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## Delimitation Exercise

### Context

- Delimitation exercise is being carried out in J & K to prepare for the election.

### About Delimitation:

- Act of **redrawing boundaries of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time to ensure population of all seats be same throughout the state.**

• Constitutional and Legal Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under article 82, Parliament enacts a law for delimitation after every census.</li> <li>Under article 170, States are divided into territorial constituencies as per the delimitation act. (Note: State Cant make the delimitation act.)</li> </ul>
• History of Delimitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First delimitation: 1950-51 with the help of election commission</li> <li>First Delimitation act: 1952</li> <li>1981 and 1991 census resulted into no delimitation act.</li> </ul>
• Delimitation Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up by President of India</li> <li>Works in collaboration with Election commission of India.</li> </ul>
• Structure of Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retired Supreme Court Judge</li> <li>Chief Election Commissioner</li> <li>Respective state election commissioner</li> </ul>
• Functions of Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide the boundaries of constituencies in such manner to make population nearly equal for all constituencies.</li> <li>Identify seats for SC and ST wherever their population is large.</li> </ul>
• Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Its orders have the power of law and cant be questioned in the court of law.</li> <li>These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India.</li> <li>The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.</li> </ul>

## Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) Plus Scheme

### Context

- Quality Council of India (QCI) has launched Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) Plus Scheme.

### ICMED 13485 PLUS

- Will undertake **verification of the quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices.**
- First scheme around the world in which **quality management systems along with product certification standards are integrated with regulatory requirements.**
- Will Incorporate witness testing of products with reference to the defined product standards and specifications **to integrate the Quality Management System components.**

### About Quality Council of India:

Type	Autonomous body set up by the <b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b> jointly with the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI),
Registration	<b>non-profit society</b>
Representation	<b>Equal representations of government, industry and consumers.</b>
Objective	Ensure adoption and adherence to quality standards in all important spheres of activities including education, healthcare, environment protection, governance, social sectors, infrastructure sector

## World Giving Index 2021

### Context

- India emerges as 14th most charitable country in the World.

About the Index	Global survey, Asks each of interviewer three questions: have they helped a stranger, given money, or volunteered for a good cause over the past month.
Released By	<b>Charities Aid Foundation's (CAF)</b>
Key Findings	India is <b>14th most charitable country</b> . Australia and New Zealand, maintained their top 10 rankings. The improvement in India is seen across all the age groups and amongst both men and women

## Mission Karmayogi

### Context

- Government has set up a three member task force to bring reforms in "Mission Karmayogi".

### The core guiding principles of the Programme will be:

- Supporting Transition from 'Rules based' to 'Roles based' HR Management.
- Aligning work allocation of civil servants by matching their competencies to the requirements of the post.
- Emphasize on 'on-site learning' to complement the 'off-site' learning.
- Create an ecosystem of shared training infrastructure.
- Calibrate all Civil Service positions to a Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies approach.
- Opportunity to continuously build and strengthen Behavioural, Functional and Domain Competencies.
- Encourage and partner with the best-in-class learning content creators

### Agenda:

- Prescribe Annual Capacity Building Plan for all departments and services
- Monitor and implementation of Capacity Building Plan
- Massive capacity building initiative to ensure efficient service delivery
- To promote technology-driven learning pedagogy
- To strengthen common foundations and remove the departmental silos
- Setting benchmarks in learning for public servants
- Democratization of learning to cover all categories

### Six Pillars of the programme:

1. Policy Framework
2. Institutional Framework
3. Competency Framework
4. Digital Learning Framework iGOT-Karmayogi
5. The Electronic Human Resource Management System
6. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

### Institutional framework:

- Prime Minister's Public Human Resources (HR) Council
- Capacity Building Commission
- Special Purpose Vehicle for owning and operating the digital assets and technological platform for online training
- Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

### Project O2 For India:

- Launched by Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to **augment the country's ability to meet this rise in demand** for medical oxygen in the wake of the second wave of the covid pandemic.

Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A National Consortium of Oxygen is</li> <li>Enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites,</li> <li>Setting up of small oxygen plants,</li> <li>Manufacturing compressors,</li> <li>Final products, i.e., oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.</li> </ul>
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## SDG India Index 2020-21

### Context

- Kerala retains top rank in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2020-21, Bihar worst performer.

About	
First Launched	2018
Partnership	United Nation
Objective	<b>Evaluates progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters</b>
Coverage	17 goals, 70 targets, and 115 indicators. (SDG has 17 goals and 169 related targets).
This Edition	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Measurement	<b>Data-driven initiative to rank our states and union territories by computing a composite index</b>
Result	<b>1<sup>st</sup> position: Kerala</b> <b>Worst Performer: Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam</b>

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## National Human Rights Commission

### Context:

- President formally appointed Justice Arun Kumar Mishra as the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

### About National Human Rights Commission:

Set up	1993
Type	Statutory
Legislation	Protection of Human Rights Act
Functions	Inquire into violations of human rights by government of India Review the factors, including acts of terrorism that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights Undertake and promote research in the field of human rights To visit jails and study the condition of inmates Engage in human rights education among various sections of society
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson: <b>Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court</b></li> <li>Three members including one women having knowledge of Human rights</li> <li>Chairperson of <b>National Commissions viz., National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women , National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities</b> serve as ex officio members.</li> </ul>
Important Fact	<b>Sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or sitting Chief Justice of any High Court</b> can be appointed only after the consultation with the Chief Justice of Supreme Court.

## Sedition Law

### Context

- Recently, Supreme Court has quashed the sedition charges against a senior journalist.

### About Section 124A:

- It relates to the offence of sedition or exciting "disaffection" against the government.
- It was first included in the Indian Penal Code in 1870 - 10 years.
- The provision covers almost any form of expression: words, "either spoken or written", signs, as well as "visible representation".
- It has at its foundation the belief that people are obligated to feel "affection" towards the government or else be punished.

### Punishment for Sedition law:

- It is non bailable offense.
- The punishment can go from three years of imprisonment to life term.
- Passport of the accused has to be surrendered.

## Model Tenancy Act

### Context

- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has brought Model Tenancy Act to regulate the renting in India.

### Provisions and Need of the Act:

Need	More than 1 crore houses are lying vacant in urban areas. The rental yield for residential property is quite low, even in bigger cities.
Provisions:	No person can let or take on rent any premises except by an agreement in writing. Security deposit is capped at two months' rent for residential premises, and six months' rent for non-residential premises.
Grievance redressal	States will set up a grievance redressal mechanism consisting of rent authority, rent court and rent tribunal to provide fast-track resolution of disputes. Disposal of a complaint/appeal within 60 days No monetary ceiling. No civil court will have jurisdiction over matters pertaining to provisions under the model act.
Systems	A digital platform in local vernacular language for submitting tenancy agreement and other documents.
Conditions of Tenancy	Subletting of premises can only be done with the prior consent of the landlord, and no structural change can be done by the tenant without the written consent of the landlord.
Conditions for Eviction of Tenant	Refusal to pay agreed upon rent Failure to pay rent for more than two months Occupation of part or whole of premises without written consent Misuse of premises despite a written notice.

## Unlawful Prevention Act-1967

### Context

- Multiple High Courts have called out the misuse of UAPA.

### Provisions of UAPA:

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention of unlawful activities associations in India</li> <li>Protect the integrity and sovereignty of India</li> </ul>
Designation of Terrorist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>commits or participates in acts of terrorism,</li> <li>prepares for terrorism,</li> <li>promotes terrorism, or</li> <li>is otherwise involved in terrorism</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.</li> </ul>
Approval for seizure of property by NIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties</li> <li>For investigation by NIA, the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.</li> </ul>
Investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above</li> <li>Rank of Inspector or above of the officers of NIA</li> </ul>
Definition of Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act</li> <li>Contains 9 treaties: including the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), and the Convention against Taking of Hostages (1979) and International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).</li> </ul>

## Attorney General of India

### Context

- The central government has extended the term of K.K. Venugopal as Attorney General (AG) for one more year.

### About Attorney General of India:

Appointment	President of India
Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 76 deals with Attorney General of India.</li> </ul>
Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible to be appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court</li> </ul>
Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fixed Procedure in the constitution</li> <li>No fixed term in the constitution</li> <li>Holds office during the pleasure of President.</li> </ul>
Remuneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not Fixed by Constitution</li> <li>Fixed by the President</li> </ul>
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right of audience in all courts in the territory of India.</li> <li>Right to Speak and take part in proceedings of the both the houses and any committee of the Parliament.</li> <li>He can't vote while taking the part.</li> </ul>
Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enjoys all privileges and immunities of the member of Parliament.</li> <li>Can Practise privately.</li> <li>Not a government servant.</li> </ul>

## Recusal of Judges

### Context

- Recently, two Supreme Court (SC) judges have recused themselves from hearing cases relating to West Bengal.

### About The Recusal:

About Recusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest</li> </ul>
Decision & Process of Recusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally comes from the judge himself</li> <li>Orally convey to the lawyers involved in the case their reasons for recusal, some explain the reasons in their order.</li> <li>Lawyers or parties in the case bring it up before the judge</li> </ul>
After the Recusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the Chief Justice for allotment to a fresh Bench.</li> </ul>
Grounds for Recusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest in the subject matter, or relationship with someone who is interested in it.</li> <li>Background or experience, such as the judge's prior work as a lawyer.</li> <li>Personal knowledge about the parties or the facts of the case.</li> <li>Ex parte communications with lawyers or non-lawyers.</li> <li>Rulings, comments or conduct.</li> <li>No person should be a judge in her own cause.</li> <li>In some cases, prejudice is presumed.</li> </ul>

## Compulsory Retirement

### Context

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that 13 officers have been retired in public interest.

### About Compulsory Retirement:

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not a punishment</li> <li>Done in 'public interest'</li> <li>Does not cast a stigma on the government servant</li> <li>Cannot claim an opportunity to be heard before he is compulsorily retired from service.</li> </ul>
Supreme Court Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to be compulsorily retired if no longer useful to the general administration</li> <li>Order of compulsory retirement is not to be treated as a punishment under Article 311 of the Constitution.</li> <li>Principles of natural justice have no place</li> </ul>

## Creation of a district

### Context

- Punjab had declared Malerkotla the 23<sup>rd</sup> district of the State.

### About the District Creation

Power to create a district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State governments</li> </ul>
Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through an executive order or by passing a law</li> </ul>
Role of Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No role</li> </ul>
<b>Changing the Name of District</b>	
Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs to obtain a no objection certificate from Home Ministry</li> </ul>

## National Crisis Management Committee

### Context

- The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary met to review the relief and restoration efforts made by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in the aftermath of the Cyclonic storm 'Tauktae'.

### About the Committee

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations.</li> </ul>
Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Secretary</li> </ul>
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Secretariat</li> </ul>
Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee the Command, Control and Coordination of the disaster response</li> <li>• Give direction to the Crisis Management Group (CMG) as deemed necessary</li> </ul>

## Waqf Board

### Context

- The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board condemned the demolition of a mosque in a tehsil compound in Barabanki district by the administration.

### Central Waqf Council:

Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory Body established in 1964 by the Government of India under the Waqf Act, 1954</li> </ul>
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advises on matters pertaining to the working of the State Waqf Boards and proper administration of the Waqfs in the country</li> </ul>
What is Waqf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognized by Muslim Law</li> </ul>
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson: minority affairs minister</li> <li>• Other members: appointed by government</li> </ul>
Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Minority Affairs</li> </ul>

## Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

### Context:

- New AIIMS started under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana are providing advanced COVID Care in States.

### About Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY):

Type of Scheme	Central Sector Scheme
Initiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2003</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address imbalances in availability of tertiary care hospitals and improve medical education in the country</li> </ul>
First Phase Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up of six institutions in the line of AIIMS</li> <li>• Upgradation of 13 existing Government medical college institutions</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up of two more AIIMS-like institutions in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh</li> <li>• Upgradation of six medical college institutions</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Phase Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade the other existing medical college institutions.</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgradation of each medical college institution has been estimated at Rs. 150 crores per institution</li> </ul>
Cost Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Government : 125 crores</li> <li>• State Government: 25 Crore</li> </ul>

## Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

### Context

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs), Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), distributors and other stakeholders have come together and are contributing in the fight against the current wave of Covid 19 pandemic.

### About Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through a registered society namely Bureau of Pharma psus of India (BPPI)</li> </ul>
Ministerial Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the administrative control of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals &amp; Fertilizers, Government of India.</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make available quality medicines consumables and surgical items at affordable prices for all</li> <li>• Popularize generic medicines among the masses</li> <li>• Dispel the prevalent notion that low priced generic medicines are of inferior quality</li> <li>• Generate employment by engaging individual entrepreneurs in the opening of pmbjp kendras.</li> </ul>
Ensuring Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procured only from the World Health Organization - Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers</li> <li>• Each batch of the drug is tested at laboratories accredited by the 'National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories' (NABL).</li> </ul>

<b>Suvidha sanitary napkins</b>	
Launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the Department of Pharmaceuticals @ Rs. 1.00 per sanitary pad.</li> </ul>
Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2018</li> </ul>
<b>Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertaking of India (BPPI)</b>	
Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who reports to the Governing Council of the Bureau</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the Janaushadhi Campaign</li> </ul>
<b>Governing Council (GC) for Bureau of Pharma psus of India</b>	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apex policy-making body</li> </ul>
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consists of Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals as a Chairperson, Joint Secretary and Managing Directors of five Pharmaceuticals psus of this Department</li> </ul>

## State Disaster Response Fund

### Context

- Recently, the Centre has released the **first instalment of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to States**, in the wake of the **second wave of Covid-19**.

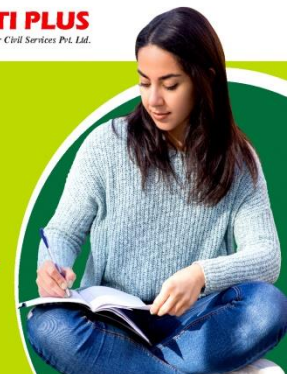
### About the Fund:

Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005</li> </ul>
Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available with state governments for responses to notified disasters.</li> </ul>
Contribution of Central Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75% for General Category States</li> <li>90% for Special Category States</li> </ul>
Covered Disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyclones, droughts, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches and pest attacks</li> </ul>
From the Account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in the 'Public Account' under 'Reserve Fund'</li> </ul>
Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Government has to pay interest on a half yearly basis to the funds in SDRF</li> </ul>
Size of SDRF for each state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.</li> </ul>
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)</li> </ul>
Share of GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treated as a 'grant in aid'</li> </ul>

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## Directorate General of Civil Aviation

### Context

- The aviation safety experts said that the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) must punish **SpiceJet for the mid-air wedding over Madurai instead of scapegoating pilots and cabin crew** who were only following the instructions given to them by their airline.

### About Directorate General of Civil Aviation

Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory body formed under the Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020</li> </ul>
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration of civil aircraft</li> <li>Certification of airports</li> <li>Licensing to pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers and flight engineers</li> <li>Licensing to pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers and flight engineers</li> <li>Checks on the proficiency of flight crew and other operational personnel</li> </ul>

## National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area officer monitoring App

### Context

- Union Minister of Rural Development launched National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area officer monitoring App.

### About NMMS app:

- Permits taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGS worksites along with geotagged photograph.

### Area Officer Monitoring App

- Facilitates recording findings online along with time stamped and geo-coordinate tagged photograph for all the schemes of Department of Rural Development- Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, PMAYG, PMGSY.

## Central Bureau of Investigation

### Context

- Subodh Kumar Jaiswal appointed CBI Director for two years.

### About Central Bureau of Investigation:

Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs</li> <li>Later, transferred to the Ministry of Personnel</li> </ul>
Current Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attached Office at Ministry of Personnel</li> </ul>
Based on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-1964).</li> </ul>
Type of Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not a statutory body</li> <li>Derives its powers from the delhi special police establishment act, 1946.</li> </ul>
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main investigating agency of the Central Government</li> <li>Important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal</li> </ul>
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headed by Director</li> </ul>
Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of two-year tenure in office by the CVC Act, 2003</li> </ul>
Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Government on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court</li> </ul>

### About General Consent Clause:

About General Consent	CBI must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state
What it is	This is consent by default, in the absence of which the CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case, and before taking even small actions.
States withdrawn the general consent	Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Mizoram
What after the withdrawal	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.
About Amendment to Prevention of Corruption Act -1988	Mandatory for the CBI to seek the Centre's permission before registering a case of corruption against any government servant

## Parliamentary Committees:

### Context

- Recently, opposition parties has sought virtual meet of the parliamentary committees.

### About Parliamentary Committee:

Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standing: Permanent in nature</li> <li>Select: Made for specific purposes and diluted after completion of work. Like deliberation on the bills.</li> </ul>
Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draws their authority from Article 105 ( Parliamentary Privileges) and 118 ( Power of parliament to make rules)</li> </ul>
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliamentarians are not constrained by their political ideologies.</li> <li>These committees can seek outside expertise for deliberation on technical matter.</li> <li>They ensure accountability of the executive through debate and discussion on the policy.</li> <li>Very helpful in generation all-party consensus</li> </ul>
<b>Standing Committees</b>	
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lok Sabha and Rajyasabha except for estimates committee which has members only from the Lok Sabha.</li> </ul>
Departmental Standing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total 24 in nature</li> <li>8 in Rajyasabha and 16 in Lok Sabha</li> <li>Related to a specific ministry or departments.</li> <li>Chairman is appointed by Speaker or Rajyasabha chairman as the case may be.</li> <li>Can't provide any cut motion</li> <li>Considers annual reports of the departments or ministry.</li> </ul>
Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimate Committee</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee on Public Undertaking</li> <li>Public Account Committee</li> </ul>
Committees related to day to day business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rules Committee</li> <li>Business advisory committee</li> <li>Committee on the absence of members</li> <li>Committee on private members bills and resolutions</li> </ul>

## Legislative councils in the states

### Context

- The West Bengal government has decided to set up a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).

### About Legislative Councils

Set up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constituted as per Article 168 of Indian Constitution</li> </ul>
Constitutional Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under Article 169 of the constitution, Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority</li> </ul>
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per Article 171 of the Indian Constitution the total number of Members in the Legislative council of a State shall not exceed one third of the total number of Members in the Legislative Assembly.</li> </ul>
Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To act as a check on hasty actions</li> <li>Allow for more debate and sharing of work</li> <li>Provide space for wise individuals</li> </ul>
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> House</li> <li>Equivalent to Rajya Sabha</li> </ul>
Existing Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, UP and Andhra Pradesh</li> </ul>
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduates (1/12<sup>th</sup>), Teachers (1/12<sup>th</sup>), Local Authorities (1/3<sup>rd</sup>), Assembly Members (1/3<sup>rd</sup>)</li> <li>Remaining Nomination by Governor</li> </ul>
Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent Body, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> member retire every 2 years</li> </ul>
Nomination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One sixth are nominated by the Governor from persons having knowledge or practical experience in fields such as literature, science, arts, the co-operative movement and social services.</li> </ul>

## Electoral Bonds

### Context

- Electoral bonds worth ₹695 crore sold during recent Assembly polls, highest amount in Kolkata.

### About Electoral Bonds:

Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bearer instrument like a Promissory Note</li> </ul>
Condition on Purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By any citizen of India or a body incorporated in India</li> </ul>
Payment Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payable to the bearer on demand and free of interest</li> </ul>
Worth of Issuance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore</li> </ul>
Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specified branches of State Bank of India</li> </ul>
Time Condition for Encashment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encashment by party's verified account within 15 days.</li> </ul>

Condition of Sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available for purchase for a period of 10 days each in the beginning of every quarter, i.e. In January, April, July and October.</li> </ul>
Related Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will not bear the name of the donor</li> </ul>
Condition for Political Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State election</li> </ul>

## NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

### Context

- The Supreme Court of India pulled up the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), for failing in its duty to recommend ex gratia to the families of those who lost their loved ones due to COVID-19.

Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs</li> </ul>
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory Body under Disaster Management Act, 2005</li> </ul>
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson (Prime Minister) and other members, not exceeding nine.</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters</li> </ul>

## SMART CITY MISSION

### Context

- Planning of smart cities needs gradual change keeping in mind the post pandemic scenarios.

### About Smart City:

Launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015</li> </ul>
Total Smart Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate city functions,</li> <li>Utilize scarce resources more efficiently,</li> <li>Improve the quality of life of citizens</li> </ul>
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (mohua)</li> </ul>
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centrally sponsored scheme</li> </ul>
Funding by GoI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support to the extent of Rs. 48,000 crores over 5 years i.e. On an average Rs.100 crore per city per year</li> </ul>
Funding by Other Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An equal amount on a matching basis is to be provided by the State/Urban Local Bodies (ULB).</li> </ul>
Role of Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek participation of the private sector through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)</li> </ul>

Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) at district level for planning</li> </ul>
Role of State Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a dedicated and substantial revenue stream for SPV</li> </ul>
Selection Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the idea of Competitive and Co-operative Federalism</li> <li>Shortlisting of potential smart cities by States</li> <li>Preparation of Smart City Proposal (SCP)</li> <li>Final Selection of 100 Smart cities by GoI</li> </ul>
Total Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total of 5,151 projects with an investment of Rs. 2,05,018 crore</li> </ul>

### Initiatives taken Under Smart City Mission:

#### CITIIS

- Launched in partnership with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and European Union
- Extend a loan of EUR 100 million for implementation of upto 15 innovative projects selected through an All-India Challenge in four sectors sustainable mobility, public open spaces, urban governance & ICT and social and organizational innovation

#### Climate Smart Cities

- Launched for the 100 Smart cities in order to incentivize a holistic, climate responsive development.
- First-of-its-kind Assessment Framework for cities
- Aimed at creating a green mind-set in cities while they plan and undertake various developmental projects.

#### Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)

- A joint initiative of mohua, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country
- Objective: 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.
- Will capture the learnings from best practices, provide opportunities for engagement on urban development projects to students, and enable real-time information flow between urban practitioners and academia.

## Cowin Platform

### Context

- Countries that have expressed an interest in will be given a chance to adopt the platform for their vaccination drive.

### About Cowin Platform

Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covid Vaccine Intelligent Work</li> </ul>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>book vaccine slots,</li> <li>keep a track of the overall vaccination drive in the country</li> <li>download the Covid-19 vaccine certificate</li> <li>allows healthcare providers to manage vaccine stock</li> <li>keep a track of the workflow.</li> </ul>
About the Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>open source.</li> <li>No intellectual property rights to it</li> <li>will not allow any commercial use of the platform</li> </ul>
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</li> </ul>

## Central Information Commissioner

### Context

- The Supreme Court directed the Central government to place on record the latest information on the appointment of Information Commissioners, vacancies and pendency of cases in the Central Information Commission (CIC).

### About Central Information Commissioner

Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headed by the Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners</li> </ul>
Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years</li> </ul>
Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister</li> </ul>
Reappointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not eligible</li> </ul>
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order enquiry into any matter on reasonable grounds only (suo-moto power).</li> <li>Secure compliance of its decision</li> <li>Power to examine any record under the control of the public authority.</li> <li>Has the power of civil court to summon any authority</li> </ul>
About Open Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is code that is designed to be publicly accessible – anyone can see, modify, and distribute the code as they see fit.</li> <li>It allows programmers to modify the software to best fit their needs and control how the software can be distributed.</li> <li>Done for the non-profit usage.</li> </ul>

## Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

### Context

- According to ICRA, funding of the program may stall the progress of the program.

### About the Housing for All:

Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015</li> </ul>
About the House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will provide a 'Pucca house' for every family in urban cities with water connection, toilet facilities, 24x7 electricity supply and complete access.</li> </ul>
Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 crore houses</li> </ul>
Targeted Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower Income Groups (LIG) and Economically Weaker Section of our society (EWS)</li> </ul>
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015-22</li> </ul>
Implementation in Urban Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing central assistance to Urban Local Bodies (ulbs)</li> </ul>
Subsidy Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credit linked subsidy</li> <li>Subsidy to the beneficiary for individual house construction</li> </ul>

Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (mohua)</li> </ul>
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### Sub-Schemes Under PMAY:

Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for Urban Migrants/ Poor

Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Housing &amp; Urban Affairs</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ease of living to urban migrants/ poor in Industrial Sector as well as in non-formal urban economy to get access to dignified affordable rental housing close to their workplace.</li> </ul>
Method of Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizing existing Government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership</li> <li>Construction, Operation and Maintenance of arhcs by Public/ Private Entities on their own available vacant land</li> </ul>
Targeted Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban migrants/ poor from EWS/ LIG categories</li> </ul>
Types of Rental Houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mix of single/ double bedroom Dwelling Units</li> <li>Dormitory of 4/6 beds including all common facilities</li> </ul>
Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusively used for rental housing for a minimum period of 25 years.</li> </ul>

## National Ayush mission

### Context

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **continuation of the National Ayush Mission for another five years till 2026.**

### About National Ayush Mission:

Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</li> </ul>
Initiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During 12th Plan</li> </ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide cost effective AYUSH Services</li> <li>To strengthen institutional capacity at the state level through upgrading AYUSH educational institutions</li> <li>Support cultivation of medicinal plants by adopting Good Agricultural Practices (gaps)</li> <li>Support setting up of clusters through convergence of cultivation, warehousing, value addition and marketing</li> </ul>
Mandatory Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ayush services</li> <li>Ayush educational institutions</li> <li>Quality control of Ayush drugs</li> <li>Medicinal plants</li> </ul>
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centrally Sponsored Scheme</li> </ul>
Ayush Services Under National Ayush Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-location of AYUSH facilities at PHCs, CHCs and DHs.</li> <li>Upgradation of exclusive / standalone Government AYUSH Hospitals (other than PHCs / CHCs/ DHs)</li> <li>Upgradation of Government / Panchayat / Government aided AYUSH Dispensaries</li> <li>Setting up of upto 50 bedded integrated AYUSH Hospitals</li> <li>Supply of essential drugs to AYUSH Hospitals and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispensaries</li> <li>Public Health Outreach activity</li> <li>Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)</li> <li>Mobility support</li> <li>AYUSH Gram</li> <li>School Health Programme through AYUSH</li> </ul>
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## Modernisation of Police

### Context

- Recently, government has explained on the modernization of the police force in the parliament.

### About Assistance to States for Modernisation of Police

Covered Under list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh Schedule</li> </ul>
Schemes for Modernisation of Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance to States for Modernisation of Police</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central assistance for modernisation of State police forces.</li> </ul>
Equipment Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition of advanced weaponry such as INSAS Rifles &amp; AK series rifles;</li> <li>All types of intelligence equipment including Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (uavs), Night Vision Devices (nvds), CCTV Surveillance system &amp; body worn camera systems;</li> <li>Modern communication equipment and state-of-the-art equipment for security / training / forensics / cybercrime / traffic policing.</li> </ul>
Innovative Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide more funds based on state's efficiency in timely utilization of funds, in the form of 'better performance incentives'.</li> </ul>

## Official language

### Context

- There have been demands from time to time for inclusion of Khasi in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

### Constitutional Provision about Official Language:

Constitutional Provision for Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 348 states that Parliament official language: Hindi or English</li> <li>Speaker or Chairman can permit other members to speak in his mother tongue if he is not confident to speak in English or Hindi.</li> <li>Under Article 343: Official language of Union is in Devnagari script.</li> <li>Numerals would be International numerals.</li> </ul>
Constitutional Provision for States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under article 210, Official language of State legislature : Hindi, English ,</li> </ul>

	<p>Any other official language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President can allow any language spoken by majority of people to be used as official language of state.</li> </ul>
Language for communication between two states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official language of Union will be the official language of communication between two state and states and union.</li> <li>• If two states agree, then they can choose Hindi to be official language.</li> </ul>
Provision for Judiciary (Supreme Court)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliament can provide for Hindi language in Supreme court.</li> <li>• Since, Parliament has not made any law for it, English is the sole language of Supreme Court.</li> </ul>
High Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor with assent of the president can provide for Hindi or any other language to be the official language of High court.</li> <li>• Otherwise, language of transaction will be English.</li> </ul>
Language for Bills,Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliament can provide for Hindi language in Supreme court.</li> <li>• Since, Parliament has not made any law for it, English is the sole language of bills and acts in parliament.</li> </ul>

## Preventive Detention

### Context

- Former top officials have asked an end to the “misuse” of the “draconian” preventive detention law, the National Security Act.

### About Preventive Detention in India

Preventive detention under Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 22(3) provides that if the person who has been arrested or detained under preventive detention laws then the protection against arrest and detention provided under article 22 (1) and 22 (2) shall not be available to that person.</li> </ul>
Entitlement of detainee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entitled to know the grounds of his detention</li> </ul>
Power of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May refuse to divulge the grounds of detention if it is in the public interest to do so</li> </ul>
Provided custody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custody only for 3 months at the first instance</li> </ul>
Custody beyond 3 Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the period of detention is extended beyond 3 months, the case must be referred to an Advisory Board consisting of persons with qualifications for appointment as judges of High Courts.</li> </ul>
Arrest under preventive detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive officers such as district magistrates and commissioners of police are empowered to pass orders for arrest</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA)</li> <li>• National Security Act</li> <li>• COFEPOSA (Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act)</li> </ul>
Objective of Preventive Detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security of the State,</li> <li>• Public Order,</li> <li>• Foreign affairs,</li> <li>• Services essential to the community.</li> </ul>
Few Criticism Relevant for Prelims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No judicial oversight where detention is within three months</li> <li>• No publicly available orders or judgments are published</li> <li>• No right to legal assistance for detainees</li> </ul>

## Judicial independence

### Context

- The Supreme court of India reaffirmed the importance of judicial independence.

### Features of Judicial Independence in Constitution

Judicial appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 124 deals with the appointment of judges to the supreme court and article 217 regarding appointment of judges to high courts.</li> <li>Both the supreme court and high court judges are appointed by the president under article 124 and 217</li> </ul>
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 124(3) prescribes qualifications of a person who can be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court</li> </ul>
Salaries and allowances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed and are not subject to a vote of the legislature</li> </ul>
Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed</li> </ul>
Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removable under Articles 124(4) and 217 on proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an impeachment motion passed by each house supported by a stipulated majority.</li> <li>No judge has been removed till now.</li> </ul>
Transfer of judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 222(1) empowers the president after consultation with the chief justice of india to transfer a judge from one high court to another.</li> <li>The power of transfer of a judge vested with the president is not absolute.</li> </ul>
Contempt of Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 129 of the Constitution of India says that the Supreme Court shall be a 'court of record'.</li> <li>Article 215 grants a similar status to the High Courts.</li> </ul>
Prohibition on practice after retirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debars the judges of the supreme court from pleading or appearing before any court or tribunal or judicial authority in India after retirement</li> </ul>



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## Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021

### Context

- Recently, The Supreme Court has said the government's move to introduce a statute last year on key tribunals, that too, merely days after the court struck down an identical law, may amount to dishonouring its judgment.

### About Tribunal Reforms Bill 2021:

Paramters	Provisions	Issue
Dissolution of Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissolves certain existing appellate bodies and transfers their functions to other existing judicial bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May increase the disposal time for new cases, as High Courts already have a large number of cases awaiting judgement.</li> </ul>
Changed Term of Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson and members of a Tribunals will be four years, subject to an upper age limit of seventy years for the Chairperson, and sixty-seven years for other members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower than the minimum of five years directed by the Supreme Court in various judgements.</li> </ul>
Eligibility to be Member or Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person should be at least 50 years of age to be eligible for appointment as a Chairperson or member.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May discourage young talent. It had earlier directed that advocates with 10 years of experience be made eligible to be appointed as a judicial member.</li> </ul>



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### About Abolished Tribunals

Appellate body	Role	Proposed entity
Appellate Tribunal under the Cinematograph Act, 1952	Adjudication of appeals against the Board of Film Certification	High Court
Appellate Board under the Trade Marks Act, 1999	Adjudication of appeals against orders of the Registrar	High Court
Appellate Board under the Copyright Act, 1957	Adjudication of certain disputes and appeals against orders of the Registrar of Copyright. Disputes include those related to publications and term of the copyright	Commercial Court or the Commercial Division of a High Court*
Authority for Advance Rulings under the Customs Act, 1962	Adjudication of appeals against orders of the Customs Authority for advance rulings	High Court
Appellate Board under The Patents Act, 1970	Adjudication of appeals against decisions of the Controller on certain matters. Matters include applications for patents and restoration of patents.	High Court
Airport Appellate Tribunal under the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994	Adjudication of: disputes arising from the disposal of properties left on airport premises by unauthorised occupants, and for appeals against order of an eviction officer	Central government, for disputes arising from the disposal of properties left on airport premises by unauthorised occupants. High Court, for appeals against orders of an eviction officer.
Airport Appellate Tribunal under the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002	Adjudication of appeals against orders of the Highway Administration on matters including, grant of lease or licence of highway land, removal of unauthorised occupation, and prevention of damage to highway.	Civil Court#
Appellate Tribunal under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001	Adjudication of appeals against certain orders of Registrar or Plant Varieties and Farmer Rights Authority	High Court
Appellate Board under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999	Adjudication of appeals against orders of the Registrar	High Court

## Right to Information (RTI)

### Context

- Armed attack on RTI Activist breaches the significance of RTI.

### About RTI

Passed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2005</li> </ul>
Covered organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All constitutional authorities, agencies, owned and controlled</li> <li>Those organisations which are substantially financed by the government</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government has to maintain and proactively disclose</li> </ul>

	information.	
Institutions established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for appointment of information commissioners at central and state level.</li> </ul>	
Time to disclose information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 30 days from the receipt of application by the public authority</li> <li>If concerns the life or liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 48 hours.</li> </ul>	
On private bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not covered</li> </ul>	
On judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original act didn't cover it</li> <li>In 2019, supreme court decision brought the office of chief justice of india under the purview of the right to information (rti) act.</li> </ul>	
On political party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, no political parties are under it.</li> </ul>	
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exempted for individual belonging to disadvantaged community</li> </ul>	
<b>RTI act Amendment -2019</b>	<b>Earlier</b>	<b>Current</b>
Term of Information Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ics.</li> </ul>
Determination of salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary of the CIC and ics (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ics will be determined by the central government.</li> </ul>

## The Consumer Protection Act 2019

### Context

- Recently, government has come out with a list of proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act of 2019.

### About the Act:

Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined as a person who buys any good or avails a service</li> <li>Does not include a person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purpose.</li> </ul>
Covered transaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All modes including online, and online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.</li> </ul>
Six new consumer rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right to be protected against the marketing of goods, products or services which are hazardous to life and property</li> <li>Right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods</li> <li>Right to be assured at competitive prices</li> <li>Right to be heard</li> <li>Right to seek redressal against unfair trade practice</li> <li>Right to consumer awareness.</li> </ul>
Institutions established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Consumer Protection Authority</li> </ul>

Central consumer protection authority (CCPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.</li> </ul>
Investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCPA will have an investigation wing, headed by a Director-General</li> </ul>
Functions of CCPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inquiring into violations of consumer rights, investigating and launching prosecution</li> <li>Issuing directions to the concerned trader</li> <li>Passing orders to recall goods or withdraw services</li> <li>Imposing penalties</li> <li>Issuing safety notices to consumers</li> </ul>
Penalties for misleading advertisement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCPA may impose a penalty on a manufacturer or an endorser of up to Rs 10 lakh and imprisonment for up to two years</li> <li>In case of a subsequent offence, the fine may extend to Rs 50 lakh and imprisonment of up to five years.</li> </ul>
Role of Endorser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCPA can also prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from endorsing</li> </ul>
Consumer disputes redressal commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will be set up at the district, state, and national levels.</li> </ul>
Complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unfair or restrictive trade practices.</li> <li>Defective goods or services.</li> <li>Overcharging or deceptive charging</li> <li>The ordering of goods or services for sale which may be hazardous</li> </ul>
Appeal process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District - state - national (cdrc) - supreme court</li> </ul>
Jurisdiction of CDRCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District CDRC : Till 10 Crore</li> <li>State CDRC : Beyond 10 Crore</li> </ul>

## Supreme Court Verdict on Cooperative

### Context

- The recent Supreme Court verdict striking down a part of the 97th Constitution Amendment, insofar as it dealt with cooperative societies under the domain of the States.

### About the Verdict and 97<sup>th</sup> amendment:

97 <sup>th</sup> amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced part IX(b) in the constitution</li> <li>Empower parliament to frame laws for cooperative societies that function across states (multi-state cooperative societies)</li> <li>State legislatures to make laws for all other cooperative societies falling under their jurisdiction.</li> <li>Added the words "or cooperative societies" to article 19(1)(c) of the constitution to expand the fundamental right to form associations or unions to cover cooperative societies too.</li> <li>Added a 'directive principle' through article 43b for promotion of cooperative societies</li> </ul>
Verdict of Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of limiting and circumscribing the scope and extent to which States could frame laws on cooperative societies</li> <li>97<sup>th</sup> amendment is valid as far as multi-State cooperative societies were concerned</li> <li>There was lack of ratification by state legislatures as required by</li> </ul>

	constitution.
Constitution amendment by Special Majority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting and such majority must exceed 50% of the total membership of the House.</li> </ul>
Special Majority and Ratification by half of the States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special majority in Parliament as well as ratification by at least half of the state legislatures</li> </ul>
Provisions affected by Special Majority and Ratification by half of the States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manner of election of President</li> <li>Executive power of the Union and the State</li> <li>The Supreme Court and the High Courts</li> <li>Distribution of legislative power between the Union and the States</li> <li>Representation of states in Parliament</li> <li>Article 368 itself</li> </ul>

## Appointment of Governor

### Context

- Eight states are appointed with new governors

Office of Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominal executive head of the state.</li> <li>Not a part of union executive and is an independent constitutional office.</li> <li>Doesn't serve the Union government and neither is subordinate to it.</li> </ul>
Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian President appoints Governor for each state by warrant under his hand and seal.</li> <li>no direct or indirect election</li> <li>Based on Canadian Model</li> </ul>
Term of Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Fixed term: holds the office under the pleasure of the President.</li> <li>President can remove the Governor</li> <li>The grounds upon which he may be removed are not laid down in the constitution.</li> <li>An interregnum is not allowed: There shall always be a governor.</li> </ul>
Constitutional Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 154: There shall always be a governor.</li> <li>Article 163: He will be aided and advised by the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers, unless he is performing a function at his own discretion.</li> </ul>

## Cabinet Committee

### Context

- After a large scale rejig of his Council of Ministers, Prime Minister effected some changes in Cabinet committees to reflect the changes with the inclusion of new and elevation of certain older Ministers.

### About Cabinet Committees

Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extra-constitutional bodies</li> </ul>
Basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw their roots from the Indian Council Act, 1861</li> </ul>
Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given shape by the Prime Minister</li> </ul>
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership of the Cabinet committees ranges from three to eight.</li> </ul>
Kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standing, and ad hoc</li> </ul>
About non Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not bar non-Cabinet ministers to be a member of the same.</li> </ul>

Minister Membership	
Special facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the prime minister is himself a member of one of the committees, he will invariably be heading the same.</li> </ul>
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An effective delegation to reduce Cabinet's workload,</li> <li>Examine policy-related issues,</li> <li>Ensure effective coordination among ministers</li> </ul>
Current cabinet committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabinet committee on political affairs</li> <li>Cabinet committee on economic affairs</li> <li>Appointments committee of the cabinet</li> <li>Cabinet committee on security</li> <li>Cabinet committee on parliamentary affairs</li> <li>Cabinet committee on accommodation</li> <li>Cabinet committee on investment and growth</li> <li>Cabinet committee on employment and skill development</li> </ul>

## Parliamentary Sessions

### Context

- The proceedings of both Houses of Parliament continued to remain paralysed as Opposition members staged protests over a number of issues as the monsoon session had begun.

### About Parliamentary Sessions:

Summon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet</li> </ul>		
Allowed maximum gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months</li> </ul>		
Cumulative session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually three sessions in a year</li> <li>The Budget Session (February to May)</li> <li>The Monsoon Session (July to September)</li> <li>The Winter Session (November to December).</li> </ul>		
About the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha).</li> </ul>		
About the Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called 'recess'.</li> </ul>		
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Adjournment -Sine die</b>	<b>Prorogation</b>	<b>Dissolution</b>

## Section 66a of IT act

### Context

- The Supreme Court asked the States to respond to a petition that stated citizens continued to get booked and prosecuted under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act for expressing themselves freely on social media.

### About Section 66A

Current Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>struck down 6 years ago.</li> </ul>
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Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gave the <b>government power to arrest and imprison an individual for allegedly "offensive and menacing" online posts</b></li> </ul>
Court Ruling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shreya Singhal Case: Section 66A unconstitutional for "being violative of Article 19(1)(a) and not saved under Article 19(2)</li> </ul>

## The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021

### Context

- Recently, government has passed The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021.

### Provisions of the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021

Essential defence services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any establishment or undertaking dealing with production of goods or equipment required for defence related purposes</li> <li>any establishment of the armed forces or connected with them or defence.</li> </ul>
Public utility service:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bill amends the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to include essential defence services under public utility services.</li> </ul>
Condition for Public Utility Service	<p>A six-week notice must be given before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons employed in such services go on strike in breach of contract or</li> <li>Employers carrying on such services do lock-outs.</li> </ul>
Strikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mass casual leave,</li> <li>Coordinated refusal of any number of persons to continue to work or accept employment,</li> <li>Refusal to work overtime, where such work is necessary for maintenance of essential defence services,</li> <li>Any other conduct which results in, or is likely to result in, disruption of work in essential defence services.</li> </ul>
Prohibition on strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The central government may prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services.</li> </ul>
Punishment for illegal lock-outs and lay-offs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to one year imprisonment or Rs 10,000 fine, or both</li> </ul>
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognisable and non-bailable</li> </ul>

## Anti Defection Law

### Context

- Recently, the Calcutta High Court has given West Bengal Assembly Speaker a deadline to pass an order in the **defection case** involving a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA).

### About Anti Defection law:

Constitutionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of <b>10<sup>th</sup> Schedule</b>.</li> <li>Inserted through <b>52<sup>nd</sup> amendment</b></li> <li>Amended via <b>91<sup>st</sup> amendment</b></li> </ul>
What it does	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lays down the process for disqualification of legislator by the presiding officer of respective house</li> <li>Decision of the presiding officer in such case is Final. (Judicial review applies after Kihoto Holohalan Judgement)</li> </ul>
Grounds for Disqualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voluntary giving up the membership</li> <li>Voting or abstaining contrary to direction issued by the party.</li> <li>Joining of the party by Independent Members</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joining of the Party by nominated members after 6 months.</li> </ul>
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not allowed for parties split (Earlier :allowed) (Post 91<sup>st</sup> amendment act)</b></li> <li>If 2/3<sup>rd</sup> members decide to merge into other parties or floats independent party (It was 1/3<sup>rd</sup> before the 91<sup>st</sup> amendment act).</li> </ul>
Judicial Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Allowed Judicial review of the power of Speaker</b></li> <li></li> </ul>
Re elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>During Karnataka Verdict, court held that doesn't create a bar for contesting re-elections.</b></li> </ul>
Post after disqualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Disqualified members under 10th schedule cannot hold any post in government.</b></li> </ul>
Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Presiding officer of the house has final verdict.</b></li> </ul>

## National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

### Context

- The Finance Ministry has given approval to allow individuals and institutions to contribute directly to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

### National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

Legality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided under section 46 of the <b>Disaster Management act</b>.</li> <li><b>Renaming of National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)</b> with the enactment of the National Disaster Management act in 2005.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A fund <b>managed by the Central Government</b> for meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.</li> <li><b>State Executive committee under disaster management</b> act undertakes the expenditure.</li> </ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplement the funds of the State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF).</li> </ul>
Can be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide immediate relief</li> <li>Not for compensation of loss/damage to properties /crops.</li> <li>Only towards meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.</li> </ul>
Financing of NDRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levy of a cess</li> <li>Budgetary resources</li> <li>Currently, a <b>National Calamity Contingency Duty (NCCD)</b> is levied to finance the NDRF.</li> <li>Also seeks individuals or organisations to provide the fund.</li> </ul>
Features of NDRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treated as <b>Public accounts</b></li> <li>Reserve funds, which do not bear the interest</li> </ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For agricultural related calamity like drought, hailstorms, pest attacks and cold wave are dealt by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).</li> <li>Ministry of Home Affairs monitors other calamity.</li> <li><b>CAG audits</b> the account of NDRF.</li> </ul>

## Rajya Sabha elections

### Context

- Rajya Sabha elections will be held to fill the seats.

### Procedure during elections

Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two years for a six-year term</li> <li>By polls for vacancies that arise due to resignation, death or disqualification for the remaining term.</li> </ul>
Election system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single transferrable vote for voting, which means that electors have to rank all the candidates in preference.</li> <li>Principle of proportional representation is followed.</li> <li>Requires a specified number of first preference votes to win.</li> </ul>
Electorates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote</li> <li>The Delhi and Puducherry Assemblies (Union Territories with legislative assembly) elect members to the Rajya Sabha</li> </ul>
Ballot system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open ballot system compared to the secret ballot system of lok sabha.</li> <li>Independent candidates are barred from showing their ballots to anyone.</li> </ul>
Anti-defection provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not voting for the party candidate will not attract disqualification</li> <li>Party is free to take disciplinary action</li> </ul>
Nota provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System does not apply (struck by sc decision)</li> </ul>

### About Rajya Sabha

Significant Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modelled after the House of Lords in the United Kingdom.</li> <li>Permanent Body (Not Subject to dissolution)</li> </ul>
Tenure of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 Years</li> </ul>
Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice President of India</li> </ul>
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum strength of 250 as per Article 80.</li> <li><b>12 members are nominated by President</b></li> <li>238 members are elected.</li> </ul>
Current Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>245 Members</li> <li>233 elected</li> <li>12 Nominated</li> </ul>
Allocation of Seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fourth Schedule to the Constitution</b> provides for distribution among states and Union Territories</li> </ul>
Qualification	<p>Lays down by Article 84 of constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Citizen of India</b></li> <li>Age should be equal to or <b>more than 30 years</b></li> <li>Possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.</li> </ul>
Disqualifications	<p><b>Mentioned under article 102 :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If he holds any office of profit.</li> <li>If he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;</li> <li>If he is not a citizen of India</li> <li>If he is an undischarged insolvent;</li> <li>If he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament</li> </ul>

## Representation of People Act

### Context

- Many candidates have served notice under representation of people act in recent state polls.

### Representation of People act:

Constitutionality:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country's electoral system mentioned under <b>Article 324-329</b>.</li> <li>• Provides <b>power to Parliament</b> to make the laws.</li> <li>• Parliament enacted Representation of People act in 1950.</li> </ul>
Provisions in the act:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seat allocation in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies through <b>direct elections</b>.</li> <li>• Qualification of the Voters</li> <li>• Delimitation of constituencies for Lok Sabha and State assembly elections.</li> <li>• Preparation of electoral roll.</li> <li>• Provision of disqualification of candidates</li> <li>• Criteria for defining state and National Party</li> </ul>
Provision of disqualification	<p>If found guilty for the following crime than <b>disqualified for 6 or more years</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting hatred and enmity between classes</li> <li>• Influencing elections</li> <li>• Bribery</li> <li>• Rape or other grave crimes against women</li> <li>• Spreading religious disharmony</li> <li>• Practising untouchability</li> <li>• Importing or exporting prohibited goods</li> <li>• Selling or consuming illegal drugs as well as other chemicals</li> <li>• Engaging in terrorism in any form</li> <li>• Have been imprisoned for at least two years</li> </ul>
Different Types of Officers	<p><b>Chief Electoral Officer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated by Election Commission of India.</li> <li>• Supervise the elections in the state</li> </ul> <p><b>Electoral Registration Officer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertakes Preparation of Roll.</li> </ul> <p><b>Returning Officer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducts the elections in a constituency.</li> <li>• ECI nominates in consultation with State government</li> </ul>

## Domicile Certificate in Jammu and Kashmir

### Context

- Kashmiri Pandits are being issued the domicile certificates at Bangalore camp.

### Domicile in India:

- In terms of domicile, the residence does not relate to the physical aspect of maintaining a house or residence. It more so relates to the intention of a person to remain at a place forever unless circumstances should occur to change his/her intentions.
- **Types of Domicile:**
  1. **Domicile by Birth:** The domicile of birth or origin is involuntary and continues to be the domicile of the person until the person chooses to create a permanent residence elsewhere.
  2. **Domicile by Choice:** A person can take on a domicile by choice by taking up fixed residence in a country different from the domicile of birth.

In India, state government issues certificate to prove the domicile.

## Rule of Law index

### Context

- Pakistan ranks lowly 130 out of 139 countries in Rule of Law Index 2021.

### About the Index:

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantitative assessment tool by the World Justice Project (WJP)</li> </ul>
Parameters of Rule of Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constraints on Government Powers,</li> <li>• Absence of Corruption,</li> <li>• Open Government,</li> <li>• Fundamental Rights,</li> <li>• Order and Security,</li> <li>• Regulatory Enforcement,</li> <li>• Civil Justice,</li> <li>• Criminal Justice</li> </ul>
India Ranking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 79</li> </ul>

## Question Hour

### Context

- Recently Opposition has alleged that no cabinet ministers answered during the question hour session of Parliament.

### About Question Hour

Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first hour of every parliamentary sitting</li> </ul>
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.</li> </ul>
Types of Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred and short notice.</li> </ul>
Starred Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.</li> </ul>
Unstarred Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.</li> </ul>
Short Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked by giving a notice of fewer than ten days. It is answered orally.</li> </ul>
Question from Private member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The questions can also be asked to the private members.</li> </ul>

## Dy. Speaker

### Context

- Madhya Pradesh assembly has been without the post of deputy speaker for the last 2 years.

### About Deputy Speaker:

Constitutional Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 93 of the Constitution provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.</li> </ul>
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Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected by the Lok Sabha itself from amongst its members.</li> </ul>
Date of election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The date of election of the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performs the duties of the Speaker's office when it is vacant.</li> <li>Acts as the Speaker when the latter is absent</li> </ul>
Presiding of Joint Sitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He also presides over the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, in case the Speaker is absent from such a sitting.</li> </ul>
Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whenever he is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he automatically becomes its chairman.</li> </ul>

### About Legislative Assembly

Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Popularly elected chamber</li> </ul>
Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum strength of an assembly must not exceed 500 or its minimum strength fall below 60.</li> </ul>
Lower strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa has smaller legislative assembly.</li> </ul>
Demarcation of territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it is the same all over the State.</li> </ul>
Special provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special provisions with respect to the representation of SC and ST.</li> </ul>

## Office of Profit

### Context

- President Ram Nath Kovind has dismissed a plea to disqualify YSRCP Rajya Sabha Member V Vijayasai Reddy, accusing him of holding an office of profit.

### About Office of Profit:

Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law does not clearly define what constitutes an office of profit</li> </ul>
Supreme Court Guidelines for Office of Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whether the government is the appointing authority,</li> <li>Whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment,</li> <li>Whether the government determines the remuneration,</li> <li>What is the source of remuneration,</li> <li>The power that comes with the position.</li> </ul>
Constitutional provision prohibiting Office of Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the provisions of Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1) of the Constitution, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is</li> </ul>

	barred from holding any office of profit under the central or state government.
Legislation by parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enacted the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 which provided list of exempted offices</li> </ul>

## Village Poverty Reduction Plan

### Context

- Self Help Groups across the country is geared up to prepare the Village Poverty Reduction Plan for integration with the Gram Panchayat Development Plans.

### About Village Poverty Reduction Plan

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive demand plan prepared by the Self Help Group (SHG) network and their federations</li> </ul>
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented in the Gram Sabha meetings</li> </ul>
Types of Demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social inclusion - plan for inclusion of vulnerable people/household into shgs under NRLM</li> <li>Entitlement - demand for various schemes such as MGNREGS, SBM, NSAP, PMAY, Ujjwala, Ration card etc.</li> <li>Livelihoods - specific demand for enhancing livelihood through developing agriculture, animal husbandry, production and service enterprises and skilled training for placement etc.</li> <li>Public Goods and Services - demand for necessary basic infrastructure, for renovation of the existing infrastructure and for better service delivery</li> <li>Resource Development - demand for protection and development of natural resources like land, water, forest and other locally available resources</li> <li>Social Development - plans prepared for addressing specific social development issues of a village under the low cost no cost component of GPDP</li> </ul>

## Drug Enforcement

### Context

- From Rhea Chakraborty to now Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, the Narcotics Control Bureau's **Bollywood encounter has been a potboiler of its own, complete with alleged WhatsApp chat evidence, a cruise party, and an "international drug network"**.

### About Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985:

Objective of the Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance from being produced/cultivated, owned, sold, purchased, transported, processed, and/or consumed by a person</li> </ul>
Narcotics drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coca leaf, cannabis (hemp), opium, and poppy straw</li> </ul>
Psychotropic drug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any natural or synthetic material or any salt or preparation protected by the Psychotropic Substances Convention of 1971</li> </ul>
Minimum Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 years of rigorous imprisonment coupled with a Rs . 1 lakh fine.</li> </ul>
Provision of bail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No bail is issued</li> </ul>

Conditions on the accused	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No relief can be sought by the drug convicts by termination, remission, and commutation of sentences passed.</li> </ul>
Punishment for repeated offender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital punishment</li> </ul>

### About Narcotics Control Bureau

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances</li> </ul>
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).</li> </ul>
Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in March 1986 to enable full implementation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985</li> </ul>

## National Commission for Schedule Caste (NCSC)

### Context

- Recently, NCSC has reprimanded the Punjab government for not helping the victim of Schedule caste.

### About National Commission for Schedule Caste

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguard the interests of the scheduled castes (SC)</li> </ul>
Constitutional provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 338 provides for national commission for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to protect interest.</li> </ul>
Evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At Independence: Provided for Special officer Under Article 338</li> <li>65<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 1990: Set up a multi-member National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).</li> <li>89<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 2003: Replaced the single commission with Two Commissions- NCST &amp; NCSC</li> </ul>
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman, Vice Chairman and 3 Other Members</li> </ul>
Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the President</li> </ul>
102 <sup>nd</sup> Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relieved the Commission from the duty to look after of Backward Classes</li> </ul>
Addition responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharges the same function for anglo indian as done for sc.</li> </ul>

## E Prisons

### Context

- The Union Home Ministry has advised the States to update recent photographs of prisoners released on parole/furlough/premature release in the "ePrisons" and "Interoperable Criminal Justice System" database.

### About E-Prisons:

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims at computerization of the functioning of prisons in the country</li> </ul>
About Parole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Releasing a prisoner with suspension of the sentence</li> </ul>
Right of Parole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not a right of Prisoner</li> </ul>
Conditions for Parole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually subject to behaviour, and requires periodic reporting to the authorities</li> </ul>
About furlough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given in cases of long-term imprisonment</li> </ul>
Treatment of Furlough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treated as remission of sentence.</li> </ul>
Right of prisoner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treated as right</li> </ul>
Governing legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both are covered under the Prisons Act of 1894.</li> </ul>

## Birth and Death Database

### Context

- The Centre has proposed amendments to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (RBD), 1969.

### About the Database

Current Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>done by the local registrar appointed by States.</li> </ul>
About Registration of Births and Deaths Act (RBD), 1969.	<b>promote uniformity and comparability</b> in the registration of Births and Deaths
Registration of Birth and Death	Mandatory
Coordinating agency at Central level	<b>Registrar General, India (RGI)</b>
Monitoring of act	Directorate of Census Operations under the sub-ordinate offices of Office of the Registrar General, India

## CONTEMPT OF COURT

### Context

- Attorney-General of India K.K. Venugopal has refused consent to a request made to permit to initiate contempt proceedings in the Supreme Court against the controversial Pegasus software creator and top bureaucrats.

### About Contempt of Court

Constitutional provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court of record under article 129</li> </ul>
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criminal or civil</li> </ul>
Criminal Contempt of Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court;</li> <li>Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding;</li> <li>Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.</li> </ul>
Civil Contempt of Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disobedience to orders or judgments of the court.</li> </ul>
Contest against Right to Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to punish for contempt of court under Articles 129 and 215 is not subject to Article 19(1) (a).</li> </ul>
Governing legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contempt of Court Act-1971</li> </ul>
Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple imprisonment for a term, which may extend to six months, or with fine.</li> </ul>
Need of the Sanction of Attorney General or Solicitor General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The prior consent of the top law officer is mandated in law</b></li> </ul>
Need for AG Consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When private citizens files for contempt</li> </ul>
No need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When court undertakes suo moto case</li> </ul>

## National Investigation Agency

### Context

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out multiple searches on the residences of several traders associated with the cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade in Poonch district of the Pir Panjal valley.

### About National Investigation Agency

Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constituted in 2009 under the provisions of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 (NIA Act).</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency</li> </ul>
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.</li> </ul>
Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Probe terror attacks including bomb blasts, hijacking of aircrafts and ships, attacks on nuclear installations and use of weapons of mass destruction.</li> </ul>
Extended Jurisdiction after 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Probe the offences relating to human trafficking, counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and explosive substances along with earlier mandate</li> </ul>
National investigation agency amendment act 2019	
Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisions of the NIA Act also to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against Indian citizens or affecting the interest of India.</li> </ul>
Provision of Special Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central government and the state governments may designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for conducting the trial of offences</li> </ul>

## Democracy Report 2022

### Context:

- 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?' has been published.

### About the Report

Published by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg</li> </ul>
Other Related report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA)</li> </ul>
Types of democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liberal Democracy,</li> <li>Electoral Democracy,</li> <li>Electoral Autocracy,</li> <li>Closed Autocracy</li> </ul>
Indian Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93<sup>rd</sup> Rank</li> </ul>

## E-Court Project

### Context

- Recently, the Law Minister has said that for implementing phase two of the eCourts project, there is a need to adopt new, cutting edge technologies of Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

### About E-Court Project

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transform the Indian Judiciary by ICT (Information and Communication Technology) enablement of Courts</li> </ul>
Monitoring and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice</li> </ul>
Pendency of Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost 4 Crore at district level and 60 Lakh at High Court level</li> </ul>
About SUVAS (supreme court vidhik anuvaad software)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tool for translation of judgement into vernacular languages</li> </ul>
About SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tool to improve efficiency and productivity through automation of process</li> </ul>

## Statehood for Ladakh

### Context

- Ladakh observed a shut down on December 13 to press for four demands – statehood for Ladakh, protection under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, filling of 12,000 vacancies, allocation of two Lok Sabha seats and one Rajya Sabha seat.

### About 6th Schedule:

States under 6 <sup>th</sup> Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram</li> </ul>
Constitution article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 244</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).</li> </ul>
Power of Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reorganise boundaries of the tribal areas.</li> </ul>
Power of Central and Union govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricted from the territorial jurisdiction of these autonomous regions.</li> </ul>
Legislative powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On matters like land, forests, fisheries, social security, entertainment, public health</li> </ul>
About regional council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also provides for separate regional councils for each area constituted as an autonomous region.</li> </ul>
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each autonomous district and regional council consist of not more than 30 members</li> </ul>
Method of election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four are nominated by the governor and the rest via elections</li> </ul>

## Vernacular Innovation Program

### Context

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has come up with a first of its kind Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP), which will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages by the Government of India.

## About the Program

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative to lower the language barrier in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship</li> </ul>
Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Systematically decouple creative expressions and languages of transaction.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AIM has identified and will be training a Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages</li> </ul>
About task force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprises vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers</li> </ul>
About atal innovation mission (aim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of the national institution for transforming india (niti aayog)</li> </ul>
Method of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide grant-in-aid that includes a one-time establishment cost of Rs. 10 lakh and operational expenses of Rs. 10 lakh</li> </ul>
Tenure of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum period of 5 years</li> </ul>
Different initiatives under AIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)</li> <li>Atal Established Incubation Centre (AIC)</li> <li>Atal New India Challenges (ANIC)</li> <li>Mentors of Change</li> <li>Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprise (ARISE)</li> <li>Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC)</li> </ul>

## Mid Day Meal

### Context

- Karnataka has decided to provide eggs to students in government and aided schools in seven districts from December to check the malnourishment.

### About Mid Day Meal Scheme

Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 15 August 1995 as 'National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE)'.</li> </ul>
Renaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools' in October 2007</li> </ul>
Covered under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance the nutrition and enrolment</li> </ul>
Covered institutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One meal is provided to all children enrolled in government schools, local body schools, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC), maktabs and madrasas supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan</li> </ul>
Covered age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To every child enrolled and attaining school from six to fourteen years</li> </ul>
Covered classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children studying in Class I to VIII</li> </ul>
Cost sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centre and state share the cost of the midday meal scheme, with the centre providing 60 percent and the states 40 percent</li> </ul>
Role of Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides grains and financing for other food</li> </ul>
Shared responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs for facilities, transportation, and labour is shared by the central and state governments</li> </ul>

Serving of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only on the school premises on all working days of the school</li> </ul>
Quality testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food and Drugs Administration Department of the State can collect samples</li> </ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Steering-cum Monitoring Committee (SSMC)</li> </ul>
Provisions of food allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food allowance is provided to the children when the cooked meals cannot be provided</li> </ul>

## Election Symbol

### Context

- The Delhi High Court asked the Election Commission (EC) to allot a common election symbol to Chandra Shekhar Azad's political party for the upcoming assembly elections in five states.

### Rules governing election symbol

About the symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standardized symbol allocated to a political party</li> </ul>
Reasons for symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced to facilitate voting by illiterate people</li> </ul>
Regulation of symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through a law of Parliament, i.e. Symbol Order</li> </ul>
Power of EC related to symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols</li> </ul>
Other power of EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol</li> </ul>
About reserve election symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserved for a recognised political party for exclusive allotment to contesting candidates set up by that party</li> </ul>
About free symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other than a reserved symbol</li> </ul>
Means to take the symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a list of three symbols from the EC's free symbols list at the time of filing nomination papers</li> </ul>

## Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

### Context

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Finance provided information about the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in the Rajya Sabha.

### About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

Launched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide loans up to Rs.10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro-enterprises.</li> </ul>
About mudra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mudra, which stands for micro units development &amp; refinance agency ltd., is a government's financial institution.</li> </ul>
Critical fact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It does not lend directly to microentrepreneurs/individuals.</li> </ul>
Types of Products	3 Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Shishu'</li> <li>'Kishore'</li> <li>'Tarun'</li> </ul>
About the Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shishu: Covering loans up to Rs. 50,000.</li> <li>Kishore: Covering loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh.</li> <li>Tarun: Covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh.</li> </ul>

## Central Media Accreditation Guidelines 2022

### Context

- Recently, the Central government has released the Central Media Accreditation Guidelines-2022.

### Provisions of the guidelines

Current Provision of accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vetted by a Central Press Accreditation Committee headed by the DG, PIB</li> </ul>
Provisions to Withdraw/Suspend Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journalist acting in negative interest of country</li> <li>Defamation</li> <li>Incitement of an offence</li> <li>Does contempt of court</li> </ul>
Critical facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only available for journalists living in the Delhi NCR region</li> </ul>
About central media accreditation committee (cmac)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chaired by the principal director general, press information bureau (pib)</li> </ul>
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 Members</li> </ul>

## Regulation of Media

### Context

- Recently, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry (I&B) cancelled the Broadcast license of a Malayalam-language news channel.

### Regulation of Media

Regulated sectors by the I & B Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TV Channels</li> <li>Newspapers</li> <li>Magazines</li> <li>Movies in Theatres</li> <li>Over the top (OTT) platform</li> </ul>
Films related regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through Censor Board</li> <li>Gives certification to the Movies</li> <li>Censoring is not its mandate but doesn't give certificate until agreed to its recommendations.</li> </ul>
Regulation of TV Channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism</li> </ul>
For OTT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism</li> </ul>
Print Media and Website Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on recommendations of Press Council of India</li> </ul>
Prohibition on content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific laws on content allowed or prohibited in print and electronic media, radio, films or OTT platforms</li> </ul>

## Parvatmala Scheme

### Context

- Recently, the Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2022-23 announced National Ropeways Development Programme - "Parvatmala" to improve connectivity in hilly areas.

### About the Scheme

Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPP mode</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, and promoting tourism</li> </ul>
Targeted areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu &amp; Kashmir and the other North Eastern states.</li> </ul>
Nodal ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of road transport and highways (morth)</li> </ul>

## Appointment of Judges

### Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court Collegium has recommended appointing Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari as Chief Justice of Madras High Court.

### About Appointment of Judges

Evolution of System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through judgments of the Supreme Court (SC), and not by an Act of Parliament</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> Judges Case (1981)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Primacy over Judiciary</li> <li>• Recommendations of the CJI can be refused on cogent reasons.</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Judges Case (1993)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced the Collegium system</li> <li>• Ensured that "consultation" really meant "concurrence"</li> <li>• Collegium = CJI + 2 Senior Most Judges</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Judges Case (1998):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded the Collegium to a five-member body</li> <li>• Collegium = CJI + 4 Senior Most Judges</li> </ul>
Head of Collegium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJI and 4 other senior most Supreme Court Judge</li> </ul>
Appointment of CJI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By President of India</li> <li>• Mostly based on Seniority</li> </ul>
Appointment of SC Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By President of India</li> <li>• Initiation of proposal by CJI</li> <li>• Recommendation by the Collegium to the govt</li> </ul>
Appointment of HC Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges</li> <li>• Recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister</li> </ul>

## Capital Punishment in India

### Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) commuted the death sentence of a man, convicted of the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl, to life imprisonment.

About Capital Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The execution of an offender sentenced to death after conviction by a court of law of a criminal offence.</li> </ul>
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Reasoning for awarding death sentence</li> </ul>
Current Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A life sentence is the rule and death penalty an exception</li> </ul>
Total capital punishment in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to official statistics, 720 executions have taken place in India after it became independent in the year 1947</li> </ul>
Doctrine associated with Death Penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rarest of rare cases</li> </ul>
Major Supreme Court Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rajendra Prasad v. State of UP 1979 case</li> <li>• Bachan Singh v. The State of Punjab 1980 case</li> <li>• Jagmohan Singh v. State of UP 1973 case Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab 1983 case</li> </ul>

## Motion of Thanks

### Context

- Recently, amendments to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address were proposed (However, not passed).

### About Motion of Thanks

Special Address by the President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 87 provides for the special address</li> </ul>
Time of address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First session after each general election to the House of the People</li> <li>At the commencement of the first session of each year</li> </ul>
Feature type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> </ul>
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statement of policy of the Government</li> </ul>
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought and review of ongoing activities</li> </ul>
About Motion of Thanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion of the address on the motion of thanks</li> </ul>
Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote.</li> </ul>
What about passing of Motion of Thanks in Both Houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defeat of government</li> </ul>

## Lokpal and Lokayukta

### Context

- Recently, the Kerala government has proposed to amend the Kerala Lokayukta Act, 1999 with an ordinance to limit the power of watchdog.

### About Lokpal and Lokayukta

Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for:</li> <li>Establishment of Lokpal for the Union Lokayukta for States.</li> </ul>
Type of Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory bodies</li> </ul>
Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform the function of an "ombudsman" and inquire into allegation charges</li> </ul>
Lokpal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson, who is or has been a Chief Justice of India, or is or has been a judge of the Supreme Court, or an eminent person</li> <li>50% are to be judicial members, provided that not less than 50% belong to the scs, sts, obcs, minorities, or are women.</li> </ul>
Total Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 members</li> <li>1 chairperson</li> </ul>
Current Lokpal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supreme court justice pinaki chandra ghose</li> </ul>
Covered Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who is or has been Prime Minister,</li> <li>Or a Minister in the Union government,</li> <li>Or a Member of Parliament,</li> <li>As well as officials of the Union government under Groups A, B, C and D.</li> <li>Chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust or autonomous body either established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly funded by the Centre.</li> <li>Covers any society or trust or body that receives foreign contributions above Rs. 10 lakh</li> </ul>

## Free Legal Aid

### Context

- Recently, the Ministry of Law and Justice informed Lok Sabha about the Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign.

### About Free Legal Aid

Constitution Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 39A of the Constitution of India provides that State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disability</li> </ul>
Objective of Legal service Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide free legal aid and advice.</li> <li>Spread legal awareness.</li> <li>Organize lok adalats</li> <li>Provide compensation to victims of crime</li> </ul>
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987</li> </ul>
Established Institutions at Union Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)</li> </ul>
Type of Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory</li> </ul>
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief</li> </ul>
Authority at State level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Legal Services Authority</li> </ul>
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Justice of the State High Court</li> </ul>
Authority at State level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Legal Services Authority</li> </ul>
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Judge of the District</li> </ul>
Eligible Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women and children</li> <li>Members of SC/ST</li> <li>Industrial workmen</li> <li>Victims of mass disaster, violence, flood, drought, earthquake, industrial disaster.</li> <li>Disabled persons</li> <li>Persons in custody</li> <li>Those persons who have annual income of less than the amount prescribed by the respective State Government</li> <li>Victims of Trafficking in Human beings or begar</li> </ul>

## Corruption Perception Index 2021

### Context

- Recently, the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021 was released by Transparency International.

### About Corruption Perception Index 2021

Key Finding	stagnated or worsened in 86% of countries
About Transparency International	international non-governmental organisation
Important Publish	Global Corruption Barometer Corruption Perception Index.
Covered Countries	ranks 180 countries and territories
Indian rank	ranked 85 among 180 countries
Methodology	relies on 13 independent data sources
Measurement	uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

Top Performer	Denmark, Finland and New Zealand, each with a score of 88
Bottom Performer	South Sudan (11), Syria (13) and Somalia (13)

## Integrity Pact

### Context

- Recently, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has modified the criteria for the nomination of Independent External Monitors (IEM) in government bodies.

### About Integrity Pact

About the pact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer, committing persons and officials of both sides to not resort to any corrupt practices in any aspect or stage of the contract.</li> </ul>
Penalty on violation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disqualification of bidders and exclusion from future business dealings.</li> </ul>
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By independent external monitors</li> </ul>
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the Central Vigilance Commission</li> </ul>
Control of CVC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free of control from any executive authority</li> </ul>
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the Parliament</li> </ul>
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central vigilance commission act, 2003 (cvc act)</li> </ul>
Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory</li> </ul>
By the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on K Santhanam committee in Feb 1964.</li> </ul>

## Deputation of Civil Servants

### Context

- Recently, through the amendment of Rules 6 of the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules 1954 the Union government will acquire for itself overriding powers to transfer IAS and IPS officers through Central deputation, doing away with the requirement of taking the approval of the State governments.

### About deputation:

All India Services in India	Indian Administrative Service (IAS); Indian Police Service (IPS); Indian Forest Service (IFoS)
Controlling authority for IAS officer	<i>Department of Personnel and Training</i>
Controlling authority for IPS officer	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
Controlling authority for Ifos officer	The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate
Current Status	State provides the no under available for deputation as prescribed under Central Deputation Reserve.

### Current Procedure of Deputation:

Centre asks for an offer list

Officer get NOC from State govt

Can't be More than 40% of total cadre strength

### New Rules:

- The actual number of officers to be deputed to the Central Government shall be decided by the Centre in consultation with the State Government concerned.

- The matter shall be decided by the Centre and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government within a specified time.

## Types of Grant

### Context

- The discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants, authorising the government to spend an additional Rs. 3.73 lakh crore during the current fiscal.

### About the Grants:

Supplementary grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the amount authorised by the parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year</li> </ul>
Additional grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year</li> </ul>
Excess grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget</li> <li>Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the lok sabha for voting, they must be approved by the public accounts committee of parliament</li> </ul>
Vote of Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granted for meeting an unexpected demand upon the resources of India, when on account of the magnitude or the indefinite character of the service</li> <li>Like a blank cheque given to the Executive by the Lok Sabha</li> </ul>
Exceptional grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year</li> </ul>
Token grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When funds to meet the proposed expenditure on a new service can be made available by reappropriation</li> <li>A demand for the grant of a token sum (of re 1) is submitted to the vote of the lok sabha and if assented, funds are made available</li> </ul>

## World Press Freedom Index

### Context

- The Centre does **not agree with the conclusions drawn by Reporters Without Borders** about press freedom in India.

### About Press Freedom Index

Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporters without borders</li> </ul>
First Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2002</li> </ul>
Covered Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ranks 180 countries</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snapshot of the media freedom situation based on an evaluation of pluralism, independence of the media, quality of legislative framework and safety of journalists</li> </ul>
Critical fact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not rank public policies</li> <li>Not an indicator of the quality of journalism in each country</li> </ul>

About Reporters Without Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent NGO with consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF)</li> <li>Based in Paris</li> </ul>
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## Caste Census

### Context

- The Government has denied for conducting the Caste Census.

### About Caste Census:

Conducting the Caste Census	1881 For first Time
Objective	canvass every Indian family, both in rural and urban India
Last Caste Census	2011
About the Details	Not mandatory to share

## Dam Safety Act

### Context

- The Dam Safety Bill, 2019, which provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified dams across the country has been passed by the Parliament.

### About Dam Safety Act:

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for proper monitoring, inspection, operation and maintenance of all designated dams in the country to ensure that they function safely</li> </ul>
Institution established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National committee for dam safety</li> <li>National dam safety authority</li> <li>State commission for dam safety</li> </ul>
About National Committee for Dam Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop dam safety guidelines and recommend the necessary regulations</li> </ul>
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Water Commission (CWC)</li> </ul>
Other members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominated by the center and include up to 10 representatives from the center, 7 representatives from the state government, and 3 experts on dam safety.</li> </ul>
Objective of National Dam Safety Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory agency responsible for implementing national dam safety policies, guidelines and standards</li> </ul>
Responsibility of State Commission for Dam Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extends to all dams in that particular state</li> </ul>
Obligations of Dam owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide dam protection to each dam</li> <li>Inspects the dam before, during and after the monsoon season, and during and after all earthquakes, floods and other signs of disaster or distress</li> <li>Regularly carry out a comprehensive safety assessment of each dam</li> </ul>

## Global State of Democracy Report, 2021

### Context

- Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 has been released by International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA).

### About Global State of Democracy Report,2021

Parameters of Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative Government</li> <li>Fundamental Rights</li> <li>Participatory Engagement</li> <li>Impartial Engagement</li> </ul>
About International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An intergovernmental organization</li> </ul>
Founding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1995</li> </ul>
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33 Member</li> </ul>

## Tenure Extension

### Context

- Government amended Fundamental Rules (FR) to facilitate extended tenure and in-service benefits to CBI and ED directors.

### About Tenure Extension

Amendment in the legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act</li> <li>The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act</li> </ul>
Amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power to keep the two chiefs in their posts for one year after they have completed their two-year terms</li> <li>Can continue to be given until the officers complete five years as the chiefs of the agencies</li> </ul>
Current tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 year tenure</li> </ul>
Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the Post of ED and CBI Chief</li> </ul>

## Competitive and Cooperative Federalism

### Context

- Recently, Home Minister has emphasized on competitive and cooperative federalism for growth of the nation.

### About Cooperative and Competitive Federalism

	Cooperative Federalism	Competitive Federalism
Type of Relationship	Horizontal relationship between the Central as well as the State governments	vertical relationship with the Central government while competing amongst themselves.
Working Method	Cooperation between the central and state government for larger public interest	States individually work towards attracting funds and investment to aid their developmental activities.
Feature of Economy	Socialist	Free Market Economy
	raise resources by the Government at different levels in a co-ordinated way and channel them for use for the common good of the people.	bottom-up approach as it will bring the change from the states
Relationship with Centre	harmonious relationship	Strained Relationship

Accountability and Responsibility framework	Ensure unity of interest	Instill Sense of Responsibility
Target	Ensure Equal development of the states	Ensure Continuous reforms in the states
Result	Better Outcomes and Output for the Policies	Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Policy Implementation
	Needed for bigger projects like Infrastructure projects, to tackle the organized crime and to ensure the inclusive growth	Does so for the enhanced developmental aid from the government or to attract the FDI.
Government Initiatives	Formation of Niti Ayog, Implementation of 14th Finance Commission Recommendations; GST council	Multiple index like SDG index, Quality of Education in state ; Ease of Doing Business Ranking for the States; Aspirational District programme

## Global Bribery Risk Ranking

### Context:

- Recently, Bribery Risk Matrix 2021 was released by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation.

### About the Index:

Indian Rank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>82nd position</li> </ul>
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures business bribery risk in 194 countries</li> </ul>
Parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business interactions with the government,</li> <li>Anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement,</li> <li>Government and civil service transparency,</li> <li>Capacity for civil society oversight</li> </ul>
First Publish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2014</li> </ul>

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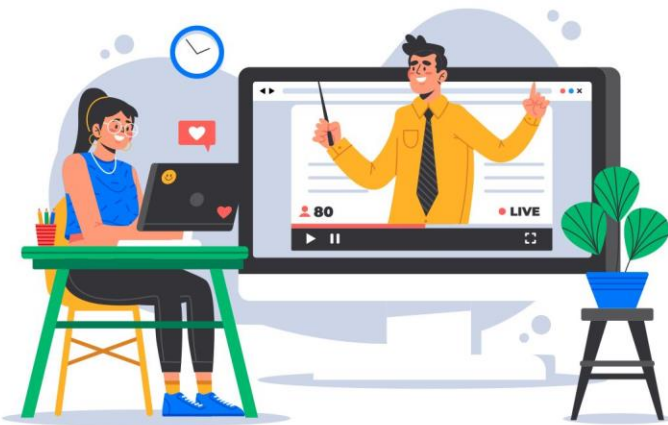
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