tangsa', 'Tutsa', and 'Wancho'.

4. RESTORATION OF POWER OF STATES/UTS TO MAKE THEIR OWN OBC LISTS

Context: Union Cabinet has cleared the **Constitutional 127th Amendment Bill** to give power to states and UTs to make their own OBC lists that will be put in Parliament.

About the newly cleared bill

- The Constitutional 127th Amendment Bill will amend **Articles 342 A and introduce clause 342A (3)** that will specifically authorize states to maintain their State List.
- There will be an **amendment in Articles 366(26C) and 338B (9)**.
- States will be able to **directly notify OBC and SEBCs** without referring to the NCBC.

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- It was initially constituted by the **National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993** and so far the Commission was reconstituted 7 times up to 2016.
- The government had repealed The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 in 2018.
- The present Commission, the 8th commission has been accorded Constitutional Status through **“The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018”**.
- For this, **Article 338B has been inserted to forming a Commission** for the socially and educationally backward classes which is to be known as NCBC.
- The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three other Members in the rank & pay of Secretary to the Government of India.

5. VIJAYANAGARA BECAME KARNATAKA'S 31ST DISTRICT

Context: The government of Karnataka notified the **formation of a new district called Vijayanagara**, bifurcating the district of Ballari in the State. With Vijayanagara, the state now has 31 districts.

About Vijayanagara district

- Named after the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire, the new district was carved out from Ballari under the **Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964**.
- It is famous for its **UNESCO World Heritage sites** – Hampi and Virupaksha Temple.
- **Vijayanagara has six taluks** – Hosapete, Kudligi, Hagari Bommanahalli, Kotturu, Hoovina Hadagali, and Harapanahalli.
- **Hosapete** is its headquarters.

6. ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) ACT (AFSPA)

Context: Recently, the Union government has instituted a high-level committee chaired by a Secretary-level officer to examine the possibility of withdrawing the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland**.

What's the origin of AFSPA?

- The Act came into force in the context of **increasing violence in the Northeastern States** decades ago, which the State governments found difficult to control.
- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Bill** was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and it was approved by the President on September 11, 1958.
- It became known as the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958**.

What does the AFSPA mean?

- AFSPA gives armed forces the **power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”**.
- They have the authority to **prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area**, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also:
 - ▶ **arrest a person without a warrant;**
 - ▶ **enter or search premises without a warrant;** and
 - ▶ **ban the possession of firearms**
- Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the **officer in charge of the nearest police station** along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

What is a “disturbed area” and who has the power to declare it?

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under **Section 3 of the AFSPA**.
- An area can be **disturbed due to differences or disputes between members** of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The **Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory** can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- As per Section 3, it can be invoked in places where **“the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary”**.

7. WHAT IS 'GREATER TIPRALAND'

Context: Several tribal outfits in Tripura have joined hands to push their demand for a **separate state for indigenous communities in the region**, arguing that their “survival and existence” was at stake.

What is their main demand?

- The parties are demanding a separate state of '**Greater Tipraland**' for the indigenous communities of the north-eastern state.
- They want the Centre to carve out the separate state under **Article 2 and 3** of the Constitution.
- Among the 19 notified Scheduled Tribes in Tripura, **Tripuris (aka Tipra and Tiprasas)** are the largest.
- According to the **2011 census**, there are at least 5.92 lakh Tripuris in the state, followed by Reangs (1.88 lakh) and Jamatias (83,000).

What does the Constitution say?

- **Article 2 of the Indian Constitution** deals with admission or establishment of new states.

- ▶ “Parliament may by law admit into the Union, or establish, new States on such terms and conditions, as it thinks fit,” it states.
- **Article 3** comes into play in the case of “formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States” by the Parliament.

8. MEGHALAYA ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE PROJECT (MeghEA)

Context: Recently, Meghalaya became the first state in the country to implement the India Enterprise Architecture or IndEA with the launch of the ‘MeghEA- Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture’.

About MeghEA initiative

- The MeghEA initiative is spread across 6 pillars i.e. **Governance, Human Resources, Entrepreneurship, Primary Sector, Infrastructure and Environment**
- It envisions making **Meghalaya a high income state by 2030**.
- The project aims to **improve service delivery** and governance for the people using power of Digital technologies.
- The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** and **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** are the implementing agency.

9. RENGMA NAGAS DEMAND AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Context: Recently, the **Rengma Nagas in Assam** have written to Union Home Minister, demanding an autonomous district council amid a decision by the Central and the State governments to upgrade the **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC)** into a territorial council.

Who are Rengma Nagas?

- Rengmas were the **first tribal people in Assam** to have encountered the British in 1839.
- The existing Rengma Hills was eliminated from the political map of the State and replaced with that of Mikir Hills (now Karbi Anglong) in 1951.
- The **Rengma Naga country covers** an area of 7399 sq. Km as of today, which is the whole of **Karbi Anglong excluding Mikir Hills**.

What is Autonomous District Council?

- The **Sixth schedule of the Constitution** protects tribal populations and provides autonomy to the communities through creation of autonomous development councils.
- It can frame laws on land, public health, agriculture and others.
- As of now, **10 autonomous councils** exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The specified tribal areas are the **North Cachar Hills, Karbi Anglong** and the **Bodoland Territorial Area in Assam**.
- The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council has 26 seats and elections are due in 2022.

10. TRIPURA BEGINS SHIFTING OF MIZORAM BRU REFUGEES

Context: Recently, the **shifting of Mizoram Bru refugees** for permanent settlement at various places in Tripura has started.

- The first batch of 515 refugees was moved out of camps in north Tripura district and sent to two places for their settlement in Dhalai district.

Who are Brus?

- **Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India**, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam.
- In Tripura, they are recognised as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group**.
- In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state.

11. NAGALAND FORMS PANEL ON LISTING INDIGENOUS INHABITANTS

Context: Recently, the Nagaland government has decided to form a **joint consultative committee (JCC) involving all traditional tribal bodies** and, civil society organisations for taking an exercise to register the State's indigenous inhabitants.

About Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)

- RIIN has its roots in the **state government's decision in 2019** to implement **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** under the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873** throughout Dimapur district.
- The ILP is an **official travel document issued by the state government**, which allows inward travel of foreigners and Indian citizens of other states into Nagaland for a limited period.
- The state government issued a notification on November 21, 1979 declaring the then Dimapur sub-divisions under Kohima district a tribal belt, making Dimapur eligible for ILP.
- RIIN was **initiated in 2019** after a state government committee recommended the creation of such a registry primarily to prevent issuance of fake "indigenous inhabitant" certificates.

Who is eligible to be an indigenous inhabitant of Nagaland?

- Any person belonging to one of the **notified 18 tribes of Nagaland** – 14 Naga tribes and four non-Naga tribes (Kuki, Kachari, Garo and Mikir)
 - ▶ Residing in his/her native village or in any other village or town in Nagaland or elsewhere provided he or she has not acquired citizenship of another country.
- The person's antecedent in the native village should be **traced back for not less than two generations** beyond December 1, 1963.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND NON- CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

1.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS (NCPCR)

Context: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has taken suo motu cognisance of a video wherein Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar met school children during 'Mekedatu Padayatre', indulging children into political activity.

About NCPCR

- NCPCR is a **statutory body** under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- The commission's mandate is to ensure that **all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms** are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - ▶ The Child is defined as a person in the **0 to 18 years age group**.
- The Commission visualizes a **rights-based perspective** flowing into National Policies and Programmes, along with nuanced responses at the State, District and Block levels, taking care of specificity and strengths of each region.
- **Composition:** This commission has a chairperson and six members of which at least two should be women.
 - ▶ All of them are appointed by the **Central Government for three years**.
 - ▶ The maximum age to serve in commission is **65 years for Chairman** and **60 years for members**.

2.

EXTENSION OF TENURES FOR CBI, ED DIRECTORS

Context: The Government of India has brought two ordinances to extend the tenure of **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** and **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** directors up to 5 years.

About the Current Tenure

- Currently, the director of CBI and ED has been appointed for **two-year tenure in office** by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.

- While they cannot be removed (with some exceptions) before their tenure ends, an extension can be given by the government.
- Before 1997, the tenure of the CBI directors was not fixed and they could be removed by the government in any manner.
- However, the Supreme Court in the Vineet Narain judgment fixed tenure of a minimum of two years for the CBI director to allow the officer to work with independence.

Current method of appointment

CBI Chief

- The **procedure for the appointment of the CBI chief** is laid down in the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.
- **Section 4A of the Act** says that any director of a special police force or establishment, including the CBI chief.
 - ▶ It says that he is to be appointed by the central government, which has to go by the recommendation in that regard of a committee comprising the Prime Minister as its chairperson, along with the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha or the leader of the single-largest Opposition party in the Lower House along with the Chief Justice of India or any judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.

ED Chief

- The appointment of the ED chief is governed by the **Central Vigilance Commission Act of 2003**.
- Article 25 of the Act lays down that the Centre shall appoint the ED Director on the recommendation of a panel that will have the Central Vigilance Commissioner as its chairperson and includes vigilance commissioners as its members along with the Union home secretary, the secretary of the central Ministry of Personnel, and the revenue secretary.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- The CBI is the **premier investigating agency in India**.
- CBI was formed through a resolution of the Government of India in 1963.
 - ▶ CBI is **not a statutory body** and derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Mandate:** to investigate several economic crimes, special crimes, cases of corruption, and other cases.
 - ▶ To investigate cases of cheating and embezzlement and social crime, particularly of hoarding, black-marketing, and profiteering in essential commodities, having all-India and inter-state ramifications.
- **Parent Ministry:** Initially it was under the ministry of home affairs and later transferred to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
 - ▶ Presently, it works as an attached office of the Ministry of Personnel.
 - ▶ CBI works under the supervision of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in matters about the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Enforcement Directorate

- Directorate of Enforcement is a **specialized financial investigation agency** under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
 - ▶ On 1st May 1956, an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed, in the Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
 - ▶ In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.
- **ED enforces the following laws:**
 - ▶ Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
 - ▶ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)

3.

INDIA'S CAG BECOMES EXTERNAL AUDITOR OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Context: India's Comptroller and Auditor General G C Murmu is selected as the external auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for a period of six years from 2022 to 2027 after beating Germany and the United Kingdom among other countries.

About Comptroller and Auditor General

- CAG is an **independent authority** under the Constitution of India.
- He is the **head of the Indian audit & account department** and chief Guardian of Public purse.
- It is the **institution through which the accountability of the government** and other public authorities (all those who spend public funds) to Parliament and State Legislatures and through them to the people is ensured.

About IAEA

- IAEA is a prestigious institution that promotes **peaceful use of nuclear energy**.
- The IAEA is the **world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field**.
- It was set up as the **world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957** within the United Nations family.
- The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
- The IAEA Secretariat is headquartered at the **Vienna International Centre in Vienna**.
- As an independent international organization related to the United Nations (UN) system, the IAEA's relationship with the UN is regulated by a special agreement.

- **Article 148** broadly deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
- **Article 149** deals with Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- **Article 150** says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
- **Article 151** says that the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the president, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.

- **Article 279** – Calculation of “net proceeds” is ascertained and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, whose certificate is final.
- **Third Schedule** – Section IV of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India prescribes the form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at the time of assumption of office.
- **According to Sixth Schedule** the accounts of the District Council or Regional Council should be kept in such form as CAG, with the approval of the President, prescribe.

4.

RESTRUCTURING OF NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION TRUST (NMET) AS AUTONOMOUS BODY

Context: Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs urged the officials of the Ministry of Mines to restructure the **National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)** as an autonomous body.

About the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)

- The National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) was in 2015.
- The trust was formed under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.
- The body is working for **realization of mineral potential** of the country in terms of mining activity.
- NMET has a two-tier structure.

NMET Fund

- The NMET fund is utilized to
 - ▶ undertake studies for mineral development
 - ▶ regional and detailed exploration of strategic and critical minerals
 - ▶ an aerial geophysical survey of obvious geological potential (OGP) and adjoining areas of India, sustainable mining with advanced scientific and technological practices, and mineral extraction metallurgy.
- It also facilitates exploration activities by the provisions of the Act.
 - ▶ The apex body which is the **Governing Body is chaired by the Minister of Mines**. It holds the overall control of the Trust.
 - ▶ The **Executive Committee which is chaired by the Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, administers and manages its activities.
- An NMET Fund has been established to implement its activities.
- The holders of the Mining Lease and Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease make payments which are equivalent to 2% of royalty, for minerals under the second schedule of the Act.
- The Trust supports the regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country.

5. NATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY COORDINATOR

Context: Recently, the government has appointed former Indian Navy vice chief Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar as the country's first **National Maritime Security Coordinator**.

About the National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC)

- NMSC will act as an **interface between the civilian and military maritime domain** to enhance security architecture and energy security in India.
- It will **break the silos and cut across the turf of Navy, Coast Guard, State Maritime Boards** to enhance maritime domain awareness and ensure a better response.
- The Maritime Security Coordinator will work under **Indian National Security Advisor** and be the principal advisor to the government on the maritime security domain.
- The appointment of NMSC fills the **need of the hour as the Navy, Coast Guard and state maritime boards** all tend to work in silos with overlapping jurisdictions and are constantly at odds with each other.
- **Agenda:** The Chinese forays into the Indian Ocean via Pakistan and Myanmar will be on top of the NMSC agenda.

6. CBI SEEKS GOVT. SANCTION TO INVOKE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Context: Recently, the CBI has sought sanction of the central government to **invoke the Official Secrets Act** in the case of leak of sensitive documents related to the acquisition of three hulls of submarines.

About Official Secrets Act

- The Official Secrets Act, OSA in short, has its **roots in the British colonial era**.
- Its predecessor law, **The Indian Official Secrets Act, 1904** was enacted during the time of **Lord Curzon**, Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905.
- It was an amended and more stringent version of **The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act XIV) of 1889**, brought in at a time when a large number of powerful newspapers had emerged in several languages across India.
- In April 1923, a newer version of the Official Secrets Act was notified. **The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act No XIX of 1923)** replaced the earlier Act.
 - ▶ It was extended to all matters of secrecy and confidentiality in governance in the country.

7. ATTORNEY GENERAL OF INDIA

Context: Recently, Attorney general K K Venugopal has told the Supreme Court that a **statutory ban must be put on discretionary quota land allotments** in urban areas to politicians, elected representatives like MPs, MLAs, MLCs and panchayat members as well as high court and Supreme Court judges.

How is the Attorney General of India appointed?

- The Attorney General of India is **appointed by the President** of India on the advice of the Union Cabinet of ministers.
- The person appointed must be a **citizen of India**.
- To be appointed as the Attorney General of India:
 - ▶ A person must be qualified to be a Supreme Court judge, i.e. they must either be a judge of a High Court for five years or an advocate in a High Court for 10 years or an eminent jurist in the President's opinion.

Special rights enjoyed by the Attorney General of India

- The attorney general enjoys the **right of audience in any court** of the country when concerned with his duties.
- He further **enjoys all the immunities and special privileges** available to an MP.
- He has the **right to participate in the proceedings** of both the houses without the right to vote and can be designated as a member.

8. INDEPENDENT COLLEGIUM FOR ELECTION COMMISSION

Context: Recently, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking the constitution of an **independent collegium to appoint members of the Election Commission**.

About Election Commission of India (ECI)

- Election Commission of India is a **permanent Constitutional Body**.
- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the **Constitution on 25th January 1950**.
- The Election Commission of India is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India**, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- The Constitution of India has vested in the **Election Commission of India the superintendence, direction and control** of the entire process for conduct of elections.

Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners

- The President appoints **Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners**.
- They have tenure of **six years**, or up to the **age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy the **same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges** of the Supreme Court of India.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be **removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament**.

9. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

Context: Recently, the Central Government has informed the Delhi High Court that the appointments into vacant positions in the **National Commission for Minorities** have been deferred due to Model Code of Conduct

About National Commission for Minorities

- The setting up of Minorities Commission was envisaged in the **Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution** in 1978.
- With the enactment of the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, the Minorities Commission became a statutory body and renamed as National Commission for Minorities.
- As per Section 3(2) of the NCM Act 1992, the Commission consists of **a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, Five Members** i.e. total of 7 persons to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity.
- Each Member holds office for a **period of three years** from the date of assumption of office.
- The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members **nominated by Central Government** from time to time.

1. ELECTION SYMBOLS

Context: Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) decided to **freeze the election symbol** of a Political Party.

About Election Symbol

- An election symbol refers to a **standardized symbol allocated to a political party**.
- They are used by the parties during their campaigning.
- They are **shown on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)**, where the voter chooses the symbol and votes for the associated party.
- The concept was introduced for the voting by people, who **cannot read the name of the party** while casting their votes.
- Since India held its **first national polls in 1951-52**, symbols have become a crucial part of the electoral process ever.

Types of Election Symbol

- As per the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 2017**, party symbols are either “reserved” or “free”.
 - ▶ **Reserved:** Eight national parties and 64 state parties across the country have “reserved” symbols
 - ▶ **Free:** ECI has a pool of nearly 200 “free” symbols. These symbols are allotted to the thousands of unrecognised regional parties in the country.

Who is empowered to allot election symbol?

- The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the Election Commission of India (ECI) to **recognize political parties and allot symbols**.

2. REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

Context

Recently, the former Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh had announced that he will be **forming his own political party in Punjab** ahead of the state assembly elections.

About Registration of a political party

- According to the Election Commission, any **party seeking registration has to submit an application to the Commission** within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by:
 - ▶ **Article 324 of the Constitution of India;** and
 - ▶ **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**
- The registration of all political parties is governed by the provisions of **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**
- As per existing guidelines, the applicant is asked to:
 - ▶ **Publish a proposed party name in two national daily newspapers and two local daily newspapers;** and
 - ▶ **Provide two days for submitting objections,** with regard to the proposed registration of the party before the Commission within 30 days from the publication.
- The notice for publication is also displayed on the website of the Election Commission.

How EC recognizes a political party as a state or national party?

- To be clear, not all parties registering with the EC can be allotted the status of either a **'state party'** or a **'national party'** by default.
- There are several conditions that the Commission follows to classify these parties:
 - ▶ According to the EC, "a political party shall be treated as a recognised political party in a state, if and only if either the conditions specified in Clause (A) are, or the condition specified in Clause (B) is fulfilled by that party
 - ▶ As per clause (A), a party should be engaged in political activity for a continuous period of five years; and has, at the last general election in that state to the house of the people, or, as the case may be, to the Legislative Assembly of the state, returned- either:
 - at least one member to the house of the people for every twenty-five members of that House or any fraction of that number from that state; or
 - at least one member to the Legislative Assembly of that state for every thirty members of that assembly or any fraction of that number.
 - ▶ The rules also state if a political party is treated as a recognised political party in less than four states, it will be a `state party' in the state but only so long as that political party continues to fulfill the conditions for recognition.
 - ▶ Clause (B) states that the "total number of valid votes polled by all the contesting candidates set up by such party at the last general election in the state to the house of the people, or as the case may be, to the Legislative Assembly of the state, is not less than six per cent of the total number of valid votes polled by all the contesting candidates at such general election in the state."
- For recognition of a 'national party' if a political party is treated as a recognised political party in four or more states, only then will it be recognised as a `national party' throughout the whole of India.
 - But, it will only be continued to be categorised as one as long as that political party continues to fulfill the conditions for recognition in four or more states on the results of any subsequent general election either to the house of the people or to the Legislative Assembly of any state.

3.

SUPREME COURT SAYS SECRECY OF VOTE A MUST IN ANY ELECTION

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court has held that in any election, be it to Parliament or State legislature, the **maintenance of secrecy of voting is “a must”**.

What is Secrecy of Vote?

- Right to Secrecy is a central right of an elector to cast his vote without fear of reprisal, duress or coercion as per **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution**.
- Protection of **the elector’s identity and affording secrecy** is therefore integral to free and fair elections.
- The **Section 128 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** talks about Maintenance of Secrecy of voting:
 - ▶ Every officer, clerk, agent or other person who performs any duty in connection with the recording or counting of votes at an election shall maintain, and aid in maintaining, the secrecy of the voting;
 - ▶ Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section above shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine or with both.

4.

ECI AWAITS LAW MINISTRY NOD TO DEREGISTER INACTIVE PARTIES

Context: Recently, the Election Commission has notified the updated list of **registered political parties** that included 2,796 registered unrecognized parties, at a time it has sought the power to deregister inactive parties.

Background

- The EC had raised the concern that the **Income Tax exemption on donations** given to registered parties under Section 13 A of the Income-tax Act could be misused by some.
- The EC has said that the **registered parties may be collecting donations** and using them for other purposes, functioning as shell entities and money laundering.
- **Parties are exempt from tax under 13A of the IT Act.**
 - ▶ The Act exempts parties’ income from house property, voluntary contributions, other sources and capital gains.

Deregistration of Political Parties

- While the EC has the **power to register parties under the Representation of the People Act, 1951**, it does not have the power to deregister parties that are inactive.
- The Commission has been **delisting parties under Article 324 of the Constitution** but it is now seeking a law that will allow it not just to delist but deregister dormant parties.
- A registered political party or a candidate may **voluntarily apply to be de-registered for several reasons**.
 - ▶ If a candidate has been approved for the elections, but wants to **withdraw his or her nomination just before the elections**, electoral laws often stipulate the necessary administrative actions.

- A registered party may often apply for de-registration at any time; however, a registered political party often cannot be de-registered during the campaign period of a general election.

5. ELECTORAL BONDS

Context: The government approved the issuance of the **19th tranche of electoral bonds**, which will be open for sale from January 1 to 10.

What is electoral bond?

- An electoral bond is like a **promissory note that can be bought by any Indian citizen or company** incorporated in India from select branches of State Bank of India.
- **SBI** is the **only authorised bank** to issue such bonds.
- These are **issued in multiple values** of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.
- The **citizen or corporate can then donate** the same to any eligible political party of his/her choice.
- The **bonds are similar to bank notes** that are payable to the bearer on demand and are free of interest.
 - ▶ An individual or party will be **allowed to purchase these bonds** digitally or through cheque.
- According to provisions of the scheme, **electoral bonds can be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India.**

Who is eligible to received electoral bonds?

- Registered political parties that have **secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last election of Lok Sabha or legislative assembly are eligible to receive electoral bonds.**
- The registration of all political parties is governed by the provisions of **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

What about validity?

- An electoral bond will be **valid for 15 days** from the date of issue. No payment would be made to any payee political party if the bond is deposited after the expiry of the validity period, as per the statement.
- The **bond deposited by any eligible political party** into its account would be credited on the same day.

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14

MISCELLANEOUS

1. CONJUGAL RIGHTS

Context: A petition questioning a law that **forces a woman to return to her husband and denies her sexual autonomy** has been pending in the Supreme Court without a hearing.

What are conjugal rights?

- In India, **marriage is administered by Personal laws** which administer the terms like divorce, maintenance, custody and restitution of conjugal rights.
- **Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage**, i.e. right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse.
- The term Conjugal Rights could be placed against any of the spouses guilty of staying away from the other party without a proper reason.
- If the suit succeeds then the couple would be needed to stay together.

Provisions dealing with Conjugal rights

- **Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, which deals with restitution of conjugal rights,
 - ▶ This section of the Act recognises one aspect of conjugal rights — the right to consortium and protects it by allowing a spouse to move court to enforce the right.
- The law recognises these rights— both in personal laws dealing with marriage, divorce etc, and in criminal law requiring payment of maintenance and alimony to a spouse.
- At present, the **concept of restitution of conjugal rights** is codified in Hindu personal law.
- Similar provisions exist in Muslim personal law as well as the **Divorce Act, 1869**, which governs Christian family law.

2. DECEMBER 26 TO BE CELEBRATED AS 'VEER BAL DIWAS'

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the government decision to mark December 26 as **Veer Bal Diwas** in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh's sons.

About Guru Gobind Singh

- Guru Gobind Singh, the **tenth sixth guru**, a spiritual leader, warrior, poet and philosopher.

- He formally became the **leader and protector of the Sikhs** at the age of nine after his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was killed by Aurangzeb for refusing to convert to Islam.
- He founded the **sixth warrior community** called Khalsa in 1699.
- The community was created especially for the defence of Sikhism and Hinduism against the Mughals.
- Guru Gobind Singh fought 14 battles against the Mughals and won most of the battles.
- Guru Gobind Singh Ji declared **Guru Granth Sahib as Sikhism's holy scripture** in 1708, before his death.
- Guru Gobind Singh had four sons- Baba Ajit Singh, Baba Jujhar Singh, Baba Zorowar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh
- Among Guru Gobind's four sons, two of the eldest (Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh), were martyred at the Battle of Chamkaur in December 1704 against the Mughals.

3. INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY 2021

Context: International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on December 9 every year globally to raise awareness on the importance of a corruption-free society.

Background

- In December 2003 the **first step to fight against international corruption** was taken by the United Nation by passing the **United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)**.
- It was drafted on **31st October 2003**.
- UNAC is a treaty between **UN member states** which was signed on 9 December and came into effect on 14 December 2005.

United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

- The headquarters of UNCAC is located in **Merida and New York**.
- United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is a **landmark, international anti-corruption treaty** adopted by the UN General Assembly in October 2003.
- The UNCAC is the first-ever **legally binding global Anti-corruption instrument**.
- The United Nations office on drug and crime (UNODC) is mandated by its member states to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

About International Anti-Corruption Day

- International Anti-Corruption Day is organized by the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** every year all over the world.
- On 9 December, 2006 the **first International Anti-Corruption Day** was observed in India by signing the UN Convention against corruption.
- The aim of this treaty was to legally bind the members of the states to work in reducing corruption and enforce law and order.
- 5 points were explained in the agreement, they are-

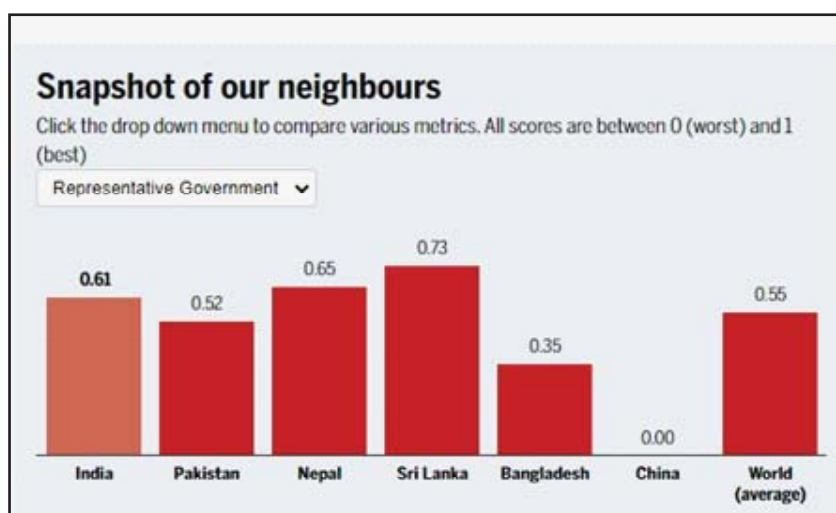
- ▶ To take necessary steps for preventing corruption.
- ▶ Enforcing law and order.
- ▶ To reduce corruption, cooperate at the international level.
- ▶ Recovery of Asset and its return to the country of origin.
- ▶ To provide technical assistance and exchange of information.
- The **theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021** is “Your right, your role: say no to corruption”.
- The **theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2020** was “Recover with Integrity to Build Forward Better”.

4. GLOBAL STATE OF DEMOCRACY REPORT 2021

Context: Democracy is deteriorating across the world, with countries notably taking undemocratic and unnecessary actions to contain the coronavirus pandemic, as per The **Global State of Democracy Report 2021**.

About the Report

- The report, titled Global State of Democracy 2021, is published by the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)**.
- The international organization’s Global Monitor provides data on measures taken on the coronavirus pandemic in 165 countries.
- The Global State of Democracy has data on **democratic quality for same countries**, based on 28 aspects of democracy up until the end of 2020.
- Both data sources are developed around a **conceptual framework**, which defines democracy as based on five core attributes:
 - ▶ Representative Government
 - ▶ Fundamental Rights
 - ▶ Checks on Government
 - ▶ Impartial Administration
 - ▶ Participatory Engagement



What the report says about India?

- Among all countries, most democratic violations during the pandemic took place in India. These included
 - ▶ harassment, arrests and prosecution of human rights activists, journalists, students, academics and those critical of the government and its policies
 - ▶ excessive use of force to enforce Covid-19 regulation
 - ▶ harassment of Muslim minorities
 - ▶ internet shutdowns and lockdowns, especially in Kashmir
- India imposed the highest number of internet shutdowns last year.
- Another report, released by digital rights and privacy organisation Access Now in March had also noted that last year, India had the highest number of internet shutdowns – 109 out of the total 155 globally.

5.

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES SDG URBAN INDEX & DASHBOARD 2021-22

Context: NITI Aayog has released its inaugural ‘SDG Urban Index & Dashboard 2021-22’.

About the Index

- The index is a result of the collaborative efforts of NITI Aayog-Giz & BMZ, under the Indo-German development cooperation.
- It is an **attempt to localize sustainable development goals (SDG)** & ensure progress at national, state, union territory and local levels.
- The index ranks **56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators**, across 46 targets of the SDG framework.
- **Source of data:** The data is sourced from official sources like National Family Health Survey, National Crime Records Bureau, Unified District Info System for Education, various ministries & other government data sources.

Key-findings of the Index

- **Top 10 Urban areas:** Shimla, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Panaji, Pune, Tiruchirapalli, Ahmedabad, and Nagpur.
- **Population:** Out of 56 urban areas ranked in the index, 44 are with population of above one million, 12 are state capitals with a population of less than a million.

6.

STATE OF THE EDUCATION REPORT FOR INDIA-2021

Context: On the occasion of World Teacher’s Day, “**State of the Education Report (SOER) -2021 of India-**” **No Teachers, No Class**” has been released by UNESCO.

About the State of the Education Report (SOER)

- This report is **published annually** by UNESCO.
- This is the **third edition** of the Education Report.

- This year, the report focuses on the theme “**teachers, teaching and educating teachers**”, highlighting the challenge of teaching.
- The findings of this report were prepared on the basis of the data obtained from:
 - ▶ Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS)
 - ▶ Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE)

Key Findings of the Report

- As per the report, there are close to **1.2 lakh schools in India**.
 - ▶ It accounts for 7.15 percent of 11.51 lakh schools. Of this, 89 percent are in rural areas.
 - ▶ 51% of total schools are employing 95 lakh teachers.
- According to the Report’s findings, India needs 11.16 more teachers to address the current shortage.
- Countries with the highest percentage of schools with single teachers are
 - ▶ Arunachal Pradesh (18.22%)
 - ▶ Goa (16.08%)
 - ▶ Telangana (15.71%)
 - ▶ Andhra Pradesh (14.4%)
 - ▶ Jharkhand (13.81%)
 - ▶ Uttarakhand (13.64%)
 - ▶ Madhya Pradesh (13.08%)
 - ▶ Rajasthan (10.08%)

7. 'ITAT E-DWAR' e-PORTAL

Context: Union Ministry for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, formally launched the e-filing portal of **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)**, ‘**itat e-dwar**’.

About the e-filing portal

- It is an initiative to **reduce the digital divide** among the people.
- The launch of the e-Filing Portal ‘**itat e-dwar**’ aims to **enhance the accessibility, accountability, and transparency** in the day-to-day working of the ITAT.
- The newly developed e-Filing Portal would **enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc.**, electronically.
- It is a step towards the digitization of ITAT.

8. SECTION 304-B OF IPC

Context: The Supreme Court has indicated in a judgment that a straitjacket and literal interpretation of a penal provision on dowry death may have blunted the battle against the “**long-standing social evil**”.

About the Section 304-B (Dowry death) of IPC

- According to **Section 304-B**, to make out a case of **dowry death**.
- A woman should have died of burns or other bodily injuries or “otherwise than under normal circumstances” within seven years of her marriage.
- She should have suffered cruelty or harassment from her husband or in-laws “soon before her death” in connection with demand for dowry.
- Whoever commits dowry death shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life.

9.

RDSO OF INDIAN RAILWAYS BECOMES THE FIRST INSTITUTION TO BE DECLARED ‘SDO’

Context: **Research Design & Standards Organization (RDSO)** of Indian Railways has become the first Institution to be declared Standard Developing Organization (SDO) under “**One Nation One Standard**” mission of BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) which is Institution under Department of Consumer Affairs.

About the recognition

- RDSO becomes the **first Standard Developing Organization** in the country to be granted recognition under the BIS SDO Recognition Scheme.

Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO)

- It is the sole R&D Wing of Ministry of Railways, undertaking standardization work for railway sector.
- It is headquartered in **Lucknow**.
- In 1957, the **Central Standards Office and Railway Testing Research Centre (RTRC)** were integrated into a single unit as **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**.
- RDSO took the initiative to seek **recognition by reviewing its Standard Formulation procedures** to realign them with the Best Practices of Standardization, encoded in the **WTO-TBT “Code of Good Practice”** and also mandated by the Bureau (BIS) as essential criteria for recognition as SDO.
- Furthermore, with this recognition, the RDSO’s standard formulation procedures will be more focused on consensus-based decision making.
- **Validity:** The recognition is valid for 3 years and will require renewal after completion of the validity period.

What is BIS SDO scheme?

- The **BIS SDO Recognition Scheme** has been launched by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- The **statutory provisions of Section 10(2)(c) of the BIS Act, 2016 and Rule 30 of the BIS Rules, 2018** confer upon Bureau, powers to recognize or accredit any institute in India or outside which is engaged in standardization.
- This policy of recognition of SDOs ensures “**One Nation One Standard**” for one product or service etc.

- It will lead to the harmonization of standards in the country ensuring WTO-TBT Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.

10.

INDIA RETAINS 142 OF 180 SPOT IN WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Context: India continues to be counted among the countries classified as “bad” for journalism and is also termed as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists.

About the World Press Freedom index 2021

- World Press Freedom Index 2021 is published by the international journalism, a not-for profit body, **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**.

Reporters Without Borders

- It is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization.
- RSF was founded in 1985.
- It aims for safeguarding the right to freedom of information.
- RSF has consultative status at the United Nations, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.

- The list is **topped by Norway** followed by **Finland** and Denmark and Eritrea came at the bottom.
- **China is ranked 177**, and is only above North Korea at 179 and Turkmenistan at 178.
- In the South Asian neighbourhood, **Nepal is at 106, Sri Lanka at 127, Myanmar (before the coup) at 140, Pakistan at 145 and Bangladesh at 152.**
- **India is ranked 142** which is same as last year.
 - ▶ The report stated that India shares the “bad” classification with Brazil, Mexico and Russia.

World Press Freedom Index

- It is **published every year since 2002** by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- It is an **important advocacy tool** which is based on the principle of emulation between states.
- The Index ranks 180 countries and regions according to their level of freedom available to journalists.
- It evaluates the media freedom situation on the basis of pluralism, independence of the media, safety of journalists and quality of legislative framework in each country and region.

11.

WEST BENGAL'S 'PARAY SHIKSHALAYA'

Context: Recently, the West Bengal government has launched ‘Paray Shikshalaya’.

About Paray Shikshalaya

- It is an **open-air classroom** in the neighbourhood programme for students from class 1 to 7.

- The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education.
- Schools, which do not have open-air spaces, have conducted the classes in neighbourhood parks and grounds.

12. SIGNIFICANCE OF AMAR JAWAN JYOTI

Context: Recently, the government has put out the **eternal flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti** underneath India Gate and merged it with the one instituted at the **National War Memorial** in 2019.

About Amar Jawan Jyoti

- The eternal flame at the **Amar Jawan Jyoti underneath India Gate in central Delhi** was an iconic symbol of the **nation's tribute** to the soldiers who have died for the country.
- It was **established in 1972**.
- It was installed to mark **India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 War**, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.
- It included a **black marble plinth, a cenotaph**, which acted as a tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- The plinth had an **inverted L1A1 self-loading rifle with a bayonet**, on top of which was a soldier's war helmet.
- The installation had four urns on it, with four burners.

What is the National War Memorial?

- It was inaugurated by Prime Minister in February 2019, in an area of around 40 acres.
- It was built to commemorate all the soldiers who have laid down their lives in the various battles, wars, operations and conflicts of Independent India.
- The architecture of the memorial is based on four concentric circles.
- Largest is the **Raksha Chakra or the Circle of Protection** which is marked by a row of trees, each of which represent soldiers, who protect the country.
- The **Tyag Chakra, the Circle of Sacrifice**, has circular concentric walls of honour based on the Chakravyuh.
- The **Veerta Chakra, the Circle of Bravery**, has a covered gallery with six bronze crafted murals depicting the battles and actions of our Armed Forces.
- The **Amar Chakra, the Circle of Immortality**, which has an obelisk, and the Eternal Flame.

13. HOW ARE REPUBLIC DAY TABLEAUX DESIGNED AND SELECTED?

Context: A controversy broke out over the selection of tableaux for this year's Republic Day parade. The tableaux of several states including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, have been rejected by the Centre brewing political tensions between leaders.

Who can send a tableau?

- All the 29 states, union territories, the central ministries and their various departments can send in their tableaux for the Republic Day parade.
- A broad theme is provided by the Centre to the respective states and departments, and they are required to plan their designs accordingly, months ahead of the parade.

What is the selection process?

- An expert committee directed by the Defence Ministry is in charge of the tableaux selection process.
- The tableaux proposals received from various states and departments are evaluated by the panel comprising of people from various disciplines such as art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture etc.
- The expert committee examines the proposals on the basis of theme, concept, design and its visual impact before making its recommendations
- The selection process of the tableaux, which are presented in the Republic Day parade, passes through various stages of development and evaluation.
 - ▶ In the first step, the committee scrutinises the sketch or design in the proposal, and suggestions are proposed following the need for any changes.
 - ▶ Once the committee approves the design, then the contenders are asked to come up with a 3D model of the same.
 - ▶ The models are thereafter examined by the committee for final selection depending on various considerations.

14. MAHARASHTRA'S SHAKTI ACT

Context: Recently, the Maharashtra Assembly has passed the **Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act** unanimously.

Background

- Maharashtra became the **second state in India after Andhra Pradesh** to approve death penalty for heinous offences of rape and gangrape.
- The Assembly has made changes to the **laws on rape, gangrape, acid attacks, sexual harassment** under the Indian Penal Code, provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act as well as changes in relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

About Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act

- The Act has amended the existing criminal laws to **include death penalty as punishment** in cases of rape and gangrape:
 - ▶ “In cases which have the characteristic of offence is heinous in nature and where adequate conclusive evidence is there and the circumstances warrant exemplary punishment, with death”.
- The **existing law on rape had provisions for death penalty** only in cases of repeated offences.
- The Act has also enhanced fines and punishment for offences of sexual violence against women and minors.
- Under the POCSO Act too, **punishment for penetrative sexual assault** in heinous cases has been enhanced to death penalty.

- The Act requires the **trial in these cases to be conducted on a day-to-day basis** and completed within 30 working days from the date of filing of the charge-sheet.
- It also requires for the **investigation to be completed within a month of the FIR** which can be extended by another month by the concerned Special Inspector General of Police or Commissioner of Police.

What are the additions made to the existing laws?

- The Act has provided a **separate provision under the law for sexual harassment**.
 - ▶ **Section 354E** has been inserted to the IPC for intimidation of women by any mode of communication, in addition to insulting modesty.
- In the category of persons who **are liable to aggravated punishment for rape**, the Act has included those staffers or contractual employees who are providing security or maintenance to a building.
- The Act has also made it **mandatory for social media platforms**, mobile data companies to share data sought for the purposes of investigation in cases of rape, sexual harassment, acid attacks and relevant provisions under the POCSO Act within three working days or face imprisonment for a maximum of three months and/or a fine of Rs 25 lakh.
- The Act has also included a **provision under for punishment between 1-3 years** and a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh for any person “who makes false complaint or provides false information against any person solely with the intention to humiliate, extort, threaten, defame or harass” in cases of rape, sexual harassment and acid attacks.
- The Act states that **bail in cases of acid attacks, rape and gangrape** can be decided only by sessions court and higher courts.
- **Grant of anticipatory bail** in such cases has also been prohibited.

15. RAMNATH GOENKA AWARDS 2019

Context: Recently, the government has introduced the standout works from journalists across the country who have been recognised by the **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards** for their work done in 2019.

About Ramnath Goenka Awards

- As part of **centenary year celebrations** of its founder, Ramnath Goenka, Indian Express Group instituted the **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards**.
- The Awards aim to celebrate excellence in journalism, recognize courage and commitment and showcase outstanding contributions and individuals every year.
- It pays tribute to journalists from Print/Digital & Broadcast:
 - ▶ who maintain the highest standards of their profession despite being in the face of political and economic pressures;
 - ▶ who still manage to produce work that generates and sustains public trust in the media and impact the lives of people
- The criteria for awards in Print/Digital & Broadcast journalism are significance of a news story, resourcefulness & courage in gathering information, & skill in relating the story apart from:
 - ▶ Degree of difficulty/ logistical challenges experienced
 - ▶ Comprehensiveness of the report
 - ▶ Resources available and means used for gathering information.

16. LADAKH GETS ITS FIRST-EVER FM RADIO STATION

Context: Recently, Ladakh got its **first ever FM radio station** in its capital city Leh.

About Ladakh's FM Radio Station

- Top FM has eight markets in Gujarat, three in J&K, two in Ladakh, one in Kargil and now, the 13th radio station was launched in Leh-Ladakh
- The frequency for Leh & Kargil will be 91.1 FM.
- It will cover 50 kilometres aerial distance in radius.
- The new radio station has been set up at the Ladakh's capital Leh.

17. GERRYMANDERING, A CHALLENGE TO U.S. DEMOCRACY?

Context: The **gerrymandering issue** becomes even more salient given that the U.S. Congress is virtually gridlocked on most major policy issues.

What is Gerrymandering?

- Gerrymandering is when **politicians manipulate voting district boundaries** to favor one party over another.
 - ▶ In most states, state legislators and the governor control the once-a-decade line-drawing process.
- **Redistricting, the process of redrawing electoral boundaries**, is conducted across U.S. Congressional and State legislative districts every decade.
- The principle behind redistricting is to ensure that the **election of public officials embodies the ideal of genuine democratic representation**.
- Gerrymandering is **practically as old as the country itself**.
 - ▶ The first recorded instance occurred in the late 1780s when James Madison was nearly gerrymandered out of a congressional seat.

18. SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2022

Context: Recently, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the seventh consecutive edition of **Swachh Survekshan (SS)**.

- It is the world's largest urban cleanliness survey conducted by **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)**.

About Swachh Survekshan (SS)

- It was launched by PM Modi in 2016. Mysuru was chosen as the **cleanest city in India** in that edition of the survey.
- It is meant to **monitor the performance of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, which was launched on October 2, 2014
- The objective of the Swachh Survekshan survey is to:

- ▶ encourage citizen participation
- ▶ increase city capacities for sustainable ODF and sanitation measures
- ▶ create awareness amongst all sections of society
- It is commissioned by the **Ministry of Urban Development** and carried out annually by **Quality Council of India**.

19. ROYAL GOLD MEDAL 2022

Context: Recently, Ahmedabad-based Balkrishna Doshi received the **Royal Gold Medal 2022** by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

About Royal Gold Medal

- It is an **architectural award**.
- It is **awarded annually** by the **Royal Institute of British Architects** on behalf of the British monarch.
- The Royal Gold Medal is **approved personally by Her Majesty ‘The Queen’**.
- It is given to a person or group of people who have had a significant influence on the advancement of architecture”.
- The **medal was first awarded in 1848** to Charles Robert Cockerell, and its second recipient was the Italian Luigi Canina in 1849.

20. GLOBAL BUSINESS BRIBERY RISK RANKINGS

Context: India has slipped to 82nd position in 2021, five places down from 77th rank last year, in a global list that measures **business bribery risks**.

About Global Business Bribery Risk Index

- It is **prepared by TRACE** which is an anti-bribery standard setting organisation.
- The **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix** measures the likelihood of bribe demands in 194 jurisdictions.
- It was **originally published in 2014** to meet a need in the business community for more reliable and nuanced information about the risks of commercial bribery worldwide.

Key Highlights

- According to this year’s data, **North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea** pose the highest commercial bribery risk.
 - ▶ **Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand** present the lowest commercial bribery risk.
- In 2020, **India ranked 77 with a score of 45** while this year, the country stood at **82nd position with a score of 44**.
- The score is based on four factors:
 - ▶ business interactions with the government;
 - ▶ anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement;
 - ▶ government and civil service transparency; and

- ▶ capacity for civil society oversight which includes the role of the media
- **India fared better than its neighbours** – Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. Bhutan, meanwhile, secured 62nd rank.
- From 2020 to 2021, all of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries saw an increase in commercial bribery risk.
- Over the past five years, the countries that have shown the greatest trend toward improvement in the factors underlying commercial bribery risk are Uzbekistan, the Gambia, Armenia, Malaysia and Angola

21. SRINAGAR DECLARED A 'MAJOR AIRPORT'

Context: Recently, the Civil Aviation Ministry issued a notification declaring the **airport of Srinagar as a major airport** under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Act, 2008.

Key Highlights

- The **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)** will determine tariff for aeronautical services at Srinagar airport.
- As per Section 13 of the Act, the AERA has been mandated to determine the tariff for the aeronautical services rendered at major airports.
 - ▶ It includes the amount of the development fees including user development fee and the amount of the passengers service fee levied under Rule 88 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 made under the Aircraft Act, 1934.
- Under the AERA, the **Centre can designate an airport as a major airport** if it has annual passenger traffic of at least 35 lakh.
- The Central government is also empowered to designate any airport as a major airport through a notification.
- For the non-major airports, these tariffs are determined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), which is a body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

22. GENERAL CONSENT FOR THE CBI

Context: The Supreme Court has expressed concern over a submission by the CBI that since 2018, around 150 requests for sanction to investigate have been pending with eight state governments that have withdrawn general consent to the agency.

What is general consent?

- The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**, which is governed by The NIA Act, 2008, has jurisdiction across the country.
 - ▶ But the CBI is governed by **The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**.
 - ▶ It must **mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government** concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
- The consent of the state government can be either **case-specific or general**.
- A “general consent” is normally **given by states to help the CBI in seamless investigation** of cases of corruption against central government employees in their states.

- ▶ Almost all states have traditionally given such consent, in the absence of which the CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case, and before taking even small actions.
- **Section 6 of The DSPE Act** (“Consent of State Government to exercise of powers and jurisdiction”) says:
 - ▶ “Nothing contained in section 5 (“Extension of powers and jurisdiction of special police establishment to other areas”) shall be deemed to enable any member of the Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise powers and jurisdiction in any area in a State, not being a Union territory or railway area, without the consent of the Government of that State.”

What does the withdrawal of general consent mean?

- It means the CBI will not be able to **register any fresh case** involving officials of the central government or a private person in the state without the consent of the state government.
- “CBI officers will lose all powers of a police officer as soon as they enter the state unless the state government has allowed them”.

23. PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX 2021

Context: Recently, **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)**, a Bengaluru-based not-for-profit think tank, has released the **Public Affairs Index 2021**.

Key Highlights of PAI 2021

- Kerala has been ranked as the **best-governed state** in the Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021.
- Karnataka **dropped three places to be adjudged** seventh in the Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021 which analyses governance by looking into growth, equity and sustainability indicators.
- While the state was fourth last year, this year it is behind **Kerala (1.618), Tamil Nadu (0.897), Telangana (0.891), Chhattisgarh (0.0872), Gujarat (0.782) and Punjab (0.643), with an index score of 0.121**.
- The report highlighted that four out of the top five positions in the Covid-19 response index were southern states including **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh** (top three) besides Karnataka (5th).

Public Affairs Index (PAI)

- It is a scientifically rigorous, data-based framework.
- It measures the quality of governance at the subnational level.
- It ranks the states and Union Territories (UTs) of India on a Composite Index (CI).
- States are classified into two categories- large and small- using population as the criteria.

24. JANASEVAKA AND JANASPANDANA

Context: Recently, the Karnataka government has launched ‘**Janasevaka**’ (peoples’ servant) and ‘**Janaspandana**’.

About Janasevaka

- Janasevaka is an initiative to help people **avail government services** easily.
- **Using a mobile application or website**, or by getting in touch via a call centre, people can get up to 56 government services delivered to their doorsteps.
- The services includes **home delivery of ration at subsidised rates**, or an Aadhaar card, caste certificate, income certificate, senior citizen card, BBMP khatha transfer and health card.
- A website (www.janasevaka.karnataka.gov.in) has been developed to enable citizens to request services.
- The **call centre executive will provide necessary information** with regard to the documents and fee required for the service.

About Janaspandana

- Janaspandana is an **Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS)**.
- Under this initiative, the government promises a **one-stop platform for citizens** to raise complaints on any government scheme or service.
- Janaspandana is a call centre that helps address various grievances of the citizens.
- The **citizens can call the helpline (1902)** and rise complaints on any government scheme or service.
- It has been modeled after the central government's **Centralized Public Grievance Redressal & Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** which extends 24×7 online support to citizens.
- Janaspandana subsumes numerous helplines and web portals set up by different departments to hear public grievances in the state.

25. FIRST DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

Context: Recently, the US President Biden has convened world leaders in the **first-ever Summit for Democracy** and calling the defense of democracy.

About First Democracy Summit

- The Summit brought together more than 275 participants, representing governments, multilateral institutions, activists, journalists, parliamentarians etc.
- The Summit centered around three themes of:
 - ▶ **Strengthening democracy and defending against authoritarianism;**
 - ▶ **Fighting corruption;** and
 - ▶ **Promoting respect for human rights**
- The US President announced the establishment of the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal.
 - ▶ It is a landmark set of new policy initiatives and foreign assistance programs that build upon the U.S. government's ongoing work to bolster democracy, fight corruption, and defend human rights worldwide.

26. STAR RATING PROTOCOL OF GARBAGE FREE CITIES

Context: Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has launched the 'Azadi@75 Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities- Toolkit 2022' on the occasion of Good Governance Day.

Key Highlights

- The objective of coming out with the **toolkit is to make things simple and easy to understand**, while retaining the stringency of criteria.
- The primary revisions in the protocol are:
 - ▶ The earlier 25 components/ indicators have now been reduced to 24, of which only 16 indicators are mandatory for 1-star and 3-star levels. The remaining 8 indicators are aspirational in nature, and will be relevant for 5-star and 7-star aspirants;
 - ▶ The multi-step calculation of the previous GFC protocol has now been changed to a single step marking, which will help ULB to easily self-assess themselves for applying;
 - ▶ the revised protocol is aligned with SBM-U 2.0 priorities, with higher weightages (50%) allotted to Door-to-Door Collection, Source Segregation, Waste processing & Dumpsite remediation;
 - ▶ The entire process of applying for certification and subsequent assessment have been simplified and made completely digital, paperless; for example, digital declarations, geo-tagged waste-processing facilities, end-to-end digital monitoring of progress;
 - ▶ New components pertaining to IEC, capacity building, revenue from sale of waste by-products have been added to encourage cities to build an ecosystem to strengthen the waste management system.
 - ▶ Continuous assessment throughout the year to help cities plan assessment
- The protocol is aligned with priorities of the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**, with higher weightage being allotted to
 - ▶ door-to-door collection of garbage,;
 - ▶ source segregation; and
 - ▶ waste processing and dumpsite remediation

27. NEW PENSION RULES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Context: Recently, the Centre has amended its **pension rules putting new restrictions** of officials of intelligence and security organisations after retirement.

Key Highlights

- The government has amended the **CCS Pension Rules-1972**.
 - ▶ **Under amended Rule-8(3)(a)**, officials retired from certain intelligence and security establishments will not be allowed to write anything about their organisation without permission.
- It says that no government servant, who, having worked in any intelligence or security-related organisation included in the Second Schedule of the RTI Act, shall, without prior clearance from the Head of the Organisation, make any publication after retirement, of any material.

- The **Second Schedule of the RTI Act covers 26 organisations** including the Intelligence Bureau, R&AW, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, CBI, NCB, BSF, CRPF, ITBP and CISF.

Existing Provisions

- The pension of government servants is already subject to their conduct after retirement.
- Rule 8 of the CCS Pension Rules says that future good conduct shall be an implied condition of every grant of pension and its continuance.
- The expression 'grave misconduct' includes the communication or disclosure of any secret official code or password or any sketch, plan, model, article, note, document or information.

Restriction on Government Employees

- **Rule 7 of the CCS Conduct Rules** restricts government servants from resorting to or abetting any form of strike or coercion.
- **Rule 8** restricts them, except with government sanction, from owning or participating in the editing or management of any newspaper or other periodical publication or electronic media.
- **Rule 9** restricts a government servant from making statements of fact or opinion in writing or in a telecast or a broadcast "which has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Central Government or a State Government".
- **Rule 9 of the CCS Pension Rules** says that if any government official has committed any misconduct and retires, he or she may face departmental proceedings only until four years of the date of committing that misconduct.

Provisions for political activity while in service

- The Conduct Rules bars government servants from being associated with any political party or organisation, and from taking part or assisting any political activity.
- An amendment added a few clauses to Rule 3(1), which said, "Every government employee shall at all times maintain political neutrality" and "commit himself to and uphold the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic values".

28. ACCR PORTAL AND AYUSH SANJIVANI APP 3.0

Context: Recently, the Ayush Ministry launched the Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the third version of the Ayush Sanjivani App.

About ACCR Portal

- Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) Portal is conceptualized and developed by the **Ministry of Ayush** as a platform to support both Ayush practitioners and the public.
- It aims to portray the strengths of Ayush systems for the treatment of various disease conditions.
- **ACCR welcomes Ayush practitioners from all over the world** to enroll and share information about successfully treated cases for the benefit of all.
- Cases whose details are posted here will be screened by experts and will be uploaded for all to read/view subject to their review.

About Ayush Sanjivani App

- It helps to generate data on **acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies** and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19.

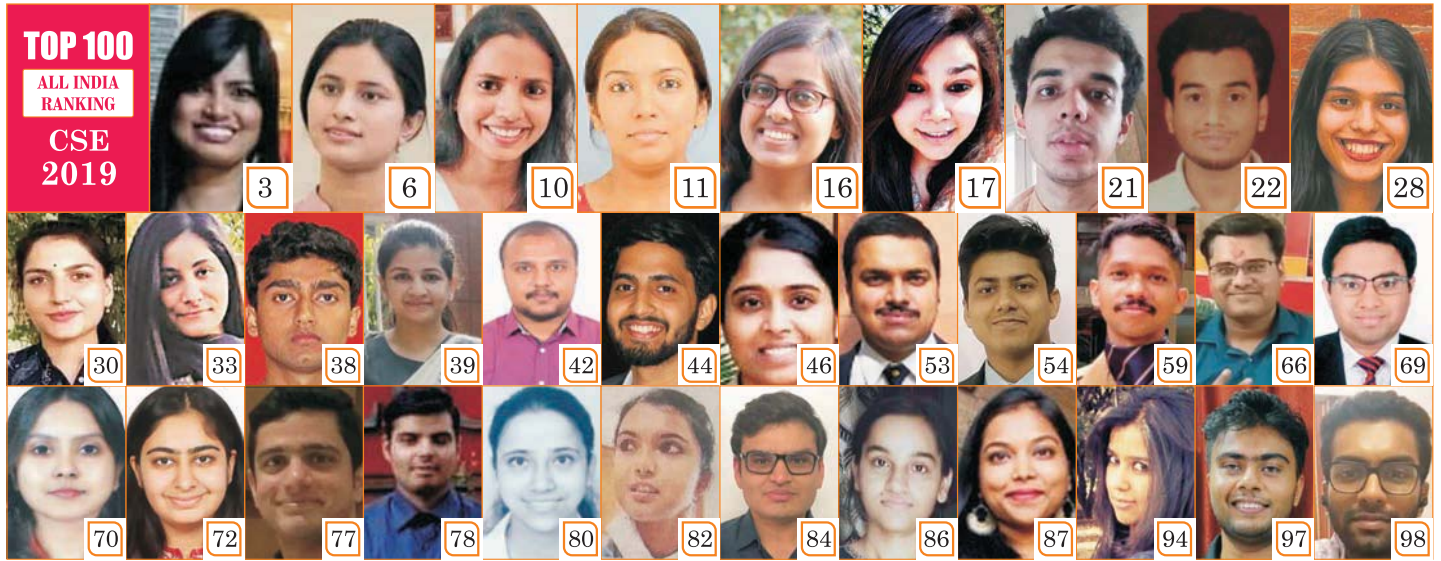
- It is developed by **Ministry of AYUSH and MEITY** and shall reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.
- The **Ayush Sanjivani App (Third Version)** is now published on Google Play Store and iOS.
- The 3.0 version facilitates a significant study/ documentation regarding the efficacy of selected Ayush interventions in the management of asymptomatic & mild to moderate Covid 19 patients.

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CSE RESULTS



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